

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES • VOLUME 1

DES MINNESANGS FRÜHLING

Des Minnesangs Frühling

*The Early German Love Lyric,
from the Kürenberger to Hartmann von Aue*

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

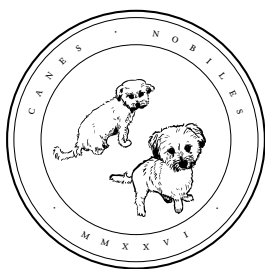


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The Middle High German text follows Des Minnesangs Frühling,
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The songs stand in Vogt's order and are cited in the outer
margin by the page and line of Lachmann and Haupt's
edition of 1857, as the Minnesang has been cited since.

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Namenlose Lieder

THE NAMELESS SONGS

Ten anonymous strophes, the oldest layer of the book. One voice says thou art mine and I am thine, and that the key to the heart is lost; another would give up the world from the sea to the Rhine to hold the queen of England in his arms; a woman says a knight has served her, and a man blesses the best of women.

Dû bist mîn, ich bin dîn:

3,1

Thou art mine, I am thine:

des solt dû gewis sîn.

of-that shalt thou certain be.

dû bist beslozen

thou art locked

in mînem herzen:

in my heart:

verlorn ist daz sluzzelîn:

lost is the little-key:

dû muost och immer darinne sîn.

thou must also ever therein be.

Wære diu werlt alliu mîn

3,7

Were the world all mine

von dem mere unz an den Rîn,

from the sea up to the Rhine,

des wolt ich mich darben,

of-that would I myself deprive,

daz diu künegin von Engellant

that the queen of England

læge an mînen armen.

should-lie in my arms.

3,12 Tougen minne diu ist guot,

Secret love it is good,

si kan geben hôhen muot.

it can give high spirit.

der sol man sich vlîzen.

of-it shall one oneself apply.

swer mit triwen der niht phliget,

whoever with faithfulness it not practices,

dem sol man daz verwîzen.

to-him shall one that reproach.

3,17 'Mich dunket niht sô guotes noch sô lobesam

'To-me seems nothing so good nor so praiseworthy

sô diu liehte rôse und diu minne mînes man.

as the bright rose and the love of-my man.

diu kleinen vogellîn

the small birdlings

diu singent in dem walde: dêst menegem herzen liep.

they sing in the wood: that-is to-many-a heart dear.

mirn kome mîn holder geselle, in hân der sumerwunne niet.'

unless-to-me come my dear companion, I have the summer-delight not.'

4,1 Diu linde ist an dem ende nu jârlanc lieht unde blôz.

The linden is at the end now this-year bright and bare.

mich vêhet mîn geselle: nu engilte ich des ich nie genôz.

me hates my companion: now pay-for I what I never enjoyed.

vil ist unstæter wîbe: die benement ime den sin.

many are-there of-inconstant women: they take from-him the sense.

got wizze wol die wârheit, daz ime diu holdeste bin.

God know well the truth, that to-him the most-devoted I-am.

si enkunnen niewan triegen vil menegen kindeschen man.
they can-not but deceive very many-a childlike man.

owê mir sîner jugende! diu muoz mir al ze sorgen ergân.
alas to-me for-bis youth! it must for-me all to cares turn-out.

[Sich vröwent aber die guoten, die dâ hôhe sint gemuot,
[Themselves rejoice however the good-ones, who there high are spirited,

daz der sumer komen sol.
that the summer come shall.

seht wie wol daz vil menegen herzen tuot.]
see how well that very many-a heart does.]

‘Mir hât ein ritter sprach ein wîp
‘To-me has a knight spoke a woman

6,5

gedienet nâch dem willen mîn.
served according-to the will mine.

ê sich verwandelôt diu zît
ere itself changes the time

sô muoz im doch gelônnet sîn.
so must to-him yet rewarded be.

mich dunket winter unde snê
to-me seem winter and snow

schœne bluomen unde klê
beautiful flowers and clover

swenn ich in umbevungen hân.
whenever I him embraced have.

und werez al der welte leit,
and were-it to-all the world sorrow,

sô muoz sîn wille an mir ergân.’
so must his will on me be-fulfilled.’

6,14 Der walt in grüener varwe stât:

The wood in green color stands:

wol der wunneclîchen zît!

bail the delightful time!

mîner sorgen wirdet rât.

for-my cares comes remedy.

sælic sî daz beste wîp

blessed be the best woman

diu mich træstet sunder spot.

who me comforts without mockery.

ich bin vrô: dêst ir gebot.

I am glad: that-is her command.

Ein winken unde ein umbesehen

A beckoning and a looking-round

wart mir dô ich si nâhest sach.

came to-me when I her last saw.

dâ moht anders niht geschehen

there could otherwise nothing happen

wan daz si minneclîche sprach

but that she lovingly spoke

‘vriunt, du wis vil hôchgemuot.’

‘friend, thou be very high-spirited.’

wie sanfte daz mîm herzen tuot!

how gently that my heart does!

‘Ich wil weinen von dir hân’

‘I will weeping from thee have’

sprach daz aller beste wîp.

spoke the of-all best woman.

schiere soltu mich enpfân

soon shalt-thou me receive

unde trôsten mînen lîp.

and comfort my body.

swie du wilt sô wil ich sîn.

however thou wilt so will I be.

lache, liebez frowelîn.

laugh, dear little-lady.

Der von Kürenberg

Fifteen strophes, most of them in the Kürenberg melody. A woman standing late on a battlement hears a knight sing out of the crowd and swears he must leave the land or she will have her fill of him; a knight calls for his horse and armor, since a lady would force him to love her; and a falcon reared and fitted with gold flies off into other lands, its jesses still of silk.

7,1 'Vil lieber friunde scheiden daz ist schedelîch;

'Very of-dear friends the-parting that is harmful;

swer sînen friunt behaltet, daz ist lobelîch.

whoever his friend keeps, that is praiseworthy.

die site wil ich minnen.

that custom will I love.

bit in daz er mir holt sî, als er hie vor was,

bid him that he to-me devoted be, as he here before was,

und man in waz wir redeten, dô ich in ze jungeste sach.'

and remind him what we spoke, when I him at last saw.'

7,10 Wes manest du mich leides, mîn vil liebe liep?

Why remind-you thou me of-sorrow, my very dear love?

unser zweier scheiden müez ich geleben niet.

of-us two the-parting may I live-to-see not.

verliuse ich dîne minne,

(if)-lose I thy love,

sô lâz ich die liute harte wol entstân,

then let I the people right well understand,

daz mîn fröide ist der minnist und alle ander verman.

that my joy is the least and all others I-scorn.

‘Leit machet sorge vil liebe wünne.

7,19

‘Sorrow makes care much love delight.

eines hübschen ritters gewan ich künde:

of-a courtly knight gained I acquaintance:

daz mir den benomen hânt die merker und ir nît,

that from-me him taken have the spies and their envy,

des mohte mir mîn herze nie frô werden sît.’

of-that could to-me my heart never glad become since.’

‘Ich stuont mir nehtint spâte an einer zinnen:

8,1

‘I stood for-myself last-night late on a battlement:

dô hôt ich einen ritter vil wol singen

then heard I a knight very well singing

in Kûrenberges wîse al ûz der menigîn:

in Kûrenberg’s melody all out-of the crowd:

er muoz mir diu lant rûmen, ald ich geniete mich sîn.’

he must for-me the lands quit, or I sate myself of-him.’

[Jô stuont ich nehtint spâte vor dînem bette:

8,9

[Indeed stood I last-night late before thy bed:

do getorste ich dich, frouwe, niwet wecken.

then should-dare I thee, lady, not to-wake.

‘Des gehazze got den dînen lîp!

‘For-that may-hate God the thy person!

jo enwas ich niht ein eber wilde’, sô sprach daz wîp.]

indeed was I not a boar wild’, so spoke the woman.]

‘Swenne ich stân aleine in mînem hemedē,

8,17

‘Whenever I stand alone in my shift,

unde ich gedenke an dich, ritter edele,

and I think on thee, knight noble,

so erbluot sich mîn varwe als der rôse an dorne tuot,
then blooms itself my color as the rose on the-thorn does,

und gewinnet daz herze vil manigen trûrigen muot.’
and gains the heart very many-a sorrowful spirit.’

8,25 ‘Ez hât mir an dem herzen vil dicke wê getân

‘It has to-me in the heart very often pain done

daz mich des geluste des ich niht mohte hân

that me for-that desire-seized which I not could have

noch niemer mac gewinnen. daz ist schedelîch.

nor ever can gain. that is harmful.

jône mein ich golt noch silber: ez ist den liuten gelîch.’

indeed-not mean I gold nor silver: it is to-the people alike.’

8,33 ‘Ich zôch mir einen valken mêre danne ein jâr.

‘I reared for-myself a falcon more than a year.

dô ich in gezamete als ich in wolte hân

when I him had-tamed as I him wished to-have

und ich im sîn gevidere mit golde wol bewant,

and I for-him his plumage with gold well wound,

er huop sich ûf vil hôhe und floug in anderiu lant.

he raised himself up very high and flew into other lands.

Sît sach ich den valken schône fliegen:

Since saw I the falcon beautifully flying:

er fuorte an sînem fuoze sîdîne riemen,

he bore on his foot silken jesses,

und was im sîn gevidere alrôt guldîn.

and was for-him his plumage all-red golden.

got sende si zesamene die gerne geliep wellen sîn!’

God send them together who gladly beloved wish to-be!’

Ez gât mir vonne herzen daz ich geweine: 9,13
It goes to-me from-the heart that I weep:

ich und mîn geselle müezen uns scheiden.
I and my companion must ourselves part.

daz machent lügenære. got der gebe in leit!
that cause liars. God he give them sorrow!

der uns zwei versuonde vil wol, des wære ich gemeit.
whoever us two reconciled very well, of-that would-be I glad.

Wîp vil schœne, nu var du sam mir. 9,21
Woman very beautiful, now go thou with me.

lieb unde leide daz teile ich sant dir.
joy and sorrow that share I together-with thee.

die wîle unz ich daz leben hân sô bist du mir vil liep.
the while until I the life have so art thou to-me very dear.

wan minnestu einen böesen, des engan ich dir niet.
but lovest-thou a base-man, of-that grant I thee not.

Nu brinc mir her vil balde mîn ros, mîn îsengewant, 9,29
Now bring me here very quickly my horse, my iron-armor,

wan ich muoz einer frouwen rûmen diu lant.
for I must for-a lady quit the lands.

diu wil mich des betwingen daz ich ir holt sî.
she wishes me to-that to-compel that I to-her devoted be.

si muoz der mîner minne iemer darbende sîn.
she must of-the my love ever lacking be.

Der tunkele sterne der birget sich. 10,1
The dark star it hides itself.

als tuo du, frouwe schœne, sô du sehest mich,
so do thou, lady beautiful, when thou seest me,

sô lâ du dîniu ougen gên an einen andern man.

then let thou thine eyes go to an other man.

sôn weiz doch lützel ieman wiez undr uns zwein ist getân.

then-not knows yet little anyone how-it between us two is done.

10,9 Aller wîbe wunne diu gêt noch megetîn.

Of-all women the-delight she goes still maidenly.

als ich an si gesende den lieben boten mîn,

when I to her send the dear messenger mine,

jô wurbe ichz gerne selbe, wær ez ir schade niet.

indeed would-woo I-it gladly myself, were it her harm not.

in weiz wiech ir gevalle: mir wart nie wîp alsô liep.

I-not know how-I her please: to-me was never woman so dear.

10,17 Wîp unde vederspil diu werdent lihte zam:

Women and falcons they become easily tame:

swer si ze rehte lucket, sô suochent si den man.

whoever them to right lures, then seek they the man.

als warb ein schœne ritter umb eine frouwen guot.

so wooed a handsome knight for a lady good.

als ich dar an gedenke, sô stêt wol hôhe mîn muot.

when I there on think, then stands well high my spirit.

Meinloh von Sevelingen

Twelve strophes, several of them a man's song answered by a woman's. He heard her praised before he had ever seen her, sought her until he found her, and now speaks from what his own eyes saw; she says that her eyes chose a young man, that the spies have thought ill of her, and that her own mind counsels her toward no other man.

Dô ich dich loben hôrte, dô het ich dich gerne erkant.

11,1

When I thee praise heard, then had I thee gladly known.

durch dîne tugende manige fuor ich ie welnde, unz ich dich vant.

for thy virtues many went I ever choosing, until I thee found.

daz ich dich nu gesehen hân, daz enwirret dir niet.

that I thee now seen have, that troubles thee not.

er ist vil wol getiuret, den du wilt, frouwe, haben lieb.

he is very well ennobled, whom thou wilt, lady, bold dear.

du bist der besten eine, des muoz man dir von schulden jehen.

thou art of-the best one, of-that must one to-thee with justice grant.

sô wol den dînen ougen!

so hail to-the thine eyes!

diu kunnen swen si wellen an vil gûetlîchen sehen.

they can whomever they wish upon very kindly look.

Dir enbiutet sînen dienst dem du bist, frouwe, als der lîp.

11,14

To-thee offers his service one-to-whom thou art, lady, as the life.

er heizt dir sagen zewâre, du habest im elliu andriu wîp

he bids to-thee say in-truth, thou hast for-him all other women

benomen ûz sînem muote, daz er gedanke niene hât.

taken out-of his spirit, that he thought not-at-all has.

nu tuoz durch dîne tugende und enbiut im eteslîchen rât.

now do-it for thy virtue and offer him some counsel.

du hâst im nâch bekêret beidiu sin unde leben:

thou hast for-him almost overturned both sense and life:

er hât dur dînen willen

he has for thy sake

eine ganze fröide gar um ein trûren gegeben.

a whole joy entirely for a mourning given.

12,1 Swer werden wîben dienen sol, der sol semelîchen varn.

Whoever to-worthy women serve shall, he shall in-like-manner fare.

ob er sich wol ze rehte gegen in kunne bewarn,

if he himself well to right toward them can guard,

sô muoz er under wîlen senelîche swære tragen

then must he at times longing grief bear

verholne in dem herzen; er sol ez niemanne sagen.

secretly in the heart; he shall it to-no-one tell.

swer biderber dienet wîben, die gebent alsus getânen solt.

whoever a-worthy-man serves women, they give thus fashioned pay.

ich wæne, unkiuschez herze

I believe, an-unchaste heart

wirt mit ganzen triuwen werden wîben niemer holt.

becomes with whole faithfulness to-worthy women never devoted.

12,14 Ez mac niht heizen minne, der lange wirbet umbe ein wîp.

It may not be-called love, one-who long woos for a woman.

die liute werdents inne, und wirt zerfûeret dur nît.

the people become-of-it aware, and it-is destroyed through envy.

unstætiu friuntschaft machet wankelen muot.

inconstant friendship makes wavering spirit.

wan sol ze liebe gâhen: deist für die merkære guot;

one shall to love hasten: that-is against the spies good;

daz es iemen werde inne ê ir wille sî ergân.

that of-it anyone become aware before their will be fulfilled.

sô sol man si triegen.

so shall one them deceive.

dâ ist gnuogen ane gelungen, die daz selbe hânt getân.

there have many-people in-it succeeded, who the same have done.

Ich lebe stolzliche, in der werlte ist niemanne baz.

I live proudly, in the world is to-no-one better.

12,27

ich trûre mit gedanken: niemen kan erwenden daz,

I mourn with thoughts: no-one can avert that,

ez tuo ein edeliu frouwe, diu mir ist als der lîp.

it do a noble lady, who to-me is as the life.

ich gesach mit mînen ougen nie baz gebâren ein wîp.

I saw with my eyes never better bear-herself a woman.

des ist si guot ze lobenne: an ir ist anders wandels niht.

therefore is she good to praise: in her is otherwise of-fault nothing.

den tac den wil ich êren

the day that will I honor

iemer durch ir willen, sô si mîn ouge ane siht.

ever for her sake, when her my eye upon looks.

Ich bin holt einer frouwen: ich weiz vil wol umbe waz.

I am devoted to-a lady: I know very well for what.

13,1

sît ich ir begunde dienen, si geviel mir ie baz und ie baz.

since I her began to-serve, she pleased me ever better and ever better.

ie lieber und ie lieber sô ist si zallen zîten mir,

ever dearer and ever dearer so is she at-all times to-me,

ie schœner und ie schœner: vil wol gevallet si mir.

ever fairer and ever fairer: very well pleases she me.

sîst sælic zallen êren, der besten tugende pfliget ir lîp.

she-is blessed in-all honors, of-the best virtue practices her person.

sturbe ich nâch ir minne,

should-die I for her love,

und wurde ich danne lebende, sô wurbe ich aber umb daz wîp.

and should-become I then living, then would-woo I again for the woman.

13,14 'Sô wê den merkæren! die habent mîn übele gedâht:

'So woe to-the spies! they have of-me evilly thought:

si habent mich âne schulde in eine grôze rede brâht.

they have me without guilt into a great talk brought.

si wænent mir in leiden, sô si sô rûnent under in.

they think to-me him to-make-bateful, when they so whisper among themselves.

nu wizzen algelîche daz ich sîn friundinne bin;

now let-know all-alike that I his beloved am;

âne nâhe bî gelegen: des hân ich weizgot niht getân.

without close by lying: that have I God-knows not done.

stechens ûz ir ougen,

let-them-put out their eyes,

mir râtent mîne sinne an deheinen andern man.'

to-me counsel my senses to no other man.'

13,27 'Mir erwelten mîniu ougen einen kindeschen man.

'For-me chose my eyes a youthful man.

daz nîdent ander frouwen: ich hân in anders niht getân,

that envy other ladies: I have to-them otherwise nothing done,

wan ob ich hân gedienet daz ich diu liebeeste bin.

except if I have earned that I the dearest am.

dar an wil ich kêren mîn herze und allen den sin.

there on will I turn my heart and all the sense.

swelhiu sînen willen hie bevor hât getân,

whichever-woman his will here before has done,

verlôs si in von schulden,

lost she him through fault,

der wil ich nu niht wîzen, sihe ichs unfroelichen stân.'

her will I now not reproach, see I-her unhappily stand.'

Ich sach boten des sumeres: daz wâren bluomen alsô rô. 14,1

I saw messengers of-the summer: those were flowers so red.

weistu, schœne frouwe, waz dir ein ritter enbôt?

knowest-thou, fair lady, what to-thee a knight offered?

verholne sînen dienst. im wart liebers nie niet.

secretly his service. to-him became dearer never anything.

im trûret sîn herze sît er nu jungest von dir schiet.

for-him mourns his heart since he now last from thee parted.

nu hœhe im sîn gemüete gegen dirre sumerzît,

now raise for-him his spirit toward this summertime,

frô enwirt er niemer,

glad becomes he never,

ê er an dînem arme sô rehte gütliche gelît.

ere he on thine arm so rightly kindly lies.

Drî tugende sint in dem lande, swer der eine kan begân 14,14

Three virtues are in the land, whoever of-them one can practice

der sol stille swîgen, und sol die merkære lân

he shall quietly be-silent, and shall the spies let

reden swaz in gevalle: sô ist er guot frouwen trût,

talk whatever them pleases: so is he of-good ladies the-darling,

sô mac er vil wol triuten swier wil stille und überlût.

so may he very well make-love however-he wishes quietly and openly.

der dâ wol helen kan, der hât der tugende allermeist.

who there well conceal can, he has of-the virtue most-of-all.

er ist unnütze lebende, der allez sagen wil daz er weiz.

he is uselessly living, who everything tell will that he knows.

14,26 'Ich hân vernomen ein mære, mîn muot sol aber hôhe stân:

I have heard a tiding, my spirit shall again high stand:

wan er ist komen ze lande, von dem mîn trûren sol zergân.

for he is come to land, from whom my mourning shall vanish.

mînes herzen leide sî ein urlop gegeben.

to-my heart's sorrow be a leave given.

mich heizent sîne tugende daz ich vil stæter minne pflege.

me bid his virtues that I very constant love practice.

ich gelege mir in wol nâhe, den selben kindeschen man.

I lay-down for-myself him well near, the same youthful man.

sô wol mich sînes komens! wie wol er frouwen dienen kan!

so hail me for-his coming! how well he ladies serve can!

15,1 Vil schœne unde biderbe, dar zuo edel unde guot,

Very fair and worthy, there to noble and good,

sô weiz ich eine frouwen: der zimet wol allez daz si tuot.

so know I a lady: her befits well all that she does.

ich rede ez umbe daz niht, daz mir got die sælde habe gegeben

I say it for that not, that to-me God the fortune has given

deich ie mit ir geredete oder nâhe bî sî gelegen;

that-I ever with her spoke or near by her lay;

wan daz mîniu ougen sâhen die rehten wârheit.

but that my eyes saw the plain truth.

si ist edel und ist schœne, in rehter mæze gemeit.

she is noble and is fair, in right measure joyous.

ich gesach nie eine frouwen diu ir lîp schôner kûnde hân.

I saw never a lady who her body more-beautifully could keep.

durch daz wil ich mich flîzen,

for that will I myself strive,

swaz sie gebiutet, daz daz allez sî getân.

whatever she commands, that that all be done.

Der Burggraf von Regensburg

THE BURGRAVE OF REGENSBURG

Two songs, each of two strophes. A woman is subject to a good knight and will stay devoted though all would take him from her; a man says only a lady's love can heal the heart the spies have wounded, and a woman told to avoid a knight cannot.

‘Ich bin mit rechter stætekeit eim guoten rîter undertân.

16,1

I am with right constancy to-a good knight subject.

wie sanfte ez mînem herzen tuot, swenn ich in umbevangen hân!

how gently it my heart does, when I him embraced have!

der sich mit manegen tugenden guot

who himself with many virtues good

gemachet al der werlde lieb, der mac wol hôhe tragen den muot.’

has-made to-all the world dear, he may well high carry the spirit.’

‘Sine mugen alle mir benemen den ich mir lange hân erwelt

‘They-not may all from-me take whom I for-me long have chosen

ze rechter stæte in mînen muot, der mich vil manges liebes went.

in right constancy in my spirit, who me of-very many joys deprives.

und lægen sî vor leide tût,

and lay they for sorrow dead,

ich wil im iemer wesen holt. si sint betwungen âne nôt.’

I will to-him ever be devoted. they are compelled without need.’

Ich lac den winter eine. wol trôste mich ein wîp

16,15

I lay the winter alone. well consoled me a woman

für daz mir fröide kunden die bluomen und diu sumerzît.

before that to-me joy announced the flowers and the summertime.

daz nîdent merkære: dêst mîn herze wunt.

that envy the-spies: that-is my heart wounded.

ezn heile mir ein frowe mit ir minne, ez enwirdet niemer mê gesunt.

unless-it heal me a lady with her love, it becomes never more healthy.

‘Nu heizent si mich mîden einen ritter: ine mac.

Now bid they me to-avoid a knight: I-not can.

swenn ich dar an gedenke daz ich sô guotlichen lac

when I there on think that I so gently lay

verholne an sînem arme, des tuot mir senede wê.

secretly on his arm, of-that does to-me longing pain.

von im ist ein alse unsanftez scheiden,

from him is a so ungentle parting,

des mac sich mîn herze wol entstên.’

of-that may itself my heart well understand.’

Der Burggraf von Rietenburg

THE BURGRAVE OF RIETENBURG

Seven strophes. A woman will not give up her knight for the spies, and he has earned her goodwill. The nightingale is silenced and the season turned; gold is proved in the fire and comes out purer, and he says his own worth is proved the same way, since the lady wishes to try him and to have him part from her.

‘Nu endarf mir nieman wîzen,

Now need to-me no-one reproach,

18,1

ob ich in iemer gerne sâhe.

if I him ever gladly should-see.

des wil ich mich gein in vlîzen.

in-that will I myself toward him exert.

waz drumbe, ob ich von zorne jæhe,

what of-it, if I from anger should-say,

daz mir sî iemen also lieb?

that to-me be anyone as dear?

ich lâze in durch ir nîden niet.

I leave him for their envy not.

sie fliesent alle ir arebeit:

they lose all their hardship:

er kan mir niemer werden leit.’

he can to-me never become hateful.’

Mir gestuont mîn gemüete

For-me stood my spirit

nie sô hôhe von schulde,

never so high with cause,

sît ich von ir rehter güete

since I from her true goodness

hân alsô wol gedient ir hulde.

have so well earned her goodwill.

ich fürhte niht ir aller drô,

I fear not their all threat,

sît si wil daz ich sî frô.

since she wills that I be glad.

wan diu guote ist fröiden rîch,

for the good-one is in-joys rich,

des wil ich iemer fröwen mich.

of-that will I ever rejoice myself.

18,17 Diu nahtegal ist gesweiget

The nightingale is silenced

und ir hôher sanc geneiget,

and her high song bowed-down,

die ich wol hôrte singen.

whom I well heard sing.

doch tuot mir sanfte guot gedinge

yet does to-me gently good hope

den ich von einer frowen hân.

which I from a lady have.

ich wil ir niemer abe gegân

I will from-her never away go

und biute ir stæten dienest mîn.

and offer her constant service mine.

als wil ich iemer mêre sîn.

so will I ever more be.

Ich hôte wilent sagen ein mære,

I heard once tell a tale,

daz ist mîn aller bester trôst,

that is my of-all best comfort,

wie minne ein sælikeit wære

how love a blessedness were

und des andern schaden nie erkôs.

and the other's harm never chose.

des möhte ich werden sorgen lôs,

thereby might I become of-cares free,

ob si erbarmen wil mîn swære.

if her to-pity wills my grief.

got weiz wol daz ich ê verbære

God knows well that I sooner would-forgo

iemer mære alliu wîp

ever more all women

ê ir vil minneclîchen lîp.

ere her very lovely body.

den willen hân ich lange zît.

that will have I long time.

Sît sich verwandelt hât diu zît,

Since itself changed has the time,

des vil manic herze ist frô,

of-which very many-a heart is glad,

sô wurde erværet mir der lîp,

then would-be frightened for-me the body,

tæt ich selbe niht alsô,

did I myself not so,

der betwungen stât.

who compelled stands.

noch ist mîn rât

still is my counsel

daz ich niuwe mînen sanc.

that I renew my song.

ez ist leider alze lanc

it is alas all-too long

daz die bluomen rôr

that the flowers red

begunden lîden nôr.

began to-suffer distress.

19,17 Sît si wil versuochen mich,

Since she wills to-try me,

daz nim ich für allez guot.

that take I for all good.

sô wurde ich golde gelîch,

so become I to-gold like,

daz man dâ brüevet in der gluot

whiche one there proves in the glow

und versuochet ez baz.

and tries it better.

bezzet wirt ez umbe daz,

better becomes it for that,

lûter, schoener unde clâr.

pure, fairer and clear.

swaz ich singe daz ist wâr:

whatever I sing that is true:

gluote si ez iemer mê,

made-glow she it ever more,

ez wurde bezzet vil dan ê.

it would-become better much than before.

Sît si wil deich von ir scheide,

Since she wills that-I from her part,

dem si dicke tuot gelich,

to-which she often acts alike,

ir schœne unde ir güete beide

her beauty and her goodness both

die lâze si, sô kêre ich mich.

those leave she, so turn I myself.

swar ich danne landes var,

wherever I then of-the-land go,

ir lîp der hôhste got bewar.

her person the highest God preserve.

mîn herze erkôs mir dise nôt.

my heart chose for-me this distress.

senfter wære mir der tôt

gentler were to-me the death

danne deich ir diene vil

than that-I her serve much

und si des niht wizzen wil.

and she of-that not know will.

Spervogel

Fifty-two gnomic strophes. Whoever invites the wolf into the house takes his own harm; the cloak is turned as the weather goes; poverty takes a man's greeting and his kin. Between the proverbs stand laments for dead patrons — Fruot, Walther of Hûsen, and Wernhart of Steinsberg — the fable of the wolf that fled his sins, and near the close strophes on Christ, hell, and heaven.

20,1 Swer in fremeden landen vil der tugende hât,

Whoever in foreign lands much of virtue has,

der solte niemer komen hein, daz wer mân rât,

he should never come home, that were my counsel,

ern hete dâ den selben muot.

unless-be had there the same spirit.

ez enwart nie mannes lop sô guot

it became never a-man's praise so good

sô daz von sînem hûse vert,

as that-which from his house goes-forth,

dâ man in wol erkennet.

where one him well knows.

waz hilfet daz man trægen esel

what helps that one a-lazy donkey

mit snellem marke rennet?

with a-swift horse races?

20,9 Unmære hunde sol man schupfen zuo dem bern,

Worthless hounds shall one set against the bear,

und rôten habech zem reiger werfen, tar ers gern,

and a-red hawk at-the heron cast, (if)-dares he-it gladly,

und altiu ros zer stuote slahen,

and old horses to-the stud strike,

mit linden wazzern hende twahen,

with soft waters hands wash,

mit rehtem herzen minnen got,

with right heart love God,

und al die werlt wol êren,

and all the world well honor,

und neme ze wîsem manne rât

and take from wise man counsel

und volge ouch sîner lêre.

and follow also his teaching.

Swer suochet rât und volget des, der habe danc,

Whoever seeks counsel and follows it, he have thanks,

20,17

alse mîn geselle Spervogel sanc.

as my companion Spervogel sang.

und solde er leben tûsent jâr,

and should he live a-thousand years,

sîn êre stîgent, daz ist wâr.

his honors rise, that is true.

ist danne daz er triuwen pfliget

(if)-is then that he faithfulness practices

und den niht wil entwenken,

and from-them not will escape,

so er in der erde erfûlet ist,

when he in the earth rotted is,

sô muoz man sîn gedenken.

then must one of-him remember.

20,25 Ez zimt wol helden daz si frô nâch leide sîn.

It befits well heroes that they glad after sorrow be.

kein ungelücke wart nie sô grôz, dâ enwere bî
no misfortune was ever so great, there unless-were by-it

ein heil: des suln wir uns versehen.

a good-fortune: of-that shall we ourselves expect.

uns mac wol frum nâch schaden geschehen.

to-us may well benefit after harm happen.

wir haben verlorn ein veigez guot:

we have lost a doomed possession:

vîl stolzen helde, enruochet.

very proud heroes, care-not.

dar umbe suln wir niht verzagen:

there for shall we not despair:

ez wirt noch baz versuochet.

it is yet better tried.

21,5 Waz frumt dem rosse daz ez bî dem fuoter stât,

What avails the horse that it by the fodder stands,

und ouch dem wolve daz er bî den schâfen gât,

and also the wolf that he by the sheep goes,

der in diu beidiu tiure tuot?

who to-them the both dear makes?

sô ist ez jenem alsô guot,

so is it to-that-one just-as good,

der veile vindet swaz er wil,

who for-sale finds whatever he wishes,

und des niht mac vergelten.

and for-it not can pay.

ein licht in sehendes mannes hant

a light in a-seeing man's hand

daz fröit den blinden selten.

that gladdens the blind seldom.

Swer einen friunt wil suochen dâ er sîn niht enhât,
Whoever a friend will seek where he him not has,

21,13

und vert ze walde spüren sô der snê zergât,
and goes to wood tracking when the snow melts,

und koufet ungeschouwet vil,
and buys unseen much,

und haltet gerne verlorniu spil,
and holds gladly lost games,

und dienet einem böesen man
and serves a base man

dâ ez âne lôn belîbet,
where it without reward remains,

dem wirt wol afterriuwe kunt,
to-him becomes well after-regret known,

ob erz die lenge trîbet.
if he-it the length pursues.

Swer lange dienet dâ man dienstes niht verstât,
Whoever long serves where one service not understands,

21,21

und einen ungetriuwen miteslûzzel hât,
and an unfaithful fellow-keyholder has,

und einen valschen nâchgebûr,
and a false neighbor,

dem wirt sîn spîse harte sûr.
to-him becomes his food very sour.

ob er sich wil alsô betrâgen
if he himself will so weary

dêr arman niht verdirbet,
that-be a-poor-man not perishes,

daz muoz von gotes helfe komen,
that must from God's help come,

wan er mit triuwen wirbet.
for he with faithfulness works.

21,29 Diu sælde dringet für die kunst, daz ellen gât
The fortune presses ahead-of the art, that valor goes

vil dicke nâch dem rîchen zagen in swacher wât.
very often after the rich coward in poor garb.

erst tump, swer guot vor êren spart.
he-is foolish, whoever goods before honors spares.

zûhte wellent grâwen bart,
courtesies want a-gray beard,

triuwe machent werden man
faithfulness makes worthy man

und wîsen schœne frâge.
and wise fair asking.

liebe meistert wol den kouf:
affection masters well the bargain:

sô scheidet schade die mâge.
so parts harm the kinsmen.

22,1 Wan sol einen biderben man wol drîzec jâr
One shall a worthy man well thirty years

dar ûf behalten (deich iu sage, daz ist wâr),
there upon keep (that-I to-you say, that is true),

ob man dem hêrren widersage,
if one to-the lord renounce,

daz er im holdez herze trage.
that he to-him devoted heart bear.

swem daz guot ze herzen gât,
to-whom the wealth to heart goes,

der gwinnet niemer êre.
he wins never honor.

jô enrede ichz niht dur mînen frumen,
indeed speak I-it not for my profit,

wan daz ichz alle lêre.
but that I-it all teach.

Sô wê dir armuot! du benimest dem man

22,9

So woe to-thee poverty! thou takest from-the man

beidiu witze und ouch den sin, der niht enkan.

both wits and also the sense, who nothing can.

die friunt getuont sîn lîhten rât,

the friends do of-him easily without,

swenn er des guotes niht enhât:

whenever he the wealth not has:

si kêrent ime den rugge zuo

they turn to-him the back toward

und grüezent in vil träge.

and greet him very slowly.

die wîle dêr mit vollen lebet,

the while that-he with plenty lives,

sô hât er holde mâge.

so has he devoted kinsmen.

Sô wol dir, wirt, wie wol dû doch dem hûse zimst!

22,17

So hail to-thee, host, how well thou yet the house befittest!

an dem worte niemer mê dû abe genimst.

from the word never more thou away takest.

swie kleine man gebresten hât,

however little one lack has,

wol doch der wirt dem hûse stât.

well yet the host the house stands-by.

der wirt der kan des hûses reht

the host he can the house's right

wol mezzen nâch der snüere.

well measure by the cord.

waz solde ein wîselôsez her,

what should a leaderless army,

daz âne meister füere?

that without master would-fare?

22,25 Wan sol den mantel kêren als daz weter gât.
One shall the cloak turn as the weather goes.
 ein frumer man der habe sin dinc als ez dâ stât.
a worthy man he have his thing as it there stands.
 sîns leides sî er niht ze dol,
of-his sorrow be he not too foolish,
 sîn liep er schône haben sol.
his joy he fairly keep shall.
 êst hiute mîn, morne dîn:
it-is today mine, tomorrow thine:
 sô teilet man die huoben.
so divides one the hides-of-land.
 vil dicke er selbe drinne lît,
very often he himself therein lies,
 der dem andern grebt die gruoben.
who for-the other digs the pit.

22,33 Swer mir nû verwîzet daz ich niht enhân,
Whoever me now reproaches that I not have,
 gelebe ich iemer daz ich wol berâten gân,
(if)-live I ever that I well provided go,
 der muoz ouch mir der bœser sîn.
he must also to-me the worse be.
 ich hôte sagen daz der Rîn
I heard say that the Rhine
 hie vor in engen fürten flôz.
here before in narrow fords flowed.
 des muoz ich lônnes bîten.
of-that must I for-reward wait.
 nû ist er worden alsô grôz
now is he become so great
 daz in nieman mac geriten.
that him no-one can ride-across.

Mich wundert dicke daz ein wol gerâten man

23,5

Me astonishes often that a well turned-out man

under sînen friunden niht erwerben kan

among his friends not gain can

sîn sin im âne schulde gehaz

his-own are to-him without guilt hostile

und gunden einem fremeden baz

and should-grant a foreign-one better

der êren die er solte hân

the honors which he should have

mit den besten in den landen.

with the best in the lands.

stirbet er, si sehent den tac,

dies he, they see the day,

si trûegen in ûf den handen.

they would-carry him upon the hands.

Daz ich ungelücke hân daz tuot mir wê:

23,13

That I misfortune have that does to-me pain:

des muos ich ungetrunken gân von einem sê

of-that must I unslaked go from a lake

dar ûz ein küeler brunne vlôz,

there out-of a cool spring flowed,

des kraft was michel unde grôz.

whose power was mighty and great.

dâ buozte maneger sînen durst

there slaked many-a-one his thirst

und wart dâ wol ergetzet.

and was there well refreshed.

swie dicke ich mînen napf dar bôt,

however often I my cup there offered,

ern wart mir nie genetzet.

it was for-me never wetted.

23,21 Swer den wolf ze hûse ladet der nimt sîn schaden.
Whoever the wolf to house invites he takes his harm.

ein schifman mac ein krankez schif schier überladen.
a shipman can a weak ship soon overload.

daz ich iu sage daz ist wâr:
that-which I to-you say that is true:

swer sînem wîbe durch daz jâr
whoever for-his woman through the year

koufet guoter kleider vil,
buys of-good clothes much,

im selben niht enkoufet,
for-himself self not buys,

dâ mac ein hôchvart von geschehen
there may a haughtiness from happen

daz sîm ein stiefkint toufet.
that for-him a stepchild is-christened.

23,29 Wir loben alle disen halm, wand er uns truoc.
We praise all this straw, because it us bore.

vernet was ein schœner sumer und korns genuoc.
last-year was a fair summer and of-corn enough.

des was al diu werlt ouch vrô.
of-that was all the world also glad.

wer gesach ie schœner strô?
who saw ever fairer straw?

ez füllet gar dem rîchen man
it fills entirely for-the rich man

die schiure und ouch die kiste.
the barn and also the chest.

swann ez gediente dar ez sol,
when it has-served there-where it should,

sô wirt ez aber ze miste.
then becomes it again to dung.

Treit ein reine wîp niht guoter kleider an,
(if)-Wears a pure woman not good clothes on,
 si zieret doch ir tugent, als ich mîchs kan verstân,
she adorns yet her virtue, as I myself-it can understand,
 daz si vil schône geblüet stât
that she very beautifully blooming stands
 alsô diu liechte sunne ûfgât,
as the bright sun rises,
 diu gegen dem morgen schînet fruô
which toward the morning shines early
 sô lûter und sô reine.
so clear and so pure.
 swie vil ein valschiu kleider treit,
however much a false-one clothes wears,
 sôst doch ir lop vil kleine.
so-is yet her praise very small.

24,1

Swâ ein vriunt dem andern vriunde bî gestât
Wherever a friend the other friend by stands
 mit ganzen triuwen gar ân alle missetât,
with whole faithfulness wholly without any misdeed,
 dâ ist des vriundes helfe guot.
there is the friend's help good.
 dem er si willeclîche tuot,
to-whom he it willingly does,
 daz si gehellent under in,
that they agree among themselves,
 dem mêret sich daz künne.
for-him increases itself the kin.
 swâ vriunde ein ander wæge sint,
wherever friends one another well-disposed are,
 daz ist ein mîchel wünne.
that is a great delight.

24,9

24,17 Swer den sînen guoten vriunt behalten wil,
Whoever the his good friend keep will,
 den sol er vor den liuten strâfen niht ze vil.
him shall he before the people chide not too much.
 er neme besunder in hin dan
he take apart him away thence
 und sage im waz er habe getân:
and say to-him what he has done:
 dâ enhoret ez der vremde niht.
there hears it the stranger not.
 er zürne in dâ vil sêre
he be-angry-at him there very sorely
 und halte in vor den liuten wol:
and keep him before the people well:
 des hât er immer êre.
of-that has he ever honor.

Ein edele kunne stîget ûf bî einem man
A noble kin rises up by one man
 der dem vil wol gehelfen unde râten kan:
who it very well help and counsel can:
 sô sîget ein hôhez kunne nider
so sinks a high kin down
 und rihtet sich ûf nimmer wider,
and raises itself up never again,
 sô si verliesent under in
when they lose among themselves
 der in dâ solte râten;
him-who them there should counsel;
 er was in ie mit triuwen bî
he was to-them ever with faithfulness by
 und suonte swaz si tâten.
and reconciled whatever they did.

Swer guote witze hât der ist vil wol geborn.

Whoever good wits has he is very well born.

24,33

swaz man dem bôsen vür geseit, deist gar verlorn.

whatever one to-the base-man forth says, that-is wholly lost.

man tuot im ie den besten rât,

one gives him ever the best counsel,

wie selten er daz für guot enpfât!

how seldom he that for good receives!

ern welle allen sînen sin

unless-he will all his sense

an ganze tugende kêren,

to whole virtue turn,

sô mohte man ein wilden bern

so might one a wild bear

noch sanfter harfen lêren.

yet more-easily harping teach.

Der guote gruoz der vreut den gast, swenn er in gât.

The good greeting it gladdens the guest, when he in goes.

25,5

vil wol dem wirtē daz in sînem hûse stât

very well for-the host that in his house stands

daz er mit zûhten wese vrô

that he with courtesies be glad

und bietez sînem gaste sô

and offer-it to-his guest so

daz in der wille dunke guot

that him the will seem good

den er gegen im kêret.

whith he toward him turns.

mit lîhter kost er dienet lop,

with light cost he earns praise,

swer fremden man wol êret.

whoever a-foreign man well honors.

25,13 Ich sage iu, lieben süne mîn,
I say to-you, dear sons mine,
 iu enwahset korn noch der wîn,
for-you grows-not corn nor the wine,
 ich enkan iu niht gezeigen
I can to-you not show
 diu lêhen noch diu eigen.
the fiefs nor the freeholds.
 nu genâde iu got der guote,
now be-gracious to-you God the good,
 und gebe iu sælde unde heil.
and give to-you fortune and good-fortune.
 vil wol gelanc von Tenemarke Fruote.
very well succeeded from Denmark to-Fruot.

25,20 Mich riuwet Fruot von über mer,
Me grieves Fruot from over sea,
 und von Hûsen Walther,
and from Hûsen Walther,
 Heinrîch von Gebechenstein,
Heinrich from Gebechenstein,
 von Stoufen was ir noch ein.
from Stoufen was of-them still one.
 got gnâde Wernharte,
God be-gracious to-Wernbart,
 der ûf Steinsberc saz
who on Steinsberc sat
 und niht vor den êren versparte.
and nothing before the honors spared.

Wer sol ûf Steinsberc

25,27

Who shall on Steinsberc

würken Wernhartes werç?

work Wernhart's work?

hei wie er gab unde lêch!

ah how he gave and lent!

des er dem biderben man verzêch,

what he to-the worthy man refused,

des enmoht er niht gewinnen.

that could he not gain.

daz was der wille: kom diu state,

that was the will: came the occasion,

si schieden sich ze jungist mit minnen.

they parted themselves at last with love.

Dô der guote Wernhart

25,34

When the good Wernhart

an dise werlt geborn wart,

into this world born was,

dô begonde er teilen al sîn guot.

then began he to-share all his wealth.

dô gewan er Rüedegêres muot,

then gained he Rüedegêr's spirit,

der saz ze Bechelære

who sat at Bechelære

und pflac der marke manegen tac:

and tended the march many-a day:

der wart von sîner frumekeit sô mære.

he became from his worthiness so famous.

- 26,6 Steinsberc die tugende hât
Steinsberc the virtue has
 daz ez sich nieman erben lâ, *that it itself no-one inherit lets,*
 wan einen der ouch êren pfligt. *except one who also honors practices.*
 dem strîte hât ez an gesigt: *the strife has it against prevailed:*
 nû hât ez einen erben. *now has it an heir.*
 der werden Ētingære stam *the worthy Ētingære stock*
 der wil im sînen namen niht verderben. *he will for-it its name not spoil.*

- 26,13 Wan seit ze hove mære,
One says at court tidings,
 wie gescheiden wære *how parted were*
 Kerlinc und Gebehart. *Kerlinc and Gebehart.*
 si liegent, sem mir mîn bart. *they lie, so-help me my beard.*
 zwên bruoder die gezürnent *two brothers who quarrel*
 und underziunent den hof, *and fence-apart the yard,*
 si lânt iedoch die stigelen unverdürnet. *they leave yet the stiles unbarred.*

Mich müet daz alter sêre,

Me troubles the old-age sorely,

26,20

wan ez Hergêre

for it from-Hergêr

alle sîne kraft benam.

all his strength took.

ez sol der gransprunge man

it shall the beard-sprouting man

bedenken sich enzîte,

betink himself in-time,

swenn er ze hove werde leit,

whenever he at court become hateful,

daz er ze gwissen herbergen rîte.

that he to sure lodgings ride.

Wie sich der rîche betrâget!

How itself the rich-man wearies!

26,27

sô dem nôthaften waget

when for-the needy swings

dur daz lant der stegereif.

through the land the stirrup.

daz ich ze bûwe niht engreif,

that I to farming not reached,

dô mir begonde entspringen

when to-me began to-sprout

von alrêst mîn bart!

at first my beard!

des muoz ich nû mit arbeiten ringen.

of-that must I now with labors wrestle.

26,34 Weistu wie der igel sprach?
Knowest-thou how the hedgehog spoke?
 'vil guot ist eigen gemach.'
'very good is own comfort.'
 zimber ein hûs, Kerlinc.
build a house, Kerlinc.
 dar inne schaffe dûniu dinc.
there in do thy things.
 die hêrren sint erarget.
the lords are grown-mean.
 swer dâ heime niht enhât,
whoever there at-home not has,
 wie maneger guoter dinge der darbet!
how many good things he lacks!

27,6 Swie daz weter tûeje,
However the weather do,
 der gast sol wesen früeje.
the guest shall be early.
 der wirt hât truckenen fuoz
the host has dry foot
 vil dicke, sô der gast muoz
very often, when the guest must
 die herberge rûmen.
the lodging quit.
 swer in dem alter welle wesen
whoever in the age wishes to-be
 wirt, der sol sich in der jugent niht sûmen.
host, he shall himself in the youth not delay.

Ez was ein wolf grâwe

27,13

It was a wolf gray

unde ein man alwære.

and a man simple.

die liute wolten slâfen.

the people wanted to-sleep.

er lie den wolf zen schâfen.

he let the wolf to-the sheep.

begienc er in der stîge

did he in the pen

daz man in des morgens hienc

that one him in-the morning hanged

und iemer mê sîn künne ane schrîet.

and ever more his kin at cries-out.

Ein wolf unde ein witzic man

27,20

A wolf and a clever man

sazten schâchzabel an:

set chess up:

si wurden spilnde umbe guot.

they were playing for goods.

der wolf begonde sînen muot

the wolf began his spirit

nâch sînem vater wenden.

after his father to-turn.

dô kom ein wider dar gegân:

then came a ram there walking:

dô gab er beidiu roch umb einen venden.

then gave he both rooks for one pawn.

27,27 Ein wolf sîne sünde flôch,
A wolf his sins fled,
 in ein klôster er sich zôch,
into a cloister he himself withdrew,
 er wolde geistlichen leben.
he wanted spiritually to-live.
 dô hiez man in der schâfe pflegen:
then bade one him of-the sheep tend:
 sît wart er unstæte.
thereafter became he inconstant.
 dô beiz er schâf unde swîn:
then bit he sheep and swine:
 er jach daz ez des pfaffen rûde tæte.
he said that it the priest's bound would-do.

27,34 Ez mac der man sô vil vertragen
It can the man so much endure
 hôrt ich Kerlingen sagen,
heard I Kerlinc say,
 ‘daz man in deste wirs hât.
‘that one him the worse holds.
 sô wirt sîn sus vil guot rât,
so becomes of-him thus very good counsel,
 ist er widersæze.
(if)-is he resistant.
 zwêne hunde striten umbe ein bein:
two hounds fought over a bone:
 dô truog ez hin ze jungest der ræze.’
then carried it away at last the fierce-one.’

Zwêne hunde striten umbe ein bein.

Two hounds fought over a bone.

28,6

dô stuont der böeser unde grein.

then stood the worse-one and snarled.

was half in al sîn grînen?

what helped him all his snarling?

er muostez bein vermîden.

he had-to-the bone forgo.

der ander der truogez

the other he carried-it

von dem tische hin ze der tür:

from the table away to the door:

er stuont ze sîner angesiht und gnuogez.

he stood in his sight and gnawed-it.

Er ist gewaltic unde starc,

He is mighty and strong,

28,13

der ze wîhen naht geborn wart.

who at holy night born was.

daz ist der heilige Krist.

that is the holy Christ.

jâ lobt in allez daz dir ist,

indeed praises him all that there is,

niwan der tievel eine:

except the devil alone:

dur sînen grôzen übermuot

through his great pride

sô wart ime diu helle ze teile.

so became to-him the hell as portion.

28,20 In der helle ist michel unrât.
In the hell is great misery.
 swer dâ heimüete hât,
whoever there home has,
 diu sunne schînet nie sô lieht,
the sun shines never so bright,
 der mê hilfet in nieht,
that-which more helps him not,
 noch der liehte sterne.
nor the bright star.
 jâ müet in allez daz er siht.
indeed troubles him all that he sees.
 jâ wær er dâ ze himel alsô gerne.
indeed were he there in heaven just-as gladly.

28,27 In himelrîche ein hûs stât:
In the-kingdom-of-heaven a house stands:
 ein guldîn wec dar in gât:
a golden way there in goes:
 die siule die sint marmelîn:
the pillars they are of-marble:
 die zieret unser trehtîn
those adorns our Lord
 mit edelem gesteine.
with noble gemstone.
 dâ enkumt nieman in,
there comes no-one in,
 ern sî vor allen sünden alsô reine.
unless-be be before all sins so pure.

Swer gerne zuo der kirchen gât

Whoever gladly to the church goes

28,34

und âne nît dâ stât,

and without envy there stands,

der mac wol frœlichen leben.

he may well joyfully live.

dem wirt ze jungest gegeben

to-him is at last given

der engel gemeine.

the angels' company.

wol in, daz er ie wart!

hail him, that he ever was!

ze himel ist daz leben alsô reine.

in heaven is the life so pure.

Ich hân gedienet lange

I have served long

29,6

leider einem manne

alas a man

der in der helle umbe gât.

who in the hell about goes.

der brüevet mîne missetât,

he reckons my misdeed,

sîn lôn der ist böese.

his reward it is bad.

hilf mir, heiliger geist,

help me, holy spirit,

deich mich von sîner vancnisse erlœse.

that-I myself from his captivity free.

29,13 Mich hungerte harte.

Me hungered sorely.

ich steic in einen garten.

I climbed into a garden.

dâ was obez innen:

there was fruit within:

des mohte ich niht gewinnen.

of-it could I nothing gain.

daz kom von unheile.

that came from ill-luck.

dicke weget ich den ast:

often shook I the branch:

mir wart des obezes nie niht ze teile.

to-me became of-the fruit never anything as portion.

Swâ ein guot boum stât

Wherever a good tree stands

und zweier hande obez hât,

and of-two kinds fruit has,

beidiu süez unde sûr,

both sweet and sour,

sô sprichet ein sîn nâchgebûr

so speaks one his neighbor

‘wir suln daz obez teilen:

‘we shall the fruit divide:

wirt ir einez drunder fûl,

(if)-becomes of-them one thereunder rotten,

ez bringet uns daz ander ze leide.’

it brings us the other to sorrow.’

Swel man ein guot wîp hât

29,27

Whichever man a good woman has

unde zeiner ander gât,

and to-a other goes,

der bezeichent daz swîn.

he signifies the swine.

wie möhte ez iemer erger sîn?

how could it ever worse be?

ez lât den lûtern brunnen

it leaves the pure spring

und leit sich in den trüeben pfuol.

and lays itself in the muddy pool.

den site hât vil manic man gewonnen.

that custom has very many-a man acquired.

Ein man sol haben êre

29,34

A man shall have honor

und sol iedoch der sêle

and shall yet for-the soul

under wîlen wesen guot,

at times be good,

daz in dehein sîn übermuot

that him no his pride

verleite niht ze verre;

mislead not too far;

swenne er urlobes ger,

whenever he leave desires,

daz ez im an dem wege niht enwerre.

that it him on the way not hinder.

30,6 Korn sâte ein bûman:

Grain sowed a farmer:

dô enwolde ez niht ûf gân.

then would it not up come.

ime erzornte daz:

him angered that:

ein ander jâr er sich vermaz

an other year he himself resolved

daz erz en egerde lieze.

that be-it in fallow should-leave.

er solde ez ime gûetliche geben,

he should it to-him kindly give,

der dem andern umb sîn dienst iht gehieze.

who to-the other for his service anything promised.

30,13 Krist sich ze marterenne gap,

Christ himself to be-martyred gave,

er lie sich legen in ein grap.

he let himself be-laid in a grave.

daz tet er dur die gottheit:

that did he for the godhead:

dâ mite lôt er die kristenheit

there with freed he the Christendom

von der heizen helle.

from the hot hell.

er getuot ez niemer mer.

he does it never more.

dar an gedenke swer sô der welle.

there on think whoever so he wish.

An dem ôsterlîchen tage

30,20

On the Easter day

dô stuont sich Krist ûz dem grabe.

then rose himself Christ out-of the grave.

künec aller keiser,

king of-all emperors,

vater aller weisen

father of-all orphans

sîn hantgetât erlôste.

his handiwork freed.

in die helle schein ein licht:

into the bell shone a light:

dô kom er sînen kinden ze trôste.

then came he to-his children as comfort.

Wurze des waldes

30,27

Roots of-the wood

und grieze des goldes

and grains of-the gold

und elliu apgründe

and all abysses

diu sint dir, hêrre, kûnde:

they are to-thee, Lord, known:

diu stênt in dûner hende.

they stand in thy hand.

allez himeleschez her

all heavenly host

daz enmôhte dich niht volloben an ein ende.

that could thee not fully-praise to an end.

30,34 Güsse schadet dem brunnen:

Flood harms the spring:

sam tuot dem rîfen sunne:

so does to-the frost sun:

sam tuot dem stoube der regen.

so does to-the dust the rain.

armuot hœnet den degen:

poverty sbames thethane:

sô schadet ouch dem jungen man,

so harms also the young man,

wil er ze vil gehalten.

(if)-wishes he too much to-withhold.

triuwe unde wîser rât

faithfulness and wise counsel

daz zieret wol den alten.

that adorns well the old-one.

Dietmar von Eist

Thirty-nine strophes, many of them exchanges. A lady stands alone on the heath and watches for her love; a small bird sings above in the linden; and in a dawn song a woman wakes her lover; since a bird on the linden means they will soon be roused; he will do whatever she bids, and she weeps as he rides away.

Waz ist für daz trûren guot, daz wîp nâch lieben manne hât? 32,1
What is against the mourning good, which a-woman for a-dear man has?

gerne daz mîn herze erkande, wan ez sô betwungen stât
gladly that my heart would-know, for it so compelled stands

alsô reit ein frouwe schoene. ‘an ein ende ich des wol kœme,
so spoke a lady fair. ‘to an end I of-that well would-come,

wan diu huote.

but-for the guarding

selten sîn vergezzen wirt in mînem muote.’
seldom of-him forgotten becomes in my spirit.’

Genuoge jehent daz grôziu stæte sî der besten frouwen trôst 32,5
Many say that great constancy be of-the best ladies the-comfort

‘des enmag ich niht gelouben, sît mîn herze ist unerlôst.’
‘of-that can I not believe, since my heart is unreleased.’

alsô redeten zwei geliebe, dô si von ein ander schieden. owê minne,
so spoke two lovers, when they from one another parted. alas love,

der dîn âne möhte sîn, daz wæren sinne.
whoever of-thee without could be, that were sense.

32,9 Sô al diu werlt ruowe hât, sô mag ich eine entslâfen niet.

When all the world rest has, then can I alone fall-asleep not.

daz kumet von einer frouwen schoene, der ich gerne wære liep.

that comes from a lady's beauty, to-whom I gladly were dear.

an der al mîn fröide stât. wie sol des iemer werden rât?

on whom all my joy stands. how shall of-that ever come remedy?

joch wæne ich sterben.

indeed think I to-die.

wes lie si got mir armen man ze kâle werden?

why let her God for-me poor man to torment become?

32,13 Seneder friundinne bote, nu sage dem schoenen wîbe,

Of-a-longing beloved's messenger, now say to-the fair woman,

daz mir tuot âne mâze wê daz ich si sô lange mîde.

that to-me does without measure pain that I her so long avoid.

lieber het ich ir minne

rather had I her love

dan al der vogeles singen.

than all the birds' singing.

nu muoz ich von ir gescheiden sîn:

now must I from her parted be:

trûric ist mir al daz herze mîn.

sad is to-me all the heart mine.

‘Nu sage dem ritter edele daz er sich wol behüete,

Now tell the knight noble that he himself well guard,

und bite in schône wesen gemeit und lâzen allez ungemüete.

and bid him fairly to-be joyous and to-leave all ill-humor.

ich muoz ofte engelten sîn.

I must often pay-for him.

vil dicke erkumet daz herze mîn.

very often is-startled the heart mine.

âne sehendes leides hân ich vil,
without visible sorrow have I much,
 daz ich im selbe gerne klagen wil.
which I to-him myself gladly lament will.'

'Ez getet nie wîp sô wol an keiner slahte dinge,
It did never a-woman so well in any kind of-thing,
 daz al die werlt diuhte guot. des bin ich wol worden inne.
that all the world should-seem good. of-that am I well become aware.
 swer sîn liep dar umbe lât,
whoever his love there for leaves,
 daz kumet von swaches herzen rât.
that comes from a-weak heart's counsel.
 dem wil ich den sumer und allez guot
to-him will I the summer and all good
 widerteilen durch sînen unstæten muot.'
deny for his inconstant spirit.'

33,7

Ahî nu kumet uns diu zît, der kleinen vogellîne sanc.
Ab now comes to-us the time, of-the little birdlings the-song.
 ez gruonet wol diu linde breit, zergangen ist der winter lanc.
it greens well the linden broad, vanished is the winter long.
 nu siht man bluomen wol getân: an der heide üebent sie ir schîn.
now sees one flowers well made: on the heath practice they their shining.
 des wirt vil manic herze frô: des selben trœstet sich daz mîn.
of-that becomes very many-a heart glad: with-the same comforts itself that mine.

33,15

Ich bin dir lange holt gewesen, frouwe biderbe unde guot.
I have to-thee long devoted been, lady worthy and good.
 wie wol ich daz bestatet hân! du hâst getiuret mir den muot.
how well I that bestowed have! thou hast ennobled for-me the spirit.

swaz ich dîn bezzer worden sî, ze heile müez ez mir ergân.
whatever I through-thee better become am, to good-fortune may it for-me turn-out.

machestu daz ende guot, sô hâst dûz allez wol getân.
(if)-makest-thou the end good, then hast thou-it all well done.

33,31 Man sol die biderben und die guoten zallen zîten

One shall the worthy and the good at-all times

haben liep.

bold dear.

swer sich gerüemet alze vil, der kan der besten mâze niet.
whoever himself boasts all-too much, he knows of-the best measure not.

joch sol ez niemer hövescher man gemachen allen wîben guot.
indeed shall it never a-courtly man make to-all women good.

er ist sîn selbes meister niht, swer sîn alze vil getuot.
he is his own master not, whoever of-it all-too much does.

34,3 Ûf der linden obene dâ sanc ein kleinez vogellîn.

On the linden above there sang a little birdling.

vor dem walde wart ez lût: dô huop sich aber daz herze mîn
before the wood became it loud: then betook itself again the heart mine

an eine stat da'z ê dâ was. ich sach dâ rôsebluomen stân:
to a place where-it before there was. I saw there rose-flowers stand:

die manent mich der gedanke vil die ich hin zeiner frouwen hân.
they remind me of-the thoughts many which I toward to-a lady have.

'Ez dunket mich wol tûsent jâr daz ich an liebes arme lac.
It seems to-me well a-thousand years that I in love's arm lay.

sunder âne mîne schulde fremedet er mich manegen tac.
wholly without my guilt shuns he me many-a day.

sît ich bluomen niht ensach noch hôte kleiner vogele sanc,
since I flowers not saw nor heard of-little birds the-song,
 sît was mir mîn fröide kurz und ouch der jâmer alzelanc?
since was to-me my joy short and also the misery all-too-long'

Ez stuont ein frouwe alleine

There stood a lady alone

37,4

und warte über heide

and looked over the-beath

und warte ir liebes,

and looked-for her love,

so gesach sie valken fliegen.

then saw she a-falcon fly.

sô wol dir, valke, daz du bist!

so hail thee, falcon, that thou art!

du flügest swar dir lieb ist:

thou fliest wherever to-thee dear is:

du erküestest dir in dem walde

thou choolest for-thee in the wood

einen boum der dir gevalle.

a tree which thee pleases.

alsô hân ouch ich getân:

so have also I done:

ich erkôs mir selbe einen man,

I chose for-me myself a man,

den erwelten mîniu ougen.

him chose my eyes.

daz nîdent schœne vrouwen.

that envy fair ladies.

owê wan lânt si mir mîn lieb?

alas why-not leave they to-me my love?

joh engerte ich ir dekeiner trûtes niet.

indeed desired I of-them any darling not.

37,18 'Sô wol dir, sumerwunne!

'So hail thee, summer-delight!

daz vogelsanc ist geswunden:

the birdsong is vanished:

als ist der linden ir loup.

so is of-the linden its foliage.

jârlanc truobent mir ouch

this-year darken to-me also

mîniu wol stênden ougen.

my well favored eyes.

mîn trût, du solt dich gelouben

my beloved, thou shalt thee forswear

anderre wîbe:

of-other women:

wan, helt, die solt du mîden.

for, hero, those shalt thou avoid.

dô du mich êrst sæhe,

when thou me first sawest,

dô dûhte ich dich zewâre

then seemed I to-thee in-truth

sô rehte minneclîch getân:

so rightly lovely made:

des man ich dich, lieber man.'

of-that remind I thee, dear man.'

34,19 Gedanke die sint ledic frî,

Thoughts they are free unbound,

dazs in der werlte nieman kan erwenden:

that-them in the world no-one can prevent:

dâ ist ouch dicke senen bî;

there is also often longing by;

diech von dem herzen ofte unsanfte sende,

which-I from the heart often painfully send,

ein rehtiu liebe mich betwanc

a true love me compelled

daz ich ir gap daz herze mîn:

that I to-her gave the heart mine:

des werdent mir diu jâr sô lanc,

of-that become to-me the years so long,

sol ich von der gescheiden sîn.

(if)-shall I from her parted be.

des wæn mîn leben niht lange stê.

of-that think-I my life not long stands.

ich verdirbe in kurzen tagen: mir tuot ein scheiden alsô wê.

I perish in short days: to-me does a parting so pain.

Ich siufte, und hilfet leider niht

I sigh, and helps alas not

umbe ein wîp bî der ich gerne wære.

for a woman with whom I gladly were.

sô si mîn ouge niht ensiht,

when her my eye not sees,

daz sint dem herzen mîn vil leidiu mære.

that are to-the heart mine very grievous tidings.

ir tugende die sint valsches frî,

her virtues they are of-falseness free,

des hœre ich ir die besten jehen.

of-that hear I of-her the best say.

nu sehent wie mînem herzen sî:

now see how to-my heart be:

ich getar ir leider niht gesehen.

I dare her alas not see.

wie senelîche si mich lie!

how longingly she me left!

si hât daz herze mir benomen; daz geschach mir ê von wîben nie

she has the heart from-me taken; that happened to-me ere from women never

Ich hân der frowen vil verlân,

I have of-the ladies many left,

daz ich niht herzeliebe vinden kunde.

because I not heart's-love find could.

swaz ich fröiden ie gewan,

whatever I of-joys ever gained,

deist wider dise liebe ein krankiu wunne.

that-is against this love a weak delight.

die ich ze liebe mir erkôs,

whom I as love for-me chose,

sol ich der sô verteilet sîn,

(if)-shall I of-her so cut-off be,

seht, des belîbe ich fröidelôs,

see, therefore remain I joyless,

und wirt an mînen ougen schîn.

and becomes in my eyes evident.

in al der werlte ein schœene wîp

in all the world a fair woman

... vil gar ir eigen ist mîn lîp.

(lacuna) very wholly her own is my person.

35,15 Der winter wære mir ein zît

The winter were to-me a time

sô rehte wunneclîche guot,

so rightly delightfully good,

wurd ich sô sælic daz ein wîp

should-become I so blessed that a woman

getrôste mînen seneden muot.

comforted my longing spirit.

sô wol mich danne langer naht,

so hail me then of-the-long night,

gelæge ich als ich willen hân!

lay I as I will have!

si hât mich in ein trûren brâht
she has me into a mourning brought

des ich mich niht gemâzen kan.
which I myself not moderate can.

‘Wie tuot der besten einer sô
How does of-the best one so

daz er mîn senen mac vertragen?
that he my longing can endure?

ez wære wol, und wurd ich frô:
it were well, and would-become I glad:

sich kunde nieman baz hebben.
himself could no-one better bear.

wê daz mir leit von dem geschiht
alas that to-me sorrow from him happens

der an mîn herze ist nâhe komen!
who to my heart is near come!

waz hilfet zorn? swenn er mich siht,
what helps anger? whenever he me sees,

den hât er schiere mir benomen.’
it has he soon from-me taken.’

‘Swer mêret die gewizzen mîn,
Whoever increases the conscience mine,

dem wil ich dienen, obe ich kan;
him will I serve, if I can;

und wil doch mannen fremede sîn,
and will yet to-men strange be,

wand ich ein senede herze hân:
for I a longing heart have:

ez wære mir ein grôziu nôt,
it were to-me a great distress,

35,32

wurd er mir âne mâze lieb:
should-become he to-me without measure dear:

sô tæte sanfter mir der tât,
then would-do gentler to-me the death,

liez er mich des geniezen niet.
let he me of-it enjoy not.'

