

OLD OCCITAN SERIES • VOLUME 6

BERTRAN DE BORN

Bertran de Born

The Complete Poems, with the Two Lives and the Razos

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

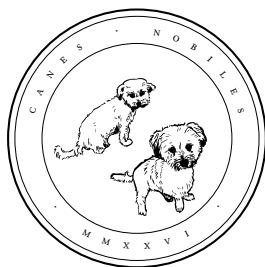


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Volume 6 of the Canes Nobiles Old Occitan interlinear texts

The Old Occitan text follows Albert Stimming's *Bertran von Born*,
zweite, verbesserte Auflage (Halle: Niemeyer, 1913)

Set from a page scan of the 1913 printing

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

The text and spelling are Stimming's, with his diaeresis marking a metrical hiatus; the two lives come first and each razo stands before the poem it explains, as he prints them, and the poems carry his numbers. His stanza numerals, his cross-references inside the razos, and the rest of his apparatus are not reproduced, nor are his indented short lines; speech stands between « », and *** marks verses the manuscripts have lost. The English titles are this press's.

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BERTRAN DE BORN

The Two Lives

Vida

I • THE FIRST LIFE

Bertran de Born was a castellan of the bishopric of Périgord, lord of a castle called Hautefort, and at war all his days with every neighbor he had: the count of Périgord, the viscount of Limoges, his own brother Constantine, and Richard while Richard was count of Poitou. He was a good knight, a good warrior, a good wooer, and a good troubadour, and he could have his way with King Henry of England and with the king's son whenever he chose. What he wanted was that they should be at war with one another, and whenever peace or truce was made he set about undoing it with his sirventes.

Bertrans de Born si fo us chastelas de l'eveschat de
Bertran of Born thus was a castellan of the-bishopric of
Peiregorc, senher d'un chastel que avia nom Autafort. Totz
Périgord lord of-a castle which it-had name Hautefort All
temps ac guerra ab totz los sieus vezis: ab lo comte de
time he-had war with all the his neighbors with the count of
Peiregorc et ab lo vescomte de Lemotges et ab so fraire
Périgord and with the viscount of Limoges and with his brother
Constanti et ab Richart, tan quan fo coms de Peitau.
Constantine and with Richard so-long as he-was count of Poitou
Bos chavaliers fo e bos guerriers e bos domneiaire e
Good knight he-was and good warrior and good wooer and
bos trobare e savis e be parlans e saup tractar mals
good troubadour and wise and well speaking and he-knew to-handle evils
e bes, et era senher totas vetz, quan si volia, de-l
and goods and he-was master all times when himself he-wished of-the
rei Henric d'Englaterra e de-l filh de lui. Mas totz temps
king Henry of-England and of-the son of him But all time

volia qu'ilh aguessen guerra ensems, lo paire e'l filhs
he-wished that-they they-might-have war together the father and-the son
 e'lh fraire, l'us ab l'autre, e totz temps volc que'l reis
and-the brothers the-one with the-other and all time he-wished that-the king
 de Franza e'l reis d'Englaterra aguessen guerra ensems.
of France and-the king of-England they-might-have war together
 E s'ilh avian patz ni tregua, ades si penava e's
And if-they they-had peace or truce at-once himself he-took-pains and-himself
 perchassava ab sos sirventes de desfar la patz e de mostrar,
he-exerted with his sirventes to undo the peace and to show
 com chascus era desonratz en la patz; e si n'ac de
how each-one was dishonored in the peace and thus of-it-he-had of
 grans bes e de grans mals de so qu'el mesklet mal entre
great goods and of great evils from that that-he stirred ill among
 lor. E fetz maintz bos sirventes de'ls quals son gran
them And he-made many good sirventes of-the which are great
 re aissi escriut, segon que vos podetz vezer et entendre.
many here written according as you you-can to-see and to-understand

Vida

II • THE SECOND LIFE

The second life makes him viscount of Hautefort, a place of nearly a thousand men, and says he made only two cansos. It names his singer Papiol and the nicknames he coined: Rassa for the count of Brittany, Yes-and-No for the king of England, and Mariner for the young king. He set father against son until the young king was killed by a bolt in one of Bertran's own castles. The king took him prisoner and asked whether all his wits would serve him now; he answered that he had lost them the day the young king died. The king wept, pardoned him, gave him lands and honors, and Bertran gave himself at last to the order of Cîteaux.

Bertrans de Born si fo de Lemozi, vescoms d'Autafort, que
Bertran of Born thus was of Limousin viscount of-Hautefort which
i avia prop de mil homes. Et avia fraires e cujava-ls
there were close to thousand men And he-had brothers and he-thought-them
deseretar, si no fos lo reis d'Englaterra. Mout fo bos
to-disinherit if not were the king of-England Very he-was good
trobaire de sirventes et anc no fetz chanzos fors doas.
troubadour of sirventes and ever not he-made songs except two
E·l reis d'Arago donet per molhers las chanzos d'en Guiraut
And-the king of-Aragon gave for wives the songs of-Sir Guiraut
de Bornelh a sos sirventes. Et aquel que chantava per el
of Bornelh to his sirventes And he who sang for him
avia nom Papiol. Et era azautz hom e cortés. E clamava
had name Papiol And he-was pleasing man and courteous And he-called
«Rassa» lo comte de Bretanha e lo rei d'Englaterra «Oc e
Rassa the count of Brittany and the king of-England Yes and
No» e·l rei jove, so filh, «Marinier». Et avia aital usatge
No and-the king young his son Mariner And he-had such habit

qu'ades fazia mesclar guerra entre·ls baros. E fetz mesclar
that-always he-made to-stir war among-the barons And he-made to-stir
 lo paire e·l filh d'Englaterra, tan entro·l joves reis fo mortz
the father and-the son of-England so until-the young king was slain
 d'un quairel en un chastel d'en Bertran de Born. E·n Bertrans
by-a bolt in a castle of-Sir Bertran of Born and-Sir Bertran
 de Born si·s vanava qu'el cujava tan valer que ja no
of Born thus-himself boasted that-he thought so to-be-worth that ever not
 cujava que totz sos sens l'agues mestier. E puois lo reis lo
he-thought that all his wits to-him-were of-use And then the king him
 pres, e quan l'ac pres, el li dis: «Bertrans, aura·us
took and when him-he-had taken he to-him said Bertran will-be-to-you
 encara mestier totz vostre sens?» Et el respos qu'el avia tot
still of-use all your wits And he answered that-he had all
 so sen perdut, quan lo reis joves morit. Adoncs si ploret lo
his sense lost when the king young died Then thus wept the
 reis de so filh e perdonet li e·l vestit e·lh det terras
king for his son and pardoned him and-him clothed and-to-him gave lands
 et honors. E visquet longamen e·l segle e puois rendet
and honors And he-lived long in-the world and then rendered
 si a l'orde de Cistel. Et aqui trobaretz de sos sirventes.
himself to the-order of Cîteaux And here you-will-find of his sirventes

BERTRAN DE BORN

The Political Sirventes

Lo coms m'a mandat e mogut

1 · THE COUNT HAS SENT TO ME

The count of Toulouse has asked, through Sir Aramon Luc of Esparron, for a song in which a thousand shields are cut. Bertran obliges: the count will plant his gonfalon at Toulouse, in the comital meadow beyond Montaigut, and the potentates and the barons will come for gain, for summons, or for prayers. The Catalans and the men of Aragon will tumble from their saddles, and nothing will be left whole — samite, brocade, and sendal, cords, tents, pegs, and poles. He wants the high barons angry with one another for ever.

Lo coms m'a mandat e mogut

The count to-me-has commanded and urged

per n'Aramon Luc d'Esparro

through Sir-Aramon Luc of-Esparron

qu'ieu fassa per lui tal chanzo

that-I make for him such song

on sian trenchat mil escut,

where be cut thousand shields

elm et ausberc et alcoto,

helm and hauberk and jerkin

e perponh falsat e romput.

and doublet pierced and broken

Et er ops que sia atendut,

And it-will-be need that it-be fulfilled

puois comtar mi fai sa razo,

since to-tell to-me be-makes his matter

e que ges no diga de no,

and that at-all not be-say of no

depuois que m'o a convengut;

since that to-me-it he-has agreed

que blastimaran m'en Guasco,

for will-blame me-of-it Gascons

quan de lor mi tenh per tengut.

when of them me I-hold as bound

A Tolosa, part Montagut,

At Toulouse beyond Montaigut

fermara·l coms son gonfano

will-plant-the count his gonfalon

a·l prat comtal josta·l peiro,

in-the meadow comital beside-the block

e quan aura son trap tendut,

and when he-will-have his tent pitched

e nos lor trairem de viro,

and we to-them will-shoot from around

tan que tres nochs i jaiрем nut.

so that three nights there we-shall-lie naked

E seran i ab nos vengut

And will-be there with us come

las poestatz e li baro

the potentates and the barons

e li plus honrat companho

and the most honored companions

de·l mon e li plus mentaugut;

of-the world and the most renowned

que per aver, que per somo,
whether for gain whether for summons
 que per prec's i seran vengut.
whether for prayers there will-be come

E desse que serem vengut,
And straightway when we-shall-be come
 mesclar s'a'l torneis pe'l chambo,
to-join itself-will-the tourney over-the field
 e·lh Catala e·lh d'Arago
and-the Catalans and-those of-Aragon
 tombaran soven e menut,
will-tumble often and thick
 que ja no·ls sostenran arzo;
for ever not-them will-hold saddle-bows
 tan grans colps los ferrem nos drut.
so great blows them we-shall-strike we close-packed

E no pot esser remasut,
And not it-can to-be left-undone
 contra cel no volen tronzo,
against sky — fly splinters
 e que samit e cisclato
and that samite and brocade
 e cendat no·i sian romput,
and sendal there be torn

cordas, tendas, bechas, paisso

cords tents pegs poles

e trap e pavilho tendut.

and tent and pavilion pitched

Lo reis qu'a Tarasco perdut

The king who-has Tarascon lost

e'l senher de Mon Albeo,

and-the lord of Mont Albeo

Rotgiers, e'l filhs Bernart Otho

Rotgier and-the son (of-)Bernart Otho

e lo coms Peire lor n'aiut

and the count Peire to-them of-it-may-help

e'l coms de Foix ab Bernardo

and-the count of Foix with Bernardo

e'n Sanso, frair de'l rei vencut.

and-Sir Sancho brother of-the king conquered

De lai pensen de guarnizo,

From there let-them-think of provision

que de sai lor er atendut.

for from here to-them it-will-be awaited

Totz temps vuolh que li aut baro

All time I-wish that the high barons

sian entre lor irascut.

be among them angered

Un sirventes on motz no falh

2 · A SIRVENTES WHERE NO WORD FAILS

The razo tells how Bertran's brother Constantine seized their shared castle of Hautefort, was driven out of the whole domain, and went to the viscount of Limoges for help; Richard and Adhemar then made war on Bertran and burned his land. The song answers them: Bertran shares the egg and the halfpenny with a brother, but throws him out of the partnership if he then wants Bertran's share. Talairan will not stir from his sand-heap, William of Gourdon has put a foolish clapper in his bell, and Bertran promises to come armed to Périgueux and make mud of brain and mail on a Poitevin's head.

Bertrans de Born, si com ieu vos ai dich en las autras
Bertran of Born just as I to-you I-have said in the other
razos, si avia un fraire, que avia nom Constanti de Born
razos thus he-had a brother who had name Constantine of Born
e si era bos chavaliers d'armas, mas non era hom que
and thus he-was good knight of-arms but not he-was man who
s'entremeses mout de valor ni d'onor, mas totas sazors volia
himself-concerned much with merit or with-honor but all seasons he-wished
mal a'n Bertran e ben a totz cels que volian mal a'n
ill to-Sir Bertran and well to all those who wished ill to-Sir
Bertran. E si-lh tolç una vetz lo chastel d'Autafort,
Bertran And thus-from-him he-took one time the castle of-Hautefort
qu'era d'amdos comunalmen. E'n Bertrans si-l recobret e
which-was of-both in-common And-Sir Bertran thus-it he-recovered and
si-l chasset de tot lo poder. Et aquel si s'en anet a-l
thus-him he-drove from all the domain And that-one thus himself-thence went to-the
vescomte de Lemotges, que-l degues mantener contra so fraire,
viscount of Limoges that-him he-should to-maintain against his brother

et el lo mantenc. E·l reis Richartz lo mantenc contra·n
and he him maintained And-the king Richard him maintained against-Sir
 Bertran. E·n Richartz si guerreiaua ab n'Aimar, lo vescomte
Bertran And-Sir Richard thus warred with Sir-Adbemar the viscount
 de Lemotges. E·n Richartz e n'Aimars si guerreiauan ab
of Limoges And-Sir Richard and Sir-Adbemar thus warred with
 en Bertran e·lh fondian la soa terra e la·lh ardian.
Sir Bertran and-to-him they-razed the his land and it-to-him they-burned
 Bertrons si avia fach jurar lo vescomte de Lemotges e·l
Bertran thus had made to-swear the viscount of Limoges and-the
 comte de Peiregorc, que avia nom Talairan, a·l qual
count of Périgord who had name Talairan from-the whom
 Richartz avia toute la ciutat de Peiregorc, e no·lh en fazia
Richard had taken the city of Périgueux and not-to-him of-it did
 negu dan, quar el era flacs e nualhos. E·n Richartz si
any harm for he was slack and sluggish And-Sir Richard thus
 avia tout Gordo a·n Guilhem de Gordo; et avia promes de
had taken Gourdon from-Sir William of Gourdon and had promised to
 jurar ab lo vescomte et ab Bertran de Born et ab los autres
swear with the viscount and with Bertran of Born and with the other
 baros de Peiregorc e de Lemozi e de Caerci, los quals en
barons of Périgord and of Limousin and of Quercy the whom Sir
 Richartz deseretava, don Bertrons lo repres fort. E fetz
Richard was-disinheriting wherefore Bertran him reproached greatly And he-made
 de todas aquestas razos aquest sirventes que dis: «Un sirventes
from all these matters this sirventes which says A sirventes
 on motz no falh ai fach, qu'anc no·m costet un alh.»
where word not fails I-have made that-ever not-to-me cost a garlic

Un sirventes on motz no falh

A sirventes where word not fails

ai fach, qu'anc no·m costet un alh,

I-have made that-ever not-to-me cost a garlic

et ai apres un' aital art

and I-have learned a such art

que, s'ai fraire, germa ni quart,

that if-I-have brother full-blood or fourth

part li l'uou e la medalha,

I-divide to-him the-egg and the halfpenny

e s'el puois vol la mia part,

and if-he then wants the my share

ieu l'en get de comunalha.

I him-thence throw from partnership

Tot mo sen tenh dintz mo serralh,

All my sense I-keep within my enclosure

si tot m'an donat gran trebalh

even though to-me-they-have given great trouble

entre n'Azemar e·n Richart;

between Sir-Adebmar and-Sir Richard

long temps m'an tengut en reguart,

long time to-me-they-have held on guard

mas aras an tal baralha

but now they-have such quarrel

que lor enfan, si·l reis no·ls part,

that their children if-the king not-them separates

n'auran pro en la coralha.

of-it-they-will-have enough in the innards

Guilhelms de Gordo, fol batalh

William of Gourdon foolish clapper

avetz mes dintz vostre sonalh,

you-have put within your bell

et ieu am vos, si dieus mi quart;

and I love you so God me keep

pero per fol e per musart

yet for fool and for dolt

vos tenon de la fermalha

you they-bold of the league

li dui vescomte, et es lor tart

the two viscounts and it-is to-them slow

que siatz en lor frairalha.

that you-be in their brotherhood

Tot jorn contendi e·m baralh,

All day I-contend and-myself I-quarrel

m'escrim e·m defen e·m tartalh,

I-fence and-myself I-defend and-myself I-bestir

e·m fon hom ma terra e la m'art

and-to-me razes one my land and it to-me-burns

e·m fai de mos arbres eissart

and-to-me makes of my trees clearing

e mescla·l gra ab la palha,

and mixes-the grain with the straw

e non ai ardit ni coart

and not I-have bold nor coward

enemic qu'er no m'assalha.

enemy who-now not me-assails

Tot jorn resoli e retalh

All day I-melt-down and I-recut

los baros e·ls refon e·ls calh,

the barons and-them I-recast and-them I-temper

que cujava metre en eissart;

whom I-thought to-put in clearing

e sui be fols quar m'en reguart,

and I-am well foolish for myself-of-it I-am-wary

qu'ilh son de peior obralha

for-they are of worse workmanship

que non es lo fers Saint Launart,

than — is the iron (of-)Saint Leonard

per qu'es fols qui s'en trebalha.

for which-is foolish who himself-of-it troubles

Talairans no trota ni salh

Talairan not trots nor leaps

ni no's muou de son arenalh

and not-himself moves from his sand-heap

ni no geta lanza ni dart,

and not throws lance nor dart

anz viu a guisa de lombart;

rather he-lives in fashion of Lombard

tan es farcitz de nualha

so is stuffed with sloth

que, quan l'autra gens si compart,

that when the-other folk themselves divide

el s'estendilh' e badalha.

he himself-stretches and yawns

A Peiregors, pres de·l muralh,

At Périgueux near to-the wall

tan que·i puosch' om gitar ab malh,

so that-there might one to-throw with maul

venrai armatz sobre Baiart,

I-shall-come armed upon Bayard

e se·i trop peitavi pifart,

and if-there I-find Poitevin puffed-up

veiran de mon bran com talha,

they-shall-see of my sword how it-cuts

que sus pe·l chap li farai bart

for above on-the head to-him I-shall-make mud

de cervel mesclat ab malha.

of brain mixed with mail

Baro, dieus vos salf e vos guart

Barons God you save and you keep

e vos aiut e vos valha

and you help and to-you avail

e·us do que digatz a·n Richart

and-to-you grant that you-say to-Sir Richard

so que·l paus dis a la gralha.

that which-the peacock said to the jackdaw

Ges de far sirventes no·m tartz

3 · I AM IN NO WAY SLOW TO MAKE A SIRVENTES

The razo tells the long story of Hautefort: how Bertran took the castle from his brother Constantine in great treachery, on a Monday the auguries called unlucky; how Constantine fetched King Henry and Count Richard, who besieged it and took it; and how the king gave it back with the jest that so great a treachery had earned it. The song is Bertran unrepentant: he wants no truce from Adbemar, Amblart, or Talairan, will not leave a garden of Hautefort, keeps no law but war, and heeds neither Monday nor Tuesday nor April nor March.

