

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES • VOLUME 10

HADLAUB AND THE LAST SWISS MINNESINGERS

Die Schweizer Minnesänger

Hadlaub and the Last Swiss Minnesingers
The Swiss Love Lyric from Steinmar to Rost of Sarnen

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

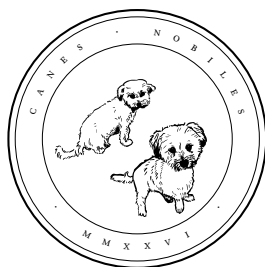


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Volume 10 of the Canes Nobiles Middle High German interlinear texts

The Middle High German text follows *Die Schweizer Minnesänger, mit Einleitung und Anmerkungen herausgegeben von Karl Bartsch* (Frauenfeld: J. Huber, 1886)

Set from page scans of the 1886 printing

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

The poets stand in Bartsch's order and each song is headed by the number Bartsch gives it, set on the song's own row of air under the roman numeral of its poet.

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Steinmar

Fourteen songs. In the first, since she will not reward him he will praise autumn instead, take service with it against May, and boast that no goose is too large for his gullet. Others keep the ordinary shape: flowers through the grass, a warning that a lover should not trust a watchman who betrays his lord. Four stand apart: a farmhand and a girl in the hay, woken by the herdsman's shout; a haggle with a serving-maid over a linen cloth, two shoes, and a chest; a song of cold nights on the king's march toward Meissen; and a farm maid who wanted goods from him.

XIX,1

Sît si mir niht lônên wil

Since she to-me not reward will

der ich hân gesungen vil,

to-whom I have sung much,

seht sô wil ich prîsen

behold so will I praise

den der mir tuot sorgen rât,

him who to-me gives of-cares remedy,

herbest der des meien wât

autumn who the May's garment

vellet von den rîsen.

fills from the boughs.

ich weiz wol, ez ist ein altez mære

I know well, it is an old saying

daz ein armez minnerlîn ist rehte ein marterære.

that a poor little-lover is rightly a martyr.

seht, zuo den was ich geweten:

behold, to those was I yoked:

wâfen! die wil ich lân und wil inz luoder treten.

alas! those will I leave and will into-the lure step.

Herbest, underwint dich mîn,

Autumn, take-charge thyself of-me,

wan ich wil dîn helfer sîn

for I will thy helper be

gegen dem glanzen meien.

against the gleaming May.

durh dich mîde ich sende nôt.

for thee avoid I yearning distress.

sît dir Gebewîn ist tôt,

since to-thee Gebewîn is dead,

nim mich tumben leien

take me foolish layman

vür in zeime stæten ingesinde.

for him as-a steadfast household-member.

‘Steimâr, sich daz wil ich tuon, swenn ich nu baz bevinde,

‘Steimâr, behold that will I do, when I now better find-out,

ob du mich kanst gebrüeven wol.’

whether thou me canst praise well.’

wâfen! ich singe daz wir alle werden vol.

alas! I sing that we all become full.

Herbest, nu hœr an mîn leben.

Autumn, now hear about my life.

wirt, du solt uns vische geben

host, thou shalt to-us fish give

mê dan zehen hande,

more than ten kinds,

gense hüener vogel swîn,

geese hens fowl swine,

dermel pfâwen sunt dâ sîn,

sausages peacocks shall there be,

wîn von welschem lande.

wine from Romance land.

des gib uns vil und heiz uns schüzzel schochen:

of-it give us much and bid us disbes to-beap:

köpfe und schüzzel wirt von mir unz an den grunt erlochen.

cups and disbes become by me even to the bottom emptied.

wirt, du lâ dîn sorgen sîn:

host, thou let thy care be:

wâfen! joch muoz ein riuwic herze troesten wîn.

alas! indeed must a rueful heart comfort wine.

Swaz du uns gîst, daz wûrze uns wol

Whatever thou to-us givest, that season for-us well

baz dan man ze mâze sol,

better than one in measure shall,

daz in uns werde ein hitze

that in us become a heat

daz gegen dem trunke gange ein dunst,

that against the drink go a vapor,

alse rouch von einer brunst,

like smoke from a blaze,

und daz der man erswitze,

and that the man sweat,

daz er wæne daz er vaste lecke.

that he think that he strongly leaks.

schaffe daz der munt uns als ein apotêke smecke.

make that the mouth to-us like a spice-shop smell.

erstumme ich von des wînes kraft,

(if)-grow-dumb I from the wine's strength,

wâfen! sô giuz in mich, wirt, durh geselleschaft.

alas! so pour into me, host, for fellowship.

Wirt, durh mich ein strâze gât:

Host, through me a road goes:

dar ûf schaffe uns allen rât,

there upon make for-us all provision,

manger hande spîse.

of-many kinds food.

wînes der wol tribe ein rat

of-wine which well might-drive a wheel

hœret ûf der strâze pfat.

belongs on the road's path.

mînen slunt ich prîse:

my gullet I praise:

mich wûrget niht ein grôziu gans so ichs slinde.

me chokes not a great goose when I-it swallow.

herbest, trûtgeselle mîn, noch nim mich zingesinde.

autumn, dear-comrade mine, yet take me as-a-household-member.

mîn sêle ûf eime rippe stât,

my soul on a rib stands,

wâfen! diu von dem wîne drûf gehüppet hât.

alas! which from the wine thereon hopped has.

XIX,2

Swenne ich komen wil von swære,

Whenever I come will from grief,

sô gedenke ich an ein wîp:

so think I on a woman:

diu ist schœne und êrebære,

who is fair and honor-worthy,

daz ir tugentlîcher lîp

so-that her virtuous person

hœhet mînen senden muot,

raises my yearning spirit,

alse en edelen valken wilde

as the noble falcon wild

sîn gevider in lûften tuot.

his plumage in airs does.

Süezer wunsch bî allen wîben,

Sweet perfection among all women,

dîn hânt êre tiutschiu lant.

of-thee have honor German lands.

du kanst herzeleit vertriben

thou canst heart-sorrow drive-away

und enbinden sorgen bant.

and unbind of-cares band.

dîn sint gêret elliu wîp:

by-thee are honored all women:

alsô hêre und alsô reine

so lofty and so pure

ist dîn fröidebernder lîp.

is thy joy-bearing person.

Ich wând, ûz dem himelrîche

I thought, out-of the heaven-kingdom

mich ein engel lachet an,

me an angel laughed at,

do ich si sach sô minneclîche:

when I her saw so lovely:

gar von aller swære ich kan.

quite from all grief I came.

ich wart aller fröiden vol,

I became of-all joys full,

als ein sêle von der wîze,
as a soul from the purgatory,
 diu ze himelrîche sol.
which to heaven-kingdom shall.

XIX,³

Schône dringent dur daz gras
Fairly press through the grass
 bluomen manger leien.
flowers of-many kinds.
 swer den winter trûric was,
whoever the winter-long sad was,
 der seh an den meien,
he look on the May,
 wie der heide und ouwe hât bekleidet,
how he heath and meadow has clothed,
 wie der kleiniu vogellîn von ungemüete scheidet.
how he little birds from ill-spirit parts.
 der des meien kleider sneit,
who the May's garments cut,
 der hât schœne und zûhte vil
he has beauty and breeding much
 an mîs herzen trût geleit.
on my heart's darling laid.
 wünschent daz si mînen pîn
wish that she my pain
 wende, daz ir iemer sælic müezenz sîn.
turn-away, that ye ever blessed may be.

Er gewinne niemer haz
He gain never hatred
 von dekeinem wîbe,
from any woman,

swer mir gunne daz mir baz

whoever to-me grants that to-me better

werde von ir lîbe,

become from her person,

dâ mich diu ir minne hât versêret.

where me the her love has wounded.

in mîs herzen grunt si mînen senden kumber mêret:

in my heart's depth she my yearning affliction increases:

dâ sol nieman arzât wesen

there shall no-one physician be

wan der lieben rôter munt,

but the dear-one's red mouth,

ob ich sender sol genesen.

if I yearning shall recover.

wünschent daz si mînen pîn

wish that she my pain

wende, daz ir iemer sælic müezent sîn.

turn-away, that ye ever blessed may be.

Habe ich gên ir valschen muot,

(if)-Have I toward her false spirit,

der ich sender diene,

to-whom I yearning serve,

sô geschehe mir niemer guot

so befall to-me never good

und müez ich von Wiene

and may I from Vienna

niemer komen mit fröiderîchem muote:

never come with joy-rich spirit:

daz sol si gelouben wol, daz reine wîp, diu guote.

that shall she believe well, the pure woman, the good-one.

lopte ich sî, waz solte ir daz?

praised I her, what would-avail to-her that?

swaz ich sender lobes kan,

whatever I yearning of-praise know,

got hât si gehêret baz.

God has her exalted better.

wünschent daz si mînen pîn

wish that she my pain

wende, daz ir iemer sælic müezenet sîn.

turn-away, that ye ever blessed may be.

XIX,⁴

Wer sol mich ze fröiden stiuren

Who shall me to joys direct

gên den wunneclîchen tagen?

toward the delightful days?

sol mir hôhgemüete tiuren,

(if)-shall to-me high-spirit grow-scarce,

daz wil ich dien guoten klagen.

that will I to-the good-ones lament.

ich weiz wol, ez ist in leit:

I know well, it is to-them sorrow:

ich was ie den fröide gernden

I was ever to-the joy desiring-ones

mînes dienstes vil bereit

of-my service very ready

und wære ouch noch vil gern.

and would-be also still very gladly.

mirst mîn lôn gên der vil süezen

to-me-is my reward toward the very sweet-one

hiure unnâher danne vern.

this-year farther than last-year.

Sælderîche sumerwunne,

Blessing-rich summer-delight,

du solt haben mînen gruoꝛ.

thou shalt have my greeting.

swie si fröiden mir erbunne,

though she of-joys to-me begrudges,

doch wirt mangem herzen buoꝛ

yet becomes to-many-a heart remedy

von dir grôzer swære vil:

from thee of-great grief much:

dâ von ich dich, süezer sumer,

there from I thee, sweet summer,

willeclîche grüezen wil

willingly greet will

unde muoꝛ doch fröude enbern,

and must yet joy forgo,

wan mîn lôn ist gêen der süezen

for my reward is toward the sweet-one

hiure unnâher danne vern.

this-year farther than last-year.

Ich mac wol mîn herze strâfen,

I may well my heart chide,

daz ichs gegen ir began,

that I-it toward her began,

ûf mîn ougen schrîen wâfen,

upon my eyes to-cry alas,

diu von êrst si sâhen an.

which from first her saw at.

ach, dô was sô schœne ir schîn,

ah, then was so fair her radiance,

daz er kam dur ganziu ougen

that it came through whole eyes

in daz sende herze mîn.

into the yearning heart mine.

daz muoz iemer nâch ir gern,

which must ever after her long,

swie mîn lôn ist gên der süezen

however my reward is toward the sweet-one

hiure unnâher danne vern.

this-year farther than last-year.

Als ein swîn in einem sacke

Like a swine in a sack

vert mîn herze hin und dar.

fares my heart hither and thither.

wildeclicher danne ein tracke

more-wildly than a dragon

viht ez von mir zuo zir gar.

fight it from me to her wholly.

ez wil ûz durch ganze brust

it will out through whole breast

von mir zuo der sælden rîchen:

from me to the of-blessings rich-one:

alsô starc ist sîn gelust.

so strong is its desire.

wê, wie lange sol daz wern,

woe, how long shall that last,

sît mîn lôn ist gên der süezen

since my reward is toward the sweet-one

hiure unnâher danne vern!

this-year farther than last-year!

‘Nu hât si doch schœne und êre,

‘Now has she yet beauty and honor,

Steimâr, swazs an dir begât,

Steimâr, whatever-she to thee does,

ganzer tugende michels mêre,

of-whole virtue much more,

aller sælden vollen rât:

of-all blessings full store:

an ir lît der Wunsch vil gar.’

in her lies the Wish quite wholly.’

wünschent alle, guoten liute,

wish all, good people,

daz ich wol gên ir gevar.

that I well toward her may-fare.

ez gât mir dur ganzen kern,

it goes to-me through whole core,

daz mân lôn ist gên der sœzen

that my reward is toward the sweet-one

hiure unnâher danne vern.

this-year farther than last-year.

XIX,5

Swer tougenlîche minne hât,

Whoever secret love has,

der sol sich wênic an den lân,

he shall himself little on him rely,

den man sô grôze missetât

whom one so great misdeed

an sînem herren siht begân,

against his lord sees commit,

dem er bewachen guot und êre sol.

for-whom he to-guard goods and honor shall.

lât er den gast ûf schaden in,
(if)-lets he the guest to harm in,

wie solte ich dem getrûwen wol?
how should I him trust well?

Wær ich sô minneclîch gelegen
Were I so lovingly lain

bî liebe tougen ûf den lîp,
by a-dear-one secretly upon the body,

sô wolte ich wênic slâfes pflegen
so would I little of-sleep take

dur mich und durh daz reine wîp.
for myself and for the pure woman.

mir selbem sô wolt ich getrûwen baz
to-me myself so would I trust better

dann ieman, der mich wecken solt:
than anyone, who me wake should:

sô wê im, des man dâ vergaz!
so woe to-him, whom one there forgot!

Die merker und dar zuo der slâf,
The watchers and there to the sleep,

die kônden wênic mir geschaden.
those could little to-me harm.

ich huote ouch vor der merker strâf,
I guarded also against the watchers' rebuke,

wær ich zuo liebe alsô geladen,
were I to a-dear-one so invited,

daz ich dâ hôhe fröide solte hân:
that I there high joy should have:

sô müeste er sîn ein stæter friunt,
so must he be a steadfast friend,
 den ich daz wizzen solte lân.
whom I that know should let.

XIX,6

Sô heide und ouwe wirdet grüne,
When heath and meadow becomes green,
 ê solt ich mîn liep gesehen,
before should I my dear-one see,
 daz ich mich wol mit im versüene:
that I myself well with her reconcile:
 sô wær liebe mir geschehen.
so were love to-me befallen.
 ich hân mich nâch ir verdâht
I have myself after her mused
 und versenet: daz hât mich brâht
and yearned: that has me brought
 in die nôt,
into the distress,
 in gesehe vil schiere mîn liep alder ich bin tôt.
I-not see very soon my dear-one or I am dead.

Vil senelichez jâmerschrecken
Very yearning misery-startling
 rûschet in dem herzen mîn
rushes in the heart mine
 nâch ir vil süezen ougen blicken:
after her very sweet eyes' glances:
 sô si sælic müeze sîn,
so she blessed may be,
 mirst ir vrömden alze lanc:
to-me-is her estrangement all-too long:

des bin ich an fröiden kranc.

of-it am I in joys weak.

dast ein nôt:

that-is a distress:

in gesehe vil schiere mîn liep alder ich bin tât.

I-not see very soon my dear-one or I am dead.

Sol ich iemêre fröide gwinen,

(if)-Shall I evermore joy gain,

diu kumt von der frouwen mîn.

it comes from the lady mine.

der munt sach ich von rœete brinnen:

her mouth saw I with redness burn:

ich wând in der sunnen schîn

I thought in the sun's radiance

sehen, do ich in ir ougen sach.

to-see, when I into her eyes looked.

von ir schœene ich niht ensprach.

of her beauty I not spoke.

ach der nôt!

ah the distress!

in gesehe vil schiere mîn liep alder ich bin tât.

I-not see very soon my dear-one or I am dead.

XIX,⁷

Sumerzît, ich fröwe mich dîn

Summertime, I rejoice myself of-thee

daz ich mac beschouwen

that I may behold

eine sœuze selderîn,

a sweet cottage-maid,

mînes herzen frouwen.

of-my heart lady.

eine dirne die nâch krûte

a girl who after herbs

gât, die hân ich zeinem trûte

goes, her have I as-a darling

mir erkorn:

for-me chosen:

ich bin ir ze dienst erborn.

I am for-her to service born.

wart umbe dich,

be-on-guard about thee,

swer verholne minne, der hûete sich.

whoever secretly loves, be guard himself.

Si was mir den winter lanc

She was to-me the winter long

vor versperret leider:

away shut-up sadly:

nu nimt si ûf die heide ir ganc,

now takes she onto the heath her going,

in des meien kleider,

in the May's garments,

dâ si bluomen zeinem kranze

where she flowers for-a garland

brichet, den si zuo dem tanze

plucks, which she to the dance

tragen wil:

wear will:

dâ gekôse ich mit ir vil.

there converse I with her much.

wart umbe dich,

be-on-guard about thee,

swer verholne minne, der hûete sich.

whoever secretly loves, be guard himself.

Ich fröu mich der lieben stunt

I rejoice myself of-the dear hour

sô si gât zem garten

when she goes to-the garden

und ir rôserôter munt

and her rose-red mouth

mich ir heizet warten:

me for-her bids to-wait:

sô wirt hôhe mir ze muote,

so becomes high to-me in spirit,

wan sist ûz ir muoter huote

for she-is out-of her mother's keeping

danne wol,

then well,

vor der ich mich hûeten sol.

from whom I myself guard shall.

wart umbe dich,

be-on-guard about thee,

swer verholne minne, der hûete sich.

whoever secretly loves, he guard himself.

Sît daz ich mich hûeten sol

Since that I myself guard shall

vor ir muoter lâge,

against her mother's ambush,

herzeliep, du tuo sô wol,

heart's-dear-one, thou do so well,

balde ez mit mir wâge.

boldly it with me venture.

brich den truz und al die huote,

break the defiance and all the watch,

wan mir ist des wol ze muote,

for to-me is of-it well in spirit,

sol ich leben,

(if)-shall I live,

dir sî lîb und guot gegeben.

to-thee be life and goods given.

wart umbe dich,

be-on-guard about thee,

swer verholne minne, der hûete sich.

whoever secretly loves, he guard himself.

Steimâr, hœhe dînen muot:

Steimâr, raise thy spirit:

wirt dir diu vil hêre,

(if)-becomes to-thee the very lofty-one,

sist sô hübesch und sô guot,

she-is so courteous and so good,

du hâst ir iemer êre.

thou hast of-her ever honor.

du bist an dem besten teile

thou art in the best portion

der zer werlte fröiden heile

which to-the world of-joys salvation

hœren sol:

belong shall:

des wirstu gewert dâ wol.

of-it wilt-thou be-granted there well.

wart umbe dich,

be-on-guard about thee,

swer verholne minne, der hûete sich.

whoever secretly loves, he guard himself.

XIX,8

Ein kneht der lac verborgen,

A servant he lay hidden,

bî einer dirne er slief

by a girl he slept

unz ûf den liechten morgen:

until upon the bright morning:

der hirte lûte rief

the herdsman loudly called

‘wol ûf, lâz ûz die hert!’

‘well up, let out the herd!’

des erschrac diu dirne und ir geselle wert.

of-it started the girl and her comrade worthy.

Daz strou daz muost er rûmen

The straw that had-to he quit

und von der lieben varn.

and from the dear-one fare.

er torste sich niht sûmen,

he dared himself not delay,

er nam si an den arn.

he took her in the arm.

daz hœi daz ob im lac

the hay that above him lay

daz ersach diu reine ûf fliegen in den tac.

that saw the pure-one up fly into the day.

Dâ von si muoste erlachen,

There from she had-to laugh,

ir sigen diu ougen zuo.

to-her sank the eyes shut.

sô suoze kunde er machen

so sweetly could he make

in deme morgen fruo

in the morning early

mit ir daz bettespil;

with her the bed-play;

wer sach ân geräte ie fröiden mê sô vil!

who saw without possessions ever of-joys more so much!

XIX,⁹

Nu solt ich die schœnen zît

Now should I the fair season

grüezen, die der meije gât:

greet, which the May gives:

nu muoz ich in sender swære worgen.

now must I in yearning grief choke.

mich fröit niht der vogeles sanc,

me gladdens not the birds' song,

elliu zît ist mir ze lanc:

every season is to-me too long:

nâch der lieben minne muoz ich sorgen.

after the dear-one's love must I care.

mich hât enzunt

me has kindled

ir rôter munt

her red mouth

mit der minne fiure:

with the love's fire:

daz betwinget swen si wil und ist doch gehiure.

that overpowers whomever she will and is yet gentle.

schœne, schœne, schœne, schœne, tröeste mich:

fair-one, fair-one, fair-one, fair-one, comfort me:

lâ mich, frouwe, erbarmen dich!

let me, lady, pity thee!

Swer ie herzeliep gewan,

Whoever ever heart's-dear-one won,

ez sîn frouwen alder man,

it be women or men,

der sol sich genædeclîch erbarmen:

he shall himself graciously take-pity:

er sol biten über mich,

he shall pray for me,

daz si tüeje tugentlich

that she act virtuously

und si trøeste mich vil senden armen.

and she comfort me very yearning poor-one.

der sunnen schîn

the sun's radiance

der frouwen mîn

to-the lady mine

schœne ich wol gelîche:

in-beauty I well liken:

wirt mir dâ bî güete erkant, seht, sô bin ich rîche.

(if)-becomes to-me there by goodness known, behold, so am I rich.

schœne, schœne, schœne, schœne, trøeste mich:

fair-one, fair-one, fair-one, fair-one, comfort me:

lâ mich, frouwe, erbarmen dich!

let me, lady, pity thee!

Ez möht in die felsen gân

It might into the rocks go

daz ich her geflêhet hân,

that I hither entreated have,

unde möhte ouch herten vlins gelinden.

and might also hard flint soften.

wære ir herze ein anebôz,

were her heart an anvil,

sost mîn klage doch sô grôz,

so-is my lament yet so great,

daz ich wol genâde solte vinden.

that I well mercy should find.

des meres grunt

the sea's ground

dem möhte kunt

to-it might known

sîn mîn langez wüefen,

be my long wailing,

sît mich an der Minne tor nieman hœret rüefen.

since me at the Love's gate no-one hears calling.

schœne, schœne, schœne, schœne, trœste mich:

fair-one, fair-one, fair-one, fair-one, comfort me:

lâ mich, frouwe, erbarmen dich!

let me, lady, pity thee!

XIX,10

Sich hât vil schône entslozen

Itself has very fairly unlocked

diu liebe sumerzît:

the dear summertime:

gên dem süezen meien

toward the sweet May

stênt offen fröiden tor.

stand open of-joys gates.

ûz grüener boume brozen

out-of green trees' buds

sô dringet wider strît

so presses in rivalry

bluot vil maniger leien:

bloom very of-many kinds:

des ist in nieman vor.

of-it is to-them no-one before.

meie hât die heide wol geschœnet

May has the heath well beautified

und den walt mit sange wol bedœnet:

and the wood with song well made-to-sound:

sô leb ich in sendem ungemache;

so live I in yearning discomfort;

vor minnen schricken ich

before love's terrors I

mich tûchen als ein ente sich,

me duck like a duck itself;

die snelle valken jagent in einem bache.

which swift falcons chase in a brook.

Do ich mich der wol getânen

When I myself of-the well shaped-one

mit dienest underwant,

with service undertook,

aller lande herre

of-all lands lord

wând ich von frôiden sîn.

thought I from joys to-be.

ich mac mich ir niht ânen,

I may myself of-her not deprive,

mich twingent iriu bant:

me compel her bands:

si ist mir alze verre,

she is to-me all-too far,

diu liebiu frouwe mîn.

the dear lady mine.

herre got, wie gerne ich si gesæhe,

lord God, how gladly I her might-see,

und daz daz in kurzer zît geschæhe!

and that that in short time might-happen!

noch leb ich in sendem ungemache;

still live I in yearning discomfort;

vor minnen schricken ich

before love's terrors I

mich tûchen als ein ente sich,

me duck like a duck itself,

die snelle valken jagent in einem bache.

which swift falcons chase in a brook.

XIX,11

Diu vil liebiu sumerzît

The very dear summertime

hât gelâzen gar den strît

has left quite the strife

dem ungeslahten winter lanc.

to-the ungentle winter long.

ach ach, kleiniu vogellîn

ah ah, little birds

mûezen jârlanc trûric sîn:

must this-year sad be:

geswigen ist ir sûezer sanc.

silent is their sweet song.

daz klag ich: sô klage ich mîne swære,

that lament I: so lament I my grief,

die mir tuot ein dirne sældenbære,

which to-me does a girl blessing-bearing,

daz si mich niht zuo zir ûf den strousac lât,

that she me not to her upon the straw-sack lets,

daz si mich niht zuo zir ûf den strousac lât

that she me not to her upon the straw-sack lets

und daz si mirz doch geheizen hât.

and that she to-me-it yet promised has.

Mîner swære der ist vil:

Of-my grief there is much:

ist daz mir niht helfen wil

(if)-is-it that to-me not help will

ein minnenclichiu dienerîn,

a lovely serving-maid,

sost mîn kumber manicvalt:

so-is my affliction manifold:

armuot und der winter kalt

poverty and the winter cold

die went mir jârlanc heinlich sîn.

those will to-me this-year intimate be.

armuot hât mich an ir bestem râte,

poverty has me at her best counsel,

dar an nement mich wîse liute spâte:

there at take me wise people late:

dâ von wil si mich niht ûf ir strousac lân,

there from will she me not upon her straw-sack let,

dâ von wil si mich niht ûf ir strousac lân

there from will she me not upon her straw-sack let

und enhân ir anders niht getân.

and I-not-have to-her otherwise anything done.

‘Friunt, ich hân iu niht getân:

‘Friend, I have to-you nothing done:

swaz ich iu geheizen hân,

whatever I to-you promised have,

des mag ich iuch vil wol gewern.

of-it may I you very well grant.

ir gehiezent mir ein lîn,

ye promised to-me a linen-cloth,

zwêne schuohe und einen schrîn:

two shoes and a chest:

des wil ich von iu niht enbern.

of-it will I from you not forgo.

wirt mir daz, sô wende ich iuwer swære

(if)-becomes to-me that, so turn-away I your grief

(swem daz leit ist, dast mir also mære):

(to-whom that grievous is, that-is to-me all-the same):

sô wil ich iuch zuo mir ûf den strousac lân,

so will I you to me upon the straw-sack let,

sô wil ich iuch zuo mir ûf den strousac lân:

so will I you to me upon the straw-sack let:

sô mag er wol wiegelônde gân.'

so may he well cradle-earning go.'

Herzentrût, mîn künigin,

Heart's-darling, my queen,

sage an, lieb, waz sol der schrîn?

say on, dear-one, what avails the chest?

wilt du ein saltervrouwe wesen?

wilt thou a psalter-lady be?

liezest du die gâbe an mich,

wouldst-leave thou the gift on me,

ich kouft etswaz über dich:

I would-buy something for thee:

wie wilt den winter du genesen?

how wilt the winter thou survive?

du maht dich vor armuot niht bedecken,

thou canst thee against poverty not cover,

wan dîn gult ist von alten secken:

for thy coverlet is of old sacks:

dâ wil ich den strousac in die stuben tragen,

there will I the straw-sack into the room carry,

dâ wil ich den strousac in die stuben tragen:

there will I the straw-sack into the room carry:

sô muoz oven unde brugge erwagen.

so must oven and platform shake.

‘Nu lân ich iuchz allez wegen:

‘Now let I you-it all weigh:

ist daz wir uns zemen legen,

(if)-is-it that we ourselves together lay,

sô sint ir gewaltic mîn.

so are ye master of-me.

doch wil ich ê mîn geheiz

yet will I first my promise

bî mir haben, goteweiz,

by me have, God-knows,

wan ez mac niemer ê gesîn.

for it may never before happen.

seht, sô nemt mich danne bî dem beine:

behold, so take me then by the leg:

ir sunt niht erwinden, ob ich weine,

ye shall not desist, if I weep,

ir sunt froelich zuo mir ûf den strousac varn,

ye shall gladly to me upon the straw-sack fare,

ir sunt froelich zuo mir ûf den strousac varn:

ye shall gladly to me upon the straw-sack fare:

sô bit ich iuch mich vil lützel sparn.’

so ask I you me very little to-spare.’

XIX,12

Sæligiu sumerzît,

Blessed summertime,

du bist gar verdrungen:

thou art quite thrust-out:

rîfe in den ouwen lît,

hoarfrost in the meadows lies,

dâ die vogelesungen.

where the birds sang.

sît diu fröide ist gar dâ hin,

since the joy is quite there away,

sô wil ich gedenken dar,

so will I to-think thither,

der ich eigenliche bin.

whose I properly am.

froelicher sunnen tac,

of-glad sun day,

rôse in süezem touwe

rose in sweet dew

ich dich wol gelîchen mac.

I thee well liken may.

Schœne unde hôhen muot

Beauty and high spirit

hât mîn frouwe und êre,

has my lady and honor,

dâ bî sô ist si guot.

there by so is she good.

noch hât si vil mêre:

still has she much more:

wol bescheiden, tugende vol.

well discreet, of-virtue full.

dar zuo lît an ir der Wunsch:

there to lies in her the Wish:

daz tuot mînem herzen wol.

that does to-my heart well.

frœlîcher sunnen tac,

of-glad sun day,

rôse in süezem touwe

rose in sweet dew

ich dich wol gelîchen mac.

I thee well liken may.

Du solt mîn meie sîn

Thou shalt my May be

und mîn spilndiu wunne,

and my playing delight,

unde ich der diener dîn.

and I the servant thine.

klâr alsam diu sunne

bright even-as the sun

ist dîn liehtez ougen brehen:

is thy bright eyes' flashing:

dâ müez ich in kurzer zît

there may I in short time

mich noch frœlîch inne ersehen.

myself yet gladly therein behold.

frœlîcher sunnen tac,

of-glad sun day,

rôse in süezem touwe

rose in sweet dew

ich dich wol gelîchen mac.

I thee well liken may.

Êst ungelückes sin

It-is of-misfortune sense

unde an der schiltwahte

and on the sentry-watch

bî dir, mîn tröesterin:

by thee, my comforter:

vil der kalten nahte

many of-the cold nights

lîden wir ûf dirre vart,

suffer we upon this journey,

die der künic gên Mîssen vert.

which the king toward Meissen fares.

wê, dazs ie sô spætiu wart!

woe, that-it ever so late became!

frœlicher sunnen tac,

of-glad sun day,

rôse in süezem touwe

rose in sweet dew

ich dich wol gelîchen mac.

I thee well liken may.

Ich wolte gerne sîn

I would gladly be

vür daz ungemüete

against the ill-spirit

bî dir, mîn tröesterîn:

by thee, my comforter:

jâ fürht ich daz wüete

yes fear I that rage

an uns rîfe und ouch der snê.

on us hoarfrost and also the snow.

muoz ich dar zuo trinken bier,

(if)-must I there to drink beer,

liep, sô fröitest du mich mê.

dear-one, so gladdenest thou me more.

frœlîcher sunnen tac,

of-glad sun day,

rôse in süezem touwe

rose in sweet dew

ich dich wol gelîchen mac.

I thee well liken may.

XIX,¹³

Ich wil gruonen mit der sât,

I will grow-green with the seed,

diu sô wunneclîchen stât:

which so delightfully stands:

ich wil mit dien bluomen blüen,

I will with the flowers bloom,

und mit den vogelîn singen.

and with the birds sing.

ich wil louben sô der walt,

I will leaf like the wood,

sam diu heide sîn gestalt:

as the heath be shaped:

ich wil mich niht lâzen müen,

I will myself not let weary,

mit allen bluomen springen.

with all flowers spring.

ich wil ze liebe mîner lieben frouwen

I will to love of-my dear lady

mit des vil süezen meien touwe touwen.

with the very sweet May's dew bedew.

dest mir alles niht ze vil,

that-is to-me all not too much,

ob si mich trœsten wil.

if she me comfort will.

Si ist sô gar nâch wunsche ein wîp,
She is so quite after wish a woman,

swenne ich schouwe ir werden lîp,
whenever I behold her worthy person,

des grâles herre wæne ich sîn.
of-the grail lord think I to-be.

ich bin sô fröiden rîche,
I am so of-joys rich,

daz man in der fröide wol
that one in the joy well

dâ mit übergulden sol.
there with overgild shall.

si hât wunnebernden schîn,
she has delight-bearing radiance,

der sunnen wol gelîche.
to-the sun well like.

ich wil ze guote aller guoten wîbe
I will to good of-all good women

gedenken wol ze liebe ir reinem libe.
to-think well to love their pure body.

dest mir alles niht ze vil,
that-is to-me all not too much,

ob si mich tröesten wil.
if she me comfort will.

Tröeste, süeze tröesterîn,
Comfort, sweet comforter,

tröeste wol, wan ich bin dîn:
comfort well, for I am thine:

sliuz ûf dînen rôten munt,
open up thy red mouth,

du heiz mich vrô belîben:
thou bid me glad remain:

sô mag ich frœlichen varn

so may I gladly fare

in den lûften ob den arn.

in the airs above the eagles.

liep, tuo mir dîn helfe kunt,

dear-one, make to-me thy help known,

mîn trôst ob allen wîben.

my comfort above all women.

ich wil in triuwen dir getriuwen hiure,

I will in faith to-thee to-trust this-year,

daz mich dîn gûete wol ze frôiden stiure.

that me thy goodness well to joys direct.

dest mir alles niht ze vil,

that-is to-me all not too much,

ob si mich trœsten wil.

if she me comfort will.

XIX,¹⁴

Nu ist der sumer hin gescheiden,

Now is the summer away departed,

wan siht sich den walt engesten,

one sees itself the wood strip,

loup von den esten rîset ûf die heiden:

leaf from the boughs falls upon the heaths:

dien leiden rîfen bin ich gram

to-the hateful hoarfrost am I hostile

und der winterzît alsam.

and to-the wintertime likewise.

sumer sumer sûeze,

summer summer sweet,

schôn ich geleben mûeze,

fairly I live may,

deich manic vogellîn grûeze!

that-I many-a little-bird greet!

Der ich hân dâ her gesungen,

To-whom I have there hither sung,

diust ein kluoge dienerinne:

she-is a clever serving-maid:

nâch irre minne hân ich vil gerungen.

after her love have I much striven.

gelungen ist mir niht an ir,

succeeded is to-me not with her,

wan si wolte guot von mir.

for she wanted goods from me.

sumer sumer süeze,

summer summer sweet,

als rîch ich werden müeze

so rich I become may

daz ich beschuohe ir füeze!

that I shoe her feet!

Sô wâr mîn singen wol behalten,

So were my singing well kept,

dar zuo nâme mich diu kluoge,

there to would-take me the clever-one,

diu nâch dem pfluoge muoz sô dicke erkalten,

who after the plow must so often grow-cold,

schalten den wagen so er gestât:

to-push the wagon when it stops:

des meiers hof si gar begât.

the steward's court she quite manages.

sumer sumer süeze,

summer summer sweet,

vür winter ich dich grüeze:

instead-of winter I thee greet:

ich schuohe ir niht der füeze.

I shoe for-her not the feet.

Der von Gliers

Three pieces, none under a hundred and fifty lines, none strophic. The first likens the singer to the heath that stood full of flowers and now lies bare, and asks whether her mouth's greeting will make him whole. The second sets the praise of summer against the blame of winter, turns the charge on Love herself, sich, Minne, daz hab ich von dir, and breaks off announcing that the speech will now be of his lady. The third allegorizes the tree of her virtue and calls the roll of the older Minnesingers.

XX,1

Ich klage mich vil leide,

I lament myself very sorely,

sî glîchent mich der heide,

they liken me to-the heath,

und nu der âne lît

and now of-them without lies

diu ich sender dol.

which I yearning endure.

diu ê stuont bluomen vol

which before stood of-flowers full

diu kalte winterzît:

the cold wintertime:

Alse mîde ich frœde,

Thus avoid I joy,

mîn herze stêt mir æde,

my heart stands to-me desolate,

vil maniger frîer wal:

very of-many free choices:

der ich schône pflac.

of-which I fairly practiced.

daz ê gefüllet lac

which before filled lay

nu stêt ez wale kal.

now stands it quite bare.

Diu leit klag ich und eine schulde,

The sorrows lament I and a guilt,

die ich doch ungerne dulde:

which I yet unwillingly endure:

ich habe, seht, der Minne hulde

I have, behold, the Love's favor

verloren: dast ein nôt,

lost: that-is a distress,

diu mich vil rôet

which me very red

Und missevar vil ofte machet:

And discolored very often makes:

des mîn weinder schade wachet,

of-which my weeping harm wakes,

sô jener slâfet oder lachet,

when that-one sleeps or laughs,

der nie gwan sende sêr.

who never won yearning pain.

noch klage ich mêr:

still lament I more:

Mir hât ein wîp den tumben lîp aller frœde in âhte brâht.

To-me has a woman the foolish person of-all joy into ban brought.

daz ist ein nôt daz ich den tôet habe mir dar umbe erdâht.

that is a distress that I the death have to-me there about devised.

als ich daz klage und ir ez sage, sô ist ez ir gar versmâht.

as I that lament and to-her it say, so is it to-her quite despised.

hie dorfte ich helfeclîche guotes râtes zuo,

here needed I helpfully of-good counsel to,

wie ich getuo,

how I should-do,

Daz ich den muot, lîb unde guot müge erbrechen gar von ir
That I the spirit, body and goods might break-away wholly from her

ald aber baz ân allen haz müge bringen wol hin zir.
or else better without all hatred might bring well thither to-her.

wil sich daz wenden und niht enden, seht, daz müezen klagen wir,
(if)-will itself that turn and not end, behold, that must lament we,

ich und ein iegeslîche sieche sender man,
I and a every sick yearning man,

der mirs verban.
who to-me-it begrudged.

Doch ist ir leider kleine,
Yet is of-them sadly few,

wan sî alters eine,
save she utterly alone,

die mir gerâten kunden,
who to-me counsel could,

diu mich hât gebunden.
who me has bound.

Ir lîp ist also reine:
Her person is so pure:

minnen, diech dâ meine.
love, whom-I there mean.

sî sol mich under stunden
she shall me at times

die mir des verbunden,
those to-me of-it begrudged,

Dien müeze haz
To-those may hatred

sich füegen baz,
itself fit better,

sî kunnen niht wan nîden.
they can nothing but to-envy.

ân allez waz
without any wherefore

seht, umbe daz
behold, about that

Ich bin in gram, <i>I am to-them hostile,</i> an êren lam <i>in honors lame</i> ich sol sî gerne mîden. <i>I shall them gladly avoid.</i>	sî mir alsam; <i>be-they to-me likewise;</i> ist gar ir nam: <i>is quite their name:</i>

Mir tuot vil wê
To-me does very woe

daz ich mich mê
that I myself more

von in klagen muoz
about them lament must

dann ez mir solde sîn.
than it to-me should be.

Dem tiefen sê
To-the deep sea

bevilhe ich ê
would-commit I sooner

mîn houbt und mînen fuoz
my head and my foot

ê ich der frouwen mîn
before I of-the lady mine

Iemer guoten hulde enbære:
Ever good favor should-forgo:

mir wære gar der lîp unmære,
to-me were quite the life unwelcome,

guot und allez daz ich hân.

goods and all that I have.

wâ wart ie man

where was ever a-man

Von manigen dingen sô betwungen?

By many things so compelled?

het ich tûsent guoter zungen,

had I a-thousand good tongues,

ich kunde volleklagen niht,

I could fully-lament not,

wie mir geschiht

how to-me it-happens

Von den senelîchen sorgen

By the yearning cares

âbent, sehent, unde morgen,

evening, see, and morning,

hie bî wizzent, dur daz jâr:

here by know, through the year:

diz ist vil wâr.

this is very true.

Mir gât diu hêre sorgen mêre danne ich liebes ie gewan.

To-me gives the lofty-one of-cares more than I of-dear-things ever won.

ez ist ir êre daz sî kêre kumber, den ich von ir hân.

it is her honor that she turn-away affliction, which I from her have.

Mînem muote mac diu guote tuon mit lîhten dingen wol.

To-my spirit may the good-one do with light things well.

mich hât ir ruote in solher huote, daz ichs iemer minnen sol.

me has her rod in such keeping, that I-her ever love shall.

Wær ich der sinne daz ich mich

Were I of-the sense that I myself

entstüende guotes iht,

understood of-good aught,

sô hete sî liebe mir getân.

so had she love to-me done.

Swær mich des frâget, dem sag ich

Whoever me of-it asks, to-him say I

ein wort und anders niht:

a word and otherwise nothing:

ich hân dur sî untât gelân.

I have for her misdeed left.

Des muoz ich singen unde ringen, wan ichs iemer minnen wil.
Of-it must I sing and strive, for I-her ever love will.

Ich muoz dingen ûf gedingen, wan sî ist der frœden zil,
I must hope upon hope, for she is of-the joys goal,

Der ich beginne, unz ich inne werde frœde: die hât sî.
Which I begin, until I aware become of-joy: that has she.

Mich tuot ir minne valscher sinne wendic unde wandels frî:
Me makes her love of-false sense turned-from and of-fault free:

Ich muoz dur sî unstæte lân.
I must for her unsteadfastness leave.

ich getar von ir gewenken niht;
I dare from her to-waver not;

swie sî mir tuot,
however she to-me does,

ich heize ez wol getân:
I call it well done:

Des sols ir gûete an mir begân.
Of-it shall-she her goodness on me practice.

swie mir wol oder wê geschiht,
however to-me well or woe happens,

ich heize ez guot:
I call it good:

ich muoz in ir gebote stân.
I must in her command stand.

Ob sî mich twinget sô,

If she me compels so,

daz ich von herzen frô

that I from heart glad

werden niemer mac,

to-become never may,

sô klage ich manigen tac,

so lament I many-a day,

den ich in wâne frœden âne

whiche I in fancy of-joys without

hân gesungen und mich jungen

have sung and me young

tuot gar alden. kan sî halden,

makes quite old. can she hold,

diu mîn walden wil, unwert,

who of-me to-dispose wills, unworthy,

daz ist ein ungenædic leit.

that is an ungracious sorrow.

het sî mîn doch dekeinen gert,

had she of-me yet any desired,

mîn klage wære niht sô breit.

my lament were not so broad.

swer mînen dienst wil âne danc,

whoever my service will without consent,

der muoz mîn gar geweldic sîn;

he must of-me quite master be;

ich tuon im doch mit willen kranc

I do to-him yet with will weak

(daz wirt wol an dem ende schîn),

(that becomes well at the end plain),

ân einec sî, diu herzeliebe frouwe mîn.

save only she, the heart's-dear lady mine.

Alsus klag ich mîn nôt

Thus lament I my distress

mit sange unz an den tô,

with song until to the death,

alsam der elbez tuot,

even-as the swan does,

der kêret sînen muot

who turns his spirit

ze süezem sange ê des lange

to sweet song before of-it long

ê er erwende. solker mende

before he cease. of-such mirth

muoz ich dingen, suoze singen

must I hope, sweetly to-sing

unde ringen als ein lîp,

and to-strive as a person,

der sich des tôdes wol versiht.

who himself of-the death well foresees.

... sî sælic wîp,

(lacuna) be blessed woman,

war umbe lîhtert sî mirs niht?

where about lightens she to-me-it not?

swenn ich erstirbe, sô hât sî

when I die, so has she

verloren einen dienstman,

lost a servant,

der ir mit dienest ie was bî;

who to-her with service ever was by;

daz wolt sî nie verguot enpfân:

that would she never for-good receive:

ich lieze ez sîn, wold et siz noch vür liebe hân.

I would-let it be, would only she-it still for love have.

Möht ich die welt betwingen gar,
Might I the world subdue wholly,

als Rôme Julius betwanc,
as Rome Julius subdued,

ich wær doch iemer frœde bar,
I were yet ever of-joy bare,

sî eine spræche habedanc.
she alone should-speak thanks.

ich wolde niht ein keiser sîn,
I would not an emperor be,

daz ich die lieben frouwen mîn
that I the dear lady mine

gesæhe niemer zallen tagen:
might-see never at-all days:

son wolde ich niht der krône tragen.
so would I not the crown to-wear.

ez ist niht kleine, deich sî meine:
it is not little, that-I her mean:

sî ist allez daz ich bin,
she is all that I am,

lîb unde sîn.
body and mind.

Ich wolde ins rîches âhte sîn
I would in-the empire's ban be

und vallen in des bâbstes ban,
and fall into the pope's ban,

daz ich der lieben frouwen mîn
that I of-the dear lady mine

solde heizen werder man.
should be-called worthy man.

wurde daz ein wârez wort,
became that a true word,

sô wær mir trûren unbekort:

so were to-me mourning untasted:

son wolde ich niht mîn sûezez leben

so would I not my sweet life

umb al der welte wûnschen geben.

for all the world's wishing give.

in selken sachen müeste ich lachen

in such matters must I laugh

elliu mînen lieben jâr,

all my dear years,

und wurde ez wâr.

if became it true.

Doch bin ich ûf gedinge frô:

Yet am I upon hope glad:

unz ich geding, sô lebe ich hô,

while I hope, so live I high,

und wil mich niemer des verkunnen,

and will myself never of-it despair,

sine sül mir ir minne gunnen

she shall to-me her love grant

(ja enbin ich ein heiden):

(yes I-not-am I a heathen):

sô bescheiden

so discreet

ist ir minneclîcher lîp.

is her lovely person.

nu trœste mich, daz beste wîp,

now comfort me, the best woman,

mit dînen liechten ougen,

with thy bright eyes,

daz ich erkenne tougen,

that I know secretly,

ob mich dîn sendebernder süezer munt
whether me thy yearning-bearing sweet mouth
 mit gruoze welle tuon gesunt.
with greeting will make well.

XX,2

Sî prîsent alle sunder strît
They praise all without dispute
 den sumer mit den bluomen rô
the summer with the flowers red
 und hânt des winters alle nît:
and have of-the winter all hatred:
 sî jehent, er habe gemachet tô
they say, he have made dead
 vil vogellîne in sîner zît;
many little-birds in his season;
 swaz ir genas, daz was mit nô.
whatever of-them survived, that was with distress.

Nu ist der winter alse kalt
Now is the winter so cold
 von uns gescheiden, sihe ich wol.
from us parted, see I well.
 gerîchet loubes ist der walt,
enriched of-leaf is the wood,
 vil süezes sanges ist er vol.
very of-sweet song is he full.
 mit bluomen varwen manicvalt
with flowers colors manifold
 diu heide stêt als sî dâ sol.
the heath stands as she there shall.

Ist ieman, der ân herzeleit

(if)-Is anyone, who without heart-sorrow

lebet, waz der fröeden siht!

lives, what he of-joys sees!

sich hânt diu zît sô wol geleit,

themselves have the seasons so well arranged,

daz al diu welt genâden giht.

that all the world of-favors declares.

mîn troume gote sîn geseit;

my dreams to-God be told;

ich wæne, dêst an mir enwiht.

I think, that-is on me nothing.

Waz singe ich tumber von der zît,

What sing I foolish of the season,

diu mir sô kleine fröede gît?

which to-me so little joy gives?

mir sint die bluomen und der klê

to-me are the flowers and the clover

alsam der rîfe und ouch der snê;

even-as the hoarfrost and also the snow;

gelîche liebe tuont sî mir:

alike love do they to-me:

sich, Minne, daz hab ich von dir.

behold, Love, that have I from thee.

Wær ich ein ungeduldic man

Were I an impatient man

sô meniger, der niht lîden kan,

like many-a-one, who not suffer can,

ich wær vor mengen jâren tôl.

I were before many years dead.

sus lîde ich kumberlîche nôt
thus suffer I afflicting distress

mit zûhten unde tuon daz sô,
with decorum and do that so,

deich an dem ende werde vrô.
that-I at the end become glad.

Nu wil ich klagen mîniu leit,
Now will I to-lament my sorrows,

nôt und al die swære, die ich hân.
distress and all the grief, which I have.

mir wart von Minnen vor geseit,
to-me was by Love before told,

wie sî habe verderbet mengen man,
how she have ruined many-a man,

den sî mit kreften überluot,
whom she with powers overloaded,

und daz ir weiz got niemen tuot
and that to-them knows God no-one does

sô rehte, der mit sælekeit
so rightly, who with blessedness

von ir gescheide ân herzeleit.
from her may-part without heart-sorrow.

Der Minne dienen ist ein nôt,
To-the Love to-serve is a distress,

die man wunderkûme tragen mac.
which one wondrous-hardly bear may.

durh sî liget meniger tôt,
for her lies many-a-one dead,

der ir doch mit herzetriuwe pflac,
who her yet with heart's-faith served,

sam Tristan, der mich riuwen muoz,
like Tristan, who me grieve must,

swie mir der riuwe niemer buoz
however to-me the rue never remedy

werde: sam tet Pyramus
become: as did Pyramus

und ouch der kiusche Ypolitus.
and also the chaste Hippolytus.

Waz hulfen alle die gezelt,
What availed all the recounted,

die noch ie der Minne swert ersluoc?
whom yet ever the Love's sword slew?

ez was sô manic erwelter helt,
it was so many-a chosen hero,

daz ich muot ûf Minne nie getruoc
that I spirit upon Love never bore

und ich mich tumben des bewac,
and I myself foolish of-it resolved,

in wolde niemer ganzen tac
I would never a-whole day

Minnen dienstes sîn gereit.
for-Love of-service be ready.

nu stêt ez anders: dêst mir leit.
now stands it otherwise: that-is to-me sorrow.

Ich swimme an ein ze verrez zil
I swim toward a too distant goal

und halde ein gar verlornen spil.
and hold a quite lost game.

für reht geschiht mir grôz gewalt:
for right happens to-me great violence:

des ist mîn riuwe manicvalt.

of-it is my rue manifold.

in bin sô alt der jâre niht,

I am so old of-the years not,

sô man mich grâ des hâres siht.

as one me gray of-the hair sees.

Mir ist der muot versêret sô,

To-me is the spirit wounded so,

daz man mich niemer rehte frô

that one me never rightly glad

gebâren siht, wan sam der tuot,

to-behave sees, but as he does,

der niht erweren mac sîn guot

who not defend may his goods

ân flêhen, wan enfüere imz hin:

without entreaty, unless one-carry to-him-it away:

der lacht her ûz und grînt hin in.

he laughs hitber out and weeps thither in.

Als elcher smiere siht man vil

Of-such smiling sees one much

von mînem munde ân herzen gir.

from my mouth without heart's desire.

ich tuon iu des ich niht enwil;

I do to-you of-which I not will;

und swaz ich herze frœde enbir,

and whatever I heart's-joy forgo,

Minne, daz hâstu getân.

Love, that hast-thou done.

dune woltest mich erlân,

thou-not wouldst me release,

ich enmüeze haben wân
I unless-must have expectation

dâ ez niemer kan vervân.
where it never can avail.

Ich hân verkunnet trôstes mich;
I have despaired of-comfort myself;

gedinges bin ich worden arn.
of-hope am I become poor.

swer iemer müge, der tröeste sich;
whoever ever may, he comfort himself;

ich muoz ze Trüebenhûsen varn:
I must to Gloom-house fare:

da erkennent alle mîn gemach.
there know all my ease.

mîn beste rât ist wê und ach.
my best counsel is woe and ah.

welch bruodermort er an mir rach,
what brother's-murder he on me avenged,

der mich in disen kumber trach?
who me into this affliction drew?

Daz diu Minne, daz sî sî
That the Love, that she be

von mir verwâzen iemermê!
by me accursed evermore!

wan lie sî mich ir dienstes vrî,
why left she me of-her service free,

als ich doch was gewesen ê
as I yet had been before

mîniu jâr an disiu zît?
my years at this time?

ez ist ein jæmerlicher strît,

it is a piteous strife,

der niht anders trôstes gît

which not other comfort gives

wan an dem ende tôl gelit.

but at the end death lies.

Nu bit ich got daz er mîn nôl

Now beg I God that he my distress

bedenke, daz ich niht den tôl

consider, that I not the death

geneme dur alselche tâl.

take for such a-deed.

mir selben wil ich einen rât

to-me myself will I a counsel

geben (het ichz ê getân,

give (had I-it before done,

ich hete noch ze liebe wân):

I had still to love expectation):

Daz ist, sît ich bekûmbert bin,

That is, since I burdened am,

daz ich den lîp und ouch den sîn

that I the body and also the mind

twinge; swer daz beste tuot

compel; whoever the best does

und niht ze valsche stêt sîn muot,

and not to falsehood stands his spirit,

daz ich des neme guote war,

that I of-it take good heed,

und, als er vert, daz ich sô var.

and, as he fares, that I so fare.

Und tuon ich daz, sô weiz ich wol

And (if)-do I that, so know I well

daz mir gelinget swar ich wil.

that to-me it-succeeds whither I will.

war umbe niht? wand ez sô sol;

where about not? because it so shall;

wol tuonder liute ist niht ze vil.

well doing of-people is not too much.

wes engulte ich armer dan?

for-what should-pay I poor-one then?

wirde ich ein reht tuonder man,

(if)-become I a rightly doing man,

ich sol von schulden hulde hân.

I shall by rights favor have.

Doch ist ez leider sô gewant,

Yet is it sadly so disposed,

daz menger mit vil guoter tât

that many-a-one with very good deed

heiles lôn noch nie bevant,

of-weal reward yet never found,

und jener guot gelücke hât,

and that-one good fortune has,

dem diu schande hulden giht.

to-whom the disgrace of-favors declares.

owê daz daz iemen siht

alas that that anyone sees

ald es sô rehte vil geschiht!

or of-it so rightly much happens!

Sældebernden heil verbirt,

The-blessing-bearing-one weal shuns,

dem ie sîn triuwe zuht gebar.

to-whom ever his faith breeding bore.

mengem ungelônnet wirt,

to-many-a-one unrewarded becomes,

des lîp noch ie was schanden bar.

whose person yet ever was of-shames bare.

daz zeget manigen guoten muot.

that wastes many-a good spirit.

owê, sô geschiht dem guot,

alas, so happens to-that-one good,

der niemer rehte wol getuot.

who never rightly well does.

Doch râte ich eime guoten man,

Yet counsel I to-a good man,

er habe sich niht sêre dran.

he take himself not sorely of-it.

wir müezen doch von schulden jehen

we must yet by rights declare

und hân ouch selbe wol gesehen,

and have also ourselves well seen,

swer sîn dinc reht ane vie,

whoever his affair rightly on took,

daz ez im dicke wol ergie.

that it to-him often well went.

Wan vindet lîhte der ein teil,

One finds perhaps of-those a part,

dien niemer wil gevolgen heil:

to-whom never will follow weal:

sô hilfet sî doch zaller stunt,

so helps she yet at-every hour,

swann sprichet al der werlte munt:

whenever speaks all the world's mouth:

‘owê daz mit guoter tât

‘alas that with good deed

dér man niht gelückes hât!’

that man not of-fortune has!’

Minne, dir sî vor geseit,

Love, to-thee be before said,

wie heil, gelücke, sælde tuot:

how weal, fortune, blessing does:

lâ dir iemer wesen leit,

let to-thee ever be sorrow,

soldest ez iender hân behuot.

shouldest-thou it anywhere have guarded.

sît âne dich nieman gemeit

since without thee no-one merry

wesen mac, sô sol dîn muot

be may, so shall thy spirit

dien besten lônës sîn gereit

to-the best of-reward be ready

und niht den andern alse guot.

and not to-the others so good.