36,5 'Diu werlt noch ir alten site
'The world still its old custom

an mir begât mit nîde.
on me practices with envy.

si vert mir wunderliche mite.
it deals to-me strangely with.

si wellent daz ich mîde
they wish that I avoid

den besten friunt den ieman hât.
the best friend that anyone has.

wie sol des iemer werden rât?
how shall of-that ever come remedy?

sol ich im lange vrömede sîn,
(if)-shall I to-him long strange be,

ich weiz wol, daz tuot ime wê. daz ist diu meiste sorge mîn.
I know well, that does to-him pain. that is the greatest care mine.'

Niemen vindet mich dar an
No-one finds me there in

unstæte mînes muotes,
inconstant of-my spirit,

in sî der eine der ir gan
unless be the one who her grants

vil êren unde guotes.
much honor and good.

si kan mir niemer werden leit:

she can to-me never become hateful:

des biute ich mîne sicherheit.

of-that offer I my pledge.

alsô trûric wart ich nie,

so sad became I never,

swenn ich die wolgetânen sach, mîn senedez ungemach zergie.

whenever I the comely-one saw, my longing discomfort vanished.

Sô wol mich liebes des ich hân

So hail me for-the-love that I have

36,23

umbevangen! hôhe stât mîn muot:

embraced! high stands my spirit:

wan al diu werlt noch nie gewan

for all the world still never gained

ein schœne wîp sô rehte guot.

a fair woman so rightly good.

man sol si loben deste baz.

one shall her praise the better.

der uns alle werden hiez, wie lützel der an ir vergaz!

he-who us all to-be-worthy bade, how little he in her forgot!

tugende hât si michels mê dann ich gesagen kunne.

virtues has she much more than I say can.

sîst leides ende und liebes trôst und aller fröide ein wunne.

she-is sorrow's end and love's comfort and of-all joy a delight.

Frouwe, mînes lîbes frouwe,

Lady, of-my body's lady,

36,34

an dir stêt aller mîn gedanc;

on thee stands all my thought;

dar zuo ich dich vil gerne schouwe.

there to I thee very gladly look-at.

du gewunne nie unstæten wanc.

thou gainedst never inconstant wavering.

dar zuo wære ich dir vil gerne bî.

there to were I to-thee very gladly by.

nu nim mich in dîne genâde; sô belibe ich aller sorgen frî.

now take me into thy favor; then remain I of-all cares free.

37,30 Sich hât verwandelôt diu zît, des bin ich wol worden innen:

Itself has changed the time, of-that am I well become aware:

geswigen sint die nahtegal, si hânt gelân ir süezez singen,

fallen-silent are the nightingales, they have left their sweet singing,

und valwet obenân der walt.

and yellows above the wood.

ienoch stêt daz herze mîn in ir gewalt,

still stands the heart mine in her power,

der ich den sumer gedienet hân.

whom I the summer served have.

diu ist mîn fröide und al mîn lieb: ich wil irs niemer abe gegân.

she is my joy and all my love: I will of-her-it never away go.

‘Ich muoz von rechten schulden hô tragen daz herze und al die sinne,

I must by right cause high carry the heart and all the senses,

sît mich der aller beste man verholn in sîme herzen minne.

since me the of-all best man secretly in his heart loves.

er tuot mir grôzer sorgen rât.

he does to-me for-great cares remedy.

wie selten mich diu sicherheit gerûwen hât!

how seldom me the pledge caused-regret has!

ich wil im iemer stæte sîn.

I will to-him ever constant be.

er kan wol grôzer arebeit gelônen nâch dem willen mîn.’

he can well great hardship reward according-to the will mine.’

Ich bin ein bote her gesant, frowe, ûf mange dîne güete.

I am a messenger here sent, lady, upon manifold thy goodness.

ein ritter, der dich hât erwelt ûz al der werlte in sîn gemüete,

a knight, who thee has chosen out-of all the world into his spirit,

er hiez dir klagen sîn ungemach,

he bade to-thee lament his discomfort,

daz er ein senendez herze treit sît er dich sach.

that he a longing heart bears since he thee saw.

im tuot sîn langez beiten wê.

to-him does his long waiting pain.

nu reden wirz an ein ende enzît, ê im sîn fröide gar zergê.

now talk we-it to an end in-time, ere for-him his joy wholly vanish.

Der al die welt geschaffen hât, der gebe der lieben noch die sinne 38,23

He-who all the world created has, he give to-the dear-one yet the senses

daz si mich mit armen umbevâ und mich von rehtem herzen minne.

that she me with arms embrace and me from true heart love.

mich dunkent ander frowen guot:

to-me seem other ladies good:

ich gwinne von ir keiner niemer hôhen muot,

I gain from of-them any never high spirit,

sîn welle genâde enzît begân,

unless-she will favor in-time practice,

diu sich dâ sündet ane mir, und ich ir vil gedienet hân.

who herself there sins against me, and I her much served have.

Nu ist ez an ein ende komen, dar nâch mîn herze ie ranc, 38,32

Now is it to an end come, there toward-which my heart ever strove,

daz mich ein edeliu frouwe hât genomen in ir getwanc.

that me a noble lady has taken into her constraint.

der bin ich worden undertân,

to-her am I become subject,

als daz schif dem sturman,

as the ship to-the steersman,

swanne der wâc sîn ûnde alsô gar gelâzen hât.

when the sea its wave so wholly let-go has.

sô hôh ôwî

so high oh-woe

si benimet mir mange wilde tât.

she takes from-me many-a wild deed.

‘JÂ hœere ich vil der tugende sagen von eime ritter guot:

‘Indeed hear I much of virtue tell of a knight good:

der ist mir âne mâze komen in mînen stæten muot,

he is to-me without measure come into my constant spirit,

daz ich sîn ze keiner zît

that I of-him at no time

mac vergezzen, redte ein wîp.

can forget, said a woman.

nu muoz ich al der werlte haben dur sînen willen rât.

now must I all of-the world have for his sake renunciation.

sô hôh ôwî!

so high oh-woe!

wie schône er daz gedienet hât!’

how fairly he that earned has!’

39,11 Wie möhte mir mîn herze werden iemer rehte fruot,

How could to-me my heart become ever rightly wise,

daz mir ein edeliu frouwe alsô vil ze leide tuot!

that to-me a noble lady so much to sorrow does!

der ich vil gedienet hân,

to-whom I much served have,

als ir wille was getân.

as her will was done.

nu wil si gedenken niht der mangan sorgen mîn.
now will she think not of-the many cares mine.

sô hôh ôwî,
so high oh-woe,

sol ich ir lange frömde sîn.
shall I from-her long estranged be.

‘Slâfest du, friedel ziere?
‘Sleepest thou, lover fair?’

39,18

man wecket uns leider schiere:
one wakes us alas soon:

ein vogellîn sô wol getân
a birdling so well made

daz ist der linden an daz zwî gegân.’
that is of-the linden onto the twig gone.’

‘Ich was vil sanfte entslâfen:
‘I was very gently fallen-asleep:

nu rüefestû kint Wâfen.
now callest-thou child Alack.

liep âne leit mac niht gesîn.
love without sorrow can not be.

swaz du gebiutest, daz leiste ich, friundîn mîn.’
whatever thou commandest, that perform I, beloved mine.’

Diu frouwe begunde weinen.
The lady began to-weep.

‘du rîtest und lâst mich einen.
‘thou ridest and leavest me alone.

wenne wilt du wider her zuo mir?

when wilt thou back here to me?

owê du füerest mîn fröide sament dir!'

alas thou carriest my joy together-with thee!

39,30 Urlop hât des sumers brehen,

Leave has the summer's splendor,

der wol was ze ruome,

which well was for glory,

swaz mir leides ist geschehen,

whatever to-me of-sorrow is happened,

sît ich den êrsten bluomen

since I the first flowers

undr einer grüenen linden flaht.

under a green linden plaited.

der winter und sîn langiu naht

the winter and its long night

die ergetzent uns der besten zît,

they compensate us for-the best time,

swâ man bî liebe lange lît.

wherever one by love long lies.

40,3 'Wir hân die winterlangen naht

'We have the winter-long night

mit fröiden wol enpfangen,

with joys well received,

ich und ein ritter wol geslaht.

I and a knight well born.

sîn wille derst ergangen.

his will that-is fulfilled.

als wirz uns beide hân gedâht,

as we-it us both have thought,

sô hât erz an ein ende brâht

so has be-it to an end brought

mit maniger fröide und liebes vil.

with many-a joy and of-love much.

er ist als in mîn herze wil.'

he is as him my heart wills.'

'Ich solde zürnen, hulfe ez iet,

I should be-angry, would-help it anything,

daz du als lange wære.

that thou so long wert.

dô ich aller næhest von dir schiet,

when I of-all last from thee parted,

sît hât ich grôze swære.

since had I great grief.

betwungen was daz herze mîn:

compelled was the heart mine:

nu wil ez aber mit fröiden sîn.

now will it again with joys be.

hab ich dich gerne niht gesehen,

(if)-have I thee gladly not seen,

sô müeze leide mir geschehen.'

then may sorrow to-me happen.'

Wart âne wandel ie kein wîp,

Was without fault ever any woman,

daz ist si gar, der ich den lîp

that is she wholly, to-whom I the person

hân gegeben für eigen.

have given for own.

si roubet mich der sinne mîn,

she robs me of-the senses mine,

40,11

40,19

sîst schœne alsam der sunnen schîn.

she-is fair as the sun's shine.

jâ bin ich niht ein heiden:

indeed am I not a heathen:

si sol genâde an mir begân,

she shall favor on me practice,

und sol gedenken daz ich ir was ie vil undertân.

and shall consider that I to-her was ever very subject.

Waz bedorfte des ein wîp

What needed of-that a woman

daz ich sô gar dur si den lîp

that I so wholly for her the body

verlôs und al die sinne?

lost and all the senses?

si ist sô vaste niht behuot:

she is so firmly not guarded:

(iedoch sô dunket si mich guot)

(yet so seems she to-me good)

des bringe ich si wol inne:

of-that make I her well aware:

ez wære mîner frowen ein slac:

it were to-my lady a blow:

si sol gedenken ob si tærschen ie bî mir gelac.

she shall consider whether she foolishly ever by me lay.

‘Waz wîzet mir der beste man?

‘What reproaches to-me the best man?

ich habe im leides niht getân:

I have to-him of-sorrow nothing done:

er fröit si âne schulde.

he gladdens them without guilt.

daz er in hât von mir geseit,

what he to-them has from me said,

daz ist mir hiute und iemer leit:

that is to-me today and ever grievous:

er vliuset mîne hulde.

he loses my goodwill.

mir wirret niht sîn böeser kîp:

me troubles not his wicked quarreling:

waz half der toerschen bî mir lac? jôn wart ich nie sîn wîp.'

what helped that-the foolish-one by me lay? indeed became I never his woman.'

Kaiser Heinrich

EMPEROR HENRY

Eight strophes ascribed to the emperor. He greets with song the lady he may not greet in person, would sooner give up the crown than her, and stands higher than the empire while she lies beside him; a woman asks the man who is riding away to come back soon, or she will lose her life.

5,16 Ich grüeze mit gesange die süezen

I greet with song the sweet-one

die ich vermîden niht wil noch enmac.

whom I to-avoid not will nor can.

deich si von munde rehte mohte grüezen,

that-I her by mouth rightly might greet,

ach leides, des ist manic tac.

ah sorrow, of-that is many-a day.

swer nu disiu liet singe vor ir,

whoever now these songs sing before her,

der ich so gar unsenfteclich enbir,

of-whom I so wholly painfully lack,

ez sî wîp oder man, der habe si gegrüezet von mir.

it be woman or man, he have her greeted from me.

Mir sint diu rîch und diu lant undertân

To-me are the realms and the lands subject

swenne ich bî der minneclîchen bin;

whenever I with the lovely-one am;

unde swenne ich gescheide von dan,

and whenever I part from there,

sôst mir al mîn gewalt und mîn rîchtuom dâhin;

so-is for-me all my power and my wealth gone;

wan senden kumber zel ich mir ze habe:

but longing affliction count I for-myself as possession:

sus kan ich an vröuden ûf stigen joch abe,

thus can I in joys up climb and down,

und bringe den wehsel, wæn ich, durch ir liebe ze grabe.

and bring the exchange, suppose I, through her love to grave.

Sît daz ich si sô herzeclîchen minne

Since that I her so heartily love

und si âne wenken zallen zîten trage

and her without wavering at-all times carry

beide in herzen und ouch in sinne,

both in heart and also in mind,

underwîlent mit vil maniger klage,

at-times with very many-a lament,

waz gât mir dar umbe diu liebe ze lône?

what gives me there for the beloved as reward?

dâ biutet si mir ez sô rehte schône.

there offers she to-me it so rightly fairly.

ê ich mich ir verzige, ich verzige mich ê der krône.

ere I myself of-her would-renounce, I would-renounce myself sooner of-the crown.

Er sündet sich swer des niht geloubet,

He sins himself whoever of-that not believes,

ich möhte geleben manigen lieben tac,

I might live many-a dear day,

ob joch niemer krône kæme ûf mîn houbet;

even-if yet never a-crown should-come upon my head;

des ich mich âne si niht vermezzen enmac.

of-which I myself without her not boast can.

verlûr ich si, waz hette ich danne?

should-lose I her, what would-have I then?

dâ tohte ich ze vröuden noch wîbe noch manne
then were-fit I for joys neither to-woman nor to-man

und wære mîn bester trôst beidiu ze âhte und ze banne.
and were my best comfort both in outlawry and in ban.

4,17 Wol hôher dannez rîche bin ich al die zît,
Well higher than-the realm am I all the time,

sô sô gûetlîche diu guote bî mir lît.
when so kindly the good-one by me lies.

si hât mich mit ir tugende gemachet leides frî.
she has me with her virtue made of-sorrow free.

ich kom ir nie sô verre sît ir jugende,
I came from-her never so far since her youth,

irn were mîn stætez herze ie nâhe bîn.
unless-to-her were my constant heart ever near by.

‘Ich hân den lîp gewendet an einen ritter guot.
I have the body turned to a knight good.

daz ist alsô verendet daz ich bin wol gemuot.
that is so brought-about that I am well spirited.

daz nîdent ander vrouwen und habent des haz
that envy other ladies and have for-that hatred

und sprechent mir ze leide si wellen in schouwen.
and say to-me to sorrow they wish him to-look-at.

mir geviel in al der welte nie man baz’.
me pleased in all the world never man better’.

4,35 ‘Rîtest du nun hinnen, der aller liebste man?
‘Ridest thou now hence, the of-all dearest man?’

du bist in mînen sinnen für alle die ich ie gewan.
thou art in my senses before all whom I ever won.

kumest du mir niht schiere, sô verliuse ich mînen lîp:
(if)-comest thou to-me not soon, then lose I my life:

den möhte in al der welte
that could in all the world

got niemer mir vergelten' sprach daz minneclîche wîp.
God never to-me repay' spoke the lovely woman.

Wol dir, geselle guote, daz ich ie bî dir gelac.
Hail thee, companion good, that I ever by thee lay.

du wonest mir in dem muote die naht unde ouch den tac.
thou dwellest to-me in the spirit the night and also the day.

du zierest mîne sinne unde bist mir dar zuo holt:
thou adornest my senses and art to-me there to devoted:

nu merkent wie ich daz meine:
now mark how I that mean:

als edelez gesteine, swâ man daz leit in daz golt.
as noble gemstone, wherever one that sets in the gold.

Friedrich von Hausen

Fifty-five strophes, several of them sung from the crusade. His heart and his body will part: the heart has chosen the lady, the body would fight the heathen, and he prays God to send the heart where it will be well received. He cries out against Love, turns at last from the lady to God, and warns women off the men who shrank from the crusade.

48,23 In mînem troume ich sach
In my dream I saw
ein harte schœene wîp
a very fair woman
die naht unz an den tach:
the night until to the day:
dô erwachete mîn lîp.
then awoke my person.
dô wart si leider mir benomen,
then was she alas from-me taken,
daz ich enweiz wâ si sî,
so-that I know-not where she be,
von der mir fröide solte komen.
from whom to-me joy should come.
daz tâten mir diu ougen mîn:
that did to-me the eyes mine:
der wolte ich âne sîn.
of-them would I without be.

Deich von der guoten schiet

That-I from the good-one parted

und ich zir niht ensprach

and I to-her not spoke

als mir wære liep,

as to-me were dear,

des lîde ich ungemach.

for-that suffer I discomfort.

daz liez ich durch die diet

that left I for the people

von der mir nie geschach

from whom to-me never happened

deheiner slahte liep.

of-any kind pleasure.

wan der die helle brach,

but he-who the hell broke,

der füege in wê unt ach.

he bring to-them woe and lamentation.

‘Si wænent hûeten mîn

‘They think to-guard me

die sîn doch niht bestât,

whom it yet not concerns,

und tuont ir nîden schîn;

and make their envy manifest;

daz wênic si vervât.

that little them avails.

si möhten ê den Rîn

they might sooner the Rhine

gekêren in den Pfât,

have-turned into the Po,

ê ich mich iemer sîn
than I myself ever of-him

getrôste, swiez ergât,
consoled, however-it goes,

der mir gedienet hât.
who me served has.'

49,13 Mir ist daz herze wunt
To-me is the heart wounded

und siech gewesen nu vil lange
and sick been now very long

(deis reht: wan ez ist tump),
(that-is right: for it is foolish),

sitz eine frowen êrst bekande, —
since-it a lady first knew,—

der keiser ist in allen landen,
the emperor is in all lands,

kust er si zeiner stunt
kissed he her at-a hour

an ir vil rôten munt,
on her very red mouth,

er jæhe ez wære im wol ergangen.
he would-say it were for-him well gone.

Sît ich daz herze hân
Since I the heart have

verlâzen an der besten eine,
left with the best one,

des sol ich lôn enpfân
for-that shall I reward receive

von der selben diech dâ meine.
from the same whom-I there mean.

swie selten ich ez ir bescheine,

however seldom I it to-her shou,

sô bin ichz doch der man

yet am I-it still the man

der ir baz heiles gan

who to-her more good-fortune grants

dan in der werlte lebe deheine.

than in the world lives any-one.

Wer möhte mir den muot

Who could to-me the spirit

getræsten, wan ein schœne frouwe,

console, but a fair lady,

diu mînem herzen tuot

who to-my heart does

leit diu nieman kan beschouwen?

sorrow which no-one can behold?

dur nôt sô lîd ich den rouwen,

of necessity so suffer I the rue,

wan sichz ze hōhe huop.

for itself-it too high raised.

wirt mir diu Minne unguot,

(if)-becomes to-me the Love unkind,

sô sol ir niemer man voltrouwen.

then shall her never man fully-trust.

Ich sihe wol daz got wunder kan

I see well that God wonders can

von schœne wûrken ûzer wîbe.

of beauty work out-of woman.

daz ist an ir wol schîn getân:

that is on her well evident made:

wan er vergaz niht an ir lîbe.

for he forgot nothing on her body.

den kumber den ich von ir lîde,

the affliction which I from her suffer,

den wil ich vil gerne hân,

that will I very gladly have,

zediu daz ich mit ir belîbe

so that I with her remain

und al mîn wille sül ergân.

and all my will shall be-fulfilled.

mîn frowe sehe waz si des tuo:

my lady see what she of-it do:

dâ stât dehein scheiden zuo.

there stands no parting to.

Si gedenke niht deich sî der man

She think not that-I be the man

der si ze kurzen wîlen minne.

who her for short whiles love.

ich hân von kinde an si verlân

I have from childhood to her left

daz herze mîn und al die sinne.

the heart mine and all the senses.

ich wart an ir nie valsches inne,

I became in her never of-falseness aware,

sît ich si sô liep gewan.

since I her so dear won.

mîn herze ist ir ingesinde,

my heart is her retainer,

und wil ouch stæte an ir bestân.

and will also constantly by her stand.

mîn frowe sehe waz si des tuo:

my lady see what she of-it do:

dâ stât dehein scheiden zuo.

there stands no parting to.

Ich lobe got der sîner gûete,

I praise God for his goodness,

daz er mir ie verlêch die sinne

that he to-me ever lent the senses

daz ich si nam in mîn gemüete:

that I her took into my spirit:

wan si ist wol wert daz man si minne.

for she is well worth that one her love.

noch bezzer ist daz man ir hûete

still better is that one her guard

dan iegelîcher sînen willen

than each-one his will

spræche, daz si ungerne hôrte

should-speak, which she unwillingly heard

und mir die fröide gar zerstôrte.

and for-me the joy wholly destroyed.

Noch bezzer ist daz ich si mîde

Still better is that I her avoid

dan si âne huote wære

than she without guarding were

und ir deheiner mir ze nîde

and of-them any to-me in envy

spræche des ich gerne enbere.

should-speak what I gladly forgo.

ich hâns erkorn ûz allen wîben:

I have-her chosen out-of all women:

lâze ich iht durch die merkære,
(if)-leave I anything for the spies,

frömede ich si mit den ougen,
(if)-estrangle I her with the eyes,

si minnt iedoch mîn herze tougen.
her loves nonetheless my heart secretly.

Mîn lîp was ie unbetwungen
My person was ever uncompelled

und hôchgemuot von allen wîben:
and high-spirited by all women:

alrêst hân ich rehte befunden
only-now have I rightly discovered

waz man nâch liebem wîbe lîde.
what one for a-dear woman suffers.

des muoz ich ze manigen stunden
therefore must I at many hours

der besten frowen eine mîden.
of-the best ladies one avoid.

des ist mîn herze dicke swære,
therefore is my heart often heavy,

als ez mit fröiden gerne wære.
as it with joys gladly were.

Swie ich dicke lobe die huote,
However I often praise the guarding,
 dêswâr ez wart doch nie mîn wille
indeed it was yet never my will
 daz ich in iemer in dem muote
that I to-them ever in the spirit
 wurde holt, die dar die sinne
should-become devoted, who there the senses
 gewendet hânt daz si der guoten
turned have so-that they from-the good-one
 enpfrômden wellent stæte minne.
estrangle wish constant love.
 dêswâr, tuon ich in niht mêre,
indeed, (if)-do I to-them nothing more,
 doch friesche ich gerne al ir unêre.
yet would-learn I gladly all their dishonor.

Sich möhte wîser man verwüeten
Himself might a-wise man go-mad
 von sorgen der ich manige hân.
from cares of-which I many have.
 swie ich mich noch dâ vor behüete,
however I myself still there against guard,
 sô hât got wol ze mir getân,
yet has God well toward me done,
 sît er mich niht wolte erlân,
since he me not would spare,
 ich næme si in mîn gemüete.
I would-take her into my spirit.
 jô engilte ich alze sêre ir güete
indeed pay-for I all-too sorely her goodness
 und ouch der schœne die si hât.
and also the beauty which she has.

lit ich durch got daz si begât

suffer I for God what she practices

an mir, der sêle wurde rât.

on me, for-the soul would-come remedy.

Mich kunde niemen des erwenden,

Me could no-one from-that turn,

in welle ir wesen undertân.

unless-I wish her to-be subject.

den willen bringe ich an mîn ende,

that will bring I to my end,

swie si habe ze mir getân.

however she may-have toward me done.

sît ich des boten niht enhân,

since I the messenger not have,

sô wil ich ir diu lieder senden.

so will I to-her the songs send.

vert der lîp in enelende,

(if)-goes the body into exile,

mîn herze belîbet doch aldâ.

my heart remains yet there.

daz suoche nieman anderswâ:

that seek no-one elsewhere:

ez kunde ir niemer komen ze nâ.

it could to-her never come too near.

52,37 Wâfenâ, wie hât mich Minne gelâzen!

Alack, how has me Love left!

diu mich betwanc daz ich lie mîn gemüete

she-who me compelled that I left my spirit

an solhen wân der mich wol mac verwâzen,

on such a-hope that me well may destroy,

ez ensî daz ich genieze ir güete,

it unless-be that I enjoy her goodness,

von der ich bin alsô dicke âne sin.

from whom I am so often without sense.

mich dûhte ein gewin,

to-me seemed a gain,

und wolte diu guote

and would the good-one

wizzen die nôt diu wont in mînem muote.

know the distress which dwells in my spirit.

Wâfen, waz habe ich getân sô zunêren

Alack, what have I done so to-dishonor

daz mir diu guote ir gruoze erbunde?

that to-me the good-one her greeting begrudged?

sus kan si mir wol daz herze verkêren.

thus can she to-me well the heart turn-away.

deich in der werlt bezzer wîp iender funde,

that-I in the world better woman anywhere found,

seht dêst mîn wân. dâ für sô wil ichz hân,

see that-is my expectation. there for so will I-it hold,

und wil dienen nochdan

and will serve still

mit triuwen der guoten,

with faithfulness to-the good-one,

diu mich dâ bliuwet vil sêre âne ruoten.

she-who me there beats very sorely without rods.

Waz mac daz sîn daz diu werlt heizet minne,

What may that be that the world calls love,

unde ez mir tuot sô wê zaller stunde

and it to-me does so pain at-every hour

unde ez mir nimet sô vil mîner sinne?

and it from-me takes so much of-my senses?

in wânde niht daz ez iemen erfunde.

I thought not that it anyone could-discover.

getorste ich es jehen daz ichz hete gesehen

should-dare I of-it say that I-it had seen

dâ von mir ist geschehen

there from to-me is happened

alsô vil herzesêre,

so much heart's-pain,

sô wolte ich gelouben dar an iemer mêre.

then would I believe there in ever more.

Minne, got müeze mich an dir rechen!

Love, God may me on thee avenge!

wie vil du mîm herzen der fröiden wendest!

how much thou to-my heart of-the joys turnest-away!

und möhte ich dir dîn krumbez ouge ûz gestechen,

and might I thee thy crooked eye out gouge,

des het ich reht, wan du vil lützel endest

of-that had I right, for thou very little endest

an mir solhe nôt sô mir dîn lîp gebôt.

on me such distress as to-me thy person commanded.

und wærest du tât,

and wert thou dead,

sô dûhte ich mich rîche.

then seemed I myself rich.

sus muoz ich von dir leben betwungenlîche.

thus must I by thee live under-compulsion.

Ich denke underwîlen,

I think at-times,

waz ich ir wolte sagen.

what I to-her would say.

swenn ich ir mîne swære

whenever I to-her my grief

mich sehent manige tage

me see many days

als ich niht sorgen habe,

as-if I not cares have,

ob ich ir nâher wære,

if I to-her nearer were,

daz kürzet mir die mîlen,

that shortens to-me the miles,

sô mit gedanken klage.

so with thoughts lament.

die liute in der gebærde

the people in the bearing

wan ichs alsô vertrage.

for I-it so bear.

Het ich sô hôher minne

Had I so high love

mîn möhte werden rât.

for-me might come remedy.

des lîde ich zallen stunden

for-that suffer I at-all hours

mîn stæte mir nu hât

my constancy for-me now has

daz siz niht scheiden lât

that she-it not part lets

mich nie underwunden,

myself never undertaken,

ich tet ez âne sinne:

I did it without sense:

nôt diu mir nâhe gât.

distress which to-me near goes.

daz herze alsô gebunden,

the heart so bound,

von ir als ez nu stât.

from her as it now stands.

Ez ist ein grôzez wunder:

It is a great wonder:

diu was mir ie gevê.

she was to-me ever hostile.

niemer man bevinden,

never man discover,

erkennen wânde in ê,

to-know thought-I it before,

mir was dâ heime wê,

to-me was there at-home pain,

diech aller sêrest minne,

whom-I of-all most-sorely love,

nu müeze solhen kumber

now may such affliction

der alsô nâhe gê.

which so near goes.

nu hân in baz befunden:

now have-I it better discovered:

und hie wol drîstunt mê.

and here well three-times more.

Swie kleine ez mich vervâhe,	sô vröwe ich mich doch sêre
<i>However little it me avails,</i>	<i>yet rejoice I myself still greatly</i>
daz mir niemen kan	erwern, ichn denke ir nâhe
<i>that to-me no-one can</i>	<i>prevent, unless-I think of-her closely</i>
swar ich landes kêre.	den trôst sol si mir lân.
<i>wherever I of-the-land turn.</i>	<i>that comfort shall she to-me leave.</i>
wil sîz für guot enpfân,	daz fröut mich iemer mêre,
<i>(if)-will she-it for good receive,</i>	<i>that gladdens me ever more,</i>
wan ich für alle man	ir ie was undertân.
<i>for I before all men</i>	<i>to-her ever was subject.</i>

54,1 'Wol ir, sist ein sælic wîp

'Well to-her, she-is a blessed woman

diu von sender arebeit nie leit gewan.'

who from longing hardship never sorrow gained.'

des hât ich den mînen lîp

of-that had I the my body

vîl wol behüetet, wan daz mich ein sælic man

very well guarded, but that me a blessed man

mit rehter stæte hât ermant daz ich im guotes gan.

with right constancy has urged that I to-him good grant.

nu twinget mich der kumber sîn und tuot mir wê

now compels me the affliction his and does to-me pain

unde ist daz mîn angst gar,

and is that my fear wholly,

sîn nemen wol tûsent ougen war,

of-him take well a-thousand eyes heed,

swenne er kome dâ ich in sê.

whenever he come where I him see.

Erst mir lieb und lieber vil

He-is to-me dear and dearer much

danne ich immer im vil lieben manne sage.

than I ever to-him very dear man say.

ob er daz niht gelouben wil,

if he that not believe will,

daz ist mir leit, sô nâhe als ich die liebe trage.

that is to-me grievous, so near as I the love carry.

torst ich genenden, sô wolde ich im enden sîne klage;

dared I venture, then would I for-him end his lament;

wan daz ich vil ... sendez wîp

but that I very (lacuna) longing woman

erfürhten muoz der êren mîn,

fear must for-the honor mine,

und des lebennes sîn,

and of-the life his,

der mir ist alsam der lîp.

who to-me is as the person.

Owê, tæte ich des er gert,

Alas, would-do I what he desires,

dâ von möht ich gewinnen leit und ungemach.

there from might I gain sorrow and discomfort.

lâze ab ich in ungewert,

(if)-leave however I him ungranted,

daz ist ein lôn der guotem manne nie geschach.

that is a reward which to-a-good man never befell.

alrêrst mûet mich daz ich in ald er mich ie gesach.

only-now troubles me that I him or he me ever saw.

und sol ich sîn (daz ist ein nôt) ze friunde enbern,

and (if)-shall I of-him (that is a distress) as friend do-without,

daz ist mir leit, und muoz doch sîn.

that is to-me grievous, and must yet be.

ich wil immer hûeten mîn:

I will ever guard myself:

ich entars in niht gewern.

I dare him not grant.

Ich wil tuon den willen sîn,

I will do the will his,

und wære ez al den friunden leit diech ie gewan,

and were it to-all the friends grievous whom-I ever won,

sît daz ich im holder bin

since that I to-him more-devoted am

danne in al der werlte ie frouwe einem man

than in all the world ever lady to-a man

und ich daz herze mîn von im gescheiden niht enkan.

and I the heart mine from him parted not can.

er hât gesprochen dicke wol, ich solte im sîn

he has said often well, I should to-him be

immer liep für alliu wîp.

ever dear before all women.

des ist er mîn leitvertrîp

therefore is he my grief-dispeller

und diu hœchste wunne mîn.

and the highest delight mine.

Solte er des geniezen niht

Should he of-that profit not

daz er in hôher werde wol bewîsen mach

that he in high worth well show can

daz man im des besten giht

that one to-him of-the best attributes

und alle sîne zît im guoter dinge jach

and all his time to-him of-good things attributed

unde ouch daz sîn süezer munt des ruomes nie gepflach

and also that his sweet mouth of-the boasting never practiced

dâ von betrüebet iender wurde ein sælic wîp?

there from troubled anywhere should-become a blessed woman?

des ist er von mir gewert

of-that is he by me granted

alles swes sîn herze gert,

all whatever his heart desires,

und solte ez kosten mir den lîp.'

and should it cost me the life.'

An der genâden al mîn fröide stât,

On the favor all my joy stands,

dâ enmac mir gewerren noch huote noch nît.

there can-not me barm neither guarding nor envy.

michn hilfet dienst noch mîner friunde rât,

me-not helps service nor of-my friends counsel,

und daz si mir ist liep alsam mîn selbes lîp

and that she to-me is dear as my own body

mirn wendet ir hulde nieman wan si selbe,

from-me turns her goodwill no-one but she herself,

si tuot mir alleine swaz kumbers ich trage:

she does to-me alone whatever of-affliction I bear:

43,28

waz sold ich dan von den merkæren klagen,
what should I then of the spies complain,
 nu ich ir huote alsô lützel engelde?
now I her guarding so little pay-for?

Vil mangan herzen ist von huote wê,
To-very many hearts is from guarding pain,
 und jehent ez sî in ein angeslîchiu nôt:
and they-say it be for-them a fearful distress:
 so engerte daz mîne aller rîchheit niht mê
so would-desire that mine of-all riches nothing more
 wan müese ez si liden unz an mînen tôt.
but must it it suffer until to my death.
 wer möhte hân grôze fröide âne kumber?
who could have great joy without affliction?
 nâch solher swære rang ich alle zît:
for such grief strove I all time:
 dône maht ich leider niht komen in den nît.
then could I alas not come into the envy.
 des hât gelücke getân an mir wunder.
therefore has luck done on me wonders.

Der grôzen swære bin ich leider frî,
Of-the great grief am I alas free,
 die doch erfürhtet vil manc sælic man:
which yet fears very many-a blessed man:
 unbetwungen von huote so ist daz herze mîn.
uncompelled by guarding so is the heart mine.
 mirst leit von ir deich den fride ie gewan;
to-me-is grievous from her that-I the peace ever won;
 wand ich die nôt wold iemer gütliche liden,
for I the distress would ever kindly suffer,

het ich von schulden verdienet den haz.

had I with cause deserved the hatred.

nît umb ir minne daz tæte mir baz

envy for her love that would-do to-me better

danne ich si beide sus muoz lân belîben.

than I them both thus must let remain.

Diu süezen wort hânt mir getân,

The sweet words have to-me done,

diu ir die besten algemeine

which of-her the best all-together

sprechent, daz ich niene kan

speak, that I not-at-all can

gedenken wan an si aleine.

think except of her alone.

mîn ander angst der ist kleine,

my other fear it is small,

wân der den ich von ir hân.

except the-one which I from her have.

got weiz wol daz ich nie gewan

God knows well that I never won

in al der werlt sô liebe enkeine.

in all the world so dear any-one.

des sol si mich geniezen lân.

of-that shall she me profit let.

Swes got an güete und an getât

Whatever God in goodness and in form

noch ie dekeiner frowen gunde,

still ever to-any lady would-grant,

44,13

des gihe ich ime daz er daz hât
that attribute I to-him that he that has

an ir geworht als er wol kunde.
on her worked as he well could.

waz danne? und arnez under stunden
what then? and pays-for-it at times

mîn herze es dicke hôhe stât.
my heart of-it often high stands.

noch möhte es alles werden rât,
still might it all come-to remedy,

wolden si die grôzen wunden
would her the great wounds

erbarmen dies an mir begât.
move-to-pity which-she on me inflicts.

Swaz got an frowen hât erhaben,
Whatever God on ladies has raised,

dazn kan an ir nieman gemêren.
that can on her no-one increase.

wan als ich ir mîn angst sage,
but as I to-her my fear tell,

daz kan si leider wol verkêren.
that can she alas well twist.

ein herte herze kan siz lêren,
a hard heart can she-it teach,

dazs alsô lihte mac vertragen
that-she so easily can endure

sô grôzez wüefen unde klagen
so great weeping and lamenting

deich lîde umb ir hulde sêre
that-I suffer for her goodwill sorely

die ich niemer mac getragen.
which I never can bear.

Gelebt ich noch die lieben zît

Lived I still the dear time

daz ich daz lant solt aber schouwen,

that I the land should again behold,

dar inne al mîn fröide lît

there in all my joy lies

nu lange an einer schoenen frouwen,

now long on a fair lady,

sô gesæhe mînen lîp

then would-see my body

niemer weder man noch wîp

never either man or woman

getrûren noch gewinnen rouwen.

mourn or gain rue.

mich dûhte nu vil manigez guot,

to-me seemed now very much good,

dâ von ê swære was mîn muot.

there from before heavy was my spirit.

Ich wânde ir ê vil verre sîn

I thought from-her before very far to-be

dâ ich nu vil nâhe wære.

where I now very near were.

alrêrste hât daz herze mîn

only-now has the heart mine

von der frömde grôze swære.

from the estrangement great grief.

ez tuot wol sîne triuwe schîn.

it makes well its faithfulness evident.

wær ich iender umb den Rîn,

were I anywhere about the Rhine,

sô friesche ich lîhte ein ander mære,

then would-learn I perhaps an other tiding,

des ich doch leider nie vernam

which I yet alas never heard

sît daz ich über die berge quam.

since that I over the mountains came.

45,19 Ich sage ir nu vil lange zît

I say to-her now very long time

wie sêre si mîn herze twinget.

how sorely she my heart compels.

als ungeloubic ist ir lîp

so unbelieving is her person

daz si der zwîvel dar ûf bringet

that her the doubt there upon brings

daz si hât alselhen nît

that she has such envy

den ze rehte ein sælic wîp

which to right a blessed woman

niemer rehte vollebringet,

never rightly fulfills,

daz si dem ungelônnet lât

that she him unrewarded leaves

der si vor al der werlte hât.

who her before all the world holds.

Nieman sol mir daz verslân,

No-one shall to-me that deny,

sine möhte mich vor eime jâre

unless-she could me before a year

von sorgen wol erlæset hân,

from cares well freed have,

ob ez der schoenen wille wâre.

if it the fair-one's will were.

ouch half mir sêre ein lieber wân:
also helped me greatly a dear expectation:

swanne si mîn ougen sân,
whenever her my eyes saw,

daz was ein fröide für die swâre,
that was a joy against the burden,

alleine wil sis glouben niet
although will she-it believe not

daz si mîn ouge gerne siet.
that her my eye gladly sees.

Ich muoz von schulden sîn unfrô,
I must with cause be unglad,

sît si jach dô ich bî ir was,
since she said when I with her was,

ich möhte heizen Ênêas,
I might be-called Aeneas,

und solte ab des wol sicher sîn,
and should however of-that well sure be,

si wurde niemer mîn Tidô.
she would-become never my Dido.

wie sprach si sô?
how spoke she so?

aleine frömdet mich ir lîp,
although estranges me her person,

si hât iedoch des herzen mich
she has nonetheless of-the heart me

beroubet gar für elliu wîp.
robbed wholly before all women.

42,1

Mit gedanken ich die zît

With thoughts I the time

vertrîben als ich beste kan,

pass as I best can,

und lernen des ich nie began,

and learn what I never began,

trûren unde sorgen pflegen;

mourning and cares to-practice;

des was vil ungewent mîn lîp:

of-that was very unaccustomed my person:

durch elliu wîp

for-the-sake-of all women

wânde ich niemer sîn bekomen

thought I never to-be come

in solhe kumberlîche nôt

into such afflicting need

als ich von einer hân genomen.

as I from one have taken.

Mîn herze muoz ir klûse sîn

My heart must her cell be

al die wîle ich habe den lîp;

all the while I have the life;

sô müezen iemer elliu wîp

so must ever all women

vil ungedrungen drinne wesen,

very unpressed therein be,

swie lîhte si sich getræste mîn.

however easily she herself console of-me.

nu werde schîn

now become evident

ob rehtiu stæte iht müge gefromen.

whether true constancy anything may avail.

der wil ich iemer gegen ir pflegen;

that will I ever toward her practice;

diu ist mir von ir güete komen.

which is to-me from her goodness come.

Mich müet deich von der lieben dan

Me troubles that-I from the dear-one away

43,1

sô verre quam. des muoz ich wunt

so far came. of-that must I wounded

beliben: dêst mir ungesund.

remain: that-is to-me unhealthy.

ouch solte mich wol helfen daz

also should me well help that

daz ich ir ie was undertân.

that I to-her ever was subject.

sît ichs began,

since I-it began,

so enkunde ich nie den stæten muot

so could I never the constant spirit

gewenden rehte gar von ir,

turn rightly wholly from her,

wan si daz beste gerne tuot.

for she the best gladly does.

Ez wære ein wünneclicheiu zît,

It were a delightful time,

43,10

der nu bî friunden möhte sîn.

for-him-who now with friends might be.

ich wæne an mir wol werde schîn

I think on me well becomes evident

daz ich von der gescheiden bin

that I from her parted am

die ich erkôs für elliu wîp.

whom I chose before all women.

ir schœner lîp

her fair body

der wart ze sorgen mir geborn.

it was to cares for-me born.

den ougen mîn muoz dicke schaden

the eyes mine must often harm

daz si sô rehte habent erkorn.

that they so rightly have chosen.

Wer si mir in der mâtze liep,

Were she to-me in the measure dear,

sô wurde es umb daz scheiden rât;

then would-come it for the parting remedy;

wan ez mir alsô niht enstât

for it to-me so not stands

daz ich mich ir getræsten muge;

that I myself of-her console can;

ouch sol si mîn vergezzen niet.

also shall she me forget not.

wan dô ich schiet

for when I parted

und ich si jungest ane sach,

and I her last upon looked,

ze fröiden muos ich urlop nemen;

from joys had I leave to-take;

daz mir dê vor ê nie geschach.

which to-me there before ere never happened.

Sî darf mich des zîhen niet,

She need me of-that accuse not,

ichn hête si von herzen liep.

I-not had her from heart dear.

des möhte si die wârheit an mir sehen,

of-that might she the truth on me see,

und wil sis jehen.

if will she-it admit.

ich quam sîn dicke in solhe nôt,

I came of-it often into such distress,

daz ich den liuten guoten morgen bôt

that I to-the people good morning offered

engegen der naht.

toward the night.

ich was sô verre an si verdâht

I was so far on her lost-in-thought

daz ich mich underwîlent niht versan,

that I myself at-times not recollected,

und swer mich gruozte daz ichs niht vernam.

and whoever me greeted that I-it not heard.

Mîn herze unsanfte sînen strît

My heart unwillingly its strife

lât, den ez nu mange zît

leaves, which it now many-a time

behabet wider daz aller beste wîp,

holds against the of-all best woman,

der ie mîn lîp

whom ever my person

muoz dienen swar ich iemer var.

must serve wherever I ever go.

ich bin ir holt: swenn ich vor gote getar,

I am to-her devoted: whenever I before God dare,

so gedenke ich ir.

then think I of-her.

daz ruoch ouch er vergeben mir:

that deign also he forgive me:

wan ob ich des sünde süle hân,

for if I of-that sin shall have,

zwiu schuof er si sô rehte wol getân?

why made he her so rightly well shaped?

Mit grôzen sorgen hât mîn lîp

With great cares has my person

gerungen alle sîne zît.

struggled all its time.

ich hête lieb daz mir vil nâhe gie:

I had love which to-me very near went:

dazn liez mich nie

that let me never

an wîsheit kêren mînen muot.

to wisdom turn my spirit.

daz was diu minne, diu noch manigen tuot

that was the love, which still to-many-a-one does

daz selbe klagen.

the same lamenting.

nu wil ich mich an got gehalten:

now will I myself to God keep:

der kan den liuten helfen ûz der nôt.

he can the people help out-of the distress.

nieman weiz wie nâhe im ist der tât.

no-one knows how near to-him is the death.

Einer frowen was ich undertân,

To-a lady was I subject,

diu âne lôn mîn dienest nam.

who without reward my service took.

von der spriche ich niht wan allez guot,

of her speak I nothing but all good,

wan daz ir muot

except that her spirit

wider mich zunmilt ist gewesen.

toward me too-unkind is been.

vor aller nôt sô wânde ich sîn genesen,

before all distress so thought I to-be recovered,

dô sich verlie

when itself trusted

mîn herze ûf genâde an sie,

my heart upon favor to her,

der ich dâ leider funden niene hân.

whiche I there alas found not-at-all have.

nu wil ich dienen dem der lônem kan.

now will I serve him who reward can.

Ich quam von minne in kumber grôz,

I came from love into affliction great,

des ich doch selten ie genôz.

whiche I yet seldom ever enjoyed.

swaz schaden ich dâ von gewonnen hân,

whatever harm I there from gained have,

sô friesch nie man

so learned never anyone

deich ir iht spræche wan guot,

that-I of-her anything should-speak but good,

noch mîn munt von frowen niemer tuot.

nor my mouth of ladies ever does.

doch klage ich daz

yet lament I that

daz ich sô lange gotes vergaz:

that I so long God forgot:

den wil ich iemer vor in allen haben,

him will I ever before them all hold,

und in dâ nâch ein holdez herze tragen.

and them there after a devoted heart bear.

47,9 Mîn herze und mîn lîp diu wellent scheiden,

My heart and my body they wish to-part,

diu mit ein ander varnt nu manige zît.

which with one another travel now many-a time.

der lîp wil gerne vehten an die heiden:

the body wishes gladly to-fight against the heathens:

sô hât iedoch daz herze erwelt ein wîp

yet has nonetheless the heart chosen a woman

vor al der werlt. daz mûet mich iemer sît,

before all the world. that troubles me ever since,

daz si ein ander niene volgent beide.

that they one another not-at-all follow both.

mir habent diu ougen vil getân ze leide.

to-me have the eyes much done to sorrow.

got eine müeze scheiden noch den strît.

God alone may part yet the strife.

Ich wânde ledic sîn von solher swære,

I thought free to-be of such grief;

dô ich daz kriuze in gotes êre nam.

when I the cross in God's honor took.

ez wære ouch reht deiz herze als ich dâ wære,

it were also right that-it heart as I there were,

wan daz sîn stætekeit im sîn verban.

but that its constancy to-it that forbade.

ich solte sîn ze rehte ein lebendic man,

I should be to right a living man,

ob ez den tumben willen sîn verbære,

if it the foolish will its should-forbear,

nu sihe ich wol daz im ist gar unmære

now see I well that to-it is wholly indifferent

wie ez mir an dem ende süle ergân.

how it for-me at the end shall turn-out.

Sît ich dich, herze, niht wol mac erwenden,

Since I thee, heart, not well can turn,

dûn wellest mich vil trûreclîchen lân,

unless-thou wilt me very sadly leave,

sô bite ich got daz er dich ruoche senden

so bid I God that he thee deign to-send

an eine stât dâ man dich wol enpfâ.

to a place where one thee well receive.

owê wie sol ez armen dir ergân!

alas how shall it poor thee go!

wie torstest eine an solhe nôt ernenden?

how durst-thou alone into such distress venture?

wer sol dir dîne sorge helfen enden

who shall for-thee thy care help to-end

mit solhen triuwen als ich hân getân?

with such faithfulness as I have done?

47,33 Nieman darf mir wenden daz zunstæte,
No-one need to-me count that as-inconstancy,
 ob ich die hazze diech dâ minnet
if I her hate whom-I there loved
 swie vil ich si geflêhet oder gebæte,
however much I her entreated or begged,
 sô tuot si rehte als ob sis niht verstê.
so does she rightly as if she-it not understood.
 mich dunket wie ir wort gelîche gê
to-me seems how her word alike goes
 rehte als ez der sumer von Triere tæte.
rightly as it the summer of Trier would-do.
 ich wære ein gouch, ob ich ir tumpheit hæte
I were a fool, if I her folly would-have
 für guot: ez engeschiht mir niemer mê.
for good: it happens to-me never more.

53,31 Si welnt dem tôde entrunnen sîn,
They think from-the death escaped to-be,
 die gote erliegent sîne vart.
who to-God feign his journey.
 dêswâr sôst der geloube mân
indeed so-is the belief mine
 daz si sich übel hânt bewart.
that they themselves ill have secured.
 swerz kriuze nam und wider warp,
whoever-the cross took and back turned,
 dem wirt doch got ze jungest schîn,
to-him becomes yet God at last evident,
 swann im diu porte ist vor verspart
when to-him the gate is before barred
 die er tuot ûf den liuten sîn.
which he opens to the people his.

Mîn herze den gelouben hât,

My heart the belief has,

solt iemer man belîben sîn

should ever man remained be

durch liebe od durch der Minnen rât,

through love or through the Love's counsel,

sô wære ich noch alumbe den Rîn;

then were I still around the Rhine;

wan mir daz scheiden nâhe gât,

for to-me the parting near goes,

daz ich von lieben friunden mîn

that I from dear friends mine

hân getân. swiez doch darumbe ergât,

have done. however-it yet about-it goes,

got hêrre, ûf die genâde dîn

God Lord, upon the favor thine

sô wil ich dir bevelhen die

so will I to-thee commend those

die ich durch dînen willen lie.

whom I for thy sake left.

Ich gunde es guoten frowen niet

I would-grant it to-good ladies not

daz iemer mêre quæme der tac

that ever more came the day

daz sie dâ heime heten lieb:

that they there at-home should-have love:

wan ez wære ir êren slac.

for it were their honor's blow.

wie kunde in der gedienen iet,

how could them be serve anything,

der gotes verte alsô erschrac?

who from-God's journey so shrank?

dar zuo send ich in disiu liet,

there to send I to-them these songs,

und warnes als ich beste mac.

and warn-them as I best can.

gesæhs mîn ouge niemer mê,

saw-them my eye never more,

mir tæte iedoch ir laster wê.

to-me would-do nonetheless their disgrace pain.

Heinrich von Veldeke

Fifty-two strophes, printed in Veldeke's Limburgish. The days grow long and the birds are glad; Tristan had to be constant to the queen against his will, but Veldeke loves his lady better than Tristan did, since no potion compels him; a lady in her own voice refuses a suitor who asked too much; and a man who serves well and can wait will be repaid.

Het sîn gûde nûwe mâre,

It are good new tidings,

56,1

dat die vogel openbâre

that the birds openly

singen dâ man blûmen siet.

sing where one flowers sees.

tû den tîden in den jâre

at the times in the year

stonde wal dat man frô wære:

it-would-stand well that one glad were:

leider des enbin ich niet.

alas of-that am I not.

mîn dombe herte mich verriet,

my foolish heart me betrayed,

dat ich mût onsachte end swære

that I must harshly and heavily

dragen leit dat mir geskiet.

bear sorrow which to-me happens.

Die scönest end die beste frouwe

The fairest and the best lady

tusken Roden end der Souwe

between Rhône and the Save

gaf mir bliscap hie bevorn:

gave me gladness here before:

dat is mir komen al te rouwe,

that is to-me come all to rue,

dorch dompheit, niet van ontrouwe,

through folly, not from unfaithfulness,

dat ich her holde hân verlorn.

that I her favor have lost.

die ich ter besten hadde erkorn

whom I as-the best had chosen

oft in der werelde ieman scouwe

if in the world anyone looked

noch sêrre forhte ich heren torn.

still more-sorely fear I her anger.

56,19 Alte hôge minne

All-too high love

brachten mich al ût den sinne:

brought me all out-of the senses:

dô ich her ougen ende mont

when I her eyes and mouth

sach sô wal stân end her kinne,

saw so well stand and her chin,

dô wart mir dat herte enbinne

then became to-me the heart within

van sô sûter dompheit wont,

from so sweet folly wounded,

dat mir wîsheit wart onkont.

that to-me wisdom became unknown.

des bin ich wal worden inne

of-that am I well become aware

bit scaden sint te maneger stont.

with harm since at many-an hour.

Dat ovel wort et sî verwâten,

The evil word it be cursed,

dat ich niene konde verlâten,

whith I not-at-all could forgo,

dô mich bedrouch mîn dombe wân:

when me deceived my foolish expectation:

der ich was gerende ût der mâten,

of-whom I was desiring out-of the measure,

ich bat si in der kartâten

I begged her in the charity

dat si mich mûste al ombevân.

that she me might all embrace.

sô vele hadde ich niet gedân,

so much had I not done,

dat si ein wênich ût der strâten

that she a little out-of the street

dorch mich tonrechte wolde stân.

for me wrongly would stand.

‘Ich bin vrô, sint ons die dage

I am glad, since to-us the days

lichten ende werden lanc.’

brighten and become long.’

sô sprac ein vrouwe alsonder klage,

so spoke a lady wholly-without lament,

frilic ende ân al gedwanc.

freely and without all constraint.

'des segg ich mînen glücke danc

'of-that say I to-my luck thanks

dat ich ein solic herte drage,

that I a such heart bear,

dat ich dorch keinen böesen kranc

that I through no base weakness

an mîner bliscap niene verzage.

in my gladness at-all despair.

57,18 Mir hadde wîlen teiner stonde

To-me bad once at-a hour

vele gedienet ouch ein man,

much served also a man,

sô dat ich heme wal gudes gonde;

so that I him well of-good granted;

des ich heme nu niene gan,

which I him now not-at-all grant,

sint dat hê den mût gewan

since that he the spirit gained

dat hê nû eiskene begonde

that he now to-demand began

dat ich hem bat entseggen kan

that-which I him better refuse can

dan het an mir gewerven konde.

than he-it from me win could.

Et quam van dombes herten råde,

It came from foolish heart's counsel,

et sal te dompheit ouch ergân.

it shall to folly also turn.

ich warnidenes alte spâde

I warned-him-of-it all-too late

dat her hedde missedân.

that he had misdane.

wie mochte ich dat vor gût entstân,

how might I that for good understand,

dat hê mich dorpelike bâde

that he me churlishly asked

dat hê mich mûste al ombevân?

that he me might all embrace?

...

(lacuna)

Ich wânde dat her hovesc wære:

I thought that he courtly were:

des was ich heme van herten holt.

of-that was I him from heart devoted.

dat segg'ich ü wal openbâre:

that say-I to-you well openly:

des is hê gar âne scolt.

of-that is he wholly without fault.

des drage ich mir ein gût gedolt:

of-that bear I for-me a good patience:

mir is sîn scade vele onmâre.

to-me is his harm very indifferent.

hê iesc an mir te rîken solt,

he demanded from me too rich pay,

des ich vel wale an heme entbâre.

which I very well from him do-without.

57,34

Hê iesc an mir te lôse minne;

He demanded from me too loose love;

die ne vant her an mir niet.

that — found he in me not.

dat quam van sînen kranken sinne,

that came from his weak sense,

want et heme sîn dompheit riet.

for it him his folly counseled.

wat of hem scade dâr ane geskiet?

what if to-him harm there from happens?

des brenge ich heme vel wal inne,

of-that bring I him very well aware,

dat hê sîn spel tonrechte ersiet,

that he his game wrongly views,

dat hert brikt êr hêt gewinne.'

the heart breaks ere he-it win.'

58,11 Swê mir scade an mîner vrouwen,

Whoever me harms with my lady,

dem wonsc ich des dorren rîses

to-him wish I the dry twig

dar ane die dieve nemen her ende.

there on the thieves take their end.

swê mîn daran scône in trouwen,

whoever of-me thereon spares in faithfulness,

dem wonsc ich des paradises

to-him wish I the paradise

ende valde hem mîne hende.

and fold to-him my hands.

frâg iemen wê si sî,

(if)-asks anyone who she be,

dê kenne si dâ bî:

be know her there by:

et is die wale gedâne.

it is the well made-one.

genâde, vrouwe, mir.

favor, lady, to-me.

der sonnen gan ich dir,

the sun grant I thee,

sô skine mir der mâne.

so shine for-me the moon.

Swie mîn nôt gefûger wâre,

However my distress gentler were,

sô gewonne ich lief nâ leide

so would-gain I love after sorrow

ende vröude manechvalde,

and joy manifold,

want ich weit vel lieve mâre:

for I know very dear tidings:

die blûmen springen an der heide,

the flowers spring on the heath,

die vogeles singen in den walde,

the birds sing in the wood,

dâr wîlen lach der snê

where once lay the snow

dir stêt nu grûne klê,

there stands now green clover,

et douwet an den morgen.

it thaws in the morning.

swê wele dê vrouwe sich,

whoever will he rejoice himself,

nieman nôdes mich:

no-one compels me:

ich bin onledech van sorgen.

I am not-free from cares.

58,23

58,35 Tristrant mûste sonder danc
Tristan bad-to without will
 stâde sîn der koninginne,
constant be to-the queen,
 want en poisûn dar tû dwanc
for him potion there to compelled
 mêre dan die kracht der minne.
more than the power of-the love.
 des sal mir die gûde danc
of-that shall to-me the good-one thanks
 weten dat ich niene gedranc
know that I not-at-all drank
 alsulc pîment end ich si minne
such spiced-wine and I her love
 bat dan hê, end mach dat sîn.
better than be, and may that be.
 wale gedâne, valskes âne,
well made-one, of-falseness without,
 lâ mich wesen dîn
let me be thine
 ende wis du mîn.
and be thou mine.

59,11 Sint die sonne er liechten skîn <i>Since the sun her bright shine</i> end die kleine vogelkîn <i>and the little birdlings</i> drürech is dat herte mîn: <i>sad is the heart mine:</i>	gên der kelde hevet geneiget <i>toward the cold has bent</i> heres sanges sîn gesweiget, <i>of-their song are silenced,</i> want et wel nu winter sîn, <i>for it will now winter be,</i>
---	--

dê ons sîne kracht erzeiget an den blûmen, die man siet
which to-us its power shows on the flowers, which one sees
 liechter varwe erblîken garwe; dâ van mir geskiet
of-bright color fade wholly; there from to-me happens
 leit end lieves niet.
sorrow and of-love nothing.

In den tîden van den jâre

59,22

In the times of the year

dat die dage werden lanc

that the days become long

end dat weder weder klâre,

and the weather again clear,

sô vernûwen openbâre

then renew openly

die merlekine heren sanc,

the blackbirds their song,

die ons brengen lieve mâre.

which to-us bring dear tidings.

gode mach hers weten danc

to-God may he-of-it know thanks

swê hevet rechte minne

whoever has true love

sonder rouwe end âne wanc.

without rue and without wavering.

Ich wel frô sîn dorch her êre

I will glad be for her honor

die mir hevet dat gedân

who to-me has that done

dat ich van der rouwe kêre,

that I from the rue turn,

die mich wîlen erde sêre.

which me once hurt sorely.

dat is mich nu sô vergân,

that is for-me now so gone,

dat ich bin rîc end grôt hêre,

that I am rich and great lord,

sint ich si mûste al ombevân,

since I her might all embrace,

die mir gaf rechte minne

who to-me gave true love

sonder wîc end âne wân.

without strife and without doubt.

Die mich daromb willen nîden

Those-who me therefore wish to-envy

dat mir lieves iet geskiet,

that to-me of-love anything happens,

dat mach ich vel sachte lîden

that can I very easily suffer

noch mîn blîtschap niet vermîden,

nor my gladness not forgo,

end enwel darombe niet

and will therefore not

nâ gevolgen den onbliden,

after follow the unglad-ones,

dan dat si mich gerne siet,

then that she me gladly sees,

die mich dorch rechte minne

who me through true love

lange pîne dolen liet.

long pain suffer let.

Dê blîtschap sonder rouwe hêt

He-who gladness without rue has

bit êren, hê is rîke.

with honors, he is rich.

dat herte dâ die rouwe in stêt

the heart where the rue in stands

dat levet jâmerlike.

that lives miserably.

hê is edel ende frût,

he is noble and wise,

swê bit êren kan gemêren

whoever with honors can increase

sîne blîtschap, dat is gût.

his gladness, that is good.

Die scône die mich singen dût

The fair-one who me sing makes

si sal mich spreken lêren

she shall me to-speak teach

dâr ave dat ich mînen mût

there from which I my spirit

niet wale kan gekêren.

not well can turn.

sî is edel ende frût.

she is noble and wise.

swê bit êren kan gemêren

whoever with honors can increase

sîne blîtschap, dat is gût.

his gladness, that is good.

60,29 In den tîden dat die rôsen
In the times when the roses
 erzeigen manech scône blat,
show many-a fair leaf,
 sô flûket man den vroudelösen
then curses one the joyless-ones
 die wrüger sîn an maniger stat,
who accusers are in many-a place,
 want si der minne sîn gehat
for they to-the love are hostile
 end die minne gerne nôsen.
and the love gladly harm.
 got mûte ons van den bôsen lôsen!
God may us from the base-ones free!

61,1 Die werelt is der lichtecheide
The world is of-the frivolity
 alte rûmelike balt.
all-too boastfully bold.
 harde kranc is her geleide;
very weak is her escort;
 dat dût der minnen gewalt.
that does to-the love violence.
 die lôsheit die man wîlen scalt,
the looseness which one once scolded,
 die is versûnet over al;
that is pardoned over all;
 die bôsen sede werden alt;
the base customs become old;
 dat ons lange weren sal.
that to-us long last shall.

Des bin ich getrôst ie mêre

Of-that am I comforted ever more

61,9

dat mich die nîdigen nîden.

that me the envious envy.

ir nît end alle bôse lêre

their envy and all base teaching

dat mût hen dat herte snîden.

that must for-them the heart cut.

sô dat si sterwer nîd dest êre.

so that they die of-envy the sooner.

ich wel leven bit den blîden

I will live with the glad-ones

die her nît vrôlike lîden;

who their envy gladly suffer;

ich wel dorch her nîden

I will through their envy

mîne blîtscap niet vermîden.

my gladness not forgo.

Dô man der rechten minne plach

When one of-the true love practiced

61,18

dô plach man ouch der êren.

then practiced one also of-the honors.

nu mach man nacht ende dach

now can one night and day

die bôesen sede lêren.

the base customs learn.

swê dit nu siet end gent dô sach

whoever this now sees and that then saw

owê wat der nu klagen mach!

alas what he now lament may!

dogt wel sich nu verkêren.

virtue will itself now turn.

Die man ensin nu niwet frût

The men are now not wise

want si die vrouwen skelden.

for they the ladies scold.

ouch sîn si dar weder gût,

also are they there against good,

dat sent niet wale vergelden.

that they-it not well repay.

swê dat skilt, dê missedût,

whoever that scolds, he misdoes,

dâ hê sich bî generen mût,

whereby he himself by nourish must,

dê brüvet selve melden.

he brings-about himself denouncing.

[die gedient seiden.]

[those-who earn seldom.]

61,33 Swê ter minne is sô frût

Whoever to love is so wise

dat hê der minne dienen kan,

that he the love serve can,

end hê dorch minne pîne dût

and he through love pain does

dês wale ein minnesâlech man.

that-is well a love-blessed man.

van minne komet onsallet gût:

from love comes to-us-all good:

die minne maket reinen mût.

the love makes pure spirit.

wat solde ich sonder minne dan?

what should I without love then?

Ich minne die scône sonder wanc.

I love the fair-one without wavering.

ich weit wale, her minne es clâr.

I know well, her love is clear.

of mîne minne iet velske ein kranc,

if my love anything falsify a weakness,

sô wirt ouch niemer minne wâr.

then becomes also never love true.

ich segge er mîner minne danc:

I say to-her for-my love thanks:

bî her minne stêt mîn sanc.

by her love stands my song.

hês domp, swen minne donket vâr.

he-is foolish, whom love seems danger.

Man seget al vor wâr

One says all for true

62,11

nu manech jâr,

now many-a year,

die wif haten grâwe hâr.

the women hate gray hair.

dat is mir swâr

that is to-me heavy

end is her misseprîs

and is their disgrace

die lieber hevet her amîs

who rather has her lover

domp danne wîs.

foolish than wise.

Te mê noch te min

The more nor the less

dat ich grâ bin,

that I gray am,

ich hâte an wiven kranken sin,

I hate in women weak sense,

die nûwe tin

who new tin

nemen vor alt golt.

take before old gold.

si gien si sîn den jongen holt

they say they are to-the young devoted

dorch ongedolt.

through impatience.

62,25 In den aberillen sô die blûmen springen,

In the April when the flowers spring,

sô loven die linden end grûnen die bûken,

then leaf the lindens and green the beeches,

sô hebben her willen die vogeles singen,

then have their will the birds to-sing,

want si minne vinden, aldâr si si sûken,

for they love find, where-ever they it seek,

an her genôt: want her blîtschap is grôt;

in their mate: for their gladness is great;

der mich nie verdrôt:

which me never wearied:

want si swîgen al den winter stille.

for they were-silent all the winter still.

Dû si an den rîse die blûmen gesâgen
When they on the twig the flowers saw
 bî den bladen springen, dû wâren si rîke
by the leaves spring, they were they rich
 her manchvalden wîse der si wîlen plâgen:
in-their manifold melody which they once practiced:
 si hûven her singen lût ende vrôlike,
they raised their singing loud and gladly,
 neder end hô. mîn mût stêt alsô
low and high. my spirit stands so
 dat ich wel wesen vrô.
that I will be glad.
 recht is dat ich mîn gelücke prîse.
right is that I my luck praise.

Mochte ich erwerven mîner vrouwen holde!
Might I win my lady's favor!
 kond ich die gesûken als het her getâme!
could I her seek as it her befitted!
 ich sal verderven al van mîner scolde,
I shall perish all from my fault,
 sin wolde rûken dat si van mir nâme
unless-she would deign that she from me took
 bûte âne dôt op genâde end dorch nôt,
amends without death upon favor and through need,
 want et got nie gebôt
for it God never commanded
 dat nehein man gerne solde sterven.
that any man gladly should die.

63,20 Got sende her te mûde
God send her to spirit
 dat si et meine te gûde,
that she it mean to good,
 wand ich vel gerne behude
for I very gladly would-guard
 dat ich her iet spreke te leide
that I to-her anything speak to sorrow
 end iemer van her geskeide.
and ever from her part.
 mich binden sô vaste die eide,
me bind so fast the oaths,
 minn ende trouwe beide:
love and faithfulness both:
 des fürhte ich si als dat kind die rûde.
of-that fear I her as the child the rod.