Si com vos avetz maintas vetz auzit, en Bertrams de Born
Just as you you-have many times heard Sir Bertran of Born
e sos fraire, en Constantis, agron totz temps guerra ensems
and his brother Sir Constantine they-had all time war together
et agron gran malvolenza l'us a l'autre, per so que chascus
and they-had great ill-will the-one to the-other for that that each-one
volia esser senher d'Autafort, lo lor comunal chastel per razo.
wished to-be lord of-Hautefort the their common castle by right
Et avenc si que, com so fos chausa qu'en Bertrams agues
And it-befell thus that as it was (the)-case that-Sir Bertran had
presa e tolveda Autafort e chassat Constanti e sos filhs
taken and seized Hautefort and driven Constantine and his sons
de la terra, en Constantis s'en anet a n'Azemar, lo
from the land Sir Constantine himself-thence went to Sir-Adbemar the
vescomte de Lemotges, et a n'Amblart, comte de Peiregorc,
viscount of Limoges and to Sir-Amblart count of Périgord
et a'n Talairan, senhor de Montanhac, querre lor merce,
and to-Sir Talairan lord of Montignac to-seek their mercy
qu'ilh lo deguessen ajudar contra so fraire, en Bertran, que
that-they him should to-help against his brother Sir Bertran who

malamen tenia Autafort, qu'era mieis sieus, e no l'en
wrongfully held Hautefort which-was half his and not to-him-of-it
 volia dar neguna part, anz l'avia malamen deseretat. Et
he-wished to-give any share rather him-be-had wrongfully disinherited And
 ilh l'aiuderon e conselheron contra en Bertran e feiron
they him-helped and counseled against Sir Bertran and they-made
 lonc temps gran guerra ab lui et a la fi tolgron li
long time great war with him and at the end they-took from-him
 Autafort. E'n Bertrans s'en eschampet ab la soa gen
Hautefort And-Sir Bertran himself-thence escaped with the his folk
 e comenzet a guerrear Autafort ab totz sos amics e
and began to to-war Hautefort with all his friends and
 parens. Et avenc si qu'en Bertrans cerchet concordi e patz
kin And it-befell thus that-Sir Bertran sought accord and peace
 ab so fraire e fo facha grans patz, e vengron amic. Mas
with his brother and was made great peace and they-became friends But
 quan en Bertrans fo ab tota la soa gen dintz lo chastel
when Sir Bertran was with all the his folk within the castle
 d'Autafort, si·lh fetz falhimen e no·lh tenc sagramen
of-Hautefort thus-to-him he-did default and not-to-him he-kept oath
 ni conven e tolç lo chastel a gran felonía a so fraire.
nor covenant and he-took the castle in great treachery from his brother
 E so fo un dia de dilus, en lo qual era tals hora
And that was a day of Monday on the which was such hour
 e tals pointz que segon la razo de·ls agurs ni de·ls
and such point that according-to the reckoning of-the auguries or of-the
 pointz d'astrolomia non era bo començar negu gran fach.
points of-astronomy not was good to-begin any great deed
 E'n Constantis s'en anet a·l rei Henric d'Englaterra
And-Sir Constantine himself-thence went to-the king Henry of-England

et a·n Richart, lo comte de Peitau, querre mantenemen
and to-Sir Richard the count of Poitou to-seek support
 contra·n Bertran. E·l reis Henrics, per so qu'el volia mal
against-Sir Bertran And-the king Henry for that that-he wished ill
 a·n Bertran, per so qu'el era amics e conselhaire de·l rei
to-Sir Bertran for that that-he was friend and counselor of-the king
 jove, so filh, lo quals avia aguda guerra ab el, e crezia
young his son the which he-had had war with him and he-believed
 qu'en Bertrams n'agues tota la colpa: si·l pres ad ajudar,
that-Sir Bertran of-it-bad all the blame thus-him he-took to to-help
 el e·l coms Richartz, sos filhs; e feiron gran host et
he and-the count Richard his son and they-made great host and
 assetgeron Autafort et a la fi preseron lo chastel e·n
they-besieged Hautefort and at the end they-took the castle and-Sir
 Bertran. E quan fo menatz a·l pavilho denan lo rei, ac
Bertran And when he-was led to-the pavilion before the king he-had
 gran paor. Mas per las paraulas las quals el membret a·l
great fear But through the words the which he recalled to-the
 rei Henric de·l rei jove, so filh, lo reis li rendet Autafort,
king Henry of-the king young his son the king to-him gave-back Hautefort
 e perdonet li, el e·l coms Richartz, totz sos mals talans,
and pardoned him he and-the count Richard all his ill wills
 si com vos avetz auzit en l'estoria que es escriuta denan
just as you you-have heard in the-story which is written before
 sobre lo sirventes que dis: «Puois lo gens terminis floritz.»
above the sirventes which says Since the fair season flowered
 Mas quan lo reis Henrics li rendia Autafort, dis solazan
But when the king Henry to-him gave-back Hautefort he-said jesting
 ves en Bertran: «Sia toa, be la debes tu aver per razo,
toward Sir Bertran Let-it-be thine well it you-must you to-have by right

tan gran felonía fezist tu de to fraire.» Et en Bertrams
so great treachery did you to your brother And Sir Bertran
 s'engenolhet denan lui e dis: «Senher, grans merces! Be'm
himself-knelt before him and said Lord great thanks Well-to-me
 platz aitals jutjamens.» E'n Bertrams entret e'l chastel,
pleases such judgment And-Sir Bertran entered in-the castle
 e'l reis Henrics e'l coms Richartz s'en torneron
and-the king Henry and-the count Richard themselves-thence returned
 en lor terra ab lor gen. Quan li autre baro qu'aiudavan
into their land with their folk When the other barons who-helped
 Constanti auziron so e viron qu'en Bertrams avia ancaras lo
Constantine heard that and saw that-Sir Bertran had still the
 chastel, foron mout dolen et irat e conselheron Constanti
castle they-were much grieved and angry and they-counseled Constantine
 qu'el si reclames d'en Bertran denan lo rei Henric,
that-he himself should-complain of-Sir Bertran before the king Henry
 que'l mantenria ben en razo. Et el si fetz. Mas Bertrams
who-him would-maintain well in right And he thus did But Bertran
 mostret a'l rei lo jutjamen qu'el avia fach, quar el l'avía
showed to-the king the judgment which-he had made for he it-had
 be fach escriure, e'l reis s'en ris e's solazet.
well made to-write and-the king himself-of-it laughed and-himself amused
 E'n Bertrams s'en anet ad Autafort, e Constantis
And-Sir Bertran himself-thence went to Hautefort and Constantine
 no'n ac altra razo. Mas li baro que aiudavan Constanti
not-of-it had other redress But the barons who helped Constantine
 feiron ab lui lonc temps gran guerra a'n Bertran et
made with him long time great war on-Sir Bertran and
 el ad els. E tan com visquet, no'lh volc rendre lo
he on them And so long-as he-lived not-to-him he-would to-render the

chastel ni far patz ab so fraire ni tregua. E quan fo
castle nor to-make peace with his brother nor truce And when he-was
 mortz, acorderon si li filh d'en Bertran ab en Constanti,
dead agreed thus the sons of-Sir Bertran with Sir Constantine
 lor oncle, et ab sos filhs, lor cosis. E per aquestas
their uncle and with his sons their cousins And for these
 razos fetz en Bertrams aquest sirventes que dis: «Ges de
matters made Sir Bertran this sirventes which says At-all of
 far sirventes no·m tartz, anz lo fauc senes totz afans.»
to-make sirventes not-myself I-delay rather it I-make without all pains

Ges de far sirventes no·m tartz,
At-all of to-make sirventes not-myself I-delay
 anz lo fauc senes totz afans;
rather it I-make without all pains
 tan es sotils mos genhs e m'artz
so is subtle my wit and my-art
 que mes m'en sui en tal enans
that put myself-in-it I-have in such advance
 e sai tan de sort
and I-know so of craft
 que ve·us m'en estort;
that behold-you myself-thence escaped
 que comte ni rei
that count nor king
 no·m forsfeiron rei.
not-to-me wronged anything

E puous lo reis e·l coms Richartz

And since the king and-the count Richard

m'an perdonat lor mals talans,

to-me-they-have pardoned their ill wills

ja mais n'Azemars ni n'Amblartz

ever more Sir-Adbemar nor Sir-Amblart

no·m do treguas ni·n Talairans;

not-to-me may-give truces nor-Sir Talairan

ni ja d'Autafort

nor ever of-Hautefort

no laissarai hort;

not I-shall-leave garden

qui·s vol, m'en guerrei,

who-himself wishes me-of-it let-him-war

puous aver lo dei.

since to-have it I-must

Quan fis es debes totas partz,

When peace is on all sides

a me resta de guerra us pans;

to me remains of war a piece

pustela en son uolh, qui m'en partz,

pustule in his eye who me-of-it parts

si tot m'o comenzei enans!

though wholly it-to-me I-began before

Patz no·m fai conort,

Peace not-to-me makes comfort

ab guerra m'acort,

with war I-agree

qu'ieu no tenh ni crei

for-I not hold nor believe

negun' outra lei.

any other law

E no·i quart dilus ni dimartz

And not-there I-heed Monday nor Tuesday

ni setmanas ni mes ni ans

nor weeks nor months nor years

ni·m lais per abril ni per martz

nor-myself I-leave for April nor for March

qu'ieu no tracte com venha dans

that-I not plot how comes harm

a cels que·m fan tort,

to those who-to-me do wrong

e ja·b me per fort

and ever-with me by force

no conquerran trei

not will-win three

lo pretz d'un correi.

the worth of-a strap

Qui que fassa sos bos eissartz,

Whoever that makes his good clearings

ieu m'en sui totz temps mes en grans,

I myself-in-it have all time put in care

com puoscha aver quairels e dartz,

how I-can to-have bolts and darts

elms et ausbercs, chavals e brans;

helms and hauberks horses and swords

qu'ab aisso-m conort

for-with this-myself I-comfort

e-m tenh a deport

and-myself I-hold as sport

assaut e tornei,

assault and tourney

donar e domnei.

to-give and to-woo

Mos parzoniers es tan galhartz

My partner is so gallant

qu'el vol la terra mos enfans,

that-he wants the land my children's

et ieu vuolh l'en dar, tan sui gartz;

and I wish to-him-of-it to-give so am-I churl

puois diran que mals es Bertrans,

then they-will-say that bad is Bertran

quar tot no lo-i port;

for wholly not it-to-him I-bring

mas a malvatz port

but to evil harbor

venra, so-us autrei,

he-will-come that-to-you I-grant

anz qu'ab me plaidei.

before that-with me he-plead

No·m chal d'Autafort

Not-to-me matters of-Hautefort

mas far drech ni tort,

but to-do right nor wrong

que·l jutjamen crei

for-the judgment I-believe

mo senhor lo rei.

of-my lord the king

Cortz e guerras e joi d'amor

4 · COURTS AND WARS AND THE JOY OF LOVE

Courts, wars, and love once made him glad, until his lady forbade him to sing and his song was excommunicated. Now he is absolved and sends his songs out again. He welcomes the little king of Terra Maior — France — for asserting himself, and sets one rich man against another, since vavasors and castellans profit by it. He answers the emperor's cowards over Cremona, the slanderers who call him a sufferer, and the party keeping back the gifts his brother swore him; Papiol carries the song to the young king.

Cortz e guerras e joi d'amor

Courts and wars and joy of-love

mi solian far esbaudir

me they-used to-make to-rejoice

e tener gai e chantador,

and to-keep gay and singing

tro per lieis cui dei obezir

until through her whom I-must to-obey

mi fo mos chantars devedatz,

to-me was my singing forbidden

et en la lei

and in the law

es mos chans escomoniatz.

is my song excommunicated

Ara sui assoutz en amor,

Now I-am absolved in love

e veiretz anar e venir

and you-will-see to-go and to-come

chanzos, puois a la belazor

songs since to the fairest

platz que mos chans deia colhir

it-pleases that my song should to-gather

en m'onranza, s'es acordatz

in my-honor if-is agreed

son cors a dreï,

her heart to right

e non a negu de·ls comtatz.

and not there-is any of-the things-told

De·l pauc rei de Terra-Maior

Of-the little king of Terra-Maior

mi platz qu'aissi·s vol enantir,

to-me it-pleases that-thus-himself he-wishes to-advance

qu'oïmais lo tenran per senhor

for-henceforth him they-will-hold as lord

cilh que·lh Devon so fieu servir;

those who-to-him owe his fief to-serve

puois vencut los a ves Arratz,

since conquered them he-has toward Arras

ara s'estei

now let-him-stay

e cobre sos drechs daus totz latz.

and let-him-recover his rights from all sides

No·m tenhatz per envazidor,

Not-me hold-you as invader

s'ieu vuolh qu'us rics l'autre azir,

if-I wish that-one rich the-other hate

quar mielhs s'en poiran vavassor

for better themselves-of-it will-be-able vavasors

e chastela de lor jauzir;

and castellans of them to-enjoy

que plus es francs, larcs e privatx,

for more is noble generous and familiar

fe qu'ieu vos dei,

faith that-I to-you owe

rics hom ab guerra que ab patz.

rich man with war than with peace

E·lh volpilh de l'emperador

And-the cowards of the-emperor

volian Lombart envazir

wished Lombards to-invade

e ja no laissan per paor

and ever not they-cease for fear

sobre de Cremona bastir;

above of Cremona to-build

que·l coms Raimons es sai honratz

for-the count Raymond is here honored

(lacuna)

Quar ab lo rei s'es afiatz.

For with the king himself-be-has allied

Be sai que li mal parlador,

Well I-know that the evil speakers

quar vuolh de lor guilas ver dir,

for I-wish of their wiles truth to-tell

m'en apeleran sofridor,

me-of-it they-will-call sufferer

quar mi lais forzar ni balhir;

for me I-let to-force or to-master

que·ls dos que mos frair m'a juratz

that-the gifts which my brother to-me-has sworn

et autre autrei

and another grant

vol retener l'autra meitatz.

wishes to-keep the-other half

Puois no volon drech ni amor

Since not they-wish right nor love

faire ni negu plach sofrir,

to-do nor any agreement to-suffer

ges per lezeros d'obrador,

at-all by idlers of-workshop

s'ieu m'en podia revestir,

if-I myself-of-it could to-take-possession

no dei esser mal razonatz;

not I-must to-be ill judged

qu'ilh fan plaidei

for-they make plea

maintas vetz qu'om no·ls n'a pregatz.

many times that-one not-them of-it-has begged

Mas ieu ai tan enenhador,

But I have so-many instructors

no sai, per Crist, lo mielhs chausir:

not I-know by Christ the best to-choose

quan ieu pren e tuolh la ricor

when I take and seize the wealth

d'aquels que no·m laissan guarir,

of-those who not-me let to-live

dizon que trop mi sui cochatz;

they-say that too-much myself I-have hastened

quar no guerrei,

for not I-war

aras dizon que sui malvatz.

now they-say that I-am wicked

Papiols, e tu vai viatz,

Papiol and you go swiftly

a·l jove rei

to-the young king

diras que trop dormir no·m platz.

you-will-say that too-much to-sleep not-to-me pleases

En Oc e No ama mais patz

Sir Yes and No loves more peace

ab Felip, crei,

with Philip I-believe

que·l frair Johans deseretatz.

than-the brother John disinherited

Puois Ventadorns e Comborns ab Segur

5 · SINCE VENTADORN AND COMBORN WITH SEGUR

The razo lists the league sworn against Richard — Ventadorn, Comborn, Segur, Turenne, Périgord, Gourdon, Montfort, and the burghers — and Bertran's charge that Richard took the young king's cart revenue and built a castle on his brother's land. The song reassures that country: he would not want Toledo if he could not sit safe there, and prizes a small plot held in honor above a great empire held in shame. He calls on Gascony, Taillebourg, Pons, and Lusignan, and asks whether King Philip takes after his father or follows Charles.

Bertrans de Born, si com vos ai dich, en la sazo
Bertran of Born just as to-you I-have said in the season
qu'el avia guerra ab lo comte Richart, el fetz si que·l
that-be had war with the count Richard he did thus that-the
vescoms de Ventadorn e·l vescoms de Comborn e·l
viscount of Ventadorn and-the viscount of Comborn and-the
vescoms de Segur, so fo lo vescoms de Lemotges, e·l
viscount of Segur that was the viscount of Limoges and-the
vescoms de Torena si jureron ab lo comte de Peiregorc
viscount of Turenne thus swore with the count of Périgord
et ab los borges d'aquelas encontradas et ab lo senhor
and with the burghers of-those regions and with the lord
de Gordo et ab lo senhor de Monfort, e si si
of Gourdon and with the lord of Montfort and thus themselves
serreron ensem, per qu'ilh si defendessen da·l comte
they-bound together so that-they themselves might-defend from-the count
Richart, que·ls volia deseretar, per so quar ilh volian ben
Richard who-them wished to-disinherit for that because they wished well
a·l rei jove, so fraire, ab cui el si guerreiava, a·l
to-the king young his brother with whom he himself warred from-the

qual el avia tout totas las rendas de las charretas, de las
which he had taken all the revenues of the carts of the
 quals charretas lo reis joves prendia certa chausa, si com
which carts the king young took certain thing just as
 lo paire li avia donat, e no-l laissava neis albergar
the father to-him had granted and not-him he-let even to-lodge
 segur en tota la soa terra. E per aquest sagramen que
safe in all the his land And through this oath which
 tuit aquist avian fach de guerreiar en Richart, Bertrans
all these had made of to-war Sir Richard Bertran
 de Born si fetz aquest sirventes: «Puois Ventadorns e
of Born thus made this sirventes Since Ventadorn and
 Comborns ab Segur» per assegurar totas las gens d'aquela
Comborn with Segur to to-reassure all the folk of-that
 encontrada per lo sagramen que aquilh avian fach contra'n
region through the oath which they had made against-Sir
 Richart e reprenden lo rei jove, quar el en guerra non
Richard and reproving the king young because he in war not
 era plus pros, remembran a lui, com en Richartz l'avía
was more worthy recalling to him how Sir Richard from-him-had
 toutas las rendas de las charretas e com li avia fach
taken the revenues of the carts and how to-him he-had made
 levar un chastel e-l miei luoc de la terra que-l paire
to-raise a castle in-the middle place of the land which-the father
 l'avía dada, e lauzan lo senhor de Puoi-Guilhelm e de
to-him-had given and praising the lord of Puy-Guilhem and of
 Clarens e de Granhol e de Saint-Astier, qu'erán quatre
Clarens and of Grignols and of Saint-Astier who-were four
 gran baro de Peiregorc, e lauzan se mezeis e Torena
great barons of Périgord and praising him self and Turenne

et Engolmes, e dis que, si'l vescoms de Bearn e
and Angoumois and he-said that if-the viscount of Béarn and
 de Gavarda, so era en Gastos de Bearn, qu'era chaps de
of Gavardan that was Sir Gaston of Béarn who-was head of
 tota Guasconha, e'n Vivias de Lomanha e'n Bernardos
all Gascony and-Sir Vivian of Lomagne and-Sir Bernardon
 d'Armanhac e'l vescoms de Tartas venian sai ad els,
of-Armagnac and-the viscount of Tartas came here to them
 que volian mal a'n Richart: assatz auria el que far; e
who wished ill to-Sir Richard enough would-have be which to-do and
 que'l senher de Mauleo, so era en Raols de Mauleo, lo
that-the lord of Mauléon that was Sir Raoul of Mauléon the
 paire d'en Savaric, e'l senher de Taunai e'l vescoms
father of-Sir Savaric and-the lord of Taunay and-the viscount
 de Sivrai e'l senher de Talhaborc e'l vescoms de
of Civray and-the lord of Taillebourg and-the viscount of
 Toartz, — que tuit aquist lor ajudarian, si lor fossen
Thouars that all these them would-help if to-them they-were
 de pres, per lo gran tort qu'en Richartz lor fazia; e
of near through the great wrong that-Sir Richard to-them did and
 tuit aquist eran gran baro de Peitau. E de totas aquestas
all these were great barons of Poitou And of all these
 razos si fetz en Bertrans aquest sirventes que comenza:
matters thus made Sir Bertran this sirventes which begins
 «Puois Ventadorns e Comborns ab Segur e Torena e
Since Ventadorn and Comborn with Segur and Turenne and
 Monfortz.»
Montfort

Puois Ventadorns e Comborns ab Segur

Since Ventadorn and Comborn with Segur

e Torena e Monfortz ab Gordo

and Turenne and Montfort with Gourdon

an fach acort ab Peiregorc e jur,

have made accord with Périgord and oath

e li borges si clavan de viro:

and the burghers themselves lock round about

m'es bel qu'ieu chan e qu'ieu m'en entremeta

to-me-is fair that-I sing and that-I myself-in-it engage

d'un sirventes per lor assegurar;

of-a sirventes for them to-reassure

qu'ieu no vuolh ges, sia mia Toleta,

for-I not wish at-all be mine Toledo

per qu'ieu segur non i auses estar.

for which-I safe not there might-dare to-stay

A! Puoi-Guilhelm e Clarenz e Granhol

Ab Puy-Guilhem and Clarens and Grignols

e Saint-Astier, mout avetz gran honor,

and Saint-Astier much you-have great honor

et ieu mezeis, qui conoisser la·m vol,

and I myself whoever to-know it-to-me wishes

et a sobrier Engolesmes maior

and in excess Angoulême greater

d'en charretier que guerpis la charreta;

than-Sir carter who abandons the cart

non a deniers ni no·n pren ses paor;

not has pence and not-of-it takes without fear

per qu'ab honor pretz mais paucha terreta

for which-with honor I-prize more little plot

que gran empier tener a desonor.

than great empire to-bold in dishonor

Si'l rics vescoms que es chaps de'ls Guascos,

If-the rich viscount who is head of-the Gascons

a cui s'ate Bearn e Gavardas,

to whom belongs Béarn and Gavardan

e'n Vezias si's vol e'n Bernardos

and-Sir Vezian if-himself wishes and-Sir Bernardon

e'l senher d'Aics e cel cui es Marsas:

and-the lord of-Dax and he whose is Marsan

d'aquela part aura'l coms pro que fassa,

from-that side will-have-the count enough that be-do

et eissamen, aissi com el es pros,

and likewise thus as he is worthy

ab sa gran host qu'atrai e que amassa

with his great host which-be-draws and which be-gathers

passe s'en sai et ajoste's ab nos.

let-him-pass himself-thence here and let-him-join-himself with us

Si Talhaborcs e Ponz e Lizinhas

If Taillebourg and Pons and Lusignan

e Mauleos e Taunais fos en pes,

and Mauléon and Taunay were on foot

et a Sivrai fos vescoms vius e sas,

and at Civray were viscount alive and sound

ja no creirai que no nos aiudes;
ever not I-shall-believe that not us he-would-help
 cel de Toartz, puois lo coms lo menassa,
he of Thouars since the count him threatens
 tenha's ab nos e no sia ges vas;
let-him-bold-himself with us and not be at-all empty
 e demandem li que el drech nos fassa
and let-us-ask him that he right to-us do
 de·ls homes qu'el nos a trachs d'entre·ls mas.
of-the men whom-he from-us has drawn from-between-the hands

Entre Peiteus e la Isla-Bochart

Between Poitiers and the Isle-Bouchard

e Mirabel e Laudu e Chino,

and Mirebeau and Loudun and Chinon

a Clarasvals an bastit ses reguart

at Clairvaux they-have built without heed

un bel chaslar e mes en pla chambo;

a fair fort and put in flat field

mas no vuolh ges, lo sapcha ni lo veia

but not I-wish at-all (that)-it knows nor it sees

lo joves reis, que no·lh sabria bo;

the young king for not-to-him it-would-taste good

mas paor ai, puois que tan fort blancheia,

but fear I-have since that so greatly it-gleams-white

que lo veira be de Matafelo.

that it he-will-see well from Matafelon

De'l rei Felip sabrem be, si paireia

Of-the king Philip we-shall-know well if he-takes-after

o s'el segra los usatges Charlo

or if-be will-follow the customs of-Charles

d'en Talhafer, que per senhor l'autreia

of-Sir Taillefer who as lord him-grants

d'Engolesme, et el l'en a fach do.

of-Angoulême and he to-him-of-it has made gift

E non es drechs de rei que ren autreia,

And not is right of king who anything grants

puois qu'a dich d'oc, que mais diga de no.

after that-be-has said of-yes that more he-say of no

D'un sirventes no·m chal far lonhor guanda

6 • OF A SIRVENTES I AM IN NO HASTE

The young king has made peace with Richard, given up his claim, and gone off to Lombardy to tourney, leaving the barons who upheld him in the war. Bertran's answer is contempt: a crowned king who lives on an allowance is no Arnaut of Bellanda and no William who took the tower of Mirmanda. Sleeping, he will never be king of the English, never hold Anjou, never be called duke of Normandy. Bertran sends Richard counsel to the tune of Lady Alamanda, and ends by wishing that Count Geoffrey had been the eldest.