An dîne gnâde wil ich mich

Upon thy mercy will I myself

ergeben und sî allez hin

surrender and be all away

swâ du ie gesundost dich.

wherever thou ever sinnedst thyself

vergip mir mînen argen sin

forgive to-me my evil mind

und ouch diu wort, lâ den gerich:

and also the words, leave the vengeance:

ich weiz wol daz ich schuldic bin.

I know well that I guilty am.

swaz du gebiutest, daz wil ich

whateuer thou commandest, that will I

leisten iemer ûf gewin.

perform ever upon gain.

Von dir ensol ich noch enmac

From thee not-shall I nor may

noch ouch enwil, daz ist eht wâr.

nor also will, that is indeed true.

ich hân entstanden daz dîn slac

I have understood that thy blow

tuot Kindes houbet grâwîu hâr

makes a-child's head gray hairs

halden, des ich mich bewac,

to-bold, of-which I myself resolved,

in wolde niemer mîniu jâr

I would never my years

dir gedienen ganzen tac.

to-thee to-serve a-whole day.

daz riuwet mich, ich bin es clâr.

that rues me, I am of-it clear.

Dar an gedenke, des ist zît:

There on think, of-it is time:

ein man sol lâzen sînen strît

a man shall leave his strife

wider den (dêst êre getân),

against him (that-is honor done),

der sîne wer hât gar verlân.

who his defense has quite abandoned.

ein man ist tûsent manne her,

one man is thousand men's army,

die alle wen sîn âne wer.

who all think to-be without defense.

Alsus sî ouch mîn wer verlân.

Thus be also my defense abandoned.

ich wil zeinr anderr rede vâ:

I will to-a other speech turn:

ich mac ouch der vergezzen niht,

I may also of-her to-forget not,

von der mir disiu nôt geschiht;

by whom to-me this distress happens;

daz ist diu liebe frouwe mîn:

that is the dear lady mine:

von der sol nu diu rede sîn.

of whom shall now the speech be.

XX,3

Kund ich mit fuoge mînen muot

Could I with fitness my spirit

gezeigen nâch dem willen gar,

to-show after the will wholly,

sô spræche ich daz mir leide tuot

so should-speak I what to-me sorrow does

mîn frouwe, diu doch leides bar

my lady, who yet of-sorrow bare

belîbet iemer: sist sô guot,

remains ever: she-is so good,

sine wirt niemer truobe var.

she becomes never troubled colored.

Wie solde ein alse sælic wîp

How should a so blessed woman

gewinnen iemer herzesêr!

gain ever heart's-smart!

wan nennet sî doch leitvertrîp.

one names her yet sorrow-dispeller.

sist alles wunsches gar sô hêr,

she-is of-all wish quite so lofty,

daz man si erkennetz beste wîp:

that one her knows-as-the best woman:

waz wil diu liebe lobes mêr?

what wants the dear-one of-praise more?

Ir hulden gert swes herze stât

Her favor desires whoever's heart stands

hôte nâch der besten ger:

high after the best desire:

sî êrt den prîs, der wirde hât,

she honors the renown, which worth has,

sist aller rechten frôeden wer.

she-is of-all right joys guarantor.

swer aber valsches iht begât,

whoever but of-falsehood aught commits,

daz wil sî daz er der enber.

that wills she that he of-it forgo.

Wie solde ein ungefüeger man

How should an unfitting man

mit frouwen iht gemeines hân,

with ladies aught of-common have,

dekeinre die diu erde treit?

with-any whom the earth bears?

michels baz wirt im verseit

much better becomes to-him refused

dér hulde, diu niht arges kan

that favor, which nothing of-evil knows

noch wanken muot noch nie gewan.

nor wavering spirit nor ever won.

Diu tugent in ir gewurzet hât,

The virtue in her rooted has,

dar ûz ein stam der güete gât:

there out a trunk of-the goodness goes:

den esten ist ir êre glich,

to-the boughs is her honor like,

diu bluost ir zuht vil wunneclîch;

the blossom her breeding very delightful;

daz loup ist gar ir lobes pîn,

the leaf is quite her praise's toil,

ir minne muoz der apfel sîn.

her love must the apple be.

Sold ich des boumes meister sîn,
Should I of-the tree master be,

ich wær iemer al der werlte wert.
I were ever all the world's worth.

ouch weiz ich daz diu frouwe mîn
also know I that the lady mine

zürnet daz ich hân sô hô gegert.
is-angry that I have so high desired.

ouch sol diu guote sich entstân
also shall the good-one herself understand

und sol mich des geniezen lân:
and shall me of-it to-profit let:

ich wolde eht amme schaten sîn,
I would but in-the shade be,

der apfel wirdet niemer mîn.
the apple becomes never mine.

Sô tumber sinne wart ich nie,
So of-foolish sense was I never,

daz ich also hôhe wæge mich.
that I so high should-weigh myself.

ich bin dâ her gewesen ie,
I have there hither been ever,

daz nie man unhôher dûhte sich.
that never a-man lower thought himself.

wie solde ich danne ir minne gern?
how should I then her love desire?

ir muoz weizgot des enbern,
of-her must God-knows of-it forgo,

der des besten lônës wert
whoever of-the best reward worthy

wænet sîn und hôhe gert.
thinks to-be and high desires.

Wil des diu guote mînen eit

(if)-Wills of-it the good-one my oath

oder mîn gerihte, swie sî wil,

or my judgment, however she wills,

des bin ich ir vil bereit.

of-it am I for-her very ready.

got der weiz wol mîner schulden zil,

God he knows well of-my guilts measure,

gedanc wort unde der getât.

thought word and the deed.

ir êre mir sô nâhe gât,

her honor to-me so near goes,

ê sî von mir wurde rôr,

before she from me should-become red,

ich wolde selbe mir den tôt.

I would myself for-me the death.

Unzwîvenlîchen spriche ich daz,

Undoubtingly speak I that,

swanne ich mîner frouwen haz

whenever I of-my lady hatred

erkenne rehte wider mich,

know rightly against me,

sô sol diu werlt versinnen sich

so shall the world bethink itself

daz sî gedenke der sêle mîn:

that she consider of-the soul mine:

mîns lebens mac niht mêre sîn.

of-my life may not more be.

Ich sturbe gerner (dêst ein nôt:

I should-die more-gladly (that-is a distress:

ir liebe mir alsô gebôt)

her love to-me so commanded)

dann ich daz rîche solde hân

than I the empire should have

und aber ir hulde müese lân.

and but her favor must leave.

in wolde niht ein keiser sîn:

I would not an emperor be:

sô lieb ist mir diu frouwe mîn.

so dear is to-me the lady mine.

Nu frâget menger wie mîn sin

Now asks many-a-one how my mind

gesetzet habe der sorgen buoz,

set has of-the cares remedy,

sît ich sô nidertrehtic bin

since I so lowly-minded am

daz ich ir minne enberen muoz,

that I her love forgo must,

od welhen lôn ich sûle gevân,

or what reward I shall receive,

des ich sô grôzen kumber hân,

of-which I so great affliction have,

oder wie ez müge ergân,

or how it may go,

daz ez êre sî getân.

that it honor be done.

Des wold ich geswigen hân

Of-it would I kept-silent have

und swige ouch noch, und lieze er mich.

and keep-silent also still, and would-leave he me.

mîn vrouwe wol gedenken kan

my lady well think can

(si entstât sô menger êren sich),

(she understands so of-many honors herself),

wie ez umb mich alsô gevar,

how it about me so may-fare,

wirt eht sî an mir gewar

(if)-becomes but she on me aware

daz ich dienen ir getar,

that I to-serve to-her dare,

si enlât mich niht ir lônes bar:

she lets me not of-her reward bare:

Des doch vil lîhte mac gesîn.

Of-which yet very perhaps may be.

ich næme ir minneclîchen gruoz

I would-take her lovely greeting

für menger werden frouwen pîn,

before of-many worthy ladies' toil,

die man doch hôhe nemmen muoz.

whom one yet high name must.

swie mir daz herze habe gegâht,

however to-me the heart has hastened,

mir ist aller lôn versmâht,

to-me is all reward despised,

er enwerde von ir brâht,

it unless-become by her brought,

der mir ze frouwen ist gedâht.

who to-me as lady is intended.

Dien bite ich nihtes wan ir wort:

To-those beg I of-nothing but their word:

sô habe ich alles lôneshort,

so have I of-all reward board,

nochn ger von ir niht anders mê.

nor desire from her aught other more.

ertrinken müeze er ûf dem sê,

drown may he upon the sea,

der mîniu wort sô merken wil,

who my words so to-mark wills,

des mîner frouwen wær ze vil.

of-which for-my lady were too much.

Wan sol niht alse kûndic sîn:

One shall not so cunning be:

und ob ein lôser wære mîn,

and if a rogue were mine,

dâ wider sol ein guoter man

there against shall a good man

sich selben in den zûhten hân,

himself self in the decorums have,

daz er daz heize niwan guot,

that he that call nothing-but good,

swaz man von rechter liebe tuot.

whatever one from right love does.

Owê daz ich vil tumber man

Alas that I very foolish man

sô vil von lône hân geseit

so much of reward have said

unde niht gesprechen kan

and not speak can

nâch ir vil grôzen werdekeit!

after her very great worth!

sî ist sô vollekomen gar,

she is so perfect wholly,

daz ich belîbe sinne bar

that I remain of-sense bare

und ich gesprechen nien getar.

and I to-speak not-at-all dare.

Lebte der von Guotenburc,

Lived he of Guotenburc,

von Turn, von Rugge Heinrich,

of Turn, of Rugge Heinrich,

von Ouwe und der von Rôtenburc,

of Ouwe and he of Rôtenburc,

dâ bî von Hûsen Friderich:

there by of Hûsen Friderich:

die enkunden ûf ir eit

they could upon their oath

gezellen niht ir sælekeit,

to-recount not her blessedness,

die doch mîn frouwe alleine treit.

which yet my lady alone bears.

Daz wân alse guote man,

That think so good men,

daz man an leichen ir genôz

that one in songs their equal

niemermêr geviden kan:

nevermore find can:

ir kunst was âne mâze grôz.

their art was without measure great.

doch enkundens alle niht

yet could-they all not

mîn frouwen lobes hân beriht,

my lady of-praise have furnished,

von der ze sprechen mir geschiht.

of whom to speak to-me happens.

Ich spræche ir gerne, kunde ich, wol:

I should-speak of-her gladly, could I, well:

den willen habe sî für vol.

the will take she for full.

swâ ich ir niht geloben kan,

wherever I her not praise can,

dâ ist diu zunge unschuldic an.

there is the tongue guiltless of.

mir bristet leider an der kunst,

to-me lacks sadly in the art,

doch hât sî mînem lîbe gunst.

yet has she to-my person favor.

Sô wol dir, herze, daz du dich

So well to-thee, heart, that thou thyself

sô hôhe wigest unde mich,

so high weighest and me,

sît ich an dienst betwungen bin,

since I to service compelled am,

daz du den lîp und ouch den sin

that thou the body and also the mind

betwingest daz siu sint bereit

compellest that they are ready

der besten, die diu erde treit.

of-the best, whom the earth bears.

Frouwe sælic unde guot,

Lady blessed and good,

sît dir diu werlt des besten giht,

since to-thee the world of-the best declares,

sô trœste mînen swæren muot,

so comfort my heavy spirit,

der gar an frœden ist ein wiht;

which quite in joys is a nothing;

got dir sô vil ze guote tuot,

God to-thee so much to good does,

swer dich des jâres einest siht,

whoever thee of-the year once sees,

der ist vor valsche gar behuot

he is against falsehood quite guarded

und aller wandelbære geschiht.

and of-all changeable happening.

Hey dîn spilnder ougen glast,

Hey thy playing eyes' gleam,

dîn rôte sendebernder munt,

thy red yearning-bearing mouth,

dîn gar süezer minnen last

thy quite sweet love's burden

tuont mich alsô sêre wunt,

make me so sorely wounded,

daz ich wæn aller frœden gast

that I think of-all joys a-stranger

iemer bin: mîn ungesunt

ever am: my sickness

gelîchet eime, der ein ast

resembles one, who a bough

muoste bûwen zaller stunt.

had-to inhabit at-every hour.

Owê senelîchiu nôt,

Alas yearning distress,

wie du mich frœden hâst behert!

how thou me of-joys hast deprived!

Grâlant, den man gar versôt,

to-Grâlant, whom one quite boiled,

wart nie græzer nôt beschert,

was never greater distress allotted,

dan mir, ich wæne, ân mînen tôt.

than to-me, I think, save my death.

ouch hât ir liebe mir verspert

also has her love to-me barred

hügen ûf die bluomen rôd

to-be-glad upon the flowers red

und anderr frouwen minne erwert.

and of-other ladies love denied.

Wirt mir niht guot von ir getân,

(if)-Becomes to-me nothing good by her done,

sô sîn die andern frî verlân:

so be the others free released:

ichn ahte niht ûf elliu wîp.

I heed not upon all women.

waz sol mir rîcheit unde lip?

what shall to-me wealth and body?

ez muoz an ir genâden sîn

it must at her mercy be

der tôt und ouch daz leben mîn.

the death and also the life mine.

Swer ie von minnen nôt gewan,

Whoever ever from love distress won,

der sol mit mir die klage hân.

he shall with me the lament have.

swâ brinnet mîns gebûren want,

wherever burns of-my neighbor wall,

dâ fürhte ich schaden sâ zehant:

there fear I harm right at-once:

dar an gedenken die dir sîn

there on think those there are

und sorgen umb die sorge mîn.

and care about the care mine.

Konrad der Schenk von Landegg

Twenty-two songs, almost all of them seasonal. Again and again they call young and old to be glad of May: the wood greens, the heath is clothed in flowers, and the nightingale sounds before all the other birds. Against that stand the winter songs, when hoarfrost dulls wood, heath, and meadow. Most turn from the season to the lady's beauty and virtue, pleading with her, or with Lady Love, for mercy. Two close on a strophe that turns nearly every line on lieb and liebe; one surveys how the season stands by the Rhine, on Lake Constance, and in France.

XXI,1

Nû helfent mir klagen daz der vogellîn schallen

Now help to-me to-lament that the little-birds' sounding

der winter hât gesweiget:

the winter has silenced:

des müeze er sîn geveiget!

of-it may he be doomed!

mit sînem snê

with his snow

tuot er vil manigem dinge wê.

does he very to-many-a thing woe.

daz muoz mir und mangem harte missevalen:

that must to-me and to-many-a-one sorely displease:

ich klage ouch heide und anger,

I lament also heath and meadow,

diu hiure wurdent swanger

which this-year became pregnant

vil bluomen glanz:

of-many flowers' brightness:

dâ wart gebrochen manic kranz.

there was plucked many-a garland.

seht wie der winter die werlt gekleidet hât!

behold how the winter the world clothed has!

uns gît mit grimme sîn kunft blanke wât.

to-us gives with fury his coming white garment.

des müeze er sîn verwâzen,

of-it may he be accursed,

daz er sus kan unmâzen:

that he thus can to-be-immoderate:

mit sîner kraft

with his power

tuot er diu herze schadehaft.

makes he the hearts harmed.

Mîn trôst, den ich suoche, lît an einem wîbe,

My comfort, which I seek, lies in a woman,

der schoene ist âne mâze:

whose beauty is without measure:

sî kan die rehten strâze

she can the right road

gewîsen wol,

to-show well,

die man ze fröiden pfaden sol.

which one to joys tread shall.

ez lît hôhiu kunst an ir vil reinem lîbe:

there lies high art in her very pure person:

sî kan wol sorge wenden

she can well care turn-away

und hôhgemüete senden.

and high-spirit send.

sî kan noch mê:

she can still more:

sî kan vertriben sende wê.

she can drive-away yearning woe.

sî kan ouch heilen dâ minne hât verwunt,

she can also heal where love has wounded,

sî kan ouch büezen dem jâmer ist kunt.

she can also remedy to-whom misery is known.

sî kan ouch wol entsliezen

she can also well unlock

(möht ich des iht geniezen!)

(might I of-it aught profit!)

der herzen tür:

of-the hearts door:

sî twinget sende nôt dervür.

she compels yearning distress forth.

Ach got, daz dîn kunst mit flîze hât gegozen

Ab God, that thy art with diligence has cast

nâch wunsche ein schœne bilde,

after wish a fair image,

des ist mir sorge wilde:

of-it is to-me care strange:

sîn schœne tuot

its beauty makes

mich dicke und ofte hôhgemuot.

me often and frequently high-spirited.

daz bilde ist vor allem wandel gar beslozen:

that image is against all fault quite closed:

sîn lîp ist wol gestellet.

its body is well shaped.

ez ist ze trôste erwellet

it is to comfort chosen

dem senden man,

for-the yearning man,

des herze ûf minne ie sêre bran.

whose heart upon love ever sorely burned.

vragt mich der mære, mirst umb daz bilde kunt:

ask me of-the tidings, to-me-is about that image known:

ez ist mîn frouwe, diu mich hât verwunt.

it is my lady, who me has wounded.

der güete wendet mêre

whose goodness turns-away more

diu senden herzen sêre

the yearning hearts' smart

dan wurzen kraft

than of-roots power

und aller steine meisterschaft.

and of-all stones mastery.

Ich hân mîne stunde her verzert mit leide:

I have my hours hither spent with sorrow.

sælic wîp, daz wende.

blessed woman, that turn-away.

trôst mînem herzen sende:

comfort to-my heart send:

trôst lît an dir,

comfort lies in thee,

trôst træste mîn gemüete mir.

comfort may-comfort my spirit to-me.

dû weist mîne nôt: dâ von mich, frouwe, scheide.

thou knowest my distress: there from me, lady, part.

ich lîde an mînem herzen

I suffer in my heart

gar ungefüegen smerzen:

quite immense pain:

mîn grôste leit

my greatest sorrow

ist daz mir tet dîn munt verseit

(if)-is that to-me made thy mouth refused

sîn lachen, dô ich dir klagte mîne nôt.

its laughing, when I to-thee lamented my distress.

dîn liechte varwe wart von schame rô:~

thy bright color became from shame red:

doch mohte ich niht erwinden,

yet could I not desist,

dû müestest daz bevinden,

thou shouldst that find-out,

daz dir mîn lîp

that to-thee my person

gedienet hât für elliu wîp.

served has before all women.

Swâ liep lît bî liebe, lieplîch siu sich liebert.

Wherever dear-one lies by dear-one, lovingly they each-other love.

liep kan sich lieber machen

dear-one can itself dearer make

gein liebe in lieben sachen:

toward love in dear matters:

diu liebe birt

the love bears

daz liep mit liebe lieber wirt.

that dear-one with love dearer becomes.

swer liep tougen minnet, hei wie dâ zerstiebert

whoever a-dear-one secretly loves, hey how there fly-apart

die sorge von der liebe!

the cares from the love!

wan spürt dâ minnediebe:

one traces there love-thieves:

daz tougen liep

that secret dear-one

ist tougenlîch ein minnediep.

is secretly a love-thief.

diu lieb ir herze ir liep mit liebe gît:

the dear-one her heart her dear-one with love gives:

sî hât ir liebes dur liebe alle zît.

she has of-her dear-one through love all time.

wan sol nâch liebe ersterben

one shall after love die

ald liep mit liebe erwerben:

or a-dear-one with love win:

diu liebe ist guot,

the love is good,

liep liebet liebe lieben muot.

dear-one endears love dear spirit.

XXI,2

Wis willekomen, wünneclîcher meie,

Be welcome, delightful May,

wan dû fröuwest manic herze, daz ê trûric was.

for thou gladdenest many-a heart, which before sad was.

dîn kunft wil fromen daz vil manic reie

thy coming will further that very many-a round-dance

wirt gesungen dâ die bluomen dringent dur daz gras.

becomes sung where the flowers press through the grass.

dâ bî singent vil der vogellîn

there by sing many of-the little-birds

süeze dœne gegen der schoene dîn.

sweet melodies against the beauty thine.

hohgemüete

high-spirit

gât ir wîbes güete mir gein ir.

gives her woman's goodness to-me toward her.

Die sælde rîchen minne ich sender tougen

The blessing rich love I yearning secretly

in dem herzen, wan mir wart sô liebes nie niht kunt.

in the heart, for to-me became so of-dear-things never anything known.

gar lachelichen stênt ir spilnden ougen:

quite laughingly stand her playing eyes:

ach wie gar ze kusse stêt ir wol geroeter munt!

ah how quite to kiss stands her well reddened mouth!

wie gar wol gestellet ist ir lîp!

how quite well shaped is her body!

ach, ich meine daz vil reine wîp.

ah, I mean that very pure woman.

hôhgemüete

high-spirit

gît ir wîbes güete mir gein ir.

gives her woman's goodness to-me toward her.

Diu süeze minne minnet mich mit triuwen,

The sweet love loves me with faith,

daz sî mir sô gar an die vil minneclichen riet.

that she to-me so quite toward the very lovely-one counseled.

mîn rechten sinne darf es niht geriuwen

my right senses need it not to-rue

daz sî sint an ir, von der mîn herze nie geschiet.

that they are on her, from whom my heart never parted.

wê, wes möhtens anders hân gegert?

woe, of-what might-they otherwise have desired?

die ich krœne, diu ist schœne wert.

whom I crown, she is of-beauty worth.

hôhgemüete

high-spirit

gît ir wîbes güete mir gein ir.

gives her woman's goodness to-me toward her.

Mîn liep, mîn frouwe, mîner ougen wünne,

My dear-one, my lady, of-my eyes delight,

gar der hôhste trôst gein fröiden, der mir ie wart kunt,

quite the highest comfort toward joys, which to-me ever became known,

mîn trût, ich schouwe dich für elliu künne

my darling, I behold thee before all kindreds

lieber mînem herzen, wan dû bist gelückes vunt.

dearer to-my heart, for thou art of-fortune find.

dû bist meisterîn an wîbes zuht:

thou art mistress in woman's breeding:

ich wil grüezen dich vil süezen fruht.

I will to-greet thee very sweet fruit.

hôhgemüete

high-spirit

gât ir wîbes güete mir gein ir.

gives her woman's goodness to-me toward her.

Genâde sende mir genædiclîchen,

Mercy send to-me graciously,

herzeliebe süeze frouwe, reine sælic wîp.

heart's-dear sweet lady, pure blessed woman.

mîn sorge wende mir vil sorgen rîchen,

my care turn-away to-me very of-cares rich,

sît sô gar genædic ist dîn minneclîcher lîp,

since so quite gracious is thy lovely person,

swie ze trôste mir dîn rôter munt

however to comfort to-me thy red mouth

wil sîn lachen lieplîch machen kunt.

will its laughing lovingly make known.

hôhgemüete

high-spirit

gât ir wîbes güete mir gein ir.

gives her woman's goodness to-me toward her.

XXI,3

Spilnde wünne

Playing delight

wil uns der meie bringen:

will to-us the May bring:

wir sun frœlich reien, singen,

we shall joyfully round-dance, sing,

lieber mære sîn gemeit.

of-dearer tidings be merry.

swer sich künne

whoever himself can

mit liebe lieplich zweien,

with love lovingly to-pair,

der sol fröide in herze heien:

he shall joy in heart foster:

liep fröit wol für herzeleit.

dear-one gladdens well against heart-sorrow.

swer sich liebes kan

whoever himself of-a-dear-one can

trûtlich underwinden,

tenderly undertake,

der mac herze fröide vinden,

he may heart's-joy find,

liebez wîp und lieber man.

dear woman and dear man.

Swer erkunnet

Whoever finds-out

waz liep an liebe minnet

what dear-one in love loves

und wie liep nâch liebe sinnet,

and how dear-one after love yearns,

wie liep liebe lieben sol,
how dear-one love love shall,

swar der wunnet,
wherever he dwells,

sô sinnt eht sîn gemüete
so yearns just his spirit

ie nâch reiner wîbes güete:
ever after pure woman's goodness:

ez fröit niht sô rehte wol.
it gladdens not so rightly well.

wer kan mannes lîp
who can a-man's person

baz von sorgen zœhen
better from cares draw

und sîn hôhgemüete erhœhen
and his high-spirit to-raise

dan ein reine sælic wîp?
than a pure blessed woman?

Swem sîn herze
To-whom his heart

gein liebe minne enbrennet,
toward love love kindles,

und doch herzeliep erkennet,
and yet heart's-dear-one knows,

dâ tuot liebe wol und wê.
there does love well and woe.

minne smerze
love's pain

in jâmer herzen sêret:
in misery hearts wounds:

liep gedinge leit verkêret,
dear hope sorrow turns,

ob ich rehte mich verstê.

if I rightly myself understand.

liep gedinge ist guot

dear hope is good

wol für herzen swære;

well against hearts' grief;

doch geloubent mir ein mære:

yet believe to-me a tale:

jâmer herzen sêre tuot.

misery hearts smart does.

Eteswenne

Sometimes

leb ich in zwîvelwâne,

(if)-live I in doubt-fancy,

daz diu liebe wol getâne

that the dear well shaped-one

mînen muot iht gar verstê.

my spirit at-all quite understand.

ich erkenne

I know

niht lieber lieb ûf erde

no dearer dear-one on earth

noch dem herzen mîn sô werde:

nor to-the heart mine so worthy:

wes wil sî mich twingen mê?

of-what will she me compel more?

sî sol sîn gewert

she shall be granted

swaz sî mir gebiutet.

whatever she to-me commands.

sî ist die mîn herze triutet:

she is she-whom my heart cherishes:

ach, wær ich sô wert!

ah, were I so worthy!

Swie diu hêre,

However the lofty-one,

diu liebe und diu vil reine,

the dear and the very pure-one,

diech vor allen wîben meine,

whom-I before all women mean,

mir bekûmbert hât den muot,

to-me troubled has the spirit,

swar ich kêre,

wherever I turn,

sô senent mîne sinne

so yearn my senses

nâch ir werden wîbes minne:

after her worthy woman's love:

sist noch bezzer danne guot.

she-is still better than good.

wâfen sender nôt!

alas of-yearning distress!

muoz ich sî vermîden,

must I her avoid,

wie sol daz mîn herze erlîden?

how shall that my heart endure?

sô bin ich an fröiden tôt.

so am I in joys dead.

XXI,⁴

Fröit iuch gegen der zît,
Rejoice yourselves toward the season,

die der sumer bringet.
which the summer brings.

schouwent, wie der anger lit
behold, how the meadow lies

wol geblüemet und diu heide breit.
well flowered and the heath broad.

fröide rîchen sanc
of-joy rich song

manic vogel singet:
many-a bird sings:

meie habe es iemer danc,
May have of-it ever thanks,

daz er walt und ouwe hât bekleit.
that he wood and meadow has clothed.

des ist manic herze frô:
of-it is many-a heart glad:

ich lebt ouch alsô,
I would-live also so,

trôste mich ein sælic wîp,
(if)-comforted me a blessed woman,

nâch der senet sich mîn sender lîp.
after whom yearns itself my yearning person.

Solte ich trûric stân,
Should I sad stand,

ob ich sî muoz mîden,
if I her must avoid,

wê, wie wære daz getân!
woe, how were that done!

ûf genâde stêt mîn muot vil hô.

upon mercy stands my spirit very high.

wan sol ungemach

one shall discomfort

mit gedulde lîden.

with patience suffer.

wol mich daz ichs ie gesach!

happy me that I-her ever saw!

machet sî mich mit ir willen frô,

(if)-makes she me with her will glad,

daz fröit ûf vons herzen grunt.

that gladdens up from-the heart's ground.

röselehter munt,

rosy mouth,

tuo mich noch von sorge erlöst.

make me yet from care released.

an ir willen lît mîns herzen trôst.

on her will lies of-my heart comfort.

Trage ich hôhen muot,

(if)-Bear I high spirit,

daz kumt von ir güete.

that comes from her goodness.

ir munt stêt in süezer bluot

her mouth stands in sweet bloom

sam in touwe ein liehtiu rôse rôt.

as in dew a bright rose red.

ir vil trûter lîp

her very dear person

der gît hôhgemüete:

that gives high-spirit:

ich gesach nie lieber wîp

I saw never dearer woman

noch sô guot für seneliche nôt.

nor so good against yearning distress.

swen ir güete tröesten wil,

whom her goodness comfort will,

der hât liebes vil:

he has of-dear-things much:

dâ von wünsche ich alle stunt

there from wish I every hour

daz mich küsse ir wol gerœter munt.

that me kiss her well reddened mouth.

Frouwe, ich weiz vil wol

Lady, I know very well

waz ich an dir minne:

what I in thee love:

dû bist aller sælden vol,

thou art of-all blessings full,

dû bist schœne und minneclîch gestalt.

thou art fair and lovely shaped.

dû bist valsches vrî,

thou art of-falsehood free,

dû bist stæter sinne:

thou art of-steadfast sense:

dir wont wîbes güete bî;

to-thee dwells woman's goodness by;

dû bist senfter sprüche und niht ze balt.

thou art of-gentle speech and not too bold.

dû bist kiusche, zühtic gar:

thou art chaste, well-bred wholly:

dû bist wandels bar.

thou art of-fault bare.

dû hâst alles liebes teil:

thou hast of-all dear-things portion:

sælic wîp, got gebe dir iemer heil!

blessed woman, God give to-thee ever salvation!

Liep, dû liebest mir,

Dear-one, thou art-dear to-me,

liep, in rehter liebe:

dear-one, in right love:

liep, nû lâ mich lieben dir,

dear-one, now let me be-dear to-thee,

sît daz lieb mit liebe lieber wirt.

since that dear-one with love dearer becomes.

liep, mich liebe alsô,

dear-one, me love so,

daz mich leit verstiebe:

that me sorrow fly-apart:

liep, sô wirde ich liebes frô,

dear-one, so become I of-a-dear-one glad,

wan lieb lieb in herzen liebe birt.

for dear-one dear-one in hearts love bears.

liep, sît daz ich liebes ger,

dear-one, since that I of-a-dear-one desire,

liep, mich liebes wer.

dear-one, me of-a-dear-one grant.

liep, dû bist mîn liebez lieb:

dear-one, thou art my dear dear-one:

liep, die liebe zucket mir kein diep.

dear-one, the love snatches from-me no thief.

XXI,5

Nû hât sich diu zît verkêret,

Now has itself the season turned,

daz vil manigem sorge mêret:

which very to-many-a-one care increases:

walt und ouwe die sint val,

wood and meadow they are pale,

dâ bî anger und diu heide,

there by meadow and the heath,

die man sach in liechem kleide,

which one saw in bright garment,

in den landen über al.

in the lands over all.

dâ bî klage ich vogellîn;

there by lament I little-birds;

wan sî singent süeze döne

for they sing sweet melodies

in des blüenden meien schœne:

in the blooming May's beauty:

seht, diu müezen trûric sîn.

behold, those must sad be.

Swie der winter uns wil twingen,

However the winter us will compel,

doch wil ich der lieben singen,

yet will I of-the dear-one sing,

der mîn herze nie vergaz:

whom my heart never forgot:

dast ein wîp in wîbes güete,

that-is a woman in woman's goodness,

diust sô guot für ungemüete

she-is so good against ill-spirit

daz nie niht gefröite baz

that never anything gladdened better

mich vil senden dan sî tuot.

me very yearning than she does.

swenne ich denke daz diu reine

whenever I think that the pure-one

mich in herzen lieplich meine,

me in heart lovingly means,

dêst für alle sorge guot.

that-is against all care good.

Frowe Minne, ich wil dir danken

Lady Love, I will to-thee to-thank

iemer mêre, ân allez wanken,

ever more, without all wavering,

durh sô fröiderîchen vunt,

for so joy-rich a-find,

daz du mir ze frowen funde

that thou to-me as lady foundest

der ich mîn ze dienste ie gunde,

to-whom I of-me to service ever granted,

diu lît an mîns herzen grunt.

who lies at of-my heart ground.

Minne, tuo sô wol an mir,

Love, do so well to me,

hilf und twinc der reinen sinne,

help and compel of-the pure-one senses,

daz sî mich als ich sî minne:

that she me as I her love:

sich, sô wirt gedienet dir.

behold, so becomes served to-thee.

Diu vil süeze, diu vil reine,

The very sweet, the very pure-one,

diu vil liebe, valsches eine,

the very dear, of-falsehood free,

der ich iemer dienen wil,

whom I ever serve will,

diu ist minneclichen schœne;

she is charmingly fair;

maniger tugende ich sî krœne,

of-many-a virtue I her crown,

der gewan nie wîp sô vil:

of-which won never woman so much:

sô ist ir gebâren guot,

so is her bearing good,

sî ist ... stæte,

she is (lacuna) steadfast,

sî ist frî vor missetæte.

she is free from misdeed.

si ist mit zûhten wol gemuot.

she is with breeding well disposed.

Kunde ich minneclichen singen,

Could I lovelily to-sing,

daz müest ir ze lobe erklingen,

that would-have-to for-her to praise ring-out,

wan sist schœne und wol gestalt.

for she-is fair and well shaped.

der vil süezen, der ich diene,

to-the very sweet-one, whom I serve,

singe ich disen sanc vor Wiene,

sing I this song before Vienna,

dâ der künic lit mit gewalt;

where the king lies with power;

der bedenkt des rîches nôt:

he considers of-the empire's distress:

sô gedenke ich nâch dem gruoze,

so think I after the greeting,

den sô minneclîchen suoze

whiche so lovelily sweetly

gât ir mündel rôsenrôt.

gives her little-mouth rose-red.

XXI,6

Seht wie heide und ouch der walt

Behold how heath and also the wood

valwent von den kalden rîfen:

grow-pale from the cold hoarfrosts:

solhe boten hât der winter für gesant.

such messengers has the winter forth sent.

dar nâch sô kumt sîn gewalt,

there after so comes his power,

der in lande wil begrîfen

who in land will seize

manic herze, daz man ê in fröiden vant.

many-a heart, whiche one before in joys found.

daz klag ich und klage ein leit,

that lament I and lament a sorrow,

daz mich ein wîp betwingen wil

that me a woman compel wills

herzeclîcher arebeit

of-heartfelt travail

und sî mîn herze erkôs ûz al der werlt ze fröiden spil.

and her my heart chose out-of all the world for joys' play.

Minne, ich hân ir alse vil,

Love, I have of-her so much,

daz ich sî vil kûme erlîde:

that I her very hardly endure:

ich bin, Minne, selher bürde ein teil ze kranc.

I am, Love, for-such a-burden a bit too weak.

Minne, êst niht ein kindes spil:

Love, it-is not a child's play:

gar unsanfte ich sî vermode,

quite uneasily I her avoid,

diu mîn herze in jâmer twinget sunder danc.

who my heart into misery compels without consent.

Minne, rât, êst an der nôt;

Love, advise, it-is at the distress;

hîlf daz ich werde ir herzen last,

help that I become of-her heart's burden,

lieplich Minne, ald ich bin tôt:

dear Love, or I am dead:

ich bin noch ir herzen, wæne ich, gar ein frömeder gast.

I am still to-her heart, think I, quite a strange guest.

Minne, frouwe, hîlf, êst zît:

Love, lady, help, it-is time:

hîlf, ob ouch dich, Minne, erbarme,

help, if also thee, Love, take-pity,

wan mir tuot diu herzeliebe in herzen wê.

for to-me does the heart's-dear-one in heart woe.

diu mir in dem herzen lît,

who to-me in the heart lies,

ach het ichs an mînem arme,

ah bad I-her in my arm,

süeziu Minne, sô getrûrte ich niemer mê.

sweet Love, so would-mourn I never more.

Minne, füege ir mîn sô vil

Love, grant to-her of-me so much

als ich ir herzelieben hân.

as I of-her heart's-dear-things have.

Minne, teile alsô daz spil:

Love, deal so the game:

sich, sô mac al mîn herzeleit ze liebe wol ergân.

behold, so may all my heart-sorrow to love well turn-out.

Wart ich ie von herzen frô,

Became I ever from heart glad,

don wiss ich niht solher mære,

then knew I not of-such tidings,

daz dû, Minne, woltest sô verleiten mich.

that thou, Love, wouldest so mislead me.

ich was in dem wâne dô,

I was in the fancy then,

daz ich sî und dich verbære,

that I her and thee forwent,

ob diu hêre wolte noch erbarmen sich.

whether the lofty-one would yet take-pity herself.

ich het des gar ungedâht,

I had of-it quite not-thought,

daz mich betwingen möhte ein wîp:

that me compel might a woman:

ûz dem wâne hât mich brâht

out-of the fancy has me brought

ir gar wîplich schœne und ir minneclîcher lip.

her quite womanly beauty and her lovely body.

Jâ wil sî vil sælic wîp

Yes wills she very blessed woman

hôhen muot an mir verderben,

high spirit in me to-ruin,

swie ich sî ze ganzen fröiden hâte erkorn,

however I her to whole joys had chosen,

dâ von muoz mîn sender lîp

there from must my yearning person

lange wernden kumber erben:

long lasting affliction inherit:

wâfen, daz ich sender arme ie wart geborn!

alas, that I yearning poor-one ever was born!

wâ nû, Minne, wa ist dîn rât?

where now, Love, where is thy counsel?

ach, süeze Minne, wa ist dîn trôst?

ah, sweet Love, where is thy comfort?

dîn rât mich verwîset hât:

thy counsel me misled has:

diu minne und lieb gedinge hât mich brâht ûf dînen rôst.

the love and dear hope has me brought upon thy gridiron.

XXI,7

Nû ist heide wol geschœnet

Now is heath well beautified

mit vil manigem blüemelîn gemeit:

with very many-a little-flower merry:

sô ist ouwe wol bedœnet,

so is meadow well made-to-sound,

dâ diu vogellîn singent sunder leit.

where the little-birds sing without sorrow.

gegen des süezen meien zît

toward the sweet May's season

fröit iuch wol gemuoten leigen,

rejoice yourselves well disposed laymen,

sît sîn kunft uns manige fröide gît.

since his coming to-us many joys gives.

Swer den winter trûric wære,

Whoever the winter sad were,

der sol nû des meien fröuwen sich.

he shall now of-the May to-rejoice himself.

er ist guot für selhe swære:

he is good against such grief:

sost mîn trôst mîn frouwe minneclîch.

so-is my comfort my lady lovely.

der ich diene ân allen wanc,

whom I serve without all wavering,

diu muoz mir vil baz gevallen

she must to-me very better please

dan der meie und aller vogellîn sanc.

than the May and of-all little-birds song.

Ich sing alles umbe ein grüezen,

I sing all-along about a greeting,

daz ouch minneclîchen möhte sîn,

which also lovely might be,

unde ir rôten munt den süezen

and her red mouth the sweet

kuste ich gerne nâch dem willen mîn.

would-kiss I gladly after the will mine.

solte alsô gelingen mir,

should so to-succeed to-me,

sô möht ich in fröiden singen:

so might I in joys sing:

ûf den trôst sô diene ich alles ir.

upon the comfort so serve I all-along her.

Ich bin stæte an mînem muote

I am steadfast in my spirit

gegen ir, der ich eigenlîche bin,

toward her, whose I properly am,

swie daz diu vil reine guote

however that the very pure good-one

nie gemeinen wolde mînen sin.

never share would my mind.

ich hab alles einen muot:

I have all-along one spirit:

ich wil sî mit triuwen meinen

I will her with faith to-mean

doch, swie sî mir ungenâde tuot.

yet, however she to-me ungraciousness does.

XXI,8

Fröit iuch gegen dem meien schœne,

Rejoice yourselves toward the May fair,

fröit iuch gegen des meien zît.

rejoice yourselves toward the May's season.

heide in grüener varwe lît:

beath in green color lies:

sost geblüemet berg und tal.

so-is flowered hill and dale.

dâ bî hœrt man sœze dœne

there by hears one sweet melodies

von den kleinen vogellîn:

from the little birds:

in der blüenden blüete schîn

in the blooming blossom's radiance

dœnet wol diu nahtegal.

sounds well the nightingale.

walt hât und ouwe von loube ein dach:

wood has and meadow of leaf a roof:

rôsen in touwe, der ich mangel sach,

roses in dew, of-which I many saw,

stênt in wunneclîcher bluot:

stand in delightful bloom:

fröit iuch jungen hôhgemuot.

rejoice yourselves young high-spirited.

Sich fröit al diu werlt gemeine,

Itself rejoices all the world together,

wan daz ich betrüebet bin:

save that I saddened am:

Minne twinget mir den sin

Love compels to-me the mind

unde ein reine sælic wîp.

and a pure blessed woman.

nieman trûret wan ich eine:

no-one mourns but I alone:

wie hab ich verdienet daz?

how have I deserved that?

ob ich lange dulde ir haz,

if I long endure her hatred,

daz verderbet mir den lîp.

that ruins to-me the life.

sol ir wîplich güete mich in sorgen lân,

(if)-shall her womanly goodness me in cares leave,

mîn hôhgemüete, mîn trôstlîcher wân
my high-spirit, my comforting expectation

wirt an fröiden ungesund,
becomes in joys unwell,

mich entræste ir rôter munt.
me unless-comfort her red mouth.

Minne, frouwe, süeziu Minne,
Love, lady, sweet Love,

minneclîchiu helferîn,
lovely helper,

hilf mir mit der helfe dîn,
help to-me with the help thine,

daz mîn herze frô bestê.
that my heart glad remain.

du beküumberst mir die sinne
thou troublest to-me the senses

mit der liebe meisterschaft
with the love's mastery

und mit dîner krefte kraft,
and with thy power's power,

daz mir ist nâch liebe wê.
so-that to-me is after love woe.

diu vil lieb aleine betwungen mich hât,
the very dear-one alone compelled me has,

daz ichz beweine ob ir trôst mich nû lât:
that I-it bewail if her comfort me now leaves:

træste, ein süeze Minne, mich,
comfort, a sweet Love, me,

sît ich helfe suoche an dich.
since I help seek from thee.

Wænet des diu wol getâne,

Thinks of-it the well shaped-one,

der ich alse kûme enbir,

whom I so hardly forgo,

daz ich scheide mich von ir,

that I part myself from her,

dur daz sî mich frömdet sô?

for that she me estranges so?

daz ich stên ir trôstes âne,

that I stand of-her comfort without,

die minn in mîn herze twanc,

whom love into my heart forced,

daz ist sunder mînen danc.

that is without my consent.

ach, des bin ich gar unfrô!

ah, of-it am I quite unglad!

doch sol sî niht denken, daz mîn stæter muot

yet shall she not think, that my steadfast spirit

müge an ir wenken: ich hân daz behuot,

may in her waver: I have that guarded,

wan ich hân sî sælic wîp

for I have her blessed woman

lieber dan mîn selbes lip.

dearer than my own body.

Sol ich fröidelôs belîben

(if)-Shall I joyless remain

von ir, diu genâde hât,

from her, who mercy has,

son wirt niemer sorgen rât

so becomes never of-cares remedy

an mir senden hinnen vür:

in me yearning hence forth:

sô muoz ich die zît vertriben

so must I the time drive-away

jæmerlich in sender nôt.

piteously in yearning distress.

bezzer wære mir ein tôt

better were to-me a death

danne ob mich ir trôst verkür.

than if me her comfort forwent.

ich hân niht befunden solher smerzen mê:

I have not felt of-such pains more:

mîns herzen wunden die tuont mir sô wê,

of-my heart's wounds they do to-me so woe,

wan mich Minne schôz aldâ:

for me Love shot there:

dâ von stên ich junger grâ.

there from stand I young gray.

XXI,9

Swie daz nû die rîfen kalt

However that now the boarfrosts cold

selwent walt und heide und ouwe,

dull wood and heath and meadow,

doch sô wil ich frô bestân.

yet so will I glad remain.

mîner fröiden hât gewalt

of-my joys has power

mînes herzen heil, mîn frouwe:

of-my heart's salvation, my lady:

die wil ich ze trôste hân

whom will I as comfort have

gar für alle herzen sêre.

quite against all hearts' smart.

ir schoen unde ir wîplich êre
her beauty and her womanly honor
 minne ich in dem herzen mir.
love I in the heart to-me.

Dur daz sî ist alsô guot
For that she is so good
 und sô rehte wol gebâret
and so rightly well bears-herself
 und sô lieplich lachen kan,
and so lovingly laugh can,
 dâ von hüget mir der muot,
there from is-glad to-me the spirit,
 swie sî mîn dâ mite vâret:
however she of-me there with lies-in-wait:
 des ich ir mit willen gan.
of-which I to-her with will grant.
 dêst dâ von mich fröit gedinge,
that-is there from me gladdens hope,
 daz ich noch in fröiden singe:
that I still in joys sing:
 sus gênt mîniu jâr dâ hin.
thus go my years there away.

Minneclich und wol gestalt,
Lovely and well shaped,
 gar gewizzen unde schoene,
quite prudent and fair,
 so ist mîn trût, mîn künigîn.
so is my darling, my queen.
 sist mit rede niht ze balt,
she-is with speech not too bold,

daz ich an der lieben kröne:

which I in the dear-one crown:

dâ bî kan sî stæte sîn.

there by can she steadfast be.

sî ist kiusche in wîbes güete,

she is chaste in woman's goodness,

sî hât zuht bî hôhgemüete:

she has breeding by high-spirit:

sist gar alles wandels frî.

she-is quite of-all fault free.

Frouwe, minneclîchez wîp,

Lady, lovely woman,

trût, lâz an mir niht verderben

darling, let in me not to-perish

beidiu fröide und mînen sanc.

both joy and my song

hilf, genâde rîcher lîp,

help, of-mercy rich person,

ach hilf, lâ mich trôst erwerben,

ah help, let me comfort win,

ald ich bin an fröiden kranc.

or I am in joys weak.

hilf daz trûren mich verstiebe,

help that mourning from-me fly-apart,

liebez lieb vor allem liebe:

dear dear-one before all dear-things:

sliuz ûf mir der fröiden tor.

unlock up for-me the joys' gate.

XXI,10

Junge und alde,

Young and old,

fröit iuch gegen des meien zît,

rejoice yourselves toward the May's season,

wan ez gruoet in dem walde;

for it grows-green in the wood;

seht, wie schône er lît:

behold, how fair he lies:

sost diu heide

so-is the heath

sumerlîchen wol bekleit;

summerly well clothed;

diu hât bluomen ûf ir kleide,

she has flowers upon her garment,

der ist sî gemeit.

of-which is she merry.

ûf dem rîse

upon the twig

dœnent wol ze prîse

sound well to praise

vogellîn ir schal:

little-birds their cry:

süeze wîse

sweet melody

singet nahtegal.

sings nightingale.

Swen die rîfen

Whom the hoarfrosts

twungen und dar zuo der snê,

compelled and there to the snow,

der sol nû ze fröiden grîfen,

he shall now to joys reach,

sît man siht den klê:

since one sees the clover:

sost mîn wunne

so-is my delight

gar ein reine sælic wîp;

quite a pure blessed woman;

mich fröit weder loup noch sunne

me gladdens neither leaf nor sun

niht wan eine ir lîp.

nothing but alone her person.

diech dâ meine,

whom-I there mean,

dêst diu sêze reine,

that-is the sweet pure-one,

mîn gelückes vunt

my fortune's find

sî aleine:

she alone:

rôt ist ir der munt.

red is to-her the mouth.

Diech dâ meine

Whom-I there mean

liep vor allem liebe mir,

dear-one before all dear-things to-me,

diu ist alles wandels eine:

she is of-all fault devoid:

ez lît lop an ir.

it lies praise in her.

swen sî minnet,

whom she loves,

der wirt liebes wol gewert,

he is of-love well granted,

ob er rehte sich versinnet

if he rightly himself bethinks

ald er liebes gert.

or he of-love desires.

süeziu Minne,

sweet Love,

Minne, meisterinne,

Love, mistress,

Minne, ich meine dich,

Love, I mean thee,

twing ir sinne

compel her senses

daz sî minne mich.

that she love me.

Frowe schoene,

Lady fair,

frowe, an der mîn fröide lît,

lady, in whom my joy lies,

frowe, diech mit lobe kröne,

lady, whom-I with praise crown,

hilf, êst an der zît.

help, it-is at the time.

trût mîns herzen,

darling of-my heart,

liebez liep, ich meine dich,

dear dear-one, I mean thee,

süeziu, wende mînen smerzen,

sweet-one, turn-away my pain,

trôst, nû træste mich.

comfort, now comfort me.

frowe, ich muote

lady, I desire

des in mînem muote

of-it in my spirit

daz mîn gernder muot

that my desiring spirit

dich niht muote:

thee not trouble:

sost mîn wille guot.

so-is my will good.

XXI,11

Wol dir, liebiu sumerzât,

Well to-thee, dear summertime,

wol dir, sumer, dîner schœne,

well to-thee, summer, of-thy beauty,

wol dir, dû gîst hôhen muot.

well to-thee, thou givest high spirit.

heide in grüener varwe lît:

heath in green color lies:

dîne kunft ich iemer krœne,

thy coming I ever crown,

wan sî ist vür trûren guot.

for she is against mourning good.

nahtegal

nightingale

suoze singet,

sweetly sings,

daz ez in dem walde erklinget:

so-that it in the wood rings-out:

sost geblüemet berg und tal.

so-is flowered hill and dale.

Swen der meie trœsten mac,

Whom the May comfort may,

der leb âne herze swære;

he live without heart grief;

diu zît wart nie baz gestalt:

the season became never better shaped:

sô fröit mich kein sumertac;

so gladdens me no summer-day;

nieman wan diu sældebære,

no-one but the blessing-bearing-one,

diu hât fröide an mir gewalt.

she has of-joy in me power.

si ist mân trôst

she is my comfort

diech dâ meine,

whom-I there mean,

nieman mê wan sî alleine:

no-one more but she alone:

wil si, ich bin vor leide erlôst.

(if)-wills she, I am from sorrow released.

Die ich also liebe hân

Whom I so dear have

in dem herzen alle stunde,

in the heart every hour,

diu ist wandel vor behuot.

she is fault from guarded.

ach, sist liep, sist wol getân:

ah, she-is dear, she-is well shaped:

an ir rôsewarwem munde

at her rose-colored mouth

wære ein kus vür trûren guot.

were a kiss against mourning good.

swer si mac

whoever her may

umbevâhen

to-embrace

und mit kusse ir lieplich nâhen,

and with kiss her lovingly to-approach,

den betaget ein sælic tac.

him dauns-on a blessed day.

Minne, ich solde danken dir,

Love, I should to-thank thee,

daz du wîtest mîne sinne

that thou directedst my senses

an sô herzeliebez wîp.

to so heart-dear a-woman.

Minne, tuo genâde an mir,

Love, do mercy on me,

Minne, ein frouwe, süeze Minne,

Love, a lady, sweet Love,

hilf daz mich ir trûter lîp

help that me her dear person

minne alsô,

love so,

daz diu reine

that the pure-one

mich als ich sî lieplich meine:

me as I her lovingly mean:

ach sô wirde ich liebes frô.

ah so become I of-a-dear-one glad.

Ach, genâde, ein sælic wîp,

Ah, mercy, a blessed woman,

ach, mîns herzen kûniginne,

ah, of-my heart queen,

ach, tuo noch genâde mir.

ah, do yet mercy to-me.

ach, genâde, lieber lîp,

ah, mercy, dear person,

hîlf daz ich noch lîep gewinne:

help that I still a-dear-one win:

herzeliebe lît an dir.

heart's-love lies in thee.

hîlf, êst zît,

help, it-is time,

mir vil armen:

to-me very poor-one:

lâ mich senden dich erbarmen,

let me yearning thee stir-to-pity,

sît mîn heil gar an dir lît.

since my salvation quite in thee lies.

XXI,¹²

Fröit iuch, wol gemuoten leien,

Rejoice yourselves, well disposed laymen,

gegen dem wunneclîchen süezen meien.

toward the delightful sweet May.

diu zît ist ze fröiden wol gestalt:

the season is for joys well shaped:

fröit iuch, junge und alt.

rejoice yourselves, young and old.

man hært ûf dem blüenden rîse

one hears upon the blooming twig

vogele singen in ir besten wîse:

birds sing in their best melody:

vor in allen dœnet nahtegal

before them all sounds nightingale

lobelîch ir schal.

praiseworthy her cry.

anger gruoet und diu liehte heide;

meadow grows-green and the bright heath;

des stêt wunneclîch ir ougen weide:

of-it stands delightfully their eyes' pasture:

wan siht allenthalben ûf dem plân

one sees everywhere upon the plain

vil der bluomen stân.

many of-the flowers stand.

Helfent mir die zît enpfâhen,

Help to-me the season to-receive,

wol gemuoten, lât iuchs niht versmâhen:

well disposed, let you-it not displease:

wir sun kleine sorgen umbe guot,

we shall little care about goods,

swenne uns hûge der muot.

whenever to-us is-glad the spirit.

wir sun tanzen, wir sun springen,

we shall dance, we shall spring,

wir sun frœlich reigen, wir sun singen,

we shall gladly round-dance, we shall sing,

wir sun hôhgemüete und lieben wân

we shall high-spirit and dear expectation

ûf gedingen hân.

upon hope have.

lânt die siufter in unfrôiden sterben:

let the sighbors in joylessness die:

wir sun nâch gelücke in fröiden werben

we shall after fortune in joys strive

unde arbeiten guot und ouch den lîp

and to-exert goods and also the body

dur diu werden wîp.

for the worthy women.

Wer kan frœlich vrô belîben,

Who can gladly glad remain,

wan bî reinen minneclîchen wîben?

save by pure lovely women?

wer kan wenden sendes herzen suht,

who can turn-away of-a-yearning heart sickness,

wan ir wîplich zuht?

save their womanly breeding?

wer kan trûren baz verswachen

who can mourning better weaken

danne ir zartez rœselehtez lachen?

than their tender rosy laughing?

wer tuot senden man von sorge erlôst

who makes a-yearning man from care released

wan ir wîplich trôst?

save their womanly comfort?

wer kan mannes minnewunden heilen?

who can a-man's love-wounds heal?

wer kan fröide in herzen lieplich teilen?

who can joy in hearts lovingly share?

nieman wan diu tugentlîchen wîp:

no-one save the virtuous women:

sælic sî ir lîp!

blessed be their person!

Wir sun wîbes namen êren

We shall woman's name honor

unde ir lop mit hôher werde mêren,

and their praise with high worth to-increase,

dâ diu wîpheit unvermeilet sî:

where the womanhood unstained be:

diu ist wandels frî.

she is of-fault free.

wê dem man, der des gedenket,

woe to-the man, who of-it thinks,

daz er wîp und wîbes namen krenket!

that be woman and woman's name injures!

der let ûf sich beidiu hie und dort

he loads upon himself both here and there

sünde und lasters hort.

sin and of-reproach hoard.

wîbes name und wîbes lîp mit wunne

woman's name and woman's person with delight

zierent fröide, sam diu spilndiu sunne

adorn joy, as the playing sun

wol geziehen und geschoenen mac

well to-adorn and beautify may

einen sumertac.

a summer-day.

Wer gesach ie crêatiure

Who saw ever a-creature

baz gestalt und dâ bî sô gehiure

better shaped and there by so gentle

und sô rehte minneclich gevar,

and so rightly lovely colored,

nâch dem wunsche gar,

after the wish wholly,

und sô rehte schœne an schouwe,
and so rightly fair in appearance,
 sam sî ist, mîn trût, mîns herzen frouwe,
as she is, my darling, of-my heart lady,
 an der lîbe niemer ouge ersiht
in whose body never an-eye espies
 wandelbæres niht.
of-changeable nothing.
 wol ir werden süezen jungen jâren!
bail her worthy sweet young years!
 wer gesach ie wîp sô wol gebâren,
who saw ever woman so well bear-herself,
 sam sî tuot, mîns herzen heiles funt?
as she does, of-my heart's salvation finding?
 rôet ist ir der munt.
red is to-her the mouth.