63,28 Si is sô gût end ouch sô scône
She is so good and also so fair
 die ich nu lange hân gelovet,
whom I now long have praised,
 sold ich te Rôme dragen die krône,
should I at Rome wear the crown,
 ich gesattes op er hôvet.
I would-set-it upon her head.
 manech sprâke 'siet hê dovet'.
many-a-one would-say 'see he raves.'
 got geve dat sî mir lône,
God grant that she me reward,
 wand ich dâde ich weit wal wie:
for I would-do I know well how:

levet si noch als ich si lie —

(if)-lives she still as I her left—

sô is si dort end ich bin hie.

so is she there and I am here.

Si dede mir, dô si mirs gonde,

She did to-me, when she to-me-it granted,

vel te lieve end ouch te gûde,

much to love and also to good,

dat ich noch tedeliker stonde

that I still at-some hour

singe, sô mirs wirt te mûde.

sing, when to-me-it comes to spirit.

sint ich sach dat si die hûde

since I saw that she the guarding

sô bedriegen konde

so deceive could

sam der hase dût den wint,

as the hare does the wind,

sô gesorge ich niemer sint —

so worry I never since—

omb mînes sones dochterkint.

about my son's daughter's-child.

64,1

Gerner heddich bit her gemeine

More-gladly would-have-I with her in-common

dûsent marke swâ ich wolde

a-thousand marks wherever I wished

ende einen scrîn van golde,

and a chest of gold,

64,10

danne ich van her wesen solde

than I from her be should

verre siec end arm end eine.

far sick and poor and alone.

des sal si sîn van mir gewis

of-that shall she be from me certain

dat dat die wârheit an mir is.

that that the truth in me is.

64,17 Et dûn die vogele skîn

It make the birds evident

dat si die boume sien geblût:

that they the trees see blossomed:

her sanc maket mir den mût

their song makes to-me the spirit

sô gût dat ich vrô bin

so good that I glad am

noch drürech niet kan sîn.

nor sad not can be.

got êre si die mir dat dût

God honor her who to-me that does

al over den Rîn,

all over the Rhine,

dat mir der sorgen wirt gebut

that to-me of-the cares becomes remedy

aldär mîn lîf verr in ellende mût.

there-where my body far in exile must.

Et haven die kalde nechte gedân

It have the cold nights done

64,26

dat die löver an der linde

that the leaves on the linden

winterlike valwe stân.

winterlike pale stand.

der minne hân ich guden wân

of-the love have I good expectation

end weit sîn nu ein lief ende:

and know of-it now a dear end:

datt mir ten besten sal ergân

that to-me for-the best shall turn-out

dâ ich die minne gûde vinde

where I the love good find

end ich mich her al onderwinde.

and I myself of-her all undertake.

Die noch nie worden verwonnen

Those-who still never were overcome

64,34

van minnen alsô ich nu bin,

by love as I now am,

die enmogen noch enkonnen

they may-not nor can

niet wale gemerken mînen sîn.

at-all well perceive my sense.

ich hân aldâ minne begonnen

I have there love begun

dâ mîne minne skinen min

where my love shines less

danne der mâne skine bî der sonnen.

than the moon shines by the sun.

65,5 Man darf den bôsen niwet flûken:

One need the base-ones not curse:

hen wirt decke onsachte wê,

to-them becomes often harshly pain,

want si warden ende lûken

for they wait and lurk

als dê springet in den snê.

as he-who springs into the snow.

des sint si vele te mê gevê.

of-that are they much the more hostile.

des endarf doch nieman rûken,

of-that need yet no-one deign,

want si sûken

for they seek

beren op den bûken.

berries on the beeches.

65,13 Die tît is verclâret wale;

The time is brightened well;

des is îdoch die werelt niet,

of-that is yet the world not,

want si is drûve ende vale,

for she is sad and pale,

dê te rechte si besiet.

who to right her beholds.

die her volgen die vergien

those-who her follow they confess

dat si bôse ie lanc sô mêre;

that she base ever longer so more;

want si der minnen ave tien

for they of-the love away draw

die her wîlen dienden êre.

who her once served ere.

Swê den vrouwen settet hûde
Whoever the ladies sets guarding

65,21

dê dût decke dat ovele stêt
he does often what ill stands

vel manech man dreget die rûde
very many-a man carries the rod

dâ hê sich selven mede slêt.
there he himself self with beats.

swê den ovelen sede gevât,
whoever the evil custom gets,

dê gêt vel ofte unvrô bit tornegen mûde:
he goes very often unglad with angry spirit:

des pleget niet der wîse frûde.
of-that takes-care not the wise prudent.

Als die vogele blîdelîke
As the birds gladly

65,28

singende den somer entfân
singing the summer receive

end der walt is loves rîke
and the wood is of-leaves rich

end die blûmen scône stân,
and the flowers fair stand,

so is der winter gar vergân.
so is the winter wholly gone.

mîn recht is dat ich dar wîke
my right is that I there yield

dâr mîn herte stâdelîke
where my heart constantly

van minnen ie was onderdân.
of love ever was subject.

66,1 Der scône sommer gêt ons ane
The fair summer goes to-us on
 des is vel manech vogel blide,
of-that is very many-a bird glad,
 want si vrouwen sich te strîde
for they rejoice themselves to rivalry
 dû scônen tît vel wale tentfâne.
the fair time very well to-receive.
 jârlanc is recht dat die hare
this-season is right that the flax
 winke den vel sûten winde:
wave to-the very sweet wind:
 ich bin worden geware
I am become aware
 nuwes loves an der linde.
of-new leaves on the linden.

66,9 Die minne bede ich ende mane
The love beg I and admonish
 die mich hât verwonnen al
which me has overcome wholly
 dat ich die scônen dârtû spane
that I the fair-one thereto entice
 dat si mêre mîn geval.
that she increase my good-fortune.
 geskiet mir als den swane
(if)-happens to-me as to-the swan
 dê singet alser sterven sal,
which sings when-be die shall,
 so verliese ich te vel darane.
then lose I too much thereby.

Die minne bedwanc Salomône:

66,16

The love compelled Solomon:

dî was der alrewîste man

he was the all-wisest man

dê ie gedrug koninges krône.

who ever bore a-king's crown.

wie mochte ich mich erwerben dan,

how might I myself defend then,

si dwunge ouch mich gewaldelike,

she should-compel also me forcibly,

sint si sölken man verwan,

since she such-a man overcame,

dî sô wîse was end ouch sô rîke?

who so wise was and also so rich?

den solt hân ich van her te lône.

that pay have I from her as reward.

Scône wort bit sûten sange

66,24

Fair words with sweet song

die drôsten dicke swæren mût.

they comfort often heavy spirit.

die mach man gerne halden lange,

those may one gladly keep long,

want si sîn altoges gût.

for they are altogether good.

ich singe bit vel drûven mûde

I sing with very sad spirit

der scônen vrouwen end der guden.

to-the fair lady and to-the good.

op her drôst ich wîlen sanc;

upon her comfort I once sang;

si hevet mich missedrôstet, des is lanc.

she has me mis-comforted, of-that is long.

66,32 Her stonde bat dat si mich drôste
For-her would-stand better that she me comforted

dan ich dorch si gelege dôt,
than I for her lay dead,

want si mich wîlen êre erlôste
for she me once ere freed

ût maneger angesliker nôt.
out-of many-a fearful distress.

als sit gebût, ich bin her dôde,
as she-it commands, I am her dead-man,

want iedoch sô sterve ich nôde
for yet so die I unwillingly

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

67,3 Ich levet êr bit ongemake
I lived before with discomfort

seven jâr êr ich iet sprâke
seven years ere I anything spoke

weder her willen einech wort;
against her will a-single word;

dat si wale hevet gehôrt,
which she well has heard,

end wele doch dat ich klage mîne sêre:
and wills yet that I lament my pain:

joch is die minne als si was wîlen êre.
still is the love as she was once before.

[Swenne diu zît alsô gestât

[Whenever the time so stands

67,9

daz uns komt bluomen unde gras

that to-us come flowers and grass

sô mac sîn alles werden rât

then may of-it all become remedy

dâ von mîn herze trûric was.

there from my heart sad was.

des vröuwent sich diu vogellîn,

of-that rejoice themselves the birdlings,

wurde iemer sumer als ê.

would-become ever summer as before.

lât die welt mîn eigen sîn,

let the world my own be,

mir tæte iedoch der winter wê.]

to-me would-do nonetheless the winter pain.]

['Durch sînen willen, ob er wil,

['For his sake, if he wills,

67,17

tuon ich einz und anders niht.

do I one-thing and other not.

des selben mac in dunken vil,

of-the same may him seem much,

sô daz niemen in sô gerne siht.

so that no-one him so gladly sees.

ich wil behalten mînen lîp.

I will keep my body.

ich hân vil wol genomen war

I have very well taken heed

daz dicke werdent schœniu wîp

that often become fair women

von solhem leide missevar.')

from such sorrow discolored.')

67,25 Die dâ willen hœren mînen sanc,
Those-who there wish to-hear my song,
 ich wel dat si mir sîn weten danc
I will that they to-me of-it know thanks
 stâdeliken ende sonder wanc.
constantly and without wavering.
 die ie geminnden oft noch minnen,
those-who ever loved or still love,
 die sîn vrô in manigen sinnen;
they are glad in many senses;
 des die domben niene beginnen,
which the foolish not-at-all begin,
 want si die minne noch nie dwanc
for them the love still never compelled
 noch ir herten rochte enbinnen.
nor their hearts cared within.

67,33 Swê wale gedienet end erbeiden mach
Whoever well serves and wait can
 den ergôt et wale te gûde:
for-him turns-out it well to good:
 dâr ane gedacht ich manegen dach.
there on thought I many-a day.
 got weit wal, dû ichs alrêst gesach,
God knows well, when I-her first saw,
 sint diende ich her mit sôlken mûde
since served I her with such spirit
 dat ich nie twîvels geplach.
that I never of-doubt practiced.
 lônet mirs die gûde,
(if)-rewards me-it the good-one,
 wir twei bedriegen onser hûde.
we two deceive our guarding.

Wâr ich onvrô darnâ als et mir stêt,

Were I unglad thereafter as it to-me stands,

dat wâr onrecht ende wonder,

that were wrong and wonder,

sint al mîn leit nâ lieve ergêt.

since all my sorrow after love turns.

die minne is die mîn herte al ombevêt:

the love is she-who my heart all embraces:

dâr is nehein dorpeit onder,

there is no churlishness among,

wan bliscap die die rouwe slêt.

but gladness which the rue slays.

des bin ich die gesonder:

of-that am I the sounder:

rouwe is mir ie lanc onkonder.

rue is to-me ever longer more-unknown.

Ulrich von Gutenberg

The long Leich and one further song. She is his summer's delight and empties his heart of cares, yet she sets his reward a thousand years off and refuses him in mockery; Alexander, Floris, and Turnus suffered for love as he does. In the song her eyes have wounded him without weapons, and her favor sleeps where he cannot wake it.

- 69,1 Ze dienst ir, von der ich hân
To service her, from whom I have
- ein leben mit ringem muote,
a life with light spirit,
- als ich nu lange hân getân.
as I now long have done.
- und gan es mir diu guote,
and (if)-grants it me the good-one,
- Diu mir tuot daz herze mîn
Who to-me makes the heart mine
- vil menger sorgen lære,
of-very many cares empty,
- sô wirt an mîme sange schîn
so becomes in my song evident
- der winter noch kein swære.
the winter nor any grief.
- Ich wil si flêhen unz ich lebe,
I will her entreat as-long-as I live,
- daz si mir fröide gunne
that she to-me joy grant
- und si mir lôn nâch heile gebe.
and she to-me reward according-to good-fortune give.
- si ist mîn sumerwunne,
she is my summer-delight,

Si sæjet bluomen unde klê

She sows flowers and clover

in mînes herzen anger:

in my heart's meadow:

des muoz ich sîn, swiez mir ergê,

of-that must I be, however-it to-me go,

vil rîcher fröiden swanger.

of-very rich joys pregnant.

Ir güete mich vil lützel lât

Her goodness me very little lets

dekeinen kumber müejen.

any affliction trouble.

der schîn der von ir ougen gât,

the radiance which from her eyes goes,

der tuot mich schône blüejen,

it makes me beautifully bloom,

Alsam der heize sunne tuot

Just-as the hot sun does

die boume in dem touwe.

the trees in the dew.

sus senftet mir den swæren muot

thus softens for-me the heavy spirit

von tage ze tage mîn frouwe.

from day to day my lady.

ir schœner gruoze, ir milter segen,

her fair greeting, her gracious blessing,

mit eime senften nîgen,

with a gentle bow,

daz tuot mir einen meien regen

that makes for-me a May rain

reht an daz herze sîgen.

right onto the heart sink.

Des ist mir sanfter danne baz.

Of-that is to-me gentler than better.

ê mich verbære, sehent, daz,

sooner me would-fail, see, that,

ich trüege ê al der werlte haz.

I would-bear sooner all the world's hatred.

Er müejet sich, swer mirs erban,

He troubles himself, whoever me-it begrudges,

ich sî ir nie sô frömde man,

I be to-her never so strange a-man,

ich erdringe ir mêre lônnes an.

I extort from-her more of-reward on.

Sol ich dekeine wîle leben,

(if)-Shall I any while live,

mir wirt von ir vil lîhte geben

to-me is from her very likely given

dar nâch ein keiser möhte streben.

there after an emperor might strive.

Daz si mir under wîlen tuot,

What she to-me at times does,

daz dûhte ein andern man vil guot,

that would-seem to-an other man very good,

wan daz doch hôher wil mîn muot,

but that yet higher wills my spirit,

Dem ich geziehen nienen mac.

Whom I match not can.

nu fürhte ich eht der Minnen slac.

now fear I only the Love's blow.

ich erkennen nu vil mangel tac.

I know-it now very many-a day.

Er tuot mir leides dicke vil.

It does to-me of-sorrow often much.

doch wære ich gern hin an daz zil

yet were I gladly away to the goal

dâ si dâ sol und lônên wil.

where she there shall and reward will.

Nu wol hin (ez muoz eht sîn)

Now well away (it must only be)

und stic ûf, daz herze mîn.

and climb up, the heart mine.

ich wæne ich iht engelte dîn,

I think I anything pay-for of-thee,

swenn ir ze rehte wirdet schîn

when to-her to right becomes evident

daz ich lîde disen pîn

that I suffer this pain

von dîner kûr und dîner bete,

from thy choice and thy request,

und ie mit zûhten schône tete

and ever with courtesies fairly did

ân widerwanc,

without turning-back,

sît mich erranc

since me overcame

ir minnen swanc

her love's stroke

in ir getwanc.

into her constraint.

nu ist ze lanc

now is too long

ir habedanc.

her thanks.

daz tuot mich kranc.

that makes me weak.

des hân ich mengen ungedanc.

of-that have I many-an ill-thought.

daz lenget mir die kurzen tage

that lengthens for-me the short days

und niuwet mir die alten klage,

and renews for-me the old lament,

von der ich wânde sîn erlôst.

from which I thought to-be freed.

nu wil ich noch ir gnâden trôst

now will I still her favor's comfort

Beiten, als ich hân getân.

Await, as I have done.

ze heile müeze ez mir ergân!

to good-fortune may it for-me turn-out!

in wil ir niemer abe gestân.

I will from-her never away stand.

doch trœstet mich mîn tumber wân,

yet comforts me my foolish expectation,

ein guot gedinge den ich hân

a good hope which I have

zir tugenden der si vil begât,

of-her virtues of-which she many practices,

daz si mich lihte niht enlât

that she me perhaps not lets

ûz ir gewalt.

out-of her power.

der winter kalt

the winter cold

sô ist bestalt,

so is arranged,

ich wurdēs alt

I became-of-it old

und sorgen balt

and of-cares bold

und doch versalt

and yet banded-over

ze manicvalt,

too manifold,

und wære verlorn swaz ez noch galt:

and were lost whatever it yet was-worth:

daz swachte sêre mînen muot.

that weakened sorely my spirit.

nu enruoehe ich: swaz si mir getuot,

now care-not I: whatever she to-me does,

sô lâze ich niemer mînen strît:

so leave I never my strife:

waz ob sîn scheidet an der zît?

what if it parts at the time?

Si sol ez lân understân mit eteslîchen dîngen.

She shall it let cease with some things.

daz ist mîn rât. als ez mir stât, so enmac ir niht gelîngen.

that is my counsel. as it to-me stands, so can for-her nothing succeed.

swie si behabe an mir den sîge,

however she keeps over me the victory,

sô wizzent daz ich tôt gelîge.

so know that I dead lie.

Dêswâr si sol gedenken wol daz ez ir niht enzæme,

Indeed she shall consider well that it her not would-befit,

ob si mîn leben, deich hân ergeben an ir genâde, næme.

if she my life, which-I have given-up to her favor, should-take.

si müese es iemer sünde hân.

she would-have-to of-it ever sin have.

des sol diu guote mich erlân.

of-that shall the good-one me spare.

Si mac sîn gewaltic mîn: dêst reht: ich bin ir eigen

She may be mighty over-me: that-is right: I am her own

nu vil lange, swiez ergange, und ... ir gezeigen.

now very long, however-it go, and (lacuna) to-her show.

des solt ich wol gewinnen fromen.

of-that should I well gain profit.

diu guote diu hât mir benomen

the good-one she has from-me taken

Mînen sin. der ich bin undertân mit triuwen,

My sense. to-whom I am subject with faithfulness,

si ruort mich an mîn alten ban: die muoz ich aber niuwen.

she touches me on my old wound: that must I again renew.

ich hupf ir ûf der verte nâch:

I hop her on the track after:

mich leit ir süezen ougen schâch

me leads her sweet eyes' check

Swar si wil. doch hœre ich vil von friunden und von mâgen,

Wherever she wills. yet hear I much from friends and from kinsmen,

war umbe ich schîne in dirre pîne. esn mac mich niht betrâgen,

where for I appear in this pain. it can me not weary,

die wîle ich weiz in ir gewalt

the while I know in her power

mîns herzen trôst sô manicvalt.

my heart's comfort so manifold.

Der ich pflic mengen tac, wie solde ich si verlâzen?

Of-whom I took-care many-a day, how should I her forsake?

er irret sich, swer iemer mich dar umbe wil verwâzen.

he errs himself, whoever ever me there for wishes to-curse.

er schiede ê Musel und den Rîn,

he would-part sooner Moselle and the Rhine,

ê er von ir daz herze mîn

sooner he from her the heart mine

Gar enbünde. ez ist in sünde, die mir niht geloubent.

Wholly unbind. it is to-them sin, who me not believe.

der ougen blicke mich vil dicke mîner sinne roubent,

of-the eyes glances me very often of-my senses rob,

die fürhte ich als den donerslac,

those fear I as the thunderclap,

dem ich entwenken niene mac.

which I escape not-at-all can.

Ob ich die schœnen mac gesehen

If I the fair-one may see

eins in eime jâre,

once in a year,

so enkan mir guotes niht geschehen

then can to-me of-good nothing happen

vor valscher liute vâre:

for false people's danger:

die nement des war,

they take of-that heed,

ob mir iht liebes widervar

whether to-me anything of-pleasure befall

Ez ist ein wunder daz ich trage

It is a wonder that I bear

sô kumberlîche swære,

so afflicting grief,

als dicke sô si mîner klage

as often as she to-my lament

mit gnædeclîchem mære

with gracious tiding

antwûrte gît.

answer gives.

sô fröit den tôren zaller zît

so gladdens the fool at-all time

mit guoten siten.

with good manners.

ich wil si aber und iemer biten

I will her again and ever ask

‘Frouwe, habe genâde mîn:

‘Lady, have favor on-me:

daz zimt wol dîner güete.

that befits well thy goodness.

lâ mich ir iemer einer sîn,

let me of-them ever one be,

der dîner êren hûete,

who thy honor guard,

als ich ie tete;

as I ever did;

und daz ich niemer fuoz getrete

and that I never a-foot step

ûz dîme lobe,

out-of thy praise,

ich geliges under oder obe.’

whether-I lie under or above.’

Si endarf niht merken daz ich strebe

She need not notice that I strive

nâch mînes leides ende.

after my sorrow’s end.

ich muoz ez tuon die wîle ich lebe.

I must it do the while I live.

hân ich es missewende,

(if)-have I of-it fault,

desn mac ich niet.

of-that can I not.

mîn herze nie von ir geschiet,

my heart never from her parted,

noch niemer wil,

nor ever will,

ez gelte lützel oder vil.

it be-worth little or much.

Nieman darf des wunder nemen

No-one need of-that wonder take

daz si mich hât gebunden.

that she me has bound.

ichn mac ir kreften niht gestemen:

I can her powers not withstand:

sîst obe, sô bin ich unden.

she-is above, so am I under.

swaz ich nu tuon,

whatever I now do,

si hât bejaget an mir den ruon,

she has won on me the glory,

ich muoz ir jehen.

I must to-her grant.

nu wol eht, deist ouch beschehen.

now well then, that-is also happened.

Alexander der betwanc

Alexander he compelled

diu lant von grôzer krefte:

the lands by great power:

doch muoste er sunder sînen danc

yet had he without his will

der minne meisterschefte

to-the love's mastery

sîn undertân,

be subject,

umb eine frouwen wolgetân,

for a lady well-made,

die er erkôs:

whom he chose:

ern wart ouch nie mê sigelôs.

he became also never more victoryless.

In einem wilden walde er sach

In a wild wood he saw

sîns herzen küniginne:

his heart's queen:

des muose er liden ungemach,

of-that had he to-suffer discomfort,

er hete sîne sinne

he had his senses

vil nâch verlorn.

very nearly lost.

daz ich die schœnen hân erkorn

that I the fair-one have chosen

ze mîme leben,

for my life,

des wirt mir lîhte ein lôn gegeben.

of-that is to-me perhaps a reward given.

Nu wil ich aber biten

Now will I again entreat

die guoten, als ich kan,

the good-one, as I can,

diu mir mit schœnen siten

who from-me with fair manners

und zûhten an gewan

and courtesies from won

von êrst daz herze mîn,

from first the heart mine,

Daz siz bedenke noch,

That she-it consider yet,

und rehter dinge pflege

and of-right things take-care

und mînen dienest doch

and my service yet

nâch guotem willen wege,

according-to good will weigh,

und mich ir lâze sîn

and me hers let be

Gereit unz ich nu lebe,

Ready as-long-as I now live,

deich niemer, swiez ergê,

that-I never, however-it go,

tac von ir gestrebe,

a-day from her strive-away,

und daz ich iemer mê

and that I ever more

mîn nôt und disen pîn,

my distress and this pain,

Den ich nu lange dol,

Which I now long endure,

mit zühten schöne trage.

with courtesies fairly bear.

dêswâr joch tuot si wol:

indeed still does she well:

si endet mîne klage,

she ends my lament,

und wirt ouch verre schîn

and becomes also far evident

Ir güete unde ir mangiu tugent,

Her goodness and her many-a virtue,

der vil verborgen würde,

which much hidden would-be,

sold ich verslîzen mîne jugent

should I wear-out my youth

under dirre bürde.

under this burden.

Swenn si wil, ich bin gereit:

Whenever she wills, I am ready:

si gebe mir ein geleite

she give me a safe-conduct

für kumber und für herzeleit,

against affliction and against heart's-grief,

daz ich ir êre breite,

that I her honor spread,

Swar ich des landes iender kome,

Wherever I of-the land anywhere come,

mit allen mînen sinnen.

with all my senses.

dêswâr dî wahset an ir frome,

indeed there grows to her profit,

lât si michs lôn gewinnen.

(if)-lets her me-of-it reward win.

Ichn ger niht grôzer dinge zir,

I desire not greater things from-her,

wan trôstes mîme leide.

than of-comfort for-my sorrow.

des hân ich vil, swenn ich enbir

of-that have I much, whenever I lack

ir süezer ougen weide:

her sweet eyes' pasture:

Nu seht ob ez ein fuoge sî,

Now see whether it a propriety be,

swer mir die verteile.

whoever me that denies.

ich solte ir ofte wesen bî,

I should to-her often be by,

ez an mîme heile.

it on my good-fortune.

Mîn leben wirt müelich unde sûr,

My life becomes toilsome and sour,

sol ich si lange mîden.

(if)-shall I her long avoid.

daz Flôris muost durch Planschiflûr

that Floris had-to for Blanchefleur

sô grôzen kumber lîden,

so great affliction suffer,

Dazn was ein michel wunder niet,

That was a great wonder not,

wan si grôz ungeverte schiet,

for them great hardship parted,

als ez der alte heiden riet:

as it the old heathen counseled:

Si wart vil verre übr mer gesant,

She was very far over sea sent,

dêr muost in mangiu frömdiu lant.

he-who had-to into many-a foreign land.

dâ ers in eime turne vant

there he-her in a tower found

Von guoten listen wol behuot,

By good arts well guarded,

dâ wâgt er leben unde guot:

there ventured he life and goods:

des gwan er sît vil hôhen muot.

of-that won he afterward very high spirit.

Daz træstet mich, und tuot mir wol,

That comforts me, and does to-me well,

von mînem kumber den ich dol.

from my affliction which I endure.

ez geschiht gar swaz geschehen sol.
it happens wholly whatever happen shall.

Si sol wol wizzen âne wân,
She shall well know without doubt,

swiez mir dar umbe sol ergân,
however-it to-me there for shall go,

wær si versendet zEndiân,
were she sent-away to-India,

Dar wer mîn varen vil bereit:
Thither were my journey very ready:

daz mer, daz lant und bürge treit,
the sea, the land and castles bears,

dazn war mir dar zuo niht ze breit,
that were to-me there to not too broad,

Als rehte als ich si hân erkant.
As rightly as I her have known.

swer mir nu leidet disiu bant,
whoever to-me now makes-hateful these bonds,

der sündet sich und ert den sant.
he sins himself and plows the sand.

Er kêrte den Rîn ê in den Pfât,
He would-turn the Rhine sooner into the Po,

ê ich si lieze, diu mich hât
than I her would-leave, who me has

betwungen, und doch schône stât
compelled, and yet fairly stands

von ir mîn herze, swiez ergât.
from her my heart, however-it goes.

ez dûhte mich ein missetât,
it would-seem to-me a misdeed,

ob ich schiede alsus dervon.
if I parted thus therefrom.

sîst mîner triuwen wol gewon
she-is of-my faithfulness well accustomed

und weiz si gar:
and knows it wholly:

swar ich var,
wherever I go,

sô muoz ich dar
so must I there

nemen war,
take heed,

swenn ich getar
whenever I dare

vor einer schar
before a band

ze nîde gar.
of envy wholly.

vor der sô muoz ich decken bar
before which so must I cover bare

und hûeten mich doch alle tage
and guard myself yet all days

vil sêre vor ir zungen slage
very sorely from their tongues' blow

und vor ir unrekanten spehe.
and from their unrecognized spying.

doch wil si sehen waz mir geschehe,
yet will she see what to-me happen,

und wil ich dienen ûf ir haz.
and will I serve upon her hatred.

woldes noch gelouben baz
would-she yet believe better

Daz ich von ir niene wil,
That I from her not-at-all will,

daz wære mir ein senftez spil.
that were to-me a gentle game.

mînes kumbers dêst ze vil:

of-my affliction that-is too much:

waz hilfet daz, ob ich ez hil?

what helps that, if I it hide?

jô hât si mînes lônës zil

indeed has she my reward's goal

gesetzt an wol tûsent jâr.

set at well a-thousand years.

ich muoz verderben, daz ist wâr.

I must perish, that is true.

mîn arebeit

my hardship

mich niht für treit:

me not forward carries:

mir ist verseit

to-me is denied

dar nâch ich streit:

there after I strove:

mîn herzeleit

my heart's-grief

daz ist ze breit,

that is too broad,

daz ich ie leit:

which I ever suffered:

mîn lôn der ist noch unbereit.

my reward it is still unready.

ich wæne wol, ir sî ze gâch:

I think well, to-her be too hasty:

si giht alrêrst, wan sît dernâch

she says at-first, but since thereafter

versaget si mir in spotes wîs.

refuses she me in mockery's manner.

dêswâr des hât si kleinen prîs,

indeed of-that has she small praise,

daz si mir gît ze lône spot:

that she to-me gives as reward mockery:

si muoz es iemer fürhten got.

she must of-it ever fear God.

Swaz si mir tuot, dâst allez guot: ichn mag ir niht entwenken

Whatever she to-me does, that-is all good: I can from-her not escape

alz ez mir stât: doch swiez ergât, sô solde si gedenken

as it to-me stands: yet however-it goes, so should she consider

daz ez ir güete niene zimt

that it her goodness not-at-all befits

daz si mir gewerb und fuoge nimt.

that she from-me endeavor and propriety takes.

Si sprichet dicke, deich erschricke, frömdiu wort von schimpfe:

She speaks often, so-that-I am-startled, strange words of jest:

si tuot verdreht swaz si gerett vor liuten mit gelimpfe.

she makes twisted whatever she says before people with decorum.

ichn mac mich schiere niht entstân,

I can myself quickly not recover,

wan ich sinnes niene hân

for I of-sense not-at-all have

Bî mir gar: swar ich var, sô muoz ich in ir lâzen.

By me wholly: wherever I go, so must I it with-her leave.

daz muoz wol schînen, swenne ich mînen morgen an der strâzen

that must well appear, whenever I my morning on the street

den liuten biute gegen der naht:

to-the people offer toward the night:

ich zer die zît gar ungewaht.

I spend the time wholly unremarked.

Ez ist niht wunder daz ich sunder mînen danc si mîde,

It is no wonder that I without my will her avoid,

der ougen schîn den kumber mîn, den ich nu lange lîde,

of-the eyes the-shine the affliction mine, which I now long suffer,

mit einem blicke tuot verselt.

with one glance makes dulled.

ich hân mir si vil rehte erwelt.

I have for-me her very rightly chosen.

Ir veret mite der frouwen site

To-her goes along the ladies' custom

die gesach nie man, er schiede dan frô, rîche unde wîse:

whom saw never man, he parted away glad, rich and wise:

ich wæne wol ir sî alsam.

I think well to-her be likewise.

wer möhte ir danne wesen gram?

who might to-her then be hostile?

Ich wil iu mînen willen sagen,

I will to-you my will say,

mac ich der guoten minne

(if)-can I the good-one's love

mit mîme dienste niht bejagen,

with my service not obtain,

daz ich niemer die sinne

that I never the senses

noch mînen lîp

nor my body

bekêre an dekein ander wîp.

turn to any other woman.

swiech mich erhol,

however-I myself recover,

der gedinge tuot mir wol,

the hope does to-me well,

Daz ich wol weiz daz si mir gan

That I well know that she to-me grants

ze dienen umbe ir hulde.

to serve for her goodwill.

gewunne ich niht mêre dran,
gained I nothing more thereby,

ich wolde si der schulde
I would her of-the guilt

niht an hebben.
not on hold.

swer mir ze rehte solde staben
whoever me to right should administer

des einen eit,
of-that one an-oath,

ich swüere wol, ez wære ir leit.
I would-swear well, it were to-her grievous.

Sît ich der sælde niene habe
Since I of-the fortune not-at-all have

daz si mir sanfte lône,
that she me gently reward,

ichn wil ir doch niht wesen abe,
I will from-her yet not be away,

ich werde enbunden schône
I become unbound fairly

als ichs ger.
as I-it desire.

ich muoz iemer wesen der
I must ever be he

der umbe ir heil
who for her welfare

ir treit ein schoenez leben veil.
to-her carries a fair life for-sale.

Turnus der wart sanfte erlöst
Turnus he was gently freed

von kumberlichem pîne:
from afflicting pain:

daz was sîns herzen sunder trôst,
that was of-his heart the-only comfort,

daz er lac dur Lâvîne

that he lay for Lavinia

sô schône tôt.

so fairly dead.

der endet schiere sîne nôt

he ended quickly his distress

in eime tage,

in one day,

die ich nu mangiu jâr getrage.

which I now many-a year bear.

Ich weiz wol, solt ez sîn

I know well, should it be

an dem gelücke mîn,

in the luck mine,

ir güete diust sô manicvalt,

her goodness which-is so manifold,

si tæte mich noch fröiden balt.

she would-make me still of-joys bold.

Ichn was niht sælden lôs,

I was not of-fortune bereft,

dô ich si mir erkôs

when I her for-me chose

in disem ûz erkornen dôn

in this out chosen melody

ûf guoten rîche schoenen lôn.

for good rich fair reward.

Iedoch, swiez mir ergê,

Yet, however-it to-me may-go,

sô muoz si iemer mê

so must she ever more

nâch gote sîn mîn anebet,

after God be my adoration,

wan si nie niht wan guot getete.

for she never anything but good did.

Ich ergibe mich unde enbar

I give-up myself and bare

an ir genâde gar,

to her favor wholly,

daz si mir, dar nâch ich strebe,

that she to-me, there after-which I strive,

ein wunneclîchez ende gebe.

a delightful end give.

Ich hôte wol ein merlikîn singen,

I heard well a little-blackbird sing,

daz mich dûhte der sumer wolt enstân.

so-that me seemed the summer would begin.

ich wæne ez al der werlt fröide sol bringen,

I think it to-all the world joy shall bring,

wan mir einen, mich entriege mîn wân.

but to-me alone, me unless-deceive my expectation.

swie mîn frowe wil, sô solz mir ergân,

however my lady wills, so shall-it for-me go,

der ich bin zallen zîten undertân.

to-whom I am at-all times subject.

ich wânde iemen sô hete missetân,

I thought anyone so had misdone,

suochter genâde, er solte si vinden:

sought-be favor, he should it find:

daz muoz leider an mir einen zergân.

that must alas on me alone fail.

77,36

Wie sol ich mînen dienst sô lâzen,

How shall I my service so leave,

den ich hân lange mit triuwen getân?

whiche I have long with faithfulness done?

ich bin leider sêre wunt âne wâfen:

I am alas sorely wounded without weapons:

daz hânt mir ir schoeniu ougen getân;

that have to-me her fair eyes done;

daz ich niemer mê geheilen enkan,

so-that I never more heal can,

ez enwelle der ich bin undertân.

it unless-wills she-to-whom I am subject.

wê waz sol sô verdorben ein man?

alas what avails so ruined a man?

ich wæne an ir ist genâde entslâfen,

I think in her is favor fallen-asleep,

daz ich ir leider niht erwecken kan.

whiche I her alas not awaken can.

Ich wil iemer wesen holt mînem muote,

I will ever be devoted to-my spirit,

daz er ie sô nâch ir minne geranc.

that it ever so after her love strove.

hete ich funden deheine sô guote,

had I found any so good,

dâ nâch kêrte ich gerne mînen gedanc.

there after turned I gladly my thought.

si schuof daz ich mich fröiden underwant,

she made that I myself of-joys took-hold,

die ich mir hân zeiner frouwen erkant.

whom I for-me have as-a lady known.

ich was wilde, swie vil ich doch gesanc:

I was wild, however much I yet sang:

ir schœniu ougen daz wâren die ruote

her fair eyes those were the rod

dâ mite si mich von êrste betwanc.

there with she me from first compelled.

Ich wil iemer mit genâden belîben.

I will ever with favor remain.

si muoz sünde âne schult an mir begân,

she must sin without guilt on me commit,

si kan mich niemer anders von ir vertriben,

she can me never otherwise from her drive,

ichn welle haben gedingen und wân,

unless-I wish to-have hope and expectation,

daz diu triuwe hôher solte gân

that the faithfulness higher should go

dan unstæte, der ich guotes verban.

than inconstancy, to-which I of-good deny.

swâ man weste einen valschaften man,

wherever one knew a false man,

den solten gerne alliu wîp vermîden:

him should gladly all women avoid:

sô möhte man in an ir prîse gestân.

so might one them in their praise support.

Ich wil niemer durch mînen kumber vermîden,

I will never for my affliction forgo,

ichn singe des allein swiez mir ergât,

unless-I sing of-it alone however-it to-me goes,

und wil gerne solhe nôt iemer liden,

and will gladly such distress ever suffer,

diu von minnen mir als nâhe gât,

which from love to-me so near goes,

sît mîn lîp an dem zwîvel bestât,

since my person in the doubt remains,

daz mîn leider niemer kan werden rât

so-that for-me alas never can come remedy

âne die diu mich sô betwungen hât.

without her who me so compelled has.

sol nu mîn fröide von ir schult belîben,

(if)-shall now my joy through her fault be-lost,

daz ist ir sünde und grôz missetât.

that is her sin and great misdeed.

Ûz zuo den ougen (daz ist ein wunder)

Out to the eyes (that is a wonder)

von dem herzen daz wazzer mir gât.

from the heart the water to-me goes.

des muoz ich sîn von der welte besundert,

of-that must I be from the world sundered,

sît mich ir güete alsô sêre hât

since me her goodness so sorely has

betwungen daz sî mîne sêle niht lât

compelled that she my soul not lets

von ir scheiden, als ez nu stât.

from her part, as it now stands.

als ich gedenke daz mich niht vervât

as I think that me not avails

al mîn dienst, sô lîde ich den kumber

all my service, so suffer I the affliction

den ie dehein man gewan oder hât.

which ever any man gained or has.

des muoz ich von der werlte besunder

of-that must I from the world apart

und von ir hulden scheiden dur die getât.

and from her goodwill part through the deed.

Rudolf von Fenis

Twenty-two strophes built on extended similes. He is like the man who climbs a tree and can go neither higher nor back and stays there in the middle with his cares, or the butterfly that flies into the light; he has made his own sorrow; and he takes comfort that whoever can serve and wait is repaid.

Gewan ich ze Minnen ie guoten wân,

Gained I of Love ever good expectation,

80,1

nu hân ich von ir weder trôst noch gedingen,

now have I from her neither comfort nor hope,

wan ich enweiz wie mir süle gelingen,

for I know-not how for-me should succeed,

sît ich si mac weder lâzen noch hân.

since I her can neither leave nor have.

mir ist als dem der ûf den boum dâ stîget

to-me is as to-him who up the tree there climbs

und niht hôher mac und dâ mitten belîbet

and not higher can and there midway remains

und ouch mit nihte widerkomen kan

and also by nothing come-back can

und alsô die zît mit sorgen hin trîbet.

and so the time with cares away passes.

Mir ist also deme der dâ hât gewant

To-me is as to-him who there has turned

sînen muot an ein spil und er dâ mite verliuset

his spirit to a game and he there with loses

unde erz verswert: ze spâte erz doch verkiuset.

and he-it forswears: too late he-it yet gives-up.

alsô hân ich mich ze spâte erkant

so have I myself too late recognized

der grôzen liste die Minne wider mich hâte.

the great cunning which Love against me had.

mit schœnen gebærden si mich ze ir brâhte

with fair gestures she me to her brought

und leitet mich als der böese geltære dan,

and leads me as the bad debtor away,

der wol geheizet und geltes nie gedâhte.

who well promises and of-paying never thought.

Mîn vrowe sol lân âne lônnes gewin

My lady shall let without reward's gain

daz ich ir diene, wan ich mac ez mîden.

that I her serve, for I can it avoid.

iedoch bit ich si daz siz ruoche lîden:

yet ask I her that she-it deign to-suffer:

sô wirret mir niht diu nôt die ich lîdende bin.

then troubles me not the distress which I suffering am.

wil aber si mich von ir vertrîben,

(if)-will however she me from her drive,

ir schœner gruoze scheidet mich von ir lîbe.

her fair greeting parts me from her body.

noch danoeh fûrhte ich mêre den ban

still nonetheless fear I more the ban

daz si mich von al mînen freuden vertrîbe.

that she me from all my joys drive.

80,25 Minne gebiutet mir daz ich singe

Love commands me that I sing

unde wil niht daz mich iemer verdrieze.

and wills not that me ever it-weary.

nu hân ich von ir weder trôst noch gedinge,

now have I from her neither comfort nor hope,

unde daz ich mînes sanges iht genieze.

and that I of-my song anything profit.

si wil daz ich iemer dien an solhe stat

she wills that I ever serve at such place

dâ noch mîn dienest ie vil kleine wac

where yet my service ever very little weighed

und al mîn stæte niht gehelfen mac.

and all my constancy not help can.

nu wære mîn reht, möht ich, daz ich ez lieze.

now were my right, might I, that I it would-leave.

Ez stêt mir niht sô. ich enmac ez niht lâzen

It stands to-me not so. I can it not leave

daz ich daz herze iemer von ir bekêre.

that I the heart ever from her turn.

ez ist ein nôt daz ich mich niht kan mâzen,

it is a distress that I myself not can moderate,

ich minne si diu mich dâ hazzet sêre

I love her who me there hates sorely

und iemer tuon, swiez doch drumbe mir ergât.

and ever do, however-it yet about-it to-me goes.

mîn grôziu stæte mich des niht erlât,

my great constancy me of-that not spares,

unde ez mich leider kleine vervât.

and it me alas little avails.

ist ez ir leit, doch diene ich ir iemer mêre.

(if)-is it to-her grievous, yet serve I her ever more.

Iemer mêre wil ich ir dienen mit stæte,

Ever more will I her serve with constancy,

und weiz doch wol daz ich sîn niemer lôn gewinne.

and know yet well that I of-it never reward gain.

ez wer an mir ein sin, ob ich dâ bæte

it were on me a sense, if I there would-ask

dâ ich lônnes mich versæhe von der Minne.

where I of-reward myself expected from the Love.

lônnes hân ich noch vil kleinen wân.

of-reward have I still very small expectation.

ich diene ie dar dâ ez mich kleine kan vervân.

I serve ever there where it me little can avail.

nu lieze ich ez gerne, möhte ich ez lân:

now would-leave I it gladly, might I it leave:

ez wellent durch daz niht von ir mîne sinne.

it will for that not from her my senses.

81,22 Mîne sinne wellent durch daz niht von ir scheiden,

My senses will for that not from her part,

swie sie mich bî ir niht wil lân beliben.

however she me by her not will let remain.

sie enkan mir doch daz niemer geleiden,

she can to-me yet that never make-bateful,

in diene ir gerne und durch si guoten wîben.

unless-I serve her gladly and for her good women.

lîd ich dar under nôt, daz ist an mir niht schîn:

suffer I there under distress, that is on me not evident:

diu nôt ist diu meiste wunne mîn.

the distress is the greatest delight mine.

si sol ir zorn dar umbe lâzen sîn,

she shall her anger there for let be,

wan sîn kan mich niemer von ir vertriben.

for she can me never from her drive.

Mit sange wânde ich mîne sorge krenken.

With song thought I my care to-weaken.

dar umbe singe ich deich si wolte lân.

there for sing I that-I her would leave.

so ich ie mêre singe und ir ie baz gedenke,

so I ever more sing and of-her ever better think,

sô mugens mit sange leider niht zergân:

so may-they with song alas not vanish:

wan Minne hât mich brâht in solhen wân

for Love has me brought into such expectation

dem ich sô lihte niht enmac entwenken,

which I so easily not can escape,

wan ich im lange her gevolget hân.

for I it long hitherto followed have.

Sît daz diu Minne mich wolt alsus êren

Since that the Love me would thus honor

daz si mich hiez in deme herzen tragen

that she me bade in the heart carry

diu mir wol mac mîn leit ze vröuden kêren,

her-who to-me well can my sorrow to joys turn,

ich wære ein gouch, wolt ich mich der entsagen.

I were a fool, would I myself of-her renounce.

ich wil ouch Minnen mînen kumber klagen,

I will also to-Love my affliction lament,

wan diu mir kunde dez herze alsô versêren,

for she-who me could the heart so wound,

diu mac mich wol ze vröuden hûs geladen.

she can me well to joys' house invite.

Mich wundert des wie mich mîn vrowe twinge

Me astonishes that how me my lady compels

sô sêre swenne ich verre von ir bin:

so sorely whenever I far from her am:

so gedenke ich mir und ist daz mîn gedinge,

then think I to-myself and is that my hope,

mües ich si sehen, mîn sorge wære hin.

might I her see, my care were away.

‘so ich bî ir bin’, des trœstet sich mîn sin

‘when I by her am’, of-that consoles itself my sense

und wære des daz mir vil wol gelinge:

and thinks of-that that for-me very well succeed:

alrêrste mêret sich mîn ungewin.

only-now increases itself my loss.

82,12 Sô ich bî ir bin, mîn sorge ist destê mêre,

When I by her am, my care is the more,

als der sich nâhe biutet zuo der gluot:

as he-who himself near offers to the glow:

der brennet sich von rehte harte sêre:

he burns himself by right very sorely:

ir grôziu güete mir daz selbe tuot.

her great goodness to-me the same does.

so ich bî ir bin, daz tœtet mir den muot,

when I by her am, that kills to-me the spirit,

und stirbe ab rehte, swenne ich von ir kêre,

and die however rightly, whenever I from her turn,

wan mich daz sehen dunket alsô guot.

for me the seeing seems so good.

Ir schœnen lîp hân ich dâ vür erkennenet,
Her fair body have I there for recognized,
 er tuot mir als der fiurstelîn daz lieht;
it does to-me as to-the butterfly the light;
 diu fliuget dran, unz si sich gar verbrennet:
which flies thereat, until it itself wholly burns:
 ir grôziu güete mich alsô verriet.
her great goodness me so betrayed.
 mîn tumbez herze enlie mich alsô niet,
my foolish heart let me so not,
 ich habe mich sô verre an si verwendet
I have myself so far to her turned
 daz mir ze jungest rehte alsam geschiet.
that to-me at last rightly the-same happened.

Ich kiuse an dem walde, sîn loup ist geneiget,
I perceive on the wood, its foliage is bowed,
 daz doch vil schône stuont frœlîchen ê.
which yet very fair stood joyfully before.
 nu rîset ez balde: des sint gar gesweiget
now falls it quickly: of-that are wholly silenced
 die vogel ir sanges: daz machet der snê;
the birds of-their song: that makes the snow;
 der tuot in beiden unsanfte unde wê.
it does to-them both harshly and pain.
 des muoz dur nôt mich verdriezen der zît,
therefore must of necessity me weary the time,
 unze ich ersihe ob der winter zergê,
until I see whether the winter vanish,
 dâ von diu heide betwungeniu lît.
there from the heath compelled lies.

82,26

Lîp unde sinne die gap ich für eigen

Body and senses those gave I for own

ir ûf genâde: der hât si gewalt.

to-her upon favor: of-it has she power.

ist daz diu Minne ir güete wil zeigen,

(if)-is that the Love her goodness will show,

so ist al mîn kumber ze vröuden gestalt.

then is all my affliction to joys shaped.

sus mac ich jungen, alsus wird ich alt;

thus can I grow-young, thus become I old;

wan daz mir ein mære noch sanfter tuot,

for that to-me a tidings still gentler does,

daz si zer besten ist vor ûz gezalt,

that she as-the best is before out counted,

diu mich sol machen vrô vroelich gemuot.

who me shall make glad joyfully minded.

Wolte si eine, wie schiere al mîn swære

Would she alone, how quickly all my grief

wurde gelinget, swie wê si mir tuot.

would succeed, however pain she to-me does.

ir lîp ist sô reine daz nieman enware

her person is so pure that no-one were

an vröuden rîcher noch hôher gemuot.

in joys richer nor higher minded.

ist daz diu schoene ir genâde an mir tuot,

(if)-is that the fair-one her favor on me does,

so ist mir gelungen noch baz danne wol.

then is to-me succeeded still better than well.

wan diu vil guote ist noch bezzer dan guot,

for the very good-one is still better than good,

von der mîn herze niht scheiden ensol.

from whom my heart not part shall.

Ich hân mir selber gemachet die swære

I have for-myself self made the grief

daz ich der ger diu sich mir wil entsagen.

that I her desire who herself to-me will renounce.

diu mir zerwerbenne vil lihte wære,

she-who for-me to-win very easy were,

die fliuhe ich, wan si mir niht kan behagen.

her flee I, for she to-me not can please.

ich minne die diu mirs niht wil vertragen;

I love her who to-me-it not will bear;

mich minnent ouch die mir sint doch bormære:

me love also those-who to-me are yet indifferent:

sus kan ich wol beidiu vlichen und jagen.

thus can I well both flee and hunt.

Owê daz ich niht erkande die minne

Alas that I not recognized the love

ê ich mich hette an si verlân!

before I myself had to her committed!

sô het ich von ir gewendet die sinne,

then had I from her turned the senses,

wan ich ir nâch mînem willen niht hân.

for I her according-to my will not have.

sus strebe ich ûf vil tumben wân.

thus strive I upon very foolish expectation.

des fürhte ich vil grôze nôt gewinne.

of-that fear I very great distress gain.

den kumber hân ich mir selber getân.

the affliction have I for-myself self done.

- 83,25 Daz ich den sumer alsô mæzlichen klage
That I the summer so moderately lament
 (walt unde bluomen die sint gar betwungen),
(wood and flowers they are wholly compelled),
 daz ist dâ von daz sîn zît
that is there from that its time
 mir noch her hât gefrumt harte kleine umb ein wîp.
to-me still hither has profited very little for a woman.
 vil lîhte gefrôuwent si die liechten tage,
very likely gladden they the bright days,
 den dâ vor ist nâch ir willen gelungen.
for-them there before has according-to their will succeeded.
 mac mir der winter den strît
(if)-can for-me the winter the strife
 noch gescheiden hin zir der ie gerte mîn lîp,
still part away to-her who ever desired my person,
 so ist daz mîn reht daz ich in iemer êre,
then is that my right that I it ever honor,
 wan mîner swære enwart nie mêre.
for of-my grief became never more.
 owê, wie nu lât mich verderben diu hêre!
alas, how now lets me perish the noble-one!

- 83,36 Diu heide noch der vogel sanc
The heath nor the birds' song
 kan ân ir trôst mir niht vröude bringen,
can without her comfort to-me at-all joy bring,
 diu mir daz herze und den lîp hât betwungen,
she-who to-me the heart and the body has compelled,
 daz ich ir niht vergezzen enmac.
so-that I her not forget can.

swie vil si gesingent, mich dunket ze lanc
however much they sing, to-me seems too long

daz bîten. des zage ich an guoten gedingen.
the waiting of-that despair I in good hopes.

dâ von muoz ich dur nôt sîn ungesungen
there from must I of necessity be unsung

von ir, wan mir nie wîp sô nâhe gelac.
of her, for to-me never woman so near lay.

swenne si wil, sô bin ich leides âne.
whenever she wills, then am I of-sorrow without.

mîn lachen stât sô bî sunnen der mâne.
my laughing stands as by the-sun the moon.

doch was genuoc grôz her mîn vröude von wâne.
yet was enough great hither my joy from expectation.

Nun ist niht mêre mîn gedinge
Now is not more my hope

84,10

wan daz si ist gewaltic mîn.
than that she is mighty over-me.

bî gwalte sol genâde sîn.
by might shall favor be.

ûf den trôst ich ie noch singe.
upon that comfort I ever still sing.

genâde diu sol überkomen
favor it shall overcome

grôzen gwalt durch miltekeit:
great might through bounty:

genâde zimt wol bî rîcheit.
favor befits well by riches.

ir tugende sint sô vollekomen
her virtues are so perfect

daz durch reht mir ir gwalt sol fromen.
that by right to-me her might shall profit.

Swer sô stæten dienest kunde,

Whoever so constant service could,

des ich mich doch trœsten sol,

of-which I myself yet console shall,

dem gelunge lîhte wol.

for-him would-succeed perhaps well.

ze jungest er mit überwunde

at last he therewith overcame

daz sende leit daz nâhen gât:

the longing sorrow which near goes:

daz wirt lachen unde spil;

that becomes laughing and play;

sîn trûren gât ze freuden vil;

his mourning goes to joys much;

in einer stunt sô wirt es rât

in one hour so comes of-it remedy

daz man zehn jâr gedienet hât.

which one ten years served has.

Swer sô langez bîten schildet,

Whoever so long waiting scolds,

der hât sichs niht wol bedâht.

he has himself-of-it not well betbought.

nâch riwe sô hât ez wunne brâht;

after regret so has it delight brought;

trûren sich mit freuden gildet

mourning itself with joys is-repaid

deme der wol bîten kan,

to-him who well wait can,

daz er mit zûhten mac vertragen

so-that he with courtesies can endure

sîn leit und nâch genâden klagen:

his sorrow and for favors lament:

der wirt vil lîhte ein sælic man.

he becomes very likely a blessed man.

daz ist der trôst den ich noch hân.

that is the comfort which I still have.

Albrecht von Johansdorf

Forty-two strophes, several of them dialogues between a crusader and the woman he leaves. He has taken the cross for God and must sail; she asks how he can go over the sea and yet stay here; he tells her not to mourn, since they go to help the holy grave. In one song he finds her without her guard, and they speak until she sends him elsewhere for his reward, then names it: he is the worthier for it.

- 86,1 Mîn êrste liebe der ich ie began
My first love of-which I ever began
- diu selbe muoz an mir diu leste sîn.
the same must in me the last be.
- an vröiden ich des dicke schaden hân.
in joys I of-that often harm have.
- iedoch sô râtet mir daz herze mîn,
yet so counsels me the heart mine,
- solde ich minnen mêre dan eine,
should I love more than one,
- daz enwær mir niht guot:
that were to-me not good:
- sône minnet ich deheine.
so would-love I none.
- seht wie maneger ez doch tuot.
see how many-a-one it yet does.

Ich wil ir râten bî der sêle mîn,
I will her counsel by the soul mine,

durch keine liebe, niht wan durch daz reht:
for no love, not but for the right:

waz möhte ir an ir tugenden bezzer sîn
what might for-her in her virtues better be

dan obes ir umberede lieze sleht,
than if-she her talk should-let plain,

tæte an mir einvalteclîche,
should-do to me single-mindedly,

als ich ir einvaltic bin?
as I to-her single-minded am?

vröiden werde ich niemer rîche,
of-joys become I never rich,

ez enwære ir beste sin.
it unless-were her best sense.

Ich wânde daz mîn kûme wære erbiten:
I thought that of-me hardly were awaited:

darûf het ich gedingen manege zît.
thereupon had I hope many-a time.

nu hât mich gar ir vriundes gruoze vermiten.
now has me wholly her friend's greeting shunned.

mîn bester trôst der wæn dâ nider gelît.
my best comfort that think-I there down lies.

ich muoze also wîlen vlêhen,
I must as once entreat,

und noch harter, hulfe ez iht.
and still harder, should-help it anything.

herre, wan ist daz mîn lêhen
lord, why-not is that my fief

daz mir niemer leit geschiht?
that to-me never sorrow happens?

86,25 Ich hân dur got daz crûce an mich genomen

I have for God the cross on me taken

und var dâ hin durch mîne missetât.

and go there away for my misdeed.

nu helfe er mir, ob ich her wider kome,

now help be me, if I here back come,

ein wîp diu grôzen kumber von mir hât,

a woman who great affliction from me has,

daz ich si vinde an ir êren:

that I her find in her honors:

sô wert er mich der bete gar.

so grants be me the request wholly.

sûl aber si ir leben verkêren,

should however she her life change,

sô gebe got, daz ich vervar.

so give God, that I perish.

87,5 Mich mac der tôt von ir minnen wol scheiden;

Me may the death from her love well part;

anders nieman: des hân ich gesworn.

otherwise no-one: of-that have I sworn.

ern ist mîn vriunt niht, der mir si wil leiden,

he is my friend not, who to-me her will make-hateful,

wand ich zeiner vröide si hân erkorn.

for I as-a joy her have chosen.

swenne ich von schulden erarne ir zorn,

whenever I with cause earn her anger,

ô sô bin ich vervluochet vor gote als ein heiden.

oh then am I cursed before God as a heathen.

si ist wol gemuot und ist vil wol geborn.

she is well minded and is very well born.

heiliger got, wis genædic uns beiden!

holy God, be gracious to-us both!

Dô diu wolgetâne gesach an mîm kleide

When the well-made-one saw on my garment

daz crûce, dô sprach diu guote, ê ich gie,

the cross, then spoke the good-one, ere I went,

‘wie wiltu nû geleisten diu beide,

‘how wilt-thou now perform those both,

varn über mer und iedoch wesen hie?’

go over sea and yet be here?’

si sprach wie ich wolde gebârn umbe sie

she spoke how I would behave about her

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

ê was mir wê: dô geschach mir nie sô leide.

ere was to-me pain: then happened to-me never so grievously.

Nu mîn herzevrowe, nu entrûre niht sêre:

Now my heart’s-lady, now mourn not sorely:

daz wil ich iemer zeinem liebe haben.

that will I ever as-a love have.

wir suln varn dur des rîchen gotes êre

we shall go for the mighty God’s honor

gerne ze helfe dem heiligen grabe.

gladly to help the holy grave.

swer daz bestrûchet, der mac wol besnaben;

whoever that stumbles-at, he may well fall;

dâne mac niemen gevallen ze sêre:

there can no-one fall too sorely:

daz meine ich, die sêle werden gevage,

that mean I, the souls become content,

sô si mit schalle ze himele kêren.

when they with rejoicing to heaven turn.

87,29 Ich unde ein wîp, wir haben gestriten

I and a woman, we have striven

nu vil manege zît.

now very many-a time.

ich hân von ir zorne vil erliten.

I have from her anger much suffered.

noch heldet si den strît.

still holds she the strife.

nu wænet si dur daz ich var

now thinks she for that I go

daz ich si lâze frî.

that I her let free.

got vor der helle niemer mich bewar,

God from the hell never me preserve,

ob daz mîn wille sî.

if that my will be.

swie vil daz mer und ouch die starken unde toben,

however much the sea and also the strong waves rage,

ichn wil si niemer tac verloben.

I will her never a-day forswear.

der donreslege möht aber lihte sîn

of-the thunderclaps might however perhaps be

dâ si mich dur lieze.

whereby she me through should-let.

nu sprechet wes si wider mich genieze.

now say of-what she against me profits.

si kumet mir niemer tac ûz den gedanken mîn.

she comes to-me never a-day out-of the thoughts mine.

Ob ich si iemer mêre gesehe,

Whether I her ever more see,

desn weiz ich niht für wâr.

that know I not for true.

dâ bî geloube mir, swes ich ir jehe,
there by believe me, whatever I to-her say,

ez gêt von herzen gar.
it goes from heart wholly.

ich minne si vür alliu wîp
I love her before all women

und swer ir des bî gote.
and swear to-her of-that by God.

alle mîne sinne und ouch der lîp
all my senses and also the body

daz stêt in ir gebote.
that stands in her command.

in erwache niemer ez ensî mîn êrste segên
I awake never it unless-be my first blessing

daz got ir êren müeze phlegen
that God her honors may tend

und lâze ir lîp mit lobe hie gestên.
and let her person with praise here stand.

dar nâch êweclîche
there after eternally

gip ir, herre, vröide in dîme rîche.
give her, lord, joy in thy kingdom.

daz ir geschehe, alsô müeze ouch mir ergên.
what to-her happen, so may also to-me turn-out.

Swie gerne ich var, sô jâmert mich
However gladly I go, so grieves me

wiez noch hie gestê.
how-it still here stands.

ich weiz wol, ez verkêret allez sich.
I know well, it changes all itself.

diu sorge tuot mir wê.
the care does to-me pain.

die ich hie lâze wol gesunt,

those-whom I here leave well sound,

dern vinde ich aller niht.

of-them find I all not.

der leben sol, dem wirt manic wunder kunt,

who live shall, to-him becomes many-a wonder known,

daz alle tage geschiht.

which all days happens.

wir haben in eime jâre der liute vil verlorn.

we have in one year of-the people many lost.

dâ bi sô merket gotes zorn.

there by so mark God's anger.

nu erkenne sich ein ieglich herze guot.

now recognize itself an each heart good.

diu werlt ist unstæte.

the world is inconstant.

ich meine die dâ minnent valsche ræte:

I mean those-who there love false counsels:

den wirt ze jungest schîn wies an dem ende tuot.

to-them becomes at last evident how-it at the end does.

Swer minne minneclîche treit

Whoever love lovingly bears

gar âne valschen muot,

wholly without false spirit,

des sünde wirt vor gote niht geseit.

of-him sin is before God not said.

si tiuret unde ist guot.

it ennobles and is good.

man sol mîden bæsen kranc

one shall avoid base weakness

und minnen reiniu wîp.

and love pure women.

tuo erz mit triuwen, sô hab iemer danc

(if)-does he-it with faithfulness, so have ever thanks

sîn tugentlicher lîp.

his virtuous person.

kunden si ze rehte beidiu sich bewarn,

could they to right both themselves guard,

für die wil ich ze helle varn.

for them will I to hell go.

die aber mit valschen listen wellent sîn,

those-who however with false cunning wish to-be,

für die wil ich niht vallen.

for them will I not fall.

ich meine die dâ minnent âne gallen,

I mean those-who there love without gall,

als ich mit triuwen tuon die lieben vrouwen mîn.

as I with faithfulness do the dear lady mine.

Swaz ich nu gesinge,

Whatever I now sing,

deist allez umbe niht: mir weiz sîn niemen danc;

that-is all for nothing: to-me knows of-it no-one thanks;

ez wiget allez ringe.

it weighs all lightly.

dar ich hân gedienet, dâ ist mîn lôn vil kranc.

where I have served, there is my reward very slight.

ez ist hiure an genâde unnæher danne vert

it is this-year to favor no-nearer than last-year

und wirt über ein jâr vil lîhte kleines lônnes wert.

and becomes after a year very likely of-small reward worth.

Wie der einez tæte,

How one one-thing should-do,

des frâg ich, ob ez mit fuoge muge geschehen,

of-that ask I, whether it with propriety may happen,

wærez niht unstæte,

were-it not inconstancy,

der zwein wîben wolte sich für eigen jehen,

who to-two women would himself as own declare,

beidiu tougenliche? sprechet, herre, wurre ez iht?

both secretly? speak, lord, would-hinder it anything?

‘man sol ez den man erlouben und den vrouwen niht.’

‘one shall it to-the men allow and to-the ladies not.’

89,21 Die hinnen varn, die sagen durch got

Those-who hence go, they say for God

daz Ierusalêm der reinen stat und ouch dem lande

that Jerusalem the pure city and also the land

helfe noch nie nœter wart.

help still never more-needful was.

diu klage wirt der tumben spot.

the lament becomes of-the foolish the-mockery.

die sprechent alle ‘wære ez unserm herren ande,

they say all ‘were it to-our lord grievous,

er ræche ez ân ir aller vart.’

he would-avenge it without their all journey.’

nu mugen si denken daz er leit den grimmen tôt.

now may they think that he suffered the grim death.

der grôzen marter was im ouch vil gar unnôt,

of-the great martyrdom was for-him also very wholly no-need,

wan daz in erbarmet unser val.

but that him moved-to-pity our fall.

swen nu sîn crûce und sîn grap niht wil erbarmen,
whom now his cross and his grave not will move-to-pity,
 daz sint von ime die sælden armen.
those are by him of-the fortune poor.

Nu waz gelouben wil der hân,
Now what belief will he have,
 und wer sol ime ze helfe komen an sînem ende,
and who shall him to help come at his end,
 der gote wol hulfe und tuot es niht?
who God well should-help and does it not?
 als ich mich versinnen kan,
as I myself bethink can,
 ezn sî vil gar ein êhaft nôt diu in des wende,
unless-it be very wholly a lawful need which him of-that turns,
 ich wæne erz übele übersiht.
I think he-it ill overlooks.
 nu lât daz grap und ouch daz crûce geruowet ligen:
now let the grave and also the cross at-rest lie:
 die heiden wellent einer rede an uns gesigen,
the heathens wish in-one claim over us to-prevail,
 daz gotes muoter niht ensî ein maget.
that God's mother not be a maiden.
 swem disiu rede niht nâhe an sîn herze vellet,
to-whom this claim not near to his heart falls,
 owê war hât sich der gesellet!
alas where has himself be allied!

Mich habent die sorge ûf daz brâht
Me have the cares upon that brought
 daz ich vil gerne kranken muot von mir vertribe.
that I very gladly weak spirit from me drive.

des was mîn herze her niht frî.

of-that was my heart hitherto not free.

ich gedenke manege naht

I think many-a night

‘waz sol ich wider got nu tuon, ob ich belîbe,

‘what shall I toward God now do, if I stay,

daz er mir genædic sî?’

that he to-me gracious be?’

sô weiz ich niht vil grôze schulde die ich habe,

so know I not very great guilt which I have,

niuwān eine, der enkume ich niemer abe;

except one, of-which come I never off;

alle sūnde lieze ich wol wan die:

all sins would-leave I well except that:

ich minne ein wîp vor al der werlte in mînem muote.

I love a woman before all the world in my spirit.

got herre, daz vervâch ze guote.

God lord, that take to good.

90,16 Ich wil gesehen die ich von kinde

I will see her-whom I from childhood

her geminnet hân für alliu wîp.

hither loved have before all women.

und ist daz ich genâde vinde,

and (if)-is that I favor find,

sô gesach ich nie sô guoten lîp.

then saw I never so good person.

ob aber ich ir wære

if however I to-her were

vil gar unmære,

very wholly indifferent,

so ist si doch diu tugende nie verlie.
so is she yet she-who virtue never abandoned.

vröide und sumer ist noch allez hie.
joy and summer is still all here.

Ich hân alsô her gerungen
I have so hither struggled

daz vil trûreclîche stuont mîn leben.
that very sadly stood my life.

dicke hân ich 'wê' gesungen,
often have I 'woe' sung,

dem wil ich vil schiere ein ende geben.
to-that will I very quickly an end give.