En la sazo que·l reis joves ac facha la patz ab so fraire
In the season that-the king young had made the peace with his brother
Richart e·lh ac fenida la demanda que·lh fazia de la
Richard and-to-him had ended the claim which-to-him he-made of the
terra, si com fo la voluntatz de·l rei Henric, lor paire; e·l
land just as was the will of-the king Henry their father and-the
paire li dava certa liurazo de deniers per vianda e per so
father to-him gave certain allowance of pence for food and for that
que besonhs l'era; e neguna terra no tenia ni possezia, ni
which need to-him-was and any land not he-held nor possessed and
negus hom a lui no venia per mantenemen ni per socors de
any man to him not came for support nor for succor of
guerra: en Bertrans de Born e tuit li autre baro que l'avian
war Sir Bertran of Born and all the other barons who him-had
mantengut contra·n Richart foron mout dolen. E·l reis
upheld against-Sir Richard were much grieved And-the king
joves si s'en anet en Lombardia torneiar e solazar e
young thus himself-thence went into Lombardy to-tourney and to-disport and
laisset totz aquestz baros en la guerra ab en Richart. E·n
left all these barons in the war with Sir Richard and-Sir

Richartz assetja borcs e chastels e pres terras e derocha
Richard besieges towns and castles and took lands and throws-down
 et ars et abrasa. E·l reis joves si torneiava e dormia
and burned and sets-ablaze And-the king young thus tourneyed and slept
 e solazava. Don en Bertrans si fetz aquest sirventes que
and disported Wherefore Sir Bertran thus made this sirventes which
 comenza: «D'un sirventes no·m chal far lonhor guanda.»
begins Of-a sirventes not-to-me it-matters to-make longer avoidance

D'un sirventes no·m chal far lonhor guanda,
Of-a sirventes not-to-me it-matters to-make longer avoidance
 tal talan ai que·l diga e que l'espanda,
such desire I-have that-it I-say and that it-I-spread
 quar n'ai razo tan novela e tan granda
for of-it-I-have matter so new and so great
 de·l jove rei qu'a fenit sa demanda
of-the young king who-has ended his claim
 so frair Richart, puous sos pairs lo comanda;
(to-)his brother Richard since his father it commands
 tan es forzatz!
so is-he forced

Puous n'Aenrics terra no te ni manda,
Since Sir-Henry land not holds nor commands
 sia reis de·ls malvatz.
let-him-be king of-the wicked

Que malvatz fai, quar aissi viu a randa

For wickedly he-does for thus he-lives on measure

de liurazo a comte et a guaranda;

of allowance by count and by limit

reis coronatz que d'autrui pren liuranda

king crowned who from-another takes allowance

mal sembla Arnaut, lo marques de Bellanda,

ill resembles Arnaut the marquis of Bellanda

ni·l pro Guilhelm que conquis Tor Mirmanda;

or-the worthy William who conquered Tower Mirmanda

tan fo prezat!

so was-be prized

Puois en Peitau lor men e los truanda,

Since in Poitou to-them he-lies and them cheats

no·i er mais tan amatz.

not-there will-be-be any-more so loved

Ja per dormir non er de Coberlanda

Ever through to-sleep not will-be-be of Cumberland

reis de·ls Engles ni conquerra Yrlanda

king of-the English nor will-conquer Ireland

ni tenra Anjau ni Monsaurel ni Canda

nor will-bold Anjou nor Monsoreau nor Candé

ni de Peitau non aura la miranda

and of Poitou not will-have the watch-tower

ni ducs clamatz de la terra normanda

nor duke called of the land Norman

ni coms palatz

nor count palatine

sai de Bordel ni de·ls Guascos part Landa

here of Bordeaux nor of-the Gascons beyond Landes

senher ni de Basatz.

lord nor of Bazas

Conselh vuolh dar e·l so de n'Alamanda

Counsel I-wish to-give in-the tune of Lady-Alamanda

lai a·n Richart, si tot no lo·m demanda:

there to-Sir Richard although even not it-to-me he-asks

ja per so frair mais sos homes no blanda;

ever for his brother more his men not let-bim-spare

noncas fai el, anz assatja e·ls aranda,

never does he rather he-assails and-them barries

tol lor chastels e derocha et abranda

takes-away their castles and throws-down and sets-afire

deves totz latz;

on all sides

e·l reis tornei lai ab cels de Garlanda

and-the king let-bim-tourney there with those of Garlande

e l'autre sos conhatz.

and the-other his brothers-in-law

Lo coms Jaufres, cui es Bresilianda,

The count Geoffrey whose is Broceliande

volgra, fos primiers natz,

I-should-wish were first born

quar es cortes, e fos en sa comanda

for he-is courteous and were in his command

reiesmes e duchatz.

kingdoms and duchies

Ieu chan que·l reis m'en a pregat

7 · I SING BECAUSE THE KING HAS ASKED ME

The war is a game set out on a board, and the song will say which of the sons wins the land. The young king would soon have checkmated the count if the count had not learned the game; the Gascons have risen, and the pawns of Valia are swept off. Bertran wants the cries of Arras and Monjoie heard between France and Normandy, holds the French king ill counseled, and calls the French to leave no companion behind. Charlemagne is spoken of still because he conquered Spain; the tornadas turn to Rassa and to the young king's worth.

Ieu chan (que·l reis m'en a pregat

I sing for-the king me-of-it has begged

a l'auzen de mo menassat)

in the-bearing of my threatened-one

de l'afar d'aquesta guerra,

of the-business of-this war

d'aquest juoc que vei entaulat;

of-this game which I-see set-out

e sabrem, quan l'auran jogat,

and we-shall-know when it-they-will-have played

de·l qual de·ls filhs er la terra.

of-the which of-the sons will-be the land

Tost l'agra·l reis joves matat,

Soon him-would-have-the king young mated

si·l coms no·s n'agues ensenhat,

if-the count not-himself of-it-had instructed

mas aissi·ls clau e·ls enserra

but thus-them he-shuts and-them encloses

qu'Engolmes a per fort cobrat

for-Angoumois he-has by force recovered

e tot Saintonge desliurat

and all Saintonge freed

tro lai part Finibus-Terra.

as-far there beyond Finisterre

Si·l coms pot far sa voluntat,

If-the count can to-do his will

que no·l vendon cist afiat,

that not-him betray these sworn

ni de·l tot si desenferra:

nor of-the all himself unshackles

anc cinglar no vim plus irat,

ever boar not we-saw more enraged

quan l'an brochat ni l'an chassat,

when him-they-have goaded or him-they-have hunted

qu'el er, mas sos cors no l'erra.

than-be will-be if his heart not him-fails

De mo senhor lo rei annat

Of my lord the king gone-away

conosc que an siei filh pechat,

I-know that have his sons sinned

que de·l sojorn d'Englaterra

for from-the sojourn of-England

l'an aoras dos ans lonhat;

him-they-have now two years kept-away

de·l tot lo·n tenh per enjanat

of-the all him-of-it I-hold as deceived

mas quan de Johan ses Terra.

save only of John without Land

Li Guascon si son acordat

The Gascons thus are agreed

entr' els e ves lui revelat

among them and against him rebelled

com aissilh de Lombardia;

as those of Lombardy

mais volon esser be menat

more they-wish to-be well led

per rei que per comte forzat,

by king than by count forced

d'aitan lor trac guarentia.

of-so-much for-them I-draw warrant

Aquest juoc tenh per guazanhat

This game I-hold as won

deves nos e per renvidat,

on-the-side-of us and as raised

que de·ls pezos de Valia

for of-the pawns of Valia

avem l'escachier desliurat,

we-have the-chessboard cleared

que tuit n'aneron esfreidat

for all thence-went frightened

ses comjat qu'us no·n prenia.

without leave that-one not-of-it took

En Lemozi fo comenzat,

In Limousin it-was begun

mas de lai lor es afinat;

but from there for-them it-is ended

qu'entre Franza e Normandia

for-between France and Normandy

ves Gisortz e ves Nuoumerchat

toward Gisors and toward Neufmarché

vuolh qu'en auian cridar «Arrat»!

I-wish that-of-it they-hear to-cry Arras

E «Monjoi»! e «Dieus, äia»!

And Monjoie and God help

Lo sen venzerem ab foudat

The sense we-shall-conquer with folly

nos Lemozi et envezat,

we Limousins and merry

que volem qu'om do e ria;

for we-wish that-one give and laugh

que·lh Norman en son enoiat

for-the Normans of-it are annoyed

e dizon, si·s n'eron tornat,

and they-say if-themselves of-it-were returned

qu'us mais d'els sai no venria.

that-one more of-them here not would-come

Lo rei tenh per mal conselhat

The king I-hold as ill counseled

de Franza e per pieis guizat,

of France and as worse guided

quar vei que sos fachs estanha,

for I-see that his deeds be-tins

que li valrian mais daurat,

which to-him would-avail more gilded

e si no val a son conhat,

and if not he-avails to his brother-in-law

sens e pretz tem que·lh sofranha.

sense and worth I-fear that-to-him fail

Frances, si com etz abdurat

Frenchmen since as you-are hardened

sobre totz e li plus lauzat,

above all and the most praised

parescha qu'us no remanha

let-it-appear that-one not remain

companh que·l reis aia mandat,

companion whom-the king has summoned

que ja mais no seretz prezat,

for ever more not you-will-be prized

si non etz en la mesclanha.

if not you-are in the mêlée

Lo ducs de Borgonh' a mandat

The duke of Burgundy has sent-word

qu'el nos ajudara l'estat

that-he us will-help the-summer

ab lo socors de Champanha,

with the succor of Champagne

on venran tal cinc cen armat

where will-come such five hundred armed

que, quan tuit serem ajostat,

that when all we-shall-be joined

non er, Peitaus no s'en planha.

not will-be that-Poitou not itself-of-it complain

Reis que per son drech si combat

King who for his right himself fights

a mielhs drech en sa heretat,

has better right in his heritage

e, quar conqueret Espanha

and because he-conquered Spain

Charles, n'a hom totz temps parlat;

Charles of-it-has one all time spoken

qu'ab trebalh et ab larguetat

for-with toil and with largesse

conquier reis pretz e·l guazanha.

wins king worth and-it gains

Senhe·n Rassa, aquest comtat

Lord-Sir Rassa this county

vos crescha·l reis ab Bretanha.

to-you let-increase-the king with Brittany

Lo reis joves s'a pretz donat

The king young himself-has worth given

de Burcs tro qu'en Alamanha.

from Bourges as-far as-into Germany

Mon chan fenisc ab dol et ab mal traire

8 · I END MY SONG WITH GRIEF

The razo explains that the lament holds no matter but this: the young king was the best man in the world, and he and Bertran loved each other above all others, which is why King Henry and Count Richard hated Bertran. The song mourns a king generous, well-spoken, a fine horseman, fair of face, and humble of bearing, who would have been king of the courteous and emperor of the brave had he lived longer. Welcome and giving, fair answers, paid lodging, and feasting with viol and song go into the grave with him; the English, Normans, Bretons, and Irish are stricken, France as far as Compiègne cannot hold back from weeping, and the Lorrainers and Brabanters will grieve when they next tourney.

Lo plaintz qu'en Bertrans de Born fetz de·l rei jove no
The lament that-Sir Bertran of Born made of-the king young not
porta outra razo si no que·l reis joves era lo melher hom
bears other matter if not that-the king young was the best man
de·l mon, e·n Bertrans li volia mielhs qu'ad home de·l
of-the world and-Sir Bertran to-him wished better than-to man of-the
mon, e lo reis joves ad el mielhs qu'ad home de·l mon
world and the king young to him better than-to man of-the world
e plus lo crezia que home de·l mon; per que lo reis
and more him believed than man of-the world for which the king
Henrics, sos paire, e·l coms Richartz, sos fraire, volian
Henry his father and-the count Richard his brother wished
mal a·n Bertran. E per la valor que·l reis joves avia e
ill to-Sir Bertran And for the merit that-the king young had and
per lo gran dol qu'en fo a tota la gen el fetz lo plaint
for the great grief which-of-it was to all the folk he made the lament
de lui que dis: «Mon chan fenisc ab dol et ab mal traire.»
of him which says My song I-end with grief and with ill enduring

Mon chan fenisc ab dol et ab mal traire

My song I-end with grief and with ill enduring

per totz temps mais e·l tenh per remasut,

for all time more and-it I-hold as ceased

quar ma razo e mon gauch ai perdut

for my matter and my joy I-have lost

e·l melhor rei que anc nasques de maire:

and-the best king who ever was-born of mother

larc e gen parlan

generous and nobly speaking

e be chavalgan,

and well riding

de bela faisso

of fair fashion

e d'umil semblan

and of-humble seeming

per far grans honors;

for to-do great honors

tan crei que·m destrenha

so I-believe that-me constrains

lo dols, que m'estenha,

the grief that me-quenches

quar en vau parlan;

for of-it I-go speaking

a dieu lo coman,

to God him I-commend

que·l meta en luoc Saint Johan.

that-him sets in place of-Saint John

Reis de·ls cortes e de·ls pros emperaire

King of-the courteous and of-the worthy emperor

foratz, senher, si acsetz mais viscut,

you-would-be lord if you-had more lived

quar reis joves aviatz nom agut

for king young you-had name had

e de joven eratz vos guitz e paire,

and of youth were you guide and father

et ausberc e bran

and hauberk and sword

e bel bocharan,

and fair buckram

elm e gonfano

belm and gonfalon

e perponh e pan

and doublet and cloth

e jois et amors

and joy and love

non an qui·ls mantenha

not have who-them upholds

ni qui los retenha,

nor who them retains

mas lai vos segran,

but there you they-will-follow

qu'ab vos s'en iran

for-with you themselves-thence they-will-go

e tuit ric fach ben estan.

and all rich deeds well becoming

Gen acolhir e donar ses cor vaire

Nobly welcoming and giving without heart changing

e bel respos e be-siatz-vengut

and fair answer and be-you-welcome

e gran hostal pagat e gen tengut,

and great lodging paid and nobly kept

dos e guarnirs et estar ses tort faire,

gifts and outfittings and to-stay without wrong to-do

manjar ab mazan

to-eat with din

de viula e de chan

of viol and of song

ab pro companho,

with worthy company

ardit e poissan

bold and mighty

de totz los melhors —

of all the best

tot vuolh qu'ab vos tenha,

all I-wish that-with you it-hold

qu'om re no'n retenha

that-one anything not-of-it retain

a·l segle truan

to-the age base

pe·l malastruc an,

through-the ill-starred year

que nos mostret bel semblan.

which to-us showed fair seeming

Senher, en vos non era res a faire,
Lord in you not was anything to to-do
 que totz lo mons vos avia elescut
for all the world you had chosen
 pe·l melhor rei que anc portes escut
as-the best king who ever bore shield
 e·l plus ardit e·l melhor torneiaire;
and-the most bold and-the best tourneyer
 des lo temps Rotlan
since the time of-Roland
 ni de lai denan
nor from there before
 no vi hom tan pro
not saw one so worthy
 ni tan guerreian
nor so warring
 ni don sa lauzors
nor of-whom his praise
 tan pe·l mon s'empenha
so through-the world itself-drives
 ni si lo revenha
nor if it returns
 ni que l'an cerchan
nor that him-they-go seeking
 per tot a guaran
through all to bound
 de·l Nil tro·l solelh colgan.
from-the Nile to-the sun setting

Senher, per vos mi vuolh de joi estraire,

Lord for you myself I-wish from joy to-withdraw

e tuit aquilh que-us avian vegut

and all those who-you had seen

devon estar per vos irat e mut,

must to-stay for you sad and mute

e ja mais jois la ira no m'esclaire:

and ever more joy the grief not to-me-lighten

Engles e Norman,

English and Norman

Breto et Yrlan,

Breton and Irish

Guia et Guasco

Guyenne and Gascon

et Anjaus pren dan;

and Anjou takes harm

e Maines e Tors,

and Maine and Tours

Franza tro Compenha

France as-far-as Compiègne

de plorar no-s tenha,

from to-weep not-itself may-bold

e Flandres de Gan

and Flanders from Ghent

tro·l port de Guisan

to-the port of Wissant

ploran, neis li Alaman.

they-weep even the Germans

Loirenc e Braiman,

Lorrainers and Brabanters

quan torneiaran,

when they-shall-tourney

auran dol, quan no·us veiran.

they-will-have grief when not-you they-will-see

No pretz un bezan

Not I-prize a bezant

ni·l cop d'un aiglan

nor-the blow of-an acorn

lo mon ni cels que·i estan;

the world nor those who-in-it stand

per la mort pesan

for the death heavy

de·l bo rei prezan,

of-the good king prized

on tuit devem aver dan.

in-which all we-must to-have harm

Si tuit li dol e·lh plor e·lh marrimen

9 · IF ALL THE GRIEFS AND TEARS

The second lament for the young king. If all the griefs, tears, and wretchedness the world has ever heard of were gathered into one, they would seem light beside his death. The courteous soldiers, the troubadours, and the jongleurs are left desolate, and death may boast of having taken the best knight there ever was. The song ends in prayer, that He who came into the world for our sorrow may pardon the young king and set him among honored companions where grief never was.

Si tuit li dol e·lh plor e·lh marrimen

If all the griefs and-the tears and-the sorrows

e las dolors e·lh dan e·lh chaitivier

and the pains and-the harms and-the miseries

que om anc auzis en est segle dolen

that one ever heard in this age doleful

fossen ensem, sembleran tot leugier

were together they-would-seem all light

contra la mort de·l jove rei engles,

against the death of-the young king English

don rema pretz e jovens doloros

whereby remains worth and youth grieving

e·l mons obscurs e teintz e tenebros,

and-the world dark and stained and shadowed

sems de tot joi, ples de tristor e d'ira.

empty of all joy full of sadness and of-grief

Dolen e trist e ple de marrimen

Doleful and sad and full of sorrow

son remasut li cortes soudadier

are left the courteous soldiers

e·lh trobador e·lh joglar avinen,

and-the troubadours and-the jongleurs pleasing

trop an agut en mort mortal guerrier;

too-much they-have had in death mortal warrior

que tout lor a lo jove rei engles,

for taken from-them has the young king English

ves cui eran li plus larc cobeitos;

toward whom were the most generous covetous

ja non er mais ni no crezatz que fos

ever not will-be more and not believe-you that were

ves aquest dan e·l segle plors ni ira.

against this harm in-the age weeping nor grief

Estenta mortz, plena de marrimen,

Grim death full of sorrow

vanar ti potz que·l melhor chavalier

to-boast yourself you-can that-the best knight

as tout a·l mon qu'anc fos de nula gen,

you-have taken from-the world who-ever was of any folk

quar non es res qu'a pretz aia mestier,

for not is anything which-to worth has use

que tot no fos e·l jove rei engles,

which wholly not was in-the young king English

e fora mielhs, s'a dieu plagues razos,

and it-would-be better if-to God pleased reason

que visques el que maint autre enoios

that lived he than many another tiresome

qu'anc no feiron a·ls pros mas dol et ira.

who-ever not did to-the worthy but grief and pain

D'aquest segle flac, ple de marrimen,

Of-this age slack full of sorrow

s'amors s'en vai, son joi tenh menzongier,

if-love itself-thence goes its joy I-hold false

que re no·i a que no torn en cozen,

for anything not-in-it there-is that not turn to smarting

totz jorns veuzis e val mens huoi que hier;

all days it-worsens and is-worth less today than yesterday

chascus si mir e·l jove rei engles,

let-each-one himself mirror in-the young king English

qu'era de·l mon lo plus valens de·ls pros;

who-was of-the world the most worthy of-the brave

ar' es anatz sos gens cors amoros,

now is gone his noble body loving

don es dolors e desconortz et ira.

whence is pain and dismay and grief

Celui que plac pe·l nostre marrimen

Him whom it-pleased through-the our sorrow

venir e·l mon nos traire d'encombrier

to-come into-the world us to-draw from-bindrance

e receup mort a nostre salvamen,

and received death for our salvation

com a senhor humil e drechurier

as to lord humble and righteous

clamem merce, qu'a'l jove rei engles

let-us-cry mercy that-to-the young king English

perdo, si·lh platz, si com es vers perdos,

be-pardon if-to-him it-pleases just as is true pardon

e·l fassa estar ab honratz companhos

and-him let-him-make to-stay with honored companions

lai on anc dol non ac ni aura ira.

there where ever grief not there-was nor there-will-be pain

Ges no mi desconort

10 · AT ALL I DO NOT LOSE HEART

The razo tells how the whole league Bertran had raised against Richard abandoned him one by one, until Richard sat down before Hautefort and swore not to leave without it. Bertran surrendered the castle, was pardoned with a kiss, and won it back with a single stanza of this song. In the song he counts the forsworn — three palatines, the four viscounties of Limousin, two men of Périgord, and three of Angoulême — and reckons a friend who gives no help no better than an enemy who does no harm. He asks the count to do as the sea does, which keeps what is good and casts the rest on the sand.