XXI,13

Mich muoz wunder hân
Me must wonder have
 wiez sich stelle bî dem Rîne,
how-it itself stands by the Rhine,
 umb den Bodemsê,
about the Lake-of-Constance,
 ob der sumer sich dâ zer.
whether the summer itself there stretches.
 Francrîch hât den plân,
France has the plain,
 den man siht in trüebem schîne:
which one sees in dull radiance:
 rîfen tuont in wê
hoarfrosts do to-them woe
 bî der Sêne und bî dem mer.
by the Seine and by the sea.

dise selben nôt hânts ouch bî Aene,
this same distress have-they also by Aene,

da ist ir fröide kranc.
there is their joy weak.

wunne und vogelsanc
delight and bird-song

ist in Swâben, des ich wæne:
is in Swabia, of-which I think:

dar sô jâmert mich
thither so grieves me

nâch der schœnen minneclich.
after the fair lovely-one.

Lieb und allez guot
Love and all good

wünsche ich ir die ich dâ meine,
wish I to-her whom I there mean,

unde nîge aldar
and bow thither

einer wîle tûsentstunt.
in-one while a-thousand-times.

ich hân mînen muot
I have my spirit

gar vereinet an sî eine:
quite united on her alone:

swaz ich lande ervar,
whatever I of-lands travel,

mir wart nie sô liebes kunt.
to-me became never so of-dear-things known.

diu vil süeze reine wandels vrîe
the very sweet pure of-fault free-one

zieret Swâbenlant:
adorns Swabia:

Hanegöwe Brâbant,

Hainaut Brabant,

Flandern Francrîch Picardie

Flanders France Picardy

hât sô schoenes niht

has so of-fair-things nothing

noch sô lieplich angesiht.

nor so lovely a-countenance.

Swer erkennen wil

Whoever to-know wills

fröide und werndez hôhgemüete,

joy and lasting high-spirit,

dem gib ich den rât,

to-him give I the counsel,

der für trûren sanfte tuot:

which against mourning gently does:

rehter fröiden spil

of-right joys play

ist ein wîp in wîbes güete,

(if)-is a woman in woman's goodness,

diu ir wîpheit hât

who her womanhood has

wîplich mit ir zuht behuot;

womanly with her breeding guarded;

die sol er mit ganzen triuwen minnen,

he shall he with whole faith to-love,

als ich tuon ein wîp,

as I do a woman,

der herz unde lîp

whose heart and body

kan ûf wîbes lop sô sinnen,

can upon woman's praise so to-think,

dazs ûz êren pfat

that-she out-of honors' path

niemer kumt noch nie getrat.

never comes nor never trod.

XXI,14

Schouwent an den grünen walt,

Behold at the green wood,

waz er loubes hât gerêret

what he of-leaf has shed

von des ungefüegen rîfen val.

from the ungente hoarfrost's fall.

jârlanc sint die winde kalt,

now are the winds cold,

winters kraft sich balde mêret:

winter's power itself soon increases:

dâ von swîget aber nahtegal,

there from grows-silent again nightingale,

diu in maniger wîse sanc

who in many-a melody sang

lobelîchen sîeze dœne

praiseworthy sweet melodies

in der sumerlîchen schœne,

in the summerly beauty,

dâ der vîol dur daz gras ûf dranc.

where the violet through the grass up pressed.

Mîn muot swebt zer sunnen hô,

My spirit floats to-the sun high,

mirst geboten, ich sol singen:

to-me-is commanded, I shall sing:

daz tuot mîner sælden wunsches tac.

that does of-my blessing's wish day.

ich wart vor des nie sô frô

I became before of-it never so glad

von sô herzelieben dingen,

by so heart-dear things,

daz ich wol von schulden sprechen mac,

that I well by rights speak may,

daz sî mir geboten hât

that she to-me commanded has

singen unde frô belîben

to-sing and glad to-remain

unde ouch dienen reinen wîben

and also to-serve pure women

dur sî, diu mir gît den selben rât.

for her, who to-me gives the same counsel.

Ich sach einen rôten munt

I saw a red mouth

alsô minneclich erlachen,

so lovelily laugh-out,

daz er in mîn sendez herze schôz.

that it into my yearning heart shot.

des fröit ich mich sâ ze stunt:

of-it rejoiced I myself right at once:

sî kund ez sô lieplich machen,

she could it so lovingly make,

daz mich dar ze sehen nie verdrôz.

that me thither to look never wearied.

solte ez ie mir sîn beschert

should it ever to-me be granted

und daz ich sî solde schouwen

and that I her should behold

bî mir, mînes herzen frouwen,

by me, of-my heart lady,

seht, sô wære ich liebes wol gewert.

behold, so were I of-a-dear-one well granted.

Waz ir minneclîcher lîp

What her lovely person

kiusche und rehter wîbes güete

chastity and right woman's goodness

in ir herzen schrîn beslozzen hât!

in her heart's shrine enclosed has!

jâ sî reine sælic wîp,

yes she pure blessed woman,

sî hât zuht bî hôhgemüete:

she has breeding by high-spirit:

daz gebâren ir vil wol an stât.

that bearing to-her very well on stands.

got der was vil wol gemuot,

God he was very well disposed,

dô er schuof sô reinem wîbe

when he created for-so pure a-woman

tugent wunne schoene an lîbe

virtue delight beauty in body

und vor allem wandel gar behuot.

and against all fault quite guarded.

Ach genâde, ein sælic wîp,

Ab mercy, a blessed woman,

ach genâde, ein küniginne,

ab mercy, a queen,

ach genâde, ein süeze frouwe mîn!

ab mercy, a sweet lady mine!

ach genâde, ein süezer lîp:

ab mercy, a sweet person:

liep mîns herzen, trôst der sinne,

dear-one of-my heart, comfort of-the senses,

trût, lâ mich in dînen hulden sîn!

darling, let me in thy favors be!

frouwe, hilf, êst an der nôt,

lady, help, it-is at the distress,

ach hilf, lâ mich niht verderben:

ab help, let me not to-perish:

sol ich niht genâde erwerben

(if)-shall I not mercy win

an dir, sost mîn trôst gein fröiden tôt.

from thee, so-is my comfort toward joys dead.

XXI,15

Diu zît ist sô wol gestalt,

The season is so well shaped,

wan siht dur daz gras ûf dringen

one sees through the grass up press

vîol unde rôsen rôt.

violet and roses red.

dâ bî loubet uns der walt:

there by leafs for-us the wood:

sô hært man die vogelesingen

so bears one the birds sing

suoze, als in diu zît gebôt.

sweetly, as to-them the season commanded.

in dem süezen touwe

in the sweet dew

gegen der sunnen schîn

against the sun's radiance

glenzet manic blüemelîn.

gleams many-a little-flower.

in der wunneclîchen schouwe

in the delightful sight

sol diu werlt in fröiden sîn.

shall the world in joys be.

Mîn gemüete swebete hô,

My spirit floated high,

dô diu Minne mîne frouwen

when the Love my lady

lieplich in mîn herze slôz.

lovingly into my heart locked.

ich was ir ze sehen vrô,

I was her to see glad,

dô ich dar begunde schouwen:

when I thither began to-look:

des vil wênic mich verdrôz.

of-which very little me wearied.

sus liez ich sich weiden

thus let I themselves to-pasture

mîniu ougen dar,

my eyes thither,

diu mit fröiden nâmen war

which with joys took heed

der vil lieben, niht der leiden:

of-the very dear-one, not of-the hateful:

diu ist alles wandels bar.

she is of-all fault bare.

Minne, frouwe, erkenne daz,

Love, lady, know that,

daz ich in sô stætem herzen

that I in so steadfast heart

unde in triuwen minne ein wîp,

and in faith love a woman,

der ich selten ie vergaz,

whom I seldom ever forgot,

swie daz mir doch fûeget smerzen

however that to-me yet causes pain

ir vil sælderîcher lîp.

her very blessing-rich person.

süeze Minne, swache

sweet Love, weaken

mir die selben nôt:

for-me the same distress:

wende ouch mîner fröiden tôt.

turn-away also of-my joys death.

hîlf daz mir in liebe erlache

help that to-me in love laugh-out

eteswenne ir munt sô rôt.

sometimes her mouth so red.

Solte ir rœselehter munt

Should her rosy mouth

unde ir minneclîchez grûezen

and her lovely greeting

lachelîchen meinen mich,

laughingly mean me,

sô vund ich der sælden vunt

so would-find I of-the blessing find

an der minneclîchen süezen,

in the lovely sweet-one,

gienge ez mir sô sæleclich,

went it to-me so blessedly,

ach, daz diu vil guote

ah, that the very good-one

solte bî mir sîn

should by me be

tougen nâch dem willen mîn,

secretly after the will mine,

unz ich gar nâch mînem muote

until I quite after my spirit

dahte ir rôten mundes schîn.

covered of-her red mouth's radiance.

Swer ein lieb in herzen hât

Whoever a dear-one in heart has

tougenlîchen wol verborgen,

secretly well hidden,

der ist sæleclich gewert,

he is blessedly granted,

ob er valsches triegen lât

if he of-falsehood deceiving leaves

unde in triuwen kan besorgen,

and in faith can take-care,

ob er rehter liebe gert.

if he of-right love desires.

er sol âne wanken

he shall without wavering

herzeliebes gern

of-heart's-love to-desire

unde unstæten muot verbern:

and unsteadfast spirit to-forgo:

kan er liebe lieplich danken,
(if)-can he love lovingly to-thank,
 minne wil in liebes wern.
love will him of-a-dear-one grant.

XXI,16

Ich verklagte wol die zît
I would-lament-away well the season
 und die wunnebernden ouwe,
and the delight-bearing meadow,
 trôste mich mîn trût, mîn frouwe,
should-comfort me my darling, my lady,
 nâch der sich mîn herze dicke sent;
after whom itself my heart often years;
 diu mir alsô liebe lît
who to-me so dearly lies
 in dem herzen mîn behalden,
in the heart mine kept,
 dâ sî nieman kan verschalden:
where her no-one can thrust-away:
 sî hât sich sô lieplich dar gewent.
she has herself so lovingly thither accustomed.
 mir wart nie liep also rehte wert,
to-me became never a-dear-one so rightly worth,
 si ist in mînes herzen veste
she is in of-my heart fastness
 wol diu hêrste und ouch diu beste:
well the loftiest and also the best:
 sî ist der mîn wunsch ûf erde gert.
she is she-whom my wish on earth desires.

Lachelich ein lôser blic

Laughing a roguish glance

ûz ir liechten spilnden ougen

out-of her bright playing eyes

zarte minneclîchen tougen

tenderly lovelily secretly

sach ich liuhten in mîns herzen grunt.

saw I shine into of-my heart ground.

dô kam mir von fröide ein schric

then came to-me from joy a start

unde ein minnegernder smerze

and a love-desiring pain

alsô lieplich in daz herze

so lovingly into the heart

daz ez wart von rechter liebe wunt.

that it became from right love wounded.

dô ich sach ir munt durliuhtic rô

when I saw her mouth translucent red

alse fröidebærez lachen

so joy-bearing laughing

lieplich unde frölich machen,

lovingly and gladly make,

dô gert ich nâch liebe in wernde nô.

then desired I after love in lasting distress.

Wer gesach ie wîbes lip

Who saw ever woman's body

alse schœene und alse clâren

so fair and so bright

und sô lieplich wol gebâren

and so lovingly well bear-herself

und sô gar in wîbes güete guot?

and so quite in woman's goodness good?

sî ist gar ein wîplich wîp,

she is quite a womanly woman,

nâch dem wunsche wol gestellet:

after the wish well shaped:

Sælde hât sich zir gesellet;

Blessing has itself to-her joined;

sî hât kiusche zuht und reinen muot.

she has chastity breeding and pure spirit.

jô mein ich mîns herzen ungemach,

yes mean I of-my heart's discomfort,

nâch der ich mit gerndem sinne

after whom I with desiring mind

in der minne hitze brinne:

in the love's heat burn:

sô wol mich daz ich sî ie gesach!

so well me that I her ever saw!

XXI,¹⁷

Ich wil aber singen,

I will again sing,

wan ez ist mir in dem muote,

for it is to-me in the spirit,

sît diu nahtegal geswigen ist:

since the nightingale silent is:

des kan mich betwingen

of-it can me compel

diu vil hêre und diu vil guote,

the very lofty and the very good-one,

der an wîbes êren niht gebrist.

to-whom in woman's honors nothing lacks.

mich fröit wol

me gladdens well

daz ich singen sol

that I sing shall

alsô liebem wîbe:

to-so dear a-woman:

nâch ir minneclîchem libe

after her lovely body

grôzen jâmer ich vil sender dol.

great misery I very yearning endure.

Swer mir daz verkêret,

Whoever to-me that misconstrues,

daz mich jâmert nâch der süezen,

that me grieves after the sweet-one,

dem ist rehtez herzeliep unkunt.

to-him is right heart's-love unknown.

der hât sich entêret:

he has himself dishonored:

wie kan er die sünde bûezen,

how can he the sin atone,

die verdienet hât sîn schuldic munt?

which deserved has his guilty mouth?

er weiz niht

he knows not

daz mîn herze siht

that my heart sees

in ein paradîse,

into a paradise,

swenne ich die gedanke wîse

whenever I the thoughts direct

nâch ir, der man hôher êren giht.

after her, to-whom one high honors declares.

Mich hât liep gedinge

Me has dear hope

in den fröiden her behalden,

in the joys hitber kept,

daz ich bin vor leide ein teil behuot.

that I am against sorrow a part guarded.

daz ist mîn gelinge,

that is my success,

wan ich wil ir gerne walden:

for I will of-ber gladly to-care-for:

dar zuo stiuret mich mîn vrîer muot,

there to directs me my free spirit,

den ich hân,

which I have,

unde ein lieber wân,

and a dear expectation,

daz ich wol gedenke,

that I well think,

wâ mit ich mir trûren krenke:

where with I for-me mourning weaken:

wan sol ûf genâde frô bestân.

one shall upon mercy glad remain.

Fröide ist alsô tiure

Joy is so precious

unde als edel und sô hêre,

and so noble and so lofty,

daz sî kûme ieman vergelten kan.

that it hardly anyone repay can.

fröide ist sô gehiure,

joy is so gentle,

wan hât fröide frum und êre:

one has of-joy profit and honor:

fröide stêt gar lobelîchen an.

joy stands quite praiseworthy on.

fröide ist wert,

joy is worth,

swâ liep liebes gert:

wherever a-dear-one of-a-dear-one desires:

liep kan leit vertrîben.

dear-one can sorrow drive-away.

liebiu fröide lît an wîben:

dear joy lies in women:

wol im swer dâ liebes wirt gewert!

well to-him whoever there of-a-dear-one becomes granted!

Möhte ich fröide vinden,

Might I joy find,

rehte fröide, als ich sî meine,

right joy, as I her mean,

sô wær ich zer welte ein sælic man:

so were I in-the world a blessed man:

sô müest an mir swinden

so must in me vanish

leit; und wolte mich diu reine

sorrow; and would me the pure-one

minnen als ich mich ir minnen gan,

to-love as I myself of-her to-love grant,

sô wolt ich

so would I

alrêrst frôuwen mich

first-of-all to-rejoice myself

mit der frôiden rîchen.

with the of-joys rich-one.

nieman kunde mir gelîchen:

no-one could to-me be-compared:

wan sol ûf genâde trœsten sich.

one shall upon mercy comfort himself

XXI,18

Helfent grûezen mir den meien

Help to-greet to-me the May

der sô lobelîchen schœnet

who so praiseworthy beautifies

anger heide ûf berge und in dem tal.

meadow heath upon hill and in the dale.

wir sun tanzen springen reien,

we shall dance spring round-dance,

sît der walt ist wol bedœnet:

since the wood is well made-to-sound:

dâ hânt vogellîn frœiderîchen schal.

there have little-birds joy-rich cry.

velt und ouwe stênt geblüemet:

field and meadow stand flowered:

manic sunder varwe ist dâ,

many-a separate color is there,

wîz brûn gel rôt grüene weitvar blâ,

white brown yellow red green woad-colored blue,

dâ sich nahtegal der zît in sange rüemet.

where itself nightingale of-the season in song boasts.

Daz diu nahtegal wol singet,

That the nightingale well sings,

daz geblüemet stêt diu heide,

that flowered stands the heath,

des hab ich ze fröide enkeine war.

of-it have I to joy no heed.

ein fröid in mîn herze dringet

a joy into my heart presses

frîer herzen ougen weide,

of-free hearts eyes' pasture,

unde ouch libes ougen weident dar.

and also of-body eyes pasture thither.

diu fröid ist sô liep, sô hêre,

that joy is so dear, so lofty,

daz sî fröit herz unde lîp.

that she gladdens heart and body.

daz sint schœniu minneclîchiu wîp:

that are fair lovely women:

nâch der fröide sinne ein man, an der lît êre.

after the joy strive a man, in whom lies honor.

Ein wîp ich ze fröide minne,

A woman I for joy love,

mir ze trôste, mir ze heile,

to-me as comfort, to-me as salvation,

mir vür allez ungemüete ein dach.

to-me against all ill-spirit a roof.

der vil reinen stæten sinne

of-the very pure steadfast senses

frîgent sî vor allem meile,

free her against all stain,

sô daz sî ir wîpheit nie gebrach.

so that she her womanhood never broke.

got hât wirde und êre beide

God has worth and honor both

sæliclich an sî geleit:

blessedly on her laid:

schœne varwe, niht von gunterpheit,

fair color, not from paint,

hât ir lieplich angesiht, mîn ougen weide.

has her lovely countenance, my eyes' pasture.

Wol dien fröide gebenden wîben,

Well to-the joy giving women,

die mit zuht in hôhgemüete

who with breeding in high-spirit

wîplich mannes fröiden spiegel sint!

womanly of-man's joys mirror are!

wol ir reinen süezen lîben,

well to-their pure sweet persons,

wol ir rehten wîbes güete,

well to-their right woman's goodness,

dâ von langez trûren sâ verswint!

there from long mourning at-once vanishes!

wîbes güete heilet smerzen,

woman's goodness heals pains,

der uns dicke nâhe lît.

whiche to-us often near lies.

wîbes güete uns rehte fröide gît:

woman's goodness to-us right joy gives:

wîbes güete ist heiles hort in mannes herzen.

woman's goodness is of-salvation hoard in man's heart.

XXI,19

Schouwent beide jung und alt,

Behold both young and old,

swer die zît gebrüeven kunne

whoever the season appraise can

und die sumerwunne,

and the summer-delight,

wie der meie blüemet manic velt.

how the May flowers many-a field.

diu zît wart nie baz gestalt:

the season became never better shaped:

anger walt und heide und ouwe

meadow wood and heath and meadow

blüent in süezem touwe.

bloom in sweet dew.

wan hært vogelsanges widergelt:

one bears of-bird-song recompense:

ûz dem loube singent witewal,

out-of the leaf sing orioles,

tröschel hôhe ûf waldes wilde,

thrush high upon of-wood wildness,

lerche ob dem gevilde,

lark above the field,

in den ouwen dœnent nahtegal.

in the meadows sound nightingales.

Meie ist alsô wunneclich,

May is so delightful,

daz er swæren muot verdringet:

that he heavy spirit thrusts-away:

manic dirne singet,

many-a girl sings,

diu nâch bluomen in den anger gert.

who after flowers into the meadow desires.

selcher fröide enterbe ich mich:

of-such joy disinherit I myself:

ich hân mich gar ûz der mâzen

I have myself quite beyond the measure

an daz guot verlâzen,

on the goods relied,

sît daz âne guot ist nieman wert.

since that without goods is no-one worth.

liebiu fröide, ich wil des muoten dir,

dear joy, I will of-it to-desire from-thee,

daz du dich mir niht beroubest

that thou thee to-me not robbest

und doch mir erloubest

and yet to-me allowest

daz ich reines guotes wünsche mir.

that I of-pure goods wish for-me.

Frô mich der gedinge tuot,

Glad me the hope makes,

den ich hân ze reinem guote:

which I have to pure goods:

mit versentem muote

with yearning spirit

ger ich dar und doch mit schœner zuht.

desire I thither and yet with fair breeding.

ez ist ein sô guotez guot,

it is a so good goods,

des ich wünsche mir ze krâmen:

of-which I wish for-me as merchandise:

ûz der tugende sâmen

out-of the virtue's seeds

wuohs diu sœuze fröideberndiu fruht.

grew the sweet joy-bearing fruit.

ûf der erde ist alsô guotes niht

upon the earth is so of-good nothing

sam daz reine guot, mîn frouwe,

as the pure goods, my lady,

diu vröud ir anschouwe:

whom rejoices her beholding:

sist mîn trôst, mîns heiles zuoversiht.

she-is my comfort, of-my salvation confidence.

Waz ist bezzer dan ein wîp,

What is better than a woman,

diu mit zuht in wîbes güete

who with breeding in woman's goodness

wîplich hôhgemüete

womanly high-spirit

tougenlichen in ir herzen treit?

secretly in her heart bears?

wizzent daz ir guoter lip

know that her good body

mannes trüebez herze schœnet,

of-man's troubled heart beautifies,

ob ez hât verhœnet

if it has scorned

trûric sorge und kumberlichez leit.

sad care and afflicting sorrow.

wîbes güete ist lieber fröide ursprinc:

woman's goodness is of-dear joy the-source:

wîp kan herze lûter machen,

woman can heart pure make,

wîp kan trûren swachen:

woman can mourning to-weaken:

wîbes güete gûetet elliu dinc.

woman's goodness betters all things.

Fröit iuch wol gemuoten man:

Rejoice yourselves well disposed men:

hânt niht aller sorgen eine,

have not of-all cares alone,

sît daz herze ist reine,

since that heart is pure,

swenne ez niht berüeret trüeber muot.

whenever it not touches troubled spirit.

nemt iuch lieber fröiden an,

take yourselves of-dear joys on,

die dâ trüebe herzen reinent:

which there troubled hearts purify:

minnent unde meinent

love and mean

reiniu wîp, diu sint ze fröiden guot.

pure women, they are for joys good.

liebe fröide gât ein liebez wîp:

dear joy gives a dear woman:

wer kan mannes leit vertriben,

who can of-man sorrow drive-away,

wan daz liep an wîben?

save the dear-one in women?

wîbes güete heizet leitvertrip.

woman's goodness is-called sorrow-driving.

XXI,20

Rîfen unde winde kalt

Hoarfrosts and winds cold

roubent ouwe und ouch den walt,

rob meadow and also the wood,

linde rêret:

linden sheds:

sus verkêret

thus turns

sich ein zît, diu fröide bar.

itself a season, which joy bore.

wan siht anger und den plân

one sees meadow and the plain

beide sunder bluomen stân.

both without flowers stand.

heide grîset:

beath grays:

ûf die rîset

upon it falls

tuftes vil, des nam ich war.

of-mist much, of-it took I heed.

dâ von swîgent nahtegal:

there from grow-silent nightingales:

winter wilde

winter wild

grôz unbilde

great monstrousness

brüevet mit des snêwes val.

brings-about with the snow's fall.

Sît ich mich von êrst versan,

Since I myself from first bethought,

wie sich Minne lieben kan

how itself Love endear can

beiden lîben,

to-both persons,

mannen wîben,

to-men to-women,

dô begunde ich minne gern.

then began I love to-desire.

mich bedûhte des an sî,
me it-seemed of-it on her,

wær mir Minne stæte bî
were to-me Love steadfast by

mit gedanken
with thoughts

âne wanken,
witbout wavering,

daz mich Minne solte wern
that me Love should grant

mit ir süezen meisterschaft,
with her sweet mastery,

mîn erkennen
my knowing

unde wennen
and to-acustom

minne mit ir helfe craft.
love with her help's power.

Ich versen an Minne mich:
I yearn on Love myself:

sô vert Minne flühteclich
so fares Love fleetingly

von mir balde.
from me quickly.

ir gewalde
for-her power

ist mîn muot, mîn sin ze kranc.
is my spirit, my mind too weak.

Minne tuot mich jungen grâ

Love makes me young gray

und enweiz doch rehte wâ

and I-not-know yet rightly where

ich sî vinde:

I her find:

sô geswinde

so swift

ist ir wenden und ir wanc,

is her turning and her wavering,

als ich wæne minne hân

as I think love to-have

mir erworben,

for-me won,

sost verdorben

so-is ruined

al mîn werben und mîn wân.

all my striving and my expectation.

Swie daz ich bin Minne ein gast,

However that I am to-Love a stranger,

doch trag ich den swæren last

yet bear I the heavy burden

an dem herzen:

on the heart:

minnen smerzen

of-love pains

hânt bekümbert mir den muot.

have troubled to-me the spirit.

alsus dulde ich minne quâl

thus endure I love's torment

stæteclîchen, sunder twâl;

steadfastly, without delay;

Minne mîden

Love to-avoid

muoz ich liden:

must I suffer:

doch weiz ich, diu Minne ist guot.

yet know I, the Love is good.

Minne ist liebe ein füegerîn,

Love is of-love a joiner,

Minne müeze

Love may

mit ir süeze

with her sweetness

lieben mich der frouwen mîn.

to-endor me to-the lady mine.

Sol ez mir sô liebe ergân

(if)-Shall it to-me so dearly turn-out

als ich mir erwünscht hân,

as I for-me wished have,

daz diu reine,

that the pure-one,

wandels eine,

of-fault alone,

mir ze trôst erbarmet sich,

to-me as comfort takes-pity herself,

sô lern ich der fröiden kunst:

so learn I of-the joys art:

hân ich mîner frouwen gunst,

(if)-have I of-my lady favor,

daz ir sinne

that her senses

durh die minne

through the love

minneclîchen minnent mich,

lovingly love me,

sô wurd ich nâch liebe frô,

so would-become I after love glad,

wan ir güete

for her goodness

mîn gemüete

my spirit

höhet für die sunnen hô.

raises above the sun high.

XXI,21

Kalte winde

Cold winds

gar geswinde

quite swift

selwent heide:

dull heath:

grôzer leide

of-greater sorrows

kumt uns mê.

comes to-us more.

winter nâhet

winter nears

unde gâhet

and hastens

ûf uns balde:

upon us quickly:

vor dem walde

before the wood

dorret klê.

withers clover.

dâ von swîget manic nahtegal:

there from grows-silent many-a nightingale:

cîsel schrîget,

siskin shrieks,

ungefrîget

unfreed

ist sîn swærc.

is bis grief.

wê der mære!

woe of-the tidings!

linde ist val.

linden is pale.

Swære buoze,

Grievous penance,

starke unmuoze

strong unrest

muoz ich dulden

must I endure

nâch ir hulden,

after her favors,

der ich bin.

whose I am.

sunder lachen

without laughing

muoz ich wachen,

must I wake,

nahtes sorgen,

at-night to-care,

trûren morgen

to-mourn in-the-morning

âne sin,

without sense,

sît daz mir ir munt ein lachen bôt,

since that to-me her mouth a laughing offered,

daz erlûhte,

that shone-out,

des mich dûhte,

of-which me it-seemed,

sam diu sunne

as the sun

gên mir brunne

toward me might-burn

rubînrot.

ruby-red.

Ich gedâhte,

I thought,

dô mir brâhte

when to-me brought

fröide ir lachen,

joy her laughing,

daz mir swachen

that to-me to-weaken

solde leit.

should sorrow.

an der süezen

in the sweet-one's

ougen grüezen

eyes' greeting

sach ich dicke:

saw I often:

in dem blicke

in the glance

sich versneit

itself cut-away

an ir ougen dâ mîn bester sin,

in her eyes there my best sense,

wan ich brinne

for I burn

nâch ir minne,

after her love,

diu mich schiuhet

who me shuns

und noch flühet,

and still flees,

swâ ich bin.

wherever I am.

Swen diu Minne

Whom the Love

sîner sinne

of-his senses

gar beroubet,

quite robs,

der geloubet

he believes

dester baz

the better

daz mir swære

that to-me grief

siuftebære

sigh-bearing

lit in herzen:

lies in heart:

minne smerzen

love's pains

füegent daz,

cause that,

wan ich die vil guoten mîden muoz.

for I the very good-one avoid must.

sol ich lîden

shall I suffer

sî vermîden,

her to-avoid,

lebe ich iemer,

live I ever,

mir wirt niemer

to-me becomes never

sorgen buoz.

of-cares remedy.

Frouwe reine,

Lady pure,

wandels eine,

of-fault alone,

süeze, wende

sweet-one, turn-away

mîn ellende,

my exile,

lieber lîp.

dear person.

lâ mîn werben

let my striving

niht verderben:

not to-perish:

eteswenne

sometimes

triuwe erkenne,

faith know,

sælic wîp.

blessed woman.

herzen trût, dû lâ geniezen mich

of-heart darling, thou let to-profit me

daz diu ougen

that the eyes

sunder lougen

without denial

iemer wolden

ever willed

daz sî solden

that they should

sehen dich.

to-see thee.

XXI,22

Jârlanc valwet manic anger

This-year grows-pale many-a meadow

und ouch vil der liechten heiden,

and also many of-the bright heaths,

ouwe und ouch der grüne walt.

meadow and also the green wood.

winter borget in niht langer,

winter lends to-them not longer,

er ist grimme und unbescheiden:

he is grim and unfitting:

sost sîn twingen manicvalt.

so-is his compelling manifold.

doch verklagte ich wol diu leit
yet would-lament-away I well the sorrows

und die winterlîchen swære,
and the winterly griefs,

trôste mich diu sældenbære,
comforted me the blessing-bearing-one,

der mîn dienest ist bereit.
to-whom my service is ready.

Die ich in dem herzen minne
Whom I in the heart love

und in rehter liebe meine,
and in right love mean,

diu ist gar gewaltic mîn.
she is quite master of-me.

sich hânt alle mîne sinne
themselves have all my senses

gar vereinet dur sî eine:
quite united for her alone:

doch muoz ich ir frömde sîn.
yet must I to-her strange be.

wâfen senelîcher nôt!
alas of-yearning distress!

wie sol daz mîn herze erliden?
how shall that my heart endure?

muoz ich sî iht langer mîden,
(if)-must I her aught longer to-avoid,

sô bin ich an frôiden tôt.
so am I in joys dead.

Ich hân jâmer nâch der guoten

I have misery after the good-one

stæteclichen alle stunde,

steadfastly every hour,

dur daz sî ist also guot.

for that she is so good.

ich wold ir genâden muoten,

I would of-her mercy to-desire,

daz sî mir noch fröide gunde

that she to-me still joy granted

mit ir willen, ob siz tuot.

with her will, if she-it does.

al mîn trôst lît gar an ir:

all my comfort lies quite in her:

nieman sol mir daz verkêren,

no-one shall to-me that take-amiss,

ob mich jâmert nâch der hêren,

if me pines after the lofty-one,

die mîn herze meinet mir.

whom my heart means to-me.

Sît mîn herze mir sî meinet,

Since my heart to-me her means,

dâ von muoz ouch ich sî minnen

there from must also I her to-love

herzeclîchen iemer mê.

heartily ever more.

swem sîn herze ein liep sô meinet,

to-whom his heart a dear-one so means,

der mac herzeliep gewinnen:

he may heart's-dear-one win:

herzeliebe tuot niht wê,

heart's-love does not hurt,

wan, als ichz bescheiden sol,

for, as I-it explain shall,

êst ein minnegernder smerze:

it-is a love-desiring pain:

swâ gein liebe gert daz herze,

wherever toward love desires the heart,

dâ fröit lieb gedinge wol.

there gladdens dear hope well.

Sælic wîp, genâde sende

Blessed woman, mercy send

mir, sît ich genâde muote:

to-me, since I mercy desire:

hilf, genâden rîchez wîp!

help, of-mercy rich woman!

herzen trût, mir sorge wende:

of-heart darling, for-me care turn-away:

mîn vil liebez lieb daz guote,

my very dear dear-one the good-one,

ungenâde mir vertrîp.

ungraciousness for-me drive-away.

dîn genâde tuot mich frô:

thy mercy makes me glad:

wilt dû, frouwe, dich erbarmen

(if)-wilt thou, lady, thee take-pity

über mich vil senden armen,

over me very yearning poor-one,

sô stêt mîn gemüete hô.

so stands my spirit high.

Jakob von Warte

Six songs. Four are songs of the season: the first bears sweet singing in the meadows and the heath clothed against May; the second finds that heath parted from its garment under winter; the third has May coming with many beauties; the fourth a heart that frets at the turn of the year. The fifth complains that the queen of his heart leaves him mourning. The last is a dawn song in dialogue — a watchman warns the knight that a cloud is graying toward day and bids the lovers part.

XXII,1

Man sol hoeren süezez singen

One shall to-hear sweet singing

in dien ouwen über al,

in the meadows over all,

lobelichen sanc erklingen,

praiseworthy song ring-out,

sunder von der nahtegal;

especially from the nightingale;

schouwent ûf den anger breit

behold upon the meadow broad

und ouch an der liechten heide,

and also on the bright heath,

wie schône si sich mit ir kleide

how fairly she herself with her garment

gên dem meien hât bekleit.

toward the May has clothed.

Diu zît ist in werder schouwe:

The season is in worthy sight:

maniger hande blüemelin

of-many kind little-flowers

lachent ûz des meien touwe

laugh out-of the May's dew

gên der liechten sunnen schîn;

toward the bright sun's radiance;

waz sol trœsten mir den muot,

what shall to-comfort for-me the spirit,

sît mich twinget herzen swære,

since me compels of-heart grief,

bî der ich vil gerne wære,

beside whom I very gladly were,

daz diu mir niht gnâde tuot?

that she to-me not mercy does?

Ach vil minneclîchiu guote,

Ah very lovely good-one,

enbint mich von sender nôt,

unbind me from yearning distress,

lâ mich niht ûz dûner huote,

let me not out-of thy keeping,

ald ich bin an fröiden tô.

or I am in joys dead.

ich sol dûner helfe gern:

I shall of-thy help to-desire:

lâstu mîn herze ûz dûner pfliht,

(if)-lettest-thou my heart out-of thy charge,

sô kan mich getrœsten niht,

so can me to-comfort nothing,

dun wellest mich genâde wern.

unless-thou wouldest me mercy grant.

Gewalt noch mangem an gesiget,

Violence still to-many-a-one on conquers,

daz høeret man die wîsen jehen,

that hears one the wise to-declare,

dâ man genâde niht enpfliget:

where one of-mercy not practices:

daz solm an mîner frouwen spehen;

that shall-one in my lady espy;

diu ist gar gewaltic mîn,

she is quite master of-me,

âne gnâde diu vil guote

without mercy the very good-one

lât mich trûren, in unmuote

lets me to-mourn, in ill-spirit

muoz ich an mîn ende sîn.

must I to my end be.

Minne, du solt sîn gemeine,

Love, thou shalt be mutual,

ald ich bin an fröiden tô;

or I am in joys dead;

füege daz mich lieplîch meine

bring-about that me lovingly regard

der vil liebun mündel rô;

the very dear-one's little-mouth red.

sît du bist gewaltic mîn

since thou art master of-me

unde leitest mîne sinne,

and leadest my senses,

swie du wilt, ach werdiu Minne,

however thou wilt, ah worthy Love,

sô solt ouch ir gewaltic sîn.

so shalt also of-her master be.

XXII,2

Ahten ûf die heide,

Heed upon the heath,

wie si von ir kleide

how she from her garment

hât gescheiden sich:

has parted herself;

kleiner vogeles singen

of-little birds' singing

wil der winter twingen,

will the winter compel,

des bedunket mich,

of-it it-seems me,

manic herze, daz mit fröiden êret

many-a heart, which with joys honors

walt, den anger und den plân;

wood, the meadow and the plain;

diu zît hât sich verkêret,

the season has itself turned,

dâ von siht man ir gemüete kumberlîche stân.

there from sees one their spirit afflictedly stand.

Sit der winter twinget

Since the winter compels

und ze sorgen bringet

and to cares brings

manic vogellîn,

many-a little-bird,

zuo den ich gelîche

to which I liken

mîn herze sicherlîche

my heart surely

muoz in swære sîn,

must in grief be,

von dem winter niht, mich hât betwungen

by the winter not, me has compelled

diu Minne und ouch ein sælic wîp:

the Love and also a blessed woman:

swie mir ist ungelungen,

however to-me is ill-fared,

doch sol man wizzen daz vil tugende hât ir werder lîp.

yet shall one to-know that much of-virtue has her worthy person.

Swie mir tuot diu guote,

However to-me does the good-one,

si wont mir in dem muote

she dwells to-me in the spirit

zallen zîten bî,

at-all times by,

in herzen und in sinne;

in heart and in mind;

sus râtet mir diu Minne,

thus counsels to-me the Love,

deich ir diener sî.

that-I her servant be.

dar under lât diu liebe mich verderben:

there under lets the dear-one me to-perish:

ach Minne, wie tuostu mir sô?

ah Love, how doest-thou to-me so?

wiltu mir niht erwerben

(if)-wilt-thou for-me not to-win

gnâde an mîner frouwen, sich, sô werde ich niemer frô.

mercy from my lady, behold, so become I never glad.

Went ir wunder schouwen

(if)-Will ye wonder to-behold

an mîner lieben frouwen,

in my dear lady,

wie si krenket mich

how she injures me

in herzen und an sinne?

in heart and in mind?

hôchgeloptiu Minne,

high-praised Love,

jâ muoz ich frâgen dich,

yes must I to-ask thee,

wenne nimt der kumber mîn ein ende,

when takes the affliction mine an end,

den mir diu minneclîche tuot?

which to-me the lovely-one does?

ach süeze Minne, in wende,

ah sweet Love, it turn-away,

füege du dich in ir herze und gib ir minnen muot.

join thou thyself into her heart and give to-her of-love spirit.

Sol ich alsus verderben,

(if)-Shall I thus to-perish,

daz ich niht kan erwerben

that I not can to-win

mîner frouwen gruoze,

of-my lady greeting,

von ir ein hôchgemüete,

from her a high-spirit,

waz ist nu wîbes güete?

what is now woman's goodness?

daz ich sprechen muoz.

that I speak must.

wil wîbes güete sus an mir erwinden,

(if)-wills woman's goodness thus in me to-cess,

ach ich gar unsælic man,

ah I quite unblessed man,

wâ sol ich fröide vinden,

where shall I joy find,

sît mîns herzen wunne mir von ir niht fröide gan!

since of-my heart delight to-me from her not joy grants!

XXII,3

Meie kumt mit maniger schœne,

May comes with many-a beauty,

man høert kleiner vogeles dœne

one hears of-little birds melodies

in dien ouwen über al.

in the meadows over all.

wunneclîchez ist ir singen,

delightful is their singing,

man siht durch daz gras ûf dringen

one sees through the grass up press

vil der bluomen âne zal.

many of-the flowers without number.

fröit iuch, kint, der lieben zît

rejoice yourselves, children, of-the dear season

und der wunneclîchen mære,

and of-the delightful tidings,

wünschet daz diu sældenbære
wish that the blessing-bearing-one
 trøeste mich, an der mîn fröide lît.
comfort me, in whom my joy lies.

Ein mündel rôr hât mich betwungen,
A little-mouth red has me compelled,
 daz mîn herze ist gar berungen,
so-that my heart is quite wrestled-down,
 wie ich ir gediene alsô,
how I to-her may-serve so,
 daz sî mînen dienst enphâhe
that she my service receive
 lieplîch und in niht versmâhe;
lovingly and it not disdain;
 möhte ez sîn, ich wære vrô.
might it be, I were glad.
 frouwe guot, du hâst gewalt,
lady good, thou hast power,
 minne dienet dir für eigen:
love serves thee as bond-servant:
 wiltu triuwe an mir erzeigen,
(if)-wilt-thou faith in me to-show,
 sælic wîp, mîn fröide ist manicvalt.
blessed woman, my joy is manifold.

Rehter schœne ein morgensterne
Of-right beauty a morning-star
 ist mîn frouwe, der ich gerne
is my lady, whom I gladly
 diene und iemer dienen wil;
serve and ever serve will;

swie kleine si mir fröide mêre,
however little she to-me joy increase,
 ich wünsche daz ir sælde und êre
I wish that to-her blessing and honor
 volge und dâ bî fröiden vil.
follow and there by of-joys much.
 ir güete und ir bescheidenheit
her goodness and her discretion
 ist leider gar gên mir entslâfen:
is sadly quite toward me fallen-asleep:
 muoz ich si dar umbe strâfen,
must I her there about to-rebuke,
 dast mîn klage und al mîn herzeleit.
that-is my lament and all my heart-sorrow.

Wil diu liebe mîn gemüete
(if)-Wills the dear-one my spirit
 trœsten mit ir wîbes güete,
to-comfort with her woman's goodness,
 sô mag ich vil wol genesen:
so may I very well recover:
 dar zuo hab ich guot gedingen,
there to have I good hope,
 lât diu liebe mir gelingen,
(if)-lets the dear-one to-me to-succeed,
 sô mag ich in fröiden wesen.
so may I in joys be.
 herzeliebe frouwe mîn,
heart-dear lady mine,
 du solt wenden mîne swære,
thou shalt turn-away my grief,

minneclîchiu, sældenbære:

lovely, blessing-bearing-one:

sô mag ich in fröiden sîn.

so may I in joys be.

Frouwe mîn, dur dîne güete

Lady mine, for thy goodness

twinc mîn herze ûz ungemüete,

compel my heart out-of ill-spirit,

deiz ze fröiden kêre sich.

that-it to joys turn itself.

sât mir fröide ist worden wilde,

since to-me joy is become strange,

sô êr an mir wîbes bilde:

so honor in me of-woman form:

nieman mac getröesten mich,

no-one may to-comfort me,

wan dîn helfe, frouwe guot.

save thy help, lady good.

du maht mir wol fröide machen,

thou canst to-me well joy make,

du kanst mich ouch fröiden swachen:

thou canst me also of-joys to-deprive:

swie du wilt, sam stêt mîn muot.

however thou wilt, so stands my spirit.

XXII,⁴

Manic herze sorget ûf die zît,

Many-a heart cares upon the season,

die der winter bringet offenbar;

which the winter brings openly;

anger, heid von im geselwet lît,

meadow, heath by him dulled lies,

des waldes hœhe grîse siht man gar;

the wood's height gray sees one wholly;

diu kleinen vogellîn sint ouch geswigen,

the small little-birds are also silent,

des winters twingen tuot in wê:

of-the winter compelling does to-them woe:

sô fürhte ich daz der lieben ungenâde welle an mir gesigen.

so fear I that of-the dear-one ungraciousness will over me conquer.

Muoz ich disen senden kumber tragen

Must I this yearning affliction to-bear

iemer mêre unz an mînen tût?

ever more until to my death?

wisse ich, wem ich solde den geklagen

knew I, to-whom I should it to-lament

unde mîne lange wernden nôt,

and my long lasting distress,

des bedorfte ich gotes armer wol:

of-it would-need I of-God poor-one well:

mîn frouwe hât vergezzen mîn,

my lady has forgotten of-me,

in der dienste ich her vil manigen langen strengen kumber dol.

in whose service I hitherto very many-a long harsh affliction endure.

Mîn gedinge hât mich dar zuo brâht,

My hope has me there to brought,

daz ich muoz in grôzer swære leben;

that I must in great grief to-live;

gên der lieben hâte ich wol gedâht,

toward the dear-one had I well thought,

daz si mir solte hôchgemüete geben.

that she to-me should high-spirit give.

owê, nu krenket si den mînen muot:

alas, now injures she the mine spirit:

gebâre ich sus, gebâre ich sô,

bear-myself I thus, bear-myself I so,

son kan mîn herze erkennen, waz die lieben dunke von mir guot.

so-not can my heart to-know, what the dear-one may-think of me good.

Ahten wie ir minneclîcher lîp

Heed how her lovely person

âne gnâde mich verderbet sô!

without mercy me ruins so!

wâ gesach ie man bescheiden wîp,

where saw ever one a-discreet woman,

diu alsô lange ir diener lieze unvrô

who so long her servant would-leave unglad

als mich diu herzeliebe frouwe mîn?

as me the heart-dear lady mine?

tuo si mir wê, tuo si mir wol,

do she to-me woe, do she to-me well,

ich wil eht iemer mêre in ir dienste unz ûf mîn ende sîn.

I will but ever more in her service until upon my end to-be.

Minne, du hâst mich gar überkomen

Love, thou hast me quite overcome

gewalteclîche gên der frouwen mîn,

violently toward the lady mine,

du hâst mir fröide und hôhen muot benomen:

thou hast from-me joy and high spirit taken:

sol ich iemer in dien banden sîn?

shall I ever in the bonds be?

dâ ist diu herzeliebe unschuldic an:

there is the heart-dear-one guiltless of:

sin weiz niht, Minne, dîner site,

she knows not, Love, of-thy ways,

dâ von diu liebe mîner herzeswære niht erkennen kan.

there from the dear-one of-my heart's-grief nothing know can.

XXII,5

Mich lât mînes herzen küniginne

Me lets of-my heart queen

trûren unde krenket mir die sinne:

to-mourn and injures to-me the senses:

âne ir trôst mag ich niht wol genesen.

without her comfort may I not well to-recover.

ich kan ungemüete niht entwîchen,

I can ill-spirit not to-escape,

swaz ich sage, ez welle an mir gerîchen:

whatever I say, it will over me to-prevail:

diz unbilde solten frouwen lesen.

this wrong should ladies read.

swie aber ich ir güete noch befunde,

however but I her goodness yet might-find,

daz mir wurde ein küssen von ir munde,

that to-me might-become a kiss from her mouth,

dâ von ungemüete mir verswunde.

there from ill-spirit for-me might-vanish.

von der lieb möht ich in fröiden wesen.

by the love might I in joys to-be.

Ich wil werben iemer umb ir hulde,

I will to-sue ever for her favor,

mîner frouwen, swie kûm ich verdulde

of-my lady, however with-difficulty I endure

solhen kumber, den ich von ir trage;

such affliction, which I from her bear;

si kan mînem herzen niht entwenken
she can from-my heart not to-escape
 mit ir frömde, ez müeze an si gedenken;
with her estrangement, it must on her to-think;
 daz beste ich iemer von ir tugenden sage.
the best I ever of her virtues say.
 des hât mîn herze sich gên ir vermezzen,
of-it has my heart itself toward her presumed,
 swie si hât mit sorgen mich besezen,
however she has with cares me beset,
 daz ich mîner fröiden habe vergezzen:
so-that I of-my joys have forgotten:
 âne trôst lâet mich diu liebe in klage.
without comfort leaves me the dear-one in lament.

Ach Minne, wie du mînen kumber mêrest!
Ah Love, how thou my affliction increasest!
 herze, ich volge dir sam du mich lêrest:
heart, I follow thee as thou me teachest:
 dâ von ist mir sende sorge kunt,
there from is to-me yearning care known,
 die ich tougen trage und verborgen;
which I secretly bear and hidden;
 mangan tac, den âbent und den morgen,
many-a day, the evening and the morning,
 bin ich von der minneclîchen wunt.
am I by the lovely-one wounded.
 owê, si lâet mich in den sorgen alten,
alas, she lets me in the cares grow-old,
 dâ von mîn herze muoz sô dicke erkalten.
there from my heart must so often grow-cold.

ich möhte mînen dienest hân behalten,

I might my service have kept,

daz mich trôste danne ir rôter munt.

that me might-comfort then her red mouth.

XXII,6

‘Guot rîter, merke, waz ich sage:

‘Good knight, mark, what I say:

ich hœr die vogeles singen,

I hear the birds sing,

von liebe scheide dich enzît.

from a-dear-one part thee in-time.

ein wolken grâwet gênen dem tage:

a cloud grays toward the day:

ich sihe in schône ûf dringen,

I see it fairly up press,

der melde haz niht fröide gît.

of-the betrayal hatred no joy gives.

nim urloup tougen ze der minneclîchen,

take leave secretly of the lovely-one,

und scheident iuch, daz ist mîn rât

and part yourselves, that is my counsel

(der tac der wil gerîchen),

(the day it will to-prevail),

mit liebe von ein ander, sît diu naht ein ende hât.’

with love from one another, since the night an end has.’

Uz süezem slâfe ein sælic wîp

Out-of sweet sleep a blessed woman

vrâgete, dô si erhôrte

asked, when she heard

den wahter singen von dem tage.

the watchman to-sing of the day.

si sprach 'friunt, getriuwer lîp,
she spoke 'friend, faithful person,

sag mir mit senftem worte,
say to-me with gentle word,

hoerstu diu vogellîn in dem hage?
hearest-thou the little-birds in the grove?

du hâst mîn herze ûz süezem slâfe erschrecket.'
thou hast my heart out-of sweet sleep startled.'

er sprach 'lât iuwer frâgen sîn,
he spoke 'let your asking be,

den rîter balde wecket:
the knight quickly wake:

der morgen kumt, daz sage ich ûf die rechten triuwe mîn.'
the morning comes, that say I upon the right faith mine.'

Diu minnecliche wahte in dô,

The lovely-one waked him then,

si sprach 'ach lieber herre,

she spoke 'ah dear lord,

der wahter kündet uns den tac:

the watchman announces to-us the day:

des bin ich armez wîp unvrô,

of-it am I poor woman unglad,

ich wolte und wære er verre,

I wished that were he far,

der uns zwei gescheiden mac.'

who us two to-part may.'

der rîter sprach 'dîn muot sol vrô belîben,

the knight spoke 'thy spirit shall glad remain,

du solt mich schiere in fröiden sehen

thou shalt me soon in joys to-see

dîn herzeleit vertrîben.

thy heart-sorrow to-drive-away.

got gebe uns heil! ich sihe den morgensternen schône ûf brehen.'

God give us weal! I see the morning-star fairly up break.'

Der von Büwenburg

Six songs, several cast as questions. The first hears birdsong whirl out of the valley and wishes a rich autumn after a bright May, since nobody stays glad without food. One asks where the bright flowers have gone; another asks what the bright thing is peering out of the young grass, and answers itself. A third will sing this year not of good women but of the base. In the fifth, snow whitens the heath where flowers gave light. The last would silence singers who sing for cast-off clothes, whose song Love says drives her from German lands.

XXIII,1

In dem tal ûf dræjet sich

In the dale up whirls itself

sô rîlich gedœne

so rich a-sound

von den vogellîn,

from the little-birds,

daz ez ob den bergen erklinget,

that it above the mountains rings-out,

und diu heide ist wunneclîch

and the heath is delightful

von den bluomen schœne:

from the flowers fair:

dâ birget sich in

there hides itself in

lerk ie sos in lûften gesinget.

lark ever as-she in airs sings.

wünschent daz uns nâh sô liehtem meien

wish that to-us after so bright a-May

komen süle rîchiu herbestwunne,

come should rich autumn-delight,

sît die lenge kunne

since for long can

frô nieman gesîn

glad no-one to-be

âne spîse, pfaffen noch leien.

without food, priests nor laymen.

Grîfent her, mîn herze wil

Reach hither, my heart will

sich nâh ir zerstôzen,

itself after her to-burst,

der ich hân gelebet

for-whom I have lived

dâ her mit dienste sô lange.

there hither with service so long.

mir ist niht ein kindes spil

to-me is not a child's play

selkez herzen bôzen:

such heart's battering:

in leide mir swebet

in sorrow to-me floats

mîn gemüete von dem getwange.

my spirit from the constraint.

wær mîn herze ein adamas sô herte,

were my heart an adamant so hard,

ez möhte sich von sender nôt zerklieben,

it might itself from yearning distress split-apart,

als ez gên der lieben

as it toward the dear-one

ze pîne dâ strebet:

to pain there strives:

in weiz werz sô lange ie generte.

I-not know who-it so long ever preserved.

Schœnez liep gar minneclich,

Fair dear-one quite lovely,

sliuz ûf dîn gemüete,

unlock up thy spirit,

lâ liebe dar in,

let love there in,

diu mir dich zamîen erwerbe.

which for-me thee as-mistress may-win.

des sol Minne twingen dich

of-it shall Love compel thee

und sol dur ir güete

and shall through her goodness

mir teilen den pîn,

for-me to-share the pain,

daz ich niht alleine verderbe.

that I not alone perish.

schœnez liep, mîn sunder trût, dur vuoge

fair dear-one, my special darling, for fitness

rihte mich in ebenholdem sinne,

direct me in equally-favoring mind,

frouwe, dîner minne:

lady, of-thy love:

sô tuon ich in

so do I to-them

minnecliche dienste genuoge.

lovely services enough.

XXIII,2

War sint liechte bluomen komen

Whither are bright flowers come

und daz beste vogelsingen?

and the best bird-singing?

wer hât walt sîn loup benomen?

who has wood its leaf taken?

daz hât winterlîchez twingen.

that has winterly compelling.

herbest, dîn geræt der swære

autumn, thy provision of-the grief

hilfet überwinden michel teil:

helps to-overcome a-great part:

in wird aber niemer geil,

I become but never merry,

ich verneme ê liebiu mære.

I bear before dear tidings.

schiere müeze ein ende hân mîn kumber!

soon may an end have my affliction!

wand er ist krump und ie krumber.

for it is crooked and ever crooked.

Aller fröide mir niht lâ

Of-all joy to-me nothing leaves

Minne ein garn an mînem lîbe.

Love a net upon my body.

ichn weiz wie diu nôt zergât,

I-not know how the distress passes-away,

die ich hân von einem wîbe.

which I have from a woman.

diu mir am herzen lît sô nâhen,

who to-me at-the heart lies so near,

daz ir verrez vrömden græwet mich,

that her distant estranging grays me,

der bin ich sô holt, daz ich

to-whom am I so devoted, that I

sünde vürht dâ von enpfâhen.

sin fear there from to-receive.

schiere müeze ein ende hân mîn kumber!

soon may an end have my affliction!

wand er ist krump und ie krumber.

for it is crooked and ever crooked.

Ougen werdiu vrouwe mîn,

Of-eyes worthy lady mine,

dannoch lieber in dem sinne,

still dearer in the mind,

ruochent wenden mir den pîn,

deign to-turn-away for-me the pain,

sît ich iuch sô nâhe minne.

since I you so nearly love.

iur munt sô rôet dâ ze der nœte

your mouth so red there in the distress

hât gemachet dicke mich unvrô,

has made often me unglad,

daz ich wânde, er bluote alsô:

that I thought, it bled so:

dô was ez von rechter rœte.

then was it from right redness.

schiere müeze ein ende hân mîn kumber!

soon may an end have my affliction!

wand er ist krump und ie krumber.

for it is crooked and ever crooked.

XXIII,3

Waz ist daz liechte daz lûzet her vür

What is that bright that peeps hitber forth

ûz dem jungen grünen gras, als ob ez smiere

out-of the young green grass, as if it smiled

und ez uns ein grüezen wil schimpfen mit abe?

and it to-us a greeting will to-jest too away?

ez sint die bluomen, den sumer ich spür

it are the flowers, the summer I sense

an den vogellînen und an mangem tiere:

in the little-birds and in many-a beast:

ahtent ob nâtûre iht ze schaffenne habe,

heed whether nature aught to do have,

ê daz aller dinge

before that of-all things

stelle nâh der zît.

place after the season.

got gebe daz der herbest sîn êre volbringe,

God grant that the autumn his honor accomplish,

sît des menschen fröide gruntveste dâ lît.

since of-the human joy's foundation there lies.