'wol mich' singe ich gerne,
'bail me' sing I gladly,

swenn ichz gelernt.
whenever I-it learn.

des ist zît, wan ich gesanc sô nie.
of-that is time, for I sang so never.

vröide und sumer ist noch allez hie.
joy and summer is still all here.

Wîze rôte rôsen, blâwe bluomen, grüne gras,
White red roses, blue flowers, green grass,

brûne gel und aber rôet, dar zuo des klêwes blat,
brown yellow and again red, there to of-the clover the-leaf,

von dirre varwe wunder under einer linden was.
of this color a-wonder under a linden was.

dar ûfe sungen vogle. daz was ein schœniu stat.
there upon sang birds. that was a fair place.

kurz und lanc gewahsen bi ein ander stuont ez schône.
short and long grown by one another stood it fairly.

noch gedinge ich, der ich vil gedienet hân,
still hope I, whom I much served have,

daz si mir es lône.
that she to-me for-it reward.

Es ist manic wîle daz ich niht von vröuden sanc,
It is many-a while that I not of joys sang,

unde enweiz joch rehte niht wes ich mich vröuwen mac.
and know indeed rightly not of-what I myself rejoice may.

daz ich der guoten niht ensach, des dunket mich vil lanc.
that I the good-one not saw, of-that seems to-me very long.

doch fürhte ich, sine gewunne noch nie nâch mir langen tac.
yet fear I, she gained still never for me a-longing day.

ich sol ze mâze lachen unz ich ir genâde erkenne.
I shall in measure laugh until I her favor recognize.

als ich danne bevinde wie ez allez stât,
when I then discover how it all stands,

dâ nâch lache ich denne.
there after laugh I then.

92,7 Got weiz wol, ich vergaz ir niht sît ich von lande schiet.
God knows well, I forgot of-her not since I from land parted.

...

(lacuna)

ich engetorste niemer ir gesingen disiu liet,
I dared never to-her sing these songs,

wære si vil reine niht und alles wandels frî.
were she very pure not and of-all fault free.

si sol mir erlouben daz ich von ir tugenden spreche.
she shall me allow that I of her virtues speak.

mich wundert, ist si mir doch niht ein wênic bî,
me astonishes, is she to-me yet not a little by,

waz si an mir reche.
what she on me avenges.

‘Wie sich minne hebt daz weiz ich wol;
How itself love raises that know I well;

91,22

wie si ende nimt des weiz ich niht.
how it end takes of-that know I not.

ist daz ich es inne werden sol
(if)-is that I of-it aware become shall

wie dem herzen herzeliep geschiht,
how to-the heart heart's-love happens,

sô bewar mich vor dem scheiden got,
then preserve me from the parting God,

daz wæn bitter ist.
which think-I bitter is.

disen kumber fürhte ich âne spot.
this affliction fear I without jest.

Swâ zwei herzeliep gefriudent sich
Wherever two heart's-loves befriend themselves

unde ir beider minne ein triuwe wirt,
and their both love one faithfulness becomes,

die sol niemen scheiden, dunket mich,
those shall no-one part, seems to-me,

al die wîle unz si der tût verbirt.
all the while until them the death spares.

wær die rede mîn, ich tæte alsô:
were the speech mine, I would-do so:

verlure ich mînen friunt,

lost I my friend,

seht, sô wurde ich niemer mêre frô.

see, then would-become I never more glad.

Dâ gehœret manic stunde zuo

There belongs many-an hour to

ê daz sich gesamene ir zweier muot.

ere that itself gather their two's spirit.

dâ daz ende denne unsanfte tuo,

where the end then harshly does,

ich wæne des wol, daz ensî niht guot.

I think of-that well, that be not good.

lange sî ez mir vil unbekant.

long be it to-me very unknown.

und werde ich iemen liep,

and (if)-become I to-anyone dear,

der sî sîner triuwe an mir gemant.'

be be of-his faithfulness toward me reminded.'

Der ich diene und iemer dienen wil,

She-whom I serve and ever serve will,

diu sol mîne rede vil wol verstân.

she shall my speech very well understand.

spræche ich mêre, des wurd alze vil.

should-speak I more, of-that would-become all-too much.

ich wil ez allez an ir güete lân.

I will it all to her goodness leave.

ir genâden der bedarf ich wol.

her favors of-them need I well.

und wil si, ich bin vrô;

and (if)-wills she, I am glad;

und wil si, so ist mîn herze leides vol.

and (if)-wills she, so is my heart of-sorrow full.

Sæhe ich ieman der jæhe er wære von ir komen,

Should-see I anyone who should-say he were from her come,

91,36

wære ich dem vint, ich wolte in grüezen.

were I to-him hostile, I would him greet.

allez daz ich ie gewan, het er mir daz genomen,

all that I ever won, had he from-me that taken,

daz möhte er mir mit sînen mæren bûezen.

that might he to-me with his tidings make-good.

swer si vor mir nennet,

whoever her before me names,

der hât gar

he has wholly

mich ze friunde ein ganzez jâr,

me as friend a whole year,

het er mich joch verbrennet.

had he me even burned.

Der al der werlte fröide gât,

He-who to-all the world joy gives,

92,14

der tröeste mîn gemüete.

he comfort my spirit.

mîn fröide an der vil schœnen lît

my joy on the very fair-one lies

nâch der mîn herze wüetet.

after whom my heart rages.

scheide, frouwe, disen strît,

settle, lady, this strife,

der in mînem herzen lît,

which in my heart lies,

mit reines wîbes güete.

with pure woman's goodness.

Du nim daz, frouwe, in dînen muot

Thou take that, lady, into thy spirit

und tuo genædeclîche

and act graciously

gein mir. unsanfte mir daz tuot,

toward me. harshly to-me that does,

und sol ich von dir wîchen.

if shall I from thee withdraw.

du lâ gein mir den dînen haz;

thou leave toward me the thy hatred;

sôn mac mir niemer werden baz,

so can to-me never become better;

wan in dem himelrîche.

except in the kingdom-of-heaven.

Und solde ich iemer daz geleben

And should I ever that live-to-see

daz ich si umbevienge,

that I her embraced,

sô mües mîn herze in fröiden sweben,

then must my heart in joys float,

swenn daz alsô ergienge;

whenever that so should-come-about;

sô wurde ich von sorgen frî.

then would-become I of cares free.

ir genâde stânt dâ bî,

her favors stand there by,

ob si mir des verhienge.

if she to-me that granted.

Diu Sælde hât gekrœnet mich

The Fortune has crowned me

92,35

gein der vil süezen minne.

toward the very sweet love.

des muoz ich iemer êren dich,

of-that must I ever honor thee,

vil werde küniginne.

very worthy queen.

swenne ich die vil schœnen hân,

whenever I the very fair-one have,

sôn mac mir niemer missegân.

so can for-me never go-amiss.

sîst aller güete ein gimme.

she-is of-all goodness a gem.

Geprüevet hât ir rôter munt

Brought-about has her red mouth

daz ich muoz iemer mêre

that I must ever more

mit fröiden leben zaller stunt,

with joys live at-all hour,

swar ich des landes kêre.

wherever I of-the land turn.

alsô hât si gelônnet mir.

so has she rewarded me.

gescheiden hât mich niht von ir
parted has me not from her

frou Zuht mit süezer lêre.
lady Courtesy with sweet teaching.

93,12 Ich vant si âne huote

I found her without guarding

die vil minneclîchen eine stân.
the very lovely-one alone stand.

sâ dô sprach diu guote
straightway then spoke the good-one

‘waz welt ir sô eine her gegân?’
‘what will you so alone here come?’

‘frouwe, ez ist alsô geschehen.’
‘lady, it is so happened.’

‘saget, war umbe sît ir her? des sult ir mir verjehen.’
‘say, where for are you here? that shall you to-me confess.’

‘Mînen senden kumber
‘My longing affliction

klage ich iu, vil liebe frouwe mîn.’
lament I to-you, very dear lady mine.’

‘wê, waz saget ir tumber?’
‘woe, what say you foolish-one?’

ir müget iuwer klage wol lâzen sîn.’
you may your lament well let be.’

‘frouwe, ichn mac ir niht enbern.’
‘lady, I can her not do-without.’

‘sô wil ich in tûsent jâren niemer iuch gewern.’
‘then will I in a-thousand years never you grant.’

‘Neinâ, küniginne!

‘No, queen!’

daz mîn dienest sô iht sî verlorn!’

that my service so anything be lost!’

‘ir sît âne sinne,

‘you are without senses,

daz ir bringet mich in solhen zorn.’

that you bring me into such anger.’

‘frouwe, iur haz tuot mir den tût.’

‘lady, your hatred does to-me the death.’

‘wer hât iuch, vil lieber man, betwungen ûf die nôt?’

‘who has you, very dear man, compelled into the distress?’

‘Daz hât iuwer schœne

‘That has your beauty

die ir hât, vil minneclîchez wîp.’

which you have, very lovely woman.’

‘iuwer süezen dœne

‘your sweet tones

wolten krenken mînen stæten lîp.’

wished to-weaken my constant person.’

‘frouwe, niene welle got.’

‘lady, not-at-all wish God.’

‘werte ich iuch, des hetet ir êre; sô wær mîn der spot.’

‘granted I you, of-that would-have you honor; so were mine the mockery.’

‘Lât mich noch geniezen

‘Let me still profit

daz ich iu von herzen ie was holt.’

that I to-you from heart ever was devoted.’

‘iuch mac wol verdriezen

‘you may well be-wearied

daz ir iuwer wortel gegen mir bolt.’

that you your little-words against me burl.’

‘dunket iuch mîn rede niht guot?’

‘seems to-you my speech not good?’

‘jâ hât si beswæret dicke mînen stæten muot.’

‘indeed has it burdened often my constant spirit.’

‘Ich bin ouch vil stæte,

I am also very constant,

ob ir ruochet mir der wârheit jehen.

if you deign to-me the truth confess.

‘volget mîner ræte,

follow my counsel,

lât die bete diu niemer mac geschehen.’

leave the request which never can happen.’

‘sol ich alsô sîn gewert?’

‘shall I so be granted?’

‘got der wer iuch anderswâ des ir an mich dâ gert.’

‘God be grant you elsewhere what you from me there desire.’

‘Sol mich dan mîn singen

‘Shall me then my singing

und mîn dienest gegen iu niht vervân?’

and my service toward you not avail?’

‘iu sol wol gelingen:

‘to-you shall well succeed:

âne lôn sô sult ir niht bestân.’

without reward so shall you not remain.’

‘wie meinet ir daz, frouwe guot?’

‘how mean you that, lady good?’

‘daz ir deste werder sît und dâ bi hôchgemuot.’

‘that you the worthier are and there by high-spirited.’

Guote liute, holt

Good people, take

94,15

die gâbe die got unser herre selbe gât,

the gift which God our lord himself gives,

der al der welte hât gewalt.

who over-all the world has power.

dienet sînen solt,

serve his pay,

der den vil sældehaften dort behalten lît

which for-the very blessed there kept lies

mit vröiden iemer manecvalt.

with joys ever manifold.

lîdet eine wîle willeclîchen nôt

suffer a while willingly distress

vür den iermêre wernden tât.

for the ever-more lasting death.

got hât iu beide sêle und lîp gegeben:

God has to-you both soul and body given:

gebt ime des lîbes tât; daz wirt der sêle ein iemerleben.

give him of-the body the-death; that becomes for-the soul an ever-life.

Lâ mich, Minne, vrî.

Let me, Love, free.

du solt mich eine wîle sunder liebe lân.

thou shalt me a while without love leave.

du hâst mir gar den sin benomen.

thou hast me wholly the sense taken.

komest du wider bî

(if)-comest thou back by

als ich die reinen gotes vart volendet hân,

when I the pure God's journey completed have,

sô wis mir aber willekomen.

then be to-me again welcome.

wilt ab du ûz mînem herzen scheiden niht

(if)-wilt however thou out-of my heart part not

(daz vil lîhte unwendic doch geschiht),

(which very likely unavoidably yet happens),

vüer ich dich dan mit mir in gotes lant,

would-lead I thee then with me into God's land,

sô sî er umbe halben lôn der guoten hie gemant.

so be he for half reward of-the good-one here reminded.

‘Owê’ sprach ein wîp,

‘Alas’ spoke a woman,

‘wie vil mir doch von liebe leides ist beschert!

‘how much to-me yet from love of-sorrow is allotted!

waz mir diu liebe leides tuot!

what to-me the love of-sorrow does!

vröidelôser lîp,

joyless person,

wie wil du dich gebâren, swenne er hinnen vert,

how wilt thou thyself bear, whenever he hence goes,

dur den du wære ie hôchgemuot?

for whom thou wert ever high-spirited?

wie sol ich der werlde und mîner klage geleben?

how shall I for-the world and for-my lament live?

dâ bedorfte ich râtes zuo gegeben.

there needed I counsel to given.

kund ich mich beidenthalben nu bewarn,

could I myself on-both-sides now guard,

des wart mir nie sô nô. ez nâhet, er wil hinnen varn.'

of-that was to-me never so need. it nears, he will hence go.'

Wol si sælic wîp

Hail her blessed woman

diu mit ir wîbes güete daz gemachen kan

who with her woman's goodness that bring-about can

daz man si vüeret über sê.

that one her leads over sea.

ir vil guoten lîp

her very good person

den sol er loben, swer ie herzeliep gewan,

it shall be praise, whoever ever heart's-love won,

wand ir hie heime tuot sô wê,

for to-her here at-home does so pain,

swenne si gedenket stille an sîne nô.

whenever she thinks silently on his distress.

'lebt mîn herzeliep, od ist er tô.

'(if)-lives my heart's-love, or is he dead'

sprichet si, 'sô müeze sîn der pflegen

says she, 'so may of-him be take-care

durch den er süezer lîp sich dirre werlde hât bewegen.'

for whom he sweet person himself of-this world has renounced.'

Heinrich von Rugge

Sixty-four strophes, opening with the Leich that asks God's grace for the emperor Frederick and calls men to take the cross: whoever takes it now and dies in that service is repaid. The love songs that follow turn on the same word, service, and on a lady whose life he holds dearer than any gain of his own.

- 96,1 Ein tumber man iu hât
A foolish man to-you has
- gegeben disen wîsen rât,
given this wise counsel,
- dur daz man in ze guote schol verstân.
for that one it in good shall understand.
- ir wîsen merkent in:
you wise-ones mark it:
- daz wirt iu ein vil grôz gewin.
that becomes to-you a very great gain.
- swer in verstât,
whoever it understands,
- so ist mîn rât
so is my counsel
- noch wîser denne ich selbe bin.
still wiser than I myself am.
- Mîn tumbes mannes munt
My foolish man's mouth
- der tuot iu allen gerne kunt
it makes to-you all gladly known
- wiez umbe gotes wunder ist getân:
how-it about God's wonder is done:
- derst mêre danne vil:
be-is more than much:

swer ime nicht gerne dienen wil,
whoever him not gladly serve will,

der ist verlorn:
he is lost:

wan sîn zorn
for his wrath

vil harte ergân muoz über in.
very hard go must over him.

Nu hœrent wîses mannes wort
Now hear a-wise man's word

von tumbes mannes munde:
from a-foolish man's mouth:

ez wurde ein langer wernder hort,
it would-become a long lasting treasure,

swer gote nu dienen kunde.
whoever God now serve could.

Daz wære guot und ouch mîn rât,
That were good and also my counsel,

daz wizzent algelîche.
that know all-alike.

vil maneger drumbe enphangen hât
very many-a-one thereby received has

daz frône himelrîche.
the holy kingdom-of-heaven.

Als müezen wir. jâ teil ich mir
So may we. indeed allot I to-myself

die selben sælekeit:
the same blessedness:

ob ich gedienen kan dar nâch,
if I earn can there after,

diu gnâde ist mir gereit.

the favor is for-me ready.

Ob ich verbir die blæden gir

If I forgo the feeble desire

die noch mîn herze treit,

which still my heart carries,

sô wirt mir hin ze den fröweden gâch,

then becomes to-me thither to the joys hasty,

dâ von man wunder seit.

there of one wonders tells.

Nu sint uns starkiu mære komen:

Now are to-us strong tidings come:

diu habent ir alle wol vernomen.

those have you all well heard.

nu wünschent algelîche

now wish all-alike

Heiles umbe den rîchen got

Of-salvation from the mighty God

(wand er revulte sîn gebot)

(for he fulfilled his command)

dem keiser Friderîche:

for-the emperor Frederick:

Daz wir geniezen müezen sîn,

That we profit may of-him,

des er gedienet hât

of-what he earned has

und ander manec bilgerîn,

and other many-a pilgrim,

der dinc vil schône stât.

whose affair very fair stands.

der sêle diust vor gote schîn,
of-the soul it-is before God evident,

der niemer si verlât:
who never them abandons:

der selbe sedel ist uns allen veile.
the same seat is to-us all for-sale.

Swer in nu koufet an der zît,
Whoever it now buys at the time,

daz ist ein sælekeit,
that is a blessedness,

sît got sô süezen market gît.
since God so sweet a-market gives.

jâ vinden wir gereit
indeed find we ready

lediclichen âne strîf
freely without strife

grôz lieb ân allez leit.
great gladness without all sorrow.

nu werbent nâch dem wünneclîchem heile.
now strive after the delightful salvation.

Nu hœret man der liute vil
Now hears one of-the people many

zewâre ich iu darumbe wil
truly I to-you therefore will

Mînen rât ich nieman hil:
My counsel I to-no-one hide:

unser leit daz ist ir spil:
our sorrow that is their play:

ir friunde sêre klagen.
their friends sorely lament.

ein ander mære sagen.
an other tiding tell.

jâ sun wir nieht verzagen.
indeed shall we not despair.

wir mugen wol stille dagen.
we may well silently keep-still.

97,35

Swer si weinet, derst ein kint.

Whoever them weeps, he-is a child.

daz wir niet sîn dâ si dâ sint,

that we not are where they there are,

daz ist eine schade den wir michels gerner möhten weinen.

that is a harm which we much more-gladly might weep.

Diz kurze leben daz ist ein wint:

This short life that is a wind:

wir sîn mit sehenden ougen blint,

we are with seeing eyes blind,

daz wir nu got von herzen niet mit rehten triwen meinen.

that we now God from heart not with right faithfulness love.

Ir dinc nâch grôzen êren stât,

Their affair after great honors stands,

ir sælec sêle enphangen hât

their blessed soul received has

sunder strît und âne nît die liehten himelkrône.

without strife and without envy the bright heaven-crown.

Wie sæleclîchenz deme ergât

How blessedly-it to-him goes

den er den stuol besitzen lât

whom he the seat possess lets

und ime dâ gît nu zaller zît nâch wünneclîchem lône.

and to-him there gives now at-all time after delightful reward.

Der tiufel huob den selben spot:

The devil raised the same mockery:

enslâfen was der rîche got,

asleep was the mighty God,

dur daz wir brâchen sîn gebot:

for that we broke his command:

in hât sîn gnâde erwecket.

him has his favor awakened.

Wir wâren lâzen under wegen.

We were left by the-way.

nu wil er unser selbe flegen.

now will he of-us himself take-care.

er hât vil manegen stolzen degen:

he has very many-a proudthane:

die bæsen sint erschrecket.

the base-ones are frightened.

Swer nu daz crûce nimet,

Whoever now the cross takes,

wie wol daz helden zimet!

how well that heroes befits!

daz kumt von mannes muote.

that comes from a-man's spirit.

got der guote in sîner huote

God the good in his guarding

si zallen zîten hât,

them at-all times has,

der niemer si verlât.

who never them abandons.

Sô sprichet lihte ein bæser man,

So says perhaps a base man,

der mannes herze nie gewan,

who a-man's heart never gained,

‘wir sun hie heime vil sanfte belîben,

‘we shall here at-home very comfortably remain,

die zît wol vertriben vil schône mit wîben.’

the time well pass very fairly with women.’

Sô sprichet diu der er dâ gert

So says she of-whom he there desires

‘gespile, er ist nicht bastes wert:

‘playmate, he is not of-bast worth:

waz schol er danne ze friuntschefte mir?

what shall he then as friendship to-me?

vil gerne i'n verbir.' 'gespil, daz rât ich dir.'

very gladly I-him forgo.' 'playmate, that counsel I thee.'

98,38 Fiu daz er ie wart geborn!

Fie that he ever was born!

nu hât er beidinthalb ferlorn,

now has he on-both-sides lost,

wande er vorhte daz got im gebôt,

for he feared what God to-him commanded,

durch in ze lîden die nôt und den tût.

for him to suffer the distress and the death.

Gehabent iuch, stolze helde, wol.

Bear yourselves, proud heroes, well.

erst sælic, der dâ sterben sol

he-is blessed, who there die shall

dâ got erstarp, dô er erwarp daz heil der kristenheite.

where God died, when he won the salvation of Christendom.

Diu helle diust ein bitter hol,

The hell it-is a bitter hole,

daz himelrîche gnâden vol.

the kingdom-of-heaven of-favors full.

nu volgent mir: sô werbent ir daz man iuch dar verleitet.

now follow me: so strive you that one you there guides.

Vil maneger nâch der werlte strebet,

Very many-a-one after the world strives,

dem si mit bœsem ende gebet,

to-whom she with bad end pays,

und nieman weiz wie lange er lebet:

and no-one knows how long he lives:

daz ist ein michel nôt.

that is a great distress.

Ich râte iu dar ich selbe wil:

I counsel you thither-where I myself will:

nu nement daz crûce und varent dâhin,

now take the cross and go there,

(daz wirt iu ein vil grôz gewin)

(that becomes to-you a very great gain)

und fürhtent nieht den tôt.

and fear not the death.

Der tumbe man von Rugge hât

The foolish man of Rugge has

gegeben disen wîsen rât.

given this wise counsel.

ist ieman der in nu verstât

(if)-is-there anyone who it now understands

ieht anders wan in guot,

anything otherwise than in good,

Den riwet, sô der schade ergât,

Him rues, when the harm comes,

daz ime der grôzen missetât

that for-him of-the great misdeed

nieman necheinen wandel hât:

no-one any remedy has:

ze spâte ist ers behuot.

too late is he-of-it guarded.

99,29 Ich sach vil liehte varwe hân
I saw very bright color have
 die heide und al den grünen walt.
the heath and all the green wood.
 diu sint nu beide worden val,
those are now both become pale,
 und müezen gar betwungen stân
and must wholly compelled stand
 die bluomen von dem winter kalt.
the flowers by the winter cold.
 ouch hât diu liebe nahtegal
also has the dear nightingale
 vergezzen daz si schône sanc.
forgotten that she fairly sang.
 ie noch stêt aller mîn gedanc
ever still stands all my thought
 mit triuwen an ein schoene wîp.
with faithfulness on a fair woman.
 in weiz ob ichs geniezen muge:
I-not know whether I-of-it profit may:
 si ist mir lieb alsam der lîp.
she is to-me dear as the body.

Wurd ich ein alsô sælic man
Should-become I a so blessed man
 daz ich si lônnes dûhte wert
that I to-her of-reward seemed worth
 in der gewalt mîn fröide stât,
in whose power my joy stands,
 so erwurbe ich daz ich nie gewan,
then would-win I what I never won,

und habe es doch an sie gegert

and have it yet from her desired

ân alle valsche missetât.

without all false misdeed.

nu geschiht mir leide, in weiz dur waz.

now happens to-me sorrow, I-not know for what.

ze guote ich ir noch nie vergaz.

in good I of-her still never forgot.

wil si mich des geniezen lân,

(if)-will she me of-that profit let,

si ist und muoz ouch iemer sîn

she is and must also ever be

an der ich stæte wil bestân.

on whom I constantly will stand.

Sô sælic man enwart ich nie

So blessed a-man became I never

daz ir mîn komen tæte wol

that to-her my coming should-do well

und ouch dar nâch daz scheiden wê

and also there after the parting pain

sît ich began daz sich verlie

since I began that itself committed

mîn herze als ez belîben sol

my heart as it remain shall

an ir mit triuwen iemermê.

on her with faithfulness evermore.

diu wunneclîche sündet sich.

the delightful-one sins herself.

doch denke ich si versuoche mich

yet think I she tests me

ob ich iht stæte kunne sîn.

whether I at-all constant can be.

solt ichez bî dem eide sagen,

should I-it by the oath say,

sô was ez ie der wille mîn.

so was it ever the will mine.

‘Friundes komen wer allez guot

A-friend's coming were all good

daz sunder angest möhte sîn.

which without fear might be.

diu sorge diu dâ bî gestât,

the care which there by stands,

ich hân vernomen daz stæter muot

I have heard that constant spirit

des trûric wirt: daz ist wol schîn,

of-that sad becomes: that is well evident,

swenne ez an ein scheiden gât:

whenever it to a parting goes:

sô müezen solhiu dinc geschehen

then must such things happen

daz wîse liute müezen jehen

that wise people must say

daz grôziu liebe wunder tuot:

that great love wonders does:

dâ vallet fröide in sendiu leit:

there falls joy into longing sorrow:

des sint si beidiu unbehuot.’

of-that are they both unguarded.’

100,34 Minne minnet stæten man.

Love loves constant man.

ob er ûf minne minnen wil,

if he upon love love will,

sô sol im minnen lôn geschehen.

then shall to-him love's reward happen.

ich minne minne als ichs began.

I love love as I-it began.

die minne ich gerne minne vil.

the love I gladly love much.

der minne minne ich hân verjehen.

of-the love love I have confessed.

die minne erzeige ich mit der minne,

the love show I with the love,

daz ich ûf minne minne minne.

that I upon love love love.

die minne meine ich an ein wîp.

the love mean I toward a woman.

ich minne, wan ich minnen sol

I love, for I love shall

dur minne ir minneclîchen lîp.

through love her lovely body.

Mir ist noch lieber daz si müeze leben

To-me is still dearer that she may live

101,7

nâch êren, als ich ir des gan,

in honor, as I to-her that grant,

dan mîn diu werelt wære sunder streben:

than mine the world were without striving:

sô wære ich doch ein rîcher man.

so were I yet a rich man.

in kunde an ir erkennen nie

I could in her recognize never

enkein daz dinc dazs ie begie

any the thing which-she ever did

daz wandelbære möhte sîn.

that blameworthy might be.

ir güete gêt mir an daz herze mîn.

her goodness goes to-me to the heart mine.

101,15 Got hât mir armen ze leide getân

God has to-me poor-one to sorrow done

daz er ein wîp ie geschuof alsô guote.

that he a woman ever created so good.

solt ichn erbarmen, sô het erz gelân.

should I-him move-to-pity, then had he-it left.

sîst mir vor liebe ze verre in dem muote.

she-is to-me for love too far in the spirit.

daz tuot diu minne: diu nimt mir die sinne,

that does the love: it takes from-me the senses,

wand ich mich kêre an ir lêre ze vil,

for I myself turn to her teaching too much,

diu mich der nôt niht erlâzen enwil,

she-who me of-the distress not spare will,

sît ich niht mâze begunde nochn kunde.

since I not measure began nor could.

Kunde ich die mâze, sô lieze ich den strît

Could I the measure, then would-leave I the strife

der mich dâ müeget und lützel vervâhet,

which me there wearies and little avails,

der mich verlâzet ze vaste in den nît,

which me leaves too firmly in the envy,

swer sich vor liebe ze verre vergâhet,
whoever himself for love too far over-hastens,
 der wirt gebunden von stunden ze stunden
he is bound from hours to hours
 als ich vil arme. nu erbarme ich si niet,
as I very poor-one. now move-to-pity I her not,
 diu mich nu lange alsô trûrigen siet,
who me now long so sad sees,
 sît ich ir dienen begunde als ich kunde.
since I her serve began as I could.

Mir hât verrâten daz herze den lîp.
To-me has betrayed the heart the body.
 des was ie flîzic der muot und die sinne,
of-that was ever eager the spirit and the senses,
 daz si mich bâten ze verre umb ein wîp,
that they me asked too far about a woman,
 diu mir nu zeiget daz leit für ir minne.
who to-me now shows the sorrow in-place-of her love.
 daz ist besunder an mir gar ein wunder,
that is especially in me wholly a wonder,
 deich mich verlân hân ze verre ûf den wân
that-I myself committed have too far upon the expectation
 der mich ie trouc und mir freislîchen louc,
which me ever deceived and to-me terribly lied,
 sît ich ir dienen begunde als ich kunde.
since I her serve began as I could.

Ich was vil ungewon.
I was very unaccustomed.

des ich nu wonen muoz,
to-that-which I now accustomed must-be,

daz mich der minne bant

that me the love's bond

von sorgen lieze iht frî.

from cares would-leave at-all free.

nu scheidet mich dâ von

now parts me there from

ein ungemacher gruoꝛ.

a troublesome greeting.

der was mir unbekant:

it was to-me unknown:

nu ist er mir alsô bî,

now is it to-me so near,

vil gerne wære ichs frî.

very gladly were I-of-it free.

mirn wart diu sêle noch der lîp

to-me-not was the soul nor the body

dêswâr nie lieber danne mir ie was ein wîp

indeed ever dearer than to-me ever was a woman

diu eteswenne sprach, daz selbe wære ich ir:

who sometimes said, the same were I to-her:

nu hât siz gar verkêrt her ze mir.

now has she-it wholly turned toward to me.

102,14 Des lîbes habe ich mich

Of-the body have I myself

dur got vil gar bewegen.

for God very wholly renounced.

ich wær ein tumber man,

I were a foolish man,

dûht ich mich des unfruot.

thought I myself of-that unwise.

jâ liez er wunden sich,

indeed let he wound himself,

dô er unser wolde pflegen:

when he of-us would take-care:

der im des lônén kan,

he-who him for-that reward can,

wie seliclich er tuot!

how blessedly he does!

wir toben umbe guot.

we rage for goods.

nu lânt mich tûsent lande hân:

now let me a-thousand lands have:

ê ich si danne wisse, sô müest ich si lân,

ere I them then knew, so must I them leave,

und wirt mir dar nâch niht wan siben füeze lanc.

and becomes to-me there after nothing but seven feet long.

ûf bezzer lôn stêt aller mîn gedanc.

upon better reward stands all my thought.

Mich grüezet menger mit dem munde

Me greets many-a-one with the mouth

den ich doch wol gemelden kunde,

whom I yet well denounce could,

daz er mir ze keiner stunde

that he to-me at no hour

rehter fröide nie niht gunde.

of-true joy never anything would-grant.

den gelîche ich einem hunde

him liken I to-a bound

der dur valschen muot

which through false spirit

sich des flîzet daz er bîzet der im niht entuot.

itself of-that strives that it bites him-who to-it nothing does.

102,27

Ich erkenne friunt sô stæte

I know a-friend so constant

daz er niemer missetæte,

that he never should-do-wrong,

wan dur böeser liute ræte.

except through base people's counsels.

der die ungetriuwen bæte

he-who the unfaithful should-ask

daz si niht in schœner wæte

that they not in fair garment

trüegen valschen muot,

should-bear false spirit,

daz stüende in wol. ir lachen sol mich selten dunken guot.

that should-stand them well. their laughing shall me seldom seem good.

103,3 Hân ich iht vriunt, die wünschen ir

(if)-Have I any friends, they wish for-her

dazs iemer sælic müeze sîn,

that-she ever blessed may be,

dur die ich alliu wîp verbir.

for whom I all women forgo.

si mêret vil der vröide mân

she increases much of-the joy mine

und kan mit güete sich eruern

and can with goodness herself defend

daz man ir valsches niht engiht.

so-that one of-her falseness not says.

ichn trûwe von leide den lîp ernern

I-not trust from sorrow the body to-save

swenn si mân ouge niht ensiht.

whenever her my eye not sees.

Mir gap ein sinnic herze rât,
To-me gave a sensible heart counsel,

dô ichs ûz al der werlte erkôs,
when I-her out-of all the world chose,

ein wîp diu manege tugent begât
a woman who many-a virtue practices

und lop mit valsche nie verlôs.
and praise with falseness never lost.

daz was ein sæliclîchiu zît.
that was a blessed time.

von der ich grôze vröide hân,
from her I great joy have,

der schœnen der sol man den strîf
to-the fair-one to-her shall one the strife

vil gar an guoten dingen lân.
very wholly in good things leave.

Mîn lîp vor liebe muoz ertoben,
My person for love must go-mad,

swenn ich daz aller beste wîp
whenever I the of-all best woman

sô gar ze guote hære loben,
so wholly in good hear praised,

diu nâhe an mînem herzen lît
who near to my heart lies

verholne nu vil manegen tac.
bidden now very many-a day.

si tiuret vil der sinne mîn.
she ennobles much of-the senses mine.

ich bin noch stæte als ich ie pflic
I am still constant as I ever was

und wil daz iemer gerne sîn.
and will that ever gladly be.

‘Vil wunneclîchen hôhe stât

‘Very delightfully high stands

mîn herze ûf manege fröide guot.

my heart upon many-a joy good.

mir tuot ein ritter sorgen rât

to-me does a knight for-cares remedy

an den ich allen mînen muot

to whom I all my spirit

ze guote gar gewendet hân.

in good wholly turned have.

daz ist uns beiden guot gewin,

that is for-us both good gain,

daz er mir wol gedienen kan

that he me well serve can

und ich sîn friunt dar umbe bin.’

and I his friend there for am.’

Ein wîser man vil dicke tuot

A wise man very often does

des ein tumber niht enkan.

what a foolish-one not can.

als ime daz hoehet sînen muot,

as for-him that raises his spirit,

sô muoz ich leider trûric stân.

so must I alas sad stand.

ich mac wol sîn von gouches art

I may well be of a-fool’s kind

und jage ein üppeclîche vart:

and chase a vain course:

tôren sinne hân ich vil,

fools’ senses have I many,

daz ich des wîbes minne ger

that I the woman's love desire

diu mich ze friunde nien enwil.

who me as friend not-at-all will.

Sol ich leben tûsent jâr

(if)-Shall I live a-thousand years

sô daz ich in ir gnâden sî,

so that I in her favors be,

in gwinne niemer grâwez hâr.

I gain never gray hair.

sîst aller wandelunge vrî.

she-is of-all change free.

lop si wol gedienen kan,

praise she well earn can,

und weiz doch wol daz alle man

and knows yet well that all men

ir niht gar gemæze sint.

to-her not wholly equal are.

swer ir dekeines valsches giht

whoever of-her any falseness says

an dem hât haz bî nîde ein kint.

in him has hatred by envy a child.

Ez ist ein spæhes wîbes sin,

It is a shrewd woman's sense,

diu sich vor valsche hât behuot,

who herself from falseness has guarded,

swie unschuldic ich des bin:

however innocent I of-that am:

swâ ich si weiz dar spriche ich guot.

wherever I her know there speak I good.

doch ist ein site der niemen zimet,
yet is a custom which to-no-one befits,

swer dienest ungelônnet nimet,
whoever service unrewarded takes,

doch es leider vil geschehe.
though it alas much happen.

hât mir dekeiniu sô getân,
(if)-has to-me any-woman so done,

der râte ich daz si zuo ir sehe.
her counsel I that she to herself look.

104,23 Der böesen hulde nieman hât
The base-ones' goodwill no-one has

wan der sich gerne rüemen wil.
except he-who himself gladly boast will.

swes muot ze valschen dingen stât,
whose spirit to false things stands,

den krœnent si und lobent in vil.
him crown they and praise him much.

der site ist guoter liute klage.
that custom is good people's lament.

waz hulfe ob ich in allen sage
what would-help if I to-them all told

sô mir iht liebes widervert?
when to-me anything of-pleasure befalls?

schaden hab ich dâ von vernomen:
harm have I there from heard:

ez muoz mir iemer sîn erwert.
it must to-me ever be prevented.

Gedinge hât daz herze mîn

Hope has the heart mine

gemachet wunneclîchen frô.

made delightfully glad.

daz muoz ûf ir genâde sîn

that must upon her favor be

mit stæte zallen zîten sô,

with constancy at-all times so,

der ich dâ guotes høre jehen.

of-whom I there good hear said.

waz kunde liebes mir geschehen

what could of-pleasure to-me happen

von allen wîben, wær ir niht?

from all women, were she not?

mîn lîp in grôzer senfte lebt

my person in great ease lives

des tages sô si mîn ouge siht.

of-the day when her my eye sees.

Diu albegarwe wære guot,

She-who entirely were good,

diu soldes mich geniezen lân

she should-of-it me profit let

daz si sô vil der tugende tuot.

that she so much of-the virtue does.

ich bin ir worden undertân.

I am to-her become subject.

genâde, frowe, sælic wîp,

favor, lady, blessed woman,

und træste sêre mînen lîp,

and comfort greatly my body,

der sich nâch dir gesenet hât.

which itself for thee longed has.

du enwellest des ein ende lân,
thou unless-wilt of-that an end let,
 der sorgen wirdet niemer rât.
of-the cares comes never remedy.

105,15 Wan daz ich friunden volgen sol,
But that I friends follow shall,
 ich bin mir schedelichen hie.
I am to-myself harmfully here.
 si zûrnet sêre, wæne ich wol,
she is-angry sorely, think I well,
 diu guote diech dâ senende lie,
the good-one whom-I there longing left,
 und hât von mînen schulden leit.
and has from my faults sorrow.
 daz ich durch ieman si vermeit,
that I for anyone her avoided,
 des werde ich selten wol gemuot.
of-that become I seldom well minded.
 ichn weiz ob ieman schœner sî:
I-not know whether anyone fairer be:
 ezn lebt niht wîbes alse guot.
there lives no woman so good.

105,24 Man sol ein herze erkennen hie
One shall a heart recognize here
 daz zallen zîten hôhe stât.
which at-all times high stands.
 rehte vröide lobte ich ie
true joy praised I ever
 und nîde niemen der si hât.
and envy no-one who it has.

der sô gewendet sînen muot

he-who so turns his spirit

daz er daz beste gerne tuot,

that he the best gladly does,

ich wil iu mînen willen sagen:

I will to-you my will say:

ê der unsanfte müese gân,

ere he harshly might go,

ûf mîner hant wolt ich in tragen.

upon my hand would I him carry.

Ich hân der werlte ir reht getân

I have to-the world its right done

ie nâch der mâze als ez mir stuont.

ever after the measure as it to-me stood.

der volge ich noch ûf guoten wân,

it follow I still upon good expectation,

alsam die tôren alle tuont.

just-as the fools all do.

mac mir dar an niht wol geschehen,

(if)-can to-me there on not well happen,

sô lâze ich doch die liute sehen

so let I yet the people see

den willen und die stæte mîn.

the will and the constancy mine.

ist daz mir danne missegât,

(if)-is that to-me then goes-amiss,

dar an wil ich unschuldic sîn.

there on will I innocent be.

In hân niht vil der fröide mê

I have not much of-the joy more

von ir wan eine, diust sô grôz;

from her but one, which-is so great;

diu machet mich sô rehte hêr,

it makes me so rightly noble,

an fröiden al der werlte genôz.

in joys to-all the world equal.

wie möhte ich baz ze heile komen?

how might I better to good-fortune come?

ez ist mir iemer unvernomen.

it is to-me ever unheard.

des fröit sich herze und al der lîp

of-that rejoices itself heart and all the body

ûf alsô minneclîchen trôst.

upon so lovely comfort.

jô meine ich nieman wan ein wîp.

indeed mean I no-one but a woman.

106,15 'Ein rehte unsanfte lebende wîp

A truly harshly living woman

nâch grôzer liebe daz bin ich.

after great love that am I.

ich weiz getriuwen mînen lîp

I know faithful my person

noch nieman stæter danne mich.

still no-one more-constant than me.

sît ich sîn kûnde alrêrst gewan

since I of-him acquaintance first won

sôn sach ich nie dekeinen man

so saw I never any man

der mir ze rehte gevele ie baz.

who to-me to right should-please ever better.

nu lône als ich gedienet habe.

now reward as I served have.

ich bin diu sîn noch nie vergaz.'

I am she-who of-him still never forgot.'

Nu lange stât diu heide val:

Now long stands the heath pale:

si hât der snê gemachet bluomen eine.

it has the snow made of-flowers empty.

die vogele trûrent über al.

the birds mourn over all.

daz tuot ir wê der ich ez gerne scheine,

that does to-her pain to-whom I it gladly show,

mîn lîp ie vor den bæsen hal

my person ever from the base-ones concealed

daz ich sie mê mit rehten triuwen meine

that I her more with right faithfulness mean

dann iemen kunde wizzen zal.

than anyone could know the-number.

het ich von heile wunsches wal

had I by good-fortune a-wish's choice

übr elliu wîp,

over all women,

mich verleite unstæte ab ir dekeine.

me would-mislead inconstancy from her none.

Si vindet mich in meneger zît

She finds me at many-a time

an einem sinne, der ist iemer stæte.

of one mind, which is ever constant.

nâch rehte lieze ich mînen strîf,

by right would-leave I my strife,

daz mir ir minne lōnes gnāde tæte.

that to-me her love reward's favor should-do.

nu machet valscher liute nît

now makes false people's envy

daz guot gedinge wirt ein teil ze spæte.

that good hope becomes a bit too late.

dâ von mîn herze in swære lît.

there from my heart in grief lies.

betwungen was ez iemer sît:

compelled was it ever since:

noch wurde ez vrô,

still would-become it glad,

leiste noch diu schœne des ich bæte.

performed still the fair-one what I would-ask.

107,7 Mir wære starkes herzen nôt:

To-me were a-strong heart's need:

ich trage sô vil der kumberlîchen swære.

I bear so much of-the afflicting grief.

noch sanfter tæte mir der tôt

still gentler would-do to-me the death

dann ich ez hil deich sus gevangen wære.

than I it hide that-I thus captured were.

ich leiste ie swaz si mir gebôt,

I perform ever whatever she to-me commanded,

und iemer wil. wie ungeru ichz verbære!

and ever will. how unwillingly I-it should-forgo!

diu zît hât sich verwandelôt;

the time has itself changed;

der sumer bringet bluomen rô:

the summer brings flowers red:

mîn wurde rât,
for-me would-come remedy,

wolte si mir künden liebiu mære.
would she to-me announce dear tidings.

‘Solt ich an vröiden nu verzagen,
‘Should I in joys now despair,

daz were ein sin der nieman wol gezæme.
that were a sense which to-no-one well befitted.

er müese ein stætez herze tragen,
he would-have-to a constant heart bear,

als ich nu bin, der mich dâ von benæme.
as I now am, who me there from took.

er müese zouberliste haben:
he would-have-to magic-arts have:

wan mîn gewin sich hüebe, als er mir kæme.
for my gain itself would-rise, if he to-me should-come.

sîn langez fremeden muoz ich klagen.
his long estrangement must I lament.

du solt im, lieber bote, sagen
thou shalt to-him, dear messenger, say

den willen mîn,
the will mine,

wie gerne in sehe und sîne vröide vernæme.’
how gladly I-him would-see and his joy would-bear.’

Nâch vrowen schœne nieman sol
After ladies’ beauty no-one shall

ze vil gevragen. sint si guot,
too much ask. are they good,

er lâzes ime gevallen wol

he let-it him please well

und wizze daz er rehte tuot.

and know that he rightly does.

waz obe ein varwe wandel hât,

what if a complexion blemish has,

der doch der muot vil hôhe stât?

whose yet the spirit very high stands?

er ist ein ungevuege man,

he is an uncouth man,

der des an wîbe niht erkennen kan.

who that in a-woman not recognize can.

107,35 Ich tuon ein scheiden, daz mir nie

I make a parting, which to-me never

von keinen dingen wart sô wê.

from any things was so painful.

vil guote vriunde lâze ich hie.

very good friends leave I here.

nu wil ich trûren iemermê

now will I mourn evermore

die wîle ich si vermîden muoz

the while I her avoid must

von der mir sanfter tæte ein gruoz

from whom to-me gentler would-do a greeting

an deme stæten herzen mîn

in the constant heart mine

dann ich ze Rôme keiser solte sîn.

than I at Rome emperor should be.

Ich gerte ie wunneclîcher tage.

I desired ever delightful days.

108,6

uns wil ein schoener sumer komen.

to-us will a fair summer come.

al deste senfter ist mîn klage.

all the softer is my lament.

der voge le hân ich vil vernomen;

of-the birds have I much heard;

der grüne walt mit loube stât.

the green wood with foliage stands.

ein wîp mich des getrœstet hât

a woman me of-that comforted has

daz ich der zît geniezen sol.

that I of-the time enjoy shall.

nu bin ich hôhes muotes: daz ist wol.

now am I of-high spirit: that is well.

Ich hôrte gerne eine vogellîn

I would-hear gladly a birdling

108,14

daz hüebe wunneclîchen sanc.

which would-raise delightful song.

der winter kan niht anders sîn

the winter can not otherwise be

wan swære und âne mâze lanc.

than heavy and without measure long.

mir wære liep, wolt er zergân.

to-me were dear, would it vanish.

waz vröide ich ûf den sumer hân!

what joy I upon the summer have!

dar stuont nie hôher mir der muot:

there stood never higher to-me the spirit:

daz ist ein zît diu mir vil sanfte tuot.

that is a time which to-me very softly does.

108,22 Diu werlt wil mit grimme zergân nu vil schiere.

The world will with fury perish now very soon.

ez ist an den liuten grôz wunder geschehen:

it is among the people great wonder happened:

fröwent sich zwêne, sô spottent ir viere.

rejoice themselves two, so mock of-them four.

wæren si wîse, si möhten wol sehen

were they wise, they might well see

daz ich dur jâmer die vreude verbir.

that I through misery the joy forgo.

nu sprechent genuoge war umbe ich truobe,

now say many where for I am-troubled,

den fröide geswîchet noch ê danne mir.

whom joy fails still sooner than me.

Diu werlt hât sich sô von vreuden gescheiden

The world has itself so from joys parted

daz ir der vierde niht rehte nu tuot.

that of-them the fourth not rightly now does.

juden unde kristen, in weiz umb die heiden,

Jews and Christians, I-not know about the heathens,

die denket alze verre an daz guot,

they think all-too far on the goods,

wie sis vil gewinnen. doch wil ich in sagen

how they-of-it much gain. yet will I to-them say

ez muoz hie belîben. daz niemen den wîben

it must here remain. that no-one to-the women

nu dienet ze rehte, daz hœre ich si klagen.

now serves to right, that hear I them lament.

Swer nu den wîben ir reht wil verswachen,

Whoever now to-the women their right will weaken,

dem wil ich verteilen ir minne und ir gruoȝ.

to-him will I deny their love and their greeting.

ich wil ir leides von herzen niht lachen,

I will at-their sorrow from heart not laugh,

swer sô nu welle, der lâze oder tuoz.

whoever so now wishes, he leave or do-it.

wan ist ir einiu niht rehte gemuot,

for (if)-is of-them one not rightly minded,

dâ bî vind ich schiere wol drî oder viere

there by find I soon well three or four

die zallen zîten sind hœfsch unde guot.

who at-all times are courtly and good.

[In mîner besten fröide ich saz

[In my best joy I sat

109,9

und dâhte wiech den sumer wolte leben.

and thought how-I the summer would live.

dô rieten mîne sinne daz,

then counseled my senses that,

des ich enkeinen trôst mir kan gegeben,

of-which I no comfort to-myself can give,

daz ich die sorge gar verbære

that I the care wholly should-forgo

und iemer hôhes muotes wære.

and ever of-high spirit were.

daz hete ich gerne sît getân,

that would-have I gladly since done,

wan deich verleitet bin ûf einen lieben wân,

but that-I misled am upon a dear expectation,

den ich noch leider unverendet hân.]

which I still alas unended have.]

109,18

Het ich von dirre sumerzît

Had I of this summertime

doch zwêne tage und eine guote naht

but two days and one good night

mit ir ze redenne âne nît

with her to speak without envy

nâch mînem willen also ich hân gedâht,

according-to my will as I have thought,

daz mich des nieman wenden solte,

that me of-that no-one turn should,

wie lützel ich getrûren wolte!

how little I mourn would!

ouch lâze ichs unversuochet niht.

also leave I-it untried not.

ich wil ir iemer dienen und lobeze, als ez geschiht,

I will her ever serve and praise-it, as it happens,

daz si mich niemer mêt unfrô gesiht.

that she me never more unglad sees.

Missebieten tuot mir niht

Ill-treatment does to-me not

von wîben noch von bösen mannen wê,

from women nor from base men pain,

ob si mich eine gerne siht:

if she me alone gladly sees:

waz darf ich guoter handelunge mêt?

what need I of-good treatment more?

lîd ich von ieman swachez grüezen,

suffer I from anyone poor greeting,

daz mac si eine mir wol bûezen.

that can she alone to-me well amend.

und wurde ich noch sô sælic man

and (if)-become I still so blessed a-man

daz sich mîn leit verendet daz ich von ir hân,

that itself my sorrow ends which I from her have,

sô vröwet mich daz ich sîn ie began.

so gladdens me that I of-it ever began.

Ich hân nâch wâne dicke wol

I have after expectation often well

gesungen des mich anders niht bestuont,

sung what me otherwise not concerned,

und lobe doch, wan ich nu sol,

and praise yet, for I now shall,

swâ guotiu wîp bescheidenlîche tuont.

wherever good women discreetly act.

daz biute ich mînen friunden zêren

that offer I to-my friends in-honor

und wil in iemer fröide mêren.

and will for-them ever joy increase.

mîn eines wurde lîhte rât:

of-me alone would-come perhaps remedy:

swes muot iedoch zer werlte als der mîne stât,

whose spirit yet toward-the world as the mine stands,

ich wæne er menege sorge umb êre hât.

I think he many-a care about honor has.

‘Dem ich alsolher êren sol

‘To-whom I of-such honors shall

getrûwen als ich her behalten hân,

trust as I hitherto kept have,

den muoz ich bekennen wol:

him must I recognize well:

sîn wille mac sô lîhte niht ergân.

bis will can so easily not be-fulfilled.

wil er ze friunde mich gewinnen,

(if)-will he as friend me win,

sô tuo mit allen sînen sinnen

then do with all his senses

daz beste und hûete sich dâ bî

the best and guard himself there by

daz mir iht mære kome wie rehte unstæte er sî:

that to-me anything of-tidings come how rightly inconstant he be:

wær er mîn eigen denne, ich lieze in vrî'

were he my own then, I would-let him free.'

[Mich fröit ân alle swære wol

[Me gladdens without all grief well

daz ich sô liebiu mære hân vernomen,

that I so dear tidings have heard,

der ich mich gerne træsten sol.

of-which I myself gladly comfort shall.

mir ist der muot von grôzen sorgen komen.

to-me is the spirit from great cares come.

sît man der stæte mac geniezen,

since one of-the constancy can profit,

so ensol ir niemer mich verdriezen.

so shall of-her never me weary.

mîn herze ist ir mit triuwen bî:

my heart is with-her with faithfulness by:

freisch aber ez diu schœne deiz mit valsche sî,

(if)-learns however it the fair-one that-it with falseness be,

sô lâze si mich iemer mære frî.]

so let she me ever more free.]

Ich suoche wîser liute rât,

I seek wise people's counsel,

daz si mich lêren wie ich si behalde,

that they me teach how I her keep,

diu wandelbæres niht begât

who anything-blameworthy not practices

und ie nâch êren vrowen prîs bezalde.

and ever after honors ladies' praise won.

mîn heil in ir genâden stât.

my well-being in her favors stands.

si kan verkêren sorge der ich walde.

she can turn care of-which I rule.

ir güete mich gehœchet hât:

her goodness me raised has:

daz sol si mêren durch ir êren manicvalde.

that shall she increase for her honors manifold.

Ich hôrte wîse liute jehen

I heard wise people say

von einem wîbe wunneclîcher mære.

of a woman delightful tidings.

mîn ougen sâ begunden spehen

my eyes at-once began to-observe

ob an ir lîbe diu gevuoge wære.

whether in her body the propriety were.

nu hân ichz wol an ir gesehen,

now have I-it well in her seen,

si kan vertriben senelîche swære;

she can drive-away longing grief;

und ist mir sô von ir geschehen

and is to-me so from her happened

daz ich belîbe vrô des ich unsanfte enbære.

that I remain glad of-what I harshly would-lack.

‘Mîn lîp in ein gemüete swert,

‘My person in one spirit swears,

sît er sô ringet daz ich in behüete,

since it so struggles that I it guard,

daz er ist fröiden unbehert;

that it is of-joys unrobbed;

des er betwinget mich mit sîner güete.

therefore it compels me with its goodness.

an mir er niemer missevert.

in me it never goes-astray.

wan dem gelinget ...

for to-him succeeds (lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

... ob uns niemer boum geblüete.’

(lacuna) whether to-us never tree blossomed.’

Bernger von Horheim

Seventeen strophes. He never drank the potion that bound Tristan to Isolde, and yet loves more deeply than Tristan did; it is a wonder, he says, that he does not despair. He boasts that he goes about as though flying above the world, then calls it a lie: he is heavy as lead, and the campaign to Apulia will part him from her.

Nu enbeiz ich doch des trankes nie

Now tasted I yet of-the drink never

112,1

dâ von Tristran in kumber kam:

there from Tristan into affliction came:

noch herzeclîcher minne ich sie

still more-heartily love I her

dann er Îsalden, deist mîn wân.

than he Isolde, that-is my expectation.

daz habent diu ougen mîn getân.

that have the eyes mine done.

daz leite mich daz ich dar gie

that led me that I there went

dâ mich diu minne alrêst vie,

where me the love first captured,

der ich deheine mâze hân.

of-which I no measure have.

sô kumberlîche gelebte ich nie.

so troublesomely lived I never.

Êst wunder daz ich niht verzage,

It-is a-wonder that I not despair,

sô lange ich ungetroestet bin.

so long I uncomforted am.

als ich ir mînen kumber klage,

as I to-her my affliction lament,

daz gât ir leider lützel in.

that goes to-her alas little in.

daz hât mir mîne vröide hin.

that has from-me my joy taken-away.

doch flîze ich mich des alle tage

yet strive I myself of-that all days

deich ir ein stætez herze trage.

that-I to-her a constant heart bear.

nu wîse mich got an den sin

now direct me God to the sense

deich noch getuo daz ir behage.

that-I still do what to-her pleases.

Swer nu deheine vröide hât,

Whoever now any joy has,

der vingerzeige muoz ich sîn.

the finger-pointing must I be.

swes herze in ungebitten stât,

whose heart in impatience stands,

die selben vorhte die sint mîn,

the same fears they are mine,

daz si mir tuon ir nîden schîn.

that they to-me make their envy evident.

doch singe ich, swiez dar umbe ergât

yet sing I, however-it there for goes

und klage daz si mich trûren lât.

and lament that she me mourn lets.

herze, die schulde wâren dîn:

heart, the faults were thine:

du gæbe mir an si den rât.

thou gavest me toward her the counsel.

Mir ist alle zît als ich vliegende var

To-me is all time as-if I flying go

ob al der werlte und diu mîn alliu sî.

above all the world and it mine all were.

swar ich gedenke, vil wol sprung ich dar.

wherever I think, very well would-spring I there.

swie verre ez ist, wil ich, sôst mirz nâhe bî.

however far it is, will I, so-is to-me-it near by.

starc unde snel, beidiu rîche unde frî

strong and swift, both rich and free

ist mir der muot: dur daz loufe ich sô balde:

is to-me the spirit: for that run I so fast:

mirn mac entrinnen kein tier in dem walde —

from-me can escape no beast in the wood—

daz ist gar gelogen: ich bin swære als ein blî.

that is wholly lied: I am heavy as a lead-weight.

Ich mac von vröiden getoben âne strît:

I can from joys rave without dispute:

mir ist von minne sô liebe geschehen.

to-me is from love so dearly happened.

swâ wer ein walt beidiu lanc unde wît,

wherever were a wood both long and wide,

mit schœnen boumen, den wolte ich erspehen;

with fair trees, that would I explore;

dâ möhte man mich doch springende sehen.

there might one me yet springing see.

mîn reht ist daz ich mich an vröiden twinge. —

my right is that I myself to joys compel.—

wes liuge ich gouch? ich enweiz waz ich singe.

why lie I fool? I know-not what I sing.

mir wart nie wirs, wil der wârheit ich jehen.

to-me was never worse, will the truth I confess.

Ich mache den merkæren truobenden muot.

I make for-the spies a-troubled spirit.

ich hân verdienet ir nît und ir haz,

I have earned their envy and their hatred,

sît daz mîn vrouwe ist sô rîche unde guot.

since that my lady is so rich and good.

ê was mir wê: nust mir sanfte unde baz.

ere was to-me pain: now-is to-me at-ease and better.

ein herzeleit des ich niene vergaz

a heart's-grief of-which I not-at-all forgot

daz hân ich verlâzen und ist gar verwunden.

that have I left and is wholly overcome.

mîn vröide hât mich von sorgen enbunden:

my joy has me from cares unbound:

mir wart nie baz — unde liuge ich iu daz.

to-me was never better and lie I to-you that.

[Mir wil gelingen dâ mir nie gelanc,

[To-me will succeed where to-me never succeeded,

an minne der süezen, daz wil ich iu sagen.

in love of-the sweet-one, that will I to-you say.

die merkære habent mengen gedanc,

the spies have many-a thought,

swenne si mich nu niht mêre hœrent klagen

whenever they me now not more hear lament

dehein herzesêr. daz tuot si mir verjagen

any heart's-pain. that does she to-me drive-away

...

(lacuna)

des lôn ir got daz mîn trûren hât ende —

of-that reward her God that my mourning has an-end—

daz ist gar gelogen, und ist dar doch niht lanc.]

that is wholly lied, and is there yet not long.]

Mir ist von liebe vil leide geschehen.

To-me is from love very grievously happened.

lieze ichz darümbe, sô wære ich ze kranc.

should-leave I-it therefore, then were I too weak.

durch daz send ich disiu lieder durch spehen

for that send I these songs for spying

an eine stat dar daz herze mich twanc.

to a place whither the heart me compelled.

sît ich ir leider niht wol mac gesehen,

since I her alas not well can see,

sô sol si merken durch got mînen sanc.

so shall she mark for God my song.

wil mir diu schœne der wârheite jehen,

(if)-will to-me the fair-one the truth confess,

sô was siz ie nâch der mîn herze ranc

so was she-it ever after whom my heart strove

unde iemer muoz, doch mir nie gelanc.

and ever must, yet to-me never succeeded.

Mich hât daz herze und ein unwîser rât

Me has the heart and an unwise counsel

ze verre verleitet an tumplichen muot

too far misled into foolish spirit

dâ doch mîn dienst vil kleine vervât.

where yet my service very little avails.

der kumber hât mich vil dicke gemuot.

the affliction has me very often troubled.

minne vil süeze beginnunge hât

love very sweet beginning has

und dunket an dem anevange guot,

and seems at the start good,

dâ doch daz ende vil riuwic gestât,

where yet the end very rueful stands,

als ez mir armen vil lîhte getuot.

as it to-me poor-one very likely does.

wie solte ich von der nôt mich haben behuot!

how should I from the distress myself have guarded!

Si darf des niht denken daz ich mînen muot

She need of-that not think that I my spirit

iemer bekêre an dehein ander wîp.

ever turn to any other woman.

des selben hân ich mich her wol behuot,

of-the same have I myself hitberto well guarded,

sît ich ir gap beidiu herze unde lîp

since I to-her gave both heart and body

ûf ir genâde. swie wê ez mir tuot,

upon her favor. however pain it to-me does,

doch wil ich langer noch haben den strît.

yet will I longer still have the strife.

ich hoffê des daz mîn reht sî sô guot

I hope of-that that my right be so good

daz si mir schiere ein vil liebez ende gît

that she to-me soon a very dear end gives

der grôzen swære, sô sis dunket zît.

of-the great grief, when her-it seems time.

114,21 Wie solt ich armer der swære getrûwen

How should I poor-one of-the grief trust

daz mir ze leide der künec wære tôt?

that to-me for sorrow the king were dead?

des muoz ich von ir daz ellende bûwen;

of-that must I from her the exile inhabit;

des werdent dâ nâch mîniu ougen vil rôt.

of-that become there after my eyes very red.

der mir ze Pülle die hervart gebôt,
he-who to-me to Apulia the campaign commanded,
 der wil mich scheiden von liebe in die nôt
he will me part from love into the distress
 der ich gewinne vil michelen rûwen.
of-which I gain very great rue.

Ich wil bevelhen ir lîp und ir êre
I will commend her body and her honor
 gote und dâ nâch allen engelen sîn.
to-God and there after all angels his.
 si sol wizzen, swar ich landes kêre,
she shall know, wherever I of-the-land turn,
 daz ich ir bin unde muoz iemer sîn,
that I hers am and must ever be,
 als ich ê was dô mich ir ougen schîn
as I before was when me her eyes' shine
 brâhte also verre ûz dem sinne mîn.
brought so far out-of the sense mine.
 dô was mir wê unde nu michels mêre.
then was to-me pain and now much more.

Nu muoz ich varn und doch bî ir belîben,
Now must I go and yet with her remain,
 von der ich niemer gescheiden enmac.
from whom I never parted can.
 si sol mir sîn vor allen andern wîben
she shall to-me be before all other women
 in mînem herzen beidiu naht und tac.
in my heart both night and day.
 als ich gedenke wiech ir wîlent pflac,
as I think how-I of-her once took-care,

owê daz Pülle sô verre ie gelac!

alas that Apulia so far ever lay!

daz wil mich leider von vröiden vertrîben.

that will me alas from joys drive-away.

115,3 Si frâgent mich war mir sî komen

They ask me whither to-me be gone

mîn sanc des ich wîlent pflac.

my song of-which I once practiced.

si müejent sich: êst unvernomen

they trouble themselves: it-is unheard

war umbe ich nu niht singen mac.

where for I now not sing can.

noch wære mir ein kunst bereit,

still were to-me an art ready,

wan daz mich ein sendez herzeleit

but that me a longing heart's-grief

twinget daz ich swîgen muoz,

compels that I be-silent must,

des mir unsanfte wirdet buoz.

of-which to-me harshly comes remedy.

Kunde ich klagen mîn herzeleit

Could I lament my heart's-grief

gelîche als ez mir nâhe gât,

equally as it to-me near goes,

sô wolde ich sagen ûf mînen eit

then would I say upon my oath

daz nieman grœzern kumber hât

that no-one greater affliction has

noch niene wart sô trûric man.

nor ever was so sad a-man.

daz verswîge ich als ich wole kan

that keep-silent I as I well can

und klage ez den gedanken mîn;

and lament it to-the thoughts mine;

die lâze ich mit unmüezic sîn.

those let I with-it busy be.

Zer werlte ist wîp ein fröide grôz:

In-the world is a-woman a joy great:

bî den sô muoz man hie genesen.

by them so must one here recover.

doch es mîn lîp noch nie genôz,

though of-it my body still never enjoyed,

mîn herze deist in bî gewesen:

my heart that-is with-them by been:

ich hete ie ze der werlte muot

I had ever for the world spirit

und daz mîn munt in iemer sprichet guot,

and that my mouth of-them ever speaks good,

die triuwe lât nu werden schîn:

the faithfulness let now become evident:

belîbe ich, sô gedenket mîn.

remain I, so think of-me.

115,27 Nu lange ich mit sange die zît hân gekündet:

Now long I with song the time have announced:

swanne si vie, al zergie daz ich sanc.

whenever she captured, all vanished what I sang.

ich hange an getwange. daz gît diu sich sündet;

I hang in constraint. that gives she-who herself sins;

wan si michs ie niht erlie, si getwanc

for she me-of-it ever not released, she compelled

mich nâch ir diu mir sô betwinget den muot.

me after her who to-me so compels the spirit.

ich singe unde sunge, betwunge ich die guoten

I sing and would-sing, compelled I the good-one

daz mir ir güete baz tete. sîst guot.

that to-me her goodness better did. she-is good.

Hartwig von Raute

Seven strophes. He worries whether his friends at home think as well of him as he does of them; he sees that no one can serve the emperor and women both, and leaves the emperor to his good fortune; he is bound like a man who cannot act as he wishes, and at the sight of her he stands ready to leap to her.

Mir tuot ein sorge wê in mînem muote

To-me does a care pain in my spirit

116,1

die ich hin hein ze lieben friunden hân:

which I away home to dear friends have:

obs iender dâ gedenken mîn ze guote

whether-they anywhere there think of-me in good

als ich ir hie mit triuwen hân getân.

as I to-them here with faithfulness have done.

si solte mich durch got geniezen lân

she should me for God profit let

daz ich ie bin gewesen in grôzer huote

that I ever have been in great guarding

dazs iemer kunne valsch an mir verstân.

so-that-she ever could falseness in me perceive.

Swer wænet daz mîn trûren habe ein ende,

Whoever thinks that my mourning has an end,

dern weiz niht waz mir an dem herzen lît:

he knows not what to-me on the heart lies:

ein kumber den mir niemen kan erwenden,

an affliction which for-me no-one can turn-away,

ez tæte danne ir minneclîcher lîp.

it would-do then her lovely body.

die sorge hân ich leider âne strît

the care have I alas without dispute

sine welle mir ir boten senden,

unless-she will to-me her messenger send,

dem ich erwartetet hân vor maniger zît.

for-whom I waited have for many-a time.

Swie mir der tôt vast ûf dem rugge wære

However to-me the death firmly on the back were

unde dar zuo manic ungemach,

and there to many-a discomfort,

sô wart mîn wille nie deich si verbære,

yet was my will never that-I her would-forgo,

swie nâhen ich den tôt bî mir gesach.

however near I the death by me saw.

dâ manic man der sünden sîn verjach,

where many-a man of-the sins his confessed,

dô was daz mîn aller meistiu swære

then was that my of-all greatest grief

daz mir genâde nie von ir geschach.

that to-me favor never from her happened.