A·l temps qu'en Richartz era coms de Peitau, anz qu'el
At-the time that-Sir Richard was count of Poitou before that-be
fos reis, Bertrans de Born si era sos enemics, per so qu'en
were king Bertran of Born thus was his enemy for that that-Sir
Bertrans volia ben a·l rei jove, que guerreiaua adoncs ab en
Bertran wished well to-the king young who warred then with Sir
Richart, qu'era sos fraire. E·n Bertrans si avia fach jurar
Richard who-was his brother and-Sir Bertran thus had made to-swear
contra·n Richart lo bo vescomte de Lemotges, que avia
against-Sir Richard the good viscount of Limoges who had
nom n'Azemars, e·l vescomte de Torenna e·l vescomte de
name Sir-Adebemar and-the viscount of Turenne and-the viscount of
Ventadorn e·l vescomte de Gimel e·l comte de Peiregorc
Ventadorn and-the viscount of Gimel and-the count of Périgord
e so fraire e·l comte d'Engolesme e sos dos fraires e·l
and his brother and-the count of-Angoulême and his two brothers and-the
comte Raimon de Tolosa e·l comte de Flandres e·l comte
count Raymond of Toulouse and-the count of Flanders and-the count

de Bretanha e'n Centol d'Estarac, un comte de Guasconha,
of Brittany and-Sir Centulle of-Astarac a count of Gascony
 e'n Gasto de Bearn, comte de Begora, e'l comte de Dijo.
and-Sir Gaston of Béarn count of Bigorre and-the count of Dijon
 E tuit aquist si l'abandoneron e feiron patz ses lui e
And all these thus him-abandoned and made peace without him and
 si's perjureron ves lui. E n'Azemars, lo vescoms de
thus-themselves they-forswore toward him And Sir-Adbemar the viscount of
 Lemotges, que plus l'era tengutz d'amor e de sagramen,
Limoges who most to-him-was bound by-love and by oath
 si l'abandonet e fetz patz ses lui. E'n Richartz, quan
thus him-abandoned and made peace without him and-Sir Richard when
 saub que tuit aquist l'avian abandonat, el s'en venc
he-learned that all these him-had abandoned he himself-thence came
 denan Autafort ab la soa host e dis e juret que ja mais
before Hautefort with the his host and said and swore that ever more
 no s'en partiria, s'el no-lh dava Autafort e no venia
not himself-thence he-would-part if-he not-to-him gave Hautefort and not came
 a son comandamen. Bertrans, quan auzit so qu'en Richartz
to his command Bertran when he-beard that which-Sir Richard
 avia jurat, e sabia qu'el era abandonatz de totz aquestz
had sworn and knew that-he was abandoned by all these
 que vos avetz auzit: si-lh det lo chastel e si venc a
whom you you-have heard thus-to-him gave the castle and thus came to
 son comandamen. E'l coms Richartz lo receup perdonan
his command And-the count Richard him received pardoning
 li e baisan lo. Don Bertrans fetz d'aquestas doas razos
him and kissing him Wherefore Bertran made of-these two matters
 aquest sirventes: «Ges no mi desconort.» E sapchatz que
this sirventes At-all not me I-disbearten And know-you that

per una cobla qu'el fetz e'l sirventes, la quals comenza:
for one stanza which-he made in-the sirventes the which begins

«Si'l coms m'es avinens e non avars», lo coms Richartz
If-the count to-me-is gracious and not grudging the count Richard

li perdonet son brau talan e rendet li son chastel
to-him pardoned his fierce anger and gave-back to-him his castle

Autafort, e vengron fi amic coral. E vai s'en en
Hautefort and they-became true friends heartfelt And goes himself-thence Sir

Bertrans e comenza a guerreiar n'Azemar, lo vescomte que
Bertran and begins to to-war Sir-Adbemar the viscount who

l'avia desamparat, e'l comte de Peiregorc; don Bertrans
him-had forsaken and-the count of Périgord whereby Bertran

receup de grans dans, et el a lor fetz de grans mals.
received of great harms and he to them did of great ills

En Richartz, quan fo devengutz reis, passet outra mar,
Sir Richard when he-was become king passed beyond sea

e'n Bertrans remas guerreian.
and-Sir Bertran remained warring

Ges no mi desconort,
At-all not me I-dishearten

s'ieu ai perdut,
if-I have lost

que no chan e'm deport
that not I-sing and-myself I-disport

e no m'aiut
and not I-help-myself

com cobres Autafort,
how I-might-recover Hautefort

qu'ieu ai rendut

which-I have surrendered

a·l senhor de Niort,

to-the lord of Niort

quar l'a volgut;

for it-he-has wished

e puous en merceian

and since in beseeching

li sui vengutz denan,

to-him I-am come before

e·l coms en perdonan

and-the count in pardoning

m'a retengut baisan,

me-has retained kissing

ges no·i dei aver dan,

at-all not-in-it I-must to-have harm

que que·m disses antan,

whatever to-me he-said last-year

ni lauzengier no blan.

and slanderer not I-flatter

Ves me son perjurat

Toward me are forsworn

trei palazi

three palatines

e·lh quatre vescomtat

and-the four viscounties

de Lemozi

of Limousin

e li dui penchenat

and the two combed

Peiregorzi

Périgord-men

e li trei comte fat

and the three counts foolish

Engolmesi;

Angoumois-men

e·n Centols ab Gasto

and-Sir Centulle with Gaston

e tuit l'autre baro

and all the-other barons

mi feiron plevizo

to-me made pledge

e lo coms de Dijo

and the count of Dijon

ab lo comte breto

with the count Breton

e·n Raimons d'Avinho,

and-Sir Raymond of-Avignon

et anc us no·m tenc pro.

and ever one not-to-me held profit

Ses pro tener amic

Without profit to-bold friend

tenh per engal

I-bold as equal

com fatz mon enemic

as I-do my enemy

que no·m fai mal;

who not-to-me does ill

qu'en un mostier antic

for-in a minster ancient

de Saint Marzal

of Saint Martial

mi jureron maint ric

to-me swore many rich-(men)

sobr' un messal;

upon a missal

tals mi plevit sa fe,

such-(a-one) to-me pledged his faith

no fezes plach ses me,

not he-would-make pact without me

qu'anc puois no m'en tenc re,

who-ever then not to-me-of-it kept anything

e no·lh estet ges be

and not-to-him it-stood at-all well

quar si mes a merce

for himself be-put at mercy

e s'acordet ab se,

and himself-agreed with him

so vos pliu per ma fe.

that to-you I-pledge by my faith

Si·l coms m'es avinens

If-the count to-me-is gracious

e non avars,

and not grudging

mout li serai valens

much to-him I-shall-be worthy

en sos afars

in bis affairs

e fis com us argens,

and pure as — silver

humils e chars,

humble and dear

e·l coms fassa los sens

and-the count let-him-do the sense

que fai la mars:

which does the sea:

quan ren i chai de bo,

when anything in-it falls of good

vol que ab lieis s'esto,

it-wishes that with her it-stay

e so que no·lh te pro

and that which not-to-her holds profit

geta fors e·l sablo;

it-casts out on-the sand

aissi tanh de baro

thus it-befits of baron

que tenha son perdo

that he-keep bis pardon

e, s'el tol, que puous do.

and if-he takes that then he-give

Lo comte vuolh pregar

The count I-wish to-beg

que ma maiso

that my house

mi coman a guardar

to-me he-commend to to-keep

o que la·m do;

or that it-to-me he-give

qu'ades mi son avar

for-now to-me are grudging

tuit cist baro,

all these barons

qu'ab els no puosc estar

that-with them not I-can to-stay

ses contenzo;

without strife

ara mi pot cobrar

now me can to-recover

lo coms ses mal estar,

the count without ill standing

et ieu ves lui tornar

and I toward him to-turn

e servir et honrar,

and to-serve and to-honor

e non o volgui far,

and not it I-wished to-do

tro qu'a·l desamparar

until that-at-the forsaking

sui vengutz de n'Aimar.

I-am come of Sir-Adbemar

Domna ab cor avar

Lady with heart grudging

de prometre e de dar,

of to-promise and of to-give

puois no·m voletz colgar,

since not-me you-wish to-bed

donassetz m'un baisar;

you-would-give to-me-a kiss

aissi·m podetz ric far

thus-me you-can rich to-make

e mon dan restaurar,

and my harm to-repair

si dieus e saintz m'ampar!

so God and saints me-protect

Papiols, mon chantar

Papiol my song

vai a mi dons comtar:

go to my lady to-tell

per amor de n'Aimar

for love of Sir-Adbemar

mi lais de guerreiar.

me I-leave from to-war

Rassa, mes si son primier

11 · RASSA, THEY HAVE PUT THEMSELVES FIRST

The lords, retainers, and barons have made their peace and left Bertran out of it, though he is the one who has not recovered his land. Thirty of them fought in torn cloaks and gained not a penny; now they leave him last in the mêlée each year, and the men of the Colombier tell him to take what redress he can. He foresees rich porters and idle crossbowmen, hawks and hounds and lined cloaks instead of war. From Montpellier to the salt sea he can find no baron whole, and he asks God for a lady he has desired to death.

Rassa, mes si son primier

Rassa put themselves are first

en la fi que an parlada

in the peace which they-have discussed

li senhor e·lh maisnadier

the lords and-the retainers

e·lh baro de l'encontrada;

and-the barons of the-country

s'ilh an fach ves vos passada,

if-they have made toward you crossing

et ieu qual mal vos en mier,

and I what harm to-you of-it deserve

que terra non ai cobrada?

that land not I-have recovered

Nos fom tal trenta guerrier,

We were such thirty warriors

chascus ab chapa traucada,

each-one with cloak pierced

tuit senhor e parzonier,
all lords and partners
 per cor de guerra mesclada,
through heart of war mingled
 qu'anc no'n cobrem denairada;
that-ever not-of-it we-recovered penny-worth
 anz, a'ls colps quan ac mestier,
rather at-the blows when it-had need
 an lor coralha prestada.
they-have their courage lent

Cad' an mi laissan derier,
Each year me they-leave last
 quan m'an mes en la mesclada
when me-they-have put in the mêlée
 li gentil e li lainier;
the gentle and the base
 puois qu'an ma terra adermada
after that-they-have my land laid-waste
 et arsa et abrasada,
and burnt and set-ablaze
 dizon cilh de'l Colombier
they-say those of-the Colombier
 qu'en prenda drech, si m'agrada.
that-of-it I-take right if to-me-it-pleases

Oimais seran ric portier,

Henceforth they-will-be rich porters

que tenran porta serrada,

who will-bold gate barred

e sabran arbalestier

and will-know crossbowmen

qu'es la patz en l'encontrada;

that-is the peace in the-country

qu'om no lor dara soudada,

that-one not to-them will-give pay

anz auran cha e lebrier

rather they-will-have dog and greyhound

de-l comte s'amor privada.

of-the count his-love private

Austor e falco gruier,

Goshawk and falcon crane-hunting

corn e tabors en cuirada,

horn and drums in leather

e brachet e liamier,

and brachet and leash-bound

arc e saieta barbada,

bow and arrow barbed

ganacha e chapa folrada

tunic and cloak lined

et hosas de Salabier

and boots of Salabier

seran mais de lor maisnada.

will-be more of their household

Cerchat ai da Monpeslier

Sought I-have from Montpellier

tro lai part la mar salada,

as-far there beyond the sea salt

que no trop baro entier

that not I-find baron whole

qu'aia proeza achabada,

who-has prowess perfect

qu'e'l miei luoc no sia oschada

that-in-the middle place not be notched

o fracha en l'un quartier,

or broken in the-one quarter

ni mas us no mi agrada.

and but one not to-me pleases

Bela domna, a dieu vos quier,

Fair lady to God you I-ask

que tan vos ai desirada

that so-much you I-have desired

que mort m'an li desirier,

that slain me-have the desires

avinens domna prezada.

pleasing lady prized

N'Atempres genzer m'agrada,

Sir-Temperate fairer to-me-pleases

que m'a per son messatgier

who to-me-has by her messenger

de'l mon la razo celada.

of-the world the matter hidden

Papiols, te drech semtier,

Papiol bold straight path

no temas ven ni gelada,

not fear-you wind nor frost

digas mi a mon Rainier

say for-me to my Rainier

que sa proeza m'agrada.

that his prowess to-me-pleases

Puois lo gens terminis floritz

12 · SINCE THE FAIR SEASON HAS FLOWERED

The long razo of the siege of Hautefort: how the king of Aragon begged bread and wine of Bertran within the walls and then sold him for King Henry's money, how the castle fell, and how Bertran won it back with a word about the dead young king that made Henry faint for grief. The song is the answer to Aragon. It sends the king's upstart lineage back where it came from, to Millau and Carladès, calls him a hired soldier and a counterfeit, remembers Berenger of Besaudunes murdered, and ends with the emperor Manuel's daughter robbed of her treasure and sent back across the sea.

Lo reis Henrics d'Englaterra si tenia assis en Bertran
The king Henry of-England thus held besieged Sir Bertran
 de Born dedintz Autafort e·l combatia ab sos edefizis,
of Born within Hautefort and-him assailed with his engines
 que mout li volia gran mal, quar el crezia que tota
for much to-him he-wished great ill because he believed that all
 la guerra que·l reis joves, sos filhs, l'avia facha qu'en
the war which-the king young his son to-him-had made that-Sir
 Bertrans la·lh agues facha far, e per so era vengutz
Bertran it-to-him had made to-do and for that he-was come
 denan Autafort per lui deseretar. E·l reis d'Arago venc en
before Hautefort for him to-disinberit And-the king of-Aragon came into
 l'ost de·l rei Henric denan Autafort. E quan Bertrans o
the-host of-the king Henry before Hautefort And when Bertran it
 saup, si fo mout alegres que·l reis d'Arago era en l'ost,
learned thus he-was much glad that-the king of-Aragon was in the-host
 per so qu'el era sos amics especials. E·l reis d'Arago si
for that that-he was his friend special And-the king of-Aragon thus

mandet sos messatges dintz lo chastel, qu'en Bertrams li
sent his messengers within the castle that-Sir Bertran to-him
 mandes pa e vi e charn, et el si l'en mandet
should-send bread and wine and meat and he thus to-him-of-it sent
 assatz. E per lo messatge per cui el mandet los presens
enough And by the messenger by whom he sent the presents
 el li mandet pregan qu'el fezes si qu'el fezes mudar
he to-him sent begging that-he might-do so that-he might-make to-move
 los edifizis e far traire en outra part, que'l murs on
the engines and to-make to-draw into other part for-the wall where
 ilh ferian era tot rotz. Et el, per gran aver de'l rei Henric,
they struck was all broken And he for great wealth of-the king Henry
 el li dis tot so qu'en Bertrams l'avía mandat a dir.
he to-him told all that which-Sir Bertran to-him-had sent to to-say
 E'l reis Henrics si fetz metre de'ls edifizis plus en aquela
And-the king Henry thus made to-put of-the engines more in that
 part on saup que'l murs era rotz, e fo lo murs ades
part where he-knew that-the wall was broken and was the wall at-once
 per terra e'l chastels pres. E'n Bertrams ab tota sa
on ground and-the castle taken And-Sir Bertran with all his
 gen fo menatz a'l pavilho de'l rei Henric, e'l reis lo
folk was led to-the pavilion of-the king Henry and-the king him
 receup mout mal, e'l reis Henrics si'lh dis: «Bertrams,
received much ill and-the king Henry thus-to-him said Bertran
 Bertrams, vos avetz dich que anc la meitatz de'l vostre sen
Bertran you you-have said that ever the half of-the your sense
 no-us ac mestier nuls temps, mas sapchatz qu'ara vos a
not-to-you had need any time but know-you that-now to-you has
 el be mestier totz.» — «Senher», dis en Bertrams, «el es
it well need all Lord said Sir Bertran it is

be vers qu'ieu o dissi, e dissi be vertat.» — E'l reis
well true that-I it said and I-said well truth And-the king
 dis: «Ieu cre be qu'el vos sia aras falhitz.» — «Senher»,
said I believe well that-it to-you be now failed Lord
 dis en Bertrans, «be m'es falhitz». — «E com?» dis lo
said Sir Bertran well to-me-it-is failed And how said the
 reis. — «Senher», dis en Bertrans, «lo jorn que'l valens
king Lord said Sir Bertran the day that-the worthy
 joves reis, vostre filhs, morit, ieu perdei lo sen e'l saber
young king your son died I lost the sense and-the knowledge
 e la conoissenza». — E'l reis quan auzit so qu'en
and the understanding And-the king when he-heard that which-Sir
 Bertans li dis en ploran de'l filh, venc li grans dolors
Bertan to-him said in weeping of-the son came to-him great grief
 a'l cor de pietat et a'ls uolhs, si que no's puoc tener
to-the heart of pity and to-the eyes so that not-himself he-could to-hold
 qu'el no pasmes de dolor. E quan el revenc de pasmazo,
that-be — swoon of grief And when he came-back from swooning
 el crida e dis en ploran: «En Bertrans, en Bertrans, vos
he cries and said in weeping Sir Bertran Sir Bertran you
 avetz be drech, et es be razos, si vos avetz perdut lo sen
you-have well right and it-is well reason if you you-have lost the sense
 per mo filh, qu'el vos volia mielhs que ad home de'l mon.
for my son for-he to-you wished better than to man of-the world
 Et ieu, per amor de lui, vos quit la persona e l'aver
And I for love of him to-you I-release the person and the-goods
 e'l vostre chastel, e vos ren la mia amor e la mia
and-the your castle and to-you I-render the my love and the my
 gracia, e vos do cinc cens marcs d'argen per los dans
grace and to-you I-give five hundred marks of-silver for the harms

que vos avetz receubutz.» — E'n Bertrans si·lh chazet
which you you-have received and-Sir Bertran thus-to-him fell
a·ls pes, referen li gracias e merces. E·l reis ab tota
at-the feet rendering to-him thanks and mercies And-the king with all
la soa host s'en anet. — E'n Bertrans, quan saup
the his host himself-thence went and-Sir Bertran when he-learned
que·l reis d'Arago l'avía facha si laida felonía, fo mout
that-the king of-Aragon to-him-had done so foul treachery he-was much
iratz ab lo rei n'Anfos. E si sabia com el era vengutz
angered with the king Sir-Alfonso And thus he-knew how he was come
a·l rei Henric esser soudadiers logaditz, e sabia com lo
to-the king Henry to-be soldier hired and he-knew how the
reis d'Arago era vengutz de paubra generacio de Carlades,
king of-Aragon was come of poor stock of Carlades
d'un chastel que a nom Carlat, qu'es en Rosergue, en
of-a castle which has name Carlat which-is in Rouergue in
la senhoria de·l comte de Rodes. E'n Peire de Carlat,
the lordship of-the count of Rodez And-Sir Peire of Carlat
qu'era senher de·l chastel, per valor e per proeza si pres
who-was lord of-the castle by merit and by prowess thus took
per molher la comtessa d'Amilhau, qu'era chazeguda en
for wife the countess of-Millau who-was fallen into
eretat, e si n'ac un filh, que fo valens e pros e
inheritance and thus of-her-he-had a son who was worthy and brave and
conquis lo comtat de Proenza. Et us sos filhs siquis
conquered the county of Provence And one his son thus conquered
lo comtat de Barsalona et ac nom Raimons Berengiers, lo
the county of Barcelona and had name Raymond Berenger he
qualsquis lo reiesme d'Arago e fo lo primers reis que
who conquered the kingdom of-Aragon and was the first king who

anc fos en Arago. Et anet penre corona a Roma e, quan
ever was in Aragon And he-went to-take crown at Rome and when
s'en tornava e fo a'l borc Saint-Dalmas, el morit.
himself-thence he-returnd and was at-the town Saint-Dalmas he died
E remaseron ne trei filh: Anfos, lo quals fo reis d'Arago,
And there-remained of-him three sons Alfonso he who was king of-Aragon
aquest que fetz lo mal d'en Bertran de Born, e l'autre,
this-one who did the ill of-Sir Bertran of Born and the-other
don Sanchos, e l'autre, Berengiers de Besaudunes. — E
lord Sancho and the-other Berenger of Besaudunes And
saup com el avia traida la filha de l'emperador Manuel,
he-knew how he had betrayed the daughter of the-emperor Manuel
que l'empeaire l'avia mandada per molher ab gran
whom the-emperor to-him-had sent for wife with great
tesaur et ab gran aver et ab mout honrada companhia,
treasure and with great wealth and with much honored company
et los raubet de tot l'aver que la domna e'lh Grec
and them he-robbed of all the-goods which the lady and-the Greeks
avian; e com los enviet per mar marritz e consiros e
had and how them he-sent by sea grieved and anxious and
desconselhatz; e com sos fraire Sanchos l'avia toute
helpless and how his brother Sancho from-him-had taken
Proenza; e com si perjuret, per l'aver que'l reis
Provence and how himself he-forswore for the-wealth which-the king
Henrics li det, contra'l comte de Tolosa. — E de todas
Henry to-him gave against-the count of Toulouse And of all
aquestas razos fetz en Bertrans de Born lo sirventes que
these matters made Sir Bertran of Born the sirventes which
ditz: «Puois lo gens terminis floritz s'espandis etc.»
says Since the fair season flowered itself-spreads etc