Wan guot gedinge, sô meht ich sîn tôt

Save good hope, so might I be dead

von ir stætem 'nein ich' und 'in tuon ez nimmer,'

from her steadfast 'no I' and 'I do it never,'

diu niht wan 'jâ gerne' hât vunden an mir.

who nothing but 'yes gladly' has found in me.

wan siht ouch dicke daz schoen âbentrôt

one sees also often that fair evening-red

kumt nâh mangem morgen, der trüebe ist und timmer:

comes after many-a morning, which dull is and dim:

dâ von ich mit dienste niht wenke von ir,

there from I with service not waver from her,

diu von manigen jâren

who from many years

mir noch lônên sol.

to-me still reward shall.

ach het ich erworben die süezen, die clären,
ah bad I won the sweet-one, the bright-one,
 sô wart einem manne zer werlt nie sô wol.
so became to-a man in-the world never so well.

Sich lât doch brechen der herte adamas,
Itself lets yet to-break the hard adamant,
 swenn er vor begozzen wirt mit bockes bluote:
whenever it before poured-over becomes with of-goat blood:
 alsô möht ouch gnâde mit liebe verjagen
so might also mercy with love to-drive-out
 ir ungenâde dur liebe noch baz.
her ungraciousness through love still better.

wer gesaz bî gote an dem rât dâ diu guote
who sat by God at the counsel where the good-one
 mir wart widerteilet? des hoere ich niht sagen.
to-me was denied? of-it hear I nothing to-say.

liebe, in guote invaldic,
love, in goodness simple,

wechsel mir diu leit,
exchange for-me the sorrows,

habs in hôherm muote, des bist du gewaldic:
have-them in higher spirit, of-it art thou master:

sô wirt mêrer muot dir ze namen geseit.
so becomes greater spirit to-thee as name said.

XXIII,4

Sang ich hiure niht von guoten wîben,
Sang I this-year not of good women,

sô sing aber ich nu von den swachen.
so sing but I now of the weak.

wer solt iemer niht wan ein dinc trîben?
who should ever nothing but one thing to-drive?

wir sun ouch der böesen wîbe lachen:

we shall also of-the wicked women to-laugh:

sô gedenkt ein ieglich frouwe reine

so thinks a each lady pure

‘wol mich daz mîn stæter muot

‘well me that my steadfast spirit

mich sô schône hât behuot,

me so fairly has guarded,

daz ich billich heize guot

that I rightly am-called good

und mit nieman hân den spot gemeine!’

and with no-one have the mockery common!’

Ich wânde ein wîp von Iper haben funden,

I thought a woman from Ypres to-have found,

dô ich êrst ersach die minneclîchen:

when I first espied the lovely-one:

nû swachet si an êren zallen stunden,

now weakens she in honors at-all hours,

daz ich si ze hoye wil gelîchen.

so-that I her to Hoyer will to-liken.

ez ist übel umb ein schœne bilde,

it is ill about a fair image,

daz im wont kein wandel bî,

that to-it dwells any fault by,

daz si machet êren vrî;

that she makes of-honors free;

doch swie triuteloht si sî,

yet however dainty she be,

sost ir wîplich güete worden wilde.

so-is her womanly goodness become wild.

Frouwe, ich habe iuch offenlîch und tougen

Lady, I have you openly and secretly

aldâ her gebeten umb iuwer minne;

there hither begged for your love;

nu slahent iuwer tocken in diu ougen,

now strike your dolls into the eyes,

sît ir hânt gên mir sô herte sinne.

since ye have toward me so hard senses.

went ir zêren werden an mir einen?

will ye of-honor to-become in me alone?

ûf mîn triuwe, es mac niht sîn:

upon my faith, it may not be:

tuont ir niht den willen mîn,

(if)-do ye not the will mine,

ich sprich iu ein wörtelîn,

I speak to-you a little-word,

dar an hanget siuften unde weinen.

there on hangs sighing and weeping.

XXIII,5

Solichen wehsel als ich bescheide

Such an-exchange as I explain

mûn wol engelten diu vogellîn,

must surely to-pay-for the little-birds,

der sanc wintlich wispel gesetzt:

whose song wintry whistling replaced:

sô hât snê geblenket die heide,

so has snow whitened the heath,

dâ bluomen gâben ê liechten schîn.

where flowers gave before bright radiance.

uns hât ouch unfrœlich ergetzet

to-us has also ungladly recompensed

loubes ûf den boumen der tuft.

of-leaf upon the trees the hoarfrost.

dâ für sülñ wir jârlanc den âten

there for shall we all-year the breath

einer starken lantwer berâten

with-a strong land-defense to-provide

mit wîne und spîse für swachen luft:

with wine and food against foul air:

dâ von wirt ouch trûren geletzet.

there from becomes also mourning stopped.

Minne ir tumben diener besorget,

Love her foolish servant provides-for,

wan da ich die lieben zuom herzen in

for when I the dear-one to-the heart in

mit den ougen warf, an der stunde

with the eyes cast, at the hour

möhte an ir mîn kel sîn erworget

might on her my throat be strangled

und möhten ougen verrenket mir sîn,

and might eyes wrenched to-me be,

ês in herzen kâme ze grunde.

before-it into heart came to bottom.

dâs sich verslouf in mîn herz alsô,

where-she herself slipped into my heart so,

dâ möht ez vor nôt sîn zerspennen,

there might it from distress be burst-apart,

daz ez wære engenzet von dannen,

so-that it were undone from thence,

wan daz ez diu minne aldô

save that it the love then

vristen, als ich wæne, begunde.

to-preserve, as I think, began.

Mînre fröiden schâcher für buoze

Of-my joys robbers in-place-of penance

lûhten mir mit lôn zuo liechten wegen.

lighted for-me with reward toward bright ways.

mich hânt sorge vinster gevangen:

me have cares darkly captured:

des leb ich in strenger unmuoze.

of-it live I in harsh unrest.

dâ für gip mit trôst mir dîn segen:

there for give with comfort to-me thy blessing:

sô mac mich kein trûren erlangen.

so may me no mourning to-weary.

liep, mirst ouch nâch dir wol als gâch,

dear-one, to-me-is also after thee well so urgent,

des muoz ich verjehen mit hulden,

of-it must I to-confess with favor,

ê ich verdurbe von dînen schulden,

before I perished from thy guilts,

deich dir in seggen ê sliche nâch,

that-I to-thee in sacks before might-creep after,

biz mîn wille würde begangen.

until my will became fulfilled.

XXIII,6

Swaz hiure von des meijen gâbe was sô spæhe,

Whatever this-year of the May's gift was so exquisite,

daz ez lîhte sünde enpfie dur sîne glanzen wæhe,

that it perhaps sin received through its gleaming splendor,

daz wil nu twingen

that will now compel

winter zen dingen,

winter to-the things,

daz ez im der hôvart stêt ze buoze.

so-that it to-him of-the pride stands as penance.

des hât diu heide sich begeben in grâwen orden:

of-it has the heath itself betaken into gray order:

sô ist diu vrîgemuote lêrche dêmüetic worden,

so is the free-spirited lark humble become,

dazs in den lûften

that-she in the airs

hôhe dur gûften

high with jubilation

weder sweibet ûf noch singet suoze.

neither soars up nor sings sweetly.

frôiden unmuoze,

of-joys unrest,

die ich von liebe gewinne,

which I from love win,

irret mich ze sange niht,

binders me from song not,

diz noch swaz bî mir beschiht:

this nor whatever by me happens:

doch lâz ich niemer,

yet leave I never,

ich dien ir iemer:

I serve her ever:

wîp sint alre tugende füegerinne.

women are of-all virtue the-ordainer.

Wîp, wol dir, wol, du lobes werdiu krêâtiure,

Woman, well to-thee, well, thou of-praise worthy creature,

dîn gûete ist zuo menschen heil ein grâlemæzic stiure:

thy goodness is toward men's salvation a grail-like support:

du kanst vor smerzen

thou canst from pains

vîn elliu herzen,

to-free all hearts,

die sich dir buten ê für sendez eigen.

which themselves to-thee offered before as yearning property.

dich hât diu welt von aneenge hort an gerbet,

thee has the world from beginning a-board on bequeathed,

der an sâlden rîcher gûlte ist iemer unverderbet:

which in blessings richer revenue is ever unspoiled:

daz ist dîn êre,

that is thy honor,

diu ist sô hêre,

which is so lofty,

daz nie lop ir zehenden möhte erzeigen.

that never praise her tenth might to-show.

dir sol sich neigen

to-thee shall itself bow

swaz hât ze fröiden begirde;

whatever has to joys desire;

wan swelch wîp von rehter tât

for whatever woman by right deed

teil an dînem namen hât,

part in thy name has,

die sol man prîsen

her shall one to-praise

got dem wercwîsen

God the work-wise

meister zêren und ir hôhen wirde.

master to-honor and her high worth.

Nu rihtent swes geburt ie wart von reinen wîben:

Now judge whoever's birth ever was from pure women:

Minne klagt, man welle si von tiuschen landen trîben

Love laments, one would her from German lands to-drive

mit dem gesange,

with the singing,

den si niht lange

which she not long

hœren wil ûz als unwerden mûnden.

bear will out-of so unworthy mouths.

wer sol dann muot gestæten gegen Minne gûeten?

who shall then spirit to-steady toward Love's goodness?

wer sol ouch vor valschen mannen reiniu wîp behûeten?

who shall also against false men pure women to-guard?

Minne des waltet,

Love of-it rules,

der si behaltet:

who her keeps:

dem gebristet niht an solichen fûnden.

to-him lacks nothing in such devices.

doch wil ich kûnden

yet will I to-announce

wie man ervar, welr wande:

how one may-learn, whoever may-suppose:

swer getragener kleider gert,

whoever of-worn garments desires,

derst niht minnesanges wert;

he-is not of-love-song worth;

die sol man stillen

those shall one to-silence

durh Minne willen,

for Love's sake,

wan ir minnesanc ist wîbes schande.

for their love-song is of-woman disgrace.

Konrad von Altstetten

Three songs. In the first he has sent his heart to the lady, and says his yearning pain goes on and he must stay bound unless the pure one ends it; other women are unwelcome to look at. The second is a dance song whose every strophe opens on the word Wol and praises her hands, her eyes, her brows, her body in turn. The third welcomes May, promises every sad lady good news, and ends wishing an embrace to the man who sang the round-dance.

XXIV,1

Ich hân mîn herze

I have my heart

der lieben gesendet,

to-the dear-one sent,

wan mîn sender smerze

for my yearning pain

derst noch unerwendet,

that-is still unturned-away,

ald ez enwende diu reine und diu süeze,

unless it turn-away the pure-one and the sweet-one,

von der ich müeze

by whom I must

betwungen noch sîn.

compelled still be.

Gnâd, ir keiserinne,

Mercy, ye empress,

lâ gnâde an mir schînen:

let mercy on me shine:

du gip mir dîn minne

thou give to-me thy love

und scheit mich von pinen.

and part me from pains.

lâ mich geniezen der liebe, der güete,

let me enjoy of-the love, of-the goodness,

daz mîn gemüete

because my spirit

gestuont ie an dir.

stood ever by thee.

Wer sol mir nu wenden

Who shall to-me now turn-away

mîn sende ungemüete,

my yearning ill-spirit,

sît ez niht enden

since it not to-end

wil ir wîbes güete,

wills her woman's goodness,

diu mich dâ twinget den âbent, den morgen?

who me there compels the evening, the morning?

ich leb in sorgen:

I live in cares:

daz klage ich ir.

that lament I to-her.

Sol ich sî niht schouwen,

(if)-Shall I her not behold,

deist mir iemer swære:

that-is to-me ever grievous:

sô sint ander frouwen

so are other ladies

ze sehen mir unmære.

to see to-me unwelcome.

in sach ûf erden nie wîp alsô gerne:

I saw on earth never woman so gladly:

schoene als ein sterne

fair as a star

stênt ir ougen frî.

stand her eyes free.

Wâ wart in dem touwe

Where was in the dew

kein bluome alsô schoene

any flower so fair

ze sehenne als mîn frouwe,

to behold as my lady,

diech mit sange krøene?

whom-I with song crown?

ir lîp, der reine, der schoene als ein gimme!

her body, the pure, the fair as a gem!

süeze ist ir stimme:

sweet is her voice:

des fröut sich mîn sin.

of-it rejoices itself my mind.

XXIV,2

Wol dem meien, wol der wunne,

Well to-the May, well to-the delight,

wol der sumerlichen zît!

well to-the summerly season!

tanzen reien, swer daz kunne,

to-dance round-dances, whoever that can,

der kêr ûf den anger wît.

he turn onto the meadow wide.

dâ sun wir den meien grüezen,

there shall we the May greet,

singen der vil reinen süezen,

to-sing to-the very pure sweet-one,

diu kan machen herzen lachen:

who can make hearts laugh:

singent alle wider strît!

sing all in rivalry!

Wol ir henden, wol ir wange,

Well to-her hands, well to-her cheek,

wol ir hiufeln rôsenrôt!

well to-her little-cheeks rose-red!

torste ich senden mit gesange

dared I to-send with song

mîniu liet der ich ie bôt

my songs to-whom I ever offered

mînen dienst mit ganzen triuwen!

my service with whole faith!

den wil ich ir jærlich niuwen,

that will I to-her yearly renew,

daz diu reine, diech dâ meine,

that the pure-one, whom-I there mean,

scheide mich von sender nôt.

may-part me from yearning distress.

Wol ir ougen, wol ir munde,

Well to-her eyes, well to-her mouth,

diu gent liechter varwe schîn!

which give of-bright color radiance!

swer nu tougen blicken kunde,
whoever now secretly glance could,

dem wold ich die frouwen mîn
to-him would I the lady mine

zeigen, daz er sî gesæhe
show, that he her might-see

unde er bî dem eide jæhe,
and he by the oath might-declare,

daz sî zwære in eime jâre
that she truly in one year

sô niht möht gebildet sîn.
so not could pictured be.

Wol ir brâwen, wol ir kinne,
Well to-her brows, well to-her chin,

wol ir kel sô lilienvar!
well to-her throat so lily-colored!

ich muoz grâwen, ald ir minne
I must grow-gray, or her love

tüege mich an sorgen bar.
should-make me of cares free.

seht, dem tuot sî ungelîche,
behold, to-that does she unlike,

diu vil reine sælderîche.
the very pure blessing-rich-one.

wê mir armen! âne erbarmen
woe to-me poor! without pity

diene ich ir mit triuwen gar.
serve I her with faith wholly.

Wol ir lîbe, der sô schône

Well to-her body, which so fairly

nâch dem wunsche sî bereit!

after the wish is prepared!

got nie wîbe gap die krône,

God never to-woman gave the crown,

die sî an ir lîbe treit.

which she on her body wears.

sumerkleit hât er ir gesnitten:

summer-dress has he for-her cut:

sælde und zuht nâch wîbes sitten

blessing and breeding after woman's manner

hât diu reine, diech dâ meine,

has the pure-one, whom-I there mean,

daz sî gar mit zûhten kleit.

that she wholly with decorum clothes-herself.

XXIV,3

Der sumer hât den meien

The summer has the May

frœlîch vür gesant,

gladly forth sent,

der sol fröide heien

he shall joy foster

und daz er sî erkant,

and that he be known,

wan er vertriben was.

for he driven-out was.

ir kint, ir sint niht laz,

ye children, ye be not slack,

ir brüevent in, er bringt iuch bluomen unde gras.

ye praise him, he brings you flowers and grass.

zwô brûne brâ

two brown brows

die hânt mich dâ

they have me there

verwundet sêre und anderswâ.

wounded sorely and elsewhere.

Swel frowe trûric wære,

Whichever lady sad were,

diu sol wesen frô;

she shall be glad;

ich sage ir guotiu mære:

I tell to-her good tidings:

ez meiet hiure alsô

it Mays this-year so

daz aller frowen heil

that of-all ladies well-being

ûf gât ein michel teil.

up goes a great part.

ir kint, ir sunt mit fröiden jârlanc wesen geil.

ye children, ye shall with joys all-year be merry.

ein kele wîz

a throat white

hât wol den prîs:

has well the prize:

sî machet mich an jugende grîs.

she makes me in youth gray.

Nu wünschent al gemeine

Now wish all together

daz mîn leit zergê:

that my sorrow pass-away:

die ich mit triuwen meine

whom I with faith mean

(diu tuot mir dicke wê),

(she does to-me often woe),

daz ich ir werde erkant.

that I to-her become known.

ir kus der wære ein pfant,

her kiss that were a pledge,

den ich vür tûsent marke næme sâ zehant.

which I for thousand marks would-take right at-once.

ein umbevanc

an embrace

mit armen blanc,

with arms white,

des wünscht dem der den reigen sanc.

of-it wish to-him who the round-dance sang.

Der von Trostberg

Six songs. The first imagines a linden bearing bright roses whose beauty adorns the whole wood, and says his lady's virtue is like that; its last two strophes turn aside to a world grown doubting. The second sets her among other ladies as the morning star among stars, and has his soul all but escape at the sight of white teeth in a red mouth. The third addresses a noble lady directly. Two more greet May plainly; the last opens the same way and then turns into a dialogue in which the lady denies robbing him of his senses.

XXV,1

Ob in einem walde ein linde

If in a wood a linden

trüege rôsen lichtgevar,

bore roses bright-colored,

der schoen unde ir süezen winde

their beauty and their sweet winds

zierten al den walt vil gar:

would-adorn all the wood very wholly:

reht alsame diu frowe mân

right likewise the lady mine

hât die tugent, der wîbes name

has the virtue, by-which woman's name

muoz vil hôhe gêret sîn.

must very highly honored be.

Sô si ir ougen nâch ir grüezen

When she her eyes after her greeting

gegen mir wendet dur ir zuht,

toward me turns for her breeding,

sô siuft ich nâch der vil süezen

so sigh I after the very sweet

reinen minneclîchen fruht;

pure lovely creature;

wan got hât an si geleit

for God has on her laid

gar der sælden wunsches rât

quite of-the blessing's wish store

und wîplîche werdekeit.

and womanly worth.

Ich clag ûf die sælderîchen,

I lament upon the blessing-rich-one,

diu mich twinget alle stunt,

who me compels every hour,

ich klag ûf die minneclîchen,

I lament upon the lovely-one,

ir wol stênden rôten munt.

her well standing red mouth.

sost mîn klage, ir schœne an sehen

so-is my lament, her beauty to see

gît mir jâmer alle tage,

gives to-me misery all days,

dâ von mir mac wê geschehen.

there from to-me may woe happen.

Owê manlich hôhgemüete,

Alas manly high-spirit,

wie bist du gelegen sô!

how art thou lain-low so!

wache, reine wîbes güete,

wake, pure woman's goodness,

mache noch die liute frô,
make yet the people glad,
 daz dîn kraft noch werde schîn.
that thy power yet become plain.
 diu werlt ist worden zwîvelhaft:
the world is become doubting:
 sô klag ich den kumber mîn.
so lament I the affliction mine.

Nieman darf dar umbe frâgen,
No-one need there about to-ask,
 obich geswigen an sange bin.
whether-I silent in song am.
 sanges muoz mich wol betrâgen:
of-song must me well to-weary:
 er gêt an den fröiden hin.
it goes with the joys away.
 ja ist sô gar diu werlt verzeit,
yes is so quite the world despairing,
 fröide nimt nu nieman war:
of-joy takes now no-one heed:
 si hât vlorn ir werdekeit.
she has lost her worth.

XXV,2

Sich hât maniger hande dinc verkêret,
Itself has of-many kind thing changed,
 sît mîn frouwe twingen mich began.
since my lady to-compel me began.
 nu hât meie aber die heide gêtet:
now has May again the heath honored:
 in der grüene sene ich sender man.
in the green yearn I yearning man.

rôsen rôt, der varwe ich krœne,
of-roses red, the color I crown,
 diu roet und der sunnen schœne
which redness and of-the sun beauty
 mîner frouwen niht gelîchen kan.
to-my lady not be-liked can.

Ich vant si bî maniger schœnen frouwen,
I found her by many-a fair lady,
 do ich die minneclîchen jungest sach.
when I the lovely-one lately saw.
 dô begunde ich êrst ir gûete schouwen,
then began I first her goodness to-behold,
 wie si vûr ir aller schœne brach,
how she above them all in-beauty broke,
 sam der morgensterne lûhte
as the morning-star shone
 ûz vil sternen, des mich dûhte:
out-of many stars, of-which to-me it-seemed:
 merkent wunder, waz an mir geschach.
mark wonder, what in me happened.

Nâch hât si mir lachend an gewonnen
Nearly has she from-me laughing on won
 mînen lîp, als ich iu wil verjehen:
my body, as I to-you will to-confess:
 von mir wolt diu sêle sîn endrunnen,
from me would the soul have escaped,
 dô ich sach sô minneclîchen brehen
when I saw so lovelily shine
 wîze zene ûz rôtem munde.
white teeth out-of red mouth.

lebte ich tûsent jâr, in kunde

lived I thousand years, I could

munt sô rôten niemer mêr gespehen.

mouth so red never more to-esp.

Dâ gesach ich die vil guoten lachen:

There saw I the very good-one to-laugh:

dô begunde ir mundes rôter schîn

then began of-her mouth's red radiance

mir sô licht in mînem herzen machen,

to-me so bright in my heart to-make,

daz ich wânde daz diu sêle mîn

that I thought that the soul mine

sæhe in daz wunneclîche

saw into the delightful

wol getâne himelrîche:

well shaped heaven-kingdom:

dô wând ich von ir gescheiden sîn.

then thought I from her parted to-be.

Nu hât iuwer minne gar durgangen,

Now has your love quite pierced,

sælic frouwe, mir herz unde sîn:

blessed lady, to-me heart and mind:

nu hât mich mîn dienest niht vervangen,

now has me my service not availed,

da ich mit sorgen inne galtet bin.

wherein I with cares within paid am.

mînes dienstes wil ich swîgen
of-my service will I to-keep-silent

und wil ûf genâde nîgen:
and will upon mercy to-bow:

des lât mich geniezen, künigin!
of-it let me to-profit, queen!

XXV,3

Ich klage dir, edeliu frouwe hêre,
I lament to-thee, noble lady lofty,

daz ich fröiden eine stân
that I of-joys alone stand

von dînen schulden: daz verkêre,
by thy fault: that turn-around,

træste mich vil senden man.
comfort me very yearning man.

ich lebe in senelîcher nôt,
I live in yearning distress,

sît mîniu ougen lachen sâhen
since my eyes laughing saw

dînen lieben munt sô rôt.
thy dear mouth so red.

Ich wânde, ich iemer solde lachen,
I thought, I ever should to-laugh,

do ich dich, frouwe, lachen sach.
when I thee, lady, to-laugh saw.

mîn muot begunde an fröiden swachen,
my spirit began in joys to-weaken,

dô mîn herze mir verjach,
when my heart to-me confessed,

ez müese eht dîn gevangen sîn.
it must but thy captive be.

ân urloup schiet ez von mir balde
without leave parted it from me quickly

zuo dir, liebiu frouwe mîn.
to thee, dear lady mine.

Rôsenrôt ist ir daz lachen,
Rose-red is to-her the laughing,

der vil lieben frouwen mîn.
of-the very dear lady mine.

waz kunde er wonders an ir machen,
what could he of-wonders in her to-make,

der ir gap sô lichten schîn!
who to-her gave so bright radiance!

si ist mîns herzen ôsterspil
she is of-my heart Easter-play

iemer mêre unz an mîn ende:
ever more until to my end:

mîn herze von ir niht enwil.
my heart from her not wills.

XXV,4

Wol dir meie, wol dir wunne,
Well to-thee May, well to-thee delight,

du fröist aber diu vogellîn!
thou gladdenest again the little-birds!

wê im, der dir leides gunne
woe to-him, who to-thee of-sorrow grants

und mit valsche gedenke dîn!
and with falsehood thinks of-thee!

nît und haz ist nu genæme:
envy and hatred is now acceptable:

der muoz mir sîn widerzæme;

that must to-me be repugnant;

frouwen gruoze mir tæte baz.

of-ladies greeting to-me would-do better.

Nu ist bekleidet wol diu heide

Now is clothed well the heath

liechter varwe wunneclîch.

of-bright color delightfully.

walt und ouwe gruoent beide:

wood and meadow grow-green both:

meie, du bist fröiden rîch.

May, thou art of-joys rich.

swer nu wil die zît vertriben,

whoever now will the season to-drive-away,

der sol dienen werden wîben:

he shall to-serve worthy women:

wîbes lôn gît fröiden vil.

of-woman reward gives of-joys much.

Wil diu minneclîche reine,

(if)-Wills the lovely pure-one,

sô fröit sich mîn sender lîp

so rejoices itself my yearning person

und wirt trûren von mir kleine,

and becomes mourning from me little,

træstet mich si sælic wîp.

comforts me she blessed woman.

al mîn nôt und mîne swære
all my distress and my grief

swindet, wil diu lobebære
vanishes, wills the praiseworthy-one

und ir süezez mündel rô.
and her sweet little-mouth red.

XXV,5

Nu ist des meien schœne:
Now is of-the May beauty:

wan hæret süeze dœne.
do hear sweet melodies.

die werden zît ich krœne:
the worthy season I crown:

der winter wil zergân.
the winter will pass-away.

er ist vil gar gewachet:
he is very quite weakened:

der liebe sumer machet
the dear summer makes

daz dur den klê nu lachet
that through the clover now laughs

manc bluome wol getân.
many-a flower well shaped.

nu stât bekleit diu heide
now stands clothed the heath

mit wunneclîcher wât:
with delightful garment:

si ist worden frî vor leide.
she is become free from sorrow.

mit liechter ougen weide
with of-bright eyes pasture

manc anger schône stât.
many-a meadow fairly stands.

Owê het ich ir hulde,

Alas bad I her favor,

von der ich kumber dulde!

from whom I affliction endure!

des wunsches übergulde

of-the wish the-utmost

lît an der frouwen mîn.

lies in the lady mine.

si ist ganzer tugende ein krône

she is of-whole virtue a crown

und pfligt ir zühte schône.

and practices her breeding fairly.

sold ich ir süezem lône

should I to-her sweet reward

sô lange frömde sîn,

so long strange be,

sô sage ichz iu, frô Minne,

so say I-it to-you, lady Love,

daz ich an iu verzage:

that I of you despair:

ich vlüre gar die sinne.

I should-lose quite the senses.

nu helfent, küniginne,

now help, queen,

von senelîcher klage!

from yearning lament!

XXV,6

Willekomen sî uns der meie,

Welcome be to-us the May,

er bringt uns manger hande bluot,

he brings to-us of-many kind bloom,

bluomen unde maniger leie

flowers and of-many kinds

des der winter niht entuot.

which the winter not does.

sô fröit sich allez daz dir ist

so rejoices itself all that there is

gegen der schoenen sumerwunne,

toward the fair summer-delight,

wan daz fröide an mir gebrist.

save that joy in me lacks.

Frowe, getörste ich nû genenden,

Lady, dared I now to-venture,

sô klagt ich dir mîne nôt.

so would-lament I to-thee my distress.

‘herre, kunde ich nôt erwenden,

‘lord, could I distress to-turn-away,

sô want ich vil manigen tât.’

so would-avoid I very many-a death.’

juncfrouwe, ir tœtent mînen lîp.

maiden, ye kill my life.

‘dâ für sô biute ich mîn unschulde,’

‘there for so offer I my innocence,’

sprach daz minneclîche wîp.

spoke the lovely woman.

Nu sprich an, minneclîche guote,

Now speak on, lovely good-one,

dur dîn rôtez mündelîn,

by thy red little-mouth,

wes ist dir gegen mir ze muote,

of-what is to-thee toward me in spirit,

mîner sinne ein rouberîn?

of-my senses a robber?

si sprach 'wie meint irz? ald dur waz

she spoke 'how mean ye-it? or for what

bin ich diu iuch der sinne roubet?

am I she-who you of-the senses robs?

wê war umbe tæte ich daz?

woe where about would-do I that?

Ir man, ir wellent âne wizzen

Ye men, ye will without knowing

frouwen in dem herzen tragen.

ladies in the heart to-bear.

ob ir iuch hânt an eine geflizzen,

if ye you have on one bent,

der sult irz mit zûhten sagen:

to-her shall ye-it with decorum to-say:

sô mugt ir schiere hân vernomen

so may ye soon have heard

ob iuwer biten ald iuwer flêhen

whether your begging or your entreating

iu iemer sol ze trôste komen.'

to-you ever shall to comfort come.'

Frouwe, ich wil, nâch dînem râte,
Lady, I will, after thy counsel,

vâhen an dir selben an.
to-begin with thee thyself on.

hab ich gesûmet mich ze spâte,
(if)-have I delayed myself too late,

des ich dich mit dienste man,
of-which I thee with service admonish,

sô hilf mir, liebiu frowe mîn.
so help to-me, dear lady mine.

stirb ich in disen ungenâden,
(if)-die I in these disfavours,

frouwe, sost diu schulde dîn.
lady, so-is the guilt thine.

Wernher von Hönberg

Eight songs, set apart by the farewell for heathen lands. Twice he takes leave of the land, leaving heart and spirit with the lady as a pledge: though he travel from the Christians to the heathen he will be her servant. One asks Love why she has bound his senses so fast, then grants he would not escape; a third curses all who keep him from her; another asks whether Love taught her the sorcery. One asks God to undo the devil who holds what he wants and set him in that place. The seventh laments the turned season; the eighth dares not speak to her.

XXVI,¹

Mit urlob wil ich hinnen varn

With leave will I hence to-fare

und scheiden von dem lande

and to-part from the land

und niemer wider komen drin,

and never back to-come therein,

si müez ez mir erlauben

she must it to-me to-allow

und ze friunde mich enpfân ân allen valschen wanc.

and as friend me to-receive without all false wavering.

wan sehe mich rîch, wan sehe mich arn,

whether-one see me rich, whether-one see me poor,

sô lâz ich in ir bande

so leave I in her bonds

herz unde muot, lîp unde sin:

heart and spirit, body and mind:

wil si mich lebens rouben,

(if)-wills she me of-life to-rob,

daz stêt an ir eine gar, nâch der mîn herze ie ranc.

that stands at her alone wholly, after whom my heart ever strove.

doch triuwe ich ir, si ist sô guot,

yet trust I to-her, she is so good,

daz si mir wende sterben.

that she to-me turn-away dying.

ich wil es niemer ab gelân, ich hân den muot,

I will of-it never off to-leave, I have the spirit,

und solt ich drumb verderben:

and should I therefor to-perish:

ich diene ir al die wîle ich lebe, seit si mirs niemer danc.

I serve her all the while I live, says she to-me-it never thanks.

XXVI,2

Mîn vrô minneclîche Minne,

My lady lovely Love,

war umb hânt ir mir die sinne

where about have ye to-me the senses

sô sêr sô vast an si gewant

so sorely so fast to her turned

daz ich ir niht mac entwenken?

that I from-her not may to-escape?

zwâr ir solt iuch baz bedenken

truly ye should you better to-bethink

unde ringen mir diu bant.

and to-loosen for-me the bands.

nein, ich wil doch niht endrinnen

no, I will yet not to-escape

von ir mit herzen noch mit sinnen:

from her with heart nor with senses:

des sî mîn triwe mit eit ir pfant.

of-it be my faith with oath her pledge.

Ich wil gerne sîn gevangen:

I will gladly be captured:

des twinget mich ir munt, ir wangen,

of-it compels me her mouth, her cheeks,

ir schoen, ir güete, ir wîplich zuht
her beauty, her goodness, her womanly breeding

und ir frouwelich geberde.
and her ladylike bearing.

got der was in hôhem werde
God he was in high worth

do er geschuof die reinen fruht,
when he created the pure fruit,

wan im was gar wol ze muote.
for to-him was quite well in spirit.

mit ir güete diu vil guote
with her goodness the very good-one

vienc mich ân aller leige fluht.
caught me without of-any kind flight.

Nu hât si mich sô gebunden
Now has she me so bound

daz mîn herze ist zallen stunden
that my heart is at-all hours

bî ir swar ich lande var:
by her whither I of-lands fare:

sô enwil ez niht von dannen.
so wills it not from thence.

si hât ez alsô verspannen
she has it so fastened

daz ez niender anderswar
that it nowhere elsewhither

mac gewenken ûz ir stricke.
may to-slip out-of her snare.

wær ich bî dem herzen dicke,
were I by the heart often,

ich wær aller sorgen bar.
I were of-all cares bare.

XXVI,3

Mit urlob wil ich scheiden von dem lande,

With leave will I to-part from the land,

herz unde muot daz lâz ich ir ze pfande:

heart and spirit that leave I to-her as pledge:

sin und gedank die wen von ir niht scheiden,

mind and thought they will from her not to-part,

si sint bî ir mit stæteclîchen triuwen:

they are by her with steadfast faith:

daz ist alsô und sol mich doch niht riuwen;

that is so and shall me yet not to-rue;

und fûer ich von den kristen zuo den heiden,

and fared I from the Christians to the heathens,

sô wil ich doch ir diener sîn,

so will I yet her servant to-be,

diu mich dâ twinget her von kindes jugende.

who me there compels hither from a-child's youth.

ich wil der lieben vrouwen mîn

I will to-the dear lady mine

mit willen dienen dur ir wîplîch tugende.

with will to-serve for her womanly virtue.

swie si mich hât beroubet muotes und der sinnen gar,

however she me has robbed of-spirit and of-the senses wholly,

ich nîg aldar: daz muoz mir sîn erloubet,

I bow thither: that must to-me be allowed,

swie verre ich von den landen var.

however far I from the lands fare.

XXVI,4

Mich jâmert ûz der mâze

Me pines out-of the measure

nâch der vil lieben vrouwen mîn.

after the very dear lady mine.

got alle die verwâze,

God all those curse,

dur die ich schiuhen muoz

for whom I shun must

ir wîplich zartez bilde,

her womanly tender form,

ir mündel rôt, ir wengel schîn:

her little-mouth red, her little-cheek shining:

sol mir daz wesen wilde,

(if)-shall to-me that be strange,

dâ bî ir friuntlich gruoz,

there by her friendly greeting,

ir kinne, ir kel, ir goltvar hâr,

her chin, her throat, her gold-colored hair,

ir hende, ir arme blanc,

her hands, her arms white,

ir lîp, ir nas, ir ougen klâr,

her body, her nose, her eyes bright,

sol ich daz lange mîden,

(if)-shall I that long to-avoid,

sô muoz ich kumber liden

so must I affliction to-suffer

und wurde an fröiden kranc.

and become in joys weak.

XXVI,5

Ez ist ein spot, wart ie herze von leide versêret,

It is a mockery, was ever a-heart by sorrow wounded,

sam daz mîne, Minne, daz ist dîn getât.

like that-of mine, Love, that is thy deed.

ich bin ir sot, sus hât si mir die sinne verkêret:

I am of-her a-fool, thus has she to-me the senses turned:

wizzent daz si mich gar ze strenclîchen hât.

know that she me quite too harshly has.

ich muoz eigen sîn

I must a-bondman to-be

swie si wil diu frouwe mîn.

however she wills the lady mine.

ach rîcher got, hât si Minne den zouber gelêret?

ah rich God, has she Love the magic taught?

möht ich den zerbrechen, mîn wurde guot rât.

might I that to-break-apart, of-me would-become good counsel.

Si schetzet mich unde leit mir ze kostlîche stiure;

She taxes me and lays on-me too costly a-tax;

dar zuo muoz ich singen wie lieplich si sî.

there to must I to-sing how lovely she be.

sist minneclich und gestellet ze sehenne gehiure.

she-is lovely and shaped to behold fair.

swem si missevellet, der ist ougen vrî.

to-whom she displeases, he is of-eyes free.

in gesach nie wîp

I saw never a-woman

hân sô êren gernden lîp.

to-have so of-honor desiring person.

si schetzet mich michels rîcher an guote noch hiure:

she taxes me much richer in goods still this-year:

alsus dicke wahsent ir tugende bî.

thus often grow her virtues by.

Vil sender nôt hât diu Minne ze pfande gesetzt

Much of-yearning distress has the Love as pledge set

mir vil senden, der si niht læsen enwil.

to-me very yearning, which she not to-redeem wills.

ich bin ê tôt ê si mich mînes dienstes urgetzet,

I am sooner dead ere she me of-my service compensates,

wan der mîner sorgen ist leider ze vil:

for of-those my cares is sadly too much:

sô bin ich niht wert

so am I not worth

des mîn herze von ir gert.

of-what my heart from her desires.

ir mündel rôet hât mich an si mit dienste gehetzt,

her little-mouth red has me on her with service bounded,

und ist doch mîn wân und mîn lôn âne zil.

and is yet my expectation and my reward without limit.

XXVI,6

Wol mich hiute und iemer mê, ich sach ein wîp,

Well me today and ever more, I saw a woman,

der ir munt von rœte bran sam ein fiurîn zunder.

whose her mouth from redness burned like a fiery tinder.

ir wol triutelehter minneclîcher lîp

her well caressable lovely body

hât mich in den kumber brâht: von der minne ein wunder

has me into the affliction brought: of the love a wonder

an ir schœne hât got niht vergezzen.

in her beauty has God nothing forgotten.

ist ez reht als ich ez hân gemezzen,

(if)-is it right as I it have measured,

sô hât si einen rôten rôsen gezen.

so has she a red rose eaten.

So ist der eine, der des niht enwære wert,

So is the one, who of-it not were worth,

daz er læge ûf reinem strô, der triut ir wîplich bilde;

that he lay upon clean straw, he caresses her womanly form;

so ist der ander, der des tôdes dur si gert
so is the other, who of-the death for her desires

und zuo zallen marsen vert, dem muoz si wesen wilde.
and to at-all fairs fares, to-him must she be strange.

heyâ got, wie teilst sô ungelîche!
heyâ God, how dealest-thou so unequally!

ist er hezlich, so ist si minnenclîche:
(if)-is he hateful, so is she lovely:

waz sol der tiuvel ûf daz himelrîche?
what shall the devil upon the heaven-kingdom?

Hêrre got, und het ich von dir den gewalt
Lord God, and had I from thee the power

daz ich möht verstôzen in von der grôzen wunne,
that I might to-thrust-out him from the great delight,

sô möht ich in ganzen frôiden werden alt:
so might I in whole joys become old:

helfent alle biten mir got daz ers mir gunne,
help all to-beg for-me God that be-it to-me grant,

daz der selbe tiuvel werde geletzet
that the same devil become undone

und ich werde an sîne stat gesetzt:
and I become in his place set:

sô bin ich mîs leides wol ergetzet.
so am I of-my sorrow well compensated.

XXVI,7

Ich muoz klagen daz diu zît
I must to-lament that the season

sich sô gar verkêret hât;
itself so quite turned has;

seht wie heid und anger lît

behold how heath and meadow lies

und der walt in tüften stât,

and the wood in mists stands,

dâ man ê hôt vogeles sanc,

where one before heard of-birds song,

der klanc in tal, in lüften schal,

whose sound in dale, in airs rang,

süeze stimme:

sweet voice:

winters grimme

of-winter grimness

tuot siu swîgen über al.

makes them to-be-silent over all.

Waz klag ich der vogeles sanc?

What lament I of-the birds song?

wan klag ich niht mînen pîn?

why lament I not my pain?

nâch der ie mîn herze ranc,

after whom ever my heart strove,

daz der ist niht worden schîn

that to-her is not become plain

der mîn kumber, den ich trage,

this my affliction, which I bear,

ich klage ir niht mîns herzen nôt,

I lament to-her not of-my heart distress,

die ich dulde

which I endure

âne schulde:

without guilt:

ich fürht, ez tuo mir den tôt.

I fear, it do to-me the death.

XXVI,8

Wie mac daz iemer sô beschehen,

How may that ever so happen,

daz ich sô sêre fürht ein wîp,

that I so sorely fear a woman,

daz ich ir niht getar verjehen,

that I to-her not dare to-confess,

wie si betwinget mir den lip

how she compels to-me the body

und wie si mich hât brâht in sende sorge?

and how she me has brought into yearning care?

daz ich der rede gein ir sô lange borge,

that I of-the speech toward her so long forbear,

daz ist des schult, si ist sô guot;

that is of-it the-guilt, she is so good;

und daz mîn lip sô rehte wênic guotes tuot,

and that my person so rightly little of-good does,

dâ von mîn sin niht an si gert:

there from my mind not on her desires:

si ist ze guot, ze swach bin ich,

she is too good, too weak am I,

ich dunk mich niht ir selben wert.

I think myself not of-her herself worth.

Johannes Hadlaub

Fifty-four songs, more than a third of the volume and the largest section in it. The famous pieces come first. In the opening song he waits in pilgrim's dress and hangs a letter on the lady with a hook as she comes from matins. In the second the great lords lay her hand in his, and she bites the hand he holds fast. The eighth names the Manesse and his son the sacristan, who gathered the song-books in Zurich. Beside the love songs stand harvest and autumn songs, dawn songs, and songs cursing the watchers.

XXVII,¹

Ach mir was lange

Ah to-me was long

nâch ir sô wê gesîn:

after her so woe been:

dâ von dâcht ich vil ange

there from thought I very anxiously

daz ir daz würde schîn.

that to-her that might-become plain.

ich nam ir achte

I took of-her heed

in gwande als ein pilgrîn,

in garb as a pilgrim,

sô ich heinlichste machte,

as I most-secretly made,

dô sî gienc von mettîn:

when she went from matins:

dô hât ich von sender klage

then had I about yearning lament

einn brief, dar an ein angel was,

a letter, there on a hook was,

den hieng ich an sî, daz was vor tage,
it hung I on her, that was before day,
 daz sî nicht wisse daz.
so-that she not might-know that.

Mich dûcht sî dæchte
Me seemed she thought
 'ist daz ein tobiç man?
'is that a raving man?
 waz wolde er in die næchte
what wanted he in the nights
 daz er mich grîfet an?
that he me seizes on?'

sî vorchte ir sêre,
she feared for-herself sorely,
 mîn frouwe wol getân:
my lady well made:
 doch sweic sî dÛr ir êre,
yet was-silent she for her honor,
 vil bald sî mir entran.
very quickly she from-me escaped.

des was ich gein ir sô gæhe,
of-that was I toward her so hasty,
 daz echt sî balde kâem hin in,
that indeed she quickly came thither in,
 dÛr daz den brief nieman an ir gesæhe:
for that the letter no-one on her might-see:
 sî brâchte in tougen hin.
she brought it secretly away.

Wie sim dô tæte,

How she-to-it then did,

des wart mir nicht geseit,

of-that was to-me not told,

ob sin hin wurfe ald hæte:

whether she-it away threw or kept:

daz tuot mir sende leit.

that does to-me yearning sorrow.

las sin mit sinne,

read she-it with sense,

sô vant sî sælikeit,

then found she blessedness,

tief rede von der minne,

deep speech of the love,

waz nôt mîn herze treit.

what distress my heart bears.

dem tet sî nie sît gelîche,

to-that did she never since likewise,

daz ir mîn nôt ie würde kunt.

that to-her my distress ever became known.

owê frouwe reine minnenclîche,

alas lady pure loveable,

du tuost mich sêre wunt.

thou makest me sorely wounded.

In torst gesenden

I dared to-send

nie keinen botten ir,

never any messenger to-her,

wan sî nie wolt genenden

for she never would venture

ir trôst erzeigen mir,

her comfort to-show to-me,

der ir kunt tæte,
who to-her known would-make,
 wie kûme ich sî verbir,
how hardly I her forbear,
 und sî genâden bæte
and her of-grace would-beg
 nâch mînes herzen gir.
after my heart's desire.
 dâ vorcht ich ir ungedulde,
there feared I her impatience,
 wan sî mir ist dar umb gehaz
for she to-me is there for hostile
 daz ich sô gar gerne hæte ir hulde.
that I so quite gladly would-have her favor.
 war umbe tuot sî daz?
where fore does she that?

Mîn herze sêre
My heart sorely
 sî mir dürbrochen hât,
she to-me broken-through has,
 wan sî dâ dür, diu hêre,
for she there through, the noble-one,
 sô gwaltecliche gât
so mightily goes
 hin und her wider,
thither and hither back,
 doch ez sî gerne enpfât:
yet it her gladly receives:
 sî lât sich drinne ouch nider
she lets herself therein also down
 mit wunnen die sî hât.
with delights which she has.

sî kan sô gefüege wesen,

she can so fitting be,

swie sî mêr dan mîn herze sî,

however she more than my heart be,

swie sî drinne gât, des mag ich gnesen:

however she therein goes, of-that may I recover:

arges ist sî sô frî.

of-evil is she so free.

Mich dunkt man sæche

Me thinks one would-see

mîn frouwen wol getân,

my lady well made,

der mir mîn brust ûf bræche,

who to-me my breast up would-break,

in mînem herzen stân,

in my heart to-stand,

sô lieplich reine,

so lovely pure,

gar wîplich lobesan.

quite womanly praiseworthy.

in wige ez doch nicht kleine

I weigh it yet not little

daz ich sî sô mac hân.

that I her so may have.

nu muoz sî mir doch des gunnen,

now must she to-me yet of-that grant,

swie sêre sî sich frömdet mir:

however sorely she herself estranges from-me:

doch gan sî mir niht der rechten wunnen,

yet grants she to-me not the true delight,

der ich ie muote zir.

which I ever desired toward-her.

Owê diu minne,

Alas the Love,

wie wil sî mich nû lân,

how will she me now leave,

und ich doch mîne sinne

and I yet my senses

an ir behalten hân!

on her kept have!

daz noch mîn herze

that still my heart

nie trôst von ir gewan,

never comfort from her won,

des wil mir sender smerze

therefore will to-me yearning pain

von nôt gesigen an,

of necessity prevail on,

sin kêr mirz dannoch ze guote,

unless-she turn to-me-it yet to good,

die reinen twinge gegen mir ê,

the pure-one compel toward me before,

daz sî mir ze heil der leiden huote

that she to-me to salvation of-the hateful watch

dür triuwe gar engê.

through faith quite escape.

XXVII,2

Ich dien ir sît daz wir beidiu wâren kint:

I serve her since that we both were children:

diu jâr mir sint gar swær gesîn,

the years to-me are quite grievous been,

wan sî wac sô ringe mînen dienest ie,

for she weighed so lightly my service ever,

sin wolte nie geruochen mîn.

she would never deign of-me.

daz wart erbarmde herren, dien wartz kunt,
that became pity to-lords, to-whom became-it known,

daz ich nie mit rede ir was gewesen bî:
that I never with speech to-her was been near:

des brâchten sî mich dar ze stunt.
therefore brought they me thither at once.

Swie ich was mit hôhen herren komen dar,
Although I was with high lords come thither,

doch was sî gar hert wider mich.
yet was she quite hard against me.

sî kêrt sich von mir, dô sî mich sach, zehant:
she turned herself from me, when she me saw, at-once:

von leid geswant mir, hin viel ich.
from sorrow swooned to-me, away fell I.

die herren huoben mich dar dâ sî saz,
the lords lifted me thither where she sat,

unde gâben mir bald ir hant in mîn hant:
and gave to-me quickly her hand into my hand:

do ich des bevant, dô wart mir baz.
when I of-that became-aware, then became to-me better.

Mich dûcht daz nieman möcht hân erbetten sî,
Me seemed that no-one might have entreated her,

daz sî mich frî nôt hæt getân,
that she me free of-distress had made,

wan daz sî vorchet daz sî schuldic würde an mir:
except that she feared that she guilty became on me:

ich lac vor ir als ein tût man
I lay before her as a dead man

und sach sî jâmerlîch an ûz der nôt.
and looked her piteously on out-of the distress.

des erbarmet ich sî, wan ichz hât von ir:
thereby moved-to-pity I her, for I-it had from her:

des sî doch mir ir hant dô bôt.
so-that she yet to-me her hand then offered.

Dô sach sî mich lieplich an und ret mit mir:
Then looked she me lovingly on and spoke with me:

ach wie zam ir daz sô gar wol!
ah how beseemed to-her that so quite well!

ich mochte sî sô recht geschouwen wol getân:
I might her so rightly behold well made:

wâ wart ie man sô fröiden vol?
where became ever man so of-joys full?

die wîle lâgen mîn arm ûf ir schôz.
the while lay my arms upon her lap.

ach wie suoze mir daz dîr mîn herze gie!
ah how sweetly to-me that through my heart went!

mîn fröide nie mêr wart sô grôz.
my joy never more became so great.

Dô hât ich ir hant sô lieplich vast, got weiz:
Then had I her hand so lovingly fast, God knows:

dâ von sî beiz mich in mîn hant.
there from she bit me in my hand.

sî wând daz ez mir wê tât: dô fröute ez mich.
she thought that it to-me woe did: then delighted it me.

sô gar süez ich ir munt bevant.
so quite sweet I her mouth found.

ir bîzen was sô zartlich wîplich fîn,
her biting was so tender womanly fine,

des mir wê tet deiz sô schier zergangen was:

of-that to-me woe did that-it so soon passed was:

mir wart nie baz, daz muoz wâr sîn.

to-me became never better, that must true be.

Sî bâten sî vaste eteswaz geben mir,

They begged her firmly something to-give to-me,

des sî an ir lang hæt gehân.

which she on her long had had.

alsô warf sî mir ir nâdelbein dort her:

so threw she to-me her needle-case there hither:

in süezer ger bald ich ez nan.

in sweet desire quickly I it took.

si nâmen mirz und gâbenz wider ir dô

they took from-me-it and gave-it back to-her then

und erbâten sî, daz sî mirz lieplich bôt:

and entreated her, that she to-me-it lovingly offered:

in sender nôt wart ich sô frô.

in yearning distress became I so glad.

Der vürst von Konstenz, von Zürich diu vürstîn

The prince of Constance, of Zurich the princess

vil sælic sîn! der vürste ouch sâ

very blessed be! the prince also straightway

von Einsidelen, von Toggenburc loblich

of Einsiedeln, of Toggenburg praiseworthy

grâf Friderich, und swer was dâ

count Frederick, and whoever was there

und half ald riet daz man mich brâcht für sî.

and helped or counseled that one me brought before her.

daz tâten hôhe liut: der frume Regensberger

that did high people: the worthy Regensberger

nâch mîner ger ouch was dâ bî.

after my desire also was there by.

Und der abt von Pêtershûsen tugende vol

And the abbot of Petershausen of-virtue full

half mir ouch wol. dâ wâr ouch bî

helped to-me also well. there were also by

edel frouwen, hôhe pfaffen, ritter guot:

noble ladies, high clerics, knights good:

dâ wart mîn muot vil sorgen frî.

there became my spirit very of-cares free.

ich hâte ir gunst, die doch nicht hulfen mir.

I had their favor, who yet not helped to-me.

her Ruodolf von Landenberc, guot ritter gar,

lord Rudolf of Landenberg, good knight quite,

half mir ouch dar und liebt mich ir.

helped to-me also thither and endeared me to-her.

Dem die besten helfent, daz vervât ouch icht.

To-whom the best help, that avails also something.

diu zuoversicht wart mir wol schîn:

the confidence became to-me well plain:

wan der vürste von Kostenz loblîch, gerecht,

for the prince of Constance praiseworthy, upright,

und her Albrecht, der bruoder sîn,

and lord Albrecht, the brother his,

und her Rüdger Maness, die werden man,

and lord Rüdiger Manesse, the worthy men,

hulfen mir vür mîne edelen frouwen klâr,

helped to-me before my noble lady bright,

des manger jâr nie mochte ergân.

which many-a year never might come-to-pass.

Ez ist lanc daz mich von êrste ir wunne vie

It is long that me from first her delight caught

und daz ich nie sô nâhe ir kan,

and that I never so near to-her came,

wan sî stalte ungruozlich sich ie gegen mir:

for she set ungreetingly herself ever toward me:

des ich zuo zir nie torst gegân.

so-that I to toward-her never dared to-go.

ich dâcht, sît sî nicht ruochet grûezen mich,

I thought, since she not deigns to-greet me,

gienge ich für sî, daz wær lîcht sô verre ir haz:

went I before her, that were perhaps so far her hatred:

nicht wan umb daz verzagt dan ich.

nothing but for that despaired then I.

Möchte ein herz von fröiden dür den lîp ûz gân,

Might a heart from joys through the body out go,

in möcht behân des mînen niet,

I might keep of-that mine not,

sît ich vür die wol getânen komen bin,

since I before the well made-one come am,

von der mîn sin mich nie geschiet.

from whom my mind me never parted.

ich hâte ir hant in mînen henden, ach!

I had her hand in my hands, ah!

êst ein wunder daz von rechten minnen nicht

it-is a wonder that from true love not

in der geschicht mîn herze brach.

in that event my heart broke.

Ach ich hôte ir süezen stimme, ir zarten wort

Ah I heard her sweet voice, her tender words

(sî reiner hort, des hât sî prîs):

(she pure treasure, of-that has she praise):

sô sach ich ir munt, ir wengel rôsenvar,

then saw I her mouth, her cheeks rose-colored,

ir ougen clâr, ir kelen wîz,

her eyes bright, her throat white,

ir wîplîch zucht, ir hende wîz als snê.

her womanly breeding, her hands white as snow.

mir was lieplîch wol, unz ich muos dannen gân:

to-me was lovingly well, until I must thence go:

mir sendem man tet daz sô wê.

to-me yearning man did that so woe.

...

(lacuna)

Wol uns daz der Klingenberger vürste ie wart!

Well for-us that the Klingenberg prince ever became!

die rechten vart die vuoren sî,

the right journey that traveled they,

dien ze herren walten. er kan wîse und wort:

whom as lord to-rule. he can melody and word:

der sinne hort der wont im bî.

of-the wits treasure that dwells to-him by.

sîn helf, sîn rât, sîn kunst sint endelich;

his help, his counsel, his skill are effective;

des die wîsen habten sîn ze herren ger:

therefore the wise had of-him as lord desire:

des heizet er bischof Heinrich.

therefore is-called he bishop Henry.

XXVII,3

Waz man wunnen hôrte und sach, dô voglîn schal

What one of-delights heard and saw, when of-birds sound

sô suoze hal den sumer clâr!

so sweetly rang the summer bright!

des man schœne frouwen sach sich dicke ergân,

when one fair ladies saw themselves often go-about,

des werde man gern nâmen war.

of-which worthy men gladly took note.

wan swæriu kleit diu leiten sî dô hin,

for heavy clothes those laid they then away,

des man sach, wie wîplich wol sî sint gestalt,

so-that one saw, how womanly well they are formed,

und manicvalt ir liechten schîn:

and manifold their bright radiance:

Wan sî burgen nicht ir wunne in sûezer zît.

For they bid not their delight in sweet season.

der winter gît kalt winde und snê,

the winter gives cold winds and snow,

dess ir antlüt nekel kelen bergent sint.

so-that their face nails throat covered are.

an hiuten lint tuot winter wê.

on skins tender does winter woe.

ir hende wîz ouch dicke bergent sî

their hands white also often cover they

und sint in dien stuben, des mans selten sicht:

and are in the chambers, so-that one-them seldom sees:

wen tāt daz nicht vil fröiden frî?

whom would-make that not very of-joys free?