116,22 Ich sihe wol daz dem keiser und den wîben

I see well that to-the emperor and to-the women

mit ein ander niemen dienen mac.

with one another no-one serve can.

des wil ich in mit Sælden lân belîben:

of-that will I him with Fortune let remain:

er hât mich zin versûmet manigen tac.

he has me from-them delayed many-a day.

Ich bin gebunden

I am bound

zallen stunden

at-all hours

als ein man

as a man

der niht enkan

who not can

gebâren nâch dem willen sîn.

behave according-to the will his.

daz mac si gebüezen diu mich twinget

that may she amend who me compels

daz mîn munt singet

that my mouth sings

manigen swæren tac:

many-a heavy day:

wan ich enmac

for I can

niht geruowen, ich enkome ir nâhe bî

not rest, I unless-come to-her near by

sô daz ich ir gesagen müeze waz mîn wille sî.

so that I to-her say may what my will be.

daz eine mac mir sorge wenden,

that alone can for-me care turn-away,

si kan mit leide anevân und mit vröiden enden.

she can with sorrow begin and with joys end.

117,14 Ich wil versuochen

I will try

ob si geruochen

whether she deign

welle daz ich sinne

will that I strive

nâch ir minne

after her love

langer danne ich hân getân. enphâhet sîz ze guote,

longer than I have done. (if)-receives she-it in good,

sô stîgt mîn fröide gegen der wunneclîcher zît

then rises my joy toward the delightful time

und wirt mir sô wol ze muote

and becomes to-me so well in spirit

daz ez wunder wære

that it a-wonder were

obe mîn herze daz verbære

if my heart that would-forbear

daz ez von vröiden zuo den himelen niht ensprunge

that it from joys to the heavens — should-spring

und von sô süezer handelunge

and from so sweet treatment

ein hôhez niuwez liet in süezer wîse sunge.

a high new song in sweet melody would-sing.

117,26 Als ich sihe daz beste wîp,

When I see the best woman,

wie kûme ich daz verbir

how hardly I that forgo

daz ich niht umbevâhe ir reinen lîp

that I not embrace her pure body

und twinge si ze mir.

and press her to me.

ich stân dicke ze sprunge als ich welle dar

I stand often at the-leap as-if I wished thither

sô si mir sô suoze vor gestêt.

when she to-me so sweetly before stands.

næme sîn al diu werlt war,

should-take of-it all the world heed,

sô mich der minnende unsin ane gêt,

when me the loving madness upon comes,

ich möhte sîn niht verlân,

I could it not leave,

der sprunc wurde getân,

the leap would-be done,

trût ich bî ir einer hulde durch disen unsin bestân.

trusted I with her alone in-goodwill through this madness to-remain.

Bligger von Steinach

Six strophes. He laments an old grief as though it were new. He marks a wonder in glass, that because of its hardness it cannot hold its shape a whole day, and says the same wonder is seen in people: whoever keeps his goods without bounty or shame is thrown down by that very hardness.

- 118,1 Mîn alte swære die klage ich für niuwe,
My old grief it lament I as new,
wan si getwanc mich sô harte nie mê.
for it compelled me so hard never more.
ich weiz wol durch waz si mir tuot sô wê:
I know well for what it to-me does so pain:
daz mich sîn verdrieze und diu nôt mich geriuwe
that me of-it weary and the distress me rue
die ich hâte ûf trôstlichen wân.
which I had upon comforting expectation.
nein, ich enmac noch enlât mich mîn triuwe.
no, I can-not nor lets me my faithfulness.
swie schiere uns aber diu sumerzît zergê,
however soon to-us however the summertime pass-away,
des wurde rât, mües ich ir hulde hân.
of-that would-come remedy, might I her goodwill have.
die næme ich für loup unde für klê.
that would-take I for foliage and for clover.

Ich getar niht vor den liuten gebâren

I dare not before the people behave

als ez mir stât. dûhtez ir einen guot,

as it to-me stands. seemed-it of-them one good,

dâ bî sint vier den mîn leit sanfte tuot.
there by are four to-whom my sorrow softly does.

boese unde guote gescheiden ie wâren:
base and good parted ever were:

der site müeze ouch lancstæte sîn.
that custom must also long-lasting be.

ir beider willen kan niemen gevâren:
their both will can no-one satisfy:

wan er ist unwert, swer vor nîde ist behuot.
for he is unworthy, whoever from envy is guarded.

si haben in daz ir unde lân mir daz mîn
they have for-them that theirs and leave me that mine

und sweme dâ gelinge, der sî wol gemuot.
and to-whom there succeed, he be well minded.

Er funde guten kouf an mînen jâren,
He would-find good bargain in my years,

118,19

der âne vröide wolte werden alt,
who without joy would become old,

wan si mir leider ie unnütze wâren.
for they to-me alas ever useless were.

umb einez daz wær als ein trôst gestalt
for one-thing which were like a comfort shaped

geb ich ir driu. sô vorhte ich den gewalt.
give I of-them three. so feared I the violence.

des gêt mir nôt. wie sol ein man gebâren
of-that goes to-me need. how shall a man behave

der âne reht ie sîner triuwe engalt?
who without right ever for-bis faithfulness paid?

118,26 Befunde ich noch waz für die grôzen swære,
Discovered I still what for the great grief,
 die ich nu lange an mînem herzen hân,
which I now long on my heart have,
 bezzer danne ein stæter dienest wære,
better than a constant service were,
 des wurde ein michel teil von mir getân.
of-that would-become a great part by me done.
 hulf ez mich iht, sô wære daz mîn wân,
helped it me anything, so were that my expectation,
 swer alliu wîp durch eine gar verbære,
whoever all women for one wholly should-forgo,
 daz man in des geniezen solte lân.
that one him of-that profit should let.

Ich funde noch die schœnen bî dem Rîne
I would-find still the fair-one by the Rhine
 von der mir ist daz herze sêre wunt
from whom to-me is the heart sorely wounded
 michels harter danne ez an mir schîne
much harder than it on me appears
 ... wurde ir mîn swære kunt,
(lacuna) should-become to-her my grief known,
 diu mir ist alse Dômas Saladîne
who to-me is as Damascus to-Saladin
 und lieber möhte sîn wol tûsend stunt.
and dearer might be well a-thousand times.

119,13 Ich merke ein wunder an dem glase, daz niht von herte mac
I mark a wonder on the glass, which not from hardness can
 gewern an sîner stæte einen ganzen tac.
last in its constancy one whole day.

dan ist diu herte niht bewart.

then is the hardness not preserved.

wær ez ze mâze herte, ez stüende vaster.

were it in measure hard, it would-stand firmer.

daz selbe wunder siht man an den liuten, wæne ich, same.

the same wonder sees one in the people, think I, likewise.

swer âne milte guotes pfligt und âne schame,

whoever without bounty goods keeps and without shame,

den wirfets in vil swinder art

him throws-it in very swift manner

in einen schaden und in ein êwic laster.

into a harm and into an eternal disgrace.

des mannes sterke wære guot

of-the man strength were good

die er ze rehten dingen lieze schînen.

which he to right things should-let shine.

so ist aber menger sô gemuot

so is however many-a-one so minded

daz er der geste haz bejaget und leidet sich den sînen.

that he the guests' hatred hunts and makes-bateful himself to-the his.

sol des êre lange wern, daz muoz ein wunder wesen.

(if)-shall of-that honor long last, that must a wonder be.

ich engehôrte nie gesagen

I heard never tell

dazz ie geschæhe noch enhâns ouch niht gelesen.

that-it ever would-happen nor have-I-it also at-all read.

Heinrich von Morungen

A hundred and thirteen strophes, second in the book only to Reinmar's. Her bright eyes kindle him as fire kindles dry tinder; she came in through his unbroken eyes without a door; he wishes he were as close to her as the little bird she keeps; and in a dawn song he and the lady each recall a night of love that ended with the day.

- 122,1 Si ist zallen êren ein wîp wol erkant,
She is in-all honors a woman well known,
schœner gebærde, mit zûhten gemeit,
of-fair bearing, with courtesies joyous,
sô daz ir lop in dem rîche umbe gêt.
so that her praise in the realm about goes.
alse der mâne vil verre über lant
as the moon very far over land
liuhtet des nahtes wol lieht unde breit
shines of-the night well bright and broad
sô daz sîn schîn al die werlt umbevât,
so that its shine all the world embraces,
als ist mit güete umbevangen diu schône;
so is with goodness embraced the fair-one;
des man ir giht, sîst aller wîbe ein krône.
of-that one to-her attributes, she-is of-all women a crown.

Diz lop beginnet vil frouwen versmân,
This praise begins many ladies to-displease,
daz ich die mîne fûr alle andriu wîp
that I the mine before all other women
hân zeiner krône gesetzt sô hô,
have as-a crown set so high,

unde ich der dehein ûz gnomen hân.

and I of-them none out taken have.

doch ist vil lûter vor valsche ir der lîp,

yet is very pure from falseness to-her the person,

smal wol ze mâze, vil fier unde frô.

slender well in measure, very proud and glad.

des muoz ich in ir genâden belîben,

of-that must I in her favors remain,

gebiutet si sô, mîn liep vor allen wîben.

commands she so, my love before all women.

Got lâze si mir vil lange gesunt,

God let her to-me very long healthy,

die ich an wîplicher stæte noch ie vant,

whom I in womanly constancy still ever found,

sît si mîn lîp zeiner frouwen erkôs.

since her my person as-a lady chose.

wol ir vil süezer! vil rôet ist ir der munt,

bail to-her very sweet-one! very red is to-her the mouth,

ir zene wîz ebene vil verre bekant,

her teeth white even very far known,

durch die ich gar alle unstæte verkôs,

for whom I wholly all inconstancy renounced,

dô man si lopte alsô reine unde wîse,

when one her praised so pure and wise,

senfte unde lôs; dar umbe ich si noch prîse.

gentle and gracious; there for I her still praise.

Ir tugent reine ist der sunnen gelîch,

Her virtue pure is to-the sun like,

diu trûebiu wolken tuot liehte gevar,

which troubled clouds makes bright of-color,

swenne in dem meien ir schîn ist sô klâr.

whenever in the May its shine is so clear.

des wirde ich stæter fröide vil rîch,

of-that become I of-constant joy very rich,

daz überliuhtet ir lop alsô gar

that outshines her praise so wholly

wîp unde frouwen die besten für wâr,

women and ladies the best for true,

die man benennet in tiuschem lande.

whom one names in German land.

verre ader nâr sôst siz diu baz erkande.

far or near so-is she-it the better known.

123,10 Mîn êrste und ouch mîn leste

My first and also my last

fröide was ein wîp,

joy was a woman,

der ich mînen lîp

to-whom I my body

bôt ze dienest iemer mê.

offered for service ever more.

diu hôhste und ouch diu beste

the highest and also the best

in dem herzen mîn,

in the heart mine,

seht, daz muoz si sîn,

see, that must she be,

der ich selten frô beste.

by-whom I seldom glad remain.

ir tuot leider wê

to-her does alas pain

al mîn sprechen und mîn singen:

all my speaking and my singing:

des muoz ich an fröiden mich nu twingen
of-that must I in joys myself now restrain
 unde trûren swar ich gê.
and mourn wherever I go.

Wær ir mit mîme sange
Were to-her with my song
 wol, sô sunge ich ir:
well, then would-sing I to-her:
 sus verbôt siz mir,
thus forbade she-it me,
 wan ir tæte mîn swîgen baz.
for to-her should-do my silence better.
 nu swîge ab ich ze lange:
now am-silent however I too long:
 solde ich singen mê,
should I sing more,
 daz tæt ich als ê.
that would-do I as before.
 wie stêt mîner frouwen daz,
how stands to-my lady that,
 daz si sich vergaz,
that she herself forgot,
 und versagte mir ir hulde?
and refused me her goodwill?
 ôwê des, wie rehte unsanfte ich dulde
alas of-that, how truly harshly I endure
 beide ir spot und ouch ir haz!
both her mockery and also her hatred!

Nu râtet, liebe frouwen,

Now counsel, dear ladies,

waz ich singen muge

what I sing may

sô daz ez ir tuge.

so that it to-her avail.

sanc ist âne fröide kranc.

song is without joy weak.

mir wart niht wan ein schouwen

to-me was nothing but a look

von ir, und der gruoze,

from her, and the greeting,

den si teilen muoz

whiche she share must

al der werlte sunder danc.

to-all the world without thanks.

diu zît ist ze lanc

the time is too long

âne fröide und âne wunne:

without joy and without delight:

nu wol dar, swer mich gelêren kunne

now well then, whoever me teach could

daz ich singe niuwen sanc.

that I sing new song.

Vil wîplîch wîp, nu wende

Very womanly woman, now turn

mîne sende klage,

my longing lament,

die ich tougen trage,

whiche I secretly bear,

du weist wol wie lange zît.

thou knowest well how long a-time.

ein sælden rîchez ende,

a of-fortune rich end,

wirt mir daz von dir,

(if)-comes to-me that from thee,

sô siht man an mir

then sees one in me

fröide ân allen widerstrît,

joy without all opposition,

sît daz an dir lît

since that on thee lies

mînes herzen hôhgemüete.

of-my heart the-high-spirit.

maht du trœsten mich dur wîbes güete,

canst thou comfort me through woman's goodness,

sît dîn trôst mir fröide gât?

since thy comfort to-me joy gives?

Ich sihe wol daz mîn frouwe

I see well that my lady

mir ist vil gehaz:

to-me is very hostile:

doch versuoche ichz baz,

yet try I-it better,

ich verdiene ir werden gruoz.

I earn her worthy greeting.

des ich ir wol getrouwe,

of-that I to-her well trust,

daz hât si versworn.

that has she forsworn.

ir ist leider zorn

to-her is alas anger

daz ichz der werlte künden muoz,

that I-it to-the world announce must,

daz ich niemer fuoz

that I never a-foot

von ir dienste mich gescheide,

from her service myself part,

es kom mir ze liebe adir ze leide.

it come to-me to love or to sorrow.

lîhte wirt mir swære buoz.

perhaps comes to-me of-grief remedy.

124,32 Het ich tugende niht sô vil von ir vernomen

Had I of-virtues not so much from her heard

unde ir schoene niht sô vil gesehen,

and her beauty not so much seen,

wie wære si mir danne alsô ze herzen komen?

how were she to-me then so to heart come?

ich muoz iemer dem gelîche spehen,

I must ever to-that alike observe,

als der mâne sînen schîn

as the moon its shine

von des sunnen schîn enpfât:

from the sun's shine receives:

alsô kument mir dicke

so come to-me often

ir wol liechten ougen blicke

her very bright eyes' glances

in mîn herze, dâ si vor mir gât.

into my heart, where she before me goes.

Kument ir liechten ougen in daz herze mîn,

(if)-Come her bright eyes into the heart mine,

sô kumt mir diu nôt daz ich muoz klagen.

then comes to-me the distress that I must lament.

solde ab ieman an im selben schuldic sîn,
should however anyone toward him self guilty be,
 sô het ich mich selben selbe erslagen,
then had I myself self self slain,
 dô ichs in mîn herze nam
when I-her into my heart took
 unde ich si vil gerne sach,
and I her very gladly saw,
 noch gerner danne ich solde,
still more-gladly than I should,
 und ich des niht mîden wolde,
and I of-that not refrain would,
 in hôhte ir lop, swâ manz vor mir gesprach.
unless-I raised her praise, wherever one-it before me spoke.

Mîme kinde wil ich erben dise nôt
To-my child will I bequeath this distress
 und diu klagenden leit diuch hân von ir.
and the lamenting sorrows which-I have from her.
 wænet si dan ledic sîn, ob ich bin tôt,
(if)-thinks she then free to-be, if I am dead,
 ich lâz einen trôst doch hinder mir,
I leave a comfort yet behind me,
 daz noch schœne wirt mîn sun,
that still fair becomes my son,
 daz er wunder an ir begê
that he wonders on her commit
 alsô daz er mich reche
so that he me avenge
 und ir herze gar zerbreche,
and her heart wholly break,
 sô sin alsô rehte schônen sê.
when she-him so truly fair sees.

125,19 In sô hôher swebender wunne
In so high floating delight
 sô gestuont mîn herze an fröiden nie.
so stood my heart in joys never.
 ich var also ich fliegen kunne
I go as-if I fly could
 mit gedanken iemer umbe sie,
with thoughts ever about her,
 sît daz mich ir trôst enpfie,
since that me her comfort received,
 der mir durch die sêle mîn
which to-me through the soul mine
 mitten in daz herze gie.
right into the heart went.

Swaz ich wunneclîches schouwe,
Whatever I of-delightful behold,
 daz spil gegen der wunne die ich hân.
that play against the delight which I have.
 luft und erde, walt und ouwe,
air and earth, wood and meadow,
 suln die zît der fröide mîn enpfân.
shall the time of-the joy mine receive.
 mir ist komen ein hügender wân
to-me is come a rejoicing expectation
 und ein wunneclîcher trôst,
and a delightful comfort,
 des mîn muot sol hôhe stân.
of-which my spirit shall high stand.

Wol dem wunneclîchen mære,
Hail to-the delightful tiding,
 daz sô suoze durch mîn ôre erklauc,
which so sweetly through my ear rang,
 und der sanfte tuonder swære,
and to-the softly doing grief,
 diu mit fröiden in mîn herze sanc,
which with joys into my heart sank,
 dâ von mir ein wunne entspranc,
there from to-me a delight sprang,
 diu vor liebe alsam ein tou
which for love as a dew
 mir ûz von den ougen dranc.
to-me out from the eyes pressed.

Sælic sî diu süeze stunde,
Blessed be the sweet hour,
 sælic sî diu zît, der werde tac,
blessed be the time, the worthy day,
 dô daz wort gie von ir munde,
when the word went from her mouth,
 daz dem herzen mîn sô nâhen lac,
which to-the heart mine so near lay,
 daz mîn lîp von fröide erschrac,
that my person from joy was-startled,
 und enweiz von liebe joch
and know-not from love indeed
 waz ich vor ir sprechen mac.
what I before her speak may.

126,8 Von den elben wirt entsên vil manic man:
By the elves is bewitched very many-a man:
 sô bin ich von grôzer liebe entsên
so am I by great love bewitched
 von der besten die ie kein man liep gewan.
by the best whom ever any man as-love won.
 wil si aber mich dar umbe vân,
(if)-will she however me there for catch,
 mir ze unstaten stên, mac si dan rechen sich,
to-me to disadvantage stand, may she then avenge herself,
 tuo des ich si bite: sô frewet si sô mich,
do what I her ask: then gladdens she so me,
 daz ich dan vor liebe muoz zergên.
that I then for love must perish.

Sie gebiutet und ist in dem herzen mîn
She commands and is in the heart mine
 frouwe und hêrer danne ich selbe sî:
lady and lordlier than I myself am:
 hei wan solt ich ir noch sô gevangen sîn
hey if-only should I to-her still so captive be
 daz si mir mit triuwen wære bî
that she to-me with faithfulness were by
 ganzer tage drî und eteslîche naht!
whole days three and some night!
 sôn verlûr ich niht den lîp und al die maht.
so would-lose I not the life and all the strength.
 nu ist si leider vor mir alze frî.
now is she alas from me all-too free.

Mich entzündet ir vil liechter ougen schîn

Me kindles her very bright eyes' shine

same daz fiur den durren zunder tuot,

as the fire the dry tinder does,

und ir fremeden krenket mir daz herze mîn

and her estrangement weakens for-me the heart mine

same daz wazzer die vil heize gluot:

as the water the very hot glow:

und ir hôher muot, ir schœne, ir werdecheit,

and her high spirit, her beauty, her worthiness,

und daz wunder daz man von ir tugenden seit,

and the wonder which one of her virtues tells,

deist mir übel und ouch lihte guot.

that-is to-me ill and also perhaps good.

Swenne ir liechten ougen sô verkêrent sich

Whenever her bright eyes so turn themselves

daz si mir aldurch mîn herze sên,

that they to-me all-through my heart see,

swer dâ enzwischen danne stêt und irret mich,

whoever there between then stands and hinders me,

dem müez al sîn wunne gar zergên,

to-him must all his delight wholly ebb,

wan ich danne stân und warte der frouwen mîn

for I then stand and wait-for the lady mine

rehte alsô des tages diu kleinen vogellîn:

just as of-the day the little birdlings:

wenne sol mir iemer lieb geschên?

when shall to-me ever love happen?

- 127,1 Wist ich obe ez möhte wol verswigen sîn,
Knew I whether it might well kept-silent be,
 ich lieze iuch sên mîne lieben frouwen.
I would-let you see my dear lady.
 der enzwei gebræche mir daz herze mîn,
whoever in-two broke to-me the heart mine,
 der möhte sie schône drinne schouwen.
he might her fairly therein behold.
 si kam her dur diu ganzen ougen sunder tür gegangen:
she came here through the whole eyes without door walked:
 ôwê, solt ich von ir reinen minnen sîn alsô werdeclîche enpfangen!
alas, should I from her pure love be so worthily received!

- 127,12 Der sô lange rüeft in einen touben walt,
He-who so long calls into a deaf wood,
 ez antwürt ime dar ûz eteswenne.
it answers him there out-of sometimes.
 nu ist diu klage dicke vor ir manicvalt
now is the lament often before her manifold
 von mîner nôt, swie sis niht erkenne.
of my distress, although she-it not recognizes.
 doch klaget ir maneger mînen kumber vil dicke mit gesange:
yet laments to-her many-a-one my affliction very often with song:
 jâ hât si geslâfen allez her ader geswigen alze lange.
indeed has she slept all along or kept-silent all-too long.

Wær ein sitich ader ein star, die mohten sît
Were a parrot or a starling, they might since
 gelernet hân daz si spræchen 'Minne',
learned have that they would-speak 'Love',
 ich hân ir gedienet her vil lange zît:
I have her served hitherto very long time:

mac si sich doch mîner rede versinnen

may she yet herself of-my speech bethink

nein si, niht, got enwelle ein wunder vil verre an ir erzeigen.

no she, not, God unless-will a wonder very far on her show.

jâ möht ich baz einen boum mit mîner

indeed might I sooner a tree with my

bete sunder wâpen nider geneigen.

request without weapons down bend.

Ez ist site der nahtegal,

It is custom of-the nightingale,

127,34

swan si ir lieb volendet, sô geswîget sie.

when she her love completes, then falls-silent she.

durch daz volge ab ich der swal,

for that follow however I the swallow,

diu liez durch liebe noch durch leide ir singen nie.

which left for love or for sorrow her singing never.

sît daz ich nu singen sol,

since that I now sing shall,

sô mac ich von schulden sprechen wol

so may I with cause speak well

‘ôwê

‘alas

daz ich ie sô vil gebat

that I ever so much begged

und gevlêhte an eine stat

and entreated at one place

dâ ich gnâden nienen sê.’

where I of-favors not-at-all see.’

Swîge ich unde singe niet,

(if)-Am-silent I and sing not,

sô sprechent si daz mir mîn singen zæme baz.

then say they that to-me my singing would-befit better.

spriche ab ich und singe ein liet,

(if)-speak however I and sing a song,

sô muoz ich dulden beide ir spot und ouch ir haz.

then must I endure both her mockery and also her hatred.

wie sol man den nu geleben

how shall one for-them now live

die dem man mit schœner rede vergeben?

who to-the man with fair speech poison?

ôwê

alas

daz in ie sô wol gelanc

that for-them ever so well succeeded

und ich lie dur si mîn sanc!

and I left for them my song!

ich wil singen aber als ê.

I will sing again as before.

Owê mîner besten zît

Alas for-my best time

und owê mîner liechten wunneclîchen tage!

and alas for-my bright delightful days!

waz der an ir dienste lît!

what of-them in her service lies!

nu jâmert mich vil maneger senelîcher klage,

now grieves me very many-a longing lament,

di si hât von mir vernomen

which she has from me heard

und ir nie ze herzen kunde komen.

and to-her never to heart could come.

ôwê

alas

mîniu gar verlornen jâr

my wholly lost years

diu geriuwent mich für wâr:

they rue me for true:

in verklage si niemer mê.

I lament-away them never more.

Lachen unde schœnez sehen

Laughing and fair seeing

128,25

und guot gelæze hât ertöret lange mich.

and good bearing has befooled long me.

mir ist anders niht geschehen:

to-me is otherwise nothing happened:

swer mich ruemens zîhen wil, der sündet sich.

whoever me of-boasting accuse will, he sins himself.

ich hân sorgen vil gepflegen

I have cares much practiced

unde frouwen selten bî gelegen.

and ladies seldom by lain.

ôwê,

alas,

wan daz ich si gerne sach

but that I her gladly saw

und in ie daz beste sprach,

and of-them ever the best spoke,

mir enwart ir nie niht mê.

to-me became of-them never anything more.

Ez ist niht daz tiure sî,

It is nothing that dear be,

man habe ez deste werder, wan getriuwen man:

one hold it the worthier, but a-faithful man:

der ist leider swære bî.

he is alas hard near.

er ist verlorn, swer nu niht wan mit triuwen kan.

he is lost, whoever now nothing but with faithfulness can.

des wart ich vil wol gewar,

of-that became I very well aware,

wand ich ie mit triuwen diene dar.

for I ever with faithfulness served there.

ôwê

alas

daz ich triuwen nie genôz!

that I of-faithfulness never profited!

des stên ich an fröiden blôz.

of-that stand I in joys bare.

iedoch diene ich, swiez ergê.

yet serve I, however-it goes.

129,5 Ob ich si dûhte hulden wert,

If I to-her seemed of-goodwill worth,

sôn möhte mir zer werlte lieber niht geschên.

so might to-me in-the world dearer nothing happen.

het ich an got sît gnâden gert,

had I from God since of-favors desired,

sîn kônden nâch dem tôde niemer mich vergên.

they could after the death never me fail.

herumbe ich niemer doch verzage,

therefore I never yet despair,

ir lop ir êre unz an mîn ende ich sage.

her praise her honor until to my end I say.

waz op si sich bedenket baz?

what if she herself bethinks better?

und tæte si vil liebe daz,

and should-do she for love that,

sô verbære ich alle klage.

then would-forgo I all lament.

Sach ieman die frouwen

Saw anyone the lady

in dem venster stân?

in the window stand?

diu tuot mich âne

she makes me without

si liuhtet sam der sunne tuot

she shines as the sun does

ê was si verborgen:

before was she hidden:

die wil ich nu lân.

those will I now leave.

die man mac schouwen

whom one may behold

diu vil wolgetâne

the very well-made-one

sorgen die ich hân.

cares which I have.

gegen dem liechten morgen.

toward the bright morning.

dô muost ich sorgen:

then had-to I care:

Ist ab ieman hinne,

Is however anyone within,

her behalten habe?

hitherto kept has?

diu mit ir krônen

who with her crown

daz si mir ze trôste kome,

that she to-me for comfort come,

diu liebe und diu leide

the love and the sorrow

fürdern hin ze grabe.

to-hasten away to grave.

der sîne sinne

who his senses

der gê nâch der schônen,

he go after the fair-one,

gie von hinnen abe;

went from here away;

ê daz ich verscheide:

before that I pass-away:

wellen mich beide

wish me both

129,14

Man sol schriben kleine

One shall write small

der mîn grap bevât,

which my grave covers,

und ich ir unsmære;

and I to-her indifferently;

daz der lese dise nôt

that he read this distress

der vil grôzen sünde

of-the very great sin

her begangen hât.

hitherto committed has.

reht ûf dem steine

right upon the stone

wie lieb si mir wære,

how dear she to-me were,

swer dan über mich gât,

whoever then over me goes,

und gewinne künde

and gain knowledge

dies an ir fründe

which-she against her friend

130,9 Sine hiez mir noch nie widersagen,

She bade me still never to-renounce,

unde warb iedoch

and strove nonetheless

unde wirbet hiute ûf den schaden mîn.

and strives today upon the harm mine.

des enmac ich langer niht verdagen:

of-that can I longer not keep-silent:

wan si wil ie noch

for she wants ever still

elliu lant beheren als ein rouberîn.

all lands to-lay-waste as a robber-woman.

daz machent alle ir tugende und ir schœene,

that make all her virtues and her beauty,

die vil mangem man tuont wê.

which very many-a man do woe.

der si an siht,

whoever her upon looks,

der muoz ir gevangen sîn

he must her captive be

und in sorgen leben iemer mê.

and in cares live ever more.

In den dingen ich ir eigenman

In the things I her own-man

und ir dienst was dô,

and her service was then,

dô ich si dur triuwe und dur guot an sach, ô.

when I her through faithfulness and through good upon looked, oh.

dô kam si mich mit ir minnen an

then came she me with her love upon

und vienc mich alsô,

and captured me so,

dô si mich wol gruozte und wider mich sô sprach.

when she me well greeted and toward me so spoke.

des bin ich an fröiden siech

of-that am I in joys sick

und an herzen sêre wunt.

and in heart sorely wounded.

ir ougen klâr

her eyes clear

diu hânt mich beroubet ...

they have me robbed (lacuna)

und ir rôsevarwer rôter munt.

and her rose-colored red mouth.

Ich hân si für alliu wîp

I have her before all women

mir ze frouwen und ze liebe erkorn.

for-me as lady and as love chosen.

minneclîch ist ir der lîp.

lovely is to-her the body.

seht, durch daz sô hab ich des gesworn,

see, for that so have I of-that sworn,

daz mir in der welte niht

that to-me in the world nothing

niemer solde lieber sîn:

never should dearer be:

swenn aber si mîn ouge an siht,

whenever however her my eye upon looks,

sô tagt ez in dem herzen mîn.

then dawns it in the heart mine.

‘Owê des scheidens des er tete

Alas for-the parting which he did

von mir, dô er mich vil senende lie:

from me, when he me very longing left:

wol aber mich der lieben bete

bail however me for-the dear request

und des weinens des er dô begie,

and for-the weeping which he then practiced,

dô er mich trûren lâzen bat

when he me mourning to-leave asked

und hiez mich in fröiden sîn.

and bade me in joys be.

von sînen trehenen wart ich nat

by his tears was I wet

und erkuolte iedoch daz herze mîn.’

and cooled nonetheless the heart mine.’

Der durch sîne unsælicheit

He-who through his unblestness

iemer arges iht von ir gesage,

ever of-evil anything of her tells,

dem müez allez wesen leit,

to-him must all be grievous,

swaz er minne und daz im wol behage.

whatever he love and what him well pleases.

ich fluoche in unde schadet in niht,

I curse them and harms them not,

dur die ich ir muoz frömede sîn:

for whom I from-her must estranged be:

als aber si mîn ouge an siht,

as however her my eye upon looks,

sô taget ez in dem herzen mîn.

then dawns it in the heart mine.

‘Owê waz wîzents einem man

‘Alas what reproach-they to-a man

der nie frouwen leit noch arc gesprach

who never of-ladies sorrow nor evil spoke

und in aller êren gan?

and to-them all honors grants?

durch daz muoet mich sîn ungemach,

for that troubles me his discomfort,

daz si in sô schône gruozent wal

that they him so fairly greet well

unde zuo im redende gânt

and to him speaking go

und in doch als einen bal

and him yet as a ball

mit böesen worten umbe slânt.’

with base words about strike.’

131,25 Ich bin iemer ander und niht eine
I am ever other and not alone
 der grôzen liebe der ich nie wart frî.
of-the great love of-which I never became free.
 wæren nu die huotere algemeine
were now the guardians all-together
 toup und blint, swenn ich ir wære bî,
deaf and blind, whenever I to-her were by,
 sô moht ich mîn leit
then might I my sorrow
 eteswenne mit geläze ir künden
sometimes with bearing to-her make-known
 unde mich mit rede zuo ir gefrunden,
and myself with speech to her befriending,
 sô wurde ir wonders vil von mir geseit.
then would-be to-her of-wonders much by me told.

132,3 Mîner ougen tougenlîchez spehen,
Of-my eyes secret gazing,
 daz ich ze boten an si senden muoz,
which I as messenger to her send must,
 daz neme durch got von mir für ein flêhen,
that take for God from me as an entreaty,
 und ob si lache, daz sî mir ein gruoz.
and if she laugh, that be to-me a greeting.
 ichn weiz wer dâ sanc
I-not know who there sang
 'ein sitich und ein star ân alle sinne
'a parrot and a starling without all senses
 wol gelernten daz sie sprâchen Minne':
well learned that they spoke Love':
 wol sprechent siz und habent es niemer danc.
well speak they-it and have of-it never thanks.

Wolte si mîn denken für daz sprechen
Would she my thinking for the speaking

und mîn trûren für die klage verstân,
and my mourning for the lament understand,

sô mües im, der niuwen rede, gebrechen.
then must for-him, of-the new speech, be-lacking.

owê daz iemen sol für fuoge hân
alas that anyone shall for propriety hold

daz er sêre klage
that he sorely lament

daz er doch von herzen niht enmeinet
what he yet from heart not means

als der eine trûret unde weinet
as he-who alone mourns and weeps

und er sîn niemen niene kan gesagen.
and he it to-no-one at-all can tell.

Siene sol niht allen liuten lachen
She shall not to-all people laugh

alsô von herzen same si lachet mir,
so from heart just-as she laughs to-me,

und ir an sehen sô minneclîch niht machen.
and her upon seeing so lovely not make.

waz habet ieman ze schouwen daz an ir,
what has anyone to behold that on her,

der ich leben sol
for-whom I live shall

und an der ist al mîn wunne behalten?
and in whom is all my delight kept?

jâne wil ich niemer des eralten,
indeed will I never of-that grow-old,

swenn ich si sihe, mirn sî von herzen wol.
whenever I her see, unless-to-me be from heart well.

Sît si herzeliebe heizent minne,

Since they heart's-love call love,

so enweiz ich wie diu leide heizen sol.

so know-not I how the sorrow be-called shall.

herzeliebe wont in mînem sinne:

heart's-love dwells in my mind:

liep hæ̃t ich gerne, leide enbære ich wol.

love had I gladly, sorrow would-forgo I well.

liebe diu gît mir

love it gives me

hôhen muot, dar zuo freud unde wunne:

high spirit, there to joy and delight:

sône weiz ich waz diu leide kunne,

so-not know I what the sorrow can,

wan daz ich iemer trûren muoz von ir.

but that I ever mourn must from her.

Ist ir lieb mîn leit und ungemach,

(if)-Is to-her dear my sorrow and discomfort,

wie solt ich dan iemer mêre rehte werden frô?

how should I then ever more rightly become glad?

sine getrûrte nie, swaz mir geschach:

she mourned never, whatever to-me happened:

klaget ich ir mîn jâmer, sô stuont ir daz herze hô.

lamented I to-her my misery, then stood to-her the heart high.

sîst noch hiute vor den ougen mîn als si was dô

she-is still today before the eyes mine as she was then

dô si minneclîche mir zuo sprach

when she lovingly to-me to spoke

und ichs ane sach.

and I-her upon looked.

ôwê solte ich iemer stên alsô.

alas should I ever stand so.

Si hât liep ein kleine vogellîn,

She has dear a little birdling,

daz ir singet und ein lützel nâch ir sprechen kan:

which to-her sings and a little after her speak can:

müest ich dem gelîche ir heimlich sîn,

must I that likewise to-her intimate be,

sô swüere ich des wol daz nie frouwe solchen vogel gewan.

then would-swear I of-that well that never a-lady such a-bird won.

für die nahtegal wolt ich ir hôhe singen dan:

before the nightingale would I to-her high sing then:

‘schœne, liebe frouwe mîn,

‘fair, dear lady mine,

nu bin ich doch dîn:

now am I yet thine:

mahtu trœsten mich vil senenden man?

canst-thou comfort me very longing man?

Sîst mit tugenden und mit werdecheit

She-is with virtues and with worthiness

sô behuot vor aller slahte unvrowelîcher tât,

so guarded from all kind of-unwomanly deed,

wan des einen daz si mir verseit

except the one that she to-me refuses

ir genâde und mînen dienst sô verderben lât.

her favor and my service so perish lets.

wol mich des daz si mîn herze sô besezen hât

hail me of-that that she my heart so occupied has

daz der stat dâ nieman wirt bereit

that of-the place there no-one becomes ready

als ein hâr sô breit,

as a hair so broad,

swenne ir rehtiu liebe mich bestât.

whenever her true love me besets.

- 133,13 Leitliche blicke und grôzlîche riuwe
Grievous glances and great rue
 hânt mir daz herze und den lîp nâch verlorn.
have to-me the heart and the body nearly lost.
 mîn alte nôt die klagte ich für niuwe,
my old distress it lamented I as new,
 wan daz ich fürhte der schimpfære zorn.
but that I fear the mockers' anger.
 singe ab ich durch die diu mich frôwete hie bevorn,
(if)-sing however I for her who me gladdened here before,
 sô velsche durch got nieman mîne triuwe,
so impugn for God no-one my faithfulness,
 wan ich durch sanc bin zer welte geborn.
for I for song am to-the world born.

Manger der sprichet 'nu sêt wie der singet!

Many-a-one he says 'now see how he sings!

wêr im iht leit, er têt anders dan sô.'

were to-him anything grievous, he would-do otherwise than so.'

der mac niht wizzen waz mich leides twinget:

he can not know what me of-sorrow compels:

nu tuon ab ich reht als ich tet aldô.

now do however I right as I did then.

dô ich in leide stuont, dô huop ich si gar unhô.

when I in sorrow stood, then esteemed I her wholly not-high.

diz ist ein nôt diu mich sanges betwinget:

this is a distress which me to-song compels:

sorge ist unwert dâ die liute sint frô.

care is unworthy where the people are glad.

Diu mînes herzen ein wunne und ein krôn ist
She-who of-my heart a delight and a crown is
 vor allen frouwen diech noch hân gesehen,
before all ladies whom-I yet have seen,
 schœne unde schœne unde schône, aller schônist,
fair and fair and fair, of-all fairest,
 ist si, mîn frouwe: des muoz ich ir jehen.
is she, my lady: of-that must I to-her avow.
 al diu welt sol sie durch ir schœne gerne sehen.
all the world shall her for her beauty gladly see.
 noch wære zît daz du, frouwe, mir lônist:
still were time that thou, lady, to-me rewardest:
 ich hân mit lobe anders tôrheit verjen.
I have with praise otherwise folly confessed.

Stên ich vor ir unde schouwe daz wunder
(if)-Stand I before her and behold the wonder
 daz got mit schœne an ir lîp hât getân,
which God with beauty on her body has done,
 so ist des sô vil daz ich sihe dâ besunder,
so is of-that so much that I see there especially,
 daz ich vil gerne wolt iemer dâ stân.
that I very gladly would ever there stand.
 ôwê sô muoz ich vile trûrig scheiden dan:
alas so must I very sadly part thence:
 sô kumt ein wolken sô trûiebez dar under
so comes a cloud so troubled there under
 daz ich des schînen von ir niht enhân.
that I of-the shining from her nothing have.

134,6 Mîn herze ir schoene und diu Minne habent gesworn

My heart her beauty and the Love have sworn

zuo ein ander, des ich wæne, ûf mîner fröuden tôt.

to one another, as I think, upon my joys' death.

zwiu habent diu driu mich einen dar zuo ûz erkorn?

why have those three me alone there to out chosen?

ôwê Minne, gib ein teil der lieben mîner nôt.

alas Love, give a part to-the dear-one of-my distress.

teil ir si sô mite daz si gedanke ouch machen rô.

share to-her it so along that her thoughts also make red.

wünsch ich ir senens nu? daz wære baz verborn.

wish I to-her longing now? that were better forborne.

lîhte ist ez ir zorn,

perhaps is it to-her anger,

sît ir wort mir keinen kumber nie gebôt.

since her word to-me no affliction ever commanded.

134,14 Ez tuot vil wê, swer herzeclîche minnet

It does very pain, whoever heartily loves

an sô hôhe stat dâ sîn dienest gar versmât.

at so high a-place where his service wholly is-scorned.

sîn tumber wân vil lützel drane gewinnet,

his foolish expectation very little thereon gains,

swer sô vil geklaget daz ze herzen niht engât.

whoever so much laments that to heart not goes.

er ist vil wîs, swer sich sô wol versinnet

he is very wise, whoever himself so well bethinks

daz er dienet dar dâ man dienest wol enpfât,

that he serves there where one service well receives,

und sich dar lât dâ man sîn genâde hât.

and himself there leaves where one his favor has.

Ich darf vil wol daz ich genâde vinde:

I need very well that I favor find:

wan ich habe ein wîp ob der sunnen mir erkorn.

for I have a woman above the sun for-me chosen.

dêst ein nôt diech niemer überwinde,

that-is a plight which-I never overcome,

sine gesæhe mich ane als si tete hie bevorn.

unless-she should-look me upon as she did here before.

si ist mir lieb gewest dâ her von kinde:

she is to-me dear been there hither from childhood:

wan ich wart durch sie und durch anders niht geborn.

for I was for her and for otherwise nothing born.

ist ir daz zorn, daz weiz got, sô bin ich vlorn.

(if)-is to-her that anger, that knows God, so am I lost.

Wâ ist nu hin mîn liechter morgensterne?

Where is now gone my bright morning-star?

wê waz hilfet mich daz mîn sunne ist ûf gegân?

woe what helps me that my sun is up gone?

sîst mir ze hôh und ouch ein teil ze verne

she-is to-me too high and also a bit too far

gegen mittem tage unde wil dâ lange stân.

toward mid day and will there long stand.

ich gelebte noch den lieben âbent gerne,

I would-live still the dear evening gladly,

daz si sich her nider mir ze trôste wolte lân,

that she herself here down to-me for comfort would let,

wand ich mich hân gar verkapfet ûf ir wân.

for I myself have wholly gaped upon her expectation.

135,9 Wê wie lange sol ich ringen

Woe how long shall I struggle

umbe ein wîp der ich noch nie wort zuo gesprach?

for a woman to-whom I still never a-word to spoke?

wie sol mir an ir gelingen

how shall for-me with her succeed

seht, des wundert mich, wan es ê niht geschach

see, of-that wonders me, for it before not happened

daz ein man alsô tobt als ich tuon zaller zît,

that a man so rages as I do at-all times,

daz ich si so herzeklîche minne

that I her so heartily love

und es ê nie gewuoc und ir dient iemer sît.

and it before never mentioned and her serve ever since.

Ich weiz vil wol daz si lachet,

I know very well that she laughs,

swenne ich vor ir stân und enweiz wer ich bin.

whenever I before her stand and know-not who I am.

sâ zehant bin ich gewachet,

straightway at-once am I weakened,

swenne ir schœne nimt mir sô gar mînen sin.

whenever her beauty takes from-me so wholly my sense.

got weiz wol daz sie noch mîniu wort nie vernam,

God knows well that she still my words never heard,

wan daz ich ir diende mit gesange

but that I her served with song

sô ich beste kunde und als ir wol gezam.

as I best could and as her well befitted.

Owê des, waz tede ich tumbē,
Alas of-that, what did I foolish-one,
 daz ich niht enrette als ein sæliger man?
that I not spoke as a blessed man?
 sô swîg ich reht als ein stumbe,
so am-silent I right as a mute,
 der von sîner nôt niht gesprechen enkan,
who of his distress not speak can,
 wan daz er mit der hant sîniu wort tiuten muoz.
but that he with the hand his words signify must.
 als erzeige ich ir mîn wundeze herze
so show I to-her my wounded heart
 unde valle für si unde nîge ûf ir fuoz.
and fall before her and bow at her foot.

Owê, war umbe volge ich tumbem wâne,
Alas, where for follow I foolish expectation,
 der mich sô sêre leitet in die nôt?
which me so sorely leads into the distress?
 ich schiet von ir gar aller fröiden âne,
I parted from her wholly of-all joys without,
 daz si mir trôst noch helfe nie gebôt.
so-that she to-me comfort nor help ever offered.
 doch wart ir varwe liljen wîz und rôsen rô,
yet was her color lily white and roses red,
 und saz vor mir diu liebe wolgetâne
and sat before me the dear fair-formed-one
 geblüet rehte alsam ein voller mâne.
blossomed just as a full moon.
 daz was der ougen wunne, des herzen tôt.
that was of-the eyes the-delight, of-the heart the-death.

136,1

136,9 Mîn stæter muot gelîchet niht dem winde:
My constant spirit resembles not the wind:
 ich bin noch alse si mich hât verlân,
I am still as she me has left,
 vil stæte her von einem kleinen kinde,
very constant hitherto from a small child,
 swie wê sie mir nu lange hât getân
however pain she to-me now long has done
 als wîgende ie genôte und ein verholner wân,
all-silently ever closely and a hidden expectation,
 swie dicke ich mich der tôrheit underwinde,
however often I myself of-the folly undertake,
 swâ ich vor ir stân, und sprûche ein wunder vinde,
wherever I before her stand, and of-sayings a wonder find,
 und muoz doch von ir ungesprochen gân.
and must yet from her unspoken go.

Ich hân sô vil gesprochen und gesungen
I have so much spoken and sung
 daz ich bin müede und heis von mîner klage.
that I am tired and hoarse from my lament.
 ich bin umb niht wan umb den wint betwungen,
I am for nothing but for the wind compelled,
 sît si mir niht geloubet daz ich sage,
since she to-me not believes what I say,
 wie ich si minne und wiech ir holdez herze trage.
how I her love and how-I to-her devoted heart bear.
 dêswâr mir ist nâch werde niht gelungen.
indeed to-me is according-to worth not succeeded.
 het ich nâch gote ie halb sô vil gerungen,
had I toward God ever half so much struggled,
 er næme mich hin zim ê mîner tage.
he would-take me away to-him before my days.

Diu vil guote, daz si sælic müeze sîn!

The very good-one, that she blessed may be!

wê der huote, diu der werlt sô liechten schîn

woe to-the guarding, which from-the world so bright a-shine

an ir hât benomen daz man si niht wan selten sêt,

on her has taken that one her not but seldom sees,

sô diu sunne diu des âbents under gêt.

as the sun which in-the evening under goes.

Ich muoz sorgen wen diu lange naht zergê

I must care when the long night vanish

gegen dem morgen, daz ichs einest an gesê,

toward the morning, that I-her once upon see,

die vil lieben sunnen, diu sô wunnenclichen taget

the very dear sun, which so delightfully dawns

daz mîn ouge ein trûebez wolken wol verklaget.

that my eye a gloomy cloud well laments-away.

Swer der frouwen hûetet, dem kûnd ich den ban:

Whoever the lady guards, to-him announce I the ban:

wan durch schouwen sô geschuof si got dem man,

for for beholding so created her God for-the man,

daz si wær ein spiegel, al der werlde wunne gar.

that she were a mirror, of-all the world the-delight wholly.

waz sol golt begraben, des nieman wirt gewar?

what shall gold buried, of-which no-one becomes aware?

[Wê der huote die man reinen wîben tuot!

[Woe to-the guarding which one to-pure women does!

huote guote frouwen machet wankelmuot.

guarding good ladies makes fickle-spirited.

man sol frouwen schouwen unde lâzen âne twanc.
one shall ladies behold and leave without compulsion.

ich sach daz ein sieche verboten wazzer tranc.
I saw that a sick-one forbidden water drank.

Ascholoie diu vil guote heizet wol.
Ascholoie the very good-one is-called well.

erst von Troie Paris der si minnen sol.
he-is of Troy Paris who her love shall.

obe er kiesen solde ndern schœnesten die nu leben,
if he choose should among-the fairest who now live,

sô wurd ir der apphel, wær er unvergeben.]
so would-become to-her the apple, were it ungiven.]

137,10 Frouwe, wilt du mich gern,
Lady, (if)-wilt thou me save,

sô sich mich ein vil lützel an.
then look me a very little on.

ichn mac mich langer niht erwern,
I can myself longer not defend,

den lîp muoz ich verloren hân.
the life must I lost have.

ich bin siech, mîn herze ist wunt.
I am sick, my heart is wounded.

frouwe, daz hânt mir getân
lady, that have to-me done

mîn ougen und dîn rôter munt.
my eyes and thy red mouth.

Frouwe, mîne swære sich,

Lady, my grief see,

ê ich verliese mînen lîp.

ere I lose my life.

ein wort du spræche wider mich:

one word thou spekest against me:

verkêre daz, du sælic wîp.

turn that, thou blessed woman.

sprichest iemer neinâ nein,

(if)-speakest ever no-ab no,

nein! neinâ neinâ nein,

no! no-ab no-ab no,

daz brichet mir mîn herze enzwein.

that breaks to-me my heart in-two.

maht du doch etswan sprechen jâ,

canst thou yet sometime say yes,

jâ jâ jâ jâ jâ jâ jâ?

yes yes yes yes yes yes yes?

daz lît mir an dem herzen nâ.

that lies to-me on the heart near.

Ob ich dir vor allen wîben guotes gan,

If I to-thee before all women good grant,

sol ich des engelten, frouwe, wider dich,

(if)-shall I of-that pay, lady, toward thee,

stê daz dîner gûete sæliclichen an,

(if)-stand that thy goodness blessedly on,

sô lâz iemer in den ungenâden mich.

then leave ever in the disfavors me.

hab ich daran missetân, die schulde rich,

(if)-have I thereon misdane, the guilt avenge,

137,27

daz ich lieber lieb zer werlte nie gewan:

that I dearer love in-the world never won:

nâch dem liebe sent iedoch mîn herze sich.

after the love longs nonetheless my heart itself.

Ob ich iemer âne hôhgemüete bin,

If I ever without high-spirit am,

waz ist ieman in der werlte destे baz?

what is anyone in the world the better?

gênt mir mîne tage mit ungemüete hin,

(if)-go to-me my days with dejection away,

die nâch fröiden ringent, den gewirret daz.

those-who after joys struggle, them troubles that.

indes wirt mîn ungewin der valschen haz.

meanwhile becomes my loss of-the false-ones the-batred.

die verkêrent underwîlent mir den sin.

they turn at-times for-me the sense.

nieman solde nîden, erne wiste waz.

no-one should envy, unless-he knew what.

Frouwe, ob du mir niht die werlt erleiden wil,

Lady, if thou to-me not the world make-hateful wilt,

sô rât unde hilf: mir ist ze lange wê;

then counsel and help: to-me is too long pain;

sît si jehent ez sî niht ein kinde spil,

since they say it be not a child's play,

dem ein wîp sô nâhen an sîn herze gê.

to-whom a woman so near to his heart goes.

ich erkande mâze vil der sorgen ê:

I knew measure much of-the cares before:

disiu sorge gêt mir für der mâze zil,
this care goes for-me beyond the measure's goal,
 hiute baz und aber dan über morgen mê.
today better and again then over tomorrow more.

Ich hab ir vil grôzer dinge her verjehen.
I have to-her very great things hitherto confessed.

herzedlîcher minne und ganzer stætekeit.
heartfelt love and whole constancy.

des half mir diu rehte herzeliebe spehen.
of-that helped me the true heart's-love observe.

wol mich, hab ich al der werlte wâr geseit.
bail me, (if)-have I to-all the world truth told.

habe ich dar an missesehen, daz ist mir leit.
(if)-have I there on mis-seen, that is to-me grievous.

mir mac elliu sælde noch von ir geschehen:
to-me may all fortune still from her happen:

in weiz niht waz schoener lîp in herzen treit.
I know not what fair body in heart bears.

Ich wæne nieman lebe der mînen kumber weine,
I think no-one lives who my affliction weeps,

den ich eine trage,
which I alone bear,

ez entuo diu guote, diech mit triuwen meine,
it unless-does the good-one, whom-I with faithfulness mean,

vernimt si mîne klage.
(if)-bears she my lament.

138,17

wê wie tuon ich sô, daz ich sô herzeclîche

woe how do I so, that I so heartily

bin an si verdâht, daz ich ein künicrîche

am on her lost-in-thought, that I a kingdom

für ir minne niht ennemen wolde,

for her love not take would,

ob ich teilen unde welen solde?

if I share and choose should?

139,3 Dô si mir alrêrst ein hôchgemüete sande

When she to-me first a high-spirit sent

in daz herze mîn,

into the heart mine,

des was bote ir güete, die ich wol erkande,

of-that was messenger her goodness, which I well recognized,

und ir liechter schîn

and her bright shine

sach mich gütlich ane mit ir spilnden ougen;

looked me kindly on with her playing eyes;

lachen si began ûz rôtem munde tougen.

laugh she began from red mouth secretly.

sâ zehant enzunte sich mîn wunne,

straightway at-once kindled itself my delight,

daz mîn muot stuont hôhe sam diu sunne.

so-that my spirit stood high as the sun.

Swer mir des erban, ob ich si minne tougen,

Whoever me that begrudges, if I her love secretly,

seht der sündet sich.

see he sins himself.

swenn ich eine bin, si schînt mir vor den ougen.

whenever I alone am, she shines to-me before the eyes.

sô bedunket mich

then seems to-me

wie si gê dort her ze mir aldur die mûren.

how she goes there here to me all-through the walls.

ir rede und ir trôst enlâzent mich niht trûren.

her speech and her comfort let me not mourn.

swenn si wil, sô füeret sî mich hinnen

whenever she wills, then leads she me hence

mit ir wîzen hant hôh über die zinnen.

with her white hand high over the battlements.

Ich wæne, si ist ein Vênus hêre, diech dâ minne:

I think, she is a Venus noble, whom-I there love:

wan si kan sô vil.

for she can so much.

si benimt mir beide fröide und al die sinne.

she takes from-me both joy and all the senses.

swenne sô si wil,

whenever so she wills,

sô gêt si dort her zuo einem vensterlîne,

then goes she there here to a little-window,

unde siht mich an reht als der sunnen schîne:

and looks me on right as the sun's shine:

swanne ich si dan gerne wolde schouwen,

whenever I her then gladly would behold,

ach sô gêt si dort zuo andern frouwen.

ah then goes she there to other ladies.

Wê waz rede ich? jâ ist mîn geloube bœse

Woe what speak I? indeed is my belief bad

und ist wider got

and is against God

wan bit ich in des daz er mich hinnen læse?

why-not ask I him of-that that he me hence release?

ez was ê mîn spot.

it was before my mockery.

ich tuon sam der swan, der singet swenne er stirbet.

I do as the swan, which sings whenever it dies.

waz ob mir mîn sanc daz lîhte noch erwirbet,

what if for-me my song that perhaps still wins,

swâ man mînen kumber sagt ze mære,

wherever one my affliction tells as tiding,

daz man mir erbunne mîner swære?

that one me begrudges my grief?

139,19 Ich hôrt ûf der heide

I heard on the heath

lûte stimme und süezen sanc.

loud voice and sweet song.

dâ von wart ich beide

there from became I both

frôiden rîch und trûrens kranc.

of-joys rich and of-mourning weak.

nâch der mîn gedanc sêre ranc unde swanc,

after whom my thought sorely struggled and swung,

vant ich ze tanze dâ si sanc.

found I at dance where she sang.

âne leide ich dô spranc.

without sorrow I then sprang.

Ich vant si verborgen

I found her hidden

eine und ir wengel naz,

alone and her cheeks wet,

dâ si an dem morgen

where she in the morning

mînes tôdes sich vermaz.

of-my death herself boasted.

der vil lieben haz tuot mir baz danne daz

of-the very dear-one the-hatred does to-me better than that

dô ich vor ir kniete dâ si saz

when I before her knelt where she sat

und ir sorgen gar vergaz.

and her cares wholly forgot.

Ich vants an der zinnen,

I found-her on the battlement,

eine, und ich was zir gesant.

alone, and I was to-her sent.

dâ moht ichs ir minnen

there might I-her of-her love

wol mit fuoge hân gepfant.

well with propriety have taken-in-pledge.

dô wând ich diu lânt hân verbrant sâ zehant,

then thought I the lands to-have burned straightway at-once,

wan daz mich ir süezen minne bant

but that me her sweet love's bond

an den sinnen hât erblant.

in the senses has blinded.

140,11

Solde ich iemer frouwen leit

Should I ever of-ladies sorrow

ader arc gesprechen, daz hât si verschuldet wol,

or evil speak, that has she deserved well,

diu daz hât von mir geseit

who that has of me said

daz ich singe owê von der ich iemer dienen sol.

that I sing alas about whom I ever serve shall.

si ist des liechten meien schîn

she is of-the bright May the-shine

und mîn ôsterlicher tac.

and my Easter day.

swenne ichs ane sê, sô lachet ir daz herze mîn.

whenever I-her upon see, then laughs to-her the heart mine.

Mîn frowe ist sô genædic wol

My lady is so gracious well

daz si mich noch tuot von allen mînen sorgen frî.

that she me still makes from all my cares free.

des bin ich frô reht als ich sol.

of-that am I glad right as I shall.

ich wæne nieman lebe der in sô ganzen fröiden sî.

I think no-one lives who in so whole joys be.

wol ir hiute und iermê!

hail her today and evermore!

alsô sprich ich und wünsche ir des,

so speak I and wish her that,

diu mir hât benomen mit fröiden gar mîn alt owê.

who to-me has taken with joys wholly my old alas.

Swaz ich singe ald swaz ich sage,

Whatever I sing or whatever I say,

140,25

sône wil si doch niht tröesten mich vil senden man.

so will she yet not comfort me very longing man.

des muoz ich ringen mit der klage

of-that must I struggle with the lament

unde mit der nôt diech selbe mir geschaffet hân.

and with the distress which-I myself for-me created have.

so ist siz doch diu frouwe mîn:

so is she-it yet the lady mine:

ich binz der ir dienen sol

I am-it who her serve shall

unde wünsche ir des dazs iemer sælic müeze sîn.

and wish her that that-she ever blessed may be.

Uns ist zergangen der lieplîche summer.

For-us is vanished the lovely summer.

140,32

dâ man brach bluomen dâ lît nu der snê.

where one plucked flowers there lies now the snow.

mich muoz belangen wenn si mînen kummer

me must long when she my affliction

welle volenden der mir tuot sô wê.

will end which to-me does so pain.

jâ klage ich niht den klê,

indeed lament I not the clover,

swenne ich gedenke an ir wîplîchen wangen

whenever I think of her womanly cheeks

diu man ze fröide sô gerne ane sê.

which one for joy so gladly upon sees.

Seht an ir ougen und merket ir kinne,

Look on her eyes and mark her chin,

seht an ir kele wîz und prüevet ir munt.

look on her throat white and examine her mouth.

si ist âne lougen gestalt sam diu Minne.

she is without denial shaped as the Love.

mir wart von frouwen sô liebez nie kunt.

to-me was of ladies so dear never known.

jâ hât si mich verwunt

indeed has she me wounded

sêre in den tôt. ich verliuse die sinne.

sorely unto the death. I lose the senses.

gnâd, ein küniginne, du tuo mich gesunt.

favor, a queen, thou make me healthy.

Diech mit gesange hie prîse unde krœne,

Whom-I with song here praise and crown,

an die hât got sînen wunsch wol geleit.

on her has God his wish well laid.

in sach nu lange nie bilde alsô schœne

I saw now long never image so fair

als ist mîn frouwe; des bin ich gemeit.

as is my lady; of-that am I joyous.

mich fröit ir werdekeit

me gladdens her worthiness

baz dan der meie und al sîne dœne

better than the May and all his tunes

die die vogel singent; daz sî iu geseit.

which the birds sing; that be to-you said.

Mich wundert harte daz ir also zarte kan lachen der munt. 141,15
Me astonishes greatly that to-her so tenderly can laugh the mouth.

ir liechten ougen diu hânt âne lougen mich senden verwunt.
her bright eyes they have without denial me longing wounded.

si brach also tougen al in mîns herzen grunt.
she broke so secretly all into my heart's ground.

dâ wont diu guote vil sanfte gemuote. des bin ich ungesund.
there dwells the good-one very gently minded. of-that am I unhealthy.

Swenne ich vil tumber ir tuon mînen kumber mit sange bekant, 141,26
Whenever I very foolish to-her make my affliction with song known,

sôst ez ein wunder daz si mich tuot under mit rede zehant.
so-is it a wonder that she me brings under with speech at-once.

swenn ich si hœere sprechen, sô ist mir also wol
whenever I her hear speak, then is to-me so well

daz ich gesitze vil gar âne witze noch enweiz war ich sol.
that I sit very wholly without wits nor know whither I shall.

Si hât mich verwunt reht aldurch mîne sêle 141,37
She has me wounded right all-through my soul

in den vil tâtlichen grunt,
into the very deadly ground,

dô ich ir tet kunt daz ich tobte unde quêle
when I to-her made known that I raved and pined

umb ir vil gütlichen munt.
for her very kindly mouth.

den bat ich zeiner stunt daz er mich ze dienste ir bevêle
him asked I at-one time that he me to service her commend

und daz er mir stêle
and that he for-me steal

von ir ein senftez küssen sô wær ich iemer gesunt.
from her a soft kiss so were I ever healthy.

Wie wurde ich gehaz ir vil rôsevarwen munde,

How become I hostile to-her very rose-colored mouth,

des ich noch niender vergaz

which I still never forgot

doch sô müet mich daz daz si mir zeiner stunde

yet so troubles me that that she to-me at-one time

sô mit gewalt vor gesaz.

so with force before sat.

des bin ich worden laz, alsô daz ich vil schiere gesunde

of-that am I become weary, so that I very soon healthy

in der helle grunde

in the hell's ground

verbrunne ich ir iemer diende ine wisse umbe waz.

would-burn I her ever served I-not knew for what.

142,19 Ich bin keiser âne krône,

I am emperor without crown,

sunder lant. daz meine ich an den muot:

without land. that mean I in the spirit:

dern gestuont mir nie sô schône.

it stood to-me never so fair.

wol ir lîbe, diu mir sanfte tuot.

bail her person, who to-me softly does.

daz schaffet mir ein frowe fruo.

that makes for-me a lady wise.

dur die sô wil ich stæte sîn,

for her so will I constant be,

wan in gesach nie wîp sô rehte guot.

for I saw never woman so rightly good.

‘Gerne sol ein rîter ziehen

‘Gladly shall a knight draw

sich ze guoten wîben: dêst mîn rât.

himself to good women: that-is my counsel.

bœsiu wîp diu sol man fliehen:

base women those shall one flee:

er ist tump swer sich an si verlât;

he is foolish whoever himself on them relies;

wan sine gebent niht hôhen muot.

for they give no high spirit.

iedoch sô weiz ich einen man,

yet so know I one man,

den ouch die selben frowen dunkent guot.

to-whom also the same ladies seem good.

Mirst daz herze worden swære.

To-me-is the heart become heavy.

seht, daz schaffet mir ein sendiu nôt.

see, that makes for-me a longing distress.

ich bin worden dem unmære

I am become to-him displeasing

der mir dicke sînen dienst bôt.

who to-me often his service offered.

owê war umbe tuot er daz?

alas where for does he that?

und wil er sichs erlouben niht,

and (if)-will he himself-of-it renounce not,

sô muoz ich im von schulden sîn gehaz.’

then must I to-him with cause be hostile.’

143,4 Wie sol fröidelôser tage

How shall of-joyless days

mir und sender jâre iemer werden rât?

for-me and of-longing years ever come remedy?

so ist daz aber mîn hoẽhste klage

so is that however my highest lament

daz uns beide an sange an fröide missegât.

that for-us both in song in joy goes-amiss.

sît daz diu werlt mit sorgen alsô gar betwungen stât,

since that the world with cares so wholly compelled stands,

nu swîget maneger der doch dicke wol gesungen hât.

now is-silent many-a-one who yet often well sung has.

Ich was eteswenne frô

I was sometime glad

dô mîn herze wânde neben der sunnen stân.

when my heart thought beside the sun to-stand.

dur diu wolken sach ich hô:

through the clouds saw I high:

nu muoz ich mîn ouge nider zer erde lân.

now must I my eye down to-the earth let.

mich triuget alze sêre ein vil minneclîcher wân,

me deceives all-too sorely a very lovely expectation,

sît daz ich von ir niht wan leit und herzeswære hân.

since that I from her nothing but sorrow and heart's-sorrow have.

Wil si frömden mir dur daz

Will she shun me for that

dazs ein lützel ist mit valscher diet behuot?

that-she a little is with false folk guarded?

dêst ein swacher friundes haz
that-is a weak friend's hatred

daz si mit den andern mir sô leide tuot.
that she with the others to-me so grievously does.

ez hoeret niht ze liebe ein sô kranker friundes muot.
it belongs not to love a so weak friend's spirit.

wils aber die huote alsô triegen, dâst uns beiden guot.
(if)-will-she however the guarding so deceive, that-is for-us both good.

Owê, sol aber mir iemer mê
Alas, shall however to-me ever more

143,22

geluhten dur die naht
shine through the night

noch wîzer danne ein snê
still whiter than a snow

ir lîp vil wol geslaht?
her body very well shaped?

der trouc diu ougen mîn:
it deceived the eyes mine:

ich wânde, ez solde sîn
I thought, it should be

des liechten mânen schîn,
of-the bright moon the-shine,

dô tagete ez.
then dawned it.

‘Owê, sol aber er iemer mê
‘Alas, shall however he ever more

den morgen hie betagen?
the morning here abide?

als uns diu naht engê,
when for-us the night passes,

daz wir niht durfen klagen:

that we not need lament:

‘owê, nu ist ez tac’,

‘alas, now is it day’,

als er mit klage pflac

as he with lament was-wont

dô er jungest bî mir lac.

when he last by me lay.

dô tagete ez.’

then dawned it.’

Owê, si kuste âne zal

Alas, she kissed without number

in deme slâfe mich.

in the sleep me.

dô vielen hin ze tal

then fell down to valley

ir trehene nider sich,

her tears down ward,

iedoch getrôste ich sie,

yet comforted I her,

daz si ir weinen lie

that she her weeping left

und mich alumbevie.

and me all-around-embraced.

dô tagete ez.

then dawned it.