Puois lo gens terminis floritz

Since the fair season flowered

s'espandis jauzions e gais,

itself-spreads joyous and gay

m'es vengut en cor que m'eslais

to-me-is come in heart that myself-I-dart

de far un novel sirventes

of to-make a new sirventes

on sapchan li Aragones

where know the Aragonese

qu'ab mal agur,

that-with ill omen

d'aisso sian ilh tuit segur,

of-this be they all sure

sai venc lo reis, don es aunitz,

here came the king whereby he-is shamed

e siei soudadier logaditz.

and his soldiers hired

Sos bas paratge sobreissitz

His low lineage upstart

sai que fenira coma lais

I-know that it-will-end like lay

e tornara lai don si trais,

and will-return there whence it draws

a Melhau et en Carlades;

to Millau and into Carladès

quan quecs n'aura son drech conques,

when each of-it-will-have his right won

an s'en ves Sur;

let-him-go himself-thence toward Tyre

mas grieu er qu'en mar no·l debur

but hard it-will-be that-in sea not-him drive

l'aura, quar tan es pauc arditz,

the-wind for so is-be little bold

flacs e vas e sojornaditz.

slack and empty and stay-at-home

Proenza pert, don es eissitz,

Provence he-loses whence he-is sprung

que so frair Sanso prezan mais;

for his brother Sancho they-prize more

qu'el non a sonh mas que s'engrais

for-be not has care but that be-fatten

e beva per Rossilhones,

and drink through Roussillon

on fo deseretatz Jaufres;

where was disinherited Geoffrey

qu'a Vilamur,

for-at Villemur

en Tolsa·l tenon per prejur

in Toulousain-him they-hold as perjured

tuit cilh ab cui s'era plevitz,

all those with whom himself-be-had pledged

quar los a per paor giquitz.

for them he-has for fear abandoned

Lo reis cui es Castrasoritz

The king whose is Castrojeriz

e te de Toleta·l palais

and holds of Toledo-the palace

lau que mostre de sos eslais

I-advice that he-show of his onsets

sai a·l filh de·l Barsalones,

here to-the son of-the Barcelonan

quar per drech sos malvatz hom es;

for by right his wicked man he-is

de·l rei tafur

of-the king vagabond

pretz mais sa cort e son atur,

I-prize more his court and his steadfastness

no fatz cela don fui träitz

than I-do that-one whereby I-was betrayed

lo jorn qu'el fo per me servitz.

the day that-he was by me served

Lo bos reis Garsia Ramitz

The good king Garcia Ramirez

cobrerá, quan vida·lh sofráis,

would-have-recovered when life-to-him failed

Arago, que·l monges l'estrais:

Aragon which-the monk from-him-took

e·l bos reis navars, cui drechs es,

and-the good king Navarrese whose right it-is

cobrará·l ab sos Alaves,

will-recover-it with his Alavese

sol s'i atur;

only himself-there he-apply

aitan com aurs val mais d'azur,

as-much as gold is-worth more than-lapis

val mielhs e tan es plus complitz

is-worth better and so is more perfect

sos pretz que de·l rei apostitz.

his worth than of-the king counterfeit

Per cela de cui es maritz,

For her of whom he-is husband

per la bona rëina·m lais,

for the good queen-me I-forbear

e des que·m dis so don m'apais;

and since that-to-me she-said that whereby me-I-feed

Berengier de Besaudunes

Berenger of Besaudunes

li retraissera, si·lh plagues;

to-him I-would-recount if-to-him it-pleased

mas tot rencur

but wholly I-lament

sos malvatz fachs, que son tafur,

his wicked deeds which are vagabond

quar per el fo mortz e träitz,

for by him he-was slain and betrayed

don es sos linhatges aunitz.

whereby is his lineage shamed

Mout träit lait l'emperairitz

Much betrayed foully the-empress

com fals reis prejurs e savais,

as false king perjured and base

quan pres a quintals et a fais

when he-took by hundredweights and by loads

l'aver que Manuels trames

the-wealth which Manuel sent

e la rauba et tot l'arnes;

and the raiment and all the-gear

puois ab cor dur,

then with heart hard

quan n'ac trach lo vert e·l madur,

when of-it-he-had drawn the green and-the ripe

el n'enviet per mar marritz

he of-it-sent by sea grieved

la domna e·ls Grecs que ac träitz.

the lady and-the Greeks whom he-had betrayed

Quan vei pe·ls vergiers desplegar

13 · WHEN I SEE THROUGH THE ORCHARDS

The razo sets out a further reckoning against the king of Aragon. He takes Castellote from Espanhol, who had received him as a guest, and carries off to Aragon the ransom money of fifty knights. He sells the jongleur Artuset and his companion to the Jews, who burn them on Christmas Day, and the old queen of England has Peire the jongleur killed at the king of Aragon's word. The song opens on silks, horses, and jongleurs' tunes in the orchards, then turns to that reckoning and closes by asking to be sung to the king of Navarre and spread through Castile.

Ben avetz entendutz los mals qu'en Bertrans de Born
Well you-have heard the ills that-Sir Bertran of Born
remembret que'l reis d'Arago avia fachs de lui e d'autrui.
recalled that-the king of-Aragon had done of him and of-another
Et a chap d'una gran sazo, qu'el n'ac apres d'autres
And at end of-a great season when-he of-it-had learned of-other
mals qu'el avia fachs, si lo·lh volc retraire en un
ills which-he had done thus it-to-him he-wished to-recount in an
autre sirventes. E fo dich a·n Bertran qu'un chavalier
other sirventes And it-was said to-Sir Bertran that-a knight
avia en Arago que avia nom n'Espanhols, et avia un
there-was in Aragon who had name Sir-Espanhol and had a
bo chastel mout fort, que avia nom Castellot et era
good castle very strong which had name Castellote and it-was
proprietatz d'en Espanhol et era en la frontereza de·ls
property of-Sir Espanhol and it-was on the frontier of-the
Sarazis, don el fazia gran guerra a·ls Sarazis. E·l reis
Saracens whence he made great war on-the Saracens And-the king
si entendia mout en aquel chastel e venc un jorn en
thus aimed much at that castle and came one day into

aquela encontrada, e n'Espanhols si·lh venc encontra per
that region and Sir-Espanbol thus-to-him came to-meet for
 servir lo e per envidar lo a·l sieu chastel e menet
to-serve him and for to-invite him to-the his castle and led
 lo charamen, lui ab tota soa gen. E·l reis, quan fo
him graciously him with all his folk And-the king when he-was
 dedintz lo chastel, lo fetz penre e menar deforas e
within the castle him made to-take and to-lead outside and
 tolç li lo chastel. — E fo vertatz que, quan lo
took from-him the castle And it-was truth that when the
 reis venc a·l servizi de·l rei Henric, lo coms de Tolosa
king came to-the service of-the king Henry the count of Toulouse
 si·l desconfis en Guasconha e tolç li be cinquanta
thus-him routed in Gascony and took from-him fully fifty
 chavaliers; e·l reis Henrics li det tot l'aver que·lh
knights and-the king Henry to-him gave all the-money which-the
 chavalier devian pagar per la reenzo, et el no·l paguet,
knights owed to-pay for the ransom and he not-it paid
 l'aver, a·ls chavaliers, anz l'en portet en Arago. E·lh
the-money to-the knights rather it-thence carried into Aragon And-the
 chavalier eissiron de preiso e pagueron l'aver. — E fo
knights came-out of prison and paid the-money And it-was
 vertatz qu'us joglars, que avia nom Artusetz, li prestat
truth that-a jongleur who had name Artuset to-him lent
 dos cens marabotis, e menet lo ben un an ab se
two hundred maravedis and led him fully a year with himself
 e no·lh en det denier. E quan venc un dia, Artusetz
and not-to-him of-it gave (a-)penny And when came one day Artuset
 joglars si si mesclèt ab un Juzieu, e·lh Juzieu li
jongleur thus himself embroiled with a Jew and-the Jews to-him

vengron sobre e nafreron Artuset malamen, lui et un son
came upon and wounded Artuset badly him and one his
 companho. Et Artusetz e·l companhs auciseron un Juzieu,
companion And Artuset and-the companion killed a Jew
 don li Juzieu aneron a reclam a·l rei e pregueron lo
whence the Jews went in complaint to-the king and begged him
 qu'el en fezes vendeta e que lor des Artuset
that-he of-it should-make vengeance and that to-them he-should-give Artuset
 e·l companho per aucire, e qu'ilh li darian dos
and-the companion for to-kill and that-they to-him would-give two
 cens marabotis. E·l reis los lor donet amdos e
hundred maravedis And-the king them to-them gave both and
 pres los dos cens marabotis. E·lh Juzieu los feiron ardre
took the two hundred maravedis And-the Jews them made to-burn
 lo jorn de la nativitat de Crist, si com dis Guilhelms
the day of the nativity of Christ just as says Guilhem
 de Bergueda en un sieu sirventes, dizen en el mal de·l
of Berguedan in a his sirventes saying in it ill of-the
 rei:
king

«E fetz una mespreiso
And he-did a misdeed
 don hom no·l deu razonar,
whereof one not-him must to-defend
 que·l jorn de la naissio
that-(on-)the day of the birth
 fetz dos crestias brugar:
he-made two Christians to-burn

Artus ab autre son par,

Artuset with another his fellow

e no degra aissi jutjar

and not he-should-have thus to-judge

a mort ni a passio

to death nor to torment

dos per un Juzieu felo.

two for one Jew felon

Don us autre, que avia nom Peire joglars, li

Wherefore one other who had name Peire jongleur to-him

prestet deniers e chavals, et aquel Peire joglars

lent pence and horses and that Peire jongleur

si avia grans mals dichs de la vielha rëina

thus had great ill said of the old queen

d'Englaterra, la quals tenia Font-Ebrau, que es

of-England the which held Fontevraud which is

una abadia, on si rendon totas las vielhas

an abbey where themselves render all the old-women

richas. Et ela lo fetz aucire per paraula de'l rei

rich And she him made to-kill by word of-the king

d'Arago.

of-Aragon

E totz aquestz laitz fachs remembret en Bertrams de

And all these foul deeds recalled Sir Bertran of

Born a'l rei d'Arago en aquest sirventes que dis:

Born to-the king of-Aragon in this sirventes which says

«Quan vei pe·ls vergiers desplegar los cendatz grocs,

When I-see through-the orchards to-unfurl the sendals yellow

indis.»

indigo

Quan vei pe·ls vergiers desplegar

When I-see through-the orchards to-unfurl

los cendatz grocs, indis e blaus,

the sendals yellow indigo and blue

m'adoussa la votz de·ls chavaus

to-me-sweetens the voice of-the horses

e·lh sonet que fan li joglar,

and-the tunes which make the jongleurs

que viulan de trap en tenda,

who fiddle from pavilion to tent

trombas e corn e graile clar;

trumpets and horn and bugle clear

adoncs vuolh un sirventes far

then I-wish a sirventes to-make

tal que·l coms Richartz l'entenda.

such that-the count Richard it-bears

Ab lo rei mi vuolh acordar

With the king myself I-wish to-agree

d'Arago e tornar en paus;

of-Aragon and to-turn into peace

mas trop fo deschausitz e braus,

but too-much he-was uncourty and rough

quan venc sai sus per hosteiar;

when he-came here up for to-campaign

per qu'es drechs qu'ieu l'en reprenda;

for which-is right that-I him-of-it reprove

ieu ho dic per lui chastiar,

I it say for him to-chastise

e pesa·m si·l vei foleiar

and it-grieves-to-me if-him I-see to-play-the-fool

e vuolh que de me aprenda.

and I-wish that from me he-learn

Ab me·l volon tuit encusar,

With me-him wish all to-accuse

qu'us mi comtet de sos vassaus

for-one to-me told of his vassals

que de Castellot ac mals laus,

that of Castellote he-bad ill praises

quan ne fetz n'Espanhol gitar;

when of-it he-made Sir-Espanhol to-cast

e no·m par que si defenda

and not-to-me it-seems that himself he-defend

ves el, s'el lo n'ausa proar;

against him if-he it of-it-dares to-prove

e, quan entret per convidar,

and when he-entered for to-feast

conquerit lai pauc de renda.

he-won there little of revenue

Oïmais no li puosc re celar,

Henceforth not to-him I-can anything to-bide

anz li serai amics coraus:

rather to-him I-shall-be friend heartfelt

Gastos, cui es Bearn e Paus,

Gaston whose is Béarn and Pau

mi trames sai novas comtar

to-me sent here news to-tell

que de sos pres pres esmenda

that of his prisoners he-took amends

de·l rei, que·ls i degra liurar,

of-the king who-them to-him should-have to-deliver

e volc en mais l'aver portar

and he-wished of-it more the-money to-carry

que hom totz sos pres li renda.

than one all his prisoners to-him render

Que so m'an dich de lui joglar

For that to-me-have said of him jongleurs

qu'en perdo an fachs totz lor laus;

that-in vain they-have made all their praises

s'anc lor det vestirs vertz ni blaus

if-ever to-them he-gave garments green or blue

ni lor fetz nul denier donar,

or to-them made any penny to-give

lait l'es qu'om l'en sobreprenda

foul to-him-is that-one him-of-it reproach

que d'un sol s'en saup be pagar,

for of-one alone himself-of-it he-knew well to-pay

d'Artuset, don fai a blasmar,
of-Artuset whereof he-does to be-blamed
 qu'en mes a·ls Juzieus en venda.
that-of-it he-put to-the Jews on sale

Peire joglar saup mal pagar,
Peire jongleur he-knew ill to-pay
 que·lh prestet deniers e chavaus,
who-to-him lent pence and horses
 que la vielha que Fons-Ebraus
for the old-woman whom Fontevraud
 aten, lo fetz tot pesseiar;
awaits him made wholly to-back-in-pieces
 qu'anc l'entresenhs fachs ab benda
that-ever the-badge made with band
 de la jupa de·l rei d'armar,
of the tunic of-the king of-arming
 que·lh balhet, no lo puoc guizar,
which-to-him he-gave not him could to-guard
 qu'om ab coutels tot no·l fenda.
that-one with knives wholly not-him cleave

Peire Rôis saup devinar,
Peire Rôis knew to-divine
 a·l prim que·l vi joves reiaus,
at-the first that-him he-saw young royal
 que no seria arditz ni maus,
that not he-would-be bold nor fierce

e conoc lo a·l badalhar;
and he-knew him at-the yawning
 reis que badalh ni s'estenda
king who yawns or himself-stretches
 quan au de batalha parlar,
when he-hears of battle to-speak
 sembla, ho fassa per vaneiar
it-seems-(that) it he-do for to-boast
 o qu'en armas no s'entenda.
or that-in arms not himself-he-engage

Ieu lo·lh perdo si·m fetz mal far
I it-to-him pardon if-to-me he-made ill to-do
 a Catalas ni a Laraus;
to Catalans or to Aragonese
 puois lo senher cui es Peitau
since the lord whose is Poitou
 lo·lh mandet, non auset als far;
it-to-him ordered not he-dared else to-do
 e reis que logier atenda
and king who wage awaits
 de senhor, be·l deu afanar,
of lord well-it he-must to-toil
 et el venc sai per guazanhar
and he came here for to-earn
 mais que per autra fazenda.
more than for other business

Vuolh, sapcha·l reis et aprenda

I-wish may-know-the king and may-learn

de son grat e fassa chantar

of his goodwill and may-make to-sing

mo sirventes a·l rei navar

my sirventes to-the king Navarrese

e per Castela l'estenda.

and through Castile it-may-spread

Quan la novela flors par e·l verjan

14 • WHEN THE NEW FLOWER APPEARS

The razo tells how the barons of the Limousin and Périgord took back their castles while Richard was overseas, and how, when he came out of prison and threatened to disinherit them, the viscount of Limoges and the count of Périgord sent word that they would make him courteous by war. Bertran, who had no gladness but setting barons at war, was glad of it. The song opens as a love song, denies that he is any lady's lover, and turns sirventes: shame on Richard if he loses his labor in the Limousin, where the poet counts the bolts, the towers, and the hunger; and let him claim the land of Saint Edmund and be anointed king. It goes to Raymond Gauceran of Pinós in Catalonia.