Nieman mac die sumerzît verklagen wol

No-one may the summer-season lament-away well

wan der der sol sîn liep umbyân:

except he who shall his dear-one embrace:

dem ist winter liep, dūr daz diu nacht ist lanc,

to-him is winter dear, for that the night is long,

vür voglîn sanc, vür schœnen plân.

rather-than of-birds song, rather-than fair meadow.

mir wære ouch sô, tāt sî genâde mir:

to-me were also so, did she grace to-me:

noch tuot sî recht als daz niemer sül ergân.

still does she just as-if that never should come-to-pass.

ûf lieben wân dien ich doch ir.

upon dear expectation serve I yet her.

Ich kum in dem sinne selten icht vür sî

I come in that mind seldom at-all before her

daz ich ir frî mûg sanfte sîn.

that I of-her free might gently be.

merker und diu huote diu verderbent mich,

watchers and the watch those destroy me,

dūr diu mîd ich die frouwen mîn.

for those avoid I the lady my.

ir wort diu snîdent, sî gent scharpfen slac.

their words those cut, they give sharp blow.

doch send ich ir mîn herz und mîn triuwe gar,
yet send I to-her my heart and my faith wholly,
 swenn ich nicht dar selb komen mac.
whenever I not thither myself come may.

Waz ich dür die merker und dür huote lân,
What I for the watchers and for watch leave,
 daz ich nicht gân sô dik vür sî!
that I not go so often before her!
 daz sî sîn verfluocht! ir zungen sint sô lanc,
that they be cursed! their tongues are so long,
 ir hæler ganc ist tugende frî.
their stealthy walk is of-virtue free.
 sî sehent umb sam diu katze nâch der mûs.
they look about as the cat after the mouse.
 daz der tievel müeze ir aller pfleger sîn
that the devil may of-them all keeper be
 und brechen in ir ougen ûz!
and break to-them their eyes out!

XXVII,⁴

Ach ich sach sî triuten wol ein kindelîn,
Ah I saw her caress well a little-child,
 dâ von wart mîn muot liebs ermant.
there from became my spirit of-love reminded.
 sî umbvieng ez unde truchte ez nâhe an sich:
she embraced it and pressed it close to herself:
 dâ von dâcht ich lieplich zehant.
there from thought I lovingly at-once.

sî nam sîn antlüt in ir hende wîz

she took its face in her hands white

unde truchte ez an ir munt, ir wengel clâr:

and pressed it to her mouth, her cheeks bright:

owê sô gar wol kuste sîz.

alas so quite well kissed she-it.

Ez tet ouch zewâre als ich hætt getân:

It did also truly as I would-have done:

ich sach umbvân ez ouch sî dô.

I saw embrace it also her then.

ez tet recht als ez enstüende ir wunnen sich,

it did just as-if it understood her delights itself,

des dûchte mich, ez was sô frô.

of-that seemed to-me, it was so glad.

don mochte ich ez nicht âne nît verlân:

then might I it not without envy to-leave:

ich gedâchte 'owê wær ich daz kindelîn,

I thought 'alas were I that little-child,

unz daz sî sîn wil minne hân.'

so-long-as that she of-it will love have.'

Ich nam war doz kindelîn êrst kam von ir,

I took note when-the little-child first came from her,

ich namz zuo mir lieplich ouch dô.

I took-it to me lovingly also then.

ez dûcht mich sô guot, wan sîz ê druchte an sich:

it seemed to-me so good, because she-it before pressed to herself:

dâ von wart ich sîn gar sô frô.

there from became I of-it quite so glad.

ich umbvieng ez, wan sîz ê schône umbvie,

I embraced it, because she-it before fairly embraced,

und kustz an die stat swa ez von ir kust ê was:
and kissed-it on the place where it by her kissed before was:

wie mir doch daz ze herzen gie!
how to-me yet that to heart went!

Man gicht, mir sî nicht als ernstlich wê nâch ir
One says, to-me it-be not so earnestly woe after her

als sîz von mir vernomen hânt,
as they-it of me heard have,

ich sî gesunt; ich wær vil siech und siechlich var,
I be healthy; I were very sick and sickly of-hue,

tæt mir sô gar wê minne bant.
did to-me so quite woe love's bond.

daz manz nicht an mir siht (doch lîde ich nôt),
that one-it not on me sees (yet suffer I distress),

daz füegt guot geding, der hilft mir aldâ her:
that is-wrought-by good hope, which helps to-me all-along hither:

und liez mich der, sô wære ich tôt.
and left me that, so were I dead.

XXVII,5

Der vil edele Regensberger was vor ir
The very noble Regensberger was before her

und bat sî mir genædic sîn,
and begged her to-me gracious to-be,

und daz sî ze mir spræch 'got grüez mîn diener:'
and that she to me should-say 'God greet my servant.'

daz was sîn ger, des herren mîn.
that was his desire, of-the lord my.

sî sprach zartlich 'zwâr herr, daz muoz ergân,'
she spoke tenderly 'truly lord, that must come-to-pass,'

und lobte imz mit ir wîzen hende in sîn hant.
and promised to-him-it with her white hand into his hand.

mîn leit verswant, dos mir für kan.
my sorrow vanished, when-she to-me before came.

Dâ wârn edele frouwen, edele herren bî,
There were noble ladies, noble lords by,

der stunt dô sî gelobte daz.
at-the hour when she promised that.

ich wând daz siz stæt liez, wanz vor in beschach:
I thought that she-it steadfast let, for-it before them happened:

von Eschenbach der herr dâ was,
of Eschenbach the lord there was,

und der von Trôsbêrc, der von Tellikon.
and the of Trostberg, the of Tellikon.

ich wând daz mir solte ir trôst dâ werden schîn,
I thought that to-me should her comfort there become plain,

swie ich des bin von ir ungewon.
though I of-that am from her unaccustomed.

Sus besant der werde Regensberger mich.
Thus summoned the worthy Regensberger me.

mit im gieng ich dar ûf den trôst,
with him went I thither upon the comfort,

ich wând daz ich leides frî dâ wurde iesâ:
I thought that I of-sorrow free there became at-once:

dô wart ich dâ frôiden erlôst.
then became I there of-joys released.

sî slôz sich in ein stuben der geschicht.
she shut herself in a chamber at-the event.

er bat sî und edel frouwen, edel man,
he begged her and noble ladies, noble men,

vil har ûz gân: dô half ez nicht.
very hither out to-go: then helped it not.

Sî suns ir nicht wîzen, sist unschuldic gar:
They shall-it to-her not blame, she-is guiltless quite:

ich brâchte ez dar, daz vuogte daz.
I brought it thither, that caused that.

daz was mîn unglücke, daz ich hân gein ir:
that was my misfortune, which I have toward her:

daz vuogte mir ir strengen haz.
that caused to-me her harsh hatred.

swaz mich ir hulden irr, daz müez zergân,
whatever me of-her favor binders, that must pass-away,

ez tuo danne ir lîp, in sol ir vluochen nicht.
it do then her person, I shall her to-curse not.

swaz mir geschicht, heil müez sî hân!
whatever to-me happens, good-fortune must she have!

Owê daz sî mir nicht fröiden gund vor ir!
Alas that she to-me not of-joys granted before her!

wie tet doch mir sô wê der pîn,
how did yet to-me so woe the pain,

daz sî vor mir barc ir lîp sô minnenlich!
that she before me bid her person so lovely!

ach, sî lie mich in jâmer sîn.
ah, she let me in misery be.

sîn wolt har ûz nicht ê ich dannen kan:
she would hither out not before I thence came:

sus vuogt ez sich, daz ich ir dâ nicht gesach.

thus caused it itself that I her there not saw.

daz leit geschach mir senden man.

that sorrow happened to-me yearning man.

XXVII,6

Ich ergienc mich vor der stat, doch âne vâ:

I walked myself before the town, yet without design:

do gedâchte ich gar lieplîch an sî.

then thought I quite lovingly on her.

sâ zehant ersach ich verre ir schoenen lîp,

straightway at-once espied I afar her fair person,

dâ schœne wîp ir sâzen bî.

where fair women to-her sat by.

do engonde sî mir fröiden nicht vor ir,

then granted she to-me of-joys not before her,

sî gienc dannen, dô sî sach daz ich gienc dar:

she went thence, when she saw that I went thither:

daz nimt noch gar vil fröiden mir.

that takes still quite many of-joys from-me.

Liebiu mære seit doch ein guot ritter mir,

Dear tidings told yet a good knight to-me,

daz lieplîch ir munt von mir sprach.

that lovingly her mouth of me spoke.

sî sprach 'wa ist mîn gselle?' daz was minnenclîch.

she said 'where is my companion?' that was lovely.

ich frôuwe mich daz ie geschach

I rejoice myself that ever happened

daz sî von mir geruochte reden sô.

that she of me deigned to-speak so.

daz schât ir vil kleinen unde hilft mich wol.

that harms her very little and helps me well.

sist tugende vol: des bin ich frô.

she-is of-virtue full: of-that am I glad.

Ich kam ir ze wege dâ sî gar eine gie:

I came to-her on way where she quite alone went:

do gesprach ich nie kein wort zuo zir.

then spoke I never any word to toward-her.

ich erschrac von minnen, in mocht hin noch dan.

I started from love, I-not might hither nor thither.

ich sachs echt an: daz wart doch mir.

I looked-her indeed on: that became yet to-me.

sî gieng ouch vür, daz sî nicht gruozte mich:

she went also past, so-that she not greeted me:

daz verzagte mich ouch, des ich nicht ensprach,

that discouraged me also, so-that I not spoke,

und do ich sî sach sô minnenclich.

and when I her saw so lovely.

Minne sûmet an mir vaste ir triuwen sich:

Love is-remiss on me greatly of-her faith herself:

sî twinget mich minnen sô hô,

she compels me to-love so high,

wan sî nie mân frouwen gegen mir getwanc.

for she never my lady toward me compelled.

sî habe undanc! wie tuot sî sô?

she have no-thanks! why does she so?

waz habe ich ir getân? sî swechet sich.

what have I to-her done? she demeans herself.

twunge sî gên mir ir lîp sô tugende vol,
compelled she toward me her person so of-virtue full,
 sô tât sî wol: wes zîht sî mich?
then did she well: of-what accuses she me?

Daz diu Minne mich sô sêr betwungen hât,
That the Love me so sorely compelled has,
 und daz sî lât ir lîp sô frî,
and that she lets her person so free,
 dâ von weiz ich daz sî hât verrâten mich,
there from know I that she has betrayed me,
 sin kêre sich dann ouch an sî,
unless-she turn herself then also on her,
 und twinge sî mîn noch genâde hân.
and compel her of-me still grace to-have.
 owê Minne, wilt daz tuon, sô tuoz inzît,
alas Love, wilt that to-do, then do-it in-time,
 wan sender strît wil mich erslân.
for yearning strife will me to-slay.

Frouwe mîn, ich man der rechten triuwen dich,
Lady my, I remind of-the true faith thee,
 wan die hân ich recht gegen dir,
for that have I rightly toward thee,
 daz dû mir des gunnest, daz ich zuo dir gê,
that thou to-me of-that grant, that I to thee go,
 dâ niemen mê sî wan echt wir.
where no-one more be but only we.
 ân argen list muot ich des, frouwe, dir:
without evil guile desire I of-that, lady, of-thee:

in wolt nicht wan klagen dir mîn sendez leit.

I would not but to-lament to-thee my yearning sorrow.

ach sælikeit, des gunne mir!

ah blessedness, of-that grant to-me!

XXVII,7

Er muoz sîn ein wol berâten êlich man

He must be a well provided married man

der hûs sol hân, er müeze in sorgen stên.

who house shall have, he must in cares stand.

nœtic lidic man fröit sich doch mangel tac,

needy free man rejoices himself yet many-a day,

er spricht 'ich mac mich einen sanft begên.'

he says 'I may myself alone easily sustain.'

ach nœtic man, kumst dû zer ê,

ah needy man, comest thou to marriage,

wan dû kûme gwinnen macht muos unde brôt,

for thou hardly to-win art-able food and bread,

dû kumst in nô: hûssorge tuot sô wê.

thou comest into distress: house-care does so woe.

Sô dich kint an vallent, sô gedenkest dû

When thee children on fall, then thinkest thou

'war sol ich nû? mîn nô was ê sô grôz.'

'whither shall I now? my distress was before so great.'

wan diu frâgent dik wâ brôt und kæse sî,

for they ask often where bread and cheese be,

sô sitzt dâ bî diu muoter râtes blôz.

then sits there by the mother of-counsel bare.

sô spricht sî 'meister, gib uns rât.'

then says she 'master, give to-us counsel.'

sô gîst in dan Riuwental und Siuftenhein
then givest to-them then Rue-vale and Sighing-home
 und Sorgenrein als der nicht anders hât.
and Care-meadow as one-who not otherwise has.

Sô spricht sî dan 'ach daz ich ie kan zuo dir!
Then says she then 'ah that I ever came to thee!
 jan haben wir den witte noch daz smalz,
indeed-not have we the firewood nor the fat,
 noch daz fleisch noch vische, pfeffer noch den wîn:
nor the meat nor fish, pepper nor the wine:
 waz wolte ich dîn? son hân wir niender salz.'
what wanted I of-thee? so have we nowhere salt.'
 sô riuwetz ir: dâ sint fröid ûz,
then rues-it her: there are joys out,
 dâ vât frost und turst den hunger in daz hâr
there seizes frost and thirst the hunger in the hair
 und ziehent gar oft in al dür daz hûs.
and drag quite often him all through the house.

Mich bedunket daz hûssorge tüeje wê:
Me seems that house-care does woe:
 doch klage ich mê daz mir mîn frouwe tuot.
yet lament I more what to-me my lady does.
 swenne ich für sî gên dür daz sî grüeze mich,
whenever I before her go for that she greet me,
 sô kêrt sî sich von mir, daz reine guot.
then turns she herself from me, the pure good.

sô warte ich jæmerliche dar

then look I piteously thither

unde stên verdâcht als ein ellender man,

and stand lost-in-thought as a wretched man,

der nicht enkan und des nieman nimt war.

who nothing knows and of-whom no-one takes note.

Daz sî mich versêret hât sô manic jâr,

That she me wounded has so many-a year,

daz wolt ich gar lieplich vergeben ir,

that would I quite lovingly forgive to-her,

gruozte sî mich als man friunde grüezen sol:

greeted she me as one friends greet shall:

sô tæt sî wol. sî sündet sich an mir,

then did she well. she sins herself against me,

wan ir mîn triuwe wonet bî:

for to-her my faith dwells by:

dâ von solte sî mich grüezen âne haz.

there from should she me to-greet without hatred.

wan tuot sî daz? dazs iemer sælic sî!

why-not does she that? that-she ever blessed be!

XXVII,8

Wâ vund man sament sô manic liet?

Where would-find one together so many-a song?

man vunde ir niet im künicrîche,

one would-find of-them not in-the kingdom,

als in Zürich an buochen stât.

as in Zurich in books stands.

des prüeft man dik dâ meistersanc.

therefore practices one often there master-song.

der Maness ranc dar nâch endliche:

the Manesse strove there after diligently:

des er diu liederbuoch nu hât.

so-that he the song-books now has.

gein sîm hof mechten nîgen die singære,

toward his court might bow the singers,

sîn lob hie prüevn und anderswâ:

his praise here proclaim and elsewhere:

wan sanc hât boun und wûrzen dâ.

for song has trees and roots there.

und wisse er wâ guot sanc noch wære,

and knew he where good song still were,

er wurb vil endelîch dar nâ.

he would-strive very diligently there after.

Sîn sun der kuster treibz ouch dar:

His son the sacristan drove-it also thither:

des hânt sî gar vil edels sanges,

therefore have they quite much of-noble song,

die herren guot, ze semne brâcht.

the lords good, to assembly brought.

ir êre prüevet man dâ bî.

their honor judges one there by.

wer wîste sî des anevanges?

who directed them of-the beginning?

der hât ir êren wol gedâcht.

he has of-their honor well thought.

daz tet ir sin: der richtet sî nâch êren,

that did their mind: which directs them after honors,

daz ist ouch in erborn wol an;

that is also to-them inborn well on;

sanc, dâ man frouwen wol getân

song, where one ladies well made

wol mitte kan ir lop gemêren,

well with can their praise to-increase,

den wolten sî nicht lân zergân.

that would they not let pass-away.

Swem ist mit edelem sange wol,

To-whom is with noble song well,

des herze ist vol gar edeler sinne.

his heart is full quite of-noble thoughts.

sang ist ein sô gar edelez guot:

song is a so quite noble good:

er kumt von edelem sinne dar.

it comes from noble mind thither.

dür frouwen clâr, dür edel minne,

through ladies bright, through noble love,

von dien zwein kumt sô hôher muot.

from those two comes so high spirit.

waz wær diu welt, enwærn wîp nicht sô schœne?

what were the world, were women not so fair?

dür sî wirt sô vil süezekeit,

through them becomes so much sweetness,

dür sî man wol singt unde seit

through them one well sings and speaks

sô guot gereit und süez gedœne:

so good ready and sweet melody:

ir wunne sanc ûz herzen treit.

their delight song out-of hearts bears.

XXVII,9

Minne ist sô wunderlich,

Love is so wondrous,

sî kêrt sich an tumbe, an wîse:

she turns herself to foolish, to wise:

alte junge twinget sî.

old young compels she.

son ist ir ze rîch nieman

so is for-her too rich no-one

noch zarn, wan sî slichet lîse:

nor too-poor, for she creeps softly:

swem sî wil, dem ist sî bî.

to-whom she will, to-him is she by.

sî lie mich ir helfe nie beruochen

she let me of-her help never to-attain

unde twingt mich sêre gegen ir,

and compels me sorely toward her,

unde sî nicht gegen mir.

and her not toward me.

Minne, dir mag ich wol fluochen

Love, thee may I well to-curse

tiefe ûz mînes herzen gir.

deeply out-of my heart's desire.

Jâne wîze ich ez nicht ir,

Indeed blame I it not to-her,

daz sî mir ist sô gar herte:

that she to-me is so quite hard:

ich wîz ez der Minne gar,

I blame it to-the Love wholly,

wan sî lâit ir lîp sô frî

for she lets her person so free

und doch sî wol sî gelêrte,

and yet she well her would-teach,

daz sî mîn noch næme war.

that she of-me still would-take note.

owê sît sî nicht enhât der minne,

alas since she not has of-the love,

wâ von solte sî dan ruochen mîn?

where from should she then to-deign of-me?

Minne, wurde mir noch fîn,

Love, become to-me yet kind,

kêre hin und twing ir sinne:

turn thither and compel her senses:

sô wil ich dîn friunt noch sîn.

then will I thy friend still to-be.

Minne, süene dich mit mir,

Love, reconcile thyself with me,

kêr zuo zir ald ich wil strâfen

turn to toward-her or I will to-chide

dich die wîle ich leben mac,

thee the while I live may,

unde liebe noch ir mich,

and endear still to-her me,

ald ûf dich sô schrîje ich wâfen

or upon thee so cry I alarm

mange nacht und mangel tac.

many-a night and many-a day.

owê, Minne, kum ir noch ze herzen

alas, Love, come to-her yet to heart

mir ze heil: son fluoche ich dir nicht mê.

to-me to salvation: so curse I thee not more.

in weiz andirs wiez ergê;

I-not know otherwise how-it may-go;

mir ist wê von sendem smerzen:

to-me is woe from yearning pain:

Minne, noch mîn nôt verstê!

Love, still my distress understand!

XXVII,10

Als sich mîn sinne

As themselves my senses

nâch ir minne

after her love

stellent, und hulf sî mir,

set, and-if helped she to-me,

ez wære ir

it were to-her

sünde nicht:

sin not:

wan sender smerze

for yearning pain

wil mîn herze

will my heart

bringen in tôdes haz.

to-bring into death's hatred.

ob sî daz

if she that

nicht versicht,

not perceives,

ûf mîn triuwe sî wirt schuldic ane mir.

upon my faith she becomes guilty toward me.

ob nicht ir güete

if not her goodness

mîn gemüete

my spirit

trœstet, ez ist mîn tât.

comforts, it is my death.

liep, die nôt

dear-one, the distress

klage ich dir.

lament I to-thee.

Lâ dich erbarmen

Let thee to-pity

mich vil armen

me very poor

wunden. dû tuost mir daz:

wounded. thou doest to-me that:

dû gîst baz

thou givest better

mir ouch wol.

to-me also well.

daz tuo noch, reine,

that do yet, pure-one,

wan ich meine

for I cherish

dicke mit triuwen dich,

often with faith thee,

als ouch ich

as also I

billîch sol:

rightly shall:

wan ich bin gar und gar, lieb, dîn eigen knecht.

for I am wholly and wholly, dear-one, thy own servant.

mîn kûneginne,

my queen,

bring mich inne

bring me aware

trôstes, êst nicht ze fruo,

of-comfort, it-is not too early,

wan dar zuo

for there to

hâst dû recht.

bast thou right.

Daz recht dû, hêre,

That right thou, noble-one,

lange sêre

long sorely

brichest, swie lop von mir

breakest, however praise from me

doch ie dir

yet ever to-thee

ûz erschâl;

out rang;

und dir mîn triuwe

and to-thee my faith

ie sô niuwe

ever so new

wâren: al daz vervie

were: all that availed

mich doch nie

me yet never

über al.

over all.

doch mecht ich niemêr ir lop gesingen gar;

yet might I never her praise to-sing wholly;

doch sol die süezen

yet shall the sweet-one

mîn lop grüezen

my praise to-greet

iemer so'ch beste kan,

ever as-I best can,

dâ von wan

there from for

sist sô clâr.

she-is so bright.

XXVII,11

Der sit ist in Oesterrîch

The custom is in Austria

unminnenclîch, daz schœne frouwen

unlovely, that fair ladies

tragent alle hüete breit;

wear all hats broad;

wan ir minnenclîchen var

for their lovely hue

mac man gar selten geschouwen,

may one quite seldom to-behold,

sô si ir hûet hânt ûf geleit.

when they their hats have on put.

mangen wær diu zît gar unverdrozen,

to-many-a-one were the time quite unwearying,

sæch man dicke ir wengelîn

saw one often their little-cheeks

und ir liechten ougen schîn.

and their bright eyes' radiance.

wan wæren die hûet geflozen

if were the hats floated

Tuonow ab, sô mechte ez sîn!

Danube down, then might it be!

In kund mich erwerben nie,

I could myself to-guard never,

swanne ich ie sach schœne frouwen,

whenever I ever saw fair ladies,

ez gieng in mîns herzen grunt.

it went into my heart's ground.

swaz man in der welte sicht,

whatewer one in the world sees,

wan mac nicht sô gerne schouwen:

one may nothing so gladly to-behold:

daz ist mir wol worden kunt.

that is to-me well become known.

swanne ich sihe ir wîplich lôsen sitte,

whenever I see her womanly playful manner,

ir hende wîz, ir kelen blanc,

her hands white, her throat fair,

so ist mîn herze ân allen wanc

then is my heart without all wavering

in sô lieplich danne mitte

in so lovely then midst

und ist wilde mîn gedanc.

and is wandering my thought.

In swelch lant ab ich ie kan,

Into whatever land but I ever came,

ich sach an dekeiner frouwen

I saw on any lady

nie sô lôs gebâren mê

never so playful bearing more

als mîn frowe gebâret sich.

as my lady bears herself

des tuon ich etswenne ein schouwen,

therefore do I sometimes a beholding,

unz mir wirt senlîchen wê:

until to-me becomes yearningly woe:

sô denk ich an lieplîch umbevange

then think I on lovely embracings

und an etswaz mêr dâ bî.

and on something more there by.

niemen wizz wie mir dan sî:

no-one knows how to-me then may-be:

sendiu nôt tuot mir gedrange,

yearning distress does to-me pressing,

so ich si sihe sô wandels frî.

when I her see so of-blemish free.

Man gicht wes ich achte an ir:

One says what I heed in her:

sî si mir doch gar ze hêre,

be she to-me yet quite too lofty,

war umb ich sî minne gar?

where fore I her love wholly?

sî hânt unrecht der getât:

they have wrong of-the deed:

sô sî hât ie hôher êre,

the-more she has ever higher honor,

so ist mân sin ie stäter dar.

so is my mind ever steadier thither.

in weiz an ir nicht daz ich mûg strâfen

I know on her nothing that I might to-chide

wan ein dinc: enwære daz,

but one thing: were-not that,

sô geviel mir nie wîp baz.

then pleased to-me never woman better.

dar ûf ich ie schrîje wâfen:

there upon I ever cry alarm:

ez ist gegen mir ir haz.

it is toward me her hatred.

Könde ich loben unz ûf den grunt,

Could I to-praise down to the ground,

mir ist kunt war ich daz spræche,

to-me is known whither I that would-speak,

dâ ez rechte wær bewant:

where it rightly were bestowed:

mîner frouwen lobesan,

of-my lady praiseworthy,

diu wol kan an êren gæche

who well can in honors eager

sîn, daz ist mir wol erkant.

to-be, that is to-me well known.

si ist sô minnenclîch und sældebære,

she is so lovely and blessing-bearing,

zucht und êren ist sî guot:

to-breeding and honors is she good:

sî hât reinen hôhen muot,

she has pure high spirit,

si ist ir worte gar gewære,

she is of-her words quite true,

si ist vor valsche gar behuot.

she is from falsehood quite guarded.

Ich hab des vil stæten muot:

I have of-that very steadfast spirit:

frouwen guot dien wil ich mêren

ladies good them will I to-increase

ir lop, lebe ich mange zît;

their praise, live I many-a season;

wan des sint si wert sô wol:

for of-that are they worthy so well:

si sint vol sô manger êren,

they are full of-so many honors,

daz ist gar ân allen strît.

that is quite without all dispute.

sî sint milte und minnenclîch gestellet

they are bountiful and lovely fashioned

und hânt dâ bî tugende vil.

and have there by of-virtue much.

er kumt an der sælden zil,

he comes to the blessing's goal,

swer sich oft zuo zin gesellet:

whoever himself often to toward-them joins:

der hât wunnen swaz er wil.

he has of-delights whatever he will.

Ich man iuch, vil schœnen wîp,

I remind you, very fair women,

daz mîn lîp mit stætem muote

that my person with steadfast spirit

ganze triuwe gegen iu hât:

whole faith toward you has:

daz ir helfent klagen mir

that ye help to-lament to-me

daz von ir, daz mich diu guote

that of her, that me the good-one

in sô sendem leide lât,

in so yearning sorrow leaves,

nâch der ich vil dicke siufte sêre

after whom I very often sigh sorely

und dâ mitte spriche 'owê,

and there with say 'alas,

ich muoz trûren iemer mê,

I must to-mourn ever more,

sich erbarm dannoch diu hêre

herself take-pity yet the noble-one

über mich, daz siz verstê!

on me, that she-it understand!

XXVII,12

Swer nimt schœner frouwen dûr ir wunne war,

Whoever takes of-fair ladies for their delight note,

der gêt dar gern swa er sî sehen mac;

he goes thither gladly where he them see may;

wan daz sœze schouwen in sîn herze gât:

for the sweet beholding into his heart goes:

suoze enpfât ez doch senlîchen slac,

sweetly receives it yet yearning blow,

swenn er ir wunnen inret sich,

when he of-their delights becomes-aware himself,

die sô lôslich sint und sô wîplich gemeit:

which so playful are and so womanly merry:

diu sœzekeit ouch dicke wundet mich.

the sweetness also often wounds me.

Er wirt wilder sinne, der wol kan entstân,
He becomes of-wild senses, who well can to-perceive,
 wie wunnesan doch schœne frouwen sint,
how delightful yet fair ladies are,
 und wirt vol der minne, wan manc frouwe guot
and becomes full of-the love, for many-a lady good
 zartlîch tuot alsam ein zartez kint.
tenderly does just-as a tender child.
 wan sî sint sô zartlîch gestalt,
for they are so tenderly formed,
 sô minnenclîche: mir behagt ir wunne baz
so lovely: to-me pleases their delight better
 dann allez daz zer werltwunn ist gizalt.
than all that to-the world-delight is reckoned.

Swâ mannes herze minnen gert an selker stat,
Wherever man's heart of-love desires in such place,
 dâ er hât heinlîch wol manige stunt,
where he has intimacy well many-an hour,
 der mac lieb gewinnen. heinlîche tuot vil,
he may love to-win. intimacy does much,
 ob er wil ald im ûf minne ist kunt.
if he will or to-him about love is known.
 swann er ist sîner frouwen bî,
whenever he is his lady by,
 sô klagt er ir sîn nôt senlich als er sol:
then laments he to-her his distress yearningly as he shall:
 der mac wol sender nôt werden frî.
he may well of-yearning distress become free.

Den sîn herze twinget daz er minne ein wîp,
Whom his heart compels that he love a woman,

der sîn lîp muoz stæte frömde sîn,
whose his person must constantly estranged be,

in nôt ez in bringet: anders wirt im nicht.
into distress it him brings: otherwise becomes to-him nothing.

sam geschicht mir gegen der frouwen mîn.
likewise happens to-me toward the lady my.

wan solte erbarmen sî mîn nôt,
why should to-pity her my distress,

und ich ir nicht klagen mac send ungemach?
and I to-her not lament may yearning trouble?

ach und ach! des sint mîn fröide tôt.
ah and ah! therefore are my joys dead.

Ich enmac getriuwen leider des nicht ir,
I may to-trust alas of-that not to-her,

daz sî mir noch günne heiles vunt:
that she to-me yet grant of-salvation finding:

doch wil mich nicht riuwen daz ich diene ir ie,
yet will me not to-rue that I served her ever,

swie mir nie kein trôst wart von ir kunt.
however to-me never any comfort became from her known.

wan si ist ein frouwe valsches frî,
for she is a lady of-falsehood free,

wol gestalt, vil schoene und dâ bî minnenclîch:
well formed, very fair and there by lovely:

ach, sold ich ir tougen wesen bî!
ah, should I her secretly to-be by!

XXVII,13

Ich was vor ir,

I was before her,

daz ich wol mîn jâmer ir geklaget solde hân.

so-that I well my misery to-her lamented should have.

mîn sendiu gir

my yearning desire

wart sô grôz, daz sî mich dar nicht reden wolde lân.

became so great, that it me there not speak would let.

wan sî was sô rechte wunnenclich getân,

for she was so truly delightfully made,

daz ich nicht mocht vor liebe in mînen sinnen bstân;

that I not might for love in my senses to-stand;

wan swenne ein man

for whenever a man

wirt ze rechte frô,

becomes in truth glad,

sô enweiz er noch enkan.

then knows-not he nor can.

recht alsô ergienc mir senden leider vor ir dô.

just so happened to-me yearning alas before her then.

Daz herze mîn

The heart my

wart sô rechte müede von gedanken in der stunt.

became so truly weary from thoughts in that hour.

ê sender pîn

before yearning pain

mich gar überstritte, dô was fröide mir wol kunt.

me quite overcame, then was joy to-me well known.

sendiu nôt gienc mir ze herzen in den grunt:

yearning distress went to-me to heart into the ground:

dô dâchte ich 'owê lieblich gstelllet rôter munt.'

then thought I 'alas lovely fashioned red mouth.'

dô wart ich wunt

then became I wounded

von sendem jâmer grôz:

from yearning misery great:

mich bant der Minne bunt,

me bound the Love's bond,

Minne schôz mich daz ich mînen sin sô gar verlôs.

Love shot me that I my mind so quite lost.

Owê daz ich

Alas that I

ir nicht macht geklagen mîn vil langez ungemach!

to-her not was-able to-lament my very long trouble!

ir wunne mich

her delight me

tet sô gar verzagen, wan ich sî sô schœne sach.

made so quite to-despair, for I her so fair saw.

ich dâcht mir sô rechte nâhe senlich, ach,

I thought to-me so truly near yearning, ah,

daz mir sô gar mîn sprâche in mînem herzen brach:

that to-me so quite my speech in my heart broke:

ich wart sô swach

I became so weak

von ir wunnen fîn,

from her delights fine,

daz ich dâchte 'herze, lach

that I thought 'heart, laugh

fröide dîn!' daz wart ouch leider mir dô balde schîn.

joy thine!' that became also alas to-me then soon plain.

XXVII,¹⁴

Ich wil ein warnen singen,

I will a warning to-sing,

daz lieb von liebe bringen

that dear-one from dear-one to-bring

nû mac, diu mâze kunnen hân.

now may, the measure knowledge to-have.

sus râte ich dien ein scheiden,

thus counsel I to-those a parting,

den ich nû hûete beiden:

for-whom I now keep-watch both:

der tac der wil sô schiere ûf gân.

the day it will so soon up to-go.

des ich wunder sorgen hân,

of-which I wonder of-cares have,

wie ez noch uns ergange:

how it still for-us may-go:

ir nâhen umbevange

their close embracing

die wellent sî sô kûme lân.

those will they so hardly to-leave.

In gibe dem herrn die schulde:

I-not give to-the lord the blame:

ich weiz ir ungedulde

I know her impatience

sô wol, sî lât in kûme varn.

so well, she lets him hardly to-go.

er sol sî lâzen weinen:

he shall her to-let to-weep:

der nacht ist noch sô kleinen,

of-the night is still so little,

er sol ez langer nicht ensparn.

he shall it longer not to-delay.

nû bin ich aller fröiden arn:

now am I of-all joys poor:

ich vürchte mir sô sêre.

I fear for-me so sorely.

ez stât umb lîb und êre:

it stands about life and honor:

in kan ir leider nicht bewarn,

I can them alas not to-protect,

Sin volgen mînem râte.

Unless-they follow my counsel.

und tuont sî daz ze spâte,

and do they that too late,

owê ich bin mit in verlorn.

alas I am with them lost.

nû hœrnt sî doch mîn warnen:

now hear they yet my warning:

muoz ich ir minne erarnen

must I their love to-atone-for

noch mê, daz ist mir leit und zorn.

still more, that is to-me sorrow and anger.

owê daz ich wart erkorn,

alas that I became chosen,

daz ich wart ir wachtere.

that I became their watchman.

noch wendent unser swære:

still avert our grief:

den tac man kûndet dîr diu horn.

the day one announces through the horns.

XXVII,15

Ich was dâ ich sach

I was where I saw

in ir swert zwên dörper grîfen junge:

to their swords two peasants to-grip young:

Ruodolf dâ begonde in zorne stetschen.

Rudolf there began in anger to-bluster.

Chuonze dar zuo sprach

Kunz there to spoke

‘nieman ist dem an mir ie gelunge:

‘no-one is to-whom against me ever succeeded:

ich hân dînen zorn nicht wan vür getschen.’

I have thy anger nothing but for chatter.’

Ruodolf sprach ‘dû hâst Ellen gemeinet,

Rudolf said ‘thou hast Elle courted,

nâch der ich vil dicke hân geweinet:

after whom I very often have wept:

hüet dîs libs vor mir

guard of-thy body from me

an dem werde an sunnentage vor ir.

on the island on Sunday before her.

dîn schuld ist daz ir huld gegen mir kleinet.’

thy fault is that her favor toward me lessens.’

Sî swigen dar zuo,

They were-silent there to,

daz manz verre vernam in kurzer stunde.

so-that one-it far heard in short hour.

dar kam dörper vil mit grôzem schalle.

thither came peasants many with great clamor.

Ruodolf malch sîn kuo

Rudolf milked his cow

unde ruoft dien dien er guotes gunde:

and called to-those to-whom he of-good granted:

‘trinkent unde sint mir bî hiut alle.

‘drink and be to-me by today all.

helf man im, sô helfent mir ouch sêre,

should-help one him, then help to-me also greatly,

daz ich hiut bejage vor Ellen êre.

that I today may-win before Elle honor.

ich wil Chuonzen slân

I will Kunz to-strike

daz hund in in mügen zem herzen gân:

that dogs into him may to-the heart go:

ern gewirbt umb Ellen niemer mêre.’

he woos for Elle never more.’

‘Wir sunz understân,’

‘We shall-it to-binder,’

sprâchen zwên der wægsten und der mejjer:

spoke two of-the worthiest and the bailiff:

‘bittent Chuonzen daz er Elln ab lâze.’

‘beg Kunz that he Elle off leave.’

‘des mac nicht ergân,

‘of-that may nothing come-to-pass,

ich gab ir ein geiz und hundert eijer

I gave to-her a goat and hundred eggs

unde bin ir holt recht âne mâze.’

and am to-her devoted just without measure.’

‘dâ vür sol dich Ruodolf vil wol mieten.’

‘there for shall thee Rudolf very well to-pay.’

‘nû lânt hœren, waz wil er mir bieten?’

‘now let to-hear, what will he to-me to-offer?’

'zwô geiz und ein huon.'

'two goats and a hen.'

Chunze sprach 'daz wil ich gerne tuon:

Kunz said 'that will I gladly to-do:

ich tet ie daz biderbe liut mir rieten.'

I did ever that worthy people to-me counseled.'

XXVII,16

Mîn herze tuot mich sorgen rîch:

My heart makes me of-cares rich:

ez achtet wâ sô minnenclîch

it heeds where so lovely

ein reiniu frouwe sî

a pure lady be

und wie sî sich gebâre.

and how she herself bears.

ir wonent zûchte bî:

to-her dwell courtesies by:

sî ist gar wandils frî.

she is quite of-blemish free.

Vil sûeze minnenclîchez wîp,

Very sweet lovely woman,

und fröitent ir noch mînen lîp

and would-gladden ye yet my person

mit iuerm holden gruoz,

with your gracious greeting,

sô kæme ich gar ûz leide,

then would-come I quite out-of sorrow,

dar inne ich sterben muoz,

there in I die must,

ir tuont mir sorgen buoz.

ye do to-me of-cares remedy.

Ach gæbe mir diu guote baz,
Ah would-give to-me the good-one better,
 sô würde ich noch, als ich dô was,
then became I again, as I then was,
 dô ich ir künde vie:
when I of-her acquaintance took:
 ich was vil fröide rîche;
I was very of-joy rich;
 diu mir dô gar engie,
which to-me then quite escaped,
 dô ich mich an sî lie.
when I myself on her relied.

Owê vernæm sî noch die klage,
Alas might-bear she yet the lament,
 wie vil ich herzen jâmers trage.
how much I of-heart's misery bear.
 daz kumt von sender nôt:
that comes from yearning distress:
 wil mir die nicht benemen
will to-me that not to-take-away
 ir munt sô rôsen rôten,
her mouth so rose red,
 owê sô bin ich tôt!
alas then am I dead!

Owê, wie wê mir dâ geschach,
Alas, how woe to-me there happened,
 dâ ich mîn liebin frouwen sach
when I my dear lady saw
 sô schône vor mir stân.
so fair before me to-stand.

mich balde des gedûchte,

me soon of-that seemed,

ich mües mîn fröide lân,

I must my joy to-leave,

do ich muose dannen gân.

when I must thence to-go.

Noch wær ich langer dâ gesîn,

Still were I longer there been,

wan daz ich vorcht der liute pîn

except that I feared of-the people torment

und der vil valschen haz,

and of-the very false hatred,

daz sî mich wolten nîden,

that they me would to-envy,

daz mir sô sanfte was,

that to-me so pleasant was,

dô ich vor ir gesaz.

when I before her sat.

Ich schouwet sî vil manicvalt;

I beheld her very manifold;

mich dûchte, in würde niemer alt,

me seemed, I would-become never old,

und solte ich bî ir sîn

if should I by her to-be

mit ir vil guoten willen,

with her very good will,

sô wær mîn sorge hin

then were my care away

und sendes herzen pîn.

and of-yearning heart torment.

XXVII,17

Swer arbeit muoz hân vil wunderdicke,
Whoever travail must have very wondrous-often,
 die sint alle fröiden blôz,
they are of-all joys bare,
 als ouch die minnære,
as also the lovers,
 dien ir frouw nicht gan ir ougen blicke:
to-whom their lady not grants of-her eyes glance:
 die sint wol kolære gnôz,
they are well of-charcoal-burners fellows,
 wan die ruow sint lære,
for they of-rest are empty,
 und die müezen hacken unde riuten.
and they must to-hew and to-clear.
 die klage wir betiuten,
the lament we signify,
 daz uns diu minne gesellet
that us the love joins
 zuo dien die arbeit kellet.
to those whom travail torments.

Wir mun uns zuo dien ouch wol gelîchen,
We may us to those also well to-liken,
 swele echt stæte karrer sint:
whoever indeed steadfast carters are:
 der nôt ist ouch wunder.
of-their distress is also wonder.
 sî mun nicht gefliên, daz sî entwîchen,
they may not to-flee, that they escape,
 swenn kumt regen unde wint.
whenever comes rain and wind.

daz karren gēnts under:

the cart goes-it under:

sô hebenet sî daz ez gât dūr ir herze,

then lift they that it goes through their heart,

als uns sender smerze.

as us yearning pain.

der rüeret ouch ze grunde:

that touches also to ground:

des sint sende wunde.

therefore are yearning wounds.

Minner herze vicht ze ganzer stæte

Lover's heart fights to whole steadfastness

als in einem sacke ein swîn:

as in a sack a pig:

daz vert unde kirret.

which struggles and squeals.

doch klagt ich ez nicht, obz mînz nicht tæte:

yet would-lament I it not, if-it mine-it not did:

daz rüert ouch vil sender pîn,

that touches also much yearning torment,

daz mich ruowens irret.

which me of-rest deprives.

Minne klemmet rechte alsam ein zange:

Love pinches just as a tongs:

swens an kumt gedrange,

whomever-it on comes pressing,

den kümbert ungemüete,

him afflicts ill-humor,

ez wende liebes güete.

it may-avert love's goodness.

XXVII,18

Herbest wil berâten

Autumn will to-provide

mang gesind mit guoten trachten

many-a household with good dishes

bî der gluot ald swâ sî sîn:

by the embers or wherever they be:

veize swînîn brâten,

fat swine roasts,

dar umb sol ir wirt in achten

there for shall their host them heed

und ouch bringen guoten wîn.

and also to-bring good wine.

wirt, besende uns wûrste,

host, send to-us sausages,

dâ bî schæfin hirne,

there by sheep brains,

daz in die stirne

that to-them the brows

glostent werden, als sî in sîn an gezunt.

glowing become, as-if they in-them were on kindled.

mache in daz sî türste,

make to-them that they may-thirst,

salze in vast der ingwant terme,

salt to-them firmly the entrails guts,

tuon den herbst mit vollen kunt.

make the autumn with fullness known.

Sô der haven walle

When the pot boils

und daz veize drinne swimme,

and the fat therein swims,

sô begiuz in wîziu brôt.

then pour-over to-them white breads.

danne sprechents alle

then say-they all

'herbst ist bezzer danne ein gimme:

'autumn is better than a gem:

wol dem wirte derz uns bôt.'

well to-the host who-it to-us offered.'

hânt in entfëeze,

have to-them duck-feet,

dar zuo guot geslechte:

there to good giblets:

sô kumst in rechte,

then comest to-them rightly,

unde stêt dâ bî des herbstes êre wol.

and stands there by of-the autumn honor well.

swer nû trûren müeze,

whoever now mourn must,

der enhœert niht zuo den fræzen,

he belongs not to the gluttons,

wan sî werdent fröiden vol.

for they become of-joys full.

Swër sich welle mesten,

Whoever himself will to-fatten,

der sol kêren zuom gesinde:

he shall to-turn to-the company:

guotiu fuore macht sî veiz.

good fare makes them fat.

wirt, besend dien gesten

host, send to-the guests

gense, die dâ sîen blinde,

geese, which there be blind,

unde mach die stuben heiz.

and make the chamber hot.

dû solt hûenr in vûllen,

thou shalt hens for-them to-stuff,

dannoch sieden kappen:

moreover to-boil capons:

frœliche knappen

merry squires

hâst dû danne in stuben und ouch bî der gluot.

hast thou then in chambers and also by the embers.

heiz in tûben knûllen,

bid for-them pigeons to-pound,

schützen und ouch vasant wilde:

to-shoot and also pheasants wild:

daz nent sî vûrs meien bluot.

that call they above-the May's bloom.

Welt, dû bist unglîche:

World, thou art unequal:

fræzen dien ist wol geschehen,

to-feasters to-those is well happened,

daz tuot mangem minner wê.

that does to-many-a lover woe.

frouwen minnenclîche

ladies lovely

mügent sî nû nicht gesehen

may they now not to-see

als sîs sân des summers ê.

as they-them saw of-the summer before.

sî hânt nû verwunden

they have now wrapped

diu antlût in ir stûchen,

the faces in their sleeves,

daz sî nicht rûchen.

so-that they not to-smart.

swære winde tuont an linden hiuten wê.

harsh winds do on tender skins woe.

wê uns küeler stunden!

woe to-us of-cold hours!

rôsenwengel sint verborgen

rose-cheeks are bidden

und ir keln wîz als der snê.

and their throats white as the snow.

Wir sorgen nicht eine:

We care not alone:

vogel die hânt grôze swære,

birds they have great grief,

in tuot ouch der winter leit.

to-them does also the winter sorrow.

wir sunz hân gemeine,

we shall-it have in-common,

wir sîn beide fröiden lære,

we are both of-joys empty,

dulden sament arebeit.

endure together travail.

wan bî ir gedœne

for by their melody

was uns dicke sanfte.

was to-us often pleasant.

dô d' amsel kanfte

when the' blackbird contended

mit der nachtegal, dô hôt man süeziu liet,

with the nightingale, then heard one sweet songs,

und die frouwen schœne

and the ladies fair

dô die minner mochten schouwen:

when the lovers might to-behold:

des enmuns nû leider niet.

of-that may-they now alas not.

XXVII,19

Nust sumer sô wol gegestet daz er êre hât;

Now-is summer so well arrayed that it honor has;

in schœner wât mac man in nû wol sehen.

in fair garment may one it now well to-see.

rôt brûn gel blâ wîz grûen ist sîn kleit gevar:

red brown yellow blue white green is its garment colored:

swer sîn nimt war, der mag im wunne jehen.

whoever of-it takes note, he may to-it delight to-avow.

in lobent mit suezem sanc diu vogellîn,

it praise with sweet song the little-birds,

diu sehent sô liechten schîn:

whiche see so bright radiance:

mit dien sol man frœlich sîn.

with those shall one merry to-be.

swie schœn diu zît sint, trûeb ist mir doch mîn muot,

however fair the seasons are, gloomy is to-me yet my spirit,

wan mich getrôst noch nie mîn frouwe guot.

for me comforted still never my lady good.

Ez ist lanc daz ich mîn frowen von êrst gesach:

It is long that I my lady from first saw:

mîn ungemach huop sich dô suezecliche,

my trouble raised itself then sweetly,

wan ich wart von ir wunnen suezzen liebes vol.

for I became from her delights sweet of-love full.

mir tet dâ wol daz sî was wunnen rîche.

to-me did there well that she was of-delights rich.

nû muoz mir daz leider wê tuon elliu zît,

now must to-me that alas woe to-do all time,

wan sî mir nicht trôstes gât:

for she to-me nothing of-comfort gives:

des mîn herze in arbeit lît.

so-that my heart in travail lies.

wan wær sî ân wunne, sô wær mir nicht wê

for were she without delight, then were to-me not woe

nâch ir als ez sus sîn muoz iemer mê.

after her as it thus to-be must ever more.

Noch ist mir wol der stunde, swâ ich sî sich an:

Still is to-me well of-the hour, wherever I her look on:

swies mir ist gran, doch habe ich sî ze frouwen.

however-it to-me is grievous, yet have I her as lady.

doch wirt daz liep vergolten mir mit leide iesâ,

yet becomes that love repaid to-me with sorrow at-once,

sô sî nicht dâ mêr ist da ichs müge schouwen:

when she not there more is where I-her might to-behold:

sô ist mir als sô der sunne hinder gât

then is to-me as when the sun behind goes

und der tac sîn wunn verlât.

and the day its delight forsakes.

fröiden vil sî doch ie hât

of-joys much she yet ever has

bî andern schœnen frouwen, noch enachtet nicht,

by other fair ladies, yet beeds not,

swie wê mir von senlicher nôt geschicht.

however woe to-me from yearning distress happens.

XXVII,20

Herbst wil aber sîn lop niuwen:

Autumn will again its praise to-renew:

er wil briuwen manigen rât,

it will to-brew many-a provision,

wan daz stât dien sînen êren wol.

for that stands to-the its honors well.

er wil manic her berâten

it will many-a host to-provide

veizer brâten unde wil

of-fat roasts and will

trachten vil dar zuo sî machen vol:

disbes many there to them to-make full:

des sîn lop sich üeben sol.

so-that its praise itself exercise shall.

niuwen wîn

new wine

trinkent sî, derz hirne rüeret

drink they, which-to brain stirs

und ouch vüeret ir muot hô:

and also leads their spirit high:

des sî frô dann alle müezen sîn.

thereof they glad then all must to-be.

Würste und hammen, guot geslechte

Sausages and hams, good butcher's-meat

ouch in rechte herbest birt.

also to-them rightly autumn brings.

dar zuo wirt in noch sîs râtes mê:

there to becomes to-them still of-its store more:

ingwant bletze, terme und magen

entrails tripe, guts and maws

und ouch kragen zuo der gluot.

and also necks to the embers.

herbest tuot in baz dan sumer ê.

autumn does to-them better than summer before.

man slecht nû sô manic vê:

one slaughters now so many-a beast:

des vint man

therefore finds one

guotiu kræse, houbt und vüeze

good chitterlings, heads and feet

und ouch süeze hirn und die.

and also sweet brains and thighs.

herbst was ie sîns râtes lobesan.

autumn was ever of-its store praiseworthy.

Nû sol ein wirt sînen gesten

Now shall a host to-bis guests

gebens besten, des uns gît

give-of-the best, which to-us gives

herbstes zît (sô hât er wol getân):

of-autumn season (then has he well done):

dess von râte ûf müezen glosen.

so-that-they from store up must to-glow.

swaz daz kosten danne sül,

whatever that to-cost then should,

wirt, sô vül sî, daz sî vollen hân.

host, so fill them, that they in-full have.

ân klobwürst solt dus nicht lân:

without garlic-sausage shalt thou-them not to-leave:

mangen buoc

many-a shoulder

gib in, dar zuo guote grieben;

give to-them, there to good cracklings;

des in lieben herbest muoz.

therefore to-them to-be-dear autumn must.

wirt, nû tuoz: sô hânt sî danne gnuoc.

host, now do-it: so have they then enough.

Doch klag ich des sumers schœne

Yet lament I of-the summer's beauty

und die dœne wunnenclîch,

and the melodies delightful,

der sô rîch ê was vil manic lant,

of-which so rich before was very many-a land,

die die wilden vogel sungen,

which the wild birds sang,

daz sî klungen, daz der schal

that they rang, so-that the sound

suoze hal: des was uns fröide erkant.

sweetly echoed: thereby was to-us joy known.

die went æsen winters bant,

those will to-waste winter's bonds,

diu sô kalt

which so cold

sint, daz heide und ouwe velwent

are, that heath and meadow wither

und ouch selwent tage clâr.

and also darken days bright.

daz tuot bar uns fröiden manicvalt.

that makes bare us of-joys manifold.

Noch klag ich mîn meisten swære,

Still lament I my greatest grief,

daz mich lære trôstes ie

that me empty of-comfort ever

mîn frouwe lie, swie wê mir nâch ir was,

my lady left, however woe to-me after her was,

und sî mich lât sus verderben

and she me lets thus to-perish

unde werben in der nôt,

and to-strive in that distress,

daz der tôt mir tæte lichte baz;

so-that the death to-me would-do perhaps better;

wan ez nâem schier ende daz.

for it would-take soon end that.

sus lât sî

thus leaves she

mich in langem ungemüete,

me in long ill-humor,

ald ir güete wende ez noch,

unless her goodness turn it yet,

wan ir doch mîn triuwe wonet bî.

for to-her yet my faith dwells by.

XXVII,21

Die den winter hâten leit,

Those the winter held hateful,

wan sî mangen tac sân trüeben

for they many-a day saw gloomy

und ouch gar unmâzen kalt,

and also quite immeasurably cold,

die hânt nû vil süezekeit:

those have now much sweetness:

vogel went den sumer üeben

birds will the summer to-celebrate

mit ir stimme manicvalt.

with their voices manifold.

heide die stânt grünen und gel von bluomen,

heaths they stand green and yellow from flowers,

und der sunne kûen sîs schoenen glanz:

and the sun bold of-its fair gleam:

dâ bî sicht man boume blûen,

there by sees one trees to-bloom,

dâ wir under sulen schouwen

where we beneath shall to-behold

schoener frouwen mangel tanz.

of-fair ladies many-a dance.

Ez ist ougen wunne hort,

It is of-eyes delight's treasure,

sô man schoene frouwen sament

when one fair ladies together

in dien boungarten sicht gân:

in the orchards sees to-go:

dâ hoert man ir senften wort,

there hears one their gentle words,

wan sî sich sô wîplich schament,

for they themselves so womanly are-abashed,

sô ir achtent junge man.

when of-them heed young men.

man sicht dâ an in sô lôs gebærde,

one sees there on them so playful bearing,

daz der manne sin wirt frœlich gar.

that of-the men mind becomes merry quite.

ê der sumer uns erschin,

before the summer to-us appeared,

dô was man der wunnen âne
then was one of-the delights without

und ûf plâne manger var.
and on meadow of-many-a bue.

Man sol billich fröide hân:
One shall rightly joy to-have:

sumer ist sô rechte schœne
summer is so truly fair

alles des er haben sol.
of-all that it have shall.

doch bin ich ein trûric man:
yet am I a mournful man:

daz tuot mir die ich dâ krœne,
that does to-me whom I there crown,

derst mit mîner arbeit wol.
to-her-is with my travail well.

sî hât vil gelacht mîns herzen siuften:
she has much laughed of-my heart's sighing:

des nam ich dann acht und tet mir wê.
of-that took I then heed and did to-me woe.

sist sô wunnenclich gemacht,
she-is so delightfully made,

daz sî wont mir in dem muote,
that she dwells to-me in the spirit,

diu vil guote, swiez ergê.
the very good-one, however-it may-go.

XXVII,22

Ez gêt nû in die erne

It goes now into the harvest

vil schœner dirne fîn:

many fair maidens fine:

swer fröide habe gerne,

whoever joy have gladly,

der kêr mit in dâ hin!

he turn with them there thither!

dar zuo gêt manig eile

there to goes many-a grandmother

dar mit ir tochterlîn:

thither with her little-daughter:

daz kumt iu ouch ze heile,

that comes to-you also to good,

went ir gesloufic sîn.

will ye nimble to-be.

hæt ich ein lieb daz gienge dar,

had I a dear-one that went thither,

ich næm sîn in der schiure war:

I would-take of-it in the barn note:

dâ würde ich lichte sorgen bar.

there became I easily of-cares bare.