‘Owê, daz er sô dicke sich

‘Alas, that he so often himself

bî mir ersehen hât!

by me seen has!

als er endahte mich,
as he uncovered me,
 sô wolte er sunder wât
so wished he without clothing
 mîn arme schouwen blôz.
my arms behold bare.
 ez was ein wunder grôz
it was a wonder great
 daz in des nie verdrôz.
that him of-that never wearied.
 dô tagete ez.'
then dawned it.'

Hât man mich gesehen in sorgen,
(if)-Has one me seen in cares,
 des ensol niht mêt ergân.
of-that shall nothing more come-about.
 wol fröuw ich mich alle morgen
well rejoice I myself all mornings
 daz ich die vil lieben hân
that I the very dear-one have
 gesehen in ganzen fröiden gar.
seen in whole joys wholly.
 nu fliuch von mir hin, langez trûren:
now flee from me away, long mourning:
 ich bin aber gesunt ein jâr.
I am again healthy a year.

Sî kan durch diu herzen brechen
She can through the hearts break
 sam diu sunne dur daz glas.
as the sun through the glass.

144,17

144,24

ich mac wol von schulden sprechen:

I may well with cause say:

ganzer tugende ein adamas!

of-whole virtue an adamant!

sô ist diu liebe frowe mîn

so is the dear lady mine

ein wunnebernder süezer meije,

a delight-bearing sweet May,

ein wolkenlöser sunnen schîn.

a cloudless sun's shine.

Ob si mîner nôt, diu guote,

If she to-my distress, the good-one,

wolte ein liebez ende geben,

would a dear end give,

mit den frôn in hôhem muote

with the glad-ones in high spirit

sæhe man mich danne leben.

would-see one me then live.

die wîle soz niht ist geschehen

the while so-it not is happened

sô muoz man bî der ungemuoten

so must one by the unhappy

schar mich in den sorgen sehen.

band me in the cares see.

Mirst geschehen als eime kindelîne,

To-me-is happened as to-a little-child,

daz sîn schoenez bilde in eime glase gesach

that its fair image in a glass saw

unde greif dar nâch sîn selbes schîne

and grasped there after its own shine

sô vil biz daz ez den spiegel gar zerbrach.

so much until that it the mirror wholly broke.

dô wart al sîn wunne ein leitlich ungemach.

then became all its delight a grievous discomfort.

alsô dâhte ich iemer frô ze sîne,

so thought I ever glad to be,

dô ich gesach die lieben frouwen mîne,

when I saw the dear lady mine,

von der mir bî liebe leides vil geschach.

from whom to-me with love of-sorrow much happened.

Minne, diu der werlde ir fröide mêret,

Love, which for-the world its joy increases,

seht, diu brâhte in troumes wîs die frouwen mîn

see, she brought in dream's manner the lady mine

dâ mîn lîp an slâfen was gekêret

where my body to sleep was turned

und ersach sich an der besten wunne sîn.

and beheld itself in the best delight its.

dô sach ich ir liechten tugende, ir werden schîn,

then saw I her bright virtues, her worthy shine,

schône und für elliū wîp gehêret;

fair and above all women exalted;

niuwan daz ein lützel was versêret

except that a little was hurt

ir vil fröiden rîchez mündelîn.

her very of-joys rich little-mouth.

Grôze angest hân ich des gewonnen,

Great fear have I of-that gained,

daz verblîchen sûle ir mündelîn sô rôt.

that fade should her little-mouth so red.

des hân ich nu niuwer klage begonnen,

of-that have I now new lament begun,

sît mîn herze sich ze sülcher swære bôt,

since my heart itself to such grief offered,

daz ich durch mîn ouge schouwe sülche nôt,

that I through my eye behold such distress,

sam ein kint daz wîsheit unversunnen

as a child that of-wisdom unthinking

sînen schaten ersach in einem brunnen

its shadow beheld in a spring

und den minnen muose unz an sînen tât.

and it love had-to until to its death.

Hôher wîp von tugenden und von sinnen,

Higher woman in virtues and in senses,

die enkan der himel niender umbevân,

her can the heaven nowhere embrace,

sô die guoten diech vor ungewinne

than the good-one whom-I for loss

fremden muoz und immer doch an ir bestân.

strun must and ever yet on her remain.

owê leider, jô wând ichs ein ende hân,

alas alas, indeed thought I-of-it an end to-have,

ir vil wunnenclichen werden minne:

her very delightful worthy love:

nu bin ich vil kûme an dem beginne.

now am I very barely at the beginning.

des ist hin mîn wunne und ouch mîn gerender wân.

of-that is gone my delight and also my desiring expectation.

Ich wil eine reise.

I will a journey.

dâ wirt manic weise.

there becomes many-an orphan.

mîner frouwen rîche,

of-my lady's realm,

daz muoz allez werden vlorn,

that must all become lost,

wünschet daz ich wol gevar.

wish that I well fare.

diu lant wil ich brennen gar.

the lands will I burn wholly.

swaz ich des bestrîche,

whatever I of-it touch,

si enwende mînen zorn.

she unless-turn my anger.

145,33

Helfet singen alle,

Help sing all,

mit schalle,

with clamor,

schrîet daz mîn smerze

cry that my pain

breche und in ir ôren gê.

break and into her ears go.

mîne friunt, und zieht ir zu

my friends, and draw you to

daz si mir genâde tuo.

that she to-me favor do.

mîner frouwen herze

of-my lady the-heart

si tuot mir ze lange wê.

she does to-me too long pain.

Ich wil immer singen

I will ever sing

unde an allen dingen

and in all things

frouwe, ich kan niht wenken

lady, I can not waver

daz wolt ich und immer wil.

that willed I and ever will.

dîne hâhen wirdekeit

thy high worthiness

dînen hulden sîn gereit.

to-thy goodwill be ready.

hâstu tugende und êren vil,

hast-thou virtues and honors many,

146,11

Si sint unverborgen,

They are unbidden,

frouwe, swaz du tugende hâst.

lady, whatever thou of-virtues hast.

âbent und den morgen

evening and the morning

sagent si al daz du begâst.

tell they all that thou practicest.

dîne redegezellen

thy speech-companions

die sint swie wir wellen,

they are however we wish,

guoter worte und guoter site.

of-good words and of-good manners.

dâ bist du getiuret mite.

there art thou ennobled with.

Frouwe, ich wil mit hulden

Lady, I will with goodwill

reden ein wênic wider dich.

speak a little against thee.

daz solt du verdulden.

that shalt thou endure.

zürnest du, sô swîge ab ich.

(if)-art-angry thou, then am-silent however I.

wiltu dîner jugende

(if)-wilt-thou of-thy youth

kumen gar ze tugende,

come wholly to virtue,

sô ...

so (lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

ich hân hôchgemüete.

I have high-spirit.

frouwe, dîne güete,

lady, thy goodness,

sît ich die alrêrste sach,

since I it first saw,

sô west ich wol waz ich sprach.

so knew I well what I spoke.

Vil süeziu senftiu tôterinne,

Very sweet gentle murderess,

war umbe welt ir tôten mir den lîp,

where for will you kill for-me the life,

und i'uch sô herzeclîchen minne,

and I-you so heartily love,

zewâre, frouwe, gar für elliu wîp?

truly, lady, wholly before all women?

wênet ir ... ob ir mich tôtet,

think you (lacuna) if you me kill,

daz ich iuch danne niemer mêr beschouwe?

that I you then never more behold?

nein, iuwer minne hât mich des ernôtet

no, your love has me of-that constrained

daz iuwer sêle ist mîner sêle frouwe.

that your soul is of-my soul the-lady.

sol mir hie niht guot geschehen

(if)-shall to-me here not good happen

von iuwer m werden lîbe,

from your worthy body,

sô muoz mîn sêle iu des verjehen

then must my soul to-you of-that confess

daz iuwer sêle dienet dort als einem reinen wîbe.

that your soul serves there as to-a pure woman.

- 147,17 Lanc bin ich geweset verdâht
Long have I been lost-in-thought
- unde unfro von rehter minnen.
and joyless from true love.
- nu hat men mir mare brâht,
now has one to-me news brought,
- der ist fro min herze inbinnen.
of-which is glad my heart within.
- ich sol trost gewinnen
I shall comfort gain
- von der frowen min.
from the lady mine.
- wie mohte ich danne truric sin?
how might I then sad be?
- op ir roter munt
if her red mouth
- tuot mir froide kunt,
makes to-me joy known,
- so getruere ich niemer me:
then mourn I never more:
- est quit, was mir we.
it-is quit, was to-me pain.

Engelhart von Adelnburg

Four strophes. Whatever cheer a good woman ever gave him counts for nothing now that the high-hearted one refuses him; and he asks what harm a worthy woman does the soul, since if heaven is angered by faithful wooing, all the base get there and the worthy are wholly lost.

Wart ich ie von guotem wîbe

Was I ever by a-good woman

148,1

wol gemuot, dêst gar ein niht.

well minded, that-is wholly a nothing

ine weiz wiech die zît vertrîbe,

I-not know how-I the time pass,

sît diu hôchgemuote giht

since the high-spirited-one says

daz si welle nien verdriezen mîner nôt.

that she wills not-at-all to-be-wearied of-my distress.

ôwê, sol ich niht geniezen

alas, (if)-shall I not enjoy

guotes willen, dêst der tât.

good will, that-is the death.

Sælden fruht, der ougen süeze,

Of-fortune fruit, of-the eyes sweetness,

gunnet mir der arebeit

grant me of-the hardship

daz ich, frowe, iu dienen müeze.

that I, lady, you serve must.

daz wirt mir ein sælikeit.

that becomes to-me a blessedness.

ich wil iemer dur iuch êren elliu wîp.

I will ever for you honor all women.

nieman kan mîn leit verkêren

no-one can my sorrow turn

âne got wan iuwer lîp.

without God but your person.

Kunde ich hôhen lop gesprechen,

Could I high praise speak,

des wær ich ir undertân,

of-that were I to-her subject,

swie si welle in zorne rechen

however she wishes in anger to-avenge

des ich nien begangen hân.

what I not-at-all committed have.

in hân doch gein ir deheine

I have yet toward her none

wan deich si mit triuwen meine.

except that-I her with faithfulness mean.

seht wie daz ir güete stê.

see how that her goodness stands.

Swër mit triuwen umbe ein wîp

Whoever with faithfulness for a woman

wirbet, als noch maneger tuot,

strives, as still many-a-one does,

waz schadet der sêle ein werder lîp?

what harms to-the soul a worthy body?

swüere wol, ez wære guot.

I-would-swear well, it were good.

ist aber ez ze himele zorn,

(if)-is however it in heaven anger,

sô koment die böesen alle dar

then come the base-ones all there

und sint die biderben gar verlorn.

and are the worthy wholly lost.

Reinmar

Two hundred and fifty-three strophes, more than a quarter of the book. Reinmar is the poet of service that is never answered: he has carried one love near him for years, will not be free of her while he lives, and asks only to be allowed to remain her fool. Among his songs stand others in a woman's voice, including the lament for Leopold, who lies in the earth.

- 150,1 Ein lieb ich mir vil nâhe trage,
A love I for-me very near carry,
- des ich ze guote nie vergaz.
of-whom I to good never forgot.
- des êre singe ich unde sage:
whose honor sing I and say:
- mit rehten triuwen tuon ich daz.
with right faithfulness do I that.
- sie sol mir iemer sîn vor allen wîben:
she shall to-me ever be before all women:
- an dem muote wil ich manegiu jâr belîben.
in that spirit will I many years remain.
- waz bedarf ich leides mêre,
what need I of-sorrow more,
- wan swenn eht ich si mîden sol?
but when just I her avoid shall?
- daz klage ich unde mûet mich dicke sêre.
that lament I and grieves me often sorely.

Ez wirt ein man der sinne hât
It becomes a man who sense has

vil lîhte sælic unde wert,
very easily blessed and worthy,

der mit den liuten umbe gât,

who with the people about goes,

des herze niht wan êren gert.

whose heart nothing but honors desires.

diu fröude wendet im sîn ungemüete.

that joy turns for-him his ill-humor.

sich sol ein ritter flîzen maneger güete:

himself shall a knight strive of-many-a virtue:

ist ieman der daz nîde,

(if)-is anyone who that should-envy,

daz ist ein sô gefüeger schade,

that is a so fitting harm,

den ich für al die werelt gerne lîde.

which I before all the world gladly suffer.

Ez ist ein nît der niene kan

It is an envy that not-at-all can

verhelen an den liuten sich,

conceal among the people itself,

war umbe sprichet manic man

where for speaks many-a man

‘wes tœret sich der?’ und meinet mich?

‘why fools himself he?’ and means me?

daz kunde ich ime gesagen, ob ich wolde.

that could I to-him tell, if I would.

ichn wânde niht deis ieman frâgen solde

I thought not that-it anyone ask should

der pflæge swacher sinne;

who practiced of-weak senses;

wan nieman in der welte lebt,

for no-one in the world lives,

ern vinde sînes herzen kûeginne.

unless-be finds of-his heart queen.

- 151,1 'Sî koment underwîlent her
'They come at-times here
 die baz dâ heime möhten sîn.
who better there at-home might be.
 ein ritter des ich lange ger,
a knight of-whom I long desire,
 bedæht er baz den willen mîn,
considered he better the will mine,
 sô wære er zallen zîten hie,
then were he at-all times here,
 als ich in gerne sæhe.
as I him gladly should-see.
 ôwê, waz suochent die
alas, what seek they
 die nîdent daz, ob iemen guot geschæhe?'
who envy that, if to-anyone good should-happen.'
- Mir ist geschehen daz ich niht bin
To-me is happened that I not am
 langer vrô wan unz ich lebe.
longer glad but until I live.
 si wundert wer mir schœnen sin
they wonder who to-me fair sense
 und daz hôchgemüete gebe
and the high-spirit gives
 daz ich zer werlte niht getar
that I toward-the world not dare
 ze rehte alsô gebâren.
to right so behave.
 nie genam ich vrowen war,
never took I of-ladies notice,
 ich wære in holt die mir ze mâze wâren.
I were to-them devoted who to-me in measure were.

Genâde suochet an ein wîp

Favor seeks from a woman

mîn dienest nu vil manegen tac.

my service now very many-a day.

durch einen alsô guoten lîp

for a so good person

die nôt ich gerne lîden mac.

the distress I gladly suffer may.

ich weiz wol daz si mich lât

I know well that she me lets

geniezen mîner stæte.

enjoy of-my constancy.

wâ næme si sô böesen rât

where would-take she so evil counsel

daz si an mir ... missetæte?

that she against me (lacuna) should-do-wrong?

‘Genâden ich gedenken sol

‘Of-favors I think shall

an ime der mînen willen tuot.

on him who my will does.

sît daz er mir getriuwet wol,

since that he to-me trusts well,

sô wil ich hoehen sînen muot.

so will I raise his spirit.

wes er mit rehter stæte vrô,

be he with right constancy glad,

ich sage im liebiu mære,

I tell to-him dear tidings,

daz ich in gelege alsô,

that I him lay so,

mich diuhte es vil, ob ez der keiser wære.

to-me would-seem of-it much, if it the emperor were.

151,33 Mir kumet eteswenne ein tac
To-me comes sometimes a day
 daz ich vor vil gedanken niht
that I for many thoughts not
 gesingen noch gelachen mac.
sing nor laugh may.
 sô wænet maneger der mich siht
so thinks many-a-one who me sees
 daz ich in vil grôzer swære sî.
that I in very great grief be.
 mirst vil lîhte ein vröide nâhe bî.
to-me-is very easily a joy near by.
 guot gedinge mich enlât
good hope me leaves-not
 in der swære.
in the grief.
 mir ist sorge harte unmære,
to-me is care very indifferent,
 mîn herze rehte hôhe stât.
my heart right high stands.

Ich hân vil ledeclîche brâht
I have very freely brought
 in ir genâde mînen lîp,
into her favor my body,
 und ist mir noch vil ungedâht
and is to-me still very unthought
 daz iemer werde ein ander wîp
that ever become an other woman
 diu von ir gescheide mînen muot.
who from her should-part my spirit.
 swaz diu werelt mir ze leide tuot,
whatever the world to-me for sorrow does,

daz belîbet ungeklaget,

that remains unlamented,

wan ir nîden

for their envy

mohte ich nie sô wol erlîden:

could I never so well endure:

ein liebez mære ist mir gesaget.

a dear tiding is to-me told.

‘Ich werde jæmerlîchen alt

I become pitifully old

sol mich diu werlt alsô vergân

(if)-shall me the world so pass-by

daz ich deheinen gewalt

that I no power

an mînem lieben friunde hân,

over my dear friend have,

daz er tæte ein teil des willen mîn.

that he should-do a part of-the will mine.

mich mûet, sol im iemen lieber sîn.

me grieves, (if)-shall to-him anyone dearer be.

bote, nu sag ime niht mê

messenger, now say to-him not more

wan mirst leide

but to-me-is sorrow

unde fürhte des, sich scheide

and fear of-that, itself may-part

diu triuwe der wir pflâgen ê.

the faithfulness of-which we practiced before.

152,15

Möht ich der werden mînen muot

Might I to-the worthy-one my spirit

erzeigen als ich willen hân,

show as I will have,

sô diuhte ez sie vil lîhte guot,

then would-seem it to-her very easily good,

ob ich durch sie iht hân getân.

if I for her anything have done.

nu enweiz ich wie ich leben sol

now know-not I how I live shall

und gedenke, wie getuon ich wol?

and think, how do I well?

wil diu schœne triuwen pflegen

(if)-will the fair-one faithfulness practice

und diu guote,

and the good-one,

sôst mir alsô wol ze muote

so-is to-me as well in spirit

als der bî vrowen hât gelegen.

as he-who by ladies has lain.

152,25 Ich lebte ie nâch der liute sage,

I lived ever after the people's talk,

wan daz si niht gelîche jehent.

but that they not alike speak.

als ich ein hôhez herze trage

when I a high heart carry

und si mich wolgemuoten sehent,

and they me well-disposed see,

daz hazzet einer sêre,

that hates one sorely,

der ander giht, mir sî diu fröide ein êre.

the other says, to-me be the joy an honor.

nun weiz ich weme ich volgen sol;
now-not know I whom I follow shall;

wan hete ich wîsheit unde sin,
for had I wisdom and sense,

ich tæte gerne wol.
I would-do gladly well.

Ist daz mich dienest helfen sol
(if)-Is that me service help shall

als ez doch mangan hât getân,
as it yet many-a-one has done,

so gewinnet mir ir hulde wol
then wins for-me her goodwill well

ein wille den ich hiute hân.
a will which I today have.

der riet mir deich ir bæte,
it counseled me that-I her should-ask,

und zurnde ab siz, daz ich ez dannoch tæte.
and angered however she-it, that I it still should-do.

nu wil ichz tuon, swaz mir geschiht.
now will I-it do, whatever to-me happens.

ein reine wîse sælic wîp
a pure wise blessed woman

lâz ich sô lîhte niht.
leave I so easily not.

Gewan ich ie deheinen muot
Won I ever any spirit

der hôhe stuont, den hân ich noch.
that high stood, that have I still.

mîn leben dunket mich sô guot;
my life seems to-me so good;

und ist ez niht, sô wæne ichs doch.

and (if)-is it not, so think I-it yet.

daz tuot mir wol: waz wil i's mêre?

that does to-me well: what will I-of-it more?

ichn fürhte unrehten spot niht alze sêre

I fear unjust mockery not too sorely

und kan wol lîden böesen haz.

and can well suffer evil hatred.

solt i's alsô die lenge pflegen,

should I-of-it so the length practice,

in gertes niemer baz.

I desired-it never better.

153,14 Wiest ime ze muote, wundert mich,

How-is to-him in spirit, wonders me,

dem herzeclîche liep geschiht?

to-whom heartfelt love happens?

er sælic man, dâ fröit er sich,

he blessed man, there rejoices he himself,

als ich wol wæne, ich weiz ez niht.

as I well think, I know it not.

och weste ich gerne wie er tæte:

also knew I gladly how he would-do:

ob er iht pflæge wunneclîcher stæte;

whether he any practiced delightful constancy;

diu sol im wesen von rehte bî.

that shall to-him be by right near.

got gebe daz ich erkenne noch

God grant that I recognize still

in welhem lebenne er si.

in what living he is.

Ich weiz bî mir wol daz ein zage

I know by myself well that a coward

153,23

unsanfte ein sinnic wîp bestât.

hardly a sensible woman approaches.

ich sach si, wæne ich, alle tage,

I saw her, think I, all days,

daz mich des iemer wunder hât

so-that me of-that ever wonder has

daz ich niht redete swaz ich wolte:

that I not spoke whatever I wanted:

als ichs beginnen under wîlen solte,

when I-it begin at times should,

sô swîget ich deich niht ensprach,

then kept-silent I so-that-I not spoke,

wan ich wol weste daz nie man

for I well knew that never one

noch lieb von ir geschach.

yet love from her happened.

Dô sprechens zît was wider diu wîp,

When of-speaking time was toward the women,

153,32

dô warp ich als ein ander man.

then wooed I as an other man.

dô wart mir einiu als der lîp,

then became to-me one as the life,

von der ich niuwan leit gewan.

from whom I nothing-but sorrow won.

dô wânde ich ie, si wolte ez wenden.

then thought I ever, she would it turn.

bæte ich si noch, ich künde ez niht verenden.

should-ask I her still, I could it not finish.

nu hân ich mir ein leben genomen,

now have I for-me a life taken,

daz sol, ob got von himele wil,

which shall, if God from heaven wills,

mir baz ze staten komen.

to-me better to aid come.

154,5 Mîn herze ist swære zaller zît,

My heart is heavy at-all times,

swenn ich der schœnen niht ensihe.

whenever I the fair-one not see.

si mugen ez lâzen âne nît,

they may it let without envy,

ob ich der wârheit in vergihe;

if I the truth to-them confess;

wan si mir wonet in mînem sinne

for she to-me dwells in my mind

und ich die lieben âne mâze minne,

and I the dear-one without measure love,

nâher dan in dem herzen mîn.

nearer than in the heart mine.

sine mohte von ir güete mir

she could from her goodness to-me

niht langer fremede sîn.

not longer strange be.

Mich gerou noch nie daz ich den sin

Me rued yet never that I the mind

an ein sô schœne wîp verlie:

on a so fair woman set:

ez dunket mich ein guot gewin.

it seems to-me a good gain.

ir gruoze mich minneclîche enphie.

her greeting me lovingly received.

vil gerne ich ir des iemer lône.

very gladly I to-her for-that ever reward.

si lebet mit zühten wunneclîchen schône.

she lives with courtesies delightfully fair.

der tugende sie geniezen sol.

of-the virtues she enjoy shall.

mir geviel in mînen zîten nie

to-me pleased in my times never

ein wîp sô rehte wol.

a woman so right well.

Got hât gezieret wol ir leben

God has adorned well her life

alsô daz mîchs genüegen wil,

so that me-of-it suffice will,

und hât ze vröiden mir gegeben

and has for joys to-me given

an einem wîbe liebes vil.

in one woman of-dearness much.

sol mir ir stæte komen ze guote,

(if)-shall to-me her constancy come to good,

daz gilte ich ir mit semlîchem muote,

that repay I to-her with the-like spirit,

und nîde nieman dur sîn heil,

and envy no-one for his fortune,

wan ich ze wunsche danne hân

for I to wish then have

der werlde mînen teil.

of-the world my share.

154,32 So ez iender nâhet deme tage,
When it at-all nears the day,
 so getar ich niht gefrâgen 'ist ez tac?'
then dare I not ask 'is it day?'
 daz kumet mir von sô grôzer klage
that comes to-me from so great lament
 daz es mir niht ze helfe komen mac.
that it to-me not to help come may.
 ich gedenke wol daz ich es anders pflac
I remember well that I it otherwise practiced
 hie vor, dô mir diu sorge
here before, when to-me the care
 sô niht ze herzen wac:
so not to heart weighed:
 iemer an dem morgen
ever in the morning
 sô trôste mich der vogeles sanc.
so comforted me the birds' song.
 mirn kome ir helfe an der zît,
unless-to-me comes her help in the time,
 mirst beidiu winter und der sumer alze lanc.
to-me-is both winter and the summer too long.

Im ist vil wol, der mac gesagen
To-him is very well, who may say
 daz er sîn liep in senenden sorgen lie.
that he his love in longing cares left.
 sô muoz ab ich ein anderz klagen:
so must however I an other lament:
 ich gesach ein wîp nâch mir getrûren nie.
I saw a woman for me mourn never.
 swie lange ich was, iedoch meit si daz ie:
however long I was, yet avoided she that ever:

diu nôt mir underwîlent

the distress to-me at-times

reht an mîn herze gie.

right into my heart went.

und wer ich ander iemen

and were I to-other anyone

alse unmære manegen tac,

so indifferent many-a day,

dem het ich gelâzen den strît.

to-him had I left the strife.

diz ist ein dinc des ich mich niht getrœsten mac.

this is a thing of-which I myself not console may.

Diu Liebe hât ir varnde guot

The Love has her movable goods

geteilet sô daz ich den schaden hân.

divided so that I the harm have.

des nam ich mêre in mînen muot

of-that took I more into my spirit

dann ich von rehte solte haben getân.

than I by right should have done.

doch wæne ich, sîst von mir vil unverlân,

yet think I, she-is by me very unforsaken,

swie lûtzel ich der triuwen

however little I of-the faithfulness

mich anderhalp entstân.

myself on-the-other-side understand.

si was ie mit fröiden

she was ever with joys

und lie mich in den sorgen sîn:

and let me in the cares be:

alsô vergie mich diu zît.

so passed-by me the time.

ez taget mir leider selten nâch dem willen mîn.

it dawns for-me alas seldom after the will mine.

155,27 Diu werlt verswîget mîniu leit

The world keeps-silent my sorrows

und saget vil lützel iemer wer ich bin.

and says very little ever who I am.

ez dunket mich unsælikeit

it seems to-me misfortune

daz ich mit triuwen allen mînen sin

that I with faithfulness all my mind

bewendet hân dar es mich dunket vil,

applied have there of-it me seems much,

und mir der besten einiu

and to-me of-the best one

des niht gelouben wil.

of-that not believe will.

ez wart von unschulden

it became from innocence

nie nieman sô rehte wê.

never to-anyone so right painful.

got helfe mir deiz noch ergê

God help me that-it still turn-out

daz ich ûz ir hulden kome niemer mê.

that I out-of her goodwill come never more.

‘Ôwê trûren unde klagen,

Alas mourning and lamenting,

wie sol mir dîn mit fröiden werden buoz?

how shall to-me of-thee with joys become remedy?

mir tuot vil wê deich dich muoz tragen:

to-me does very pain that-I thee must bear:

du bist ze grôz, doch ich dich liden muoz.

thou art too great, yet I thee suffer must.

die swære enwendet nieman, er entuoz.

the grief turns no-one, he unless-does-it.

den ich mit triuwen meine.

whom I with faithfulness mean.

gehôrt ich sînen gruoze,

heard I his greeting,

daz er mir nâhen læge,

that he to-me near should-lie,

sô zergienge gar mîn nôt.

then vanished wholly my distress.

sîn fremeden tuot mir den tôte

his estranging does to-me the death

unde machet mir diu ougen dicke rôte.

and makes for-me the eyes often red.'

Ich wen mir liebe geschehen wil:

I think to-me gladness happen will:

mîn herze hebet sich ze spil,

my heart lifts itself to play,

ze fröiden swinget sich mîn muote,

to joys soars itself my spirit,

als der valke enfluge tuot

as the falcon in-flight does

und der are ensweime.

and the eagle in-soaring

joch liez ich friunt dâ heime.

indeed left I friends there at-home.

wol mich, unde vinde ich die
well me, and (if)-find I them

wol gesunt als ich si lie!
quite sound as I them left!

vil guot ist daz wesen bi ir.
very good is the being by her.

herre got, gestate mir
lord God, grant to-me

daz ich sie sehen müeze
that I her see may

und alle ir swære büeze;
and all her grief amend;

ob si in deheinen sorgen si,
if she in any cares be,

daz ich ir die geringe und si mir die min dâ bi;
that I for-her them lighten and she for-me the mine there by;

sô mugen wir fröide niezen.
then may we joy enjoy.

owol mich danne langer naht! wie kunde mich verdriezen?
o-well me then of-long night! how could me weary?

156,27 Sô vil sô ich gesanc nie man,
So much as I sang never one,

der anders niht enhete wan den blôzen wân.
who otherwise nothing had but the bare expectation.

daz ich nu niht mêre enkan,
that I now not more can,

desn wunder nieman: mir hât zwîvel, den ich hân,
of-that wonder no-one: from-me has doubt, which I have,

al daz ich kunde gar benomen.
all that I could wholly taken-away.

wenne sol mir iemer spilndiu fröide komen?
when shall to-me ever playing joy come?

noch sæhe ich gerne mich in hôhem muote als ê.
still would-see I gladly myself in high spirit as before.

michn scheid ein wîp von dirre klage
unless-me part a woman from this lament

und spreche ein wort als ich ir sage,
and speak a word as I to-her say,

mir ist anders iemer wê.
to-me is otherwise ever painful.

Ich alte ie von tage ze tage,
I age ever from day to day,

und bin doch hiure nihtes wîser danne vert.
and am yet this-year in-nothing wiser than last-year.

und hete ein ander mîne klage,
and had an other my lament,

dem riete ich sô daz ez der rede wære wert,
to-him would-counsel I so that it the speech were worth,

und gibe mir selben böesen rât.
and give to-me self evil counsel.

ich weiz vil wol waz mir den schaden gemachet hât
I know very well what for-me the harm made has

daz ich si niht verhelen kunde swaz mir war.
that I her not conceal could whatever to-me was.

des hân ich ir geseit sô vil
of-that have I to-her said so much

daz si es niht mêre hoeren wil:
that she of-it not more hear will:

nû swîge ich unde nîge dar.
now keep-silent I and bow there.

Ich wânde ie, ez were ir spot,

I thought ever, it were their mockery,

die ich von minnen grôzer swære hôrte jehen.

whom I of love great grief heard speak.

des engilt ich sêre, semmir got,

for-that pay I sorely, so-help-me God,

sît ich die wârheit an mir selben hân ersehen.

since I the truth in me self have perceived.

mirst komen an daz herze mîn

to-me-is come into the heart mine

ein wîp, sol ich der volle ein jâr unmære sîn,

a woman, (if)-shall I to-her full a year indifferent be,

und sol daz alse lange stân

and (if)-shall that as long stand

daz si mîn niht nimet war,

that she of-me not takes notice,

sô muoz mîn fröide von ir gar

then must my joy from her wholly

vil lîhte ân allen trôst zergân.

very easily without all comfort vanish.

Sît mich mîn sprechen nû niht kan

Since me my speaking now not can

gehelfen noch gescheiden von der swære mîn,

help nor part from the grief mine,

wolle ich daz ein ander man

wish I that an other man

die mîne rede hete zuo den selden sîn;

the my speech had for the fortunes bis;

und doch niht an die selben stat

and yet not at the same place

dar ich nu bitte und lange her mit triuwen bat:

where I now ask and long since with faithfulness asked:

darn gan ich nieman heiles, swenne ez mich vergât.
there grant I to-no-one of-fortune, whenever it me passes-by.

nu gedinge ich ir genâden noch.
now hope I of-her favors still.

waz sî mir âne schulde doch
what she to-me without guilt yet

langer tage gemachet hât!
of-long days made has!

Und wiste ich niht daz si mich mac
And knew I not that she me may

vor al der welte wert gemachen, obe si wil,
before all the world worthy make, if she will,

ich gediende ir niemer mêre tac:
I would-serve her never more a-day:

sô hât si tugende, den ich volge unz an daz zil,
so has she virtues, which I follow until at the goal,

niht langer wan die wîle ich lebe.
not longer but the while I live.

noch bitte ich si daz si mir liebez ende gebe.
still ask I her that she to-me dear end give.

waz hilfet daz? ich weiz wol daz siez niht entuot.
what helps that? I know well that she-it not does.

nu tuo siez durch den willen mîn,
now do she-it for the will mine,

und lâze mich ir tôre sîn,
and let me her fool be,

und neme mîne rede für guot.
and take my speech for good.

158,1 Wol ime, daz er ie wart geborn,
Well to-him, that he ever was born,
 dem disiu zît genædeclîchen hine gât
to-whom this season graciously away goes
 an aller slahte seneden zorn,
without all kind longing anger,
 und doch ein teil dar under sînes willen hât.
and yet a part there among of-his will has.
 wie deme nâhet manic wûnneclîcher tac!
how to-him nears many-a delightful day!
 wie lûtz el er mir, sælic man, gelouben mac!
how little he to-me, blessed man, believe may!
 wan ich nâch fröide bin verdâht,
for I after joy am intent,
 und kan doch niemer werden frô.
and can yet never become glad.
 mich hât ein liep in trûren brâht.
me has a love into mourning brought.
 deist unwendic: nu sî alsô.
that-is unalterable: now be so.

Daz ich mîn leit sô lange klage,
That I my sorrow so long lament,
 des spottent die den ir gemüete hôhe stât.
of-that mock they to-whom their spirit high stands.
 waz ist in liep daz ich in sage?
what is to-them dear that I to-them say?
 waz sprichet der von fröiden, der dekeine hât?
what says he of joys, who none has?
 wil ich liegen, sôst mir wunders vil geschehen:
(if)-will I lie, so-is to-me of-wonder much happened:
 sô truge ab ich mich âne nôt, solt ich des jehen.
then would-deceive however I myself without need, should I of-that speak.

wan lânt si mich erwerben daz

why let they me win that

dar nâch ich ie mit triuwen ranc?

there after I ever with faithfulness strove?

zem iemen danne ein lachen baz,

would-befit anyone then a laughing better,

daz gelte ein ouge, und haber doch danc.

that pay-for an eye, and have-be yet thanks.

Ich wil von ir niht ledic sîn,

I will from her not free be,

die wîle ich iemer gernden muot zer werlte hân.

the while I ever desiring spirit toward-the world have.

daz beste gelt der fröiden mîn

the best payment of-the joys mine

daz lît an ir, und aller mîner sælden wân.

that lies in her, and of-all my fortune expectation.

swenne ich daz verliuse, sô enhân ich niht:

whenever I that lose, then have I nothing:

ichn ruoche ouch für den selben tac waz mir geschiht.

I-not deign also for that same day what to-me happens.

ich muoz wol sorgen umbe ir leben:

I must well care about her life:

stirbet si, sô bin ich tôt.

dies she, then am I dead.

hât sî mir anders niht gegeben,

(if)-has she to-me otherwise nothing given,

so erkenne ich doch wol senede nôt.

then know I yet well longing distress.

Genâde ist endelîche dâ:

Favor is finally there:

diu'rzeige sich als ez an mînem heile sî.

let-it-show itself as it for my well-being be.

dien suoche ich niender anderswâ:

it seek I nowhere elsewhere:

von ir gebote wil ich niemer werden frî.

from her command will I never become free.

daz si dâ sprechent von verlornen arebeit,

that they there speak of lost hardship,

sol daz der mîner einiu sîn, daz ist mir leit.

(if)-shall that of-the mine one be, that is to-me grievous.

ichn wânde niht, dô ichs began,

I thought not, when I-it began,

ichn sæhe an ir noch lieben tac:

unless-I would-see in her still dear day:

ist mir dâ misselungen an,

(if)-is to-me there failed at,

doch gab ichz wol als ez dâ lac.

yet gave I-it well as it there lay.

159,1 Ich wirbe umb allez daz ein man

I strive for all that a man

ze wereltlichen fröiden iemer haben sol.

for worldly joys ever have shall.

daz ist ein wîp der ich enkan

that is a woman whom I can-not

nâch ir vil grôzen werdekeit gesprechen wol.

after her very great worthiness speak well.

lob ich si sô man ander frowen tuot,

praise I her as one other ladies does,

dazn nimet eht si von mir niht für guot.

that takes just she from me not for good.

doch swer ich des, sîst an der stat

yet swear I of-that, she-is in the place

dâs ûz wîplîchen tugenden nie fuoz getrat.

where-she out-of womanly virtues never foot stepped.

daz ist in mat.

that is to-them checkmate.

Si ist mir lieb, und dunket mich

She is to-me dear, and seems to-me

daz ich ir vollecliche gar unmære sî.

that I to-her completely wholly indifferent be.

nu waz darumbe? daz lîd ich,

now what about-that? that suffer I,

und bin ir doch mit triuwen stæteclîchen bî.

and am to-her yet with faithfulness constantly by.

waz obe ein wunder lîhte an mir geschiht,

what if a wonder perhaps to me happens,

daz si mich eteswenne gerne siht?

that she me sometimes gladly sees?

sâ denne lâze ich âne haz,

at-once then let I without hatred,

swer giht daz ime an fröiden sî gelungen baz:

whoever says that to-him in joys be succeeded better:

der habe im daz.

let-him have to-him that.

Als eteswenne mir der lîp

When sometimes to-me the person

dur sîne böese unstæte rîtet daz ich var

through his evil inconstancy urges that I go

und mir gefriunde ein ander wîp,

and for-me befriend an other woman,

sô wil iedoch daz herze niender wan dar.

then will yet the heart nowhere but there.

wol ime des deiz sô reine welen kan

well to-it for-that that-it so purely choose can

und mir der süezen arebeite gan.

and to-me the sweet hardship grants.

des hân ich mir ein liep erkorn

for-that have I for-me a love chosen

dem ich ze dienste, und were ez al der welte zorn,

to-whom I in service, and were it to-all the world anger,

muoz sîn geborn.

must be born.

Swaz jâre ich noch ze lebenne hân,

Whatever years I still to live have,

swie vil der wære, irn wurde ir niemer tac genomen.

however many of-them were, from-her would-be of-them never day taken.

sô gar bin ich ir undertân

so wholly am I to-her subject

daz ich unsanfte ûz ir genâden möhte komen.

that I hardly out-of her favors could come.

ich fröwe mich des daz ich ir dienen sol.

I rejoice myself of-that that I to-her serve shall.

si gelônet mir mit lihten dingen wol:

she rewards me with slight things well:

geloube eht mir, swenn ich ir sage

believe just to-me, whenever I to-her tell

die nôt diech inme herzen von ir schulden trage

the distress which-I in-the heart from her guilt bear

dick inme tage.

often in-the day.

Und ist daz mirs mîn sælde gan

And (if)-is that to-me-it my fortune grants

159,37

deich abe ir redendem munde ein küssen mac versteln,

that-I from her speaking mouth a kiss may steal,

gît got deichz mit mir bringe dan,

(if)-gives God that-I-it with me bring away,

sô wil ichz tougenlîche tragen und iemer heln.

then will I-it secretly bear and ever bide.

und ist daz sîz für grôze swære hât

and (if)-is that she-it for great grief holds

und vêhet mich dur mîne missetât,

and bates me for my misdeed,

waz tuon ich danne, unsælic man?

what do I then, unblessed man?

dâ heb i'z ûf und legez hin wider dâ ichz dâ nan,

there lift I-it up and lay-it away back where I-it there took,

als ich wol kan.

as I well can.

Daz beste daz ie man sprach

The best that ever one spoke

160,6

od iemer mê getuot,

or ever more does,

daz hât mich gemachet redelôs.

that has me made speechless.

got weiz wol, sît ichs êrste sach,

God knows well, since I-her first saw,

sô hete ich ie den muot

so had I ever the spirit

daz ich vür si nie kein wîp erkôs.

that I before her never any woman chose.

kunde ich mich dar hân gewendet

could I myself there have turned

dâ manz dicke erbôt

where one-it often offered

mînem lîbe rehte als ich ez wolde,

to-my body right as I it wanted,

ich het eteswaz verendet.

I would-have something accomplished.

ich rüem âne nôt

I boast without need

mich der wîbe mêre danne ich solde.

myself of-the women more than I should.

war sint komen die sinne mîn?

where are gone the senses mine?

sol ez mir wol erboten sîn,

(if)-shall it to-me well offered be,

hân ich tumber gouch mich sô verjehen,

(if)-have I foolish dolt myself so declared,

swaz des wâr ist, daz muoz noch geschehen.

whatever of-that true is, that must still happen.

Mîn rede ist alsô nâhe komen

My speech is so near come

dazs êrste vrâget des

that-she first asks of-that

waz genâden sî der ich dâ ger.

what favors be of-which I there desire.

wil si des noch niht hân vernomen,

(if)-will she of-that still not have heard,

sô nimet mich wunder wes

then takes me wonder why

ich vil maneger swære niht enber

I very many-a grief not do-without

die mir alsô dicke nâhen

which to-me so often near

an dem herzen sint,

at the heart are,

daz ich niemer tac vrô belîbe.

that I never a-day glad remain.

sol der kumber niht vervâhen,

(if)-shall the affliction not avail,

tæte ez danne ein kint

should-do it then a child

deiz sus iemer lebete nâch wîbe,

that-it thus ever lived after woman,

dem solt ich wol wîzen daz.

to-him should I well blame that.

möht ich mich noch bedenken baz

might I myself still consider better

unde næme von ir gar den muot!

and should-take from her wholly the spirit!

neinâ, herre! jô ist si sô guot.

no-indeed, lord! truly is she so good.

Het ich der guoten ie gelogen

Had I to-the good-one ever lied

sô grôz als umbe ein hâr,

so great as about a hair,

sô lît ich von schulden ungemach.

then suffer I by right discomfort.

ich weiz wol waz mich hât betrogen:

I know well what me has deceived:

dâ seite ich ir ze gar

there told I to-her too wholly

swaz mir leides ie von ir geschach

whatever to-me of-sorrow ever from her happened

unde ergap mich ir ze sêre.

and surrendered myself to-her too sorely.

dô si daz vernam

when she that heard

daz ich niemer von ir komen kunde,

that I never from her come could,

dô was si mir iemer mêre

then was she to-me ever more

in ir herzen gram

in her heart hostile

unde erbôt mir leit zealler stunde.

and offered to-me sorrow at-every hour.

alsô hân ich si verlorn,

so have I her lost,

und wil nu, dêst ein niuwer zorn,

and will now, that-is a new anger,

daz ich si der rede gar begeben.

that I her of-the speech wholly relieve.

weiz got, niemer al die wîle ich lebe.

knows God, never all the while I live.

Wie dicke ich in den sorgen doch

How often I in the cares yet

des morgens bin betaget,

of-the morning am overtaken-by-day,

sô ez allez slief daz bî mir lac!

when it all slept that by me lay!

si enwisten noch enwizzen noch

they knew-not nor know still

daz mich mîn herze jaget

that me my heart drives

sô dar ich vil unsanfte komen mac.

so there I very hardly come may.

si enlât mich von ir scheiden

she lets-not me from her part

noch bî ir bestên.

nor by her remain.

ie dar under muoz ich gar verderben.

ever there between must I wholly perish.

mit den listen, wæn ich, beiden

with the arts, think I, both

wil si mich vergên.

will she me undo.

hœrent wunder, kans alsus werben?

hear a-wonder, can-she thus woo?

nein si, weiz got, sine kan.

no she, knows God, she-not can.

ich hâns ein teil gelogen an.

I have-her a part lied against.

sin getet ez nie wan umbe daz

she did it never but for this

daz si mich noch wil versuochen baz.

that she me still will try better.

Dô Liebe kom und mich bestuont,

When Love came and me assailed,

wie tet Genâde sô

how did Favor so

daz siz niht genædeclîchen schiet?

that she-it not graciously settled?

ich bat si dicke, sô die tuont

I asked her often, as they do

die gerne wæren frô,

who gladly would-be glad,

sît ir trôst vil manegen ie beriet,

since her comfort very many ever advised,

dazs och mir daz selbe tæte.

that-she also to-me the same should-do.

innerhalb der tür

within the door

hât ... leider sich verborgen.

has (lacuna) alas herself hidden.

mac si sehen an mîne stæte.

may she look on my constancy.

gê dur got her vür

go for God's-sake here forth

unde helfe daz ich kome ûz sorgen;

and help that I come out-of cares;

wan ich hân mit schônen siten

for I have with fair manners

sô kumeclîche her gebiten.

so sorrowfully hither waited.

obe des diu guote niht verstât,

if of-that the good-one not understands,

wê gewaltes dens an mir begât!

alas of-violence which-she against me commits!

162,7 Ein wîser man sol niht ze vil

A wise man shall not too much

versuochen noch gezihen, dêst mîn rât,

try nor accuse, that-is my counsel,

von der er sich niht scheiden wil

from her he himself not part will

und er der wâren schulde ouch keine hât.

and he of-the true guilt also none has.

swer wil al der werlte lüge an ein ende komen,

whoever will of-all the world's lie to an end come,

der hât im âne nôt ein herzelîchez leit genomen.

he has to-himself without need a heartfelt sorrow taken.

man sol böeser rede gedagen;

one shall of-evil speech keep-silent;

und frâge ouch nieman lange des

and ask also no-one long of-that

daz er doch ungerne hœre sagen.

which he yet unwillingly would-bear told.

War umbe vüeget diu mir leit

Where for causes she to-me sorrow

162,16

von der ich hôhe solte tragen den muot?

from whom I high should carry the spirit?

jôn wirbe ich niht mit kûndekeit

indeed woo I not with cunning

noch durch versuochen, als vil maneger tuot.

nor for trying, as very many-a-one does.

ich enwart nie rehte vrô wan sô ich si gesach;

I became never right glad but when I her saw;

sô gie von herzen gar swaz mîn munt wider si sprach.

then went from heart wholly whatever my mouth toward her spoke.

sol nu diu triuwe sîn verlorn,

(if)-shall now the faithfulness be lost,

so endarf eht nieman wunder nemen,

then need just no-one wonder take,

hân ich underwîlen einen zorn.

(if)-have I at-times an anger.

Si jehent daz stæte sî ein tugent,

They say that constancy be a virtue,

der andern frowe. sô wol im der si habe!

of-the other lady. so well to-him who it has!

si hât mir fröide in mîner jugent

she has from-me joy in my youth

mit ir wol schoener zuht gebrochen abe,

with her quite fair courtesy broken away,

daz ich unz an mînen tôt nie mêre si gelobe.

so-that I until at my death never more her praise.

ich sihe wol, swer nu vert sêre wüetende als er tobe,

I see well, whoever now goes very raging as he rave,

daz den diu wîp nu minnent ê

that him the women now love sooner

dann einen man der des niht kan.

than a man who of-that not can.

ich ensprach in nie sô nâhe mê.

I spoke to-them never so near more.

162,34 Ez tuot ein leit nâch liebe wê:

It does a sorrow after love pain:

sô tuot ouch lîhte ein liep nâch leide wol.

so does also easily a love after sorrow well.

swer welle daz er frô bestê,

whoever wills that he glad remain,

daz eine er dur daz ander lîden sol

the one he for the other suffer shall

mit bescheidenlicher klage und gar ân arge site.

with discerning lament and wholly without evil manner.

zer welte ist niht sô guot daz ich ie sach sô guot gebite.

in-the world is nothing so good that I ever saw so good waiting

swer die gedultelichen hât,

whoever it patiently has,

der kam des ie mit fröiden hin.

he came of-that ever with joys away.

alsô ding ich daz mîn noch werde rât.

so hope I that of-me still become counsel.

Des einen und deheines mê

Of-the one and of-none more

wil ich ein meister sîn die wîle ich lebe;

will I a master be the while I live;

daz lop wil ich daz mir bestê

that praise will I that to-me remain

und mir die kunst diu werlt gemeine gebe,

and to-me the art the world in-common give,

daz niht mannes sîniu leit sô schône kan getragen.

that no man his sorrows so fairly can bear.

begât ein wîp an mir deich tac noch naht niht kan gedagen,

(if)-commits a woman against me that-I day nor night at-all can keep-silent,

nu hân eht ich sô senften muot

now have just I so gentle spirit

daz ich ir haz ze fröiden nime.

that I her hatred for joys take.

owê wie rehte unsanfte ez mir doch tuot!

alas how right harshly it to-me yet does!

Ich weiz den wec nu lange wol

I know the way now long well

der von der liebe gât unz an daz leit.

which from the love goes until at the sorrow.

der ander der mich wîsen sol

the other which me guide shall

ûz leide in liep, derst mir noch unbereit,

out-of sorrow into love, that-is to-me still unready,

daz mir von gedanken ist alsô unmâzen wê,
that to-me from thoughts is so immeasurably painful,

des überhoere ich vil und tuon als ich des niht verstê.
of-that ignore I much and do as I of-that not understand.

gît minne niht wan ungemach,
(if)-gives love nothing but discomfort,

sô müeze minne unsælic sîn:
then may love unblest be:

wan ichs noch ie in bleicher varwe sach.
for I-her still ever in pale color saw.

163,23 Mich hæhet daz mich lange hæhen sol,
Me exalts what me long exalt shall,

daz ich nie wîp mit rede verlôs.
that I never woman by speech lost.

sprach in iemen anders danne wol,
spoke to-them anyone otherwise than well,

daz was ein schult diech nie verkôs.
that was a guilt which-I never overlooked.

in wart nie man sô rehte unmære
to-them became never man so right indifferent

der ir lop gerner hôte und dem ie ir genâde lieber wære.
who their praise more-gladly heard and to-whom ever their favor dearer were.

doch habent si den dienst mîn:
yet have they the service mine:

wan al mîn trôst und al mîn leben
for all my comfort and all my life

daz muoz an eime wîbe sîn.
that must in one woman be.

Wie mac mir iemer iht sô liep gesîn

How may to-me ever anything so dear be

dem ich sô lange unmære bin?

to-which I so long indifferent am?

lîd ich die liebe mit dem willen mîn,

(if)-suffer I the love with the will mine,

sôn hân ich niht ze guoten sin.

then have I not too good sense.

ist aber daz i's niht mac erwenden,

(if)-is however that I-it not may prevent,

sô möhte mir ein wîp ir rât enbieten unde ir helfe senden

then could to-me a woman her counsel offer and her help send

und lieze mich verderben niht.

and would-let me perish not.

ich hân noch trôst, swie kleine er sî:

I have still comfort, however small it be:

swaz geschehen sol, daz geschiht.

whatever happen shall, that happens.

Der ie die werlt gefröite baz dann ich,

Who ever the world gladdened better than I,

der müeze mit genâden leben;

he may with favors live;

der tuoz ouch noch, wan sîn verdriuzet mich.

he may-do-it also still, for of-it wearies me.

mir hât mîn rede niht wol ergeben.

to-me has my speech not well turned-out.

ich diende ir ie: mirn lônde niemen.

I served her ever: to-me rewarded no-one.

daz truoc ich alsô daz mîn ungebærde sach vil lützel iemen

that bore I so that my agitation saw very little anyone

und daz ich nie von ir geschiet.

and that I never from her parted.

164,3

si sælic wîp enspreche 'sinc',
unless blessed woman speak 'sing,'

niemer mê gesinge ich liet.
never more sing I song.

164,12 Ich sach si, wære ez al der werlte leit,
I saw her, were it to-all the world grievous,

diech doch mit sorgen hân gesehen.
whom-I yet with cares have seen.

wol mich sô minneclîcher arebeit!
well me of-so lovely hardship!

mirn konde niemer baz geschehen.
to-me could never better happen.

dar nâch wart mir vil schiere leide.
there after became to-me very soon sorrow.

ich schiet von ir daz ich von wîbe niemer mit der nôt gescheide
I parted from her so-that I from woman never with the distress part

noch daz mir nie sô wê geschach.
nor that to-me ever so painfully happened.

owê, dô ich danne muoste gân,
alas, when I then had-to go,

wie jæmerlîch ich umbe sach!
how piteously I about looked!

Ôwê daz ich einer rede vergaz,
Alas that I one speech forgot,

daz tuot mir hiute und iemer wê,
that does to-me today and ever pain,

dô si mir âne huote vor gesaz!
when she to-me without guarding before sat!

war umbe redte ich dô niht mê?
where for spoke I then not more?

dô was ab ich sô vrô der stunde

then was however I so glad of-the hour

und der vil kurzewîle daz man der guoten mir ze sehenne gunde,

and of-the very short-while that one the good-one to-me to see should-grant,

daz ich vor liebe niht ensprach.

that I for love not spoke.

ez möhte manegem noch geschehen,

it might to-many-a-one still happen,

der sie sæhe als ich si sach.

who her should-see as I her saw.

In disen böesen ungetriuwen tagen

In these evil faithless days

ist mîn gemach niht guot gewesen:

has my ease not good been:

wan daz ich leit mit zühten kan getragen

but that I sorrow with courtesies can bear

ichn konde niemer sîn genesen.

I could never of-it recover.

tet ich nâch leide als ichz erkenne,

did I after sorrow as I-it perceive,

sie liezen mich vil schiere, die mich gerne sâhen eteswenne,

they would-leave me very soon, who me gladly saw sometimes,

die mir dâ sanfte wâren bî.

who to-me there gently were by.

nu muoz ich fröide nœten mich

now must I to-joy force myself

dur daz ich bî der werlde sî.

for that I with the world be.

164,30

165,1 Ich bin der sumerlanden tage sô vrô,
I am of-the summer-long days so glad,
 daz ich nu hügende worden bin;
that I now cheerful become am;
 ouch stât mîn herze und mîn wille alsô:
also stands my heart and my will so:
 ich minne ein wîp, dâ meine ich hin.
I love a woman, there mean I toward.
 diust hôhgemuot und ist sô schœne
she-is high-spirited and is so fair
 daz ich si dâ von vor andern wîben krœne.
that I her there for before other women crown.
 wil aber ich von ir tugenden sagen,
(if)-will however I of her virtues speak,
 des wirt sô vil, swenn ichz erhebe,
of-that becomes so much, when I-it begin,
 daz ichs iemer muoz gedagen.
that I-of-it ever must keep-silent.

165,10 Waz ich nu niuwer mære sage
Whatever I now new tidings tell
 desn darf mich nieman frâgen: ich enbin niht vrô.
of-that need me no-one ask: I am not glad.
 die friunt verdriuzet mîner klage.
the friends wearies of-my lament.
 des man ze vil gehœret, dem ist allem sô.
what one too much hears, to-that is all so.
 nu hân ich es beidiu schaden unde spot.
now have I of-it both harm and mockery.
 waz mir doch leides unverdienet, daz erkenne got,
what to-me yet of-sorrow undeserved, that knows God,
 und âne schult geschiht!
and without guilt happens!

ichn gelige herzeliebe bî,

unless-I lie heart's-love by,

sôn hât an mîner vröide nieman niht.

then has in my joy no-one anything.

Die hôhgemuoten zîhent mich,

The high-spirited accuse me,

ich minne niht sô sêre als ich gebâre ein wîp.

I love not so sorely as I behave a woman.

sie liegent unde unêrent sich:

they lie and dishonor themselves:

si was mir ie gelîcher mâze sô der lîp.

she was to-me ever of-equal measure as the person.

nie getrôste si dar under mir den muot.

never comforted she there between to-me the spirit.

der ungenâden muoz ich, und des si mir noch getuot,

of-the disfavours must I, and of-what she to-me still does,

erbeiten als ich mac.

await as I may.

mir ist eteswenne wol gewesen:

to-me is sometimes well been:

gewinne ab ich nu niemer guoten tac?

win however I now never good day?

Sô wol dir, wîp, wie reine ein nam!

So well to-thee, woman, how pure a name!

wie sanfte er doch zerkennen und ze nennen ist!

how gently it yet to-recognize and to name is!

ez wart nie niht sô lobesam,

it became never anything so praiseworthy,

swâ dûz an rehte güete kêrest, sô du bist.

wherever thou-it to right goodness turnest, as thou art.

dîn lop nieman mit rede volenden kan.

thy praise no-one with speech complete can.

swes du mit triuwen phligest, wol im, derst ein sælic man

whomever thou with faithfulness tendest, well to-him, that-is a blessed man

und mac vil gerne leben.

and may very gladly live.

du gîst al der werlde hôhen muot:

thou givest to-all the world high spirit:

wan maht och mir ein lützel fröiden geben?

why mayest also to-me a little of-joys give?

Zwei dinc hân ich mir für geleit,

Two things have I for-me before laid,

diu strîtent mit gedanken in dem herzen mîn:

they strive with thoughts in the heart mine:

ob ich ir hôhen werdekeit

whether I her high worthiness

mit mînem willen wolte lâzen minre sîn,

with my will would let less be,

ode ob ich daz welle daz si grœzer sî

or whether I that wish that it greater be

und si vil sælic wîp stê mîn und aller manne vrî.

and she very blessed woman stand of-me and of-all men free.

diu tuont mir beidiu wê:

they do to-me both painfully:

ich enwirde ir lasters niemer vrô;

I become of-her disgrace never glad;

vergêet si mich, daz klage ich iemer mê.

shuns she me, that lament I ever more.

Ob ich nu tuon und hân getân

Whether I now do and have done

daz ich von rehte in ir hulden solte sîn,

that I by right in her goodwill should be,

und si vor aller werlde hân,

and her before all world hold,

waz mac ich des, vergizzet si darunder mîn?

what may I of-that, forgets she meanwhile of-me?

swer nu giht daz ich ze spotte künne klagen,

whoever now says that I in mockery can lament,

der lâze im mîne rede beide singen unde sagen

he let for-himself my speech both sung and said

unde merke wâ ich ie spreche ein wort,

and mark where I ever speak a word,

ezn lige ê iz gespreche herzen bî.

unless-it lie before it speak to-heart near.

Der lange süeze kumber mîn

The long sweet affliction mine

an mîner herzelieben vrowen derst erniuwet.

for my heart-dear lady that-is renewed.

wie möhte ein wunder grœzer sîn,

how could a wonder greater be,

daz mîn verlornen dienst mich sô selten riuwet,

that my lost service me so seldom grieves,

wan ich noch nie den boten gesach

for I still never the messenger saw

der mir ie bræhte trôst von ir, wan leit und ungemach.

who to-me ever brought comfort from her, but sorrow and discomfort.

wie sol ich iemer dise unsælde erwenden?

how shall I ever this misfortune turn-away?

166,16

unmære ich ir, daz ist mir leit,
indifferent I to-her, that is to-me grievous,
 so enwart mir nie sô liep, kund i'z verenden.
so became to-me never so dear, could it end.

Wâ nu getriuwer friunde rât?
Where now of-faithful friends counsel?
 waz tuon ich, daz mir liebet daz mir leiden solte?
what do I, that to-me pleases what to-me displease should?
 mîn dienst spot erworben hât
my service mockery won has
 und anders niht, ob ichez noch gelouben wolte.
and otherwise nothing, if I-it still believe would.
 joch wæne i'z nu gelouben muoz.
indeed think I-it now believe must.

des wirt och niemer leides mir unz an mîn ende buoz,
of-that becomes also never of-sorrow for-me until at my end remedy,
 sît si mich hazzet diech von herzen minne.
since she me bates whom-I from heart love.

mirn kunde ez niemen gesagen:
to-me could it no-one tell:
 nu bin ichs vil unsanfte worden inne.
now am I-of-it very harshly become aware.

Daz si mich alse unwerden habe
That she me as unworthy holds
 als si mir vor gebâret, daz geloube ich niemer:
as she to-me before behaves, that believe I never:
 nu lâze ein teil ir zornes abe,
now let a part of-her anger off,
 wan endeclichen ir genâden beite ich iemer.
for steadfastly her favor await I ever.

von ir enmac ich noch ensol.

from her can-not I nor shall.

sô sich genuoge ir liebes fröunt, sôst mir mit leide wol.

when themselves many of-their love rejoice, so-is to-me with sorrow well.

enkan ich anders niht an ir gewinnen,

(if)-can I otherwise nothing from her win,

daz ich âne ir hulde sî

that I without her goodwill be

ich wil ir güete und ir gebærde minnen.

I will her goodness and her bearing love.

Mac si mich doch lâzen sehen,

May she me yet let see,

ob ich ir wære lieb, wie si mich haben wolte.

if I to-her were dear, how she me have would.

sît mir niht anders mac geschehen,

since to-me nothing otherwise may happen,

sô tuo gelîche deme als ez doch wesen solte,

then do like to-that as it yet be should,

und lege mich ir nâhe bî

and lay me to-her near by

und bietez eine wîle mir als ez von Herzen sî:

and offer-it a while to-me as it from heart be:

gevalle ez danne uns beiden, sô sî stæte:

(if)-pleases it then us both, then be constant:

verliese ab ich ir hulde dâ,

(if)-lose however I her goodwill there,

sô sî verborn als obe siz nie getæte.

then be forborne as if she-it never did.

- 167,13 Ein rede der liute tuot mir wê:
A speech of-the people does to-me pain:
 dâ enkan ich nicht gedulteclichen zuo gebâren.
there can I not patiently toward behave.
 nu tuont siz alle deste mê:
now do they-it all the more:
 si frâgent mich ze vil von mîner frouwen jâren,
they ask me too much of my lady's years,
 und sprechent, welher tage si sî,
and say, of-what days she be,
 dur daz ich ir sô lange bin gewesen mit triuwen bî;
because that I to-her so long am been with faithfulness by;
 si sprechent daz es möhte mich verdriezen.
they say that of-it might me weary.
 nu lâ daz aller beste wîp
now let the all best woman
 ir zuhtelôser vrâge mich geniezen.
their discourteous question me profit-by.

- 167,22 Owê daz alle die nu lebent
Alas that all they-who now live
 wol hânt erfunden wie mir ist nâch einem wîbe
well have found-out how to-me is after a woman
 und si mir niht den rât engebent
and they to-me not the counsel give
 daz ich getroestet wurde noch bî lebendem libe.
that I comforted should-become still by living life.
 joch klage ich niht mîn ungemach,
indeed lament I not my discomfort,
 wan daz den ungetriuwen ie baz danne mir geschach,
but that to-the faithless ever better than to-me happened,
 die nie gewonnen leit von seneder swære.
who never won sorrow from longing grief

got wolde, erkanden guotiu wîp

God would-wish, knew good women

ir sumelîcher werben, wie dem wære!

their some-men's wooing, how to-that were!

‘Si jehent, der sumer der sî hie,

‘They say, the summer it be here,

diu wunne diu sî komen,

the delight it be come,

und daz ich mich wol gehabe als ê.

and that I myself well bold as before.

nu râtent unde sprechent wie.

now counsel and say how.

der tôt hât mir benomen

the death has from-me taken

daz ich niemer überwinde mê.

what I never overcome more.

waz bedarf ich wunneclîcher zît,

what need I of-delightful season,

sît aller vröiden hêrre Liutpolt in der erde lît,

since of-all joys lord Liutpolt in the earth lies,

den ich nie tac getrûren sach?

whom I never a-day mourn saw?

ez hât diu werlt an ime verlorn

it has the world in him lost

daz ir an manne nie

so-that to-it in a-man never

sô jâmerlîcher schade geschach.

so piteous harm happened.

167,31

Mir armen wîbe was ze wol

To-me poor woman was too well

dô ich gedâhte an in

when I thought of him

wie mîn heil an sîme lîbe lac.

how my fortune in his body lay.

daz ich des nu niht haben sol,

that I of-that now not have shall,

des gât mit sorgen hin

of-that goes with cares away

swaz ich iemer mê geleben mac.

whatever I ever more live may.

mîner wunnen spiegel derst verlorn.

of-my delights mirror that-is lost.

den ich mir hete ze sumerlîcher ougenweide erkorn,

whích I for-me had for summerly eye-delight chosen,

des muoz ich leider ænic sîn.

of-that must I alas deprived be.

dô man mir seite er wære tôt,

when one to-me said he were dead,

zehant wiel mir daz bluot

at-once welled to-me the blood

von herzen ûf die sêle mîn.

from heart upon the soul mine.

Die fröide mir verboten hât

The joy to-me forbidden has

mîns lieben hêrren tôt

my dear lord's death

alsô deich ir mêr enberen sol.

so that-I of-it more do-without shall.

sît des nu niht mac werden rât,

since of-that now not may become remedy,

in ringe mit der nôt

unless-I wrestle with the distress

daz mîn klagendez herze ist jâmers vol,

so-that my lamenting heart is of-sorrow full,

diu in iemer weinet daz bin ich,

she-who him ever weeps that am I,

wan er vil sælic man jô trôste er wol ze lebenne mich.

for he very blessed man indeed comforted he well to live me.

der ist nu hin. waz tohte ich hie?

he is now gone. what would-avail I here?

wis ime gnædic, hêrre got:

be to-him gracious, lord God:

wan tugenthafter gast

for a-virtuous guest

kam in dîn ingesinde nie.'

came into thy household never.'

Ich was frô und bin daz unz an mînen tôt,

I was glad and am that until at my death,

michn wende es got aleine.

unless-me turn of-it God alone.

michn enbeswære ein rehte herzeclîchiu nôt,

unless-me oppress a right heartfelt distress,

mîn sorge ist anders kleine.

my care is otherwise small.

sô daz danne an mir zergât,

when that then in me vanishes,

sô kumt aber hôher muot, der mich niht trûren lâ.

then comes again high spirit, which me not mourn lets.

168,30

Jône singe ich zwâre durch mich selben niht,

Indeed sing I truly for me self not,

wan durch der liute frâge,

but for the people's asking,

die dâ jehent, des mir, ob got wil, niht geschiht,

who there say, of-which to-me, if God wills, not happens,

daz fröide mich betrâge.

that joy me wearies.

sîst mir lieb und wert als ê,

she-is to-me dear and worthy as before,

obez ir etelîchem tæte in den ougen wê.

though-it to some-of-them should-do in the eyes pain.

Ich wil aller der enbern die mîn enbernt

I will of-all those do-without who of-me do-without

und daz tuont âne schulde.

and that do without guilt.

vinde ich iender dies mit triuwen an mich gernt,

(if)-find I anywhere those-who with faithfulness of me desire,

den diene ich umbe ir hulde.

them serve I for their goodwill.

ich hân iemer einen sin,

I have ever one mind,

erne wirt mir niemer lieb dem ich unmære bin.

he becomes to-me never dear to-whom I indifferent am.