Quan lo reis Richartz s'en fo passatz outra mar, tuit
When the king Richard himself-thence had passed beyond sea all
li baro de Lemozi e de Peiregorc si jureron ensem
the barons of Limousin and of Périgord thus swore together
e feiron gran host et aneron a·ls chastels et a·ls borcs
and made great host and went to-the castles and to-the towns
qu'en Richartz lor avia toutz. Et enaissi combateron
that-Sir Richard from-them had taken And thus they-fought
e preseron totz aquels que·s defendian et enaissi
and took all those who-themselves defended and thus
cobreiron gran re d'aquel qu'en Richartz lor avia tout.
they-recovered great deal of-that which-Sir Richard from-them had taken
E quan en Richartz fo vengutz d'outra mar et eissitz
And when Sir Richard was come from-beyond sea and come-out
de preiso, mout fo iratz e dolens de·ls chastels e
of prison much he-was angry and grieving of-the castles and
de·ls borcs que·lh baro l'avian toutz e comenzet los
of-the towns which-the barons from-him-had taken and began them

a menassar fortmen de deseratar los e de destruire los.
to threaten strongly of to-disinherit them and of to-destroy them

E·l vescoms de Lemotges e·l coms de Peiregorc, per
And-the viscount of Limoges and-the count of Périgord for

lo mantenemen que·l reis de Franza lor avia fach e
the support which-the king of France to-them had made and

fazia, si·lh tengron las soas menassas a nïen e·lh
made thus-to-him held the his threats at nothing and-to-him

manderon dizen qu'el era vengutz trop braus e trop
sent saying that-he was come too rough and too

orgolhos e que ilh mal son grat lo farian franc
proud and that they despite his will him would-make noble

e cortes et humil e qu'ilh lo chastiarian guerreian.
and courteous and humble and that-they him would-chastise warring

Don Bertrans de Born, si com cel que non avia outra
Wherefore Bertran of Born just as he who not had other

alegreza mas de mesclar los baros de guerra, quan auzit
gladness but of to-set the barons in war when he-heard

que·l reis menassava aquels baros que no·l prezavan ren
that-the king threatened those barons who not-him prized anything

e metian per nïen lo sieu dich, e que ilh l'avian
and put at nothing the his word and that they to-him-had

mandat dizen que ilh lo chastiarian e·l farian mal
sent saying that they him would-chastise and-him would-make despite

son grat tornar franc e cortes et humil: en Bertrans
his will to-turn noble and courteous and humble Sir Bertran

si·n fo mout alegres. E sabia que·l reis en era fort
thus-of-it was much glad And he-knew that-the king of-it was very

dolens et iratz, d'aisso que ilh dizian e de·l chastel
grieved and angry of-this which they said and of-the castle

de Nontron e d'Agen que·lh avian tout, e fetz
of Nontron and of-Agen which-to-him they-had taken and he-made
 un so sirventes per far salhir lo rei Richart a la
one (of)-his sirventes for to-make to-leap the king Richard to the
 guerra. E quan el ac fach so sirventes, el lo mandet
war And when he had made his sirventes he it sent
 a·n Raimon Gauceran, qu'era de Catalonha, de·l comtat
to-Sir Raymond Gauceran who-was of Catalonia of-the county
 d'Urgel, senher de Pinos, valens hom e larcs e cortès
of-Urgell lord of Pinós worthy man and generous and courteous
 e gentils, e non era nuls hom en Catalonha que
and gentle and not was any man in Catalonia who
 valgues lui per la persona, et entendia si en na
might-be-worth him for the person and he-was-in-love himself with Lady
 Marquesa, qu'era filha de·l comte d'Urgel e molher d'en
Marquesa who-was daughter of-the count of-Urgell and wife of-Sir
 Guiraut de Cabrera, qu'era lo plus rics hom e·l plus
Guiraut of Cabrera who-was the most rich man and-the most
 gentils de Catalonha trach lo comte d'Urgel, so senhor. E
gentle of Catalonia except the count of-Urgell his lord And
 comenza enaissi lo sirventes: «Quan la novela flors par
it-begins thus the sirventes When the new flower appears
 e·l verjan.»
in-the green-branch

Quan la novela flors par e·l verjan,
When the new flower appears in-the green-branch
 on son vermelh, vert e blanc li brondel,
where are red green and white the twigs

per la doussor qu'ieu sen a·l torn de l'an
through the sweetness which-I feel at-the turn of the-year
 chan autresi com fan li autre auzel;
I-sing likewise as do the other birds
 quar per auzel mi tenh en maintas res,
for as bird myself I-hold in many things
 quar aus voler tot lo mielhs qu'e·l mon es,
for I-dare to-desire all the best which-in-the world is
 voler l'aus ieu et aver cor volon,
to-desire it-I-dare I and to-have heart eager
 mas no l'aus dir mon cor, anz lo·lh rescon.
but not to-her-I-dare to-say my heart rather it-to-her I-hide

Ieu no sui drutz, ni d'amor no·m fenh tan
I not am lover and of-love not-myself I-feign so-much
 qu'e·l mon domna n'enrazo ni n'apel,
that-in-the world lady of-it-I-plead nor of-it-I-call
 ne no domnei, e si·m val autretan,
and not I-woo and yet-to-me it-avails as-much
 que lauzengier fals, enoios, fradel,
for slanderers false tiresome base
 desensenhat, vila e mal apres
unschooled churlish and ill taught
 an de me dich, tan ne son entremes,
have of me said so-much of-it they-have meddled
 que fan cujar que la genzer de·l mon
that they-make to-think that the fairest of-the world
 mi tenha gai, jauzen e desiron.
me holds gay rejoicing and desiring

Qu'om ses domna no pot far d'amor chan,

For-one without lady not can to-make of-love song

mas sirventes farai fresc e novel;

but sirventes I-shall-make fresh and new

puois chastiar cujan en guerreian

since to-chastise they-think in warring

nostre baro lo senhor de Bordel

our barons the lord of Bordeaux

e per forza tornar franc e cortes,

and by force to-turn noble and courteous

mal estara, s'ancar vilas non es

ill it-will-stand if-still churl not he-is

tan que chascus aia gauch, si·lh respon,

so-much that each-one has joy if-to-him he-answer

e no·ls enoi si be·ls pela ni·ls ton.

and not-them it-annoy if even-them he-shear nor-them shave

Anta aura, s'aissi pert son afan

Shame he-will-have if-thus he-lose his toil

en Lemozi, on a trach tan quairel

in Limousin where he-has hurled so-many bolt

e tanta tor, tan mur e tan anvan

and so-many tower so-many wall and so-many outwork

fach e desfach e fondut tan chastel

made and unmade and thrown-down so-many castle

e tan aver tout e donat e mes
and so-much wealth taken and given and spent
 e tan colp dat e recebut e pres
and so-many blow dealt and received and taken
 e tanta fam, tanta set e tan son
and so-much hunger so-much thirst and so-much sleep
 com el a trach d'Agen tro a Nontron.
as he has borne from-Agen as-far to Nontron

Rassa, per vos remanon sai claman
Rassa through you they-remain here complaining
 en Lemozi, de sai ves Monmaurel,
in Limousin from here toward Monmaurel
 per vostre pro avetz fach de lor dan,
for your profit you-have made of their harm
 so-m dis n'Aimars e-l senher de Martel
so-to-me said Sir-Adbemar and-the lord of Martel
 e-n Talhafers e-n Folcaus e-n Jaufres
and-Sir Taillefer and-Sir Foucaud and-Sir Geoffrey
 e tuit aissilh qu'ab vos s'eran empres;
and all those who-with you themselves-bad engaged
 non an las patz ges per vos en que son,
not have the peace at-all through you in which they-are
 anz fan lor grat lai a-l comte Raimon.
rather they-make their gratitude there to-the count Raymond

Una re sapchan Breto e Norman

One thing let-them-know Bretons and Normans

et Anjavi, Peitavi e Mancel

and Angevins Poitevins and Manceaux

que d'Otasvals entro a Monferran

that from-Ostabat as-far to Montferrand

e de Rosiers entro a Mirabel

and from Rosiers as-far to Mirebeau

no·i aura un, no veia son arnes;

not-there will-be one (who)-not he-see his harness

e puois lo coms ho vol e sos drechs es,

and since the count it wishes and his right it-is

deman ades la terra Saint Aimon,

let-him-claim at-once the land (of-)Saint Edmund

tro que·lh pausen la cresma sobre·l fron.

until that-to-him they-set the chrism upon-the brow

Sirventes, vai a·n Raimon Gauceran

Sirventes go to-Sir Raymond Gauceran

lai a Pinos, en ma razo l'espel

there to Pinós in my matter it-expound

quar tan aut son siei dich e siei deman

for so high are his words and his claims

de lieis que te Cabrera e fo d'Urgel;

of her who holds Cabrera and was of-Urgell

a mo Fraire en ren gratz e merces

to my Brother of-it I-render thanks and mercies

de Bergueda, de·l fi joi que m'enques,

of Berguedan of-the true joy which to-me-he-asked

que tot mon cor mi tornet jauzion,

that all my heart to-me turned rejoicing

quan nos partim amdui a·l chap de·l pon.

when we parted both at-the head of-the bridge

Gauceran Durtz e so frair, en Raimon,

Gauceran Durtz and his brother Sir Raymond

am autretan com s'eran miei segon.

I-love as-much as if-they-were my seconds

Si com l'auzel son desotz l'aurion

Just as the-birds are beneath the-eagle

son las autras sotz la genzor de·l mon.

are the others beneath the fairest of-the world

Mout m'es deissendre charcol

15 • IT GOES HARD WITH ME TO COME DOWN

It is a long way down the stair, Bertran says, to be reduced to making war on a castle, with neither assault nor skirmish for more than a year: one side holds off from fear, the other from love of the lord of Mouliberne. The lord of Bordeaux whets the barons like knives, but they stay thick in front and blunt at the edge; Berlai and William of Monmaurel were never so eager as our barons each year when summer comes in, until the cold turns boldness to fear. He mocks Mirandol for waiting on the French, Richard for preferring Benauges to Cognac, and the Aragonese for a lord who praises himself in song and hanged his forebear. He ends by accusing his lady of treason and naming the goshawk with whom he calls himself Tristan.

Mout m'es deissendre charcol

Much to-me-is to-descend spiral-stair

de guerra far ab chastel

of war to-make with castle

e quar assaut ni cembel

and because assault nor skirmish

no vim, mais aura d'un an,

not we-saw more (it)-will-be than-a year

e tenh m'o a gran afan

and I-hold it-to-me as great vexation

quar ilh n'estan per paor

for they of-it-refrain for fear

e nos autre per s'amor

and we others for his-love

de-l senhor de Molierna.

of-the lord of Mouliberne

Que·ls aguza e·ls esmol

That-them sharpens and-them grinds

e·ls tocha coma coutel

and-them touches like knife

lo senher que te Bordel,

the lord who holds Bordeaux

mas trop son espes denan

but too they-are thick in-front

e motz debes lo trenchan

and blunt toward the cutting-edge

e plus leial d'un prior;

and more loyal than-a prior

merce de l'esmoledor

thanks to the-grinder

tuit venran a vida eterna.

all they-will-come to life eternal

Ja·n Berlais de Mosterol

Ever-Sir Berlai of Mosterol

ni·n Guilhelms de Monmaurel

nor-Sir William of Monmaurel

non agron cor tan isnel

not had heart so swift

com nostre baro cad' an,

as our barons each year

quan ve a l'estiu entran;

when it-comes at the-summer entering

puois, quan entra la freidor,

then when enters the cold

l'arditz torna en paor,

the-boldness turns into fear

quan lo clars temps s'esbuzerna.

when the clear weather itself-clouds

De'l senhor de Mirandol,

Of-the lord of Mirandol

que te Croissa e Martel,

who holds Croissa and Martel

no crei, ogan se revel,

not I-believe this-year himself be-rebel

tro que veia que faran

until that he-see what will-do

Frances, que van menassan;

Frenchmen who go threatening

mas no son tan gabador,

but not they-are so boastful

be non atenda'l pascor,

well not let-him-await-the springtime

que oimais pluou et invern.

for henceforth it-rains and winters

Puois lo coms Richartz mais vol

Since the count Richard more wishes

Benauges sai pres Bordel

Benauges here near Bordeaux

que Conhac ni Mirabel

than Cognac or Mirebeau

ni Chartres ni Saint-Johan,

or Chartres or Saint-Jean

grieu cobrera Botenan

hardly he-would-recover Botenan

ni feira a so senhor

or would-make to his lord

braias molhar per paor,

breeches to-wet for fear

per qu'ieu crei, Merlis l'esquerna.

for which-I believe Merlin him-mocks

Aragones fan gran dol,

Aragonese make great lament

Catala e cilh d'Urgel

Catalans and those of-Urgell

quar non an qui los chapdel

for not they-have who them leads

mas un senhor flac e gran,

but a lord slack and tall

tal que's lauza en chantan

such who-himself praises in singing

e vol mais deniers qu'onor

and wishes more money than-honor

e pendet son ancessor,

and hanged his forebear

per que's destrui et enferna.

for which-himself he-destroys and damns

Lai vir on la dens mi dol,

There I-turn where the tooth me aches

ves cela de cui m'es bel

toward her of whom to-me-is fair

qu'ieu la reпти e l'apel

that-I her I-challenge and her-I-accuse

de trazio e d'enjan,

of treason and of-deceit

quar per son leugier talan

for by her light desire

sofre que·lh fals fenhedor

she-suffers that-the false feigners

s'anen fennen de s'amor

themselves-go feigning of her-love

de lieis, cui bos pretz governa.

of her whom good worth governs

Ieu sai un auster terzol,

I know a goshawk tercel

mudat, qu'anc no pres auzel,

mewed which-ever not took bird

franc e cortes et isnel,

noble and courteous and swift

ab cui ieu m'apel Tristan,

with whom I myself-call Tristan

e tot per aital semblan

and all by such seeming

a·m pres per entendedor

she-me has-taken as suitor

et a·m dat mais de ricor

and she-to-me-has given more of riches

que, s'era reis de Palerna.

than if-I-were king of Palermo

Tristans, per la vostr' amor

Tristan for the your love

mi veiran torneiador

me they-shall-see tourneyer

en Peitau, qui que·m n'esquerna.

in Poitou whoever that-me-of-it mock

Puois la rēina d'amor

Since the queen of-love

m'a pres per entendedor,

me-has taken as suitor

be puosc far cinc et ilh terna.

well I-can to-make five and she three

A·l doutz nuou termini blanc

16 · AT THE SWEET NEW WHITE SEASON

The razo gathers what Bertran had already told King Philip: three duchies of five lost, the revenue of Gisors, Quercy left in war, and the sterlings sown among the Champenois. It then tells how Richard gave Philip the lie at the parley, and the two parted in enmity. The song is the spur: nothing is worth so much as war, toil, and burden; Philip has never broken a lance on a shield, and loves peace more than the good man of Tarentaise, while Yes-and-No loves war more than any of the Algaïs.

Quan en Bertrans ac fach lo sirventes que ditz: «Puoís a·ls
When Sir Bertran had made the sirventes which says Since to-the
baros enoia e lor pesa» et ac dich a·l rei Felip com
barons it-vexes and to-them it-weighs and had said to-the king Philip how
perdia de cinc duchatz los tres e de Gisortz la renda
he-was-losing of five duchies the three and of Gisors the revenue
e·l perchatz, e com Caercis remania en guerra et en
and-the profit and how Quercy remained in war and in
barata e la terra engolmesa, e com Frances e Borgonho
trouble and the land of-Angoulême and how Frenchmen and Burgundians
avian chambjat honor per cobeiteza, e com lo reis Felips
had changed honor for covetousness and how the king Philip
avia anat plaideian sobre la riba de l'aiga, e com el non
had gone parleying upon the bank of the-water and how he not
avia volguda la patz, quan fo desarmatz e, si tost com el
had wished the peace when he-was disarmed and as soon as he
fo armatz, perdet per viutat l'ardimen e la forza, e que
was armed he-lost through vileness the-boldness and the strength and that
mal semblava lo sor Gueric, l'oncle de Raol de Cambrais,
ill he-resembled the tawny Gueric the-uncle of Raoul of Cambrai

que desarmatz volc que la patz si fezes de Raol, so nebot,
who disarmed wished that the peace itself be-made of Raoul his nephew
 ab los quatre filhs n'Albert e, depuois que fo armatz,
with the four sons of-Sir-Albert and after that he-was armed
 no volc patz ni concordi, e com totz reis era aunitz e
not he-wished peace nor concord and how every king was shamed and
 desonratz, puois comenzava guerra ad autre rei per terra
dishonored after he-began war against other king for land
 qu'aquel reis li tolques, quan el fazia patz ni tregua,
which-that king from-him took when he made peace or truce
 tro la demanda que·lh fazia agues conquista e recobrat
until the claim which-to-him he-made had conquered and recovered
 so que fos drechs e razos, don li autre rei lo tenon
that which were right and reason whereby the other kings him hold
 deseretat, e per far vergonha a·ls Champanes de·ls esterlis
disinherited and for to-make shame to-the Champenois of-the sterlings
 que foron semenat entre lor, per so que ilh no volguesen
which were sown among them for that that they not might-wish
 tornar a la guerra: tuit li baro de Peitau e de Lemozi en
to-return to the war all the barons of Poitou and of Limousin of-it
 foron mout alegre, que mout eran trist de la patz, per so
were much glad for much they-were sad at the peace for that
 que mens n'eran honrat e char tengut per amdos los
that less of-it-they-were honored and dear held by both the
 reis. Lo reis Richartz si charguet mout d'orguolh d'aquesta
kings The king Richard thus loaded much with-pride from-this
 patz e comenzet far tortz e desmesuras en las terras de·l
peace and began to-do wrongs and outrages in the lands of-the
 rei de Franza que marchavan ab las terras d'en Richart.
king of France which marched with the lands of-Sir Richard

E·l reis Felips venia a reclam ad aissels que avian facha
And-the king Philip came in complaint to those who had made
 la patz entre lor dos, e·n Richartz no volia per lor tort
the peace between them two and-Sir Richard not wished for them wrong
 ni drech far; don fo ordenatz per lor us parlamens, on
nor right to-do whereby was appointed by them a parley where
 foron ensems en la marcha de Torena e de Beiriu. E·l
they-were together in the march of Touraine and of Berry And-the
 reis Felips si fetz maintz reclams d'en Richart, don amdui
king Philip thus made many complaints of-Sir Richard whereby both
 vengron a grans paraulas et a malas, si qu'en Richartz lo
came to great words and to bad(-ones) so that-Sir Richard him
 desmentit e·l clamet vil recrezen. E si·s desfieron
gave-the-lie and-him called vile recreant And thus-themselves they-defied
 e si·s partiron mal. E quan Bertrands de Born auzit
and thus-themselves they-parted ill And when Bertran of Born heard
 que ilh eran mal partit, si fo mout alegres. Et aisso
that they were ill parted thus he-was much glad And this
 fo e·l temps a·l comenzamen d'estiu, don Bertrands fetz
was in-the time at-the beginning of-summer whereof Bertran made
 aquest sirventes que vos aras auziretz: «A·l doutz nuou
this sirventes which you now will-hear At-the sweet new
 termini blanc de·l pascor vei la elesta.» Et en aquel sirventes
season white of-the springtide I-see the choice And in that sirventes
 el pouns fort lo rei Felip qu'el degues començar la guerra
he spurred greatly the king Philip that-he should to-begin the war
 ab lo rei Richart a fuoc et a sanc e dis que·l reis
with the king Richard with fire and with blood and said that-the king
 Felips volia mais patz qu'us mongues, e·n Richartz, ab cui
Philip wished more peace than-a monk and-Sir Richard with whom

el s'apelava «Oc e No», volia mais guerra que negus de·ls
he himself-called Yes and No wished more war than any of-the
 Algais, qu'eran quatre fraire, gran raubador e raubavan e
Algaïs who-were four brothers great robbers and they-robbed and
 menavan be ab lor mil raubadors a chaval e be doa
they-led fully with them thousand robbers on horse and fully two
 milia a pe e no vivian d'autra renda ni d'autre perchatz.
thousand on foot and not they-lived on-other revenue nor on-other profit

A·l doutz nuou termini blanc

At-the sweet new season white

de·l pascor vei la elesta

of-the springtide I-see the choice

de·l novel temps ses contenta;

of-the new time without strife

quan la sazos es plus genta

when the season is more fair

e plus avinens e val mais,

and more pleasing and is-worth more

et hom deuria esser plus gais,

and one ought to-be more gay

e melhor sabor mi a jais.

and better savor to-me has joy

Per que·m pesa quar m'estanc,

For which-to-me it-grieves that I-halt

qu'ieu ades no pas la festa,

that-I at-once not pass the feast

qu'us sols jorns mi sembla trenta

for-a single day to-me seems thirty

per una promessa genta

for a promise noble

don mi sortz trebalhs et esglais,

whence to-me arises trouble and terror

e no vuolh, sia mieus Doais

and not I-wish be mine Douai

ses la sospeisso de Cambrais.

without the hope of Cambrai

Pustela en son uolh e cranc

Pustule in his eye and canker

qui ja mais l'en amonesta!

who ever more him-of-it admonishes

Que ja malvastatz dolenta

For ever baseness doleful

no valra messio genta,

not will-be-worth outlay noble

ni sojorns ni estar ad ais

nor sojourn nor to-stay at ease

tan com guerra, trebalhs e fais,

so-much as war trouble and burden

so sapcha'l senher de Roais.

that knows-the lord of Roais

Ni anc no·n vi bratz ni flanc

And ever not-of-it I-saw arm nor flank

tronchat, ni chamba ni testa

backed nor leg nor head

ferit de plaia dolenta,

struck with wound doleful

ni ab gran host ni ab genta

nor with great host nor with fair(-host)

no·l vi a Roam ni a Sais;

not-him I-saw at Rouen nor at Sées

e membres li qu'om li retrais

and let-it-remember to-him that-one to-him recounted

qu'anc en escut lanza no frais.

that-ever on shield lance not he-broke

Guerra ses fuoc e ses sanc

War without fire and without blood

de rei ni de gran poesta

of king or of great potentate

cui coms laidis ni desmenta

whom count insults or gives-the-lie

non es ges paraula genta;

not is at-all word noble

qu'el puois si sojorn ni s'engrais!

that-be then himself let-repose or let-himself-fatten

E joves cui guerra no pais

And young-man whom war not feeds

n'esdeve lieu flacs e savais.

of-it-becomes soon slack and base

Reis de Franza, ie-us tenh per franc;

King of France I-you hold as noble

quar hom a Tors no-us fai questa

for one at Tours not-of-you makes claim

ni de Gisortz no-us presenta

and of Gisors not-to-you presents

patz ni fi que sia genta:

peace nor accord which be noble

ec vos la guerra e la pais!

behold you the war and the peace

E ja, entro qu'om s'i eslais,

And ever until that-one himself-into-it dart

non er sos pretz fis ni verais.

not will-be his worth pure nor true

Ges de n'Oc e No no-m planc,

At-all of Sir-Yes and No not-myself I-complain

qu'ieu sai be qu'en lui no resta

for-I know well that-in him not stays

la guerra ni no s'alenta,

the war and not itself-slackens

qu'anc patz ni fis no-lh fo genta,

that-ever peace or accord not-to-him was noble

ni hom plus volontiers no trais

and man more willingly not endured

ni no fetz cochas ni assais

and not made onsets nor assaults

ab pauc de gens ni ab gran fais.

with few of folk nor with great burden

Lo reis Felips ama la pais

The king Philip loves the peace

plus que·l bos hom de Tarantais.

more than-the good man of Tarentaise

En Oc e No vol guerra mais

Sir Yes and No wishes war more

plus que no fetz us de·ls Algaïs.

more than — did one of-the Algaïs

Puois a·ls baros enoia e lor pesa

17 · SINCE IT VEXES THE BARONS

The volume's longest razo. Richard of England and Philip of France face each other across the Sèvre near Niort for fifteen days, until churchmen with crosses in their arms come between the armies and beg them not to fight. Philip loses heart when the Champenois refuse to put on their helms, and the two kings swear a ten-year peace, disband their hosts, and turn niggardly, leaving the barons on both sides sorrowful. Bertran is angrier than any of them, and the song says why: a king should not sit disinherited in peace, three of the crown's five duchies are wanting, and a king who seeks a parley in arms is slack.