Ez ist dien wol geteilet,

It is to-those well dealt,

der frouwen gêt dâ hin:

whose ladies go there thither:

des sich ir herze geilet,

thereat itself their heart rejoices,

ez wirt licht ir gewin.

it becomes easily their gain.

wol ûf, ir stolzen knechte,

well up, ye proud lads,

dien stêt ûf minne ir sin,

to-whom stands upon love their mind,

iu kumt diu erne rechte,

to-you comes the harvest rightly,

wan tuot iuch zemen in:

why-not make you to-agree to-them:

dâ sagent spel, ir jungen man,

there tell tales, ye young men,

diu man wol âne lernen kan.

which one well without learning can.

stat machet licht dams iu dâ gan.

place makes easily that-she to-you there grants.

Swer sich kan zuo gemachen,

Whoever himself can close to-make,

swiez sî von êrst in leit,

however-it be from first to-them hateful,

ez wirt dar nâch ir lachen:

it becomes there after their laughing:

sô wirt dâ spel geseit,

then becomes there tale told,

als man ûf strô sol sagen,

as one on straw shall to-tell,

dâ dirnen sint gemeit.

where maidens are merry.

ob sî daz wen vertragen,

if they that will to-endure,

daz tœtet sende arbeit.

that kills yearning travail.

dâ ist diu kurzewîle guot

there is the pastime good

mit speln sam enents baches tuot.

with tales as beyond-the brook does.

wol ûf in d'ern, diu høhet muot.

well up into the-harvest, which lifts spirit.

XXVII,²³

Diu voglîn wârn in mangen sorgen

The little-birds were in many cares

noch al dâ her den winter kalt.

still all there hither the winter cold.

sî smuchten sich die küelen morgen:

they buddled themselves the cool mornings:

in snêwe stuont sô gar der walt.

in snow stood so quite the wood.

nû wellent sî sich zweien,

now will they themselves to-pair,

sî hânt ersehen die liechten zît:

they have espied the bright season:

die bluomen lachent gegen dem meien,

the flowers laugh toward the May,

der manigem herzen fröide gît.

which to-many-a heart joy gives.

Man høeret süezeclîche dœne,

One hears sweet melodies,

swer sich des morgens wil ergân,

whoever himself in-the morning will to-walk-out,

und sicht die lieben heide schœne

and sees the dear heath fair

in wunnenclîcher varwe stân.

in delightful color to-stand.

swaz ich vil sender schouwe

whatever I very yearning behold

der bluomen und der rôsen rôz,

of-the flowers and of-the roses red,

doch muoz ich sorgen, want mîn frouwe

yet must I to-care, for my lady

mich tuot an mînen fröiden tôz.

me makes in my joys dead.

Ich siufte sêre und minnenclîche

I sigh sorely and lovingly

und wandelt sich mîn stætiu var,

and changes itself my steadfast hue,

swenn ich sî sich sô wunnen rîche

whenever I her see so of-delights rich

und sî mîn nimt sô kleinen war.

and she of-me takes so little note.

und mecht von leide ersterben

if might from sorrow to-die

ieman, ich wær nû lange tôz.

anyone, I were now long dead.

in mochte ir helfe nie erwerben:

I might of-her help never to-win:

dâ von leb ich in grôzer nôz.

there from live I in great distress.

Sol ich die guoten lange mîden,

Shall I the good-one long to-avoid,

swie doch nieman von leide erstarp,

however yet no-one from sorrow died,

ich muoz den tôz nâch ir erliden,

I must the death after her to-suffer,

wan ich nie heil an ir irwarp.

for I never favor on her won.

wil sî mîn nicht enêren

will she me not to-honor

noch lieplich hôchgemüete geben

nor lovely high-spirit to-give

und ouch ir frömden gar verkêren,

and also her estranging quite to-turn-away,

sô muoz unlenge sîn mîn leben.

then must not-long to-be my life.

Doch hab ich sî mir selb erwellet

Yet have I her to-me myself chosen

und wil genâden gern von ir:

and will of-grace to-desire from her:

swie mich diu reine in jâmer vellet,

however me the pure-one into misery casts,

doch stêt nâch ir mîns herzen gir.

yet stands after her of-my heart's desire.

ichn wil ouch niemer kêren

I will also never to-turn

von ir die besten triuwe mîn:

from her the best faith my:

sol ich verderben nâch der hêren,

shall I to-perish after the noble-one,

sî muoz in hôhen schulden sîn.

she must in high guilt to-be.

XXVII,²⁴

Ir sult iuwer swenzel

Ye shall your skirts

(êst erne zît) krispen, dirne guot,

(it-is harvest season) to-curl, maidens good,

krenzel machen ouch ûf die vîrtage.

garlands to-make also for the feast-days.

swiem arbeit in erne

however-to-one travail in harvest

hât, doch hât man dâ frœlichen muot:

has, yet has one there merry spirit:

gerne pfligt man dâ sô lôser sage;

gladly practices one there such playful talk;

wan dar kumt sô manc stolziu dirn und knappe:

for thither comes so many-a proud maiden and lad:

des man dô wirt frô.

thereof one then becomes glad.

ir singet dann vil sûezeclîche hô:

ye sing then very sweetly high:

ouch ist in ern recht fröide ûf dem strô.

also is in harvest true joy on the straw.

Heinlîchi mag enden

Intimacy may to-achieve

vil, der die zîn frouwen wol hân mac:

much, he-who it toward-his lady well to-have may:

wenden tuot sim des licht senden pîn.

to-turn does to-him-it of-that easily yearning torment.

der ab frouwen minnen

who but of-ladies love

gert, der huote pfligt nacht unde tac,

desires, who watch practices night and day,

gwinnen wirt im dâ licht niemer schîn.

gain becomes to-him there easily never plain.

des bin ich bar der fröiden und vol sorgen,

of-that am I bare of-the joys and full of-cares,

wiez gevar, wan dar

however-it fare, for thither

minn ouch ich dâ mich huote frömdet gar:

love also I where me watch estranges quite:

frömde friunds nam ie sô kleine war.

estrangement of-a-friend took ever so little note.

Minne, dîn süez twingen

Love, thy sweet compelling

hât betwungen mich in sûren pîn:

has compelled me into sour torment:

ringen tuost dû mich mit sender nôt.

to-wrestle makest thou me with yearning distress.

dû gîst mir ze herzen

thou givest to-me to heart

süez ein wîp, der ich muoz frömde sîn:

sweetly a woman, to-whom I must estranged to-be:

smerzen muoz mich daz unz ûf den tôt.

pain must me that until upon the death.

ir wunne gât sô suoze mir ze herzen,

her delight goes so sweetly to-me to heart,

ez verstât die getât

it understands the deed

sô wol, daz sî sô mange wunne hât:

so well, that she so many-a delight has:

des Minne mich von ir nicht scheiden lât.

therefore Love me from her not to-part lets.

XXVII,25

Sumer hât gesendet ûz sîn wunne:

Summer has sent out its delight:

secht, die bluomen gênt ûf dÛr daz gras!

behold, the flowers go up through the grass!

lûter clâr stêt nû der liechte sunne,

pure bright stands now the bright sun,

der den winter ê vil trûebe was.

which the winter before very dim was.

schœn ougen weide

fair eyes' pasture

bringt uns der meie; er spreitet ûf diu lant sîn wât.

brings to-us the May; it spreads upon the lands its garment.

wære ich nicht in senelîchem leide,

were I not in yearning sorrow,

ûf der heide wurd mir sorgen rât.

on the heath would-become to-me of-cares remedy.

Der ich alle mîne tage diente,

Whom I all my days served,

diu gesprach noch nie ze mir 'hâ danc!

she spoke still never to me 'have thanks!'

daz tuot mir als der mîn herze pfriente:

that does to-me as-if one my heart pierced:

owê sî macht sêr mîn leben kranc.

alas she makes sorely my life weak.

ich möchts erbarmen:

I might-her to-move-to-pity:

ich bin sô verre komen in vil sende nôt.

I am so far come into very yearning distress.

des muoz ich in jâmer dicke erwarmen
therefore must I in misery often to-grow-warm
 und ouch armen biz ûf mînen tôt.
and also to-languish until upon my death.

Ich versuocht von nôt an mînem herzen,
I tried from distress on my heart,
 ob ez mechte sich von ir gekêrn:
whether it might itself from her to-turn:
 dâ tet ez mir kunt sô senden smerzen,
there made it to-me known such yearning pain,
 daz ez niemer mecht sich ir erwern.
that it never might itself of-her to-defend.
 ich bin gebunden
I am bound
 in ir genâde: wil sî, sô wird ich erlôst.
in her grace: will she, so become I released.
 wil ab sî mir sêren herzen wunden
will but she to-me to-pain of-heart wounds
 zallen stunden, owê wa ist ir trôst?
at-all hours, alas where is her comfort?

XXVII,26

Wes sol man beginnen,
What shall one to-begin,
 sît nû muoz der sumer hinnen,
since now must the summer hence,
 der sô mange wunne bar?
which so many-a delight bore?
 man sol leider trûren:
one shall alas to-mourn:
 süeziu zît diu wellent sûren,
sweet seasons those will to-sour,

trüebe werdent tage clâr.

dim become days bright.

ungelückehaft minnære

unlucky lovers

die müezen zwei leit nû hân:

they must two sorrows now to-have:

in ist winter swære,

to-them is winter grievous,

sô sint sî ir frowen unmære:

so are they to-their ladies un-dear:

zuo dien mag ich leider gân.

to those may I alas to-go.

Wil diu sælden rîche

Will the of-blessing rich-one

daz ich iemer mich gelîche

that I ever myself liken

zuo dien die unglücke hânt,

to those who misfortune have,

sô wê mir der stunde,

then woe to-me of-the hour,

daz ich schouwen sî begunde,

that I to-behold her began,

dô mir wart ir wunne erkant;

when to-me became her delight known;

wan ich muos mich ir dâ geben,

for I must myself to-her there to-give,

ich sach ir wunnen sô vil.

I saw of-her delights so many.

sî mac mir mîn leben

she may to-me my life

kürzen alder fröide geben:

to-shorten or joy to-give:

sî tuot mir wol swie sî wil.

she does to-me well however she will.

Ich mac wol die Minne

I may well the Love

strâfen daz sî mîne sinne

to-chide that she my senses

an mîn frouwen hât geleit,

on my lady has laid,

und ab sis nicht twinget

and but she-her not compels

gegen mir und ouch innen bringet

toward me and also aware brings

daz sô wê tuont sendiu leit.

that so woe do yearning sorrows.

des mac sî mich wol varn lâzen,

therefore may she me well to-go to-let,

wan sî lât diu Minne frî.

for her lets the Love free.

des sî Minn verwâzen,

therefore be Love accursed,

sin well sich dann an mir mâzen,

unless-she will herself then on me to-moderate,

alder ouch betwingen sî.

or also to-compel her.

XXVII, 27

Wunne wil unwunne schön verdringen,

Delight will un-delight fair to-drive-out,

daz manz hœrt und sicht wol, swers nimt war.

so-that one-it hears and sees well, whoever-of-it takes note.

secht, ob daz mûg manc herz fröiden wern.

behold, whether that may many-a heart of-joys to-grant.

êst wunnenclich ze hœrn der voglîn singen,

it-is delightful to to-bear of-the little-birds singing,

sost wunnenclich ze sehen manc schœne var:

so-is-it delightful to to-see many-a fair bue:

uns wil sumer fröide und wunne bern.

to-us will summer joy and delight to-bear.

des sint frô all, wan die tulden senden pîn.

thereof are glad all, except those-who endure yearning torment.

dien stêtz sô, dams in nicht mac gemuoten.

to-those stands-it so, that-she to-them not may to-please.

ich gloub in bî mir, wan mich lât sîn

I believe to-them by me, for me leaves to-be

ouch in sender nôt diu frouwe mîn.

also in yearning distress the lady my.

Unrecht minnær irrent recht minnære:

False lovers hinder true lovers:

einr macht daz viern missetriuwet wirt,

one makes that to-four mistrusted becomes,

der nicht heln kan ald ab heln nicht wil

who not conceal can or else to-conceal not will

daz sîn frouwen êren dan wirt swære,

that to-bis lady's honor then becomes grievous,

unde ab ez im êre danne birt:

and but it to-him honor then bears:

des erwindet lieber minne vil.

thereby ceases of-dear love much.

doch solts nicht engelten ein getriuwer man,

yet should-it not to-pay-for a faithful man,

der gern sicht daz sîn minnen sî tougen,

who gladly sees that his loving be secret,

unde er daz vil wol geüegen kan:

and he that very well arrange can:

an den mac sich wol ein guot wîp lân.

on him may herself well a good woman to-rely.

Leide huote irrt recht minner sêre

Hateful watch hinders true lovers sorely

und ouch der verwâzen merker spehen:

and also of-the accursed watchers spying:

sî frömdent ir frowen in mangiu zît.

they estrange their ladies for many-a season.

dien ouch danne ir frouwen sint ze hêre,

to-whom also then their ladies are too lofty,

die mûn ouch dâ vûr ein irren jehen:

they may also there for a hindering to-call:

deist al wider der minner heile ein strîf.

that-is all against of-the lovers' salvation a strife.

swie vil kein daz irrt, sô irrt ez mich noch mê:

however much anyone that hinders, so hinders it me still more:

ich hân klein glückes ze mîner frouwen.

I have little of-fortune with my lady.

sî schiuht mich sams sî gein mir gevê:

she shuns me as-if-she be toward me hostile:

mir wart ir nie nicht wan ach und wê.

to-me became of-her never anything but ah and woe.

XXVII,28

Winter hât vorbotten ûz gesendet,

Winter has heralds out sent,

die hânt vogel süezen sanc erwendet:

they have of-birds sweet song ended:

sô velwent sî dem sumer sîne schœne var.

so wîther they to-the summer its fair bue.

der botten heizet einer sûriu bîse,

of-the heralds is-called one bitter north-wind,

diu lêrt mangan hiure ziterwîse:

it teaches many-a-one this-year shivering-tune:

sô heizt einer twer, der trüebt die tage clâr.

so is-called one cross-wind, that dims the days bright.

dar nâch wirt man snêws und rîfen schier gewar.

there after becomes one of-snow and hoarfrost soon aware.

winter bringt uns sorge her und anderswar;

winter brings to-us care hither and elsewhere;

wunnen bar werdent diu lant sô gar.

of-delights bare become the lands so quite.

Sô sach man ouch dicke an schœnen frouwen

Then saw one also often on fair ladies

wunnen mêr dan man nû müge geschouwen:

of-delights more than one now may to-bebold:

sî bergent nû kelen blanc und neckelîn

they cover now throats fair and little-necks

und ir houbet, wîze hende ouch dicke.

and their heads, white hands also often.

winter went uns süezer ougen blicke:

winter takes from-us of-sweet eyes glances:

man sach dūr klein ermél blanker arme schîn;

one saw through thin sleeves of-fair arms gleam;

sô sach man in wîplich stên ir kleinen lîn.
so saw one to-them womanly to-stand their fine linen.

nû went sî sich ziehen in die stuben hin:
now will they themselves to-draw into the chambers thither:

liechter schîn wil leider tiure sîn.
bright radiance will alas scarce to-be.

Doch muoz ich vor allen noeten klagen
Yet must I before all distresses to-lament

daz mich lât mîn frouwe jâmer tragen:
that me lets my lady misery to-bear:

sî tuot glich wies mîn nicht mûge minne hân.
she does as-if how-she of-me not may love to-have.

swaz ich dar nâ trôstes an sî muote,
whatever I there after of-comfort on her desired,

gan sî mir nicht heils, diu reine guote,
(if)-grants she to-me nothing of-salvation, the pure good-one,

sô ist gar verlorn daz ich mich an sî lân.
then is quite lost that I myself on her rely.

nû enmag ichs nicht, wan sî ist sô wol getân.
now may I-it not, for she is so well made.

doch ensol sî licht den muot nicht iemer hân:
yet shall she perhaps the spirit not ever to-have:

ûf den wân ding ich noch sender man.
upon that expectation hope I still yearning man.

XXVII,29

Wan mac frœlich schouwen
One may joyfully to-behold

tage clâr und mange var:
days bright and many-a hue:

anr und walt bestalt sint wunnenclich.
meadow and wood arrayed are delightful.

berg und tal und ouwen

hill and dale and meadows

sint bekleit und heide breit,

are clothed and heath broad,

und den plân sicht man ouch wunnen rîch.

and the plain sees one also of-delights rich.

nieman kan des sumers wunn volzellen:

no-one can the summer's delight to-recount-fully:

schœn sint sîn gesellen,

fair are its companions,

vîol, rôsenbluomen, klê,

violet, rose-flowers, clover,

boume bluot, loup, gras und gamandrê.

trees' bloom, leaf, grass and germander.

Des habent verlâzen

Therefore have forsaken

herzen pîn diu vogellîn.

of-heart torment the little-birds.

sumer tuot ir muot sô rechte frô.

summer makes their spirit so truly glad.

dar zuo ûf dien strâzen

there to upon the streets

fröiden vil sich heben wil:

of-joys much itself raise will:

sumer nie verlie, ern fröite sô.

summer never failed, it gladdened so.

man hœrt dicke an tenzen hôhe singen

one bears often at dances high to-sing

und dūr boume erklingen

and through trees to-resound

süezelich der vogel schal:

sweetly of-the birds sound:

des tuot ir teil wol diu nachtegal.

thereof does her part well the nightingale.

Owê sendiu swære

Alas yearning grief

machet doch daz ich bin noch

makes yet that I am still

jâmers vol, swie wol nû mangem ist.

of-misery full, however well now to-many-a-one is.

mîn frow sældenbære

my lady blessing-bearing

achtet nicht swie mir geschicht.

heeds not however to-me happens.

dâ von mir von ir noch trôstes brist.

there from to-me from her still of-comfort lacks.

owê si erkent nicht mîn senden smerzen:

alas she knows not my yearning pain:

dâ von ir ze herzen

there from to-her to heart

nicht engât mîn arebeit.

not goes my travail.

owê daz ir güete daz vertreit!

alas that her goodness that endures!

Nû wil der sumer hinnen, owê dast mir leit:

Now will the summer hence, alas that-is to-me sorrow:

man sach in sînem grase dicke schœne frouwen gân.

one saw in its grass often fair ladies to-go.

der winter bringt uns innen grôzer trûrîkeit,

the winter brings us aware of-great mournfulness,

und ouch dik kleine vogel wilde, daz sir sanc wen lân.

and also often little birds wild, that they-their song will to-leave.

dâ bî ist er ouch bî senden sorgen schade:

there by is it also with yearning cares harmful:

sî wæren ân in doch vil ze swære.

they were without it yet very too grievous.

ich muoz iemer ligen under glückes rade,

I must ever to-lie under fortune's wheel,

mirn helf ûf mîn frouwe sældebære.

unless-me help up my lady blessing-bearing.

sî ist gar wandels lære: dâ von bin ich ir.

she is quite of-change empty: there from am I hers.

owê wenn sol von ir genâden komen ir trôst ze mir?

alas when shall from her grace to-come her comfort to me?

Wer möchte mir gelouben wie mir senden ist,

Who might to-me to-believe how to-me yearning is,

swenn ich sî sihe sô schôn gebâren und sô wol gestalt?

whenever I her see so fair to-bear-herself and so well formed?

ir wunne macht mich touben, daz mir sinne brist,

her delight makes me senseless, so-that to-me sense lacks,

und brinne ouch in der minne viure: wîlent wirde ich kalt.

and burn also in the love's fire: at-times become I cold.

alsô wandel ich mich dâ von rechter nôt,

so change I myself there from true distress,

wan mich jâmert nâch ir also harte.

for me grieves after her so sorely.

ir wengel und ir munt sint sô rôsen rôt:

her cheeks and her mouth are so rose red:

dâ bî lachet sî sô rechte zarte.

there by laughs she so truly tenderly.

sî ist ouch rechter arte: ach wiest sî sô guot!

she is also of-true kind: ah how-is she so good!

got hât ir trûten stolzen lîp vor arge gar behuot.

God has her dear proud person from evil quite guarded.

Enkein dinc mac sô guot sîn, man vint wol dar an

No thing may so good to-be, one finds well there on

daz man spreche 'enwær daz, sô wær ez volkomen gar;'

that one may-say 'were-not that, then were it perfect quite;'

wan diu schoene frouw mîn, diust wandels erlân:

except the fair lady my, she-is of-change exempt:

sist kiusch mit Worten und mit werken: sost sî valsches bar.

she-is chaste with words and with works: so-is she of-falsehood bare.

êst nicht muotwill daz mir nâch ir ist sô wê:

it-is not wantonness that to-me after her is so woe:

mich erlât sîn nicht diu starke minne.

me releases of-it not the strong love.

ir kel und ir hende sint wîz recht als snê,

her throat and her hands are white just as snow,

unde stêt sô lieplîch ir ir kinne.

and stands so lovely to-her her chin.

vil wol stêt ouch ir tinne und ir ougen clâr,

very well stands also her brow and her eyes bright,

als ich sî hân gelobt: daz ist ân allen zwîvel wâr.

as I her have praised: that is without all doubt true.

XXVII,31

Manic belangen ist ergangen nâch der zît,
Many-a longing is gone after the season,

diu nû gît uns ougen wunne vil.
which now gives to-us of-eyes delight much.

dâ von wunder wirt dar under liute frô:
there from wondrous-many becomes there among of-people glad:

ich wær sô, wan daz mîn frouwe enwil.
I were so, except that my lady will-not.

waz frumt mich swie schœne sist,
what avails me however fair she-is,

ob sî wunnen mir nicht gunnen wil von ir?
if she of-delights to-me not grant will from her?

sô ist mir als dem gar wunnen brist.
then is to-me as to-him quite of-delights lacks.

Voglîn singen ouch gebringen mir nicht mac
Of-birds singing also to-bring to-me not may

daz der slac verheile, den mir sluoc
that the blow may-heal, which to-me struck

in mîn herze sender smerze ûf den grunt,
into my heart yearning pain to the bottom,

dâ mir kunt wart daz mir minne truoc
when to-me known became that to-me love bore

an mîn frouwen mînen muot;
on my lady my spirit;

wan diu reine wigt sô kleine mîn arbeit:
for the pure-one weighs so little my travail:

dâ von leit mir fröide tiure tuot.
there from sorrow to-me joy scarce makes.

Swenne ich schouwe waz mîn frouwe wunnen hât,
Whenever I behold what my lady of-delights has,

ach wie gât daz dūr daz herze mîn!
ah how goes that through the heart my!

sô zartlîche, minnenclîche gebâret sî:
so tenderly, lovingly bears-herself she:

secht, dâ bî hât sî wunneclîchen schîn.
behold, there by has she delightful radiance.

sist ze wunsche wol gestalt:
she-is to perfection well formed:

sost ir gmüete rechter güete ouch sô vol.
so-is her spirit of-true goodness also so full.

wol ir, wol! ir wunne ist manicvalt.
well to-her, well! her delight is manifold.

Frömdez minnen und angwinnen ist gelîch:
Estranged loving and toil is alike:

des ouch ich vil wol bevunden hân;
of-that also I very well experienced have;

wan mîn sinne stênt ûf minne, dâ ich muoz
for my senses stand upon love, where I must

frömden gruoze vür allen trôst enpfân.
estranged greeting for all comfort to-receive.

sus gêtz dien die minnent dar
thus goes-it to-those who love thither

dâ vil huote wider ir muote hüeten kan:
where much watch against their spirit guard can:

secht, dar an verliernts ir arbeit gar.
behold, there on lose-they their travail quite.

Dem gelinget lîcht, der ringet umb ein wîp,

To-him succeeds easily, who strives for a woman,

der sîn lîp sich mac gesellen zuo;

to-whom his person himself may to-join to;

wan sîn sprechen mac ir brechen frömden sîn:

for his speaking may to-her to-break estranged mind:

der gewin ergêt im lîcht vil fruo.

the gain befalls to-him easily very early.

vor heinlîche wart nie nicht:

before intimacy became never anything:

si kan wenden sorge und enden fröiden kraft.

it can to-turn care and to-accomplish of-joys strength.

sighaft wirt sî gern, swâ sî geschicht.

victorious becomes it gladly, wherever it happens.

XXVII,³²

Ich wære gerne frô:

I were gladly glad:

nû mags nicht, leider, sîn.

now may-it not, alas, to-be.

ich minne gar ze hô:

I love quite too high:

sî wil nicht ruochen mîn.

she will not to-deign of-me.

dâ von ich herzen sêre

there from I of-heart soreness

vil stæte haben muoz:

very constant have must:

mir wart ir nie nicht mêre

to-me became of-her never anything more

wan eine frömdeclich ir gruoz.

but only estranged her greeting.

Owê sî wigt sô kleine

Alas she weighs so little

mîn herzeclîchen nôt.

my heartfelt distress.

genâde, ein süeziu reine,

mercy, a sweet pure-one,

erwendent mir den tôt.

avert from-me the death.

erkennent mîne swære

know my grief

und helfent mir inzît.

and help to-me in-time.

bin ich iu lange unmære,

am I to-you long indifferent,

der tôt ûf mînem herzen lît.

the death upon my heart lies.

Ich man iuch rechter triuwen,

I remind you of-true faith,

die ich doch gegen iu hân,

which I yet toward you have,

daz ir iuch lâzent riuwen,

that ye you let to-rue,

wan ir noch hânt getân

for ye still have done

gein mir sô frömdecliche:

toward me so estrangedly:

daz muoz ich sêre klagen.

that must I sorely to-lament.

genâde, ein wunnerîche:

mercy, a delight-rich-one:

lânt mich noch heil an iu bejagen.

let me still salvation on you to-win.

XXVII,33

‘Nû merkt mich, swer noch tougen lige,

‘Now heed me, whoever still secretly lies,

ir sunt ergeben der fröiden spil:

ye shall to-yield of-the joys play:

daz râte ich iu gar âne valschen muot.

that counsel I to-you quite without false spirit.

er wære unwîs der mîrs verzige.

he were unwise who to-me-it denied.

der tac nicht mêt erwînden wil:

the day not more cease will:

der leit versicht, daz ist vür riuwe guot.

who sorrow foresees, that is against rue good.

frouwe, swaz ich nû gesage,

lady, whatever I now may-say,

went ir doch niender sprechen «herre, wach.»

will ye yet in-no-way to-say «lord, wake.»

ez wirt unser aller klage,

it becomes of-us all lament,

daz uns sô rechte leide nie beschach.

that to-us so truly sorrowfully never happened.

nein frowe, versehent ê daz ungemach.’

no lady, foresee beforehand the trouble.’

Sî hôt daz er ûz ernste rief.

She heard that he out-of earnest called.

‘nû wache, mîner fröiden hort:

‘now wake, of-my joys treasure:

ich muoz dich leider schiere von mir lân.’

I must thee alas soon from me to-let.’

ir trêne vil ûf im zerswief.

her tears many upon him flowed-down.

sî sprach 'wachtær, dîns sanges wort

she said 'watchman, of-thy song words

diu hânt den tac ze fruô uns kunt getân.

they have the day too early to-us known made.

er ist alsô gern bî mir

he is so gladly by me

und ich bî im, die wîle ich iemer mac.

and I by him, the while I ever may.

wachtær, dîns sanges dû embir,

watchman, of-thy song thou forbear,

unz âne zwîvel komen sül der tac:

until without doubt come shall the day:

wan nien kein wîp sô lieplîch mê gelac.'

for never any woman so lovingly more lay.'

'Ir hânt iuchs unwægsten bedâcht.

'Ye have you-of-it most-unfavorably considered.

der mâze kan, diu wendet leit:

he-who measure knows, it averts sorrow:

dâ von sô lère ich iuch die mâze wol.

there from so teach I you the measure well.

ich hab iuch in ungmüete brâcht:

I have you into ill-humor brought:

doch hab ichz iu dîr guot geseit,

yet have I-it to-you for good said,

daz ir iuch scheident, sît ez tagen sol.'

that ye you part, since it to-dawn shall.'

er sprach 'frouwe, des ist zît,

he said 'lady, of-that is time,

swie wê mir tuot daz ich mich dîn enbar.

however woe to-me does that I myself of-thee deprive.

frouwe, dû dîn weinen mit,

lady, leave thy weeping withal,

daz dich got iemer mêre wol bewar,
that thee God ever more well may-keep,
 und küsse mich ê daz ich von dir var.'
and kiss me before that I from thee go.'

XXVII,³⁴

'Nâch lieb gât leit! ich muoz ein wîb erschrecken,'
'After love goes sorrow! I must a woman to-startle,'
 sang ein wachter, 'diu noch bî friunde lît.
sang a watchman, 'who still by friend lies.
 ir sî geseit, daz sî in bald sol wecken,
to-her be said, that she him quickly shall to-wake,
 wan ez wil tagen: dâ von ist ez zît.
for it will to-dawn: there from is it time.
 in nôt ich stân (übric liebe vürcht ich)
in distress I stand (excessive love fear I)
 daz sî sich dür liebe wâgen unde mich.
that she herself for love ventures and me.
 wir müezen lân unser leben und êre,
we must to-leave our life and honor,
 sien hân vor tage dan gescheiden sich.'
unless-they have before day then parted themselves.'

Si tet imz kunt friuntlich mit umbevange
She made to-him-it known kindly with embrace
 und ouch mit manigem brüsteldrucke dô.
and also with many-a breast-pressing then.
 ir rôter munt sprach 'friunt, dû slâfst ze lange:
her red mouth said 'friend, thou sleepest too long:
 wir suln uns scheiden, swiez uns mache unfrô.'
we shall us to-part, however-it us makes unglad.'
 der herre guot ir weckens dâ bevant.
the lord good of-her waking there became-aware.

er sprach 'mir ist wol und ist mir leit erkant.
he said 'to-me is well and is to-me sorrow known.

mir fröit den muot dîn minneclîchez triuten:
to-me gladdens the spirit thy lovely caressing:

sô tuot mir wê deich von dir muoz zehant.'
so does to-me woe that-I from thee must at-once.'

'Guot herre mîn, ez mac sich mêr gefüegen,
'Good lord my, it may itself again to-happen,

ob wir uns scheiden, ê mans werde gwar.'
if we us part, before one-it become aware.'

'frow, daz sol sîn: wir sun uns lân genüegen
'lady, that shall to-be: we shall us to-let to-suffice

daz wir die nacht wârn frœlîch sament gar.
that we the night were merry together quite.

frow, unz har nâch sô gib nû urlob mir.'
lady, until hither after so give now leave to-me.'

sî sprach 'herre, daz gib ich noch kûme dir.
she said 'lord, that give I yet hardly to-thee.

wiest dir sus gâch?' 'daz ist, frouw, umb dîn êre.'
how-is to-thee thus haste?' 'that is, lady, for thy honor.'

sî sprach 'nû var, swie kûme ich dîn embir!'
she said 'now go, however hardly I of-thee do-without!'

XXVII,35

Wol der süezen wandelunge!
Well of-the sweet changing!

swaz winter truobte, daz tuot sumer clâr.
whatever winter dimmed, that makes summer bright.

daz fröit alte, daz fröit junge,
that gladdens old, that gladdens young,

wan sumer uobte doch ie wunnen schar.
for summer stirred yet ever of-delights host.

wol im swer sich nu fröiwen sol!

well for-him whoever himself now rejoice shall!

dem ist sô wunnenclichen wol.

to-him is so delightfully well.

swaz ab ich von wunnen schouwe,

whatever but I of delights behold,

doch wil mîn frouwe daz ich kumber dol.

yet will my lady that I affliction endure.

Owê solt ich und mîn frouwe

Alas should I and my lady

unsich vereinen und uns danne ergên

ourselves to-unite and us then to-walk-out

in ein schoenen wilden ouwe,

into a fair wild meadow,

daz ich die reinen sæhe in bluomen stên!

that I the pure-one saw in flowers to-stand!

dâ sungen uns diu vogellîn:

there sang to-us the little-birds:

wâ mecht mir danne baz gesîn?

where might to-me then better to-be?

sô vund ich dâ schoen geræte

then would-find I there fair furnishing

von sumerwæte zeinem bette fîn.

of summer-garment for-a bed fine.

Daz wolt ich von bluomen machen,

That would I of flowers to-make,

von vîol wunder und von gamandrê,

of violets wonder and of germander,

deiz von wunnen möchte lachen.

that-it from delights might to-laugh.

dâ müesten under münzen unde klê.

there must beneath mint and clover.

die wanger müesten sîn von bluot,

the pillows must to-be of bloom,

daz culter von bendicten guot,

the coverlet of betony good,

diu lînlichen clâr von rôsen:

the linen-sheets bright of roses:

ez wære ir lôsen lîb niht vor behuot.

it were her playful body not from guarded.

Wær sî niht sô lobeliche,

Were she not so praiseworthy,

sî wær ze danke an daz bette mir.

she were to liking on the bed to-me.

si ist sô rein, sô wunnen rîche,

she is so pure, so of-delights rich,

dâ von nicht kranke wunne hôrte zir.

there from no feeble delight belonged toward-her.

sô spræche ich 'liep, nu sich wie vil

then would-say I 'dear-one, now see how much

daz bette hât der wunnen spil:

the bed has of-the delights play:

dar ûf gê mit mir, vil hêre.'

there upon go with me, very noble-one.'

ich vürchte sêre daz sî spræche 'in wil.'

I fear sorely that she would-say 'I-not will.'

Wan daz mir ir zorn wê tæte,

Except that to-me her anger woe would-do,

ich würde ân lougen dâ gewaltic ir.

I would-become without denial there master of-her.

swes ich sî lieplîch erbæte,
whatever I her lovingly entreated,
 daz bræchte tougen hôhe fröide mir.
that would-bring secretly high joy to-me.
 ê daz ab ich sî wolte lân,
before that but I her would to-leave,
 ich wolde sî doch umbevân
I would her yet to-embrace
 und sî dan anz bette swingen —
and her then onto-the bed to-swing
 owê! daz ringen mac mir wol vergân.
alas! that wrestling may to-me well to-pass-away.

XXVII,³⁶

Ez ist doch rechte klagelîch,
It is yet truly lamentable,
 daz nû der sumer schœne
that now the summer fair
 von hinnen sol.
from hence shall.
 er was sô manger wunnen rîch:
it was of-so many delights rich:
 des hôrt man vogeldœne
thereby heard one bird-melodies
 klingen sô wol.
to-ring so well.
 nû sicht man trüebe tage:
now sees one dim days:
 daz trüebet muot;
that dims spirit;

doch ist mîn meistiu klage

yet is my greatest lament

daz mir nicht tuot

that to-me not makes

genâde kunt mîn frouwe guot:

mercy known my lady good:

sî hât ir trôst sô lange

she has her comfort so long

vor mir behuot.

from me guarded.

Doch ich mich nicht erwerben kan,

Yet I myself not defend can,

mir müeze dicke ir güete

to-me must often her goodness

ze herzen gên,

to heart to-go,

swenn ich sî sich sô wol getân,

whenever I her see so well made,

sô mac dan mîn gemüete

then may then my spirit

nicht stille stên.

not still to-stand.

wan ez wirt dan sô wilde,

for it becomes then so wild,

sô mir wirt kunt

when to-me becomes known

wie zartlîch stêt ir bilde:

how tenderly stands her form:

sô wirde ich wunt

then become I wounded

von minnen dür des herzen grunt

from love through of-the heart ground

und ouch von sendem jâmer

and also from yearning misery

lieplich enzunt.

lovingly kindled.

Nû hüete er sich, swer sehe dar

Now guard he himself, whoever may-look thither

und rechte kan geschouwen

and rightly can to-behold

daz schœne wîp;

the fair woman;

wan er wirt in der sêle gwar

for he becomes in the soul aware

der wunnen mîner frouwen:

of-the delights of-my lady:

sô kumt sîn lîp

then comes his person

in sô manvalte sinne

into so manifold thoughts

und ouch in ger

and also into desire

nâch minnenclîcher minne:

after lovely love:

sô kumt dann er

then comes then he

in sende nôt, des bin ich wer.

into yearning distress, of-that am I warrant.

swer sich des mac erlâzen,
whoever himself of-that may to-release,

jâ ruowet der.
indeed rests he.

XXVII,37

Nû stêt sô wol geblüemet
Now stands so well flowered

diu heide in sumerlîcher wât:
the heath in summery garment:

des man vil von wunnen sicht.
so-that one much of delights sees.

des wirt sî wol gerüemet
therefore becomes it well praised

von dem swer sich wol wunne entstât:
by him whoever himself well delight perceives:

doch ist sî volgestet nicht,
yet is it fully-arrayed not,

ê daz dâ mêr geschicht,
before that there more happens,

daz man ouch frouwen sicht
that one also ladies sees

dâ gân lôslîche:
there to-go playfully:

sost sî dan gastung rîche,
so-is it then of-adornment rich,

daz man ir volles lobes gicht.
that one to-it of-full praise avows.

Swâ manic wîplîch bilde
Wherever many-a womanly form

ze semne gêt vil wol bekleit,
to assembly goes very well clothed,

da ist der welte wunne vil.

there is of-the world delight much.

wie wirt dâ dan sô wilde

how becomes there then so wild

des mannes herze in süezekeit,

the man's heart in sweetness,

der dar nâch gedenken wil!

who there after think will!

wan sînes herzen spil

for of-his heart play

kumt danne ûf daz zil

comes then upon the goal

der süezen minne.

of-the sweet love.

des bin ich worden inne:

of-that am I become aware:

ez ist sô guot daz ichs nicht hil.

it is so good that I-it not conceal.

Doch gît ez im ouch kumber,

Yet gives it to-him also affliction,

swer verrer dan gedenket dâ

whoever farther out thinks there

dan im iemer werden mac.

than to-him ever become may.

des bin ich ouch vil tumber,

of-that am I also very foolish,

wan ez geschicht mir dan iesâ:

for it happens to-me then at-once:

daz ist mîner fröiden slac

that is of-my joys blow

des mir nacht unde tac

so-that to-me night and day

leit vür fröide ie wac.

sorrow over joy ever was-allotted.

doch sunderlîche

yet especially

bin ich gedanken rîche

am I of-thoughts rich

nâch ir, der ich mit dienste ie pflac.

after her, whom I with service ever tended.

XXVII,38

Owê voglîn dæne,

Alas of-birds melodies,

owê manger schœne,

alas of-many-a beauty,

die vil schœne wîp

which very fair women

dicke ê giengen schouwen

often formerly went to-behold

ûf heid und in ouwen,

on heath and in meadows,

manic zarter lîp

many-a tender body

in liechtem kleide

in bright clothing

lôslich dūr daz gras.

playfully through the grass.

ir schœn und der heide

their beauty and of-the heath

lûchten zemene beide:

shone together both:

waz dâ wunnen was!

what there of-delights was!

Des wart dâ von inne

Of-that became there from aware

fröide und wilder sinne

of-joy and wild senses

manic junger man,

many-a young man,

die mit mangem blicke

who with many-a glance

mochten sehen dicke

might to-see often

frouwen ûf dem plân.

ladies upon the meadow.

jâ was daz hiure:

indeed was that this-year:

des mac nû nicht sîn.

of-that may now nothing to-be.

winter bringt sîn stiure:

winter brings its tribute:

des sint fröide tiure

therefore are joys scarce

uns und vogellîn.

to-us and little-birds.

Jâ klag ich noch mêre,

Indeed lament I still more,

daz mîn frouwe hêre

that my lady noble

nie gewac mîn nôt,

never weighed my distress,

und ich doch sô harte

and I yet so hard

ir genâden warte

of-her graces await

biz ûf mînen tôt.

until upon my death.

unde næm sî schône

and took she fairly

mir noch sende arbeit,

from-me yet yearning travail,

sô wurd mit ir lône

then would-become with her reward

edeles heiles krône

of-noble fortune crown

ûf mîn houbt bereit.

upon my head prepared.

XXVII,39

Waz meinent nû diu vogellîn,

What mean now the little-birds,

daz sî sô dicke ûf sechent gegen dem sunnen

that they so often up look toward the sun

und ouch dâ mitte singent hô?

and also there with sing high?

sî fröit der sumerliche schîn,

them gladdens the summery radiance,

daz sich diu welt nû stellet gar ze wunnen:

that itself the world now sets quite to delights:

des sol man mit in wesen frô.

therefore shall one with them to-be glad.

nû stêt mîn herze leider sô,

now stands my heart alas so,

daz ich enmac.

that I may-not.

mîn frouwe diust mîn sumertac:

my lady she-is my summer-day:

diu wundet mich

she wounds me

alsô daz ich

so that I

vil kûme mac genesen.

very hardly may to-recover.

Wie sîn wir in sô süezer zît!

How are we in so sweet season!

diu heide und ouwe sint sô rechte schœne:

the heath and meadow are so truly fair:

daz swendet manges herzen pîn;

that dispels of-many-a heart torment;

wan vogelîn singent wider strît

for little-birds sing in contest

sô manicvalde süezeclîche dœne.

so manifold sweet melodies.

doch muoz echt ich in klage sîn.

yet must indeed I in lament to-be.

mir tuot sô wê diu frouwe mîn:

to-me does so woe the lady my:

daz muoz ich doch

that must I yet

bî mangel wunnen klagen noch.

amid many delights to-lament still.

ez ist gewert

it is granted

sô manic vert,

so many-a-one last-year,

daz ichz unsanfte trage.

that I-it uneasily bear.

Swie sî mir tuot, doch minne ich sî

However she to-me does, yet love I her

mit ganzen triuwen, daz ist gar ein wunder:

with whole faith, that is quite a wonder:

ich muoz ir dienen iemer mê.

I must to-her to-serve ever more.

sî dunket mich doch arges frî,

she seems to-me yet of-evil free,

swie sî mich tuot an allen fröiden under.

however she me puts in all joys down.

mir ist nâch ir senlîche wê:

to-me is after her yearningly woe:

ich slâfe, ich wache, ich lige, ich stê,

I sleep, I wake, I lie, I stand,

doch ist mîn muot

yet is my spirit

bî ir, wan sist sô rechte guot.

by her, for she-is so truly good.

des wünsche ich mir,

therefore wish I for-me,

daz ich von ir

that I from her

noch werde fröiden rîche.

yet become of-joys rich.

Nû warte ich allez, wanne sî

Now await I always, when she

sich welle neigen gegen mir senden manne.

herself will to-incline toward me yearning man.

owê des wær sô verre zît,

alas of-that were so far time,

wan ich wær ir sô gerne bî.

for I were her so gladly by.

sî solte mich doch meinen etteswanne:

she should me yet to-favor sometime:

mîn trôst an ir genâden lît.

my comfort on her graces lies.

ir frömde mir vil leides gât.

her estrangement to-me much of-sorrow gives.

ach reiniu frucht,

ah pure fruit,

dür dîn vil wîplîch stênden zucht

for thy very womanly standing breeding

erbarme dich

take-pity thee

noch über mich:

yet over me:

hilf mir ûz sendem schaden.

help to-me out-of yearning harm.

Swie verre ich von der schœnen var,

However far I from the fair-one go,

ich habe ein botten, der vert also drâte:

I have a messenger, who travels so swiftly:

der vert zuo zir in einer stunt.

he travels to toward-her in one hour.

den sende ich alle morgen dar

him send I all mornings thither

zuo zir, und ouch vil mangan âbent spâte.

to toward-her, and also very many-an evening late.

der botte ist nicht der hêren kunt,

the messenger is not to-the noble-one known,

wan er gêt von mîns herzen grunt:

for he goes from of-my heart ground:

ez ist mîn sin:

it is my mind:

der vert zuo zir, swie verre ich bin.

which travels to toward-her, however far I am.

sî sælic wîp,

she blessed woman,

ach möcht mîn lîp

ah might my person

als ofte zuo zir kêren!

as often to toward-her to-turn!

XXVII,40

Manc hôher muot der tuot sich aber under:

Many-a high spirit it puts itself again under:

daz vüegt des winters zît;

that causes the winter's season;

wan sîn getwanc tuot kranc von schœne wunder

for its constraint makes weak of beauty wonders

und ouch der voglîn strît,

and also of-the little-birds contest,

diu sô suoz die schœne

which so sweetly the beauty

lobten mit gedœne.

praised with melody.

wer klagte nicht, daz man ensicht noch hœret
who would-lament not, that one not-sees nor hears

daz uns ê machte frô?
which us before made glad?

Doch muoz der pîn mir sîn vor allem smerzen,
Yet must the torment to-me to-be before all pain,

der mir senlîch tuot wê;
which to-me yearningly does woe;

wan sî noch nie verlie mîn klage ze herzen:
for she still never admitted my lament to heart:

waz solte ich klagen mê?
what should I to-lament more?

und doch ir mîn triuwe
and yet to-her my faith

wâren ie sô niuwe:
were ever so new:

dâ von tuot mir sô wê von ir ir frömden:
there from does to-me so woe from her her estranging:

owê liez sî daz noch!
alas would-leave she that yet!

Diu Minne kan nicht hân die rechten mâze:
The Love can not to-have the right measure:

daz ist mir leider kunt;
that is to-me alas known;

wan sî mich treit in leit die strengen strâze
for she me bears into sorrow the harsh road

ûf senelîchen grunt.
upon yearning ground.

ein wîp schœne und hêre

a woman fair and noble

liebt sî mir sô sêre

endears she to-me so sorely

und nicht ir mich: dâ von sî sich mir frömdet.

and not to-her me: there from she herself from-me estranges.

ach, mich twingt ouch ir lîp!

ah, me compels also her person!

XXVII,⁴¹

Nû haben wir gewechselt wol:

Now have we exchanged well:

wir haben leit gegeben

we have sorrow given

umb hôhen muot.

for high spirit.

uns tet ê winter sorgen vol:

us made before winter of-cares full:

nû mac man frœlich leben

now may one merrily to-live

den sumer guot.

the summer good.

man sicht sô mangle schœne:

one sees so many-a beauty:

sô hœret man

so hears one

der voglîn sœze dœne.

of-the little-birds sweet melodies.

ach, solte ich gân

ah, should I to-go

mit mînem liebe wol getân,

with my dear-one well made,

an ein heinliche grüne

into a secret green

vil verre dan!

very far thence!

Sô bræche ich loup, gras, vîol, klê:

Then would-break I leaf, grass, violet, clover:

ich wolte ein bette machen

I would a bed to-make

von schœner var,

of fair hue,

die wanger stolz von gamandrê,

the pillows proud of germander,

daz culter manger sachen

the coverlet of-many things

von bluomen schar.

of flowers host.

sô spræche ich 'liep, nû schouwe

then would-say I 'dear-one, now behold

daz bette fîn.

the bed fine.

vil minnenclîchiu frouwe,

very lovely lady,

nû ruoche mîn,

now deign of-me,

daz mir zergê senlicher pîn.'

that from-me may-pass yearning torment.'

ich vürchte, daz sî spræche

I fear, that she would-say

'des mac nicht sîn.'

'of-that may nothing to-be.'

Doch wolte ich umbevâhen si,
Yet would I to-embrace her,

wer wolte mich des wenden?
who would me of-that to-turn-away?

dâ wær nieman.
there were no-one.

sô wurde ich lichte sorgen frî:
then would-become I perhaps of-cares free:

sîn möcht mit linden henden
she might with tender hands

mîn nicht erslân.
me not to-slay.

wir müesten lichte ringen:
we would-have-to perhaps to-wrestle:

sô solte ich wol
then should I well

hin an daz bett sî swingen:
thither onto the bed her to-swing:

sô wurde ez vol
then would-become it full

der wunnen, der ich wünschen sol,
of-the delights, which I wish shall,

wan ich ir stætez frömden
for I her constant estranging

sô kûme dol.
so hardly endure.

XXVII,42

Jâ klag ich die sumerzît:
Indeed lament I the summer-season:

winter gât
winter gives

sorgen vil; der wil des nû nicht lân.
of-cares much; it will of-that now not to-leave.

er nimt uns sô liechten schîn:

it takes from-us so bright radiance:

vogellîn

of-little-birds

süezer schal übr al des muoz zergân.

sweet sound over all of-that must to-pass-away.

ich klage noch mê:

I lament still more:

man sach frouwen lôslich gân

one saw ladies playfully to-go

ûf den plân:

upon the meadow:

des nû nicht geschicht; daz tuot uns wê.

of-that now nothing happens; that does to-us woe.

Frouwen wunne liebt sich baz

Of-ladies delight endears itself better

dann allez daz

than all that

ieman sicht: des gicht doch manic man.

anyone sees: of-that avows yet many-a man.

ir zartlich gebâren tuot

their tender bearing makes

mannes muot

man's spirit

fröiden vol, der wol kan wunne entstân.

of-joys full, who well can delight to-perceive.

ez tuot ouch wê

it does also woe

dem, den sende nôt gevât,

to-him, whom yearning distress seizes,

wan diu lât

for it leaves

kûm den man: daz kan sî, swiez ergê.

hardly the man: that can she, however-it may-go.

Er mac sich erwerben nicht,

He may himself to-defend not,

der an sicht

who on looks

ein zart wîp, sîn lîp kom danne in nôt.

a tender woman, his person may-come then into distress.

ob sî schœn ist, wol gestalt,

if she fair is, well formed,

manicvalt

manifold

wirt sîn ger, swenn er sicht ir munt rôt.

becomes his desire, whenever he sees her mouth red.

ich weiz bî mir:

I know by me:

swa ich mîn frouwen ie gesach,

wherever I my lady ever saw,

ich dâcht 'ach,

I thought 'ah,

wan solt ich noch mich kunden zuo dir!'

would-that should I yet myself to-make-known to thee!'

XXVII,43

Swem ze muote

To-whom in spirit

nâch dem guote

after the good

sî der erne lœne,

be of-the harvest wages,

der bereite sich, dēst zît.

he prepare himself, it-is time.

wol ûf knechte

well up lads

und ouch rechte

and also rightly

stolze dirne schoene:

proud maidens fair:

lœne guot man iu dâ gât.

wages good one to-you there gives.

dar kumt manic schoeniu schar.

thither comes many-a fair company.

wol im, wol, swes liep kumt dar,

well for-him, well, whose dear-one comes thither,

wan er dicke

for he often

minnezicke

love-tokens

mag im dâ erzeigen:

may to-it there to-show:

secht daz tuot in sorgen bar.

behold that makes him of-cares bare.

In der erne

In the harvest

pfligt man gerne

practices one gladly

fröide und wilder sinne,

of-joy and wild senses,

wan dâ huote ist nicht ze vil.

for there watch is not too much.

dâ wirt kôsen

there becomes chatting

mit vil lôsen

with very playful

sprüchen von der minne,

sayings of the love,

dar zuo manger wunnen spil.

there to of-many delights play.

wê, wiest erne recht sô guot,

ah, how-is harvest just so good,

wan sî wol gesellen tuot

for it well to-pair makes

knappen kluoge

lads clever

wol mit fuoge

well with fitness

zuo dien dirnen schœne:

to the maidens fair:

daz frôit vür des meijen bluot!

that gladdens beyond of-the May bloom!

Möcht ich kunden

Might I to-make-known

manger stunden

of-many hours

mich zuo mîner frouwen,

myself to my lady,

daz tæt mir ouch sorgen buoz.

that would-do to-me also of-cares remedy.

merker hüeten

watchers to-guard

kan sô wüeten,

can so to-rage,

so ich sî wolte schouwen,
when I her would to-behold,

daz ichs dicke mîden muoz,
that I-her often avoid must,

swie mîn wunne lît an ir,
however my delight lies on her,

und ich sî sô kûm verbir.
and I her so hardly forbear.

mîn gelücke
my fortune

manger stücke
of-many pieces

iemer alsô bîtet,
ever so awaits,

ald sî bringens zemen mir.
or she bring-them together with-me.

XXVII,⁴⁴

Herbest wol ergetzen kan
Autumn well compensate can

gesindes man der sumerzît:
of-household men of-the summer-season:

swer miete gît, der ist sô wert.
whoever payment gives, he is so worthy.

er gît hammen bî der gluot
it gives hams by the embers

und ... guot und brâten veiz
and (lacuna) good and roasts fat

und wûrste heiz, swie vil man gert.
and sausages hot, however much one desires.

des werdent dâ die knappen geil.
thereof become there the lads merry.

einer sprichet 'siud und brât

one says 'boil and roast

des herbstes rât, vil lieber wirt,

the autumn's store, very dear host,

sît er uns birt sô vollen teil.

since it to-us bears so full share.

Ingwant, bletze, terme und die,

Entrails, tripe, guts and thighs,

daz uns der hie nicht abe gê!

that to-us of-them here not off go!

noch gib uns mê: des ist uns nôt.

still give to-us more: of-that is to-us need.

sô der haven râtes vol

when the pot of-store full

erwaltet wol, sô gib uns her

has-boiled well, then give to-us hither

nâch unser ger recht einlif brôt

after our desire just eleven breads

dar und begiuz uns diu sô gar.

thither and pour-over for-us them so quite.

klobewürste und niuwen wîn

garlic-sausages and new wine

trag ouch har in: der ist sô quot.

bear also hither in: it is so good.

der herbest tuot uns sorgen bar.'

the autumn makes us of-cares bare.'

Doch was mangem minner baz,

Yet was to-many-a lover better,

dô sumer was, sît man nû nicht

when summer was, since one now not

der wunne sicht, die man sach dô,

of-the delight sees, which one saw then,

dô man sach die bluomen stên

when one saw the flowers to-stand

und frouwen gên sô sumerlîch

and ladies to-go so summerly

und minneclîch: sô rechte vrô

and lovely: so truly glad

gebârtên sî und ân getwanc.

bore-themselves they and without constraint.

hende wîz, ir necke clâr

hands white, their necks bright

sach man ouch bar: der liechte schîn

saw one also bare: the bright radiance

muoz tiure sîn den winter lanc.

must scarce to-be the winter long.

Wan ez bergent schœniu wîp

For it cover fair women

ir zarten lîp: an hiuten lint

their tender bodies: on skins tender

der kalte wint tuot dicke wê.

the cold wind does often woe.

hin geleit sint lîn sô klein,

away laid are linens so fine,

dâ wîziu bein sô lûchten dÛr,

where white legs so shone through,

ich hânz der vÛr, wîz als der snê,

I have-it there for, white as the snow,

und dūr klein ermel arme wîz.

and through thin sleeves arms white.

uns nement ir winterkleit

from-us take their winter-clothes

die sūezekeit. ach sumerzît,

the sweetness. ah summer-season,

wie wüest nû lît dîn hôher prîs!

how waste now lies thy high praise!

Alsô lît mîns herzen grunt,

So lies of-my heart ground,

sît mir wart kunt mîn frouwe guot;

since to-me became known my lady good;

wan sî mich tuot in sorgen slac

for she me puts into of-cares blow

und sî mich getrôste nie,

and she me comforted never,

swie wê mir ie nâch ir geschach:

however woe to-me ever after her happened:

daz ungemach sî nie gewac.

that trouble she never weighed.

ich möchte wol erbarmen sî:

I might well to-move-to-pity her:

ich hân sender nôt sô vil,

I have of-yearning distress so much,

daz diu mich wil verderben doch,

that it me will to-destroy yet,

sin tûeje noch der nôt mich frî.

unless-she make yet of-the distress me free.

XXVII,45

Diu Minne brichet dicke ir recht, ir güete:

The Love breaks often her right, her goodness:

sî lât ir rechten dienstman

she forsakes her true servant

und bringet dâ bî mangem hôhgemüete,

and brings there by to-many-a high-spirit,

der ir doch nicht gedienen kan.

who to-her yet not serve can.

dâ von ist sî sô wunderlîch:

there from is she so strange:

sî hilfet sô gar ungelîch,

she helps so quite unequally,

sin ruochet war sî kêret sich.

she-not deigns whither she turns herself.