169,9 Mirst ein nôt vor allem mînem leide,

To-me-is a distress before all my sorrow,

doch durch disen winter niht.

yet for this winter not.

waz dar umbe, valwet grüeniu heide?

what there for, fades green heath?

solher dinge vil geschiht;

of-such things much happens;

der ich aller muoz gedagen:

of-which I all must keep-silent:

ich hân mê ze tuonne danne bluomen klagen.

I have more to do than flowers lament.

Swie vil ich gesage guoter mære,

However much I tell of-good tidings,

sô ist niemen der mir sage

so is no-one who to-me would-tell

wenne ein ende werde mîner swære,

when an end become of-my grief,

dar zuo maneger grôzen klage

there to of-many-a great lament

diu mir an daz herze gât.

which to-me into the heart goes.

wol bedorfte ich wîser liute an mînen rât.

well would-need I of-wise people for my counsel.

Niender vinde ich triuwe, dêst ein ende,

Nowhere find I faithfulness, that-is an end,

dar ich doch gedienet hân.

where I yet served have.

guoten liuten leite ich mîne hende,

to-good people offered I my hands,

woldens ûf mir selben gât;

would-they upon me self go;

des wer ich vil willec in.

of-that were I very willing to-them.

ôwê daz mir niemen ist als ich im bin!

alas that to-me no-one is as I to-him am!

169,27 Wol den ougen diu sô welen kunden
Well to-the eyes which so choose could
 und dem herzen daz mir riet
and to-the heart which to-me counseled
 an ein wîp diu hât sich underwunden
toward a woman who has herself undertaken
 guoter dinge und anders niet.
of-good things and otherwise nothing.
 swaz ich durch si lîden sol,
whatever I for her suffer shall,
 dâst ein kumber den ich harte gerne dol.
that-is an affliction which I very gladly bear.

169,33 Daz ein man der ie mit bösem muote
That a man who ever with evil spirit
 sîne zît gelebet hât
his time lived has
 nimmer wil geruochen mîn ze guote,
never will deign of-me to good,
 des wirt mîn vil schône rât.
of-that becomes my very fair counsel.
 swenne ich in erliegen sol,
whenever I him lie-about shall,
 sô gedenke ich ôwê, wie getuon ich wol!
then think I alas, how do I well!

170,1 Ich wil allez gâhen
I will always hasten
 zuo der liebe die ich hân.
to the love which I have.

so ist ez niender nâhen

yet is it nowhere near

daz sich ende noch mîn wân.

that itself end yet my expectation.

doch versuoche ichz alle tage

yet try I-it all days

und diene ir sô dazs âne ir danc

and serve her so that-she without her thanks

mit fröiden muoz erwenden kumber den ich trage.

with joys must turn-away affliction which I bear.

Mich betwanc ein mære

Me compelled a tiding

daz ich von ir hôte sagen,

which I of her heard say,

wies ein vrouwe wære

how-she a lady were

diu sich schône kunde tragen.

who herself fairly could bear.

daz versuochte ich unde ist wâr.

that tried I and is true.

ir kunde nie kein wîp geschaden

to-her could never any woman harm

(daz ist wol kleine) alsô grôz als umbe ein hâr.

(that is quite little) so great as about a hair.

Swaz in allen landen

Whatever in all lands

mir ze liebe mac geschehen,

to-me for love may happen,

daz stât in ir handen:

that stands in her bands:

anders niemen wil ichs jehen.

otherwise to-no-one will I-it grant.

si ist mîn ôsterlîcher tac,

she is my Easter day,

und hâns in mînem herzen lieb:

and have-her in my heart dear:

daz weiz er wol dem nieman niht geliegen mac.

that knows he well to-whom no-one at-all lie can.

Si hât leider selten

She has alas seldom

mîne klagende rede vernomen:

my lamenting speech heard:

des muoz ich engelten.

of-that must I pay.

nie kund ich ir nâher komen.

never could I to-her nearer come.

maneger zuo den vrouwen gât

many-a-one to the ladies goes

und swîget allen einen tac

and keeps-silent all one day

und anders niemen sînen willen reden lât.

and otherwise no-one his will speak lets.

Niemen imez vervienge

No-one to-him-it would-reckon

zeiner grôzen missetât,

for-a great misdeed,

ob er dannen gienge

if he thence went

dâ er niht ze tuonne hât;

where he nothing to do has;

spræche als ein gewizzen man

should-speak as a discreet man

‘gebietet ir an mîne stat’:

‘command you in my place’:

daz wære ein zuht und stüende im lobelîchen an.

that were a courtesy and should-stand to-him praiseworthy on.

Niemen seneder suoche an mich deheinen rât:

No-one longing seek from me any counsel:

ich mac mîn selbes leit erwenden niht.

I may my own sorrow turn-away not.

nun wæn iemen grœzer ungelücke hât,

now-not think anyone greater misfortune has,

und man mich doch sô frô dar under siht.

and one me yet so glad there among sees.

dâ merkent doch ein wunder an.

there mark yet a wonder on.

ich solte iu klagen die meisten nôt,

I should to-you lament the greatest distress,

niwan daz ich von wîben übel niht reden kan.

except that I of women ill not speak can.

Spræche ich nu des ich si selten hân gewent,

Should-speak I now of-what I her seldom have accustomed,

dar an begienge ich grôze unstætekeit.

there in would-commit I great inconstancy.

ich hân lange wîle unsanfte mich gesent

I have long while harshly myself longed

und bin doch in der selben arebeit.

and am yet in the same hardship.

170,36

bezzer ist ein herzesêr

better is a heart-pain

dann ich von wîben misserede.

than I of women speak-ill.

ich tuon sîn niht: si sint von allem rehte hêr.

I do of-it nothing: they are by all right noble.

171,11 In ist lieb daz man si stæteclîchen bite,

To-them is dear that one them constantly asks,

und tuot in doch sô wol daz sî versagent.

and does to-them yet so well that they refuse.

hei wie manegen muot und wunderlîche site

ah how many-a spirit and wondrous manner

si tougenlîche in ir herzen tragent!

they secretly in their hearts bear!

swer ir hulde welle hân,

whoever their goodwill will have,

der wese in bî und spreche in wol.

let-him be to-them by and speak to-them well.

daz tet ich ie: nu kan michz leider niht vervân.

that did I ever: now can me-it alas not avail.

Dâ ist doch mîn schulde entriuwen niht sô grôz

There is yet my guilt truly not so great

als rehte unsælic ich ze lône bin.

as right unblessed I in reward am.

ich stân aller vröiden rehte hendeblôz

I stand of-all joys right empty-handed

und gât mîn dienest wunderlîche hin.

and goes my service strangely away.

daz geschach nie manne mê.

that happened never to-a-man more.

volende ich mîne senede nôt,

(if)-complete I my longing distress,

sin tuot mir mê, mag ichz behüeten, wol noch wê.

unless-she does to-me more, may I-it prevent, well nor painfully.

Ich bin tump daz ich sô grôzen kumber klage

I am foolish that I so great affliction lament

und ir des wil deheine schulde geben.

and to-her of-it will no guilt give.

sît ichs âne ir danc in mînem herzen trage,

since I-it without her thanks in my heart bear,

waz mac si des, wil ich unsanfte leben?

what may she of-that, will I harshly live?

daz wirt ir doch lîhte leit.

that becomes to-her yet easily grievous.

nu muoz ichz doch sô lâzen sîn.

now must I-it yet so let be.

mir machet niemen schaden wan mîn stætekeit.

to-me makes no-one harm but my constancy.

Lâze ich mînen dienst sô,

(if)-Leave I my service so,

dem ich nu lange her gevolget hân,

which I now long since followed have,

sône werde ich niemer frô.

then become I never glad.

si muoz gewaltes mê an mir begân

she must of-violence more against me commit

danne an manne ie wîp begie,

than against a-man ever woman committed,

deich mich sîn geloube. ich kunde doch gesagen wie.

that-I myself of-it renounce. I could yet say how.

Ûzer hûse und wider dar in

Out-of house and back there in

bin ich beroubet alles des ich hân,

am I robbed of-all that I have,

fröide und al der sinne mîn:

joy and all the senses mine:

daz hât mir nieman wan si getân.

that has to-me no-one but she done.

daz berede ich alse ich sol.

that maintain I as I shall.

wil sis lougen, sô getruwe ich mînem rehte wol.

(if)-will she-it deny, then trust I my right well.

‘Ich bin sô harte niht verzaget

I am so very not dismayed

daz er mir sô sêre solte dröun.

that he to-me so sorely should threaten.

ich wart noch nie von im gejaget,

I was still never by him hunted,

er enmöhte si’s ze mâze vröun:

he unless-could himself-of-it in measure rejoice:

niemer werde ich âne wer.

never become I without defense.

bestât er mich, in dunkt mîn einer lîp ein ganzez her.’

assails he me, him seems my one person a whole army.’

172,11 Ich hân ir vil manic jâr

I have to-her very many-a year

gelebt, und si mir selten einen tac.

lived, and she to-me seldom one day.

dâ von gewinne ich noch daz hâr

there from win I still the hair

daz man in wîzer varwe sehen mac.

which one in white color see may.

ir gewaltes wurde ich grâ.

of-her violence become I gray.

si möhte sichs gelouben unde zurnde anderswâ.

she could herself-of-it renounce and be-angry elsewhere.

Wænet si daz ich den muot

Thinks she that I the spirit

von ir gescheide umb alse lihten zorn?

from her should-part for so slight anger?

obe si mir ein leit getuot,

though she to-me a sorrow does,

sô bin ich doch ûf anders niht geborn

then am I yet for otherwise nothing born

wan daz ich des trôstes lebe

but that I of-that comfort live

wie ich ir gediene und si mir swære ein ende gebe.

how I to-her serve and she to-me of-grief an end give.

Als ich mich versinnen kan,

As I myself bethink can,

sô stuont nie diu werlt sô trûric mê.

so stood never the world so sorrowful more.

ich wen iender lebe ein man

I think anywhere lives a man

des dinc nâch sîn selbes willen gê.

whose affair after his own will goes.

wan daz ist und was ouch ie,

for that is and was also ever,

anders sô gestuont ez nie,

otherwise so stood it never,

wan daz beidiu lieb und leit zergie.

but that both pleasure and sorrow passed.

Swer dienet dâ mans niht verstât,

Whoever serves where one-it not understands,

der verliuset al sîn arebeit,

he loses all his hardship,

wan ez im anders niht ergât.

for it to-him otherwise not turns-out.

dâ von wahset niwan herzeleit.

there from grows nothing-but heart's-grief.

alsô hât ez mir getân:

so has it to-me done:

der ich vil wol getriuwet hân,

whom I very well trusted have,

diu hât mich gar âne fröide lân.

she has me wholly without joy left.

Stæte hilfet dâ si mac.

Constancy helps where it can.

daz ist mir ein spel: sin half mich nie.

that is to-me a tale: it helped me never.

mit guoten triuwen ich ir pflac

with good faithfulness I of-her tended

sît der zît daz ich ir künde gevie.

since the time that I of-her acquaintance took.

ich wen mich sîn gelouben wil.

I think myself of-it renounce will.

nein, sô verlür ich alze vil.

no, then would-lose I too much.

ist daz alsô, seht welch ein kindes spil.

(if)-is that so, see what a child's play.

Ich sprich iemer, swenne ich mac und ouch getar,

I say ever, whenever I may and also dare,

‘vrowe, wis genædic mir.’

‘lady, be gracious to-me.’

si nimt mîner swachen bete vil kleine war.

she takes of-my weak request very little notice.

doch sô wil ich dienen ir

yet so will I serve to-her

mit den triuwen unde ich meine daz;

with the faithfulness and I mean that;

unde als ich ir nie vergaz,

and as I of-her never forgot,

sô gestân diu ougen mîn und niemer baz.

so stand the eyes mine and never better.

Swenne ich si mit mîner valschen rede betrüge,

Whenever I her with my false speech deceived,

sô het ichs unrehte erkant.

then had I-it wrongly known.

vâhe si mich iemer an deheiner lüge,

(if)-catch she me ever in any lie,

sâ sô schupfe mich zehant

at-once so push me instantly

und geloube niemer mîner klage,

and believe never of-my lament,

173,6

dar zuo niht des ich ir sage.

there to nothing of-what I to-her say.

dâ vor müeze mich got hûeten alle tage.

there before may me God guard all days.

Wart ie guotes und getriuwes mannes rât,

Was ever good and faithful man's counsel,

sô kum ich mit vröiden hin.

then come I with joys away.

si weiz wol, swie lange si mich bîten lât

she knows well, however long she me wait lets

daz ichz doch der bitende bin.

that I-it yet the asking am.

ich hân ir gelobet ze dienen vil,

I have to-her promised to serve much,

dar zuo daz ichz gerne hil,

there to that I-it gladly conceal,

unde ir niemer umbe ein wort geliegen wil.

and to-her never about a word lie will.

Wart ie manne ein wîp sô lieb als si mir ist,

Was ever to-a-man a woman so dear as she to-me is,

sô müez ich verteilet sîn.

then may I condemned be.

maneger sprichet 'sîst mir lieber': dâst ein list.

many-a-one says 'she-is to-me dearer': that-is a trick.

got weiz wol den willen mîn,

God knows well the will mine,

wie hôh ez mir umbe ir hulde stât
how high it for-me about her goodwill stands

und wie nâhen ez mir gât,
and how near it to-me goes,

ir lop, daz si umb al die werlt verdienet hât.
her praise, which she about all the world deserved has.

Wie mîn lôn und ouch mîn ende an ir gestê,
How my reward and also my end on her stands,

dâst mîn allermeistiu nôt.
that-is my very-greatest distress.

zallen zîten fürhte ich daz si mich vergê:
at-all times fear I that she me forget:

sô wær ich an vröiden tôt.
then were I in joys dead.

daz sol si bedenken allez
that shall she consider all

tuot si mir ze lange wê,
(if)-does she to-me too long pain,

gedinge ich ûf die sêle niemermê.
hope I upon the soul never-more.

Ich hân varnder vröiden vil,
I have of-passing joys much,

und der rehten eine niht diu lange wer.
and of-the true one not which long lasts.

iemer als ich lachen wil,
ever when I laugh will,

sô seit mir daz herze mîn daz ichs enber.
then says to-me the heart mine that I-of-it do-without.

174,3

mîn muot stuont mir eteswenne alsô

my spirit stood for-me sometimes so

deich was mit den andern frô:

that-I was with the others glad:

desn ist nu niht; daz waz alles dô.

of-that is now nothing; that was all then.

Lîde ich nôt und arebeit,

(if)-Suffer I distress and hardship,

die hân ich mir selbe an alle schult genomen.

them have I to-me self without all guilt taken.

dicke hât si mir geseit

often has she to-me said

daz ichz lieze, in möhtes niemer zende komen,

that I-it should-leave, I might-of-it never to-end come,

unde tuot noch hiute sôs mich siht,

and does still today so-she me sees,

und mir leit dâ von geschiht:

and to-me sorrow there from happens:

daz sî mîn und gebe des niemen niht.

that be mine and give of-that to-no-one nothing.

Daz ich ir gediente ie tac,

That I to-her served ever a-day,

des enwil si mir gelouben niht, owê

of-that will she to-me believe not, alas

und swaz ich gesingen mac,

and whatever I sing may,

des engiht si niht daz si daz iht bestê.

of-that says she not that her that at-all concerns.

daz ist mir ein jæmerlich gewin.

that is to-me a piteous gain.

sus gât mir mîn leben hin.

thus goes for-me my life away.

seht wie sælic ich ze lône bin.

see how blessed I in reward am.

Nie wart grœzer ungemach

Never was greater discomfort

danne ez ist der mit gedanken umbe gât.

than it is for-him-who with thoughts about goes.

sît daz sî mîn ouge sach,

since that her my eye saw,

diu mich vil unstæten man betwungen hât,

who me very inconstant man compelled has,

der mac ich vergezzen niemer mê.

of-her may I forget never more.

daz tuot mir vil lange wê.

that does to-me very long pain.

wê wan hæte ichs dô verlâzen ê!

alas would-that had I-it then left before!

Ich hân iemer teil an ir:

I have ever part in her:

dem gib ich nieman, swie frömed er mir sî.

that give I to-no-one, however strange he to-me be.

ôwê, wanne wurde er mir

alas, when would-become it to-me

daz ich einen tac belîbe von sorgen vrî!

that I one day remain from cares free!

got weiz wol daz ich ir nie vergaz

God knows well that I of-ber never forgot

noch mir wîp geviel nie baz.

nor to-me woman pleased ever better.

wirt mir anders niht, sô hân ich daz.

(if)-becomes to-me otherwise nothing, then have I that.

175,1 Ich gehabe mich wol. in ruochte iedoch

I bear myself well. I-not would-deign however

ob mir ein vil lützel wære baz.

if to-me a very little were better.

ich bin allez in den sorgen noch:

I am always in the cares still:

wirt mir sanfter iht, ich rede ouch daz.

(if)-becomes to-me gentler anything, I say also that.

zuo den sorgen die ich hân

to the cares which I have

ist mîn klage, in habe der tage den vollen niht

is my lament, I have of-the days the full not

daz mîn swære iht muge ze herzen gân.

that my grief at-all may to heart go.

175,8 Ez erbarmet mich dazs alle jehen

It grieves me that-they all say

daz ich anders künne niht wan klagen.

that I otherwise can nothing but lament.

mugent ir michel wunder an mir sehen?

may you great wonder in me see?

waz solt ich nu singen oder sagen?

what should I now sing or say?

solte ich swern, in wisse waz.

should I swear, I-not knew what.

sæhe ich wider âbent einen kleinen boten,
should-see I toward evening a little messenger,

sô gesanc nie man von vrôiden baz.
then sang never one of joys better.

Ich bin aller dinge ein sælic man,
I am in-all things a blessed man,

wan des einen dâ man lônên sol.
but of-the one where one reward shall.

obe ich dise unsælde erwenden kan,
if I this misfortune turn-away can,

sô vert ez nâch ungenâden wol.
then goes it after disfavors well.

mir ist ungelîche deme
to-me is unlike to-him

der sich eteswenne wider den morgen frôit.
who himself sometimes toward the morning rejoices.

alsô tæte ouch ich, wist ich mit weme.
so would-do also I, knew I with whom.

Treit mir iemen tougenlîchen haz,
(if)-Bears toward-me anyone secret hatred,

waz der sîner vrôide an mir nu siht!
what he of-his joy in me now sees!

wê war umbe tæte ab iemen daz?
alas where for would-do however anyone that?

got weiz wol, in tuon doch niemen niht.
God knows well, I do yet to-no-one anything.

man sol mir genædic sîn:
one shall to-me gracious be:

mich beginnet noch nâch mînem tôde klagen
me begins still after my death lament
 maneger der nu lihte enbære mîn.
many-a-one who now easily would-do-without me.

- 175,29 Die ich mir ze fröiden hete erkorn,
Whom I for-me for joys had chosen,
 dâ envant ich niht wan ungemach.
there found I nothing but discomfort.
 waz ich guoter rede hân verlorn!
what I of-good speech have lost!
 jâ die besten die ie man sprach.
indeed the best that ever one spoke.
 si was endelîchen guot.
she was thoroughly good.
 nieman konde si von lûge gesprochen hân,
no-one could her of lie spoken have,
 erne hete als ich getriuwen muot.
unless-be had as I a-faithful spirit.

- 175,36 Ich wil immer gerner umbe sehen:
I will ever more-gladly about look:
 ich was mîner fröide ein teil ze frî.
I was of-my joy a part too free.
 mirst von einer kleinen rede geschehen
to-me-is from a little speech happened
 daz ich wizzen wil wer bî mir sî.
that I know will who by me be.
 ungefüeger liute ist vil.
of-unmannerly people is much.

spriche ich wider âbent lîhte ein schœne wort,
(if)-speak I toward evening perhaps a fair word,
 waz mac i's, der mirz verkêren wil?
what may I-of-it, who to-me-it misconstrue will?

Aller sælde ein sælic wîp,
Of-all fortune a blessed woman,
 tuo mir sô
do to-me so

daz mîn herze hôhe stê;
that my heart high stand;
 obe ich ie dur dînen lîp
if I ever for thy person

wurde frô,
should-become glad,

daz des iht an mir zergê.
that of-that anything in me vanish.

ich was ie der dienst dîn:
I was ever the service thine:

sô bistuz diu fröide mîn.
so art-thou-it the joy mine.

sol ich iemer lieben tac
(if)-shall I ever a-dear day

oder naht gesehen,
or night see,

daz lâ, frouwe, an dir geschehen.
that let, lady, through thee happen.

176,5

Frouwe, ich hân durch dich erliten

Lady, I have for thee suffered

daz nie man

what never a-man

durch sîn liep sô vil erleit.

for his love so much endured.

ich getar dich niht gebiten

I dare thee not entreat

noch enkan.

nor can.

tuoz durch dîne sælikeit.

do-it for thy blessedness.

ich bin dîn: du solt mich nern

I am thine: thou shalt me save

und gewaltes allen wern.

and of-violence all ward-off.

ich hân iemer eine bete,

I have ever one request,

daz du wol gevarst

that thou well farest

und dich baz an mir bewarst.

and thyself better in me guardest.

Frouwe, ich hân noch mê getân,

Lady, I have still more done,

dunket mich,

seems to-me,

dan diu liebe mir gebôt:

than the love to-me commanded:

ich enkunde ez nie verlân,

I could it never forgo,

hôrte ich dich

heard I thee

nennen, ine wurde rôr.

named, unless-I would-become red.

swer dô nâhe bî mir stuont,

whoever then near by me stood,

sô die merkære tuont,

as the spies do,

der sach herzeliebe wol

he saw heart's-love well

an der varwe mîn.

in the color mine.

sol ich dâ von schuldic sîn?

shall I there for guilty be?

Ich verdiente den kumber nie

I deserved the affliction never

den ich hân.

which I have.

wan sô vil, ob daz geschach

but so much, if that happened

daz ich underwîlent gie

that I at-times went

für dich stân

before thee stand

unde ich dich vil gerne sach,

and I thee very gladly saw,

liez ich dô daz ouge mîn

let I then the eye mine

tougenlîchen an daz dîn,

secretly on that thine,

daz brâht ich unsanfte dan

that brought I with-difficulty away

unde lîhte dar.

and easily there.

frouwe, nam des iemen war?

lady, took of-that anyone notice?

177,10 'Sage, daz ich dirs iemer lône,

'Say, so-that I to-thee-it ever repay,

hâst du den vil lieben man gesehen?

hast thou the very dear man seen?

ist ez wâr und lebet er schône

is it true and lives he fairly

als si sagent und ich dich hœere jehen?'

as they say and I thee hear declare?'

'vrowe, ich sach in: er ist frô;

'lady, I saw him: he is glad;

sîn herze stât, ob irz gebietent, iemer hô.'

his heart stands, if you-it command, ever high.'

'Ich verbiute im vröide niemer.

'I forbid to-him joy never.

lâze eht eine rede; sô tuot er wol:

should-leave just one speech; then does he well:

des bit ich in hiute und iemer:

of-that ask I him today and ever:

demst alsô daz manz versagen sol.'

to-that-is so that one-it refuse shall.'

'frowe, nu verredent iuch niht.

'lady, now speak-amiss yourselves not.

er sprichet, allez daz geschehen sol daz geschiht.'

he says, all that happen shall that happens.'

‘Hât ab er gelobt, geselle,

‘Has however he vowed, companion,

daz er niemer mê gesinge liet,

that he never more sing song,

ezn si ob ins biten welle?’

unless-it be if him-she ask would?’

Vrowe, ez was sîn muot dô ich von im schiet.

Lady, it was his spirit when I from him parted.

ouch mugt irz wol hân vernomen.

also may you-it well have heard.

‘owê, gebiute ichz nu, daz mac ze schaden komen.

‘alas, command I-it now, that may to harm come.

Ist ab daz ichs niene gebiute,

(if)-Is however that I-it not-at-all command,

sô verliuse ich mîne sælde an ime

then lose I my fortune in him

und verfluochent mich die liute,

and curse me the people,

daz ich al der werlte ir vröide nime.

that I from-all the world its joy take.

alrêst gât mir sorge zuo.

only-now goes to-me care toward.

owê, nunweiz ich obe ichz lâze od ob ichz tuo.

alas, now-not-know I whether I-it leave or whether I-it do.

Daz wir wîp niht mugen gewinnen

That we women not may win

friunt mit rede, sinwellen dannoch mê,

friends with speech, unless-they-will yet more,

daz mûet mich. in wil niht minnen.

that grieves me. I will not love.

stæten wîben tuot missetæte wê.

to-constant women does misdeed pain.

were ich, des ich niene bin,

were I, what I not-at-all am,

unstæte, lieze er danne mich, sô lieze ich in.'

inconstant, would-leave he then me, then would-leave I him.'

178,1 'Lieber bote, nu wirp alsô,

'Dear messenger, now woo thus,

sich in schiere und sage im daz:

see him soon and say to-him this:

vert er wol und ist er frô,

(if)-fares he well and is he glad,

ich leb iemer destе baz.

I live ever the better.

sage im durch den willen mîn

say to-him for the will mine

daz er iemer solhes iht getuo

that he ever of-such anything do

dâ von wir gescheiden sîn.

there from we parted be.

Frâge er wie ich mich gehabe,

Should-ask he how I myself bear,

gich daz ich mit frôiden lebe.

say that I with joys live.

swâ du mügest dâ leite in abe

wherever thou canst there lead him off

daz er mich der rede begebe,

that he me of-the speech release,

ich bin im von herzen holt

I am to-him from heart devoted

unde sæhe in gerner denne den tac:

and would-see him more-gladly than the day:

daz ab du verswîgen solt.

that however thou keep-silent shalt.

Ê dazd iemer ime verjehest

Ere that-thou ever to-him declare

deich im holdez herze trage,

that-I to-him a-devoted heart bear,

sô sich dazd alrêrst besehest

so see that-thou first-of-all bethink

und vernim waz ich dir sage:

and hear what I to-thee say:

meine er wol mit triuwen mich,

should-mean be well with faithfulness me,

swaz im danne muge ze vröiden komen,

whatever to-him then may to joys come,

daz mîn êre sî, daz sprich.

that my honor be, that speak.

Spreche er daz er welle her,

Should-say be that he will hither,

daz ichs immer lône dir,

so-that I-it ever repay to-thee,

sô bit in daz er verber

then ask him that he forbear

rede dier jungest sprach ze mir:

speech which-he lately spoke to me:

sô mac ich in an gesehen.

then may I him upon look.

wes wil er dâ mite beswæren mich

why will he there with burden me

daz doch nimmer mac geschehen?

which yet never may happen?

Des er gert daz ist der tôc

What he desires that is the death

und verderbet manegen lîp;

and destroys many-a person;

bleich und eteswenne rôc

pale and sometimes red

alsô verwet ez diu wîp.

so colors it the women.

minne heizent ez die man,

love call it the men,

unde möhte baz unminne sîn.

and might better un-love be.

wê im ders alrêrst began!

woe to-him who-it first-of-all began!

Daz ich alsô vil dâ von

That I so much there of

hân geredet, daz ist mir leit,

have spoken, that is to-me grievous,

wande ich was vil ungewon

for I was very unaccustomed

sô getâner arebeit

to-such made bardship

als ich tougenlîchen trage —

as I secretly bear—

dûne solt im nimmer niht verjehen

thou shalt to-him never anything declare

alles des ich dir gesage.'

of-all that I to-thee say.'

Als ich werbe und mir mîn herze stê

As I woo and to-me my heart stand

179,3

alsô müeze mir an vröiden noch geschehen.

so may to-me in joys still happen.

mir ist vil unsanfter nu dan ê:

to-me is much harsher now than before:

mîner ougen wunne lât mich nieman sehen;

of-my eyes delight lets me no-one see;

diu ist mir verboten gar.

that is to-me forbidden wholly.

nu verbieten alsô dar

now forbid so there

und hûeten

and guard

daz si sich erwüeten!

that they themselves rage!

wê wes nement si war?

alas of-what take they notice?

Mich genîdet niemer sælic man

Me envies never blessed man

durch die liebe dies an mir erzeiget hât.

for the love which-she in me shown has.

trôst noch vröide ich nie von ir gewan,

comfort nor joy I ever from her won,

wan sô vil daz mir der muot des hôhe stât
but so much that to-me the spirit of-it high stands

daz ichs ie getorste biten
that I-it ever should-dare ask

ein wîp mit alsô reinen siten:
a woman with so pure manners:

mir wære
to-me were

lîp und guot unmære,
life and goods indifferent,

het ich si vermiten.
bad I her avoided.

Ich wen ieman lebe, ern habe ein leit
I think anyone lives, unless-he have a sorrow

daz vor allem leide im an sîn herze gât.
which before all sorrow to-him upon his heart goes.

wê war umbe verspræche ich arebeit
alas where for should-renounce I hardship

diu mir liebet und doch lobelîchen stât?
which to-me pleases and yet praiseworthy stands?

die verspriche ich niemer tac.
it renounce I never a-day.

ich muoz leben als ich pflac.
I must live as I was-wont.

dar under
there among

tuot got lîhte ein wunder,
does God perhaps a wonder,

daz si mir werden mac.
that she to-me become may.

Mir ist lieber daz si mich verber,

To-me is dearer that she me do-without,

und alsô daz si mir doch genædic sî,

and so that she to-me yet gracious be,

dan si mich und jenen und disen gewer;

than she me and yonder-one and this-one satisfy;

seht, sô wurde ich niemer mê vor leide frî.

see, then would-become I never more from sorrow free.

daz er spreche 'mîn und dîn

that he speak 'mine and thine

gemeine'.

in-common'.

ich wilz haben eine.

I will-it have alone.

schade und frume sî mîn.

harm and profit be mine.

Ich was mînes muotes ie sô hêr

I was of-my spirit ever so proud

daz ich in gedanken dicke schône lac.

that I in thoughts often fairly lay.

daz wart mir, und wart och mir niht mêr.

that became to-me, and became also to-me nothing more.

swer daz âne rede niht gelâzen mac,

whoever that without speech not leave may,

der tuot übel und sündet sich.

he does ill and sins himself.

nîdet er mich, waz ruoch ich?

envies he me, what deign I?

er guote

he good-one

lebe in hôhem muote,

live in high spirit,

swer nu minne als ich.

whoever now loves as I.

Ich bin als ein wilder valke erzogen,

I am as a wild falcon reared,

der durch sînen wilden muot als hôhe gert.

whith through his wild spirit so high desires.

der ist alsô hôh über mich geflogen

it is so high over me flown

unde muotet des er kûme wirt gewert

and craves what it hardly is granted

und fliuget alsô von mir hin

and flies so from me away

unde dient ûf ungewin.

and serves for no-gain.

ich tumber

I foolish-one

lîde senden kumber,

suffer longing affliction,

des ich gar schuldic bin.

of-which I wholly guilty am.

Jô engienc ir nie daz ich sprach

Indeed went to-her never what I spoke

alsô nâhen daz ez wære ihtes wert.

so close that it were of-anything worth.

sol mich daz verjagen daz ich si sach

(if)-shall me that drive-off that I her saw

unde ich ouch dar under ihtes hân gegert

and I also there among of-anything have desired

daz ich solte hân verswigen,

which I should have kept-silent,

ôwê wie ist daz gedigen

alas how is that turned-out

unschône

ill

nâch sô kleinem lône

after so small reward

hân ich nie genigen.

have I never bowed.

Durch daz ich fröide hie bevor ie gerne pflac

For that I joy here before ever gladly practiced

180,28

wundert die liute al mînes trûrens sêre.

wonders the people quite of-my mourning sorely.

dem ist nu alsô daz ich baz niene mac.

to-that is now so that I better not-at-all may.

kæm aber iemer mir ein lebender tac,

came however ever to-me a living day,

ich kan noch daz ich ie kund oder mêre.

I can still what I ever could or more.

des geswîge ich durch die gotes êre,

of-that keep-silent I for the God's honor,

der mir sælden hât gegeben sô vil;

who to-me of-fortune has given so much;

ich gouch, als ich des niht erkennen wil!

I fool, as I of-that not acknowledge will!

Hiure ist fröide manegem manne harte unwert:

This-year is joy to-many-a man very worthless:

daz ist iedoch entriuwen âne schulde.

that is yet truly without guilt.

wir solten hiure wesen fröer danne vert.

we should this-year be gladder than last-year.

jô mac ein man erwerben des er gert,

indeed may a man win what he desires,

lop und êre und dar zuo gotes hulde.

praise and honor and there to God's goodwill.

got helf im, swer daz mit sorgen dulde.

God help him, whoever that with cares endure.

jâ enwirt ein dienest niemer guot

indeed becomes a service never good

den man sô rehte trûreclîche tuot.

which one so right mournfully does.

Maneger swüere des wol, der nu hie bestât,

Many-a-one would-swear of-that well, who now here stands,

er hete al sînen willen mit den wîben.

he had all his will with the women.

geloube er mir daz ez sô lîhte niht ergât,

believe he to-me that it so easily not turns-out,

wil er die diu sinne und êre hât

(if)-will he her who sense and honor has

von den beiden alsô lîhte vertrîben.

from the both so easily drive-away.

ir dekein darf ûf den trôst belîben.

of-them none needs upon the comfort remain.

weiz got, guotes wîbes vingerlîn

knows God, of-a-good woman's little-ring

daz sol niht sanfte nu zerwerben sîn.

that shall not gently now to-win be.

Des tages dô ich daz kriuze nam,

On-the day when I the cross took,

dô huote ich der gedanke mîn,

then guarded I the thoughts mine,

als ez dem zeichen wol gezam

as it to-the sign well befitted

und als ein rehter bilgerîn;

and as a right pilgrim;

dô wânde ich si ze gote alsô bestæten

then thought I them toward God so to-fix

dazs iemer fuoz ûz sîme dienste mêr getræten:

that-they ever a-foot out-of his service more should-step:

nu wellents aber ir willen hân

now will-they however their will have

und ledeclîche varn als ê.

and freely fare as before.

diu sorge diust mîn eines niet:

that care that-is of-me alone not:

si tuot ouch mêre liuten wê.

it does also to-more people pain.

Noch füere ich aller dinge wol,

Still would-fare I in-all things well,

wan daz gedanke wellent toben:

but that the-thoughts will rage:

dem gote dem ich dâ dienen sol,

the God whom I there serve shall,

den enhelfent si mir niht sô loben

him help they to-me not so praise

als ichs bedorfte und ez mîn sælde wære:

as I-of-it needed and it my fortune were:

si wellent allez wider an diu alten mære,

they will always back to the old tales,

und wellent deich noch fröide pflēge,
and will that-I still joy practice,

als ich ir eteswenne pflac.
as I it sometimes practiced.

daz wende, muoter unde maget,
that turn-away, mother and maid,

sît ichs in niht verbieten mac.
since I-it to-them not forbid may.

Gedanken wil ich niemer gar
To-the-thoughts will I never wholly

verbieten (dês ir eigen lant)
forbid (that-is their own land)

in erloube in eteswenne dar
unless-I permit to-them sometimes there

und aber wider sâ zehant.
and however back at-once instantly.

sös unser beider friunde dort gegrüezen,
so-they of-us both friends there greet,

sô kêren dan und helfen mir die sünde bûezen,
then turn thence and help me the sins atone,

und sî in allez daz vergeben
and be to-them all that forgiven

swaz si mir haben her getân.
whatever they to-me have hitherto done.

doch fürhte ich ir betrogenheit,
yet fear I their deceitfulness,

daz si mich dicke noch bestân.
that they me often still assail.

Sô wol dir, fröide, und wol im sî

So well to-thee, joy, and well to-him be

182,4

der dîn ein teil gewinnen mac.

who of-thee a part win may.

swie gar ich dîn sî worden frî,

however wholly I of-thee be become free,

doch sach ich eteswenne den tac

yet saw I sometimes the day

daz dû über naht in mîner pflege wære.

that thou over night in my keeping wert.

des hân ich aber vergezzen nu mit maneger swære.

of-that have I however forgotten now with many-a grief.

die stîge sint mir abe getreten

the paths are to-me away trodden

die mich dâ leiten hin an dich.

which me there led on toward thee.

mirn hulfe niemen wider ze wege,

to-me would-help no-one back to way,

ern hete mîn dienest unde ouch mich.

unless-be had my service and also me.

Hôhe alsam diu sunne stêt daz herze mîn:

High even-as the sun stands the heart mine:

182,14

daz kumt von einer frouwen, diu kan stæte sîn

that comes from a lady, who can constant be

ir genâde, swâ si sî.

her favor, wherever she be.

si machet mich vor allem leide frî.

she makes me from all sorrow free.

Ich hân ir niht ze gebenne wan mîn selbes lîp;
I have to-her nothing to give but my own person;

derst ir eigen. dicke mir diu schœne gît
that-is her own. often to-me the fair-one gives

fröide und einen hôhen muot,
joy and a high spirit,

swann ich daran gedenke wies mir tuot.
whenever I of-that think how-she to-me does.

Wol mich des daz ich si ie sô stæte vant!
Well me of-that that I her ever so constant found!

swâ si wonet, diu eine liebet mir daz lant.
wherever she dwells, she alone endears to-me the land.

füeres über den wilden sê,
led-her over the wild sea,

dar füere ich hin: mir ist nâch ir sô wê.
there should-fare I away: to-me is after her so painfully.

Het ich tûsent manne sin, daz wære wol,
Had I thousand men sense, that were well,

daz ich si behielte der ich dienen sol!
that I her might-keep whom I serve shall!

schône und wol si daz bewar
fairly and well she that guard

daz mir von ir niht leides widervar.
that to-me from her no sorrow befall.

Ich enwart nie rehte sælic wan von ir.

I became never right blessed but from her.

swes ich ir gewünschen kan, des gan si mir

whatever I for-her wish can, that grants she to-me

sæleclich ez mir ergie,

blessedly it to-me turned-out,

dô mich diu schœne in ir genâde vie.

when me the fair-one into her favor took.

Weste ich wâ man fröiden pflege,

Knew I where one joys practices,

dar fûer ich (in mac sus niht geleben),

there would-fare I (I may thus not live),

daz mîn trûren dâ gelæge:

so-that my mourning there lay:

dem wolt ich vil schiere ein ende geben.

to-that would I very soon an end give.

ê daz ich die lenge alsô

ere that I the length so

mit sorgen lebte, ich sturbe gerner danne ich wære unfrô.

with cares lived, I would-die more-gladly than I were unglad.

Wil ab ieman guoter lachen,

(if)-Will however anyone good laugh,

der sô wunneclîchen sî gemuot,

who so delightfully be disposed,

der mich kunde vrô gemachen,

who me could glad make,

dem verguldez got und wære guot.

to-him repay-it God and were good.

sol mîn fröide nu zergân,

(if)-shall my joy now vanish,

sôn gibe ich niht dar umbe swaz ich her gelebet hân.

then give I nothing there for whatever I hitherto lived have.

183,9 Nieman frâge mir ze leide

No-one ask me to sorrow

wes mîn tumbez herze fröuwe sich.

of-what my foolish heart rejoices itself.

wil er daz ichz ime bescheide

(if)-will he that I-it to-him explain

schône und minneclîche, daz tuon ich.

fairly and lovingly, that do I.

mir ist liebes niht geschên:

to-me is of-pleasure nothing happened:

ich dinge ab, ob ich ez verdiene, ez müge mir wol ergên.

I hope however, if I it deserve, it may to-me well turn-out.

Ich was ie vil ringes muotes,

I was ever of-very light spirit,

unz ich eines wîbes rede vernam.

until I of-one woman speech heard.

si gehiez mir vil des guotes,

she promised to-me much of-the good,

daz ich valschen dingen wære gram.

that I to-false things were hostile.

nu wænet si mich hân betrogen.

now thinks she me have deceived.

nu lône ir got: ich bin von ir genâden wol gezogen.

now reward her God: I am by her favors well taught.

Diech sô herzeclîchen meine

Whom-I so heartily mean

diust an güete ein ûzerwelter lîp.

she-is in goodness a chosen person.

si ist ez, diu süeze reine,

she is it, the sweet pure-one,

diu mich tröesten mac für elliu wîp.

who me comfort may above all women.

wâ fund ich diu mir sô wol

where would-find I her-who to-me so well

geviele an allen dingen? niemer ich si vinden sol.

should-please in all things? never I her find shall.

Wir suln alle frowen êren

We shall all ladies honor

umbe ir güete und iemer sprechen wol

for their goodness and ever speak well

unde ir fröide gerne mêren:

and their joy gladly increase:

nieman êrte si ze rehte ie vol.

no-one honored them by right ever fully.

elliu fröide uns von in kumt

all joy to-us from them comes

und al der werlte hort uns ân ir trôst ze nihte frumt.

and all the world's treasure to-us without their comfort to nothing avails.

Ich sach vil wunneclîchen stân

I saw very delightfully stand

die heide mit den bluomen rôr;

the heath with the flowers red;

der viol der ist wol getân:

the violet it is well formed:

des hât diu nahtegal ir nôt
of-that has the nightingale her distress

wol überwunden diu si twanc:
well overcome which her oppressed:

zergangen ist der winter lanc:
vanished is the winter long:

ich hôrte ir sanc.
I heard her song.

184,3 Dô ich daz grüne loup ersach,
When I the green foliage saw,

dô liez ich vil der swære mân.
then left I much of-the grief mine.

von einem wîbe mir geschach
from a woman to-me happened

daz ich muoz iemer mêre sîn
that I must ever more be

vil wunneclîchen wol gemuot.
very delightfully well disposed.

ez sol mich allez dunken guot,
it shall me all seem good,

swaz sî mir tuot.
whatever she to-me does.

Si schiet von sorgen mînen lîp,
She parted from cares my person,

daz ich dekeine swære hân.
so-that I no grief have.

wan âne si, vier tûsent wîp
for without her, four thousand women

dien hetens alle niht getân.
they had-it all not done.

ir güete wendet mîniu leit.

her goodness turns-away my sorrows.

ich hân si mir ze friunt bereit,

I have her for-me as friend ready,

swaz ieman seit.

whatever anyone says.

Mirn mac niht leides widerstân:

To-me may no sorrow withstand:

des wil ich gar ân angest sîn.

of-that will I wholly without fear be.

ergienge ez als ich willen hân,

should-turn-out it as I will have,

sô leges an dem arme mîn.

then lay-she on the arm mine.

daz mir der schoenen wurde ein teil!

that to-me of-the fair-one should-become a part!

daz diuhte mich ein michel heil,

that should-seem to-me a great fortune,

und wære ouch geil.

and were also merry.

Deich ir sô holdez herze trage

That-I to-her so devoted heart bear

daz ist in sumelîchen leit.

that is to some grievous.

dar umbe ich niemer sô verzage,

there for I never so despair,

si vliesent alle ir arebeit.

they lose all their hardship.

waz hilfet si ir arger list?

what helps them their evil cunning?

sin wizzen wiez ergangen ist
they-not know how-it turned-out is

in kurzer frist.
in short time.

184,31 Ich hân hundred tûsent herze erlôst

I have hundred thousand hearts released

von sorgen, alse frô was ich.
from cares, so glad was I.

wê, jâ was ich al der werlte trôst:
alas, indeed was I to-all the world comfort:

wie zæme ir daz, sin trôste ouch mich?
how should-befit to-them that, she-not comforted also me?

si ensol mich niht engelten lân
she shall me not pay let

daz ich sô lange von ir was,
that I so long from her was,

dar zuo daz ichs engolten hân.
there to that I-of-it paid have.

Ich wil bî den wolgemuoten sîn.
I will by the well-disposed be.

man ist unfrô dâ ich ê dâ was:
one is unglad where I before there was:

dâ entroestent kleiniu vogellîn,
there comfort-not little birdlings,

dâ entroestent bluomen unde gras;
there comfort-not flowers and grass;

dâ sint alse jæmerlîchiu jâr

there are so piteous years

daz ich mich undern ougen rampf

that I myself under-the eyes wrinkled

und sprach 'nu gât ûz, grâwîu hâr.'

and said 'now go out, gray hairs.'

Kûme ich wider an mîne fröide als ê,

(if)-Come I back to my joy as before,

daz ist den senden allen guot.

that is to-the longing all good.

nieman ist von sorgen alse wê,

no-one is from cares so painfully,

wil er, ich mache in wolgemuot.

(if)-will he, I make him well-disposed.

ist ab er an fröiden sô verzaget

(if)-is however he in joys so despairing

daz er enkeiner buoze gert,

that he no remedy desires,

so enruoche ich ob er iemer klaget.

then care-not I whether he ever laments.

Hæret waz ich zuo der buoze tuo,

Hear what I to the remedy do,

daz ich mit zouber niht envar.

that I with sorcery not proceed.

minneclîchiu wort stôz ich dar zuo,

lovely words push I there to,

den besten willen strîche ich dar:

the best will spread I there:

tanzen unde singen muoz ich haben:

dancing and singing must I have:

daz fünfte ist wunneclîcher trôst.

the fifth is delightful comfort.

sus kan ich senden siechen laben.

thus can I longing sick refresh.

185,20 Alse rehte unfrõ enwart ich nie.

So right unglad became I never.

daz solte eht sîn: nust ez geschehen.

that should just be: now-is it happened.

mich bekennent noch die liute hie

me know still the people here

die mich anders hânt gesehen.

who me otherwise have seen.

alsô fröidenrîche was ich dô

so joy-rich was I then

daz ich mich fröite und fröide gap.

that I myself gladdened and joy gave.

wie tuot man wider mich nu sô?

how does one toward me now so?

185,27 Solde ab ich mit sorgen iemer leben,

Should however I with cares ever live,

swenn ander liute wæren frô?

whenever other people were glad?

guoten trôst wil ich mir selben geben

good comfort will I to-me self give

und mîn gemüete tragen hô,

and my spirit carry high,

als von rehte ein sælic man.

as by right a blessed man.

si sagent mir alle, trûren stê mir jâmerlîchen an.

they say to-me all, mourning stand to-me piteously on.

Sît si jehent wie wol mir fröide zeme,

Since they say how well to-me joy befits,

sô wil ich tuon so ich beste mac:

so will I do as I best may:

ich wen iemen lebe der mir beneme

I think someone lives who from-me should-take

ein trûren daz nu menegen tac

a mourning which now many-a day

in mînem herzen lît begraben,

in my heart lies buried,

gewinne ich iemer des ein ende, ich wil mich wol gehaben.

(if)-win I ever of-that an end, I will myself well bold.

Ez ist lanc daz mir diu ougen mîn

It is long that to-me the eyes mine

ze fröiden nie gestuonden wol.

to joys never stood well.

swanne ich mîne klage nu lâze sîn,

whenever I my lament now let be,

und ich mich des an ir erhol

and I myself of-that on her recover

des ich mich her gesûmet hân,

of-what I myself hitherto neglected have,

sô bin ich alt und hât ein wîp vil übel an mir getân.

then am I old and has a woman very ill toward me done.

Sô siz nu vil gerne wenden wil,

When she-it now very gladly turn-away will,

diz leit daz mir von ir geschiht,

this sorrow which to-me from her happens,

sôst mir wîp unmær und ander spil,

so-is to-me woman indifferent and other play,

so entoug ich ir vor alter niht:

then avail I to-her for age not:

owê waz wil si danne mîn?

alas what will she then of-me?

nu möht ich ir gedienen, lieze eht sis ein ende sîn.

now might I to-her serve, would-let just she-it an end be.

Ê daz si der werlte erzeige an mir

Ere that she to-the world show in me

wie stæte si ist, so enlebe ich niht.

how constant she is, so live I not.

ouch geschiht ein wunder lihte an ir,

also happens a wonder easily to her,

daz man si danne ungerne siht.

that one her then unwillingly sees.

sô muoz si vil dicke klagen

then must she very often lament

dazs eime alsô gevuegen man ir lîp moht ie versagen.

that-she to-a so fitting man her body might ever refuse.

186,19 Ungenâde und swaz ie danne sorge was,

Disfavor and whatever ever then care was,

der ist nu mêre an mir

of-that is now more in me

danne ez got verhengē solde.

than it God permit should.

râte ein wîp diu ê von senender nôt genas,

counsel a woman who before from longing distress recovered,

mîn leit und were ez ir,

my sorrow and were it hers,

waz si danne sprechen wolde.

what she then say would.

der mir ist von herzen holt,
who to-me is from heart devoted,

den verspriche ich sêre,
him renounce I sorely,

niht durch ungefüegen haz,
not through unseemly hatred,

wan durch mînes lîbes êre.
but for my body's honor.

In bin niht an disen tac sô her bekomen,
I am not to this day so hither come,

mirn si gewesen bî
unless-to-me be been by

underwîlent hôchgemüete.
at-times high-spirit.

guotes mannes rede habe ich vil vernomen;
of-a-good man's speech have I much heard;

der werke bin ich frî,
of-the deeds am I free,

sô mich iemer got behüete.
so me ever God guard.

dô ich im die rede verbôt,
when I to-him the speech forbade,

dône bat er niht mêre.
then asked he not more.

disen lieben guoten man
this dear good man

enweiz ich wiech von mir bekêre.
know-not I how-I from me turn.

Als ich eteswenne in mîme zorne sprach

As I sometimes in my anger said

daz er die rede vermite

that he the speech should-forgo

iemer dur sîn selbes güete,

ever for his own goodness,

sô hât er, daz ichz an manne nie gesach,

so has he, what I-it in a-man never saw,

sô jæmerliche site

so piteous manner

daz ez mich zewâre müete,

that it me truly grieved,

unde iedoch sô sêre niet

and yet so sorely not

daz ers iht genieze.

that be-of-it anything profit.

mir ist lieber daz er bite

to-me is dearer that he ask

danne ob er sîn sprechen lieze.

than if he his speaking should-leave.

Mir ist beide lieb und herzeclîchen leit

To-me is both dear and heartily grievous

daz er mich ie gesach

that he me ever saw

oder ich in sô wol erkenne,

or I him so well know,

sît daz er verliesen muoz sîn arebeit,

since that he lose must his hardship,

sô wol als er mir sprach.

so well as he to-me spoke.

daz müet mich doch eteswenne,

that grieves me yet sometimes,

unde iedoch dar umbe niht

and yet there for not

daz ich welle minnen.

that I would love.

minne ist ein sô swærez spil

love is a so heavy play

daz ichs niemer tar beginnen.

that I-it never dare begin.

Alle die ich ie vernam und hân gesehen,

All whom I ever heard-of and have seen,

187,21

der keiner sprach sô wol

of-them none spoke so well

noch von wîben nie sô nâhen.

nor of women ever so nearly.

waz wil ich des lobes? got lâze im wol geschehen.

what will I of-the praise? God let to-him well happen.

sîn spæhiu rede in sol

his subtle speech to-him shall

lützel wider mich vervâhen.

little toward me avail.

ich muoz hoeren swaz er saget.

I must hear whatever he says.

wê waz schât daz iemen,

alas what harms that anyone,

sît er niht erwerben kan

since he nothing win can

weder mich noch anders niemen?

neither me nor otherwise anyone?

- 187,31 Nu muoz ich ie mîn alten nôt
Now must I ever my old distress
- mit sange niuwen unde klagen,
with song renew and lament,
- wan si mir alsô nâhen lît
for she to-me so near lies
- daz i'r vergezzen niene mac.
that I-of-ber forget not-at-all may.
- ir gruoze mich vie, diu mir gebôt
her greeting me caught, who to-me commanded
- vil lange niuwen kumber tragen.
very long new affliction bear.
- erkande si der valschen nît,
should-know she the false-ones' envy,
- baz fuogte si mir heiles tac.
better would-ordain she to-me of-fortune a-day.
- sol mir an ir guot ende ergân,
(if)-shall to-me from her good end come,
- die wîl ich muot von herzen hân,
the while I spirit from heart have,
- sô mac uns beiden liep geschehen.
then may to-us both gladness happen.
- swaz si es gelenget, daz ist schade,
whatever she of-it lengthens, that is harm,
- wil si mich iemer frô gesehen.
(if)-will she me ever glad see.

Von herzeleides schulden hât
From heart's-grief's cause has

mîn lîp vil kumberlîche nôt,
my person very afflicting distress,

daz si niemer kunde grœzer sîn:
so-that it never could greater be:

des helfent al die sinne jehen.

of-that help all the senses declare.

den ez niht nâ ze herzen gât,

to-whom it not near to heart goes,

noch in diu Minne nie gebôt,

nor to-them the Love ever commanded,

die sprechent von der swære mîn,

they speak of the grief mine,

waz mir sô grôzes sî geschehen,

what to-me so great be happened,

daz ich sô riuweclichen klage.

that I so ruefully lament.

und trüegen si daz ich dâ trage,

and should-bear they what I there bear,

mîn schade tet in alsô wê

my harm did to-them so pain

daz er si muote und mir dar nâch

that it them grieved and to-me there after

vil wol geloupten iemer mê.

very well believed ever more.

Ichn mages in allen niht gesagen,

I may-it to-them all not tell,

die mich dâ frâgent zaller zît,

who me there ask at-all times,

war umbe ich alsô trûric lebe

where for I so mournful live

und âne wunneclîchen muot.

and without delightful spirit.

die selben hulfen mir ez klagen,

those same helped to-me it lament,

die sich dâ setzent in den strît:

who themselves there set in the strife:

enpfâhent die nu leides gebe,

(if)-receive they now of-sorrow a-gift,

dazn frumet noch endunket guot.

that-not profits nor seems good.

ez sol in unerzeiget sîn:

it shall to-them unshown be:

daz râtet mir daz herze mîn:

that counsels to-me the heart mine:

ich bin der siz verswîgen sol.

I am he-who them-it keep-silent shall.

swer wîbes êre hûeten wil,

whoever a-woman's honor guard will,

der bedarf vil schœner zûhte wol.

he needs very fair courtesy well.

188,31 Mir sol ein sumer noch sîn zît

To-me shall a summer nor its season

ze herzen niemer nâhe gân,

to heart ever near go,

sît ich sô grôzer leide pflige

since I so great sorrow practice

daz minne riuwe heizen mac.

that love rue be-called may.

waz hulfe danne mich ein strît

what would-help then me a strife

den er mit riuwen habe getân,

which he with rue have done,

sît ich in selhen banden lige?

since I in such bonds lie?

wê wanne kumet mir heiles tac?

alas when comes to-me of-fortune a-day?

jô enmac mir niht der bluomen schîn
indeed may to-me not the flowers' shine

gehelfen für die sorge mîn,
help against the care mine,

und ouch der vogellîne sanc.
and also the little-birds' song,

ez muoz mir stæte winter sîn:
it must for-me constant winter be:

sô rehte swær ist mîn gedanc.
so right heavy is my thought.

Spræch ich nu daz mir wol gelungen wære,
Spoke I now that to-me well succeeded were,

sô verlüre ich beide sprechen unde singen.
then would-lose I both speaking and singing.

waz touc mir ein alsô verlogenz mære,
what avails to-me a so lying tale,

daz ich ruomde mich alsô fremeder dinge?
that I boasted myself of-so foreign things?

daz wil ich den hôhgemuoten lân:
that will I to-the high-spirited leave:

den dâ wol geschiht, die nemen sich des an.
to-whom there well happens, they take themselves of-that on.

ich klag iemer mînen alten kumber,
I lament ever my old affliction,

der mir iedoch sô niuwer ist,
whiche to-me yet so new is,

den si mir gap dô si mir fröide nam. wê ich vil tumber!
whiche she to-me gave when she from-me joy took. alas I very foolish!

189,5

Ich bin niht tump mit alsô wîsem willen,
I am not foolish with so wise a-will,
 deich si reinen ienoch alsô stæte minne;
that-I her pure-one still so constantly love;
 wan daz si sint vil lîhte dâ ze stillen,
but that they are very easily there to quiet,
 dien liep âne leit geschiht, als ich es sinne;
to-whom gladness without sorrow happens, as I of-it think;
 sô verliuse ich mîner fröiden vil,
so lose I of-my joys much,
 sît diu guote mich niht sanfte stillen wil
since the good-one me not gently quiet will
 sol mîn dienest alsô sîn verschwunden,
(if)-shall my service so be vanished,
 sô sîn doch gêret elliu wîp,
then be yet honored all women,
 sît daz mich einiu mit gedanken fröit an manegen stunden.
since that me one with thoughts gladdens at many-an hour.

Wil diu vil guote daz ich iemer singe
(if)-Will the very good-one that I ever sing
 wol nâch fröiden, wan mac si mich danne lêren
well after joys, why may she me then teach
 alsô daz si mir mîne nôt geringe?
so that she to-me my distress lighten?
 ân ir helfe trûwe ich niemer si verkêren.
without her help trust I never it turn-away.
 mac si sprechen eht mit triuwen jâ,
(if)-may she speak just with faithfulness yes,
 als si ê sprach nein, sô wirt mîn wille sâ
as she before spoke no, then becomes my will at-once
 daz ich singe frô mit hôhem muote.
that I sing glad with high spirit.

dâ bî sô ist diu sorge mîn,

there by so is the care mine,

des man ze lange beitet, daz enkumet niht wol ze guote.

what one too long awaits, that comes not well to good.

Ez bringet mich in zwîvel eteswenne,

It brings me into doubt sometimes,

daz ich lônnes bîte in alsô langer mâze:

that I of-reward wait in so long measure:

an der ich aber triuwe und êre erkenne,

in whom I however faithfulness and honor know,

wæne ich des daz mir diu ungelônnet lâze,

(if)-think I of-that that to-me she unrewarded leave,

sô geschæhe an mir daz nie geschach.

then would-happen to me what never happened.

guot gedinge ûz lônnes rehte nie gebrach.

good hope out-of reward's right never failed.

des habe ich hin zir hulden ie gedinget.

of-that have I toward to-her goodwill ever hoped.

ouch ist ez wol genâden wert,

also is it well of-favors worthy,

swâ man nâch liebe in alsô lûterlicher stæte ringet.

wherever one after love in so pure constancy strives.

Wie tuot diu vil reine guote sô?

How does the very pure good-one so?

si lât mich verderben alsus gar.

she lets me perish thus wholly.

ich bin al ir werdekeite frô:

I am of-all her worthiness glad:

sô nimt si es ein teil ze kleine war.

so takes she of-it a part too little notice.

nu wând ich geniezen aller mîner tage;

now thought I to-profit of-all my days;

dar umb ich ir lob und êre sage.

there for I of-her praise and honor speak.

si ist vil guot; deichz iemer sprechen sol

she is very good; that-I-it ever speak shall

tuos eht einz: si lône ir lieben unde ir friunden wol.

do-she just one-thing: she reward her dear-ones and her friends well.

Lieber wân ist âne trœsten dâ

Dear expectation is without comforting there

unde twinget mir daz herze mîn:

and compels for-me the heart mine:

wan wær et er von mir anderswâ!

would-that were just it from me elsewhere!

dâ müest iedoch trôst bî wâne sîn.

there would-have-to yet comfort by expectation be.

sol manz alsô lîden, sô bin ich verdâht,

(if)-shall one-it so suffer, then am I intent,

es ist vil ze guotem ende brâht.

it is much to a-good end brought.

wer mac ouch wizzen vor wiez dinc ergât?

who may also know before how-it thing turns-out?

si hât tugent und êre: dâ von mac es werden rât.

she has virtue and honor: there from may of-it become counsel.

Waz bedarf ich denne fröiden mê,

What need I then of-joys more,

obe mir ir genâde wonet bî?

if to-me her favor dwells by?

daz et daz bî mîner zît ergê

that just that in my time come-to-pass

und ich dar nâch lange in fröiden sî!

and I there after long in joys be!

ist ab daz mich ir genâde alsô vergât

(if)-is however that me her favor so passes-by

unde si mich alsus verderben lât,

and she me thus perish lets,

sô mac ich klagen vil, ich tumber man,

then may I lament much, I foolish man,

daz ich mîner tage niht wider gewinnen kan.

that I of-my days nothing back win can.

Frowe, tuo des ich dich bite,

Lady, do what I thee ask,

daz ich iemer sî

that I ever be

dînes heiles vrô.

of-thy fortune glad.

du solt lâzen einen site,

thou shalt leave a habit,

dâ lit wandel bî.

there lies fault by.

wê wie tuost du sô

alas how doest thou so

daz dû als ungenædic bist?

that thou so ungracious art?

jâ erkennest du vil wol daz dir

indeed knowest thou very well that to-thee

nieman holder ist.

no-one more-devoted is.

Fröwe mit rede daz herze mîn,

Gladden with speech the heart mine,

træste mir den lîp:

comfort for-me the body:

jâ verdiene ichz wol.

indeed deserve I-it well.

mügez vor liebe niht gesîn,

(if)-may-it for love not be,

soltuz, sælic wîp,

shalt-thou-it, blessed woman,

dur ein wunder doln.

for a wonder endure.

ê ich dîn abe gestê,

before I of-thee off stand,

jan ist in der werlt sô guotes niht,

indeed is in the world so of-good nothing,

ichn verspreche ez ê.

unless-I renounce it before.

191,7 Ich welte ûf guoter liute sage

I chose upon of-good people's talk

und ouch durch mînes herzen rât

and also through my heart's counsel

ein wîp von der ich dicke trage

a woman from whom I often bear

vil manege nôt diu nâhe gât.

very many-a distress which near goes.

die swære ich zallen zîten klage,

the grief I at-all times lament,

wand ez mir kumberlîche stât.

for it to-me troublesomely stands.

ich tet ir schîn den dienest mîn:

I did to-her plain the service mine:

wie möhte ein græzer wunder sîn,
how could a greater wonder be,

daz si mich des engelten lâ?t
that she me of-that pay lets?

Ze rehter mâze sol ein man
In right measure shall a man

beidiu daz herze und al den sîn
both the heart and all the mind

ze stæte wenden ob er kan:
to constancy turn if he can:

daz wirt im lîhte ein guot gewin.
that becomes to-him easily a good gain.

swem dâ von ie kein leit bekan,
to-whom there from ever any sorrow became-known,

der weiz wol wiech gebunden bin.
he knows well how-I bound am.

ich gloube im wol, als er mir sol.
I believe to-him well, as he to-me shall.

von schulden ich den kumber dol:
by guilt I the affliction endure:

ich brâhte selbe mich dar in
I brought self me there in

Ze fröiden nâhet alle tage
To joys nears all days

der welte ein wunneclîchiu zît,
of-the world a delightful season,

ze senfte maneges herzen klage
to soften of-many-a heart lament

die nu der swære winter gît.
which now the heavy winter gives.

von sorge ich dicke sô verzage

from care I often so despair

swenn alsô jâmerliche lit

whenever so piteously lies

diu heide breit. daz ist mir leit.

the heath broad. that is to-me grievous.

diu nahtegal uns schiere seit

the nightingale to-us soon says

daz sich gescheiden hât der strîf.

that itself parted has the strife.

191,34 Dem gelîch entuon ich niht

To-that like do I not

als ich durch swachen nît verzage.

as I through weak envy despair.

swenne iht leides mir geschiht,

whenever any sorrow to-me happens,

mit fuoge ichz tougenlîchen trage

with propriety I-it secretly bear

und gedenke 'es wirdet râf'.

and think 'of-it becomes counsel'.

alsô hab ich gelebet her,

so have I lived hitherto,

daz mir mîn dinc noch schône stât.

that to-me my affair still fairly stands.

Mînem leide ist dicke sô

To-my sorrow is often so

dazz nieman wol volenden kan,

that-it no-one well complete can,

und gestên doch lîhter frô
and stand yet more-easily glad
 dan in der welte ein ander man.
than in the world an other man.
 deste unstæter bin ich niht,
the-more inconstant am I not,
 wan daz ein sinnic herze sich
but that a sensible heart itself
 beklagen sol des im geschiht.
lament shall of-what to-him happens.

Mich beswærent alle die
Me oppress all they
 der herze niht sô sinnic sîn,
whose heart not so sensible be,
 daz si lebent, sîn wizzen wie,
that they live, they-not know how,
 und spottent doch dar under mîn
and mock yet there among of-me
 die sint übel und bin ich guot,
they are evil and am I good,
 wande ich niemer rehten man
for I never an-upright man
 gehazzen wil, so er rehte tuot.
hate will, when he rightly does.

Stæten lop er nie gewan,
Constant praise he never won,
 swer al der werlte willen tuot.
whoever of-all the world's will does.

mêre umb êre sol ein man

more about honor shall a man

gesorgen danne umb ander guot

worry than about other goods

und des besten flîzen sich.

and of-the best exert himself.

frâge in ieman wer im daz

(if)-ask him anyone who to-him that

gerâten habe, sô nenne er mich.

counseled has, then name he me.

192,25 'Dêst ein nôt daz mich ein man

'That-is a distress that me a man

vor al der werlte twinget swes er wil.

before all the world compels to-whatever he will.

sol ich des ich niht enkan

(if)-shall I of-what I not can

beginnen, daz ist mir ein swærez spil.

begin, that is to-me a heavy play.

ich hât ie vil stâten muot:

I had ever very constant spirit:

nu muoz ich leben als ein wîp

now must I live as a woman

diu minnet und daz aber angestlichen tuot.

who loves and that however fearfully does.

Der mîn huote, es wære zît,

He-who of-me should-guard, of-it were time,

ê daz ich iht getæte wider in.

ere that I anything should-do against him.

wolte er lâzen nu den strît!

would he leave now the strife!

wes gert er mēre wan deich im holder bin
what desires he more than that-I to-him more-devoted am

danne in al der werlte ein wîp?
than in all the world a woman?

nu wil er (daz ist mir ein nôt)
now will he (that is to-me a distress)

daz ich durch in die êre wâge und ouch den lîp.
that I for him the honor risk and also the life.