En lo temps et en la sazo que lo reis Richartz d'Englaterra

In the time and in the season that the king Richard of-England

guerreiaua ab lo rei Felip de Franza, si foron amdui en

warred with the king Philip of France thus they-were both in

champ ab tota lor gen. Lo reis de Franza si avia ab se

field with all their folk The king of France thus had with him

Frances e Borgonhos e Champanes e Flamencs e cels

French and Burgundians and Champenois and Flemings and those

de Beiriu; e·l reis Richartz avia ab se Engles e Normans

of Berry and-the king Richard had with him English and Normans

e Bretos e Peitavis e cels d'Anjou e de Torena e da·l

and Bretons and Poitevins and those of-Anjou and of Touraine and of-the

Maine e de Saintonge e de Lemozi, et era sobre la

Maine and of Saintonge and of Limousin and he-was upon the

riba d'un flum que a nom Sevr, lo quals passa a·l pe de

bank of-a river which has name Sèvre the which passes at-the foot of

Niort. E l'una hostz si era d'una riba e l'autra hostz era

Niort And the-one host thus was of-one bank and the-other host was

da l'autra, et enaissi esterom quinze jorns, e chascu jorn
of the-other and thus they-stood fifteen days and each day
 s'armavan et aparelhavan de venir a la batalha ensem.
themselves-they-armed and made-ready of to-come to the battle together
 Mas arcivesque et evesque et abat et home d'orde, que
But archbishops and bishops and abbots and men of-order who
 cerchavan patz, eran en miei e defendian que la batalha
sought peace were in between and forbade that the battle
 no fos. Et un dia foron armat tuit aquilh qu'eran ab lo rei
— be And one day were armed all those who-were with the king
 Richart et esqueirat de venir a la batalha e de passar la
Richard and drawn-up of to-come to the battle and of to-cross the
 Sevre, e li Frances s'armeron et esqueireron. E li bon
Sèvre and the French themselves-armed and drew-up And the good
 home de religio foron ab las crotz en bratz, pregan Richart
men of religion were with the crosses in arms begging Richard
 e·l rei Felip que la batalha no degues esser. E·l reis de
and-the king Philip that the battle not should to-be And-the king of
 Franza dizia que la batalha no remanria, si·l reis Richartz
France said that the battle not would-cease if-the king Richard
 no·lh fazia fezeutat de tot so que avia de sai mar:
not-to-him did fealty of all that which he-had of this-side sea
 de·l ducat de Normandia e de·l ducat de Quitania e
of-the duchy of Normandy and of-the duchy of Aquitaine and
 de·l comtat de Peitau e que·lh rendes Gisortz, lo qual
of-the county of Poitou and that-to-him be-render Gisors the which
 lo reis Richartz l'avía tout. Et en Richartz, quan auzit
the king Richard from-him-had taken And Sir Richard when he-heard
 aquesta paraula que·l reis Felips demandava, per la gran
this word which-the king Philip demanded through the great

baudeza qu'el avia (quar li Champanes avian a lui promes
boldness which-he had because the Champenois had to him promised
 que no·lh serian a l'encontra per la gran quantitat
that not-to-him they-would-be at the-encounter through the great quantity
 de·ls esterlis que avia semenatz entre lor) si montet
of-the sterlings which he-had sown among them thus he-mounted
 en destrier e mes l'elm en la testa e fai sonar las
on charger and put the-helm on the head and makes to-sound the
 trombas e fai deserrar los sieus gonfanos encontra l'aiga
trumpets and makes to-unfurl the his gonfalons toward the-water
 per passar outra et aordena las esqueiras de·ls baros e de
for to-pass over and orders the squadrons of-the barons and of
 la soa gen per passar outra a la batalha. E·l reis Felips,
the his folk for to-pass over to the battle And-the king Philip
 quan lo vi venir, montet en destrier e mes l'elm en
when him he-saw to-come mounted on charger and put the-helm on
 testa, e tota la soa gens monteron en destriers e preseron
head and all the his folk mounted on chargers and took
 lor armas per venir a la batalha, trach los Champanes,
their arms for to-come to the battle except the Champenois
 que no meseron elms en testa. E·l reis Felips, quan vi
who not put helms on head And-the king Philip when he-saw
 venir en Richart e la soa gen ab tan gran vigor e vi
to-come Sir Richard and the his folk with so great vigor and he-saw
 que·lh Champanes no venian a la batalha, el fo avilitz et
that-the Champenois not came to the battle he was daunted and
 espaventatz e comenza far apelar los arcivesques e·ls
terrified and begins to-make to-call the archbishops and-the
 evesques et homes de religio, totz aquels que l'avian pregat
bishops and men of religion all those whom him-had begged

de la patz far; e preguet lor qu'ilh anessen pregar en
of the peace to-make and he-begged them that-they should-go to-beg Sir
 Richart de la patz far e de·l concordi, e si lor
Richard of the peace to-make and of-the concord and thus to-them
 promes de far e de dir aquela patz et aquel concordi
he-promised of to-do and of to-speak that peace and that concord
 de·l deman de Gisortz e de·l vassalatge que·lh fazia en
of-the claim of Gisors and of-the homage which-to-him did Sir
 Richartz. E li saint home vengron ab las crotz en bratz
Richard And the holy men came with the crosses in arms
 encontra lo rei Richart, ploran qu'el agues pietat de tanta
toward the king Richard weeping that-he might-have pity of so-many
 bona gen com avia e·l champ, que tuit eran a morir,
good folk as there-was in-the field who all were to to-die
 e qu'el volgues la patz; qu'ilh li farian laissar Gisortz
and that-he might-wish the peace for-they to-him would-make to-leave Gisors
 e·l rei partir de sobre la soa terra. E li baro, quan
and-the king to-depart from off the his land And the barons when
 auziron la gran honor que·l reis Felips li presentava,
they-beard the great honor which-the king Philip to-him offered
 foron tuit a·l rei Richart e conselheron lo qu'el preses
went all to-the king Richard and counseled him that-he take
 lo concordi e la patz. Et el, per los precz de·ls bos
the concord and the peace And he through the prayers of-the good
 homes de religio e per lo conselh de·ls sieus baros,
men of religion and through the counsel of-the his barons
 si fetz la patz e·l concordi si que·l reis Felips li
thus made the peace and-the concord so that-the king Philip to-him
 laisset Gisortz quitamen, e·l vassalatges remas en penden
left Gisors freely and-the homage remained in suspense

si com el estava, e partit si de-l champ, e-l reis
just as it stood and he-parted himself from-the field and-the king
 Richartz remas. E feiron jurar ambedui la patz a detz
Richard remained And they-made to-swear both the peace for ten
 ans, e desfeiron lor hostz e deron comjat a-ls soudadiers
years and they-unmade their hosts and gave leave to-the soldiers
 e vengron eschars et avar ambedui li rei e cobe e
and they-became niggard and miserly both the kings and greedy and
 no volgron far host ni despendre si non en falcos et en
not they-wished to-make host nor to-spend if not on falcons and on
 austors et en chas et en lebriers et en comprar terras e
goshawks and on dogs and on greyhounds and on to-buy lands and
 possessios et en far tort a lor baros. Don tuit li baro
possessions and on to-do wrong to their barons Whereby all the barons
 de-l rei de Franza foron trist e dolen e li baro de-l rei
of-the king of France were sad and grieving and the barons of-the king
 Richart, quar avian la patz facha per que chascus de-ls dos
Richard because they-had the peace made for which each-one of-the two
 reis era vengutz eschars e vilas. E-n Bertrans de Born
kings was become niggard and churlish and-Sir Bertran of Born
 si fo plus iratz que negus de-ls autres baros, per so quar
thus was more angry than any of-the other barons for that because
 el no si delechava mas en guerra de se e d'autrui
he not himself delighted but in war of himself and of-another
 e mais en la guerra de-ls dos reis, per so que, quan ilh
and more in the war of-the two kings for that that when they
 avian, li dui rei, guerra ensems, el avia d'en Richart tot
had the two kings war together he had of-Sir Richard all
 so qu'el volia d'aver e d'onor et era temsutz d'amos
that which-he wished of-wealth and of-honor and he-was feared by-both

los reis per lo dire de la lenga. Don el, per voluntat
the kings for the speaking of the tongue Whereby he through desire
 qu'el ac que·lh rei tornessen a la guerra e per la
which-he had that-the kings might-turn to the war and through the
 voluntat qu'el vi a·ls autres baros, si fetz aquest sirventes
desire which-he saw in-the other barons thus made this sirventes
 lo quals comenza: «Puois a·ls baros enoia e lor pesa.»
the which begins Since to-the barons it-vexes and to-them weighs

Puois a·ls baros enoia e lor pesa
Since to-the barons it-vexes and to-them weighs
 d'aquesta patz qu'an facha li dui rei,
of-this peace which-have made the two kings
 farai chanzo tal que, quan er apresada,
I-shall-make song such that when it-will-be learned
 a cadäu sera tart que guerrei;
to each-one it-will-be late [long-to-wait] that he-war
 e no m'es bel de rei qu'en patz estei
and not to-me-is fair of king that-in peace be-stay
 deseretatz ni que perda son drei,
disinherited nor that he-lose his right
 tro la demanda que fai a conquesa.
until the claim which he-makes he-has won

Ad ambedos te hom ad avolesa
To both holds one for baseness
 quar an fach plach don quecs de lor sordei;
for they-have made pact whereby each of them worsens

cinc duchatz a la corona francesa,
five dukes has the crown French
 e, si·ls comtatz, son a dire li trei;
and if-them you-count are to to-say [missing] the three
 e de Gisortz pert la rend' e l'esplei,
and of Gisors he-loses the revenue and the-profit
 e Caercis rema sai en trepei
and Quercy remains here in turmoil
 e Bretanha e la terra engolmesa.
and Brittany and the land of-Angoulême

Ges aitals patz no melhura proesa
At-all such peace not betters prowess
 com aquesta ni outra qu'om li grei,
as this-one nor other that-one to-him grant
 ni deu sofrir qu'om li bais sa richesa,
nor he-must to-suffer that-one to-him lower his wealth
 puois Essaudu a tornat debes sei
since Issoudun has turned toward himself
 lo reis Henrics e mes en son destrei;
the king Henry and put in his straits
 e no·s cujes qu'a son home s'autrei,
and not-himself let-him-think that-to his man himself-be-yield
 si·l fieu d'Anjau li merma una tesa.
if-the fief of-Anjou to-him lessens a fathom

Si·l reis engles li fetz do ni larguesa,

If-the king English to-him made gift or largesse

a·l rei Felip, drechs es que l'en mercei,

to-the king Philip right it-is that him-of-it be-thank

que·lh fetz liurar la moneda englesa,

who-to-him made to-deliver the money English

qu'en Franza·n son charcit sac e correi;

that-in France-of-it are stuffed sack and belt

e no foron Anjavi ni Mancei,

and not were Angevins nor Manceaux

que d'esterlis foro·lh premier conrei

for of-sterlings were-the first squadron

que desconfis la lor gen champanesa.

which routed the their folk Champenois

Lo sors Gueric dis paraula cortesa,

The tawny Gueric said word courteous

quan so nebot vi tornat en esfrei:

when his nephew be-saw turned into fright

que desarmatz volgra·n fos la fis presa,

that disarmed he-would-wish-of-it were the accord taken

quan fo armatz, no volc penre plaidei;

when he-was armed not he-wished to-take parley

e no semblet ges lo senhor d'Orlei,

and not he-resembled at-all the lord of-Orleans

que desarmatz fo de peor mercei

who disarmed was of worse mercy

que, quan e·l chap ac la ventalha mesa.

than when in-the head he-had the ventail put

A rei armat lo te hom a flachesa,
To king armed it holds one for slackness
 quan es en champ e vai querre plaidei;
when he-is in field and goes to-seek parley
 ben an chamjat honor per cobeitesa,
well they-have changed honor for covetousness
 segon qu'auch dir, Borgonho e Francei;
according as-I-hear to-say Burgundians and French
 e valgra mais, per la fe qu'ieu vos dei,
and it-would-be-worth more by the faith which-I to-you owe
 a'l rei Felip, comenzes lo desrei
to-the king Philip he-should-begin the onset
 que plaideiar armatz sobre la gresa.
than to-parley armed upon the gravel

Vai, Papiols, mo sirventes a drei
Go Papiol my sirventes at once
 mi portaras part Crespi e'l Valei
for-me you-shall-carry beyond Crépy and-the Valois
 mon Isembart en la terra artesa;
my Isembart into the land of-Artois

e digas li qu'a tal domna soplei
and say to-him that-to such lady I-bow
 que marves puosc jurar sobre la lei
that boldly I-can to-swear upon the law
 que'l melher es de'l mon e'l plus cortesa.
that-the best she-is of-the world and-the most courteous

Nostre senher somonis el mezeis

18 • OUR LORD HIMSELF SUMMONS

The crusading song. Our Lord himself summons the bold and the valiant, for the True Cross and the king are taken and the Sepulcher lacks succor. The holy fire descends there for all to see, and a man who believes that makes no great effort in going. The man who is count and duke and will be king has put himself forward and doubled his worth, since he wants more worth than any man of either law, Christian or unbaptized. Bertran now takes King Philip for a rightful king: they say he has taken the cross, and he boasts he will press into worth as Charlemagne never did.

Nostre senher somonis el mezeis

Our Lord summons he himself

totz los arditz e·ls valens e·ls prezatx,

all the bold and-the worthy and-the prized

qu'anc mais guerra ni cocha no·l destreis,

for-ever before war or straits not-him constrained

mas d'aquesta si te fort per grevatx;

but of-this himself he-bolds greatly as burdened

quar presa es la vera crotz e·l reis,

for taken is the true cross and-the king

e·l sepolcres a de socors frachura,

and-the sepulcher has of succor lack

don tuit crezem ab leial fe segura

whereof all we-believe with loyal faith sure

que lo saintz fuocs i deissen, qu'om ho ve,

that the holy fire there descends for-one it sees

per que no fai nul esfortz qui so cre.

for which not makes any effort who that believes

Cel que es coms e ducs e sera reis

He who is count and duke and will-be king

s'es mes enan, per qu'es sos pretz doblatz,

himself-has put forward for which-is his worth doubled

qu'el vol mais pretz qu'om de las doas leis,

for-he wishes more worth than-one of the two laws

de·ls crestias e de·ls no-bateiatz;

of-the Christians and of-the not-baptized

e s'el vol pretz, a las obras pareis,

and if-he wishes worth in the works it-appears

qu'el vol tan pretz e tan bon' aventura,

for-he wishes so-much worth and so good fortune

per que sos pretz creis ades e melhora,

for which his worth grows ever and betters

qu'el vol lo pretz de·l mal e·l pretz de·l be:

for-he wishes the worth of-the ill and-the worth of-the good

tan ama pretz qu'ambedos los rete.

so-much he-loves worth that-both them he-keeps

Aras sai ieu qu'adrechs vol esser reis

Now know I that-rightful he-wishes to-be king

lo reis Felips, que dizon qu'es crozatz,

the king Philip whom they-say that-he-is crossed

et anc Charles en tal pretz no s'empais

and ever Charles into such worth not himself-thrust

com el fara, d'aisso s'es be vanatz.

as he will-do of-this himself-is well vaunted

No puosc mudar, un chantar non esparga

19 · I CANNOT HELP SCATTERING A SONG

The razo says that nothing Bertran ever said could move King Philip, but that Richard leapt to the war of himself as soon as he saw how feeble Philip was. The song is glad of it: war makes a niggardly lord generous, and he wants to see the two kings' pomp, the tents pitched, and the armies meeting by thousands. He would take blows on his own targe if he had Lusignan or Rancon to pay for it. He wishes Philip would burn a barge before Gisors and shut Rouen so close that no letter could get out but by dove.

Anc mais per re qu'en Bertrans de Born disses en coblas
Ever more for anything that-Sir Bertran of Born said in stanzas
ni en sirventes a-l rei Felip ni per recordamen de tort ni
or in sirventes to-the king Philip or for recalling of wrong or
d'aunimen que-lh fos dichs ni fachs no volc guerreiar
of-shaming which-to-him was said or done not he-wished to-war
lo rei Richart; mas en Richartz si salhit a la guerra, quan
the king Richard but Sir Richard thus leapt to the war when
vi la frevoleza de-l rei Felip, e raubet e prezet et ars
he-saw the feebleness of-the king Philip and he-robbed and seized and burned
chastels e borcs e vilas et aucis homes e pres; don tuit
castles and towns and villages and killed men and took whereby all
li baro, a cui desplaia la patz, foron mout alegre, e'n
the barons to whom displeased the peace were much glad and-Sir
Bertrans de Born plus que tuit, per so que plus volia guerra
Bertran of Born more than all for that that more he-wished war
que autr' om e quar crezia que per lo sieu dire lo reis
than other man and because he-believed that through the his speaking the king
Richartz agues comenzada la guerra, ab lo qual el s'apelava
Richard had begun the war with the which he himself-called

«Oc e No», si com auziretz e-l sirventes qu'el fetz, si
Yes and No just as you-will-bear in-the sirventes which-he made as
 tost com el auzit qu'en Richartz era salhitz a la guerra, lo
soon as he heard that-Sir Richard was leapt to the war the
 quals comenza: «No puosc mudar, un chantar non esparga.»
which begins Not I-can to-forbear a song — I-scatter

No puosc mudar, un chantar non esparga,
Not I-can to-forbear a song — I-scatter
 puis n'Oc e No a mes fuoc e trach sanc,
since Sir-Yes and No has put fire and drawn blood
 quar grans guerra fai d'eschars senhor larc,
for great war makes of-niggard lord generous
 per que·m platz be de·ls reis vezer la bomba,
for which-to-me it-pleases well of-the kings to-see the pomp
 que n'aian ops paisso, cordas e pom,
that of-it-they-have need pole ropes and pommel
 e·n sian trap tendut per fors jazer,
and-of-them be tents pitched for outside to-lie
 e·ns encontrem a miliers et a cens,
and-ourselves we-meet by thousands and by hundreds
 si qu'apres nos en chan hom de la gesta.
so that-after us of-it sing one of the deed

Qu'ieu n'agra colps receubutz en ma targa
For-I of-it-would-have blows received on my targe
 e fach vermelh de mon gonfano blanc,
and made red of my gonfalon white

mas per aisso m'en sofrisc e m'en parc
but for this myself-of-it I-refrain and myself-of-it I-part
 que n'Oc e No conosc qu'un dat mi plomba;
for Sir-Yés and No I-know that-a die to-me be-loads
 mas non ai ges Lizinha ni Rancom,
but not I-have at-all Lusignan nor Rancon
 qu'ieu puoscha lonh hosteiar ses aver,
that-I might far to-campaign without wealth
 mas ajudar puosc a mos conoissens,
but to-help I-can to my acquaintances
 escut a'l col e chapel en ma testa.
shield at-the neck and helmet on my head

Si'l reis Felips n'agues ars' una barga
If-the king Philip of-it-had burnt a barge
 denan Gisortz o crebat un estanc,
before Gisors or broken a pond
 si qu'a Roam entres per forza e'l parc,
so that-at Rouen he-might-enter by force in-the park
 que l'assetges pe'l puoi e per la comba,
that he-might-besiege-him through-the hill and through the valley
 qu'om no'n pogues traire brieu ses colom:
that-one not-of-it might to-draw letter without dove
 adoncs sai ieu qu'el volgra far parer
then know I that-he would-wish to-make to-appear
 Charle, que fo de-ls mielhs de sos parens,
Charles who was of-the best of his kindred
 per cui fo Polha e Sansonha conquesta.
through whom was Apulia and Saxony conquered

Anta l'adutz e de pretz lo descarga
Shame to-him-brings and of worth him unloads
 guerra celui cui hom no·n troba franc,
war him whom one not-of-it finds noble
 per qu'ieu no cuch, lais Caortz ni Cajarc
for which-I not think he-leave Cabors nor Cajarc
 mos Oc e No, puous tan sap de trastomba;
my Yes and No since so-much he-knows of tumbling
 si·l reis li da lo tesar de Chinom,
if-the king to-him gives the treasure of Chinon
 de guerra a cor et aura·n puous poder;
of war he-has heart and will-have-of-it then power
 tan l'es trebalhs e messios plazens
so-much to-him-are toil and outlay pleasing
 que los amics e·ls enemics tempesta.
that the friends and-the enemies he-storms

Anc naus en mar, quan a perdut sa barga
Ever ship on sea when it-has lost its barge
 et a mal temps e vai urtar a·l ranc
and has ill weather and goes to-strike on-the reef
 e cor plus fort qu'una saieta d'arc
and runs more greatly than-an arrow of-bow
 e leva en aut e puous aval jos tomba,
and rises on high and then downward below tumbles
 no trais anc pieis, e dirai vos be com,
not endured ever worse and I-shall-tell to-you well how
 qu'ieu fatz per lieis que no·m vol retener,
that-I do for her who not-me wishes to-retain

que no·m mante jorn, terme ni convens,

who not-to-me keeps day term nor covenant

per que mos jois, qu'era floritz, bissesta.

for which my joy which-was flowered leaps-a-year [goes-amiss]

Vai, Papiols, ades tost e correns,

Go Papiol at-once quickly and running

a Träinac sias anz de la festa;

at Trainac be-you before of the feast

di·m a·n Rotgier et a totz sos parens

say-for-me to-Sir Rotgier and to all his kindred

qu'ieu no trop mais «omba» ni «om» ni «esta».

that-I not find more omba nor om nor esta

Ara sai ieu de pretz quals l'a plus gran

20 · NOW I KNOW WHO HAS THE GREATEST WORTH

The song for Conrad of Montferrat, holding out at Tyre against Saladin. Conrad has the truest worth of all those who rose early; the succor is slow, and he who alone endures the toil will alone have the worth. Bertran would be there himself, but the counts and dukes and kings delayed, and then he saw his lady. He names the two kings who hold back — Philip fearing Richard and Richard fearing Philip — and wishes both in Saladin's fetters for cheating God, yet hears both will cross this year; the song goes by Savoy and Brindisi over the sea.