Sî solt dem helfen, der hoflîch kan werben

She should to-him to-help, who courteously can to-woo

und frouwen ist mit triuwen holt.

and to-ladies is with faith devoted.

sin solte stolzen man nicht lân verderben:

she should proud man not to-let to-perish:

sô teilte sî hoflîch ir solt.

then would-deal she courteously her wage.

nû hilft sî mangem, der nicht kan

now helps she to-many-a-one, who nothing can

wan sîn ein ungesalzen man:

but to-be an unsalted man:

des sint ir doch die besten gran.

thereof are to-her yet the best hostile.

Wan tuot sî rechte, diu verwâzen Minne,
Why does she rightly, the accursed Love,

und tuot ir namen doch gelîch?
and does her name yet alike?

ich wæn sî habe niender rechte sinne,
I think she has nowhere right senses,

wan sî sô dicke swechet sich;
for she so often weakens herself;

wan sî sô mangel twinget dar,
for she so many-a-one compels thither,

dâ man in tuot sô fröiden bar:
where one him makes so of-joys bare:

in werde ir helfe ouch nicht gewar.
I become of-her help also not aware.

XXVII, 46

Ez muoz ein man dik hân sô senden smerzen,
It must a man often to-have such yearning pain,

der frouwen gern nimt war.
who of-ladies gladly takes note.

ir liechter schîn sô fîn gât im ze herzen
their bright radiance so fine goes to-him to heart

und dûr die sêle gar.
and through the soul quite.

ein wîplich zartez bilde
a womanly tender form

gât manne muot und tuot sîn herze wilde:
gives to-a-man spirit and makes his heart wild:

wîp sint ein lieplich guot.
women are a lovely good.

Dür schoëniu wîp mans lîp sol pflegen züchte

For fair women man's person shall to-practice of-breeding

und ouch bescheidenheit.

and also discretion.

wær tât des nicht? man sicht sô stolzer früchte

were did that not? one sees such proud fruits

nicht in der welte breit.

not in the world broad.

wîp sint in mannes ougen

women are in man's eyes

ein süezer schîn. ach mîn, des tulde ich tougen

a sweet radiance. ah me, of-that endure I secretly

von süeze strengen pîn!

from sweetness harsh torment!

Nacht unde tac er mac wol fröelich wesen,

Night and day he may well merry to-be,

der mac bî frouwen sîn.

who may by ladies to-be.

vor leit er sol vil wol bî in genesen:

from sorrow he shall very well by them to-recover:

sîn zît gêt suoze hin.

his time goes sweetly away.

sîn ougen sehent dicke

his eyes look often

sô lieplîch dar, doch gar heinlicher blicke:

so lovingly thither, yet quite of-secret glances:

wîp sint sô zartlîch clâr.

women are so tenderly bright.

XXVII, 47

In dem grünen klê sach ich mîn frouwen gân:

In the green clover saw I my lady to-go:

ach waz ich dâ wunnen sach

ah what I there of-delights saw

an ir vil und mê und an dem schoenen plân,

on her much and more and on the fair meadow,

daz ez in mîn herze brach!

so-that it into my heart broke!

bluomen clâr und diu frouwe mîn

flowers bright and the lady my

lûchten gegen ein andern, daz diu wunne ûf gie:

shone toward one another, so-that the delight up went:

ich gesach nie sô liechten schîn.

I saw never so bright radiance.

Ich bin nâch ir sô gar senelîch verdâcht:

I am after her so quite yearningly lost-in-thought:

sin helfe mir, ez ist mîn tôt.

unless-she help to-me, it is my death.

wê, wes wart ich frô, daz ich dar zuo wart brâcht!

woe, of-what became I glad, that I there to was brought!

dô mir diu Minne dar gebôt,

when to-me the Love thither commanded,

don wisse echt ich des smerzen niet:

then knew indeed I of-the pain nothing:

in wânde nicht, in vunde schier genâde an ir,

I thought not, but-I would-find soon grace on her,

wan minne mir sô suoz dar riet.

for love to-me so sweetly thither counseled.

Hilf mir, frouwe guot, dūr dīne sēlikeit,

Help to-me, lady good, for thy blessedness,

daz ich nicht verderbe sō.

that I not may-perish so.

sich, dīn frōmden tuot mir disiū swāren leit:

behold, thy estranging does to-me these grievous sorrows:

owê, mache mich noch frō,

alas, make me yet glad,

frouwe guot aller dinge gar,

lady good of-all things quite,

wan daz dū mir stæteclīche bist gehaz:

except that thou to-me constantly art hostile:

und lāst dū daz, sō ist ez wār.

and leavest thou that, then is it true.

XXVII,⁴⁸

Swer wol kunne

Whoever well can

frouwen wunne

of-ladies delight

manicvalt entstân,

manifold to-perceive,

der sol sehen

he shall to-look

gern und spehen

gladly and to-watch

an ir lōslīch gân

on their playful going

und nīgen ir zartem gruoze

and to-bow to-their tender greeting

und nemen war,

and to-take note,

daz man schouwen

that one to-behold

mag an frouwen

may on ladies

lieplîch wunne gar.

lovely delight quite.

Doch swen minne

Yet whom love

bringet inne,

brings aware,

wie sî twingen mac,

how she compel may,

dem tuont dicke

to-him make often

süeze blicke

sweet glances

kunt vil senden slac,

known very yearning blow,

swenne er sicht sô schœne vrouwen

whenever he sees so fair ladies

sô wîplich guot:

so womanly good:

frouwen bilde

of-ladies form

machet wilde

makes wild

dicke mannes muot.

often man's spirit.

Swâ mîn ougen

Wherever my eyes

sehent tougen

see secretly

mîn lieb wol getân,

my dear-one well made,

sender smerze

yearning pain

kan mîn herze

can my heart

danne wol durchgân:

then well to-pierce:

sô siuftet ez ie dar under

then sighs it ever there among

und klaget mir

and laments to-me

daz diu reine

that the pure-one

wigt sô kleine

weighs so little

swie mir ist nâch ir.

however to-me is after her.

Swer sich kunden

Whoever himself to-make-known

manger stunden

of-many hours

mac der frouwen sîn,

may to-the lady his,

in dien dingen

in those things

mac gelingen

may to-succeed

im wol werden schîn.

to-him well to-become plain.

swer frömde dâ dan muoz wesen,

whoever estranged there away must to-be,

dar sîn muot treit,

thither his spirit bears,

secht, des werben

behold, his wooing

muoz verderben

must to-perish

gar in arebeit.

quite in travail.

Selken kumber

Such affliction

trage ich tumber

bear I foolish

nû vil mange zît:

now very many-a season:

des mîn muoten

so-that my desiring

gegen der guoten

toward the good-one

ouch sô wüeste lît.

also so desolate lies.

sô frömdet sich mir diu hêre

so estranges herself from-me the noble-one

noch leider ie:

still alas ever:

in mocht klagen

I-not might to-lament

noch gesagen

nor to-tell

ir mîn jâmer nie.

to-her my misery ever.

XXVII,⁴⁹

Sist sô lieplich wol gestellet

She-is so lovely well fashioned

und ouch sô schœne, dâ bî minnenclîch,

and also so fair, there by lovely,

des sî mir sô wol gevellet.

so-that she to-me so well pleases.

ir zucht ich krœne: sist ouch sinne rîch.

her breeding I crown: she-is also of-sense rich.

ir stêt ir gân, ir grüezen wol:

to-her stands her going, her greeting well:

sist hovelîch und tugende vol.

she-is courtly and of-virtue full.

ir stêt zartlîch sô sî lachet:

to-her stands tenderly when she laughs:

ir wunne machet daz ich kumber dol.

her delight makes that I affliction endure.

Owê daz ich hân bevunden

Alas that I have found

daz sî mir armen nicht ir hulde gan!

that she to-me poor not her favor grants!

sî lât mich senlîchen wunden:

she leaves me yearningly wounded:

sî möcht erbarmen daz ichz von ir hân
her might to-move-to-pity that I-it from her have

und ich dür triuwe dulde daz.
and I for faith endure that.

sô müez mir niemer werden baz,
then may to-me never to-become better,

liez sî mich in jâmer iemer,
left she me in misery ever,

in möchte ir niemer werden doch gehaz.
I might to-her never to-become yet hostile.

Daz sî sô lieplich gebâret
That she so lovingly bears-herself

gein al der welte wan engegen mir,
toward all the world except toward me,

ich weiz wol, daz sî des vâret.
I know well, that she of-that is-intent.

wes ich engelte, daz ist kunt wol ir.
for-what I pay, that is known well to-her.

mich dunket ouch war umb ez sî,
me seems also where fore it be,

daz ich ir wær sô gerne bî:
that I to-her were so gladly by:

des lât sî mich âne ir hulde,
therefore leaves she me without her favor,

und doch der schulde wirde ich niemer frî.
and yet of-that guilt become I never free.

Aldie wîle sî mich mîdet,
All-the while she me avoids,

sô kan ich niemer werden rechte frô:
so can I never to-become truly glad:

des mîn herze jâmer lîdet

so-that my heart misery suffers

vil leider iemer, unz ez stêt alsô.

very alas ever, while it stands so.

doch trœstet mich ein lieber wân,

yet comforts me a dear expectation,

daz ez etswenn möcht anders gân,

that it sometime might otherwise to-go,

daz ich sî noch möchte erbarmen,

that I her yet might to-move-to-pity,

daz sî mich armen nicht enwolte lân.

that she me poor not would to-leave.

Swaz der man sô gerne hæte,

Whatever the man so gladly would-have,

des wünscht er wunder: alsô wünsche ouch ich.

of-that wishes he wondrously: so wish also I.

got lâz al ir êre stæte,

God let all her honor steadfast,

und doch dar under, daz sî trœste mich

and yet there among, that she comfort me

ê der tôt mir werd von ir schîn:

before the death to-me become from her plain:

sin trœste mich, sô muoz daz sîn.

unless-she comfort me, then must that to-be.

der beider nem sî daz eine:

of-the two take she the one:

sô sol diu reine doch nicht lâzen mîn.

so shall the pure-one yet not to-forsake me.

XXVII,50

‘Der ich leider dise nacht gehüetet hân,

‘Whom I alas this night guarded have,

der umbevân ist beider noch sô manicvalt,

the embracing is of-both still so manifold,

wan ir beider wille stellet sich in ein;

for of-them both will sets itself in one;

ir sorge ist klein: sî sint sô minnen balt.

their care is little: they are so of-love bold.

wan sorgent sî wiez uns ergê?

why-not care they how-it to-us may-go?

wirt man sîn gewar, sô komen wir in nôt.

becomes one of-it aware, then come we into distress.

nû welle got daz sî sich scheiden ê.

now will God that they themselves part before.

Ez beginnet gegen dem tage stellen sich:

It begins toward the day to-set itself:

alsus warn ich sî beidiu, der ich pflac.

thus warn I them both, whom I tended.

des gewinnet doch mîn frouwe leides vil:

thereby wins yet my lady of-sorrow much:

dâ von sin wil nicht wizzen noch den tac.

there from she will not to-know yet the day.

mîn herre sehe selb dar zuo.

my lord look himself there to.

ez stêt beiden umb ir lîp: ich kum wol hin,

it stands for-both about their life: I come well away,

wan ich wil sîn ûz vor dem morgen fruo.’

for I will to-be out before the morning early.’

Er sleich tougen ûz und sanc ein warnen dâ:

He crept secretly out and sang a warning there:

dô sprach iesâ diu frouwe minnenclîch

then spoke at-once the lady lovely

‘âne lougen, der wachtær hât uns verlân:

‘without denial, the watchman has us forsaken:

dû solt ûf stân, mîn herre tugende rîch.

thou shalt up to-stand, my lord of-virtue rich.

ich weiz nû wol daz es ist zît:

I know now well that of-it is time:

des sich unser lieplîch triuten scheiden sol.

so-that itself our lovely caressing part shall.

ez kumt nicht wol, swer doch ze lange lit.’

it comes not well, whoever yet too long lies.’

XXVII,⁵¹

Sich fröit ûf die edelen nacht

Himself rejoices upon the noble night

ein geslacht minnære harte,

a kind of-lovers greatly,

des sîn frouwe ruochen wil.

of-whom his lady deign will.

sô der tac sîn liecht verlât,

when the day its light forsakes,

secht, sô gât sî an die warte,

behold, then goes she to the watch,

als sî hânt geleit ir zil:

as they have laid their aim:

sô kumt er gegangen tougenlîche

then comes he walking secretly

unde rüert daz tor sô lîse iesâ;

and touches the door so softly at-once;

sô sî daz erhœrt, diu minnenclîche,

when she that hears, the lovely-one,

sô spricht sî 'mîn herre, bist dû dâ?'

then says she 'my lord, art thou there?'

er spricht 'edeliu frouwe, jâ!

he says 'noble lady, yes!'

tuo mir ûf, vil wunnen rîche,

do for-me open, very of-delights rich-one,

daz ich dich al umbevâ.'

that I thee all embrace.'

Im wont wilde fröide bî,

To-him dwells wild joy by,

swanne sî daz tor entsliuzet,

whenever she the door unlocks,

und daz høert der werde man,

and that hears the worthy man,

und si engegen im danne ûf tuot:

and she toward him then open does:

dast ein guot, des nicht verdriuzet

that-is a good, of-which not wearies

beider lîp sô lobesan.

of-both persons so praiseworthy.

sî vüert in mit ir sô wîzen hende

she leads him with her so white hand

vür ir bette dūr der huote bant

before her bed through of-the watch bond

alsô stille, daz'z echt nieman wende.

so quietly, that-it indeed no-one binder

wie schier sî sich danne enkleidet hânt!

how soon they themselves then unclothed have!

sî gënt zemene: liep bewant

they go together: love employed

wirt dâ wol mit liebem ende;

becomes there well with dear ending;

in wirt beiden minne erkant.

to-them becomes both love known.

Wer möcht bezzer fröide hân,

Who might better joy to-have,

des enkan ich nicht volspehen,

of-that can I not fully-to-discern,

als sî hânt die nacht sô gar.

as they have the night so quite.

dâ wirt manic umbevanc

there becomes many-an embrace

lieplîch lanc, dâ mac geschehen

lovingly long, there may to-happen

manic kus sô valsches bar.

many-a kiss so of-falsehood bare.

dâ wirt brust an brust sô wol gedrûcket,

there becomes breast to breast so well pressed,

daz dâ sorgen mac belîben nicht,

that there of-cares may to-remain nothing,

beider lîp ze semene nâch gesmûcket:

of-both bodies to together close nestled:

dâ von dâ daz liebste liep geschicht.

there from where the dearest love happens.

doch hânt sî die zuoversicht,

yet have they the confidence,

daz in fröide wirt verzûcket,

that from-them joy becomes snatched,

sô der wachter tages gicht.

when the watchman of-day avows.

XXVII,52

Swem sîn muot stêt ûf minne gar,

To-whom his spirit stands upon love quite,

und der getar dik frouwen guot

and who dares often to-ladies good

den muot getuon wol bî,

the spirit to-make well by,

und sî daz wol enpfâhent,

and they that well receive,

dem nâhent süeziu heil:

to-him approach sweet salvations:

des wirt sîn muot sô geil.

thereby becomes his spirit so merry.

Sô wol tuot im, swann er dar kumt,

So well does to-him, whenever he thither comes,

ob ez in frumt, doch anders nicht

if it to-him avails, yet otherwise nothing

wan gsicht an schœne wîp

but a-look on fair women

(sîn lîp fröit sich ir wunnen),

(his person rejoices himself of-their delights),

die kunnen geben heil

they can to-give salvation

und fröiden vollen teil.

and of-joys full share.

Ich wæn daz keiner slachte guot

I think that of-no kind good

sô suoze gê dür mannes muot

so sweetly goes through man's spirit

sô dik sam frouwen klâr.

so often as ladies bright.

sô gar süez ist ir schœne:

so quite sweet is their beauty:

dâ von ich krœne wol

there from I crown well

die frouwen tugende vol.

the ladies of-virtue full.

Ez tuot baz herzen ougen nicht,

It does better to-heart to-eyes nothing,

swie vil man weltlîch wunnen sicht,

however much one worldly delights sees,

sam frouwen wol getân:

as ladies well made:

daz kan nieman verkêren,

that can no-one to-reverse,

wan sî hânt êren hort

for they have of-honors treasure

dür die welt hie und dort.

through the world here and there.

Ez wart nie süezer angesicht

There became never sweeter sight

noch liebers nicht dan schœniu wîp:

nor dearer anything than fair women:

mans lîp wirt des gewar,

man's person becomes of-that aware,

der gar von herzen achtet

who quite from heart heeds

und trachtet volleclich

and considers fully

an wîp sô wunne rîch.

on women so of-delight rich.

Des tuot ie wunder sorgen buoz

Of-that does ever wondrously of-cares remedy

ir zartlich gruoz doch mangem man,

their tender greeting yet to-many-a man,

der kan recht wunne entstân

who can truly delight to-perceive

und gân in dicke undr ougen

and to-go to-them often under eyes

und tougen inren sich

and secretly to-become-aware himself

ir wunnen minnenclîch.

of-their delights lovely.

Der slâf nicht mannes herzen kan

The sleep not from-man's heart can

benemen frouwen wol getân,

to-take-away ladies well made,

sîn gedanke sîn in bî,

his thoughts are to-them by,

als sî schôn vor im wesen:

as-if they fair before him were:

daz ûz erlesen guot

the out chosen good

dik hœhet mannes muot.

often lifts man's spirit.

Swel man sicht frouwen minnenclîch,

Whichever man sees ladies lovely,

der mac des wol erkomen sich

he may of-that well to-be-startled himself

in sînes herzen grunt:

in of-his heart ground:

der stunt mag er wol sehen,

at-that hour may he well to-see,

daz man in jehen sol

that one to-them avow shall

gar hôhe lop sô wol.

quite high praise so well.

Diu welt hât nicht daz sî

The world has nothing that be

sô minnenclîch

so lovely

und ouch dâ bî

and also there by

sô tugende rîch

so of-virtue rich

sam frouwen guot.

as ladies good.

Daz dürgât manigem man

That pierces to-many-a man

daz herze sîn,

the heart his,

der kan entstân

who can to-perceive

loblichen schîn,

praiseworthy radiance,

der sanfte tuot.

which gently does.

Swâ man der welt prîs wil begân,

Wherever one of-the world praise will to-attain,

dâ muoz man schoene frouwen hân:

there must one fair ladies to-have:

da enist hof anders nicht.

there is-not court otherwise at-all.

und sicht man schœne frouwen,

and sees one fair ladies,

dâ mac man schouwen wol

there may one to-behold well

den hof vil êren vol.

the court very of-honors full.

Ich bin wer, daz manc werder man

I am warrant, that many-a worthy man

sô gern sicht frouwen fröide hân:

so gladly sees ladies joy to-have:

des maniger dar dann gât

therefore many-a-one thither then goes

und hât mit in vil wunnen,

and has with them much of-delights,

wan frouwen kunnen sô

for ladies can so

gar hoflich wesen frô.

quite courteously to-be glad.

Sô stêt lôslich ir gân

So stands playfully their going

daz tuot dik sendem man

that does often to-yearning man

der des nimt war.

who of-that takes note.

und sô zartlîch ir gruoß:

and so tenderly their greeting:

vil der swære buoß,

much of-the grief remedy,

Fröide grôz birt ir zucht: diu ist sô wîplîch guot.
Joy great bears their breeding: she is so womanly good.

in gsach nie stolzer frucht, daz seit mir mîn muot,
I saw never prouder fruit, that says to-me my spirit,

noch sô gevar.
nor so colored.

Wîp sint der welte ein gastung baz
Women are to-the world an entertainment better

und ein geværd dann allez daz
and an appearance than all that

got hât der welt verlân.
God has to-the world left.

manc man muoz mir des jehen,
many-a man must to-me of-that to-avow,

der rechte spehen kan:
who rightly discern can:

wîp sint sô lobesan.
women are so praiseworthy.

Mich dunkt, swer frouwen gern nimt war,
Me seems, whoever of-ladies gladly takes note,

daz der dest hovelîcher var,
that he the-more courteously may-fare,

daz er gevalle in wol.
that he may-please to-them well.

daz sol nicht sîn unvuoge:
that shall not to-be unseemliness:

jâ suln wir kluoge sîn
indeed shall we refined to-be

dür schœne frouwen fîn.
for fair ladies fine.

Swann diu zartlîchen wîp	hânt sô lôslich ir lîp,
<i>Whenever the tender women</i>	<i>have so playful their person,</i>
die sô wol sint gestalt	(ach wie manicvalt
<i>who so well are formed</i>	<i>(ah how manifold</i>
sî wunne hânt!),	
<i>they delight have!),</i>	

Wê waz wart schœner ie?	daz wart mir kunt noch nie;
<i>Woe what became fairer ever?</i>	<i>that became to-me known yet never;</i>
beidiu wengel, ir munt	sint von rœt an gezunt
<i>both cheeks, her mouth</i>	<i>are from redness on kindled</i>
dûr elliu lant.	
<i>through all lands.</i>	

Uns mac der liechten bluomen schîn
To-us may of-the bright flowers radiance

noch sœuzer sanc der vogellîn
nor sweet song of-the little-birds

noch sumerlîchiu bluot
nor summery bloom

sô guot gedunken niemer
so good to-seem never

(den muot wir iemer hân),
(the spirit we ever have),

sam frouwen wol getân.
as ladies well made.

Hin und her nemen wunnen war

Thither and hither take of-delights note

und suochen dūr diu lant sô gar

and seek through the lands so quite

nâch der welt wunne hort:

after of-the world delight's treasure:

nû dort und hie wir schouwen

now there and here we behold

an schœnen frouwen doch

on fair ladies yet

die hœchsten wunne noch.

the highest delight still.

Süezelîch sint ir wort,

Sweet are their words,

wîp sint wunnen ein hort.

women are of-delights a treasure.

swer in lop gît!

whoever to-them praise gives!

und ir singen dâ bî:

and their singing there by:

daz er vil sælic sî

that he very blessed be

Sælden rîch ist ir muot:

Of-blessings rich is their spirit:

wîp sint lobliche guot:

women are praiseworthy good:

vürs meien zît.

above-the May's season.

sô stênt ir sitte wol.

so stand their manners well.

des man sî loben sol

for-that one them praise shall

Ez wirt von nichte mannes muot

It becomes from nothing man's spirit

sô rechte mînnencliche guot

so truly lovingly good

sam dîr die frouwen clâr;

as through the ladies bright;

sô gar vil hânt sî gûete.

so quite much have they goodness.

daz got ir hûete sô,

that God of-them may-guard so,

daz sî dik wesen frô.

that they often to-be glad.

Swer wol gwon schœner frouwen sî,

Whoever well accustomed of-fair ladies be,

daz er in dik mac wesen bî

that he to-them often may to-be by

mit fuoge, wol im, wol!

with fitness, well for-him, well!

der sol frô sîn von schulden,

he shall glad to-be by rights,

ob er nâch hulden kan

if he after favor can

gesîn ir dienstman.

to-be their servant.

XXVII,53

Nieman volloben frouwen kan,

No-one fully-to-praise ladies can,

wan sî bî tugenden wonent alse schône:

for they by virtues dwell so fairly:

sælden krône sint ir ingesinde.

of-blessings crown are their household.

Wol in, wol iemer, des wünsch ich.

Well to-them, well ever, of-that wish I.

mich sol wol des muot zihen in gemüete,

me shall well of-that spirit to-accuse in spirit,

dicke ir güete ich sô wol bevinde.

often their goodness I so well find.

Ein schœnez wîp, ein wîplîch lîp:

A fair woman, a womanly person:

diu süeze güete manc gemüete

the sweet goodness many-a spirit

sô suoz dürgât, sô

so sweetly pierces, so

daz er frô muoz sîn der wunnen,

that he glad must to-be of-the delights,

die dem liechten sunnen glîchent sich:

which to-the bright sun liken themselves:

wîp sint sô maniger wunnen rîch.

women are so of-many delights rich.

Jâ wære ez wol, daz liebes vol

Indeed were it well, that of-love full

wær sîn gemüete, der ir güete

were his spirit, who of-their goodness

mit lob dicke tuot

with praise often does

lieplîch guot. jâ wol dien vrouwen!

lovely good. indeed well to-the ladies!

wan mac an in schouwen süezen schîn.

one may on them to-behold sweet radiance.

wan mac bî in wol froelîch sîn.

one may by them well merry to-be.

Sô stênt schôn ir tinne,

So stand fair their brows,

ir houbt, keln, nac, ir kinne,

their heads, throats, necks, their chins,

ir brüstel, ir ougen,

their breasts, their eyes,

des man sol wol dar war gerne nemen.

of-which one shall well there note gladly to-take.

Der welt krôn sint frouwen;

Of-the world crown are ladies;

gar süeze ist ir anschouwen.

quite sweet is their beholding.

ir ist vil sô reine.

of-them is many so pure.

manc frouwe guot tuot daz swaz wol mac zemen.

many-a lady good does that whatever well may to-beseem.

Und wær ez nicht ein zuoversicht

And were it not a confidence

doch sendes smerzen mannes herzen,

yet of-yearning pain of-man's heart,

swanne er sicht sô gar

whenever he sees so quite

wunnevar die schœnen frouwen,

delight-bued the fair ladies,

doch gît im daz schouwen hôhen muot,

yet gives to-him the beholding high spirit,

swie wê doch sendez jâmer tuot.

however woe yet yearning misery does.

Sît mannes muot wirt sô gar guot,

Since man's spirit becomes so quite good,

swann er mac schouwen schoene frouwen,

whenever he may to-behold fair ladies,

sô wurd er êrst frô,

then would-become he first glad,

kæme ez sô daz er etslîche

came it so that he some

wîplich wunnen rîche solt umbvân:

womanly of-delights rich should to-embrace:

sô möchte er êrst recht fröide hân!

then might he first true joy to-have!

Sî hânt lôs gebâren,

They have playful bearing,

die reinen frouwen clâren,

the pure ladies bright,

gar lieplich stêt ir kôsen;

quite lovely stands their chatting;

dâ von wol wir ir doch noch mugen uns fröwen von schulden sêre.

there from well we them yet still may us to-rejoice by rights greatly.

Wen verdrôz ie frouwen,

Whom wearied ever of-ladies,

der sî recht kond geschouwen?

who them rightly could to-behold?

der wart nie, sicherlîche,

he became never, surely,

des dunket mich: ich kan an in wol wizzn sô gar hôch êre.

of-that seems me: I can on them well to-know so quite high honor.

Wie möchte ein man iemer verlân,

How might a man ever to-forgo,

im kâem ze sinne rehtiū minne

to-him came to mind true love

bî frouwen sô fîn?

by ladies so fine?

liechter schîn dürgât sîn ougen

bright radiance pierces his eyes

dâ sô lieplich tougen: sô kumt er

there so lovingly secretly: then comes he

in fröide und doch in sende ger.

into joy and yet into yearning desire.

Ez ist klein nicht daz guot man sicht

It is little not the good one sees

an schœnen wîben. ez kan trîben

on fair women. it can to-drive

leit wol von dem man,

sorrow well from the man,

der wol kan entstân ir gûete:

who well can to-perceive their goodness:

sô wirt sîn gemüete fröiden rîch.

then becomes his spirit of-joys rich.

wîp sint ze rechte minnenclîch.

women are by right lovely.

Ir minnclîch lachen wunnesan

Their lovely laughing delightful

kan doch noch mangem wilden muot und sinne

can yet still to-many-a wild spirit and mind

dâ bî minne sînem herzen bringen,

there by love to-his heart to-bring,

Ir wîplîch hende zartlîch wîz:

Their womanly hands tenderly white:

prîs ich gich wîbes bilden. manic gemüete

praise I avow to-woman's form. many-a spirit

nâch ir güete muoz von schulden ringen.

after their goodness must by rights to-strive.

Swenn ein schœn wîp ir schœnen lîp

Whenever a fair woman her fair person

sô schône treit und wol bekleit,

so fairly bears and well clothed,

sô kumt sî dann sô gar

then comes she then so quite

lieplîch clâr, sô wol ze prîse,

lovely bright, so well to praise,

als ûz dem paradîse kom ir lîp.

as out-of the paradise came her person.

ach wie sint sô guot schœniu wîp!

ah how are so good fair women!

Der wîp lœn sint süez unde lint.

Of-the women rewards are sweet and gentle.

swer der bevindet, der erwindet

whoever of-them finds, he ceases

an ir dienste nicht,

in their service not,

swiem geschicht, er müez dann sterben.

however-to-him happens, he must then to-die.

wan mac gerne werben umb diu wîp:

one may gladly to-woo for the women:

sî hânt sô minnenclîchen lîp.

they have so lovely person.

Ir wîplîch tanzen mannes muot

Their womanly dancing man's spirit

tuot sô frô, doch gar senelîche, der recht achtet

makes so glad, yet quite yearningly, who rightly beeds

unde trachtet, wie lôslich siz kunnen.

and considers, how playfully they-it can.

Minnenclich stênt ir wîplîch kleit.

Lovely stand their womanly garments.

breit sol wol man ir wunne machen: mannes ougen

broad shall well one their delight to-make: man's eyes

werdent tougen lieplich vol ir wunnen.

become secretly lovingly full of-their delights.

Jâ mac der hân sô lieben wân,

Indeed may he to-have so dear expectation,

der dik mac schouwen schœne frouwen,

who often may to-behold fair ladies,

wan er wirt dik sô

for he becomes often so

lieplich frô, wan frouwen wunne

lovingly glad, for of-ladies delight

liuchtet sam der sunne. mannes lîp

shines as the sun. man's person

fröit nicht sô wol sô schœniu wîp.

gladdens nothing so well as fair women.

Secht doch, swer vil gedenken wil

Behold yet, whoever much think will

nâch frouwen bilde, der wirt wilde,

after of-ladies form, he becomes wild,

wan er sicht wol noch

for he sees well still

wunne doch an schœnen wîben.

delight yet on fair women.

daz wirz iemer trîben! frouwen fîn

that we-it ever pursue! ladies fine

müezen vor allen wunnen sîn.

must before all delights to-be.

XXVII,54

Ich klag noch mîn alten smerzen,

I lament still my old pain,

der mir hie ze herzen gât,

which to-me here to heart goes,

den mir tuot diu hêre

which to-me does the noble-one

mêre danne ich müge tragen.

more than I may to-bear.

Mîn muot doch sî nicht mac mîden,

My spirit yet her not may to-avoid,

swie sî mich nû lîden lât

however she me now to-suffer lets

nâch ir sendez âmer;

after her yearning misery;

jâmer muoz ich von ir klagen.

misery must I of her to-lament.

Wâfen! mîn frouwe ist sô minnenclich

Alarm! my lady is so lovely

und hovelîch und êren rîch!

and courtly and of-honors rich!

dâ von bin ich sô sêre wunt

there from am I so sorely wounded

in mînes senden herzen grunt.

in my yearning heart's ground.

Sî mac sîn wol an allen dingen guot,

She may to-be well in all things good,

arges behuot: ir wunne tuot

of-evil guarded: her delight makes

mich hôchgemuot, swie wê doch mir

me high-spirited, however woe yet to-me

sô stætenclichen ist nâch ir.

so constantly is after her.

Ach lieplîch wîp, zartiu frouwe,

Ah lovely woman, tender lady,

swenne ich schouwe dich, sô wird ich vil wunnen inne.

whenever I behold thee, then become I much of-delights aware.

Minne vât mich danne in sendem stricke:

Love seizes me then in yearning snare:

des ersiuftē ich alsô dicke

thereof sigh I so often

nâch dir, minnencliche.

after thee, lovely-one.

Nicht lach mich nâch dir verderben,

Not let me after thee to-perish,

wan mîn werben nâch dir ist alles valsches eine.

for my wooing after thee is of-all falsehood free.

reine, lach dich noch mîn nôt erbarmen:

pure-one, let thee yet my distress to-move-to-pity:

træste mich vil senden armen,

comfort me very yearning poor,

frouwe wunnen rîche.

lady of-delights rich.

Swann ich sî sich sô rechte wol getân,

Whenever I her see so truly well made,

vil lieben wân ich danne hân.

very dear expectation I then have.

ich sender man, ich wird sô vol

I yearning man, I become so full

ir wunnen: daz tuot mir sô wol.

of-her delights: that does to-me so well.

Swann ich bî fröiden von gedanken bin

Whenever I amid joys from thoughts am

von ir sô fîn, der frouwen mîn,

of her so fine, the lady my,

sô muoz ich sîn doch ouch in nôt:

then must I to-be yet also in distress:

mich jâmert nâch ir munde rôt.

me grieves after her mouth red.

In kund mîn herz nie gelêren

I could my heart never to-teach

kêren sich von ir, swie mir

to-turn itself from her, however to-me

ir trôst nicht sich endet,

her comfort not itself ends,

wendet sî des nicht, diu guote.

turns she of-that not, the good-one.

Doch der pîn mir ist ze swære;

Yet the torment to-me is too grievous;

wære sî mir nicht gehaz,

were she to-me not hostile,

daz wær mîn fröid iemer:

that were my joy ever:

niemer wurd mir wê ze muote.

never would-become to-me woe in spirit.

Swenn ich ir wünsche, kûm ich sî verbir.

Whenever I for-her wish, hardly I her forbear.

doch tuot dan mir sô wol gein ir

yet does then to-me so well toward her

diu süeze gir: des wünsche ich sô,

the sweet desire: of-that wish I so,

daz ich von ir noch werde frô.

that I from her yet become glad.

Ach, sol mir ir tröst iemer werden schîn?

Ah, shall to-me her comfort ever to-become plain?

ach, frouwe fîn, noch ruoche mîn

ah, lady fine, yet deign of-me

(in nôt ich bin) und lach mich doch

(in distress I am) and let me yet

bevinden dînes trôstes noch.

to-find of-thy comfort still.

Des wær doch wol in dem zîte,

Of-that were yet well in the season,

sol mir von ir werden baz, daz ez schier geschæhe.

shall to-me from her to-become better, that it soon may-happen.

sæhe sî mîn herze, wie daz wuotet

saw she my heart, how it rages

und in sendem jâmer bluotet,

and in yearning misery bleeds,

sî möcht daz erbarmen.

her might that to-move-to-pity.

Owê noch tuo mir genâde,

Alas yet do to-me mercy,

zuo dir lach mich tougen gên, stên vür dich, mich klagen,

to thee let me secretly to-go, to-stand before thee, myself to-lament,

sagen dir von mînem senden smerzen,

to-tell to-thee of my yearning pain,

wie dû bist in mînem herzen:

how thou art in my heart:

sô hilfst dû mir armen.

so helpest thou to-me poor.

Swie sî mir tuot, mîn sin ist ir doch bî,
However she to-me does, my mind is to-her yet by,

wan ich weiz sî gar arges frî:
for I know her quite of-evil free:

ein meien zwî in blüete clâr,
a May's twig in blossom bright,

ez treit nicht gegen ir wunnen dar.
it bears nothing against her delights thither.

Mir gît ir frömden grôzer sorgen zol
To-me gives her estranging of-great cares toll

und jâmers dol: daz leit sî wol
and of-misery endurance: that sorrow she well

vertrîben sol. ich bin ir knecht:
drive-away shall. I am her servant:

dâ von hât sî dar zuo guot recht.
there from has she there to good right.

Eberhard von Sax

One piece of two hundred and forty lines, a Marian praise that never turns to a human lady. It works through the received typology. Mary is the enclosed garden God kept for himself, Aaron's flowering rod, the bush Moses saw burning and unconsumed, Solomon's throne, the star out of Jacob, and the gate Ezekiel found shut. She is the sealed fountain, the ark of setim-wood holding the bread of heaven, and the woman clothed with the sun. It closes by admitting the art is too weak, and asking her to take pity.

XXVIII,¹

Künde ich wol mit worten schöne

Could I well with words fairly

würken ganzes lobes krône

to-work of-whole praise crown

wirdeclîch in süezem dône,

worthily in sweet melody,

gezieret nâch dem willen mîn

adorned after the will mine

gar nâch êren, als ich meine,

quite after honors, as I mean,

die wold ich der megde reine,

it would I to-the maiden pure,

diu ie stuont gelîchen eine,

who ever stood alike alone,

smiden âne valschen schîn.

to-forge without false show.

nu hât mir den sin bestürzet,

now has to-me the mind overturned,

daz ir lop noch stêt gekürzet,

that her praise still stands shortened,

und doch dicke hât gewürzet

and yet often has taken-root

in sô künsterîchen sin.

in so art-rich mind.

Du bist gar vor allem ruome

Thou art quite above all boasting

kiuscher scham ein blüender bluome:

of-chaste modesty a blooming flower:

gip von dîner gnâden tuome

give from thy grace's dominion

mir dîns lobes anevanc.

to-me of-thy praise beginning.

sich hât schône unterscheiden

itself has fairly distinguished

gotes wort, dô ez sich weiden

God's word, when it itself to-pasture

wolte in dir und von dir kleiden

would in thee and from thee to-clothe

sich, dar nâch sîn güete ie ranc.

itself, there after his goodness ever strove.

du bist der beslozzten garte,

thou art the enclosed garden,

den got selber im bewarte,

whích God himself for-himself kept,

dâ er wont mit süezem zarte:

where he dwells with sweet tenderness:

menschlich lop ist dir ze kranc.

human praise is for-thee too weak.

Du bist der natûre wunder,

Thou art of-the nature wonder,

himel erd lobt dich bisunder,

heaven earth praise thee especially,

von des hœchsten geistes zunder

from of-the highest spirit's tinder

dîn lîp gar geviuret stât;

thy body quite enkindled stands;

wan du genzelîch enbrunnen

for thou wholly kindled

wære von dem wâren sunnen,

wert by the true sun,

der von dir ist ûz gerunnen

which from thee is out sprung

und uns alle erliuhtet hât.

and us all illumined has.

dîn vrid ist gar ungemezzen,

thy peace is quite unmeasured,

got an dir niht hât vergezzen,

God in thee nothing has forgotten,

dich durfüllet und besezzen

thee filled-through and possessed

hât sîn hôhe majestât.

has his high majesty.

Diu kiuschekeit, diu ie bluote

The chastity, which ever bloomed

sam hern Aarônes ruote

as of-lord Aaron's rod

wunneclîch in dînem muote,

delightfully in thy spirit,

hât gezieret dînen kranz;

has adorned thy garland;

daz bevant nâch wâren sinnen

that found after true senses

Moyses, dô er sach brinnen

Moses, when he saw to-burn

einen boschen ûz und innen

a bush outside and within

âne mâsen unde ganz.

without blemish and whole.

wir mun merken an dem trône,

we may to-mark by the throne,

den der künic Salamône

which the king Solomon

hât gebûwen alze schône,

has built exceeding fairly,

daz dîn lop stêt âne schranz.

that thy praise stands without flaw.

In der hôhsten wîsheit râte

In of-the highest wisdom counsel

got dich selb nâch wunsche drâte,

God thee himself after wish turned,

als er dîn begeret hâte

as he of-thee desired had

zeinem sunderstuole sîn,

for-a special-seat his,

der sô hôhe hât gereiget,

which so high has reached,

daz er sich dar in geneiget

that he himself there in inclined

hât, als ez was vor gezeiget

has, as it was before shown

von der grôzen wirde dîn.

of the great worth thine.

wer mac wol dîn lop gesingen,

who may well thy praise to-sing,

volleclich ze liechte bringen?

fully to light to-bring?

êst verzigen allen dingen:

it-is denied to-all things:

sô clâr ist sîn reiner schîn.

so bright is its pure radiance.

Dich bezeichent hât diu gerte

Thee signified has the rod

küng Aswêres, die er kêrte

of-king Abasuerus, which he turned

dem, den er sîn hulde lêrte

to-him, whom he his favor taught

oder sînen senften muot.

or his gentle spirit.

swer hie dîne gnâde vindet,

whoever here thy grace finds,

dem wirt dort got sô gelindet,

to-him becomes there God so softened,

daz er in im sâ gesindet

that he him to-himself straightway takes-into-household

über sîn erweltez guot.

over his chosen goods.

von Jacob ûf gênder sterne,

from Jacob up going star,

swer in dînem liechte gerne

whoever in thy light gladly

gât, der wizze daz er lerne,

goes, he should-know that he may-learn,

wie er gotes willen tuot.

how he God's will does.

Ezechiel sach ein porte

Ezekiel saw a gate

ie beslozen zallem orte,

ever closed at-every place,

dâ got eine mit sîm worte

where God alone with his word

tougenlîch kan in gegân

secretly can in to-go

zuo dir gar dur reine schouwe,

to thee quite through pure appearance,

die er vant an dir, ô frouwe,

which he found on thee, O lady,

aller tugent ein blüende ouwe,

of-all virtue a blooming meadow,

rôsegarte dornes ân,

rose-garden of-thorn without,

dâ der bluome wart gezwîget,

where the flower became grafted,

der uns alle hât gevriget,

who us all has freed,

die mit sünden wân besnîget:

who with sins' fancy are-besnowed:

sîn kraft ist sô heilsan.

his power is so salutary.

Des kraft nie wart überwunden,

Whose power never became overcome,

senfteclîchen wart gebunden

gently became bound

zuo dir an dien selben stunden,

to thee at those same hours,

dô du eine dirne dich

when thou a maiden thyself

büte got, dô er dich süezen

offeredst to-God, when he thee sweet

zeiner muoter wolde grüezen,

as-a mother would to-greet,

dâ von wir dir jehen müezen

there from we to-thee avow must

daz du bist genâdenrîch;

that thou art grace-rich;

dâ von du dô swanger wære

there from thou then pregnant wert

gotes suns, den du gebære:

of-God's son, whom thou barest:

disiu fröidebernden mære

these joy-bearing tidings

machent dich vil minnenclîch.

make thee very lovely.

Du gelîchest wol dem schrîne,

Thou resemblest well the shrine,

übergûldet nâch dem schîne,

overgilded after the appearance,

wol gewirket von sethîne,

well wrought of setim-wood,

daz man niht erwerden siht,

which one not to-decay sees,

der daz himelbrôt beslozen

which the heaven-bread enclosed

hât, daz ie ist umbedrozen

has, which ever is unwearying

dem, der sîn iht hât genozen

to-him, who of-it aught has partaken

oder joch befunden iht.

or even found aught.

der vil edel margarîte

the very noble pearl

bî dir in der gnâden zîte

by thee in of-the grace season

funden wart, der dich sô vrîte,

found became, who thee so freed,

daz man dir vil guotes giht.

that one to-thee much of-good avows.

Dîn lop nieman überstîgen

Thy praise no-one to-surpass

mac, doch wil ich sîn niht swîgen;

may, yet will I of-it not to-be-silent;

dîner hôhen wurde nîgen

to-thy high worth to-bow

muoz der reinen engel schar.

must of-the pure angels host.

von dir wart der umbevungen,

by thee became he embraced,

des kraft nieman kan erlangen,

whose power no-one can to-attain,

den slüz du in dînen angen;

him enclosedst thou in thy embrace;

dâ wart er von dir gevar,

there became he from thee hued,

dô er in dir menschlich bilde

when he in thee human form

einte sîner gotheit wilde:

united to-bis godhead's wildness:

swen dûns lobes ie bevilde,

whomever of-thy praise ever wearied,

der ist rehter sinne bar.

he is of-right senses bare.

Du hâst elliu wîp geprîset,

Thou hast all women exalted,

swie uns eine habe verwîset,

although us one has cast-out,

dô si wider got gespîset

when she against God fed

wart nâch ir gelüste kranc;

became after her pleasure weak;

die hâstu von itewîze

her hast-thou from reproach

ûz genomen mit tugende vlîze:

out taken with of-virtue diligence:

swaz dir ieman lobes rîze,

whatever to-thee anyone of-praise may-carve,

daz ist eines schaten wanc

that is of-a shadow wavering

nâch der wirde dîner êren,

after the worth of-thy honors,

die kein zunge mac gelêren:

which no tongue may to-teach:

in guot ende kanst du kêren

into good end canst thou to-turn

Êven tumben anevanc.

Eve's foolish beginning.

Got in sînes geistes brünste

God in of-his spirit's ardor

an dir zeigte sîne künste,

on thee showed his arts,

dô er aller sünden tünste

when he of-all sins' vapor

gar von dir geveimet hât.

quite from thee skimmed has.

du bist in der minne smitten

thou art in of-the love smitthy

sô geziert mit reinen sitten,

so adorned with pure manners,

daz dîn kûme hât erbitten

that of-thee hardly has entreated

diu vil hôhe trinitât.

the very high Trinity.

du bist der gezeichent brunne,

thou art the sealed fountain,

dar in schein diu lebendiu sunne:

there in shone the living sun:

gar mit aller tugende wunne

quite with of-all virtue delight

ist geblüemet wol dîn wât.

is flowered well thy garment.

Du bist gotes paradîse,

Thou art of-God paradise,

dâ gepflanzet wart diu spîse,

where planted became the food,

diu nâch wunsches rîcher wîse

whiche after of-wish rich manner

alle girde füllen mac.

all desire fill may.

von des süesten geistes touwe

from of-the sweetest spirit's dew

wær du berhaft, reiniu frouwe,

wert thou fruitful, pure lady,

gar ân alles wandels schouwe,

quite without of-all change appearance,

rehter kiusche ein liehter tac.

of-true chastity a bright day.

wê, künd ich dîn lop sô velzen,

woe, could I thy praise so to-set,

daz ez wenken noch gewelzen

that it to-waver nor to-roll

möht, mit golde wol dursmelzen,

might, with gold well to-melt-through,

dar nâch als dîn wirde ie wac!

there after as thy worth ever weighed!

Du bist aller sælden gimme,

Thou art of-all blessings gem,

wan diu sœze gotes stimme

for the sweet God's voice

dich ûz allen vrouwen imme

thee out-of all ladies for-himself

zeiner muoter ûz erlas,

as-a mother out chose,

den du maget doch gebære,

whom thou maiden yet barest,

âne scham und âne swære,

without shame and without grief,

dâ bî alles sêres lære:

there by of-all pain empty:

sam diu sunne dur daz glas,

as the sun through the glass,

ûz und in kan er gegangen

out and in can he to-go

senfteclîchen, âne drangen,

gently, without pressing,

bî dir minneclîch gevangen,

by thee lovingly caught,

des kraft ungemezzen was.

whose power unmeasured was.

Frouwe, dîn lop ist ze wilde,

Lady, thy praise is too vast,

wan an dînem schoënem bilde

for on thy fair form

gote wonders nie bevilde,

to-God of-wonder never wearied,

dâ er in dur wunne siht.

where he in through delight looks.

du hâst hôhe ûf gedrunge:

thou hast high up pressed:

swaz dir aller menschen zungen

whatever to-thee of-all men tongues

rîches lobes ie gesungen,

of-rich praise ever sang,

daz ist allez doch ein niht.

that is all yet a nothing.

swer dîn loblîch wil gedenken,

whoever of-thee praiseworthy will to-think,

dem muost du genâde schenken

to-him must thou grace to-pour

von dem brunnen unde trenken,

from the fountain and to-give-drink,

dem man aller wîsheit giht.

to-which one of-all wisdom avows.

Uzer der propheten munde

Out-of the prophets' mouth

vil man dînes lobes funde,

much one of-thy praise would-find,

der wol dâ gesuochen kunde

who well there seek could

unde volleclichen spehen:

and fully to-discern:

in dem buoche von der minne

in the book of the love

dâ bistu geprüevet inne

there art-thou proved within

wol nâch loberîchem sinne,

well after praise-rich meaning,

sam die wîsen müezen jehen.

as the wise must to-avow.

got in sînem hôhen trône

God in his high throne

hât begeret dîner schône,

has desired of-thy beauty,

dâ er wil, ô wîbes crône,

there he will, O of-woman crown,

mit gelüste dich an sehen.

with pleasure thee on to-look.

Swer nu rechte wil erkunnen,

Whoever now rightly will to-learn,

wer diu ist, diu mit der sunnen

who she is, who with the sun

ist bekleit, mit rîchen wunnen,

is clothed, with rich delights,

gecrœnet mit zwelf sternen clâr,

crowned with twelve stars bright,

und ir schâmel ist der mâne:

and her footstool is the moon:

daz ist alles zwîvels âne,

that is of-all doubt without,

in der wârheit, niht nâch wâne,

in the truth, not after fancy,

diu magt, diu dâ got gebar.

the maid, who there God bore.

elliu crêatiure zeiget

all creation shows

dîn lop, und wirt doch erreiget

thy praise, and becomes yet reached

niht, wan got hât sich geneiget

not, but God has himself inclined

dîner minne wunnevar.

to-thy love delight-hued.

Der berc, dâ von wart gesnitten

The mountain, there from became cut

ein stein, niht nâch menschen sitten,

a stone, not after men's manner,

bist du, des wir kûm erbitten

art thou, whom we hardly obtained-by-entreaty

hân, er ist sô tugentsam.

have, he is so virtuous.

er kan heilen alle wunden:

he can to-heal all wounds:

der mit sünden ist gebunden,

him-who with sins is bound,

lœset er alsâ ze stunden

looses he straightway at once

und bedeket alle scham.

and covers all shame.

in dir wuohs der lebende sâme,

in thee grew the living seed,

der gelobt hern Abrahâme

which promised to-lord Abraham

wart von gote ze sælden krâme,

became by God to blessings' store,

alse sîner güete zam.

as to-his goodness beseemed.

Dînes lobes sich underwinden

Of-thy praise oneself to-undertake

ist gespilt nâch site der kinden,

is played after manner of-the children,

von den varwen sam des blinden

of the colors as of-the blind-man

sprechen, die er nie gesach:

speaking, which he never saw:

als ist ouch in mînem munde,

so is also in my mouth,

frowe, dîn lop, swie gerne ich kunde

lady, thy praise, however gladly I could

dich geprîsen wol von grunde;

thee to-exalt well from ground;

nu ist mir diu kunst ze swach.

now is to-me the art too weak.

ich wæn, alle engel künden

I think, all angels could

dîn lop niht ze reht ergründen,

thy praise not to right to-fathom,

ob sis joch mit vlîze begünden,

if they-it even with diligence should-begin,

wan im endes ie gebrach.

for to-it of-end ever lacked.

Muoter der vil schœnen minne,

Mother of-the very fair love,

in der vinster liuhterinne,

in the darkness illuminatress,

zûnde, enbrenne mîne sinne

kindle, enflame my senses

in der wâren minne gluot,

in of-the true love glow,

dâ ich inne werde gereinet

where I within may-become cleansed

und mit gote gar vereinet;

and with God quite united;

swaz ich anders habe gemeinet,

whatever I otherwise have intended,

daz bedecke, frouwe guot!

that cover, lady good!

frouwe, erbarme zallen stunden,

lady, take-pity at-all hours,

wan du hât genâde funden:

for thou hast grace found:

gotes zorn hât überwunden

God's anger has overcome

dîn vil tugentrîcher muot.

thy very virtue-rich spirit.

Johann von Ringgenberg

One long Spruch cycle of two hundred and twenty-one lines, moral rather than amorous. It opens on Faith, which wears the crown above all virtues and is the best garment a man can cut for himself, and sets faithlessness against it as the thing that breeds robbery, burning, and murder. From there it moves through God's compass of all creation and the Incarnation, and on to measure against excess and the deceit of the World. The later Sprüche take the wheel of fortune, bounty, miserliness, and sweet speech out of a false heart.

XXIX,1

Ob allen tugenden hôhe treit

Above all virtues high bears

vrô Triuwe krône, si ist daz alre beste kleit,

lady Faith crown, she is the very best garment,

daz man an sich gesnîden kan: si gestet wol vor aller edelen wâte.

which one on oneself cut can: she stands well before all noble garment.

swie wol man sich gekleidet hât

however well one himself clothed has

mit golt, mit sîden und mit aller rîcher wât,

with gold, with silk and with all rich garment,

und wonet dâ niht triuwen bî, sô ist ez doch ze hove ein kranc geræte

and dwells there no of-faith by, then is it yet at court a poor outfit

gein einem werden biderben man:

toward a worthy upright man:

ist er joch arn, der triuwe hât in muote,

(if)-is he even poor, who faith has in spirit,

sô sol er doch mê êren hân

then shall he yet more of-honors to-have

dan der untriuwe rîch mit allem guote.

than the faithless rich with all goods.

wie zimt der triuwen waltet niht?

how beseems he-who of-faith wields not?

der muoz mit laster haben pfliht,

he must with reproach to-have fellowship,

sô êre den getriuwen hât stätlich beslozzen in ir werden huote.

so honor the faithful has steadfastly enclosed in her worthy keeping.

Untriuwe dast ein selich hort,

Faithlessness that-is a such treasure,

der stüefen kan roub unde brant und grôziu mort,

whic cause can robbery and burning and great murders,

und werden man unwerden mac und frouwen

and worthy man make-unworthy may and ladies

wîsen ûz vrô Sælden huote.

to-lead out-of lady Blessing's keeping.

untriuwe ist alre untugende vol:

faithlessness is of-all vices full:

si kan zer helle man und wîp verwîsen wol,

it can to-the hell man and woman to-direct well,

die anders niemer kæmen dar, enhetens niht untriuwe in ir muote.

who else never would-come thither, had-they not faithlessness in their spirit.

got der ist untriuwen gehaz:

God he is to-faithlessness hostile:

er schuof und hiez daz man getriuwe wære.

he ordained and bade that one faithful were.

geloubent mir, swer haltet daz,

believe to-me, whoever keeps that,

der wirt ze jungest aller sorgen lære.

he becomes at last of-all cares empty.

got wil daz triuwe zuo zim var:

God wills that faith to toward-him go:

sô høert untriwe zer helleschar.

so belongs faithlessness to-the hell-host.

swer triuwe hât, den wil got nen zem himelrîche, da er wirt fröidebære.

who faith has, him will God take to-the heaven, as he gets joyful.

Aller wîte ein umbekreiz,

Of-all breadth a circumference,

der hœhsten hœhe ein überhœher, der dâ weiz

of-the highest height an over-higher, who there knows

aller herzen sin und gedanc und ouch geschaffen hât al crêâtiure:

of-all hearts mind and thought and also created has all creation:

du bist endlôser tiefe ein stam:

thou art of-endless depth a stem:

wazzer luft fiur erd du hâst geschaffen sam

water air fire earth thou hast created likewise

an ir nâtûr und alle geschepfd. swaz wesens ist gehiure ald ungehiure,

in the nature and all creatures. what of-being is mild or grim,

daz hâst du, herre, in dîner hant:

that hast thou, lord, in thy hand:

swaz wont die hœh, die tiefe, in aller breite,

whatever inhabits the height, the depth, in all breadth,

daz ist dir vil wol erkant.

that is to-thee very well known.

dîn wîsheit sin in elliu herzen leite.

thy wisdom sense into all hearts laid.

nie kein dinc sô tougen wart,

never any thing so secret became,

daz ez dir wære vor verspart:

that it from-thee were before barred:

in dem kreiz alles umbevangs dir, edeler got,

in the circle of-all compass from-thee, noble God,

sich nie kein ding entseite.

itself never any thing withheld.