Des er mich nu niht erlât,
Of-what he me now not releases,

daz tuon ich unde tæte es gerne vil,
that do I and would-do of-it gladly much,

wande ez mir umb in sô stât
for it to-me about him so stands

daz ich sîn niht ze friunde enberen wil.
that I of-him not as friend do-without will.

ein alsô schône redender man,
a so fairly speaking man,

wie möhte ein wîp dem iht versagen,
how could a woman to-him anything refuse,

der ouch sô tugentliche lebt als er wol kan?
who also so virtuously lives as he well can?

Schône kan er im die stat
Fairly can he for-himself the place

gefüegen daz er sprichet wider mich.
arrange that he speaks toward me.

zeinen zîten er mich bat
at-one time he me asked

deich sînen dienest næme: daz tet ich.
that-I his service should-take: that did I.

dô wânde ich des, ich tæte wol:

then thought I of-that, I should-do well:

dôn wiste ich niht daz sich dâ huop

then knew I not that itself there raised

ein ser daz lange an mînem lîbe wesen sol.

a pain which long in my body be shall.

193,15 Mînes tôdes wânde ich baz

Of-my death thought I better

dann er gewaltic iemer wurde mîn.

than he masterful ever would-become of-me.

wê war umbe spriche ich daz?

alas where for speak I that?

jâ zürne ich âne nôt: ez solte eht sîn.

indeed am-angry I without need: it should just be.

dicke hâte ich im versaget:

often bad I to-him refused:

dô tet er als ein sælic man

then did he as a blessed man

der sînen kumber alles ûf genâde klaget.'

who his affliction always upon favor laments.'

193,22 Ich tuon mit disen dingen niht:

I do with these things nothing:

ich trûre ein teil ze sêre.

I mourn a part too sorely.

der mich sô vil gesorgen siht,

who me so much worry sees,

ich fürhte er mirz verkêre

I fear he to-me-it misconstrue

übel und anders danne wol.

ill and otherwise than well.

nun weiz ich waz ich sprechen sol,
now-not know I what I speak shall,

wan ich enkan niht mêre.
for I can not more.

Wîlent dô man fröun mich sach,
Formerly when one rejoice me saw,

dô was mir wol ze muote.
then was to-me well in spirit.

man hôrte wol daz ich dô sprach
one heard well that I then spoke

vil manege rede guote.
very many-a speech good.

hei waz mannes was ich dô!
ah what of-a-man was I then!

nu wurde ich aber lîhte frô,
now would-become I however easily glad,

der mîn schône huote.
who of-me fairly guarded.

Verliesent mich die fröiden gernt,
(if)-Lose me they-who of-joys desire,

sô hât diu rede ein ende.
then has the speech an end.

die nu vil lîhte mîn enbernt,
they-who now very easily of-me do-without,

die windent danne ir hende.
they wring then their hands.

wê dazs als übel gedenkent mîn
alas that-they so ill think of-me

die doch sô guot dâ wellent sîn!
who yet so good there will be!

daz sint ir missewende.
that are their faults.

In habe in anders niht getân
I have to-them otherwise nothing done

wan daz ich sêre sinne
but that I sorely think

dar dâ ich ie geminnet hân
there where I ever loved have

und noch hiute minne.
and still today love.

owê daz ich des ie began!
alas that I of-that ever began!

des fürhte ich vil unsælic man
of-that fear I very unblessed man

grôzen schaden gewinne.
great harm win.

Wê, ich bin sô gar verzaget!
Alas, I am so wholly despairing!

dêswâr, ich solte erwinden.
truly, I should cease.

ich hân sô vil dâ her geklaget
I have so much there hitherto lamented

daz ez versmâht den kinden.
that it seems-contemptible to-the children.

nu mag ich dienen anderswâ.
now may I serve elsewhere.

nein, ich enwil. mîn fröide ist dâ:

no, I will-not. my joy is there:

dâ sol ich si vinden.

there shall I her find.

Mîn ougen wurden liebes alse vol,

My eyes became of-deariness so full,

dô ich die minneclîchen êrst gesach,

when I the lovely-one first saw,

daz ez mir hiute und iermê tuot wol.

that it to-me today and ever-more does well.

ein minneclîchez wunder dâ geschach:

a lovely wonder there happened:

si gie mir alse sanfte dur mîn ougen

she went to-me so gently through my eyes

daz si sich in der enge niene stiez.

that she herself in the narrow-place not-at-all struck.

in mînem herzen si sich nider liez:

in my heart she herself down let:

dâ trage ich noch die werden inne tougen.

there bear I still the worthy-one within secretly.

Lâ stên, lâ stân! waz tuost du, sælic wîp,

Let be, let stand! what doest thou, blessed woman,

daz du mich heimesuocheſt an der stat

that thou me visitest at the place

dar sô gewalteclîche wîbes lîp

where so violently a-woman's body

mit starker heimesuoche nie getrat?

with strong visitation never trod?

genâde, frouwe! ich mac dir niht gestrîten.

favor, lady! I may against-thee not fight.

194,18

mîn herze ist dir baz veile danne mir:

my heart is to-thee better for-sale than to-me:

ez solde sîn bî mir; nust ez bî dir:

it should be by me; now-is it by thee:

des muoz ich ûf genâde lônës bîten.

of-that must I upon favor of-reward wait.

194,34 Der mir gæbe sînen rât

He-who to-me would-give his counsel

konde ich ie deheinen, der ist mir benomen.

knew I ever any, he is from-me taken.

sît mich mîn sprechen niht vervât

since me my speaking not avails

noch mîn swîgen, wie sol ich daz überkomen?

nor my keeping-silent, how shall I that overcome?

nein und niht daz vinde ich dâ

no and not that find I there

sô suoche ab ich daz si dâ hât verborgen,

so seek however I what she there has bidden,

daz vil süeze wort geheizen jâ.

that very sweet word called yes.

195,3 Swem von guoten wîben lieb geschiht,

To-whom from good women love happens,

der hât aller selden wol den besten teil.

he has of-all fortunes well the best part.

wâ gesach ie man sô guotes iht?

where saw ever one so of-good anything?

an in lît der werlte wunne und ouch ir heil.

in them lies the world's delight and also its fortune.

wol im, erst ein sælic man

well him, he-is a blessed man

der wol an in erwirbet pfiht

who well from them wins a-share

fröide, der ir güete wunder geben kan.

of-joy, to-whom their goodness wonder give can.

Trûren muoz ich sunder mînen danc:

Mourn must I without my will:

in der werlde wære nieman gerner frô.

in the world were no-one more-gladly glad.

swaz ich ie nâch hôhem muote ranc,

whatever I ever after high spirit strove,

daz hât mir mîn ungelinge erwendet sô

that has to-me my ill-success turned-away so

daz ich wæne des engalt

that I think of-that paid

daz mich wan einer liebe twanc

that me only one love compelled

ald daz ich ûf guot gelinge was ze balt.

or that I upon good success was too bold.

- 195,10 Mir ist vil wê, swaz ich gesage,
To-me is very painful, whatever I say,
- daz sich diu guote niht bedenket noch
that itself the good-one not bethinks still
- daz ich sô langen kumber trage
that I so long affliction bear
- nâch ir. si weiz wol daz ich lîde doch
after her. she knows well that I suffer yet
- allez daz ich umbe ir hulde lîden sol: ouch diene ich ir
all that I about her goodwill suffer shall: also serve I her
- swie sô si gebiutet mir.
however so she commands to-me.
- wær ich sô sælic sô si sagent,
were I so blessed as they say,
- ich geschante an ir die mich dâ jagent
I would-shame in her them-who me there hunt
- ûz liebe in leit und mîne nôt mit valschen mæren klagent.
out-of love into sorrow and my distress with false tales lament.

Des ich nu lange hân gegert,
Of-what I now long have desired,

wirt daz volendet, so ist mir fröide brâht
(if)-becomes that completed, then is to-me joy brought

vil manegen tac. diuht ich sis wert,
very many-a day. seemed I her-of-it worthy,

si hete lônēs wider mich gedâht.
she would-have of-reward toward me thought.

nieman weiz ob si mich wert od wiez ergât. nein oder jâ,
no-one knows whether she me grants or how-it turns-out. no or yes,

ich enweiz enwederz dâ.
I know-not either-of-two there.

war umbe rede ich solhen nît?
where for speak I such envy?

si endâhte an mich ze keiner zît,

she thought of me at no time,

wan als ein wîp gedenket an der triuwe und êre lît.

but as a woman thinks in whom faithfulness and honor lies.

Spræche ein wîp 'lâ sende nôt',

Should-speak a woman 'leave longing distress',

sô sunge ich als ein man der fröide hât.

then would-sing I as a man who joy has.

sus muoz ich trûren an den tôt,

thus must I mourn until the death,

sît ir mîn langez leit niht nâhe gât.

since to-her my long sorrow not near goes.

dô ich gesanc daz ich gesunge niemer liet in mînen tagen,

when I sang that I should-sing never a-song in my days,

(owê alsô langez klagen!),

(alas so long lamenting!),

ich wæne ez noch alsô gestê.

I think it still so stands.

mir tuot diu sorge niht sô wê

to-me does the care not so pain

als mîn ungevelle. dêst der schade, noch weiz i's mê.

as my mishap. that-is the harm, still know I-of-it more.

War kam iuwer schoener lîp?

Where came your fair person?

195,37

wer hât iu, sælic frouwe, den benomen?

who has from-you, blessed lady, it taken?

ir wart ein wunneclîchez wîp:

you were a delightful woman:

nu sît ir gar von iuwer varwe komen.

now are you wholly from your color come.

dâst mir leit und müet mich sêre.

that-is to-me grievous and grieves me sorely.

swer des schuldic sî, den velle got und nem im al sîn êre.

whoever of-that guilty be, him fell God and take from-him all his honor.

‘Wâ von solte ich schœne sîn

‘Where from should I fair be

und hôhes muotes als ein ander wîp?

and of-high spirit as an other woman?

ich enhân des willen mîn

I have of-the will mine

niht mêre wan sô vil ob ich den lîp

nothing more but so much whether I the life

mac behüeten vor ir nîde

may guard from their envy

die mich zîhent unde machent daz ich einen ritter mîde.

who me accuse and make that I a knight avoid.

Solhiu nôt und ander leit

Such distress and other sorrow

hât mir der varwe ein michel teil benomen.

has from-me of-the color a great part taken.

doch frôwet mich sîn sicherheit,

yet gladdens me his assurance,

daz er lobte er wolte schiere komen.

that he promised he would soon come.

weste ich ob ez alsô wære,

knew I whether it so were,

so engehôrte ich nie vor maneger wîle mir ein lieber mære.

then heard I never before many-a while for-me a dearer tale.

Ich gelache in iemer an,

I laugh him ever at,

kumt mir der tac daz in mîn ouge ersiht,

(if)-comes to-me the day that him my eye beholds,

wande ichs niht verlâzen kan

for I-it not leave can

vor liebe daz mir alsô wol geschiht.

for love that to-me so well happens.

ê ich danne von im scheide,

ere I then from him part,

sô mac ich wol sprechen gên wir brechen bluomen ûf der heide.

then may I well speak go we pluck flowers upon the heath.

Sol mir disiu sumerzît

(if)-Shall for-me this summertime

mit manegem liechten tage alsô zergân

with many-a bright day so vanish

daz er mir niht nâhen lît,

that he to-me not near lies,

dur den ich alle ritter hân gelân,

for whom I all knights have left,

ôwê danne schœnes wîbes!

alas then of-a-fair woman!

sône kam ich nie vor leide in grœzer angst mînes lîbes.

then came I never from sorrow into greater fear of-my body.

Mîne friunt mir dicke sagent

My friends to-me often say

und jehent daz mîn niemer werde rât.

and declare that of-me never become counsel.

wol in daz si mich sô klagent!

well to-them that they me so lament!

wie nâhen in mîn leit ze herzen gât!

how near to-them my sorrow to heart goes!

swenne er mich getrœstet eine,

whenever he me comforts alone,

sô gesiht man wol daz ich vil selten iemer iht geweine.'

then sees one well that I very seldom ever anything weep.'

196,35 Herzeclîcher fröide wart mir nie sô nôt,

Of-heartfelt joy was to-me never so need,

mir tuot ein sorge tougenlîchen wê.

to-me does a care secretly pain.

daz muoz sîn an mir vil unverwandelôt,

that must be in me very unchanged,

in gelebe daz si genâde an mir begê:

unless-I live-to-see that she favor toward me show:

sô müeste ich iemer mêr trûren lân

then would-have-to I ever more mourning leave

und lieze manege rede als ich niht hôrte vür diu ôren gân.

and would-let many-a speech as I not heard before the ears go.

197,4 Waz unmâze ist daz, ob ich des hân gesworn

What excess is that, if I of-that have sworn

daz si mir lieber sî dan elliu wîp?

that she to-me dearer be than all women?

an dem eide wirdet niemer hâr verlorn:

in the oath is never a-hair lost:

des setze ich ir ze pfande mînen lîp.

of-that set I to-her as pledge my person.

swie sî gebiutet, alsô wil ich leben.

however she commands, so will I live.

sin gesach mîn ouge nie diu baz ein hôhgemüete konde geben.

her saw my eye never who better a high-spirit could give.

Ungefüeger schimpf bestêt mich alle tage:

Unseemly mockery besets me all days:

si jehent daz ich ze vil gerede von ir

they say that I too much speak of her

und diu liebe sî ein luge diech von ir sage.

and the love be a lie which-I of her tell.

ôwê wan lâzent si den schaden mir?

alas why let they the harm to-me?

si möhten tuon als ich dâ hân getân

they might do as I there have done

unde heten wert ir lieb und liezen mîne frowen gân.

and would-hold worthy their love and would-let my lady go.

Ich weiz manegen guoten man

I know many-a good man

an dem ich nîde daz si in sô gerne siht

in whom I envy that she him so gladly sees

durch daz er wol sprechen kan.

for that he well speak can.

doch tröeste ich mich des einen, si engehœret niht

yet comfort I myself of-that one, she hears not

und entet diz lange jâr.

and did-not this long year.

wils aber eines rede vernemen,

(if)-will-she however of-one speech hear,

sô liegt si et alle unde hân ich eine wâr.

then lie they just all and have I alone truth.

‘Er hât ze lange mich gemiten

‘He has too long me avoided

den ich mit triuwen nie gemeit.

whom I with faithfulness never avoided.

von sîner schulde ich hân erliten

by his guilt I have suffered

daz ich nie grœzer nôt erleit.

that I never greater distress endured.

sô lebt mîn lîp nâch sînem lîbe.

so lives my body after his body.

ich bin ein wîp, daz im von wîbe

I am a woman, so-that to-him from a-woman

nie liebes mê geschach, swie mir von im geschæhe

never of-love more happened, however to-me from him would-happen

mîn ouge in gerner nie gesach dann ich in hiute sæhe.'

my eye him more-gladly never saw than I him today should-see.'

Mir ist vil liebe nu geschehen,

To-me is very dearly now happened,

daz mir sô liebe nie geschach.

that to-me so dearly never happened.

sô gerne hân ich sî gesehen

so gladly have I her seen

daz ich si gerner nie gesach.

that I her more-gladly never saw.

ich scheide ir muot von swachem muote:

I part her spirit from base spirit:

si ist sô guot, ich wil mit guote

she is so good, I will with good

ir lônem, ob ich kan, als ich doch gerne kunde.

to-her reward, if I can, as I yet gladly could.

vil mêre fröiden ich ir gan dann ich mir selben gunde.

very more of-joys I to-her grant than I to-me self would-grant.

Wol im der nu vert verdarp

Well to-him who now last-year perished

der hât hiure leit verklagt.

he has this-year sorrow lamented-away.

der ie gerne umb êre warp

who ever gladly for honor strove

und daran ist unverzagt

and in-that is undespairing

deme tuot vil menegez wê,

to-him does very many-a-thing pain,

des sich jener getrœstet

of-which himself yonder-one comforts

derder ist verdorben ê.

he-who is perished before.

Man sol sorgen: sorge ist guot;

One shall worry: care is good;

âne sorge ist nieman wert.

without care is no-one worthy.

wol mich iemer daz mîn muot

well me ever that my spirit

des sô strîteclîchen gert

of-that so contentiously desires

daz mich noch gemachet vrô.

which me still makes glad.

sol ab ich verderben, sôn verdarp nie man

(if)-shall however I perish, then perished never a-man

lobelîcher denne alsô.

more-praiseworthy than so.

Sorge und angst stât mir wol,

Care and fear stand to-me well,

sît ich unverdorben bin.

since I unperished am.

swaz ich noch gesorgen sol,

whatever I still worry shall,

des kum ich mit fröiden hin.

of-that come I with joys away.

wer hât lieb ân arebeit?

who has love without hardship?

wê waz spriche ich! jône touc zer werlte niht

alas what speak I! indeed avails in-the world nothing

dienest âne sælekeit.

service without blessedness.

Wie mac leit an im gewern

How may sorrow in him endure

dem von liebe lieb geschiht?

to-whom from love love happens?

ich muoz leider fröide enbern,

I must alas joy do-without,

liebes des enhân ich niht,

of-love of-that have I nothing,

wan ein lieb daz mîn niht wil.

but one love which of-me not will.

wenne sol ich lieben tac an dem geleben?

when shall I a-dear day at that live-to-see?

jô getrûre ich gar ze vil.

indeed mourn I wholly too much.

Mîn geloube ist, sol ich leben,

My belief is, shall I live,

ich wird endelîchen alt.

I become finally old.

diu mir fröide hât gegeben

she-who to-me joy has given

unde sorge manicvalt,

and care manifold,

der dien ich die selben tage.

her serve I those same days.

mîniu jâr diu müezen mit ir ende nemen,

my years they must with her end take,

sô mit fröiden sô mit klage.

so with joys as with lament.

‘Âne swære ein frouwe ich wære

‘Without grief a lady I were

wan daz eine daz sich sent

but the one that itself longs

mîn gemüete ûf sîne güete,

my spirit upon his goodness,

der er mich wol hât gewent.

to-which he me well has accustomed.

sol ich lîden von im langez mîden,

(if)-shall I suffer from him long avoiding,

daz müet mich wol sêre.

that grieves me very sorely.

ich sprich im niht mêre,

I speak to-him nothing more,

wan daz er mich siht daz sint sîn êre.

but that he me sees that are his honor.

199,25

Mîn geselle, swaz er welle,

My companion, whatever he will,

daz muoz im an mir geschehen.

that must to-him through me happen.

man sô guoten, baz gemuoten,

a-man so good, better disposed,

hân ich selten mê gesehen,

have I seldom more seen,

im gelîchen, noch sô gemelîchen,

to-him like, nor so merry,

bî dem für die swære

by whom against the grief

bezzer fröide wære.

better joy were.

iemer hôrte ich gerne sîniu mære.

ever heard I gladly his tidings.

Mîn gedinge derst geringe

My hope that-is slight

die wîl ich in lebendic hân.

the while I him living have.

swer in êret unde im mêret

whoever him honors and to-him increases

fröide, daz ist mir getân.

joy, that is to-me done.

swaz er wolte daz ich lâzen solte,

whatever he wished that I leave should,

daz kond ich vermîden.

that could I avoid.

bæser liute nîden

of-base people envying

wil ich im ze dienste gerne lîden.

will I to-him in service gladly suffer.

Wol dem lîbe der dem wîbe

Well to-the person which to-the woman

solhe fröide machen kan.

such joy make can.

mîme heile ich gar verteile,

of-my fortune I wholly despair,

mîdet mich der beste man.

(if)-avoids me the best man.

swes er phlege swenne er bî mir læge,

whatever he practiced whenever he by me should-lie,

mit sô frömden sachen

with so strange things

könder wol gemachen

could-be well make

daz ich sîner schimphe müese lachen.

that I of-his jests should-have-to laugh.

Ich wær stæte, swaz er tæte

I were constant, whatever he would-do

ob er doch gedæhte mîn.

if he yet thought of-me.

er schiet hinnen mit den minnen

he parted hence with the loves

daz ich niht vergizze sîn.

so-that I not forget of-him.

wîp mit güeten sol ir êre hûeten

a-woman with goodness shall her honor guard

schône zallen zîten,

fairly at-all times,

wider ir friunt niht strîten.

against her friend not strive.

alsô wil ich sîn mit êren bîten.

so will I of-him with honors wait.

Zuo dem scheiden, daz uns beiden

At the parting, which to-us both

manege fröide hât erwert,

many-a joy has denied,

gotes güete mirn behüete,

God's goodness for-me-him guard,

swar er in der werlde vert.

wherever he in the world fares.

alsô schône man nâch wîbes lône

so fairly one after a-woman's reward

noch geranc nie mêre.

still strove never more.

daz ich sîner êre

that I of-his honor

weiz sô vil, daz ist mîn herzesêre.'

know so much, that is my heart's-pain.'

201,12 Ich solte dâ belîben sîn

I should there remained be

dâ man mi's tougenlîchen bat.

where one me-of-it secretly asked.

nu hât mich der wille mîn

now has me the will mine

verleitet an ein ander stat,

led-astray to an other place,

dâ ich herzeswære trage,

where I heart's-sorrow bear,

mêre denne ich ieman sage.

more than I to-anyone tell.

ich hân aber leider nieman dem iz klage.

I have however alas no-one to-whom it lament.

Wes versûme ich tumber man

Why waste I foolish man

mit grôzer liebe schœne zît

with great love a-fair time

daz ich niht belîben kan,

so-that I not remain can,

sît mir got daz leben gît

since to-me God the life gives

daz ich als unsenfte swære dol?

that I so uneasily grief endure?

mir was eteswenne wol.

to-me was sometimes well.

ich wæne daz ... ieman reden sol.

I think that (lacuna) anyone speak shall.

Wê daz si sô maneger siht

Alas that her so many-a-one sees

der sînen willen reden wil

who his will speak will

ze allen zîten, unde ich niht!

at all times, and I not!

daz ist mir ein swære spil.

that is to-me a heavy play.

sol ein ander von ir lôn enphân

(if)-shall an other from her reward receive

und ich dâ niht erworben hân,

and I there nothing won have,

sô diene ich nimmer wîbe mêr ûf lieben wân.

then serve I never a-woman more upon dear expectation.

201,33 Ich enbin von mînen jâren

I am for my years

niht sô wîse daz ich wol

not so wise that I well

künne wider si gebâren

can toward her behave

alsô ich von rehte sol.

as I by right shall.

ich bin tump: daz ist mir leit.

I am foolish: that is to-me grievous.

wær ich wîse, sô genüzzte ich mîner arebeit.

were I wise, then profited I of-my hardship.

Waz ich dulde an mîme lîbe,

What I endure in my body,

daz mich niht gehelfen mac!

which me not help may!

des enwil ich nimmer wîbe

of-that will I never a-woman

mêr getrûwen einen tac.

more trust one day.

waz red ich? jâ sint si guot.

what speak I? indeed are they good.

ich hôre sagen daz si niht alle haben einen muot.

I hear say that they not all have one spirit.

Weste ich waz ir wille wære,

Knew I what her will were,

daz tât ich (nu enweiz ichs niht),

that would-do I (now know I-it not),

âne daz ich si verbære.

except that I her would-forgo.

swaz dar umbe mir geschiht,

whatever there for to-me happens,

ich verlobe si nimmer tac.

I renounce her never a-day.

ich weiz wol daz mich âne si nieman getroesten mac.

I know well that me without her no-one comfort may.

Ez ist allez an ir einen

It is all in her alone

swaz ich fröiden haben sol.

whatever I of-joys have shall.

daz wil ich ouch immer meinen

that will I also ever mean

getriuwelîchen unde wol

faithfully and well

niuwan al die wîle ich lebe.

only all the while I live.

si sehe, des ich hin zir dâ muote, daz si mir daz gebe.

she see, what I toward to-her there desire, that she to-me that give.

Ich ensach nie wîp sô stæte,

I saw never a-woman so constant,

(des ich ir doch niht engan)

(of-which I to-her yet not grant)

diu sô harte missetæte

who so grievously would-do-wrong

sô si tuot an einem man.

as she does to one man.

mîn rede diust noch gar ein wint.

my speech that-is still wholly a wind.

nu wil si mich zallen zîten triegen als ein kint.

now will she me at-all times deceive as a child.

202,25

Mir ist der werlde unstæte

To-me is the world's inconstancy

von genuogen dingen leit.

from many things grievous.

swie gerne ich rehte tæte

however gladly I rightly should-do

(wande ez wære ein sælekeit),

(for it were a blessedness),

sô enlât mich manic man,

so lets-not me many-a man,

der umb êre noch um fröide nie dekeinen muot gewan.

who about honor nor about joy ever any spirit won.

Wiser denne ich wære

Wiser than I were

bin ich maneger dinge wol.

am I in-many things well.

mirst vil liute unmære,

to-me-is many people indifferent,

diech von rehte hazzen sol,

whom-I by right hate shall,

und êre gerne guotiu wîp,

and honor gladly good women,

durch die einen, diu von sorgen scheiden sol den mînen lîp.

for the one, who from cares part shall the my body.

Sol ich des engelten

(if)-Shall I of-that pay

daz ie hôhe stuont mîn muot

that ever high stood my spirit

unde hazze in selten

and hate him seldom

der daz beste gerne tuot,

who the best gladly does,

sô fürht ich daz ich verzage.

then fear I that I despair.

nimmer niht! waz möhte mir gewerren böeser liute klage?

never anything! what might to-me trouble of-base people lament?

Unde ergienge ez immer,

And should-turn-out it ever,

daz noch wol geschehen mac,

which still well happen may,

mich gesæhe nimmer

me should-see never

man getrûren einen tac.

one mourn one day.

noch hoff ich, ez werde wâr;

still hope I, it become true;

wande ich hân mich fröide versûmet lenger denne ein ganzer jâr.

for I have myself of-joy neglected longer than a whole year.

‘Ze niuwen fröiden stât mîn muot

‘To new joys stands my spirit

vil hôhe’ sprach ein schœne wîp.

very high’ spoke a fair woman.

‘ein ritter mînen willen tuot:

‘a knight my will does:

der hât geliebet mir den lîp.

he has endeared to-me the life.

ich wil im iemer holder sîn

I will to-him ever more-devoted be

danne deheinem mâge mîn.

than to-any kinsman mine.

ich tuon im wîbes triuwe schîn.

I do to-him of-a-woman faithfulness plain.

Diu wîle schône mir zergât

The while fairly for-me passes

swenn er an mînem arme lît

whenever he on my arm lies

und er mich zime gevangen hât.

and he me to-him captive has.

daz ist ein wünneclîchiu zît.

that is a delightful time.

sô ist mîn trûren gar zergân

then is my mourning wholly vanished

und bin die wochen wol getân.

and am the week well made.

ey waz ich danne fröiden hân!'

ah what I then of-joys have!'

203,24 Wol mich lieber mære,

Well me of-a-dear tale,

daz ich hân vernomen

that I have heard

daz der winter swære

that the winter heavy

welle ze ende komen.

will to end come.

kûme ich des erbeiten mac.

hardly I of-that wait may.

sît ich fröide niht enpflac

since I joy not practiced

sît der kalte rîfe lac.

since the cold frost lay.

Mich enhazzet niemen,

Me hates no-one,

ob ich bin gemeit.

if I am merry.

weiz got, tuot ez iemen,

knows God, (if)-does it anyone,

deist unsælekeit,

that-is misfortune,

wande ich schaden niht enkan.

for I harm not can.

swes ot si mir wole gan,

whatever just she to-me well grants,

waz wil des ein ander man?

what will of-that an other man?

Solte ich mîne liebe

Should I my love

bergen unde heln,

hide and conceal,

sô müest ich ze diebe

then must I to a-thief

werden unde steln.

become and steal.

sinneclich ich daz bewar.

sensibly I that guard-against.

mîn gewerbe ist anderswar,

my business is elsewhere,

ich gê dannân oder dar.

I go thence or thither.

Sô si mit dem balle

When she with the ball

trîbet kindes spot,

plays child's sport,

dazs iht sêre valle

that-she at-all sorely fall

daz verbiete got.

that forbid God.

megde, lâit iur dringen sîn:

maidens, let your pressing be:

stôzet ir mîn frouwelîn,

(if)-push you my little-lady,

sôst der schade halber mîn.

so-is the harm half mine.

Hartmann von Aue

Fifty-five strophes. He has carried grief through the summer and holds it right that he should be sorrowful. A pure spirit befits the cross, and he calls the knights to pay their lives as tribute, which wins the world's praise and the soul's salvation; yet love songs on constancy follow, and songs in a woman's voice, one mourning a dead lover. He takes his leave of lords and kin, and the book ends with his word to the minnesingers, whom hope harms, since they strive after a love that does not want them.

Sît ich den sumer truoc riuw unde klagen

Since I the summer bore rue and lamenting

sô ist ze fröiden mîn trôst niht sô guot,

so is for joys my comfort not so good,

mîn sanc ensüle des winters wâpen tragen:

my song unless-shall the winter's arms bear:

daz selbe daz tuot ouch mîn sender muot.

the same that does also my longing spirit.

wie lützel mir mîn stæte liebes tuot!

how little to-me my constancy of-pleasure does!

wan ich vil gar an ir versûmet hân

for I very wholly on her wasted have

die zît, den dienst, dar zuo den langen wân.

the time, the service, there to the long expectation.

ich wil ir anders ungefluochet lân

I will her otherwise uncursed leave

wan sô, si hât niht wol ze mir getân.

except so, she has not well toward me done.

205,1

Wolt ich den hazzen der mir leide tuot,

Would I him hate who to-me sorrow does,

sô möht ich wol mîn selbes vîent sîn.

then might I well my own enemy be.

vil wandels hât mîn lîp und ouch der muot:

much of-fault has my body and also the spirit:

deist an mîm ungelücke worden schîn.

that-is in my misfortune become evident.

mîn vrowe gert mîn niht: diu schulde ist mîn.

my lady desires me not: the fault is mine.

sît sinne machent sældehaften man

since wits make a-fortunate man

und unsin stæte sælde nie gewan,

and folly constant fortune never won,

ob ich mit sinnen niht gedienen kan,

if I with wits not serve can,

dâ bin ich alterseine schuldec an.

there am I all-alone guilty of

Dô ir mîn dienst niht ze herzen gie,

When to-her my service not to heart went,

dô dûhte mich an ir bescheidenlich

then seemed to-me of her judicious

daz sî ir werden lîbes mich erlie:

that she of-her worthy person me released:

dar an bedâhte sî vil rehte sich.

there on bethought she very rightly herself.

zürn ich, daz ist ir spot und altet mich.

am-angry I, that is her mockery and ages me.

grôz was mîn wandel: dô si den entsaz,

great was my fault: when she that feared,

dô meit si mich, vil wol geloube ich daz,

then avoided she me, very well believe I that,

mê dur ir êre danne ûf mînen haz:

more for her honor than upon my hatred:

si wænet des, ir lop stê destе baz.

she thinks that, her praise stands the better.

Sî hâte mich nâch wâne unrehte erkant,

She had me by conjecture wrongly known,

dô sî mich ir von êrste dienen liez:

when she me her from first serve let:

dur daz si mich sô wandelbæren vant,

for that she me so changeable found,

mîn wandel und ir wîsheit mich verstiez.

my fault and her wisdom me cast-out.

sî hât geleistet swaz sî mir gehiez;

she has performed whatever she to-me promised;

swaz sî mir solde, des bin ich gewert:

whatever she to-me owed, of-that am I granted:

er ist ein tump man, der iht anders gert:

he is a foolish man, who anything else desires:

si lônde mir als ich si dûhte wert:

she rewarded me as I to-her seemed worth:

michn sleht niht anders wan mîn selbes swert.

me slays nothing else but my own sword.

Ich hân des reht daz mîn lîp trûric sî,

I have of-that right that my person sad be,

wan mich twinget ein vil sendiu nôt.

for me compels a very longing distress.

swaz fröiden mir von kinde wonte bî,

whatever of-joys to-me from childhood dwelt by,

die sint verzinset als ez got gebôt.

those are paid-as-tribute as it God commanded.

mich hât beswæret mînes herren tât;

me has burdened my lord's death;

dar zuo sô trüebet mich ein varende leit:

there to so troubles me a passing sorrow:

mir hât ein wîp genâde widerseit,

to-me has a woman favor refused,

der ich gedienet hân mit stætekeit

whom I served have with constancy

sît der stunt deich ûf mîme stabe reit.

since the hour that-I upon my staff rode.

206,19 Swes vröide an guoten wîben stât,

Whose joy on good women stands,

der sol in sprechen wol

he shall of-them speak well

und wesen undertân.

and be subject.

daz ist mîn site und ist mîn rât,

that is my custom and is my counsel,

als ez mit triuwen sol.

as it with faithfulness shall.

daz kan mich niht vervân

that can me not avail

an einer stat

at one place

dâ ich noch ie genâden bat.

where I still ever favors asked.

swaz si mir tuot, ich hân mich ir gegeben

whatever she to-me does, I have myself to-her given

und wil ir iemer leben.

and will for-her ever live.

Moht ich der schœenen mînen muot

Might I to-the fair-one my spirit

nâch mînem willen sagen,

according-to my will say,

sô lieze ich mînen sanc.

then would-leave I my song.

nû ist mîn sælde niht sô guot:

now is my fortune not so good:

dâ von muoz ich ir klagen

there from must I to-her lament

mit sange, diu mich twanc.

with song, she-who me compelled.

swie verre ich sî,

however far I be,

sô sende ich ir den boten bî

so send I to-her the messenger by

den sî wol hœret unde niene siht:

whom she well hears and not-at-all sees:

dern meldet mîn dâ niht.

he betrays of-me there not.

Ez ist ein klage und niht ein sanc

It is a lament and not a song

dâ ich der guoten mite

wherewith I to-the good-one along

erniuwe mîniu leit.

renew my sorrows.

die swæren tage sint alze lanc

the heavy days are all-too long

die ich sî gnâden bite

in-which I her for-favors ask

und sî mir doch verseit.

and she to-me yet refuses.

swer selhen strît,

whoever such strife,

der kumber âne fröide gît,

which affliction without joy gives,

verlâzen kunde, des ich niene kan,

leave could, which I not-at-all can,

der wære ein sælic man.

he were a blessed man.

207,11 Ich sprach, ich wolte ir iemer leben:

I said, I would for-her ever live:

des liez ich wîte mære komen.

of-that let I wide tidings come.

mîn herze hete ich ir gegeben:

my heart had I to-her given:

daz hân ich nu von ir genomen.

that have I now from her taken.

swer tumben antheiz trage,

whoever a-foolish vow bears,

der lâze in ê der tage

he let it before the days

ê in der strît

ere him the strife

beroube sîner jâre gar.

rob of-his years wholly.

alsô hân ich getân.

so have I done.

der krieg sî ir verlân;

the contention be to-her left;

für dise zît

for this time

sô wil ich dienen anderswar.

so will I serve elsewhere.

Ich was untriuwen ie gehaz:

I was to-unfaithfulness ever hostile:

und wolte ich ungetriuwe sîn,

and would I unfaithful be,

mir tæte untriuwe verre baz

to-me would-do unfaithfulness far better

dan daz mich ê diu triuwe mîn

than that me before the faithfulness mine

von ir niht scheiden liez

from her not part let

diu mich ir dienen hiez.

who me her serve bade.

nu tuot mir wê,

now does to-me pain,

si wil mir ungelônnet lân.

she will me unrewarded leave.

ich spriche ir niuwan guot:

I speak of-her nothing-but good:

ê ich beswære ir muot,

ere I burden her spirit,

sô wil ich ê

then will I sooner

die schulde zuo dem schaden hân.

the fault to the harm have.

Waz solte ich arges von ir sagen

What should I of-evil of her say

der ich ie wol gesprochen hân?

of-whom I ever well spoken have?

ich mac wol mînen kumber klagen

I may well my affliction lament

und si drumb ungevelschet lân.

and her therefor unslandered leave.

si nimet von mir für wâr

she takes from me for true

mîn dienest manic jâr.

my service many-a year.

ich hân gegert

I have desired

ir minne unde vinde ir haz.

her love and find her hatred.

daz mir dâ nie gelanc,

that to-me there never succeeded,

des habe ich selbe undanc:

of-that have I myself no-thanks:

dûht ich sis wert,

seemed I to-her-of-it worth,

si hete mir gelônet baz.

she would-have me rewarded better.

Sît ich ir lônnes muoz enbern,

Since I her reward must do-without,

der ich doch vil gedienet hân,

whom I yet much served have,

sô ruoche mich got eines wern,

so deign me God of-one to-grant,

daz ez der schœnen mûeze ergân

that it for-the fair-one may turn-out

nâch êren unde wol.

in honors and well.

sît ich mich rechen sol,

since I myself avenge shall,

dêswâr daz sî,

indeed that be,

und doch niht anders wan alsô

and yet not otherwise than so

daz ich ir heiles gan

that I to-her of-welfare grant

baz danne ein ander man,

better than an other man,

und bin dâ bi

and am there by

ir leides gram, ir liebes frô.

of-her sorrow grieved, of-her pleasure glad.

Mir sint diu jâr vil unverlorn

To-me are the years very unlost

diu ich an sî gewendet hân:

which I on her spent have:

hât mich ir minne lôn verborn,

(if)-has me her love's reward forborne,

doch trœstet mich ein lieber wân.

yet comforts me a dear expectation.

ichn gerte nihtes mê,

I would-desire nothing more,

wan müese ich ir als ê

than might I her as before

ze vrowen jehen.

as lady acknowledge.

manc man der nimt sîn ende alsô

many-a man he takes his end so

daz im niemer liep geschiht,

that to-him never pleasure happens,

wan daz er sich versiht

but that he himself expects

deiz süle geschehen,

that-it shall happen,

und tuot in der gedinge frô.

and makes him the hope glad.

Der ich dâ her gedienet hân,

She-whom I there hitherto served have,

dur die wil ich mit fröiden sîn,

for her will I with joys be,

doch ez mich wênic hât vervân.

though it me little has availed.

ich weiz wol daz diu frowe mîn

I know well that the lady mine

niwan nâch êren lebet.

only after honors lives.

swer von der sîner strebet,

whoever from the his strives,

der habe im daz.

he have for-himself that.

in betrâget sîner jâre vil.

him wearies of-bis years much.

swer alsô minnen kan,

whoever so love can,

der ist ein valscher man.

he is a false man.

mîn muot stêt baz:

my spirit stands better:

von ir ich niemer komen wil.

from her I never come will.

Mîn dienst der ist alze lanc

My service it is all-too long

bî ungewissem wâne:

by uncertain expectation:

wan nâch der ie mîn herze ranc,

for after whom ever my heart strove,

diu lât mich trôstes âne.

she leaves me of-comfort without.

ich möhte ir klagen

I might to-ber lament

und undersagen

and tell

von maneger swæren zît.

of many-a heavy time.

sît ich erkande ir strîf,

since I knew her strîf,

sît ist mir gewesen vür wâr

since is to-me been for true

ein stunde ein tac, ein tac eine woche, eine woche ein ganzez jâr.

an hour a day, a day a week, a week a whole year.

Owê waz tætes einem man

Alas what would-do-she to-a man

dem sî doch vîent wære,

to-whom she yet hostile were,

sît sî sô wol verderben kan

since she so well ruin can

ir friunt mit maneger swære?

her friend with many-a grief?

mir tæte baz

to-me would-do better

des rîches haz:

the realm's hatred:

joch möhte ich eteswar

indeed might I somewhere

entwîchen sîner schar:

escape its host:

diz leit wont mir alles bî

this sorrow dwells with-me always by

und nimt von mînen fröiden zins als ich sîn eigen sî.

and takes from my joys tribute as-if I its own were.

209,25 Dem kriuze zimt wol reiner muot

To-the cross befits well pure spirit

und kiusche site:

and chaste custom:

sô mac man sælde und allez guot

so may one fortune and all good

erwerben mite.

win therewith.

ouch ist ez niht ein kleiner haft

also is it not a small bond

dem tumben man

for-the foolish man

der sîme lîbe meisterschaft

who over-his body mastery

niht halten kan.

not hold can.

ez wil niht daz man sî

it will not that one be

der werke drunder frî:

of-the works thereunder free:

waz touc ez ûf der wât,

what avails it upon the garment,

ders an dem herzen niene hât?

who-it in the heart not-at-all has?

Nû zinsent, ritter, iuwer leben

Now pay-tribute, knights, your life

und ouch den muot

and also the spirit

durch in der iu dâ hât gegeben

for him who to-you there has given

lîp unde guot.

body and goods.

swes schilt ie was zer werlte bereit

whose shield ever was for-the world ready

ûf hôhen prîs,

upon high praise,

ob er den gote nû verseit,

if he it to-God now refuses,

der ist niht wîs.

he is not wise.

wan swem daz ist beschert

for to-whom that is allotted

daz er dâ wol gevert,

that he there well fares,

daz gîltet beidiu teil,

that pays both parts,

der werlte lop, der sêle heil.

the world's praise, the soul's salvation.

Diu werlt mich lachet triegende an

The world me laughs deceivingly at

und winket mir.

and beckons me.

nû hân ich als ein tumber man

now have I as a foolish man

gevolget ir.

followed her.

der hacchen hân ich manegen tac

the book have I many-a day

geloufen nâch:

run after:

dâ niemen stæte vinden mac,

where no-one constancy find can,

dar was mir gâch.

thither was to-me hasty.

nû hilf mir, herre Krist,

now help me, Lord Christ,

der mîn dâ vârend ist,

he-who of-me there waylaying is,

daz ich mich dem entsage

that I myself from-him renounce

mit dînem zeichen deich hie trage.

with thy sign which-I here bear.

Sît mich der tât beroubet hât

Since me the death robbed has

des herren mîn,

of-the lord mine,

swie nû diu werlt nâch im gestât,

however now the world after him stands,

daz lâze ich sîn.

that let I be.

der fröide mîn den besten teil

of-the joy mine the best part

hât er dâ hin,

has he there away,

und schüefe ich nû der sêle heil,

and made I now for-the soul salvation,

daz wære ein sîn.

that were a sense.

mag ime ze helfe komen

(if)-may to-him to help come

mîn vart diech hân genomen,

my journey which-I have taken,

ich wil irm halber jehen:

I will of-it-to-him half acknowledge:

vor gote müeze ich in gesehen.

before God may I him see.

Mîn fröide wart nie sorgelôs

My joy became never careless

210,35

unz an die tage

until to the days

daz ich mir Kristes bluomen kôs

that I for-me Christ's flowers chose

die ich hie trage.

which I here bear.

die kündent eine sumerzît

they announce a summertime

diu alsô gar

which so wholly

in süezer ougenweide lît.

in sweet eyes'-pasture lies.

got helfe uns dar,

God help us thither,

hin in den zehenden kôr,

away into the tenth choir,

dar ûz en hellemôr

there out-of a hell-Moor

sîn valsche verstôzen hât,

his falseness cast-out has,

und noch den guoten offen stât.

and still to-the good-ones open stands.

Mich hât diu werlt alsô gewent

Me has the world so accustomed

daz mir der muot

that to-me the spirit

sich zeiner mâze nâch ir sent:

itself in-a measure after her longs:

dêst mir nû guot.

that-is to-me now good.

got hât vil wol ze mir getân,

God has very well toward me done,

als ez nû stât,

as it now stands,

daz ich der sorgen bin erlân,

that I of-the cares am spared,

diu manegen hât

whiche many-a-one has

gebunden an den fuoz,

bound by the foot,

daz er belîben muoz

so-that he remain must

swenn ich in Kristes schar

when I in Christ's host

mit fröiden wünneclîchen var.

with joys delightfully go.

211,20 Swelch vrowe sendet lieben man

Whichever lady sends a-dear man

mit rehtem muote ûf dise vart,

with right spirit upon this journey,

diu koufet halben lôn dar an,

she buys half reward there on,

ob sî sich heime alsô bewart

if she herself at-home so guards

daz sî verdienet kiuschiu wort.

that she earns chaste words.

sî bete für sî beidiu hie,

she pray for them both here,

sô vert er für si beidiu dort.

so goes he for them both there.

Der mit gelücke trûrec ist,

He-who with luck sad is,

211,27

der wirt mit ungelücke selten gemelîchen vrô.

he becomes with ill-luck seldom merrily glad.

für trûren hân ich einen list,

against mourning have I a device,

swaz mir geschiht ze leide, sô gedenke ich iemer sô:

whatever to-me happens to sorrow, so think I ever so:

‘nû lâ varn, ez solte dir geschehen:

‘now let go, it should to-thee happen:

schiere kumet

soon comes

daz dir gefrumet.’

what to-thee profits.’

sus sol ein man des besten sich versehen.

thus shall a man of-the best himself expect.

Swer anders giht, der misseseit,

Whoever otherwise says, he misspeaks,

wan daz man stætiu wîp mit stætekeit erwerben muoz.

but that one constant women with constancy win must.

des hât mir mîn unstætekeit

of-that has to-me my inconstancy

ein stætez wîp verlorn. diu bôt mir also schœnen gruoze

a constant woman lost. she offered me so fair a-greeting

daz sî mir erougte lieben wân.

that she to-me showed dear expectation.

dô sî erkôs

when she perceived

mich stætelôs,

me constancy-less,

dô muose ouch diu genâde ein ende hân.

then had-to also the favor an end have.

Ez ist mir iemer mêre guot

It is to-me ever more good

daz mîn unstæte an stæten fröiden mich versûmet hât:

that my inconstancy of constant joys me deprived has:

nû kêr ich mich an stæten muot,

now turn I myself to constant spirit,

und muoz mit heile mînes ungelückes werden rât.

and must with good-fortune for-my misfortune come remedy.

ich bin einer stæten undertân:

I am to-a constant-one subject:

an der wirt schîn

in whom becomes evident

diu stæte mîn

the constancy mine

und deich an stæte meister nie gewan.

and that-I in constancy a-master never won.

Rîcher got, in welher mâze wirt ir gruoz,
Mighty God, in what measure becomes her greeting,
 swenn ich si sihe die ich dâ mîde manegen tac
whenever I her see whom I there avoid many-a day
 sît daz der dâ heime wankes fürhten muoz,
since that he there at-home wavering fear must,
 der doch sîn liep ze rehter zît gegrüezen mac.
who yet his love at right time greet may.
 dâ wil ich geniezen ir bescheidenheit
there will I profit-by her discretion
 und daz si vil wol wesse war umb ich si meit.
and that she very well knew where for I her avoided.
 sô tuot si wol, und lît mîn trôst vil gar dar an
so does she well, and lies my comfort very wholly there on
 daz stæte herze an stætem friunde wenken niene kan.
that constant heart from constant friend waver not-at-all can.

212,13

Niemen lebet der sînen friunt sô dicke siht,
No-one lives who his friend so often sees,
 ern müeze an in gedenken sunder sînen danc.
unless-be must on him think without his will.
 daz erzeiget herzeclîcher liebe niht:
that shows heartfelt love not:
 so ist unser sumelîcher beiten alse lanc
so is of-us of-some the-waiting so long
 daz ein wîp ir stæte an uns erzeigen mac.
that a woman her constancy on us show may.
 gedenke ein vrowe daz unstæte sî ein slac.
think a lady that inconstancy be a blow.
 gewinne ich nâch der langen vrömede schœnen gruoz,
(if)-win I after the long estrangement fair greeting,
 wie sêre ich daz mit dienste iemer mê besorgen muoz.
how sorely I that with service ever more attend must.

212,21

Ist ez wâr, als ich genuoge høre jehen,

(if)-Is it true, as I many hear say,

daz lösen hin ze den wîben sî der beste rât,

that flattery away to the women be the best counsel,

wê waz heiles mac dan einem man geschehen

woe what of-good-fortune may then to-a man happen

der daz und allen valsch durch sîne triuwe lât?

who that and all falseness for his faithfulness leaves?

dâ sî eht er vil stæte an sînem reinen site:

there be only he very constant in his pure custom:

jâ erwirbet er ein stætez heil dâ mite,

indeed wins he a constant good-fortune there with,

sô des vil gæhelôsen gæhez heil zergât,

when of-the very heedless-one the-hasty good-fortune vanishes,

daz er an der vil gæhelôsen gæhes funden hât.

which he in the very heedless-one hastily found has.

212,37 'Ob man mit lügen die sêle nert,

If one with lies the soul saves,

sô weiz ich den der heilec ist,

then know I him who holy is,

der mir dicke meine swert.

who to-me often falsely swears.

mich überwant sîn karger list,

me overcame his crafty cunning,

daz ich in zeime friunde erkôs:

so-that I him as-a friend chose:

dâ wânde ich stæte fûnde:

there thought I constancy would-find:

mîn selber sin mich dâ verlôs,

my own sense me there lost,

als ich der werlte kûnde:

as I to-the world make-known:

sîn lîp ist alse valschelôs

his person is as falseness-free

sam daz mer der ûnde.

as the sea of-the wave.

War umbe suochte ich frömden rât,

Where for sought I strangers' counsel,

sît mich mîn selber herze trouc,

since me my own heart deceived,

daz mich an den verleitet hât

which me to him misled has

der mir noch niemen guoter touc?

who to-me nor anyone good avails?

ez ist ein swacher mannes prîs

it is a weak man's praise

den er begêt an wîben.

which he practices on women.

süezer worte ist er sô wîs

of-sweet words is he so wise

daz man si möhte schriben.

that one them might write.

den volget ich unz ûf daz îs:

them followed I even onto the ice:

der schade muoz mir belîben.

the harm must to-me remain.

Begunde ich vêhen alle man,

Began I to-feud-with all men,

daz tæte ich durch sîn eines haz.

that would-do I for his alone hatred.

wie schuldic wæren sî dar an?

how guilty were they there in?

jâ lônet maneger sîner baz.

indeed rewards many-a-one his better.

diu hât sich durch ir schoenen sin

she has herself through her fair sense

gesellet sæleclîche;

allied blessedly;

diu lachet swenne ich trûric bin:

she laughs whenever I sad am:

wir alten ungelîche.

we grow-old unlike.

nâch leide huop sich mîn begin:

after sorrow rose itself my beginning:

daz senfte got der rîche.'

that soften God the mighty.'

213,29 Ez ist mir ein ringiu klage

It is to-me a light lament

daz ich sî sô selten sihe

that I her so seldom see

der ich alle mîne tage

to-whom I all my days

guotes jach und iemer gihe.

good spoke and ever say.

mir ist niender anderswâ

to-me is nowhere elsewhere

wirs danne dâ.

worse than there.

mîme lîbe gêt ze nâ,

to-my body goes too near,

ich enmöhte erwerben daz

I unless-could win that

deich si alsô sæhe

that-I her so should-see

daz si mîn ze friunde verjæhe:

that she of-me as friend would-acknowledge:

mir tuot ir frömeden anders baz.

to-me does her estranging otherwise better.

Guoter wîbe sælekeit

Of-good women the-blessedness

fröite noch daz herze mîn:

gladdened still the heart mine:

niemen ist in baz gereit:

no-one is toward-them better ready:

daz sol lange stæte sîn.

that shall long constant be.

ich wil ir lieb mit liebe tragen

I will their joy with love bear

ze mînen tagen

in my days

unde ir leit mit leide klagen.

and their sorrow with sorrow lament.

nieman sol ir lobes gedagen.

no-one shall of-their praise keep-silent.

swaz wir rehtes werben,

whatever we of-right strive,

und daz wir man noch nien verderben,

and that we men still not-at-all perish,

des suln wir in genâde sagen.

of-that shall we to-them thanks say.

214,12 Niemen ist ein sælic man
No-one is a blessed man
 ze dirre werlte wan der eine
in this world but the one
 der nie liebes teil gewan
who never of-love a-share won
 und ouch dar nâch gedenket kleine.
and also there after thinks little.
 des herze ist vrî von sender nôt,
whose heart is free from longing distress,
 diu manegen bringet ûf den tôt
which many-a-one brings unto the death
 der schône heil gedienet hât
who fairly good-fortune earned has
 und sich des âne muoz begân.
and himself of-it without must go.
 dem lîbe niht sô nâhe gât,
to-the body not so near goes,
 als ich mich leider wol entstân,
as I myself alas well understand,
 wand ich den selben kumber hân.
for I the same affliction have.

Ez ist ein ungelückes gruoz
It is a misfortune's greeting
 der gêt für aller hande swære
which goes beyond all kind of-grief
 daz ich von friunden scheiden muoz
that I from friends part must
 bî den ich iemer gerne wære.
with whom I ever gladly were.
 diu nôt von mînen triuwen kumt.
the distress from my faithfulness comes.

ichn weiz ob sî der sêle iht frumt:

I-not know whether it for-the soul anything profits:

sîn gît dem lîbe lônēs mē

it-not gives to-the body of-reward more

wan trûren den vil langen tac.

than mourning the very long day.

mir tuot mîn stæte dicke wê,

to-me does my constancy often pain,

wand ich mich niht getrœsten mac

for I myself not comfort can

der guoten diu mîn schône pfîac.

of-the good-one who of-me fairly took-care.

[Dir hât enboten, frowe guot,

[To-thee has offered, lady good,

sîn dienest der dirs wol gan,

his service he-who to-thee-it well grants,

ein ritter der vil gerne tuot

a knight who very gladly does

daz beste daz sîn herze kan.

the best that his heart can.

der wil dur dînen willen disen sumer sîn

he will for thy sake this summer be

vil hôhes muotes verre ûf die genâde dîn.

of-very high spirit far upon the favor thine.

daz solt dû minneclîche enpfân,

that shalt thou lovingly receive,

daz ich mit guoten mæren var,

so-that I with good tidings go,

sô bin ich willekomen dar.

then am I welcome there.

214,34

‘Dû solt im, bote, mîn dienest sagen:

‘Thou shalt to-him, messenger, my service say:

swaz ime ze liebe müge geschehen,

whatever to-him to pleasure may happen,

daz möhte niemen baz behagen,

that might no-one better please,

der in sô selten habe gesehen.

who him so seldom has seen.

und bite in daz er wende sînen stolzen lîp

and ask him that he turn his proud person

dâ man im lône: ich bin im ein vil vremedez wîp

where one him rewards: I am to-him a very strange woman

zenpfâhen sus getâne rede.

to-receive thus made speech.

swes er ouch anders danne gert,

whatever be also otherwise than desires,

daz tuon ich, wan des ist er wert’

that do I, for of-that is he worth’

Mîn êrste rede dies ie vernam,

My first speech which-she ever heard,

die enpfîenc si deiz mich dûhte guot;

that received she so-that-it me seemed good;

unz si mich nâhen zir gewan:

until she me near to-her won:

zehant bestuonts ein ander muot.

at-once arose-in-her an other spirit.

swie gerne ich wolte, ich enmac von ir niht komen:

however gladly I would, I can from her not come:

diu grôze liebe hât sô vaste zuo genomen,

the great love has so firmly to increased,

daz si mich niht enlâzet frî:

that she me not lets free:

ich muoz ir eigen iemer sîn.

I must her own ever be.

nu enruoche, êst doch der wille mîn.]

now care-not, it-is yet the will mine.]

Ich muoz von rehte den tac iemer minnen

I must by right the day ever love

dô ich die werden von êrst erkande,

when I the worthy-one from first recognized,

in süezer zühte, mit wîplichen sinnen.

in sweet courtesy, with womanly senses.

wol mich daz ich den muot ie dar bewande

hail me that I the spirit ever thither turned

daz schât ir niht und ist mir iemer guot,

that harms her not and is to-me ever good,

wand ich ze gote und zer werlte den muot

for I toward God and toward-the world the spirit

deste baz dur ir willen kêre:

the better for her sake turn:

sus dinge ich daz sich mîn fröide noch gemêre.

thus hope I that itself my joy still increase.

Ich schiet von ir daz ich ir niht enkunde

I parted from her so-that I to-her not could

bescheiden wie ich si meinde in dem muote.

explain how I her meant in the spirit.

sît fuogte mir ein vil sæligiu stunde

since brought to-me a very blessed hour

daz ich si vant mir ze heile âne huote.

that I her found for-me to good-fortune without guarding.

dô ich die werden mit fuoge gesach,

when I the worthy-one with propriety saw,

und ich ir gar mînes willen verjach,
and I to-her wholly of-my will confessed,
 daz enpfie si mir daz irs got iemer lône.
that received she from-me so-that her-it God ever reward.
 si was von kinde und muoz mê sîn mîn krône.
she was from childhood and must more be my crown.

Sich mac mîn lip von der guoten wol scheiden:
Itself may my person from the good-one well part:
 mîn herze mîn wille muoz bî ir belîben.
my heart my will must by her remain.
 sî mac mir leben unde fröide wol leiden,
she may to-me life and joy well make-bateful,
 dâ bî alle mîne swære vertrîben:
there by all my griefs drive-away:
 an ir lît beide mîn lieb und mîn leit:
on her lies both my joy and my sorrow:
 swaz si mîn wil, deist ir iemer bereit:
whatever she of-me wills, that-is to-her ever ready:
 wart ich ie vrô, daz schuof niht wan ir gûete.
was I ever glad, that made nothing but her goodness.
 got sî der ir lip und êre behûete.
God be he-who her person and honor guard.

216,1 'Swes fröide hin ze den bluomen stât,
'Whose joy away to the flowers stands,
 der muoz vil schiere trûren gegen der swæren zît.
he must very soon mourn toward the heavy time.
 iedoch wirt eines wîbes rât
yet becomes for-a woman remedy
 diu die langen naht bî liebem manne lît:
who the long night by a-dear man lies:

sus wil ouch ich den winter lanc

thus will also I the winter long

mir kürzen âne vogelsanc.

for-me shorten without birdsong.

sol ich des enbern, dëst âne mînen danc.

(if)-shall I of-that do-without, that-is without my will.

Die friunde habent mir ein spil

The friends have to-me a game

geteilet vor, dëst beidenthalp niht wan verlorn:

dealt out, that-is on-both-sides nothing but lost:

doch ich ir einez nemen wil,

though I of-them one take will,

âne guote wal sô wære ez baz verborn.

without good choice so were it better forborne.

si jehent, welle ich minne pflegen,

they say, (if)-will I love practice,

sô müeze ich mich ir bewegen:

then must I myself of-them renounce:

doch sô râtet mir der muot ze beiden wegen.

yet so counsels me the spirit on both ways.

Wær ez mîner friunde rât,

Were it my friends' counsel,

jâ herre, wes solt er mir danne wizzen danc?

indeed lord, why should he to-me then owe thanks?

sît erz wol gedienet hât,

since he-it well earned has,

dâ von sô dunket mich sîn bîten alze lanc:

there from so seems to-me his waiting all-too long:

wand ich wâgen wil durch in

for I venture will for him

den lîp die êre und al den sin;

the body the honor and all the sense;

sô muoz mir gelingen, ob ich sælic bin.

so must for-me succeed, if I blessed am.

Er ist alles des wol wert,

He is of-all that well worth,

ob ich mîne triuwe an im behalten wil,

if I my faithfulness on him keep will,

des ein man ze wîbe gert:

what a man from a-woman desires:

dêswâr dekeiner êren ist im niht ze vil.

indeed of-no honor is for-him not too much.

er ist ein sô bescheiden man,

he is a so discreet man,

ob ichz an im behalten kan,

if I-it on him keep can,

minne ich in, dâ missegât mir niemer an.'

love I him, there goes-amiss to-me never in.'

216,29 Maneger grüezet mich alsô

Many-a-one greets me so

(der gruoz tuot mich ze mâze frô),

(the greeting makes me in measure glad),

'Hartman, gên wir schouwen

'Hartman, go we behold

ritterliche frouwen',

knightly ladies,

mac er mich mit gemache lân
may he me with ease leave
 und île er zuo den frowen gân!
and hasten he to the ladies to-go!
 bî frowen trûwe ich niht vervân,
by ladies trust I not to-avail,
 wan daz ich müede vor in stân.
but that I weary before them stand.

Ze frowen habe ich einen sin:
Toward ladies have I one sense:
 als sî mir sint als bin ich in;
as they to-me are so am I to-them;
 wand ich mac baz vertriben
for I can better pass
 die zît mit armen wîben.
the time with poor women.
 swar ich kum dâ ist ir vil,
wherever I come there are of-them many,
 dâ vinde ich die diu mich dâ wil;
there find I her who me there wants;
 diu ist ouch mînes herzen spil:
she is also of-my heart the-delight:
 waz touc mir ein ze hôhez zil?
what avails me a too high goal?

In mîner tôrheit mir geschach

In my folly to-me happened

daz ich zuo zeiner frowen sprach

that I to to-a lady spoke

‘frowe, ich hân mîne sinne

‘lady, I have my senses

gewant an iuwer minne’.

turned to your love’.

dô wart ich twerhes an gesehen.

then was I askance on looked.

des wil ich, des sî iu bejehen,

of-that will I, that be to-you confessed,

mir wîp in solher mâze spehen

for-me women in such measure seek

diu mir des niht enlânt geschehen.

who to-me that not let happen.

‘Diz wæren wünneclîche tage,

‘These were delightful days,

der sî mit fröiden möhte leben.

for-him-who them with joys might live.

nû hât mir got ein swære klage

now has to-me God a heavy lament

ze dirre schœnen zît gegeben,

at this fair time given,

der mir leider niemer wirdet buoz.

of-which to-me alas never comes remedy.

ich hân verloren einen man

I have lost a man

daz ich für wâr wol sprechen muoz

so-that I for true well say must

daz wîp nie liebern friunt gewan.

that a-woman never a-dearer friend won.

dô ich sîn pflac, dô fröit er mich:

when I of-him took-care, then gladdened he me:

nû pflege sîn got, der pfliget sîn baz dan ich.

now take-care of-him God, who cares-for him better than I.

Mîn schade wær niemen rehte erkant,

My harm were to-no-one rightly known,

ern diuhte in grôzer klage wert.

unless-he would-seem him of-great lament worth.

an dem ich triuwe und êre ie vant

in whom I faithfulness and honor ever found

und swes ein wîp an manne gert,

and whatever a woman in a-man desires,

der ist alze gâhes mir benomen.

he is all-too hastily from-me taken.

des mac mir unz an mînen tôt

of-that may to-me until to my death

niemer niht ze staten komen,

never anything to advantage come,

in müeze lîden sende nôt.

unless-I must suffer longing distress.

der nû iht liebers sî geschehen,

to-whom now anything dearer be happened,

diu lâze ouch daz an ir gebærden sehen.

she let also that in her bearing be-seen.

Got hât vil wol zuo zir getân,

God has very well to to-her done,

sît lieb sô leidez ende gît,

since love so grievous end gives,

diu sich ir beider hât erlân:

who herself of-them both has spared:

der gât mit fröiden hin diu zît.

for-her goes with joys away the time.

ich hân klage sô manegen liechten tac,

I have lament so many-a bright day,

und ir gemüete stêt alsô

and her spirit stands so

daz sî mir niht gelouben mac.

that she me not believe can.

ich bin von liebe worden frô:

I am from love become glad:

sol ich der jâre werden alt,

(if)-shall I of-the years become old,

daz giltet sich mit leide tûsentvalt.'

that repays itself with sorrow a-thousandfold.'

218,5 Ich var mit iuvern hulden, herren unde mâge:

I go with your goodwill, lords and kinsmen:

liut unde lant diu müezen sælic sîn.

people and land those may blessed be.

es ist unnôt daz iemen mîner verte vrâge:

it is unnecessary that anyone of-my journey ask:

ich sage wol für wâr die reise mîn.

I say well for true the journey mine.

mich vienc diu Minne und lie mich varn ûf mîne sicherheit.

me captured the Love and let me go upon my pledge.

nû hât si mir enboten bî ir liebe daz ich var.

now has she to-me commanded by her love that I go.

ez ist unwendic: ich muoz endelîchen dar:

it is unavoidable: I must assuredly there:

wie kûme ich bræche mîne triuwe und mînen eit!

how reluctantly I would-break my faithfulness and my oath!

Sich rüemet maneger waz er dur die Minne tæte:
Himself boasts many-a-one what he for the Love would-do:

wâ sint diu werc? die rede hœre ich wol.
where are the works? the speech hear I well.

doch sæhe ich gerne daz ir eteslîchen bæte
yet would-see I gladly that-she of-them some-one should-ask

daz er ir diente als ich ir dienen sol.
that he her served as I her serve shall.

ez ist geminnet, der sich dur die Minne ellenden muoz.
it is loved, he-who himself for the Love exile must.

nû seht wies mich ûz mîner zungen ziuhet über mer.
now see how-she me out-of my tongue draws over sea.

und lebte mîn her Salatîn und al sîn her,
and lived my lord Saladin and all his host,

dien bræhten mich von Vranken niemer einen fuoz.
they brought me from Franconia never one foot.

Ir minnesinger, iu muoz ofte misselingen:

You minnesingers, for-you must often go-amiss:

daz iu den schaden tuot daz ist der wân.

what to-you the harm does that is the expectation.

ich wil mich rüemen, ich mac wol von minne singen,

I will myself boast, I may well of love sing,

sît mich diu minne hât und ich si hân.

since me the love has and I her have.

daz ich dâ wil, seht daz wil also gerne haben mich:

what I there will, see that will just-as gladly have me:

sô müezet ab ir verliesen underwîlen wânes vil:

so must however you lose at-times of-expectation much:

ir ringent umbe lieb daz iuwer niht enwil:

you struggle for love which of-you not will:

wan müget ir armen minnen solhe minne als ich?

why may you poor-ones love such love as I?