Des vaters segen, des engels wort,

Of-the father's blessing, the angel's word,

des heiligen geistes gebender fluz den hôhen hort

of-the holy spirit's giving stream the high treasure

dir gap, Marîe, in dînen lîp: den got, der aller dinge ist ein waltære,

to-thee gave, Mary, into thy body: the God, who of-all things is a ruler,

der ûz dem himel zuo dir nider

who out-of the heaven to thee down

ein got kam unde du in sînem vater wider

a God came and thou him to-his father back

santost beide mensche und got, des muoter du in hôher wurde wære,

sentest both man and God, whose mother thou in high worth wert,

und den du tougen sunderbar

and whom thou secretly apart

hæt umbevungen in dir reineclîche.

hadst embraced in thee purely.

der alliu ding umbvungen gar

who all things embraced quite

hât, wazzer luft viur erde und himelrîche,

has, water air fire earth and heaven-kingdom,

des wære du ein klôse hie:

of-whom wert thou a cell here:

durch daz alz und swaz dir ie

through that all and whatever to-thee ever

von im sælden widervuor, sô hilf daz uns niht sîn genâde entwîche!

from him of-blessings befell, so help that from-us not his grace depart!

Waz ist daz den besten rât

What is that the best counsel

gote ze trôst der kristenheit gegeben hât,

to-God as comfort to-the Christendom given has,

dêr uns mit im gehuldet hât und sînen strengen zorn hât hin geleit?

that-he us with him reconciled has and his harsh anger has away laid?

daz ist erbermde, als man giht:

that is mercy, as one avows:

diu wolte gote ûz herzen nie bekommen niht,

she would from-God out-of heart never to-depart at-all,

ê si im hâte gerâten wol, dêr uns mit tôde lôste, als man uns seit.

ere she him had advised well, that-he us with death freed, as one us says.

wir müesten alle verloren sîn,

we would-have-to all lost to-be,

wær uns sîn marter niht enkomen ze trôste.

were to-us his passion not come as comfort.

sus hât erbermde geholfen hin

thus has mercy helped away

der kristenheit von iemer werendem rôste,

to-the Christendom from ever lasting rust,

wand si hât gote errâten an

for she has to-God counseled on

daz er ûf die erde kan

that he upon the earth came

und mensche wart dur daz er uns von

and man became through that he us from

grimmeclîcher nôt zuo im erlôste.

grim distress to him redeemed.

Wê uns dar umbe daz wir gar

Woe to-us there for that we quite

an mangeln rehten tugenden sîn also bar,

in many true virtues are so bare,

und ouch des tievels böeser rât sô dicke gesiget uns krefteclîchen an!

and also the devil's evil counsel so often prevails us mightily on!

daz lâ dir, herre, geklaget sîn

that let to-thee, lord, lamented to-be

und hilf daz wir uns ziehen in den willen dîn

and help that we ourselves draw into the will thine

und wir umb dich erwerben, got, daz uns noch tecke dîner sælden van,

and we from thee win, God, that us yet cover thy blessing's flag,

und er uns leite an die stat,

and he us may-lead to the place,

dâ ieclich mensche erkennet sîne schulde,

where each man knows his guilt,

alsô daz uns niht spreche mat

so that us not may-declare checkmate

der tievel, und wir vinden dîne hulde

the devil, and we may-find thy favor

dâ du ze jungest rihten wilt,

where thou at last judge wilt,

dar uns allen ist gezilt:

thither to-us all is appointed:

denkent wie jæmerlicher stê zer selben stunt, der gotes zorn getulde.

think how piteous he stand at-the same hour, who God's anger would-bear.

Die wîsen jehent, und ist ouch wâr,

The wise avow, and is also true,

daz kein unmâze nie gewerte drîzec jâr:

that no excess ever lasted thirty years:

dar umb man gerne pflegen sol der rehten mâze, daz ist wîsliche.

there for one gladly practice shall of-the right measure, that is wise.

swaz menschlich ist, daz weret gern:

whatever human is, that lasts gladly:

swer aber niht wil die unmâze gar verbern,

whoever but not will the excess quite to-forgo,

dem wæne ich daz des tievels rât sêr wone bî und gotes hulde entwîche.

him think I that the devil's plan sore dwell by and God's favor depart.

diu mâtze êret elliu dinc:

the measure honors all things:

sô briwet unmâtze manic houbetsünde.

so brews excess many-a deadly-sin.

diu mâtze ist ganzer tugende ursprinc:

the measure is of-whole virtue source:

sô kan unmâtze brechen glückes günde.

so can excess to-break fortune's favor.

mâtze machet gotes gunst:

measure makes God's favor:

sô hât unmâtze der helle brunst

so has excess of-the hell fire

gemêret. swer niht mâtze empfligt, daz ist an

increased. whoever no measure practices, that is in

êren ein gar böese urkünde.

honors a quite evil testimony.

Owê dir, wandelbære Welt,

Alas to-thee, changeable World,

daz wir dir dienen, und sô reht böes ist dîn gelt,

that we to-thee serve, and so truly evil is thy payment,

und dîn valscher arger lôn ze jungest ouch sô bitter ende hât!

and thy false wicked reward at last also so bitter end has!

dîn gar unstäte süezekeit

thy quite inconstant sweetness

schaffet daz wir dir volgen nâch in werendez leit,

brings-about that we thee follow after into lasting sorrow,

dâ man sich gerne hüeten vor solt unde haben guoter liute rât,

which one himself gladly to-guard against should and to-have of-good people counsel,

wie man dir gesiget an,

how one thee prevails on,

sô daz man niht in dînem dienste ersturbe.

so that one not in thy service may-die.

gedenkent, frouwen unde man,

think, ladies and men,

wie lîb und sêle dâ sô gar verdurbe,

how body and soul there so quite would-perish,

und gwinnen got ze friunde enzît.

and win God as friend in-time.

der tôt vor uns verborgen lît:

the death from us hidden lies:

wan der wære verloren gar, der niht sîn hulde an dirre welt erwurbe.

for he were lost quite, who not his favor in this world would-win.

Owê daz wir ûf irdensch guot

Alas that we upon earthly good

sô sêre stellen beide sin und ouch den muot

so sorely set both mind and also the spirit

und wir ez allez müezen lân gar hinder uns,

and we it all must to-leave quite behind us,

sô wir von hinnen scheiden!

when we from hence depart!

ez kan uns dort niht gevromen:

it can to-us there nothing to-avail:

wan daz wir dur got geben hân, daz mac wol komen

but what we for God given have, that may well to-come

ze trôst der sêle und vrîsten vor dien

as comfort of-the soul and to-preserve from the

iemer wernden grôzen starken leiden.

ever lasting great strong sorrows.

dâ sulen wir gedenken an

there shall we to-think on

und geben den armen umb die gotes minne,

and to-give to-the poor for the God's love,

sît wir anders niht enhân

since we else nothing have

des guotes, sô wir müezen scheiden hinne,

of-the goods, when we must to-depart hence,

wan ein swachez lînîn tuoch.

but a poor linen cloth.

spricht ieman 'ez ist bœse, enruoch!'

says anyone 'it is bad, care-not!'

si lânt uns gern varn umb daz guot:

they let us gladly to-go for the goods:

sus sint geschaffen unser erben sinne.

thus are made of-our heirs' minds.

Got sîner hôhen wirdekeit

God of-his high worthiness

hât an diu reinen werden wîp sô vil geleit,

has on the pure worthy women so much laid,

daz ieman kûm volloben kan nâch rehte ir

that anyone hardly fully-to-praise can according-to right their

êre und ouch ir wîplich güete.

honor and also their womanly goodness.

si hânt der sælden meisten hort

they have of-the blessings greatest treasure

an dirre welt, dar zuo den himel von ime dort:

in this world, there to the heaven from him there:

erfüllet gotes wille wirt von in. erwendet grôzez ungemüete

fulfilled God's will becomes by them. averted great gloom

wirdet vil manigem werden man,

becomes very to-many-a worthy man,

der niht könd vrœlich werden wan von wîben.

who not could merry to-become but from women.

swan man si niht wan blicket an,

when one them not but looks on,

daz kan ûz herzen herzeleit vertriben.

that can out-of hearts heart-sorrow to-drive.

swem danne ir güete wonet bi,

to-whom then their goodness dwells by,

der muoz sîn aller sorgen vrî.

he must to-be of-all cares free.

swer hât ir gunst, der sitzet ûf dem glückes rade:

whoever has their favor, he sits upon the fortune's wheel:

des wünsche ich wol ir liben.

of-that wish I well to-their persons.

Wê im swer swechet frouwen namen

Woe to-him whoever disparages of-ladies name

mit arger rede dur böese tât: der mac sich schamen

with wicked speech through evil deed: he may himself to-be-asbamed

vor in unz an sîn ende wol, daz er unwirdet sô ir wirdekeit

before them until to his end well, that he dishonors so their worthiness

und er si niht geniezen lât

and he them not to-profit lets

daz si nâch sîner muoter got gebildet hât,

that them after his mother God formed has,

und ouch ir reiner werder name den meisten

and also their pure worthy name the most

teil der welte fröiden treit.

part of-the world's joys bears.

er ist hie ein verschamter man

he is here a shameless man

und wirt in enre welte gote unmære,

and becomes in yonder world to-God displeasing,

swer in niht ir lobes gan

whoever to-them not of-their praise grants

und sprichet wol als in gemæze wære:

and speaks well as to-them fitting were:

wand si sint ein gar reinez tach,

for they are a quite pure roof,

daz tecken kan für ungemach

which cover can against trouble

und machen manigen werden man, der trûric ist,

and to-make many-a worthy man, who mournful is,

daz er wirt fröidebære.

that he becomes joy-bearing.

Waz hât der fröiden meisten hort

What has of-the joys greatest treasure

an dirre welte, dem man billich guotiu wort

in this world, to-whom one rightly good words

sol sprechen, sô man beste kan, ze lobe, ze êren und ze wirdekeite?

shall to-speak, as one best can, to praise, to honor and to worthiness?

daz hât ein minneclîchez wîp,

that has a lovely woman,

diu alsô hât behüetet iren reinen lîp,

who so has guarded her pure body,

daz si ir herze und ouch ir sin und ir gemüete ie valscher tât entseite.

that she her heart and also her sense and her spirit aye false deed denied.

die sol man an der welte gar

her shall one in the world quite

für alle crêâtiuren hie wol êren,

above all creatures here well to-honor,

wand si ist ze der himelschar

for she is to the heaven-host

erkoren, daz si die sol dort gemêren.

chosen, that she it shall there to-increase.

umbe ir reinez stætez leben

for her pure steadfast life

wil ir got hie wurde geben,

will to-her God here worth to-give,

und dort ir sêle und ouch ir lîb,

and there her soul and also her body,

ir werendez wesen in ganze fröide kêren.

her lasting being into whole joy to-turn.

Gelückes rat niht stille stât:

Fortune's wheel not still stands:

vrô Sælde, diu ez trîbet, daz erzeiget hât

lady Blessing, who it drives, that shewn has

an vieren, die dâ wonent bî, daz ez wol umbe loufe zaller stunt.

on four, who there dwell by, that it well about runs at-every hour.

dem êrsten gât ûf an dem guot,

to-the first goes up in the goods,

der ander der hât vollen schrîn und rîchen muot,

the second he has full chest and rich spirit,

dem dritten swint sîn rîcheit abe, dem vierden ganze aremuot ist kunt.

to-the third dwindles his wealth away, to-the fourth whole poverty is known.

hie bî ist uns bezeichenlich

here by is to-us signified

der welte manicvaltiu grôz unstæte,

of-the world manifold great inconstancy,

daz einr wirt arn, der ander rîch:

that one becomes poor, the other rich:

sælc wære der daz rat mit heil ûf træte.

blessed were he-who the wheel with luck up trod.

vallet aber er andert nider,

falls but he otherwise down,

er kumet kûm iemer mê hin wider:

he comes hardly ever more back again:

dâ hôrt für daz ein man sîn guot mit liute

there belongs against that a man his goods with people's

gunst und ouch mit gotes hæte.

favor and also with God's bad.

Diu milte ist ganzer tugend ein hort:

The bounty is of-whole virtue a treasure:

diu milte hæht hie nider geburt und huldet dort

the bounty exalts here low birth and reconciles there

gein gote man, megde und ouch diu wîp und

toward God men, maidens and also the women and

hilfe maniger sêle ûz grôzen nœten.

helps to-many-a soul out-of great distresses.

diu milte ob andern tugenden swebt

the bounty above other virtues hovers

sam der adelar ob allen vogeln lebt:

as the eagle above all birds lives:

diu milte nimet hie laster abe, diu milte kan vor gote die sünde tœten.

the bounty takes here reproach away, the bounty can before God the sins to-kill.

diu milte wirdet künige leben,

the bounty honors of-kings life,

herzogen, grâven, vrîen, dienstherren.

dukes, counts, free-lords, service-lords.

diu milt kan pfaffenfürsten geben

the bounty can to-clergy-princes to-give

êr unde ouch machen daz in laster verren

honor and also to-make that from-them reproach to-go-far

muoz. milte ist êren obedach:

must. bounty is of-honors roof:

von milte uns diu genâde beschach,

from bounty to-us the grace happened,

daz got dur uns leit den tôten und er

that God for us suffered the death and he

uns ruochte ûz wernden nœten kêren.

us deigned out-of lasting distresses to-turn.

Diu kerge ist alr untugende stam:

The miserliness is of-all vices stem:

diu kerge schiuchet êre hin und machet zam

the miserliness drives honor away and makes tame

laster untriuwe lûge und mein bî mannen

reproach faithlessness lie and perjury among men

wîben megden und den frouwen.

women maidens and the ladies.

diu kerge nidert hôhen namen:

the miserliness lowers high name:

diu kerge machet daz sich maniger hie muoz schamen

the miserliness makes that himself many-a-one here must to-be-ashamed

vor reinen wîben und er mac in himelrîche niemer got beschouwen.

before pure women and he may in heaven-kingdom never God to-behold.

diu kerge der helle schar dort hât

the miserliness of-the hell host there has

gemêrt, diu kerge ist ein solich sünde,

increased, the miserliness is a such sin,

diu wîsen kan an böese tâten:

which direct can to evil deed:

diu kerge lêret vil der böesen fûnde,

the miserliness teaches many of-the wicked devices,

dâ mite man mac erzürnen got

there with one may to-anger God

und brechen sîn vil hôch gebot.

and to-break his very high commandment.

diu kerge schuof den êrsten mort,

the miserliness wrought the first murder,

der manigen brâht hât in der helle bûnde.

which many brought has into of-the hell bonds.

Guot muot vil hôher êren birt:

Good spirit very high honors bears:

guot muot kan machen daz ouch manger milte wirt,

good spirit can to-make that also many-a-one bountiful becomes,

des herze in kerge wære verkliben,

whose heart in miserliness were stuck,

ob in guot muot niht wîste sêre dervon.

if him good spirit not directed sorely therefrom.

guot muot kan tiuren edeln man,

good spirit can to-ennoble noble man,

guot muot die megde und ouch diu wîp wol werden kan:

good spirit the maidens and also the women well honor can:

guot muot macht daz man niht verzaget an gote,

good spirit makes that one not despairs of God,

daz hân wir dicke wol vernomen.

that have we often well heard.

guot muot macht daz ein man sîn êr

good spirit makes that a man his honor

gemêren kan: guot muot ouch trûren swendet.

increase can: good spirit also mourning dispels.

guot muot heilt manic grôzez sêr:

good spirit heals many-a great wound:

guot muot den liuten dicke fröide sendet.

good spirit to-the people often joy sends.

guot muot macht daz man lange lebt,

good spirit makes that one long lives,

guot muot ouch dik nâch êren strebt:

good spirit also often after honors strives:

guot muot untriuwe und argen sin und valsche

good spirit faithlessness and wicked mind and false

ræt von manigem herzen wendet.

counsels from many-a heart turns.

Süeze rede ûz valschem muot

Sweet speech out-of false spirit

manigem manne dicke grôzen schaden tuot,

to-many-a man often great harm does,

dâ er sich wol huote vor, swer redete als der sin geschaffen ist.

there he himself well would-guard against, whoever spoke as the mind made is.

dar umbe gedenkt ein böese wiht

there for thinks an evil wretch

‘gip süeze rede: sô getriuwet man dir niht

‘give sweet speech: then credits one to-thee not

daz du ein valschez herze habest ald bî dir won kein ungetriuwer list:

that thou a false heart hast or by thee dwells any faithless guile:

dâ mite mahtu gerâten wol

there with mayst-thou to-counsel well

dem biderben man vil gar umb al sîn êre.’

to-the upright man very quite out-of all his honor.’

der sinne ist nu vil maniger vol:

of-that mind is now very many-a-one full:

wê im der sîn gemüete dar an kêre

woe to-him who his spirit there on turns

ûf alsô lasterliche tât!

upon so disgraceful deed!

sîn kan ouch niemer werden rât,

of-it can also never to-become remedy,

swer im lât gesigen an alsô untriuwe mit ir valscher lêre.

whoever over-him lets to-prevail on so faithlessness with its false teaching.

Albrecht Marschall von Raprechtswil

Three songs. The first sets the lady among the opening buds and the free nightingale, and says she wields the power of two stars, in which he can see what is to come and read it out like a true soothsayer. In the second the little birds no longer perch on the boughs as they used to; he begs a kiss and asks her to end this pain before he dies of it. The third greets summer, and closes by asking Love to bind the sweet one as she has bound him.

XXX,1

Aber hüget mir der muot:

Again rejoices to-me the spirit:

zwâr ez meijet meijen bluot;

truly it Mays May's bloom;

man siht ûf dem zwie

one sees on the twig

bollen, die sich went ûf tuon;

buds, which themselves will up open;

dar in setzet sich dur ruon

there in sets itself for rest

nahtegal diu vrie.

nighbringale the free.

gêret sî diu kalle fin,

honored be the songstress fine,

diu des zwies hüete:

who of-the twig takes-care:

iemer müez sî sælic sîn,

ever may she blessed be,

diu dâ zuo dien vogellîn

who there to the little-birds

setzet mîn gemüete.

sets my spirit.

Sî hât engelîchen schîn:

She has angelic radiance:

wünschent daz sî werde mîn,

wish that she become mine,

der mir heiles gunne;

who to-me of-salvation may-grant;

sô hab ich ein paradîs

so have I a paradise

hie ûf erde in maniger wîs.

here on earth in many-a manner.

sî ist mîns herzen wunne.

she is my heart's delight.

mit vil tiurer varwen zol

with very precious colors' tribute

ist ir lîp bestrichen,

is her body painted,

wîz rôet brûn, gemischelt wol,

white red brown, mingled well,

ist ir herz gar tugende vol

is her heart quite of-virtue full

und diu schand entwichen.

and the disgrace departed.

Zweier sternen hât gewalt

Of-two stars has power

diu mich machet junc und alt:

who me makes young and old:

daz sag ich dien liuten.

that say I to-the people.

dar inn kan ich sehen wol

there in can I see well

waz her nâch beschehen sol

what here after happen shall

und ouch schôn betiuten.

and also fairly interpret.

kum ich noch in ir geriht,

come I yet into her judgment,

hœrent frömdiu mære,

bear strange tidings,

diz beschehen daz beschiht,

this happening that happens,

dâ sô bin ich, anders niht,

there so am I, otherwise nothing,

ein wissag gewære.

a soothsayer true.

XXX,2

Uf esten gesten sich niht mê

On boughs perch themselves not more

vogellîn als ê (ouwê!

little-birds as before (alas!

daz sint leide mære!),

that are sad tidings!),

der zungen sunen weidellich.

whose tongues sang delightfully.

alsô tæte ouch ich, ob mich

so would-do also I, if me

trôst diu sældenbære,

comforted the blessing-bearing-one,

sô daz sî mir bî

so that she to-me by

tugentlichen wære:

virtuously were:

mîn swære wære gar dâ hin.

my grief were quite there away.

rôtez mündelîn, ich bin

red little-mouth, I am

dir alsô gevære.

to-thee so intent.

Ir êren mêren kan sî wol;

Her honors increase can she well;

sî ist tugende vol, ich sol

she is of-virtue full, I shall

nâch ir hulden ringen.

after her favor to-strive.

ir süeze grüeze mêr dan zwir,

her sweet greetings more than twice,

seht, die wurden mir von ir:

behold, those came to-me from her:

wol müez ir gelingen!

well may to-her it-succeed!

valsches ein diu rein

of-falsehood free the pure-one

ist ob allen dingen.

is above all things.

ich sîge, ich nîge ir ûf den fuoz:

I sink, I bow to-her upon the foot:

dur ir werden gruoze ich muoz

for her worthy greeting I must

tihten unde singen.

compose and sing.

Daz mir von dir sô tougenlich

That to-me from thee so secretly

küssen wære ein himelrîch:

kissing were a heaven-kingdom:

liep, nu tuo dîn êre

dear-one, now do thy honor

und twinge, bringe dich dar zuo:

and compel, bring thyself there to:

ez ist niht ze vruo, nu tuo

it is not too early, now do

daz mîn leit verkêre.

that my sorrow turn-away.

waz frumt dich, ob ich

what avails thee, if I

sturbe von der sêre?

should-die of the pain?

nu ende, wende disen pîn.

now end, turn-away this pain.

küeginne mîn, lâ sîn!

queen mine, let be!

ich wurd liht ze hêre.

I should-become perhaps too haughty.

XXX,3

Wol dir, sumer, dîner schœne,

Well to-thee, summer, of-thy beauty,

sît dîn rât der vogeles dæne

since thy counsel the birds' songs

wecket unde machet fruot.

wakens and makes glad.

wer kan dich volloben iemer?

who can thee fully-praise ever?

wan dîn kunft erwindet niemer,

for thy coming ceases never,

sî gît manger hande bluot.

she gives of-many kinds bloom.

wîz rôr gel blâ brûn ûz esten

white red yellow blue brown out-of boughs

dringent wunneclîche als ê:

press delightfully as before:

doch mag ich mich des wol gesten,

yet may I myself of-it well boast,

daz ich dienen wil der besten,

that I serve will the best-one,

swie ez mir dar umbe ergê.

however it to-me there about may-go.

Mit ir ist ein lant beschœnet,

With her is a land beautified,

diu mîn herze hât bekrœnet

who my heart has crowned

und ouch machet sorgen vrî.

and also makes of-cares free.

sî ist kiusch, noch tugende rîcher:

she is chaste, still of-virtue richer:

in gesach nie minneclîcher

I saw never lovelier

bilde, wizzent, danne sî.

image, know, than she.

zuo ir kan ich niht gemezzen,

to her can I nothing compare,

diu mir ie sô nâhe lac:

who to-me ever so near lay:

sî hât mich alsô besezzen,

she has me so possessed,

daz ich ir niht kan vergezzen

that I her not can forget

beidiu naht und ouch den tac.

both night and also the day.

Schœner crêâtiure ûf erde

Of-fairer creature on earth

nie betagte: nâch dem werde

never dawned: after the worth

muoz ich ringen sunder spot.

must I strive without mockery.

daz gebiutet mir diu Minne:

that commands to-me the Love:

willeclîche ûz und inne,

willingly out and in,

wil ich leisten ir gebot,

will I perform her command,

daz sî die vil süezen binde,

that she the very sweet-one bind,

als sî mich gebunden hât,

as she me bound has,

alder mich ûz sorgen winde:

or me out-of cares free:

ob ich die genâde vinde,

if I the favor find,

waz dâ kumbers mir zergât!

what there of-affliction to-me passes-away!

Otto zum Turne the Younger

Five songs. The first opens on a single period: whoever adorns the order of knighthood, if a red mouth smiles on him from the heart and loves him with faith, no one's hatred shall make that unseemly. The second is the longest and turns on guilt — he will not blame her, asks what her goodness now accuses him of, and says he will not depart without confession. The third likens his spirit to falcons that exult in the sun; the fourth names the thrush, the lark, the siskin, and the nightingale. The last, in internal rhyme throughout, laments that the wounds hope had healed have reopened.

XXXI,¹

Swer ritters orden zieret

Whoever knight's order adorns

und nâch der regel sinnet,

and after the rule strives,

ob dem von herzen smieret

if to-him from heart smiles

ein rôter munt und in mit triuwen minnet,

a red mouth and him with faith loves,

daz sol nieman durch haz unbillich machen:

that shall no-one through hatred unseemly to-make:

den werden wol gemuoten

to-the worthy well disposed

sun reine wîp in spilnder wunne lachen.

shall pure women in playing delight to-laugh.

Man sol daz wunder hazzen,

One shall that exceedingly to-hate,

swâ minne gât ir stiure

wherever love gives her aid

dien ungemuoten lazzen,

to-the ill-disposed slack,

die niht durch wirde suochent âventiure.

who not through worth seek adventure.

owê daz iemer wîp ir êre engenzet

alas that ever woman her honor impairs

dur valscher minne girde

through of-false love desire

an selke stat, dâ wirde ûz kunter glenzt.

in such place, where worth out-of vermin gleams.

Wertlicher wîbe triuwe

Of-worthy women faith

gât wirdic hôhgemüete;

gives worthy high-spirit;

ouch wirt ir sælde niuwe:

also becomes their blessing new:

bî werdem man sô wachent wîbes güete.

by worthy man so wake of-woman goodness.

unwirde selten wirde hât gemêret:

unworth seldom worth has increased:

birc, sælic wîp, dîn güete

hide, blessed woman, thy goodness

vor im, der werdekeit den ruggen kêret.

from him, who to-worthiness the back turns.

XXXI,2

Ach Welt, dîn hœhste wunne

Ab World, thy highest delight

gât doch vil sender nœte.

gives yet much of-yearning distress.

dîn spiegelliehte sunne

thy mirror-bright sun

ist wîbes nam: doch tuot ir mundes rœte

is of-woman name: yet does of-her mouth redness

gewalt an senden, die diu minne twinget.

violence on yearning-ones, whom the love compels.

ach got, het ich für sterben

ah God, had I against dying

mit einem rôtem munde doch gedinget!

with a red mouth yet bargained!

Ich fürhte in jâmer sterben

I fear in misery to-die

nâch alsô liehtem schîne.

after so bright radiance.

ez möhte ein lant verderben,

it might a land to-ruin,

und tæte ir ungenâde an im diu fine

if did her ungraciousness on it the fine-one

als sî an mir begât: des lîde ich kumber.

as she on me commits: thereof suffer I affliction.

ouwê daz sich diu reine

alas that herself the pure-one

verschult an mir, des fürhte sêr ich tumber.

makes-guilty on me, thereof fear sorely I foolish-one.

Nein, reine fruht, dîn schœne

No, pure creature, thy beauty

sol niht alsô gedîhen.

shall not so to-thrive.

dîn wîbes zuht niht hœne

thy of-woman breeding not scorn

an mir: wes wil dîn gûete mich nu zîhen,

on me: of-what will thy goodness me now to-accuse,

sît mich in banden hât dîn wîplich bilde?

since me in bonds has thy womanly form?

ouch ist mîn dienstlich triuwe

also is my serving faith

durch dich allein nu allen vrouwen wilde.

through thee alone now to-all ladies strange.

Owê waz rede ich tumber?

Alas what speak I foolish-one?

mîn dienst hât niht krefte:

my service has no strength:

als ein durchslagen sumber

as a beaten-through drum

hal er noch ie dâ her bî ritterschefte.

rang it still ever there hither by knighthood.

tuot sî mir niht genâden mit ir hulden,

(if)-does she to-me no graces with her favor,

sô ist mîn reht gar kleine,

then is my right quite little,

ez læge danne an mîner triuwe schulden.

it lay otherwise on of-my faith guilt.

Sol ich der niht geniezen,

(if)-Shall I of-it not to-profit,

sô mag ich wol verderben:

then may I well to-perish:

doch wil mich niht verdriezen,

yet will me nothing to-weary,

sol ich dur sî in sender nœte sterben.

shall I for her in yearning distress to-die.

âne biht wil ich niht hinnen scheiden.

without confession will I not hence to-depart.

sî ist mir für mîn sêle:

she is to-me before my soul:

die rede bihte ich wol mit tûsent eiden.

that speech confess I well with thousand oaths.

Hab ich der rede sünde,

Have I of-that speech sin,

des ruoche got vergezzen:

of-that deign God to-forget:

wand er gap mir ze künde

for he gave to-me to acquaintance

die zarten, diu mich senden hât besezzen.

the tender-one, who me yearning has possessed.

sust hât er schulde ein teil an mînem muote:

thus has he guilt a part in my spirit:

wand er geschuof die klâren

for he created the bright-one

sô wandels frî, daz sî nie meil beruote.

so of-change free, that her never stain touched.

Ach got, wie hât dîn güete

Ab God, how has thy goodness

geleit sô hôhe stiure

laid so high endowment

an sî und ir gemüete!

on her and her spirit!

ward ie ûf erde ein bilde sô gehiure?

came-to-be ever on earth a form so gracious?

des wæn ich niht: sî treit in engels wîse

of-that think I not: she bears in angel's manner

gebærde lîp muot sinne:

bearing body spirit senses:

die klâren ich für alle frouwen prîse.

the bright-one I before all ladies praise.

Wol mich der wol getânen!

Well for-me of-the well made-one!

swie daz ich lide kumber,

however that I suffer affliction,

durch sî wil ich mich ânen

for her will I myself to-rid

vil missetât, diu mir doch wurde krumber

much of-misdeed, which to-me yet would-become more-crooked

nâch tôde dan daz ich die lieben meine.

after death than that I the dear-one favor.

für al der welte wunne

before all of-the world delight

ist mir diu zarte in herzen alters eine.

is to-me the tender-one in heart altogether alone.

Ich tar niht wol gedenken,

I dare not well to-think,

waz liebes ich gewunne,

what of-joy I would-win,

wölt sî mîn trûren krenken:

would she my mourning to-weaken:

ich vörhte, mir der sinne gar zerrunne.

I would-fear, to-me of-the senses quite would-fail.

man seit, daz man von leide niht verderbe:

one says, that one from sorrow not perishes:

gât mir diu liebe ir hulde,

gives to-me the dear-one her favor,

ich fürht daz ich von rehten vröiden sterbe.

I fear that I from true joys may-die.

Iedoch wölt ich ez wâgen:

Yet would I it to-venture:

mir tuot sô wê ir strenge,

to-me does so woe her harshness,

daz mich ir muoz betrâgen.

that me of-her must to-weary.

ê daz ichz wölte liden doch die lenge,

before that I-it would to-suffer yet the length,

ich wolt ê daz sî mich umbevienge

I would rather that she me embraced

und âne ir güete schulde

and without her goodness' guilt

ein tôt an liebes arme an mir ergienge.

a death in of-dear-one arms on me befell.

Daz müeste sî beweinen

That must she to-bewail

doch von ir wîbes güete

yet from her of-woman goodness

und senften muot erscheinen

and gentle spirit to-show

nâch tôde an mir: sust kenne ich ir gemüete,

after death on me: thus know I her spirit,

daz si ze stunt ir strenge lieze erwinden.

that she at once her harshness would-let to-cess.

sust trage ich hôhgedinge:

thus bear I high-hope:

mîn tôter lîp mac noch genâde vinden.

my dead person may yet grace to-find.

XXXI,3

Mîn muot dien valken tuot gelîch,

My spirit to-the falcons acts alike,

die durch ir adelîchen art

which through their noble kind

sich geilent mit der sunne:

themselves exult with the sun:

sô hôher flûge ist er nu rîch.

of-so high flights is it now rich.

nie schœner bilde ûf erde wart

never fairer form on earth came-to-be

dan mîner ougen wunne:

than of-my eyes delight:

die mag ich schouwen und an sehen;

that may I to-behold and on to-look;

und wölte des der keiser gern,

if would of-that the emperor gladly,

im möhte ein schade von ir geschehen.

to-him might a harm from her to-happen.

Wol mich daz sich diu ougen mîn

Well for-me that themselves the eyes my

sô glanzer varwe hânt gewent;

of-so gleaming hue have accustomed;

des vröit sich mîn gemüete.

thereof rejoices itself my spirit.

ich sach ir minnenclichen schîn,

I saw her lovely radiance,

nâch der sich ie mîn herze sent

after whom itself ever my heart yearns

in bernder wîbes güete,

in bearing of-woman goodness,

daz ich bî allen mînen tagen

that I in all my days

sô wandels vrî nie lîp gesach:

so of-change free never person saw:

daz muoz ich bî dem eide sagen.

that must I by the oath to-say.

Vind ich genâden rîchen muot,

(if)-Find I of-graces rich spirit,

sô mag ich danne sprechen wol,

then may I thereupon to-say well,

sî trage des Wunsches bilde.

she bears of-the Wish form.

mîn herze brinnet als ein gluot:

my heart burns as an ember:

swann ich genâde suochen sol,

whenever I grace seek shall,

sô wirt mir sprechen wilde.

then becomes to-me speaking strange.

iedoch hât sî ein teil vernomen

yet has she a part heard

daz sî mir ist für elliu wîp

that she to-me is before all women

in ougen und in herzen komen.

into eyes and into heart come.

XXXI,4

Fröit iuch der vil lieben zît,

Rejoice yourselves of-the very dear season,

werden wol gemuoten jungen,

worthy well disposed young-ones,

durch des liechten meien schîn.

through of-the bright May radiance.

schouwent wie diu heide lit:

behold how the heath lies:

lichte bluomen sint entsprungen;

bright flowers are sprung-up;

man hært kleiniu vogellîn

one hears little birdlings

in dien ouwen über al:

in the meadows over all:

tröschel lerhe und diu zîse

thrush lark and the siskin

dœnent hügelicher wîse

sound of-joyful melody

mit der frîen nahtegal.

with the free nightingale.

Diu vröit sich des meien bluot

She rejoices herself of-the May bloom

und der süezen sumerwunne,

and of-the sweet summer-delight,

diu sô hôhe vröide gît.

which so high joy gives.

sô vröit sich mân sender muot

so rejoices itself my yearning spirit

daz mîns herzen spilndiu sunne,

that of-my heart playing sun,

an der al mân vröide lit,

on whom all my joy lies,

sich für alle vrouwen gar

herself before all ladies quite

sunder wanc, in hôhgemüete,

without wavering, in high-spirit,

und mit reiner wîbes güete

and with pure of-woman goodness

hœhet als der adelar;

raises as the eagle;

Den sîn adel und sîn art

Whom his nobility and his kind

in des luftes wilde twinget,

into of-the air wildness compels,

dar kein vogel nie geflouc:

whither no bird ever flew:

zuo dem die vil reine schart

to whom the very pure-one gathers

ir muot, der nâch êren swinget.

her spirit, which after honors soars.

ir gebâren mich niht trouc.

her bearing me not deceived.

dô ich sî von êrst an sach,

when I her from first on looked,

dô kôs ich des Wunsches wunne

then perceived I of-the Wish delight

mê dann ich besinnen kunne

more than I conceive could

an ir: si ist der sælden tach.

on her: she is of-the blessings roof.

XXXI,5

Owê mîns herzen wunden enbunden sich hânt,

Alas of-my heart wounds unbound themselves have,

die mir wân verheilet: sust veilet mîn lîp in ir bant

which to-me expectation healed: thus offers my person in her bond

dem tôde in jâmers riuwe. mîn triuwe vergiht

to-the death in of-misery rue. my faith avows

der vil sældenbæren bewæren, daz mir wê geschiht.

to-the very blessing-bearing to-prove, that to-me woe happens.

von senelîchen sorgen kein borgen ich hân.

from yearning cares no respite I have.

mîn trûren ist gemant: sust gepfant ist mîn wân,

my mourning is summoned: thus pledged is my expectation,

den ich hete ze vröuden; mîn göuden ist gar hin getân.

which I had for joys; my rejoicing is quite away done.

Ach wie sol mir gelingen? ir twingen mich tuot

Ah how shall to-me to-succeed? her compelling me makes

in senden sorgen alten: verhalten hât sî mir hôhen muot.

in yearning cares to-grow-old: withheld has she from-me high spirit.

ich lebe in jâmers quâle ze mâle nâch ir,

I live in of-misery torment at full after her,

diu mîn niht gedenket: daz krenket herz und sinne mir.

who of-me not thinks: that weakens heart and senses to-me.

ir zarten ougen blicke vil dicke mich hânt

her tender eyes' glances very often me have

an senelîchez sorgen verborgen gemant:

of yearning care secretly reminded:

sust hât diu vil guote an muote mich senden gepfant.

thus has the very good-one in spirit me yearning pledged.

Ich was in liebem wâne, des âne mich hât

I was in dear expectation, of-that without me has

getân diu sældenbære: diu swære mir niemer zergât.

done the blessing-bearing: the grief to-me never passes.

ich wânde, ich solte neigen für eigen mich ir:

I thought, I should to-bow as own myself to-her:

dar umbe ich sender warp, daz verdarp sunder wân mir wol zwir.

there for I yearning wooed, that perished without doubt to-me well twice.

dâ von mîn vröude sinket und hinket mîn muot,

there from my joy sinks and limps my spirit,

sît si mir vröiden stiure sô tiure nu tuot,

since she to-me of-joys aid so scarce now makes,

swie ich in jâmer brinne und enzinne nâch ir als ein gluot.

however I in misery burn and kindle after her as an ember.

Rost of Sarnen

Nine songs, the last poet in the book. The first sets a sorrow that grows with the withering heath and the silenced birds; the second asks the rosy mouth when it will refresh him. The third defies winter and says its terror shall press nowhere into his heart's keeping. Two more carry a refrain to Love: consider how I burn through no fault of mine, and help me sue for a day. The rest ask Love how he has wronged her, blame the tale-bearers, call young and old to the bloom, and beg a kiss to heal him from head to foot.

XXXII,¹

Valwet nu heide,

Withers now heath,

stênt ouwen bluomen blôz,

stand meadows of-flowers bare,

rêret loup der walt

sheds leaf the wood

und swîgent vogellîn,

and are-silent little-birds,

daz briuwent beide

that brew both

wint unde rîfen grôz:

wind and hoarfrost great:

trûren manicvalt

mourning manifold

mir wahsent ist mit in.

to-me growing is with them.

tuot in winterzît gewalt,

does to-them winter-season violence,

sô tuot mir leide

so does to-me painfully

der mich noch nie verdrôz,

of-whom me still never wearied,

ein wîp wol gestalt.

a woman well formed.

nu wol, der pîn sol sîn!

now well, the torment shall to-be!

Ich wil ir singen,

I will to-her to-sing,

wær mîner klage zwir

were of-my lament twice

noch von ir sô vil.

still from her so much.

ir bilde ist alsô fîn,

her form is so fine,

daz solde ringen

that should to-strive

ein keiser wol mit gir

an emperor well with desire

nâch ir âne zil

after her without end

und durch si lîden pîn.

and through her to-suffer torment.

frouwe, mîner fröiden spil,

lady, of-my joys play,

ruoche verdringen

deign to-press-away

mîn sende quâle mir,

my yearning anguish from-me,

sîd ich muoz und wil

since I must and will

genâden biten dîn.

of-grace to-beg thine.

Nieman den kumber

No-one the affliction

zer welt mir wenden kan

in-the world from-me turn can

wan dîn trûter lîp,

but thy dear person,

mîns herzen trœsterin.

of-my heart comfortress.

des flêh ich tumber

of-that entreat I foolish

dich, vrouwe wol getân,

thee, lady well made,

mir die nôt vertrîp:

from-me the distress drive:

ze lange in leide ich bin.

too long in sorrow I am.

ez stêt wol dir, sælic wîp,

it stands well to-thee, blessed woman,

sît krumb und krumber

since crooked and more-crooked

belange ich nâch dir hân,

longing I after thee have,

daz dîn zarter lîp

that thy tender body

zerflieze, sælde mîn.

may-melt, blessing mine.

XXXII,2

Hey, rœselehter munt,

Hey, rosy mouth,

wanne wilt erfrischen mich?

when wilt to-refresh me?

mirst elliū fröide unkunt,

to-me-is all joy unknown,

sol ich langer mîden dich.

shall I longer to-avoid thee.

bezzer wære mir ein sterben

better were to-me a dying

danne lebende verderben.

than living to-perish.

ich trage in aller stunt

I bear at every hour

leit nâch dir verborgenlich.

sorrow after thee secretly.

Ich bin noch unverzagt

I am still undismayed

an dem muot, mîn rouberîn.

in the spirit, my robber-woman.

niemer tac mich betagt,

never day me dawns-on,

in gedenk ze guote dîn.

unless-I think to good of-thee.

in weiz wanne dîniu güete

I-not know when thy goodness

mir mîn breitez ungemüete

from-me my broad dejection

welle machen verjagt

will to-make driven-away

und verkêren sorgen pîn.

and to-turn of-cares torment.

Mir wær noch helfe guot,

To-me were still help good,

der tuon wolde helfe mir.

who do would help to-me.

dêst wâr, ein sælic guot,

that-is true, a blessed good,

verdirb ich, daz kumt von dir.

perish I, that comes from thee.

von der nôt ein gûetlich lachen

from the distress a kindly laughing

mac mich lœsen: selker sachen

may me to-loose: of-such things

wer mich, sô ist behuot

grant me, so is guarded

wol mîn ungesunde gir.

well my unhealthy desire.

XXXII,3

Winter, dir sî widerseit,

Winter, to-thee be defied,

wan ich wil belîben

for I will to-remain

frœlich an dem muote.

merry in the spirit.

weidenlîch ûf mînen eit

stoutly upon my oath

wil ich gar vertrîben

will I quite to-drive-away

dîner strenge ruote:

of-thy harshness rod:

wan ich hân sô vrô gedingen,

for I have so glad hope,

daz dîn griuse wunderbreit

that thy horror wondrous-broad

in mîns herzen huote

into of-my heart keeping

niender mac gedringen.

nowhere may to-press.

Ich wil in dem sûse varn

I will in the roar to-go

(wer wil mich des wenden?)

(who will me of-that to-turn?)

durch die lieben reinen.

through the dear pure-one.

wie möht ich nu wesen arn,

how might I now to-be poor,

sît ein tac mir enden

since one day to-me to-end

mê sol, des ich meine,

more shall, of-that I mean,

danne ein jâr? des wil ich singen.

than a year? of-that will I to-sing.

ûf den tac mir ist sô warn:

upon that day to-me is so waiting:

wil ieman verpfenden

will anyone to-pledge

mir nâhe gelingen?

to-me near success?

Endelîch daz herze mîn

Eagerly the heart my

wepfet in dem libe,

flutters in the body,

sam ez habe vunden

as-if it had found

ein nest vollez vögellîn:

a nest full of-little-birds:

ûf gelückes schibe

upon fortune's wheel

stên ich nu ze stunden.

stand I now at times.

mîner sælden meiewunne,
of-my blessings May-delight,
 tuo genâde an mir nu schîn,
make grace on me now plain,
 sô daz mir belibe
so that to-me may-remain
 stæt der fröiden brunne.
steadfast of-the joys fountain.

XXXII,⁴

Wan hoert aber klingen
One hears again to-ring
 durch den walt
through the wood
 süezez vogelsingen
sweet bird-singing
 (wol im, der nu lebt!)
(well for-him, who now lives!)
 und dâ bî verdringen
and there by to-press-away
 manicvalt
manifold
 sorge mac des ringen.
care may of-that striving.
 gar in sælden swebt
quite in blessings floats
 lichte sumerwunne, diu nu winters wêwen
bright summer-delight, which now of-winter woes
 mit ir grüenen klêwen
with her green claws
 frilich widerstrebt.
freely resists.

Minne, tröesterinne,

Love, comfortress,

von der dirne dîn

from the maiden thine

sinne, wie ich sender brinne

consider, how I yearning burn

sunder schulde mîn!

without guilt mine!

Minne, bring ir jugende

Love, bring to-her youth

selken rât,

such counsel,

daz si noch tuo hugende

that she yet make joyful

mîn gemüete kranc.

my spirit weak.

ez zimt niht ir tugende

it beseems not her virtue

daz si hât

that she has

mich getân unmugende,

me made powerless,

der lop ich ie sanc,

whose praise I ever sang,

sît ich êrst gesach ir mundes roete glesten

since I first saw of-her mouth redness to-gleam

sam die bluot ûz esten,

as the bloom out-of branches,

gar ân allen wanc.

quite without all wavering.

Minne, tröesterinne,

Love, comfortress,

von der dirne dîn

from the maiden thine

sinne, wie ich sender brinne

consider, how I yearning burn

sunder schulde mîn!

without guilt mine!

Ich wânt sîn gescheiden

I thought to-be parted

dô ze stunt

then at once

von dien arebeiden,

from those travails,

die mîn herze truoc.

which my heart bore.

dô viel ich ze leiden

then fell I to sorrows

ungesunt:

unwell:

von der ougen weiden

from of-the eyes pasture

wart ich ungefuoc,

became I unseemly,

daz ich sunder allen zwîvel muoz verderben,

that I without all doubt must to-perish,

ob ich niht erwerben

if I not to-win

mag ir hulde kluoc.

may her favor fair.

Minne, tröesterinne,

Love, comfortress,

von der dirne dîn

from the maiden thine

sinne, wie ich sender brinne

consider, how I yearning burn

sunder schulde mîn!

without guilt mine!

XXXII,5

Minne, waz hab ich getân der süezen,

Love, what have I done to-the sweet-one,

daz si mich niht in ir hulde wizzen wil,

that she me not in her favor know will,

sô daz si mir werfen welle ein grüezen

so that she to-me cast would a greeting

tougen mit ir ougen in mîns herzen zil?

secretly with her eyes into of-my heart aim?

Minne, des bewîse mich.

Love, of-that instruct me.

habe ich missetân, daz wil ich büezen

have I misdone, that will I to-atone

ûf genâde und widerdienen stæteclich.

upon grace and to-serve-in-return steadfastly.

Klage ich ir, die ich in herzen meine,

Lament I to-her, whom I in heart hold-dear,

kumber, den ich dol, si spricht 'herr, waz hœr ich?

affliction, which I endure, she says 'lord, what hear I?

daz ir meinent in liebe mich eine,

that ye favor in love me alone,

daz geloube ich niemer.' alsust tœret mich

that believe I never.' thus fools me

si vil sældenrîche guot,

she very blessing-rich good,

daz si mir gelouben wil sô kleine

that she to-me believe will so little

und doch fröiden mich berouben, swie man tuot.

and yet of-joys me to-rob, however one does.

Süeze Minne, wanne wilt du kêren

Sweet Love, when wilt thou to-turn

von mir leit, daz ich in mînem herzen hân?

from me sorrow, which I in my heart have?

jâ wær es zît, daz du soldest lêren
indeed were of-it time, that thou shouldst to-teach
 liebez liep, daz si mich lieze vrô bestân.
dear dear-one, that she me would-let glad to-remain.
 wan sol ich iht vrô gesîn,
for shall I at-all glad to-be,
 zwâr daz muoz mir komen von der hêren,
truly that must to-me to-come from the noble-one,
 der du gæb für eigen gar daz leben mîn.
to-whom thou gavest as own quite the life my.

XXXII,6

Got weiz wol daz ich stæte triuwe
God knows well that I steadfast faith
 der herzelieben vrouwen mîn
to-the heart-dear lady my
 trage, der mîn herze gert.
bear, whom my heart desires.
 von ir der kumber mîn ist niuwe:
from her the affliction my is new:
 doch dunket mich, der selbe pîn
yet seems to-me, the same torment
 habe wol tûsent jâr gewert
has well thousand years lasted
 an mir senden siechen armen.
on me yearning sick poor.
 wil sich diu liebe niht erbarmen,
will herself the dear-one not to-pity,
 mirst aller guoter fröiden schîn
to-me-is of-all good joys radiance
 frömder hiure danne vert.
stranger this-year than last-year.

Sol ich engelden mîner stæte,

Shall I to-pay-for of-my steadfastness,

der ich mit zühten zaller zît

which I with breeding at-every time

tougenlîchen hân gehuot?

secretly have guarded?

wê, wes gedenke ich! valsche ræte

woe, of-what think I! false counsels

der argen melder und ir nît

of-the wicked tale-bearers and their envy

mêre mir den schaden tuot.

more to-me the harm does.

doch gedinge ich daz mîn swære

yet hope I that my grief

gesenfte noch diu sældenbære,

may-soften yet the blessing-bearing,

an der alein mîn helfe lît,

on whom alone my help lies,

swanne sis gewinnet muot.

whenever she-of-it wins spirit.

Nieman mir kan daz gar verbieten,

No-one to-me can that quite to-forbid,

in sî der lieben minneclîch

I be to-the dear-one loving

in dem muot swie holt ich wil.

in the spirit however devoted I will.

des kumbers wil ich mich genieten,

of-the affliction will I myself to-partake,

swar ich var, iemer sicherlich,

wherever I go, ever surely,

wan ich weiz ir zuht sô vil,

for I know of-her breeding so much,

der geslahten, wandelvrîjen,

of-the noble, blemish-free-one,

daz ich ir lop muoz stæte schrîjen:

that I her praise must steadfast to-cry:

sist rein, sist guot, sist sælden rîch,

she-is pure, she-is good, she-is of-blessings rich,

sist diu liebe ân endes zil.

she-is the dear-one without of-end goal.

XXXII,7

Fröit iuch, jung und alt:

Rejoice you, young and old:

wan siht aber manicvalt

one sees again manifold

lichte bluot entspringen.

bright bloom to-spring-up.

seht, der mære guot

behold, of-the tidings good

hoert man stæte wol gemuot

hears one steadfast well disposed

kleiniu vogellîn singen.

tiny little-birds to-sing.

mit dien wil ich fröuwen mich

with those will I to-joy myself

der gemeiten zît

of-the merry season

und der lieben, diu mir gît

and of-the dear-one, who to-me gives

muot und sinne frœlich.

spirit and senses merry.

Guot gedinge ich hân,

Good hope I have,

daz diu werdiu wol getân

that the worthy well made

mich ergetze sorgen.

me may-compensate of-cares.

sô durliuhtic glanz

so translucent gleaming

ist ir bilde an tugenden ganz

is her form in virtues whole

âbent unde morgen,

evening and morning,

daz si niemer langer lât

that she never longer lets

mich belîben sô.

me to-remain so.

mînes dienstes wurde ich vrô:

of-my service become I glad:

Minne, füege den rât!

Love, arrange the counsel!

Friuntlich umbevanc

Friendly embrace

wære mir ein engelsanc

were to-me an angel-song

für mîn sende swære.

against my yearning grief.

möht der werden mir

might it to-become to-me

tougen nâch mîns herzen gir,

secretly after of-my heart desire,

trûren mich verbære.

mourning me would-spare.

wunschlich fröide gebende fruht,

wish-worthy joy giving fruit,

vrîlich tuo mir schîn

freely make to-me plain

alsust trôst: sô muoz ich sîn

thus comfort: then must I to-be

rîch an fröiden genuht.

rich in of-joys plenty.

XXXII,8

Mir ist ein grüezen worden von der süezen,

To-me is a greeting become from the sweet-one,

und ist doch mîn nôt noch unverslizen:

and is yet my distress still unworn:

wan mîniu pfender ich tumber ellender

for my pledges I foolish wretched

an gesuoche noch muoz lenger wizzen,

without interest still must longer to-know,

daz ich einez niht dar abe erlæsen mac.

that I one not there off redeem may.

sæh ab ich die stunde, daz mir von ir munde

saw but I the hour, that to-me from her mouth

würde ein küssen, wol wær ich enbizzen.

should-come a kiss, well were I fed.

Minne, Minne, hilf mir werben umbe tac!

Love, Love, help to-me to-woo for day!

al mîn nôt mir herter nie gelac.

all my distress to-me harder never lay.

Ich hân versetzt, daz mich fröiden letzet,

I have pawned, what me of-joys deprives,

sinne herze und dâ bî muot ze pfande.

senses heart and there by spirit as pledge.

daz hât diu guote sô frîlich in huote,

that has the good-one so freely in keeping,

daz ich einez nie von ir gewande.

that I one never from her turned.

het ich alles guotes einen maltersac,

had I of-all goods a malter-sack,

sô vil ist des schaden ûf diu pfant geladen,

so much is of-the loss upon the pledges loaded,

daz ich kurze frist dâ mit benande.

that I short term there with would-name.

Minne, Minne, hilf mir werben umbe tac!

Love, Love, help to-me to-woo for day!

al mîn nôt mir herter nie gelac.

all my distress to-me harder never lay.

Wil ich verdieben mîn herze ab der lieben,

Will I to-steal my heart from the dear-one,

dar zuo mich dekeine fuoge nützet:

there to me no fitness avails:

sô gar in stricke hânt ir ougen blicke

so quite in snare have of-her eyes glances

sinne herze und dâ bî muot beslützet.

senses heart and there by spirit locked.

seht, alsust al durch daz jâr stêt mîn bejac:

bebold, thus all through the year stands my gain:

wil ir mundes rœte mir helfen ûz nœte,
(if)-will of-her mouth redness to-me to-help out-of distress,
 sô bin ich mit fröiden understützet.
then am I with joys supported.

Minne, Minne, hilf mir werben umbe tac!
Love, Love, help to-me to-woo for day!
 al mîn nôt mir herter nie gelac.
all my distress to-me harder never lay.

XXXII,9

Wol der sumerlichen zît,
Well of-the summery season,
 diu sô mangem herzen fröide gât,
which to-so many-a heart joy gives,
 daz den winter was unvrô.
which the winter was unglad.
 heide in wunneclîcher wât
heath in delightful garment
 lît bekleidet, des nu feste hât
lies clothed, of-which now feast has
 frîjiu lërke in lûften hô.
free lark in airs high.
 wan siht allenthalben wunne vil:
one sees everywhere delight much:
 doch, swie vil sî fröide spil,
yet, however much be of-joy play,
 ob diu liebe mich niht trœsten wil,
if the dear-one me not comfort will,
 sô lig ich in sorgen lô.
then lie I in cares slack.

Senden pîn ich stæte hân

Yearning torment I steadfastly have

nâch der minneclîchen wol getân:

after the lovely well made:

des enwirt mir niemer buoz.

of-that becomes to-me never remedy.

vogelsanc noch bluomenscîn

bird-song nor flower-radiance

mag erleschen mir den kumber mîn.

may to-quench from-me the affliction my.

doch mir tæte ein lieplich gruoꝝ

yet to-me would-do a lovely greeting

baz dann in dien ouwen touwic fluz.

better than in the meadows dewy stream.

würde mir dâ bî ein kus,

should-come to-me there by a kiss,

herzeclîchez sorgen ich verlus

heartfelt care I would-lose

von dem haupt unz ûf den fuoꝝ.

from the head down to the foot.

Neinâ ræselehter munt,

Nay rosy mouth,

niht verzage an mir, tuo mich gesunt:

not despair on me, make me whole:

sô wird ich an fröiden rîch.

then become I in joys rich.

mînen stæten smerzen grôz,

my steadfast pain great,

des mîn herze lidet mangan stôz

of-which my heart suffers many-a blow

in dem lîbe tougenlich,

in the body secretly,

nieman kan geheilen iemer mir

no-one can to-heal ever to-me

wan dîn grûezen. des enbir

but thy greeting. of-that forbear

lenger niht: sô siht man vrô mîn gir

longer not: then sees one glad my desire

nâch der zîte heilen sich.

after the season to-heal itself.