Ara sai ieu de pretz quals l'a plus gran

Now know I of worth which it-has more great

de totz aquels que's leveron mati:

of all those who-themselves rose in-the-morning

messers Conratz l'a plus fi ses enjan,

messer Conrad it-has more true without deceit

que's defen lai a Sur d'en Saladi

who-himself defends there at Tyre from-Sir Saladin

e de sa maisnada croia;

and from his household vile

socora'l dieus! que'l socors vai tarzan:

succor-him God for-the succor goes tarrying

sols aura'l pretz, que sols sofre l'afan.

alone he-will-have-the worth who alone endures the-toil

Senher Conratz, a Jesu vos coman,

Lord Conrad to Jesus you I-commend

qu'ieu fora lai, a Sur, so vos afi;

that-I would-be there at Tyre that to-you I-affirm

mas laissei m'en, quar s'anavan tarzan
but I-left myself-of-it for they-were-going tarrying
 li comt' e·lh duc e·lh rei e li princi;
the counts and-the dukes and-the kings and the princes
 puois vi mi dons bel' e bloia,
then I-saw my lady fair and blonde
 per que s' Janet mos cors afebleian,
for which itself-went my heart weakening
 qu'ieu fora lai, ben a passat un an.
that-I would-be there well it-has passed a year

Senher Conratz, ieu sai dos reis qu'estan
Lord Conrad I know two kings who-bold-back
 d'aiudar vos, ara entendatz qui:
from-to-help you now hear-you who
 lo reis Felips es l'us, quar vai doptan
the king Philip is the-one for he-goes fearing
 lo rei Richart, e cel lui dopt' aissi;
the king Richard and he him fears likewise
 ar fos usquecs d'els en boia
now were each-one of-them in fetters
 d'en Saladi, puois van dieu gualian,
of-Sir Saladin since they-go God beguiling
 quar son crozat e d'anar mot no fan.
for they-are crusaders and of-to-go word not they-make

Senher Conratz, tot per vostr' amor chan

Lord Conrad all for your love I-sing

ni ges no·i quart amic ni enemi,

and at-all not-in-it I-beed friend nor enemy

mas per so·l fatz que·ls crozatz vau reptan

but for that-it I-do that-the crusaders I-go reproving

de·l passatge qu'an si mes en obli,

of-the passage which-they-have thus put in oblivion

no cujan qu'a dieu enoia;

not thinking that-to God it-vexes

qu'ilh si paisson e si van sojornan,

for-they themselves feed and themselves go sojourning

e·us enduratz fam, set, et ilh estan.

and-you you-endure hunger thirst and they remain

Senher Conratz, la roda·s vai viran

Lord Conrad the wheel-itself goes turning

en aquest mon pur en mal a la fi,

in this world only into ill at the end

quar paucs en sai que no s'anen penan,

for few of-them I-know who not themselves-go striving

com enjanen vezi e no-vezi;

how they-deceive neighbor and not-neighbor

mas cel que pert, no·lh par joia;

but he who loses not-to-him seems joy

doncs sapchan be cilh qu'ieu dic qu'aisso fan

therefore let-know well those that-I say that-this they-do

que dieus escriu so que dich e fach an.

that God writes that which said and done they-have

Senher Conratz, lo reis Richartz val tan,
Lord Conrad the king Richard is-worth so-much
 si tot, quan vuolh, de lui gran mal m'en di,
though wholly as-much I-wish of him great ill of-it I-say
 qu'el passara ab tal esfortz ogan
that-be will-cross with such force this-year
 com far poira, so auch dir tot de fi,
as to-do he-will-be-able that I-hear to-say wholly of certain
 e'l reis Felips en mar poia
and-the king Philip on sea climbs
 ab autres reis, qu'ab tal esfortz venran
with other kings who-with such force will-come
 que part l'Arbre Sec irem conquistan.
that beyond the-Tree Dry we-shall-go conquering

De n'Oc e No no·m vau ara doptan,
Of Sir-Yés and No not-me I-go now fearing
 quar pesa li, si nula re·lh chasti,
for it-weighs to-him if any thing-to-him I-chide
 e'l reis frances vai si trop apriman,
and-the king French goes himself too approaching
 et ai paor que venha sobre mi;
and I-have fear that he-come upon me
 mas anc a'l setge de Troia
but ever at-the siege of Troy
 non ac tan duc, prince ni amiran
not there-was so-many duke prince nor emir
 com ieu ai mes per chantar a mon dan.
as I have put through to-sing to my harm

A mon Isembart part Troia

To my Isembart beyond Troy

vai, sirventes, e di li·m, qu'ieu lo·lh man,

go sirventes and say to-him-for-me that-I it-to-him send

qu'a·ls reis crozatz es anta quar no van.

that-to-the kings crusading it-is shame for not they-go

Bels Papiols, ves Savoia

Fair Papiol toward Savoy

te ton chami e ves Branditz brochan

take your road and toward Brindisi spurring

e passa·l mar, qu'a·l rei Conrat ti man.

and cross-the sea for-to-the king Conrad you I-send

Quan seras lai, no t'enoia,

When you-will-be there not you-it-vex

tu li diras que, s'ar no·lh valh ab bran,

you to-him you-shall-say that if-now not-to-him I-avail with sword

e·lh valrai tost, si·lh rei no·m van bausan.

and-to-him I-shall-avail soon if-the kings not-me go deceiving

Mas ben es vers qu'a tal domna·m coman,

But well it-is true that-to such lady-me I-commend

si·l passatges no·lh platz, no crei que·i an.

if-the passage not-to-her pleases not I-believe that-there I-go

Anc no·s puoc far maior anta

21 • NEVER WAS GREATER SHAME DONE

A bitter song against a lady who has taken him back and put him aside again. If she beds another man's children in his cradle it is no loss to him, since he is grown. He tells his own body that it is bewitched and playing the fool over a woman who strips herself of joy and washes herself clean of worth. Between the Dordogne and the Charente, said Auriol, a certain lord is too soft and has conquered nothing yet. The song ends with a catalog of the towns Yes-and-No holds in England and Normandy, and a word for the Mariner.

Anc no·s puoc far maior anta,

Ever not-itself could to-do greater shame

quan m'assols

when me-you-absolve

ni mi pres en dols,

and me you-took in mourning

e, puois ilh so a enquest,

and since they that have asked-for

e platz mi dons que m'esclava

and it-pleases my lady that me-she-enslave

ni que·m lais,

nor that-me she-leave

no m'es dans

not to-me-is harm

si·ls autrui enfans

if-the another's children

colga e·l mieu berzol,

she-beds and-the my cradle

qu'ieu sui grans.

for-I am grown

Fatz cors, puois ela t'enchanta,

Foolish body since she you-enchants

tu t'o cols

you it-to-yourself gather

e fas i que fols,

and you-do in-it as fool

que de tot joi si desvest

who of all joy herself strips

e de pretz si cura e's lava;

and of worth herself cleanses and-herself washes

per ja mais

for ever more

lo bobans

the pomp

remanha e'l mazans,

let-remain and-the din

qu'ieu ho vuolh, si'l vol,

that-I it wish if-it she-wishes

dos aitans.

two as-much

Lo senher de cui es Manta

The lord of whom is Manta

e Murols

and Murols

s'es prims de terzols

himself-has thin of tercels

tornatz, ab que sai no rest:

turned with that here not be-stay

sieus seria, s'el anava,

his he-would-be if-he went

lai Roais,

there Edessa

Tervagans,

Tervagant

Alaps et Arans;

Aleppo and Harran

puois feira filhol

then he-would-make godson

de·ls Persans.

of-the Persians

Enaps e copas mazanta

Cups and bowls he-clatters

et orzols

and pitchers

d'argen e pairols

of-silver and cauldrons

e sec ribeiera e forest

and he-follows riverside and forest

e sai tolia e donava:

and here he-took and gave

no·s biais

not-himself he-swerves

de·ls afans:

from-the toils

pressas e mazans,

throngs and dins

guerra ab tribol

war with tumult

l'es enans.

to-him-is advantage

Entre Dordonha e Charanta

Between Dordogne and Charente

es trop mols,

he-is too soft

so-m dis n'Auriols,

so-to-me said Sir-Auriol

qu'ancar re no-i a conquest,

that-still anything not-there he-has conquered

et er l'anta, si-s pausava,

and it-will-be the-shame if-himself he-rested

qu'aissi lais

that-thus he-leave

benanans

prospering

e gortz e tirans

and gorged and tyrant

cels qu'amar no sol

those whom-to-love not he-is-wont

e poissans.

and puissant

Ves mon Oc e No t'avanta,

Toward my Yés and No you-boast

Papiols,

Papiol

quar sieus es Bristols

for his is Bristol

e Nortensems e Susest

and Northampton and Sussex

e Londres e Titagrava

and London and Titgrave

e Carais

and Carhaix

e Roans

and Rouen

e Coras e Cans;

and Coras and Caen

puois tot a quan vol,

since all he-has whatever he-wishes

sai s'eslans.

here himself-he-flings

Bels Senher, truans

Fair Lord truants

seretz, si no·us dol

you-will-be if not-to-you grieves

lo mieus dans.

the my harm

Mariniers, enjans

Mariner deceit

es qu'amar destol

it-is that-to-love turns-away

a·ls amans.

from-the lovers

Volontiers feira sirventes

22 · WILLINGLY WOULD I MAKE A SIRVENTES

He would gladly make a sirventes if anyone would bear it sung, for worth and honor and goodness are dead — and if he could avenge them, so many would be dead or taken that neither water nor fire could dispose of them. God gives revenue and tribute, but sense must guide them, and nothing is anything without measure. There are kingdoms without kings, counties without counts, castles without castellans; plenty of fine persons and fine harness, but no Ogier the Dane. If Philip has given Richard Gisors, Richard owes him great thanks — yet Richard is a lion, and Philip a lamb who lets himself be disinherited.

Volontiers feira sirventes,

Willingly I-would-make sirventes

s'om lo volgues auzir chantar,

if-one it wished to-bear to-sing

que pretz es mortz, honors e bes,

for worth is dead honor and good

e si los pogues revenjar,

and if them I-could to-avenge

tans n'i agra que mortz que pres

so-many of-them there-would-be whether dead whether taken

que, si fis de·l mon no·i vengues,

that if end of-the world not-there came

tans no·n pogra aiga negar

so-many not-of-them could water to-drown

ni tuit li fuoc de·l mon cremar.

nor all the fires of-the world to-burn

Si non es tortz ni nescïes

Indeed not is wrong nor folly

so qu'en chantan m'auzetz comtar;

that which-in singing me-you-bear to-tell

quar dieus dona la rend' e·l ces,

for God gives the revenue and-the tribute

que·l sens deia saber guidar,

which-the sense must to-know to-guide

segon que l'om e l'avèrs es;

according as the-man and the-wealth is

mas ses mesura non es res:

but without measure not is anything

aissel que·s vol desmesurar

he who-himself wishes to-go-beyond-measure

no pot sos fachs en aut poiar.

not can his deeds on high to-mount

Reiesme son, mas reis no ges,

Kingdoms there-are but kings not at-all

e comtat, mas no coms ni bar;

and counties but not counts nor barons

las marchas son, mas no·lh marques,

the marches there-are but not-the marquises

e·lh ric chastel e·lh bel estar,

and-the rich castles and-the fair dwellings

mas li chastela non i so,

but the castellans not in-them are

et avers es plus qu'anc no·n fo;

and wealth is more than-ever of-it was

pro an conduchs e pauc manjar

plenty they-have (of-)provisions and little to-eat

en colpa d'avol ric avar.

in fault of-a-worthless rich niggard

Belas personas, bels arnes

Fair persons fair harness

pot hom pro vezer e trobar,

can one plenty to-see and to-find

mas no·i es Augiers lo Danes,

but not-there is Ogier the Dane

Berartz ni Baudüis no·i par;

Berart or Baudouin not-there appears

e de pel penchenat son pro,

and of hair combed there-are plenty

rasas dens et en chais greno,

scraped teeth and on jaw whiskers

mas no ges cel que sapch' amar,

but not at-all he who knows to-love

cort tener, domneiar ni dar.

court to-hold to-woo nor to-give

Si flacha gen! On so·lh Tornes

What slack folk Where are-the Tourangeaux

que solon chastels assetjar,

who are-wont castles to-besiege

e que solon setman' e mes

and who are-wont week and month

cort mantener ab gen renhar,

court to-maintain with nobly to-govern

e que solon donar rics dos

and who are-wont to-give rich gifts

e far las autras messios

and to-make the other outlays

a soudadier et a joglar?

to soldier and to jongleur

Un sol no·n vei, so aus comtar.

One alone not-of-them I-see that I-dare to-tell

Si·l reis Felips, reis de·ls Frances,

If-the king Philip king of-the French

a volgut a Richart donar

has wished to Richard to-give

Gisortz, aut luoc et aut paes,

Gisors high place and high country

Richartz l'en deu fort merceiar;

Richard him-for-it must greatly to-thank

mas si Felips de·l mieu cor fos,

but if Philip of-the my heart were

Richartz no mouria·ls talos

Richard not would-move-the heels

a son dan senes encontrar;

to his harm without to-encounter

e puois no·l vol, lais s'en ferrar.

and since not-it he-wishes let-him himself-of-it to-take-arms

Papiols, sias tan cochos,

Papiol be-you so hasty

di·m en Richart qu'el es leos,

say-for-me Sir Richard that-he is lion

e·l reis Felips anhels mi par,

and-the king Philip lamb to-me seems

qu'aissi·s laissa deseretar.

who-thus-himself lets to-disinherit

Be·m platz quar tregua ni fis

23 • IT PLEASES ME WELL THAT NEITHER TRUCE NOR ACCORD

The razo tells of Richard taken in Germany and ransomed, and of Bertran keeping in his heart every harm the war-makers had done in the Limousin. The song is glad there is no truce among the barons, who have taken to planting bushes and keeping gardens with small company, like men on guard against assassins. He would have the king a diviner, so that he might know which of his barons is false, and heal the sore the Limousin limps of; and he warns that Frederick would never have made his son's bargain over the pilgrims.

Quan Richartz ac facha la patz ab Bertran de Born
When Richard had made the peace with Bertran of Born
e·lh ac rendut son chastel d'Autafort, el si crozet,
and-to-him had given-back his castle of-Hautefort he thus took-the-cross
lo reis Richartz, e passet outra mar. E Bertrands remas
the king Richard and passed beyond sea And Bertran remained
guerreian ab n'Aimar, lo vescomte de Lemotges, et ab
warring with Sir-Adhemar the viscount of Limoges and with
lo comte de Peiregorc et ab totz los autres baros de
the count of Périgord and with all the other barons of
viro. E, si com avetz entendut, quan Richartz s'en
around And just as you-have heard when Richard himself-thence
tornava, el fo pres en Alamanha e si estet en preiso
returned he was taken in Germany and thus he-stayed in prison
dos ans e si si rezemet per aver. E quan Bertrands
two years and thus himself be-ransomed for wealth And when Bertran
de Born saup que·l reis devia eissir de preiso, mout
of Born learned that-the king was-to to-come-out of prison much
fo alegres per lo gran be qu'el sabia qu'el auria
he-was glad for the great good which-he knew that-he would-have

de·l rei e per lo dan que seria a sos enemics. E
of-the king and for the harm which would-be to his enemies And
 sapchatz qu'en Bertrans avia escriut en son cor totz los
know-you that-Sir Bertran bad written in his heart all the
 mals e·ls dans que aquist guerreiador avian fachs en
ills and-the harms which these warriors bad done in
 Lemozi et en las terras de·l rei Richart, e·n fetz so
Limousin and in the lands of-the king Richard and-of-it he-made his
 sirventes.

sirventes

Be·m platz quar tregua ni fis

Well-to-me it-pleases that truce nor accord

no rema entre·ls baros,

not remains among-the barons

qu'ades plantavan boissos,

for-continually they-were-planting bushes

tan aman hartz e jardis,

so they-love gardens and orchards

aise ab pauc de companha;

ease with little of company

sembla·s guarden d'ansessis,

it-seems-themselves they-guard from-assassins

que ja lai on us d'els fos

that ever there where one of-them were

non entreratz ses mesclanha.

not you-would-enter without brawl

Ancaras i aura ris,

Still there will-be laughter

e be lieu amaran nos

and well easily [perhaps] they-will-love us

et acolhiran los pros

and they-will-welcome the worthy

e daran de·ls barbaris,

and will-give of-the Barbary-horses

si volon qu'ab lor remanha;

if they-wish that-with them be-remain

que ja per cridar «Paris!»

for ever through to-cry Paris

Senes autras messios

Without other outlays

no conquerran gen estranha.

not they-will-conquer folk strange

Ja no crezatz qu'om ressis

Ever not believe-you that-a-man craven

puoi de pretz dos eschalos,

climb of worth two rungs

mas a·l soteira de jos

but on-the lowest of below

pot ben estar quetz e clis

he-can well to-stay quiet and stooping

et en aquel que remanha;

and in that may be-remain

que per mil marcs d'esterlis

since for thousand marks of-sterlings

no·n poiria poiar dos,

not-of-them he-would-be-able to-climb two

tan tem qu'avèrs li sofranha.

so-much he-fears that-wealth to-him fail

Be volgra·l reis fos devis

Well I-should-wish-the king were a-diviner

e que passes sai mest nos

and that he-passed here among us

e que saubes de·ls baros

and that he-knew of-the barons

quals l'es fals ni quals l'es fis

which to-him-is false and which to-him-is pure

e conogues la malanha

and he-knew the sore

de que clocha Lemozis,

of which limbs Limousin

qu'era sieus e fora·lh bos,

which-was his and would-be-to-him good

mas us sobros lo·lh gavanha.

but a bone-swelling it-to-him spoils

Be volgra, en ma·l chausis,

Well I-should-wish of-it to-me-it he-tended

coras qu'en fos lezeros,

whenever that-of-it he-were at-leisure

e qu'en passes dos sedos,
and that-of-it he-passed two setons
 anz que trop li endurzis,
before that too to-him it-harden
 puois vengutz es d'Alamanha;
since come he-is from-Germany
 e vuolh, n'Aimars, lo mesquis,
and I-wish Sir-Adbemar the wretch
 e·n Guis fassan partizos
and-Sir Gui make partitions
 tan engäls qu'us no s'en planha.
so equal that-one not himself-of-it complain

Mariniers, ges pe·ls Chanzis,
Mariner at-all through-the Chanzis
 si·ls alberga·n Malmiros,
if-them lodges-Sir Malmiros
 no·m fassatz mal a rescos;
not-to-me do-you ill in secret
 no·us en serai plus aclis
not-to-you of-it I-shall-be more bowed
 ni pe·n Peiro La Cassanha,
nor through-Sir Peiro La Cassanha
 de que s'es mal menatz Guis
of which himself-is ill conducted Gui
 ves me de doas preisos
toward me of two prisons
 en amor et en companha.
in love and in company

Papiols, ja·n Frederis

Papiol ever-Sir Frederick

no feira aital barganha

not would-make such bargain

com fetz sos filhs n'Aenris,

as made his son Sir-Henry

quan pres romieus ab bordos,

when he-took pilgrims with staves

don pert Polha e Romanha.

whereby he-loses Apulia and Romagna

Ar ve la coindeta sazos

24 · NOW COMES THE PRETTY SEASON

The ships are coming and with them a king more gallant than Richard ever was; then gold and silver will be spent, mangonels untented, walls breached, and towers brought down. Bertran has no patience with barons who have sworn he knows not what oaths and will stand shamefaced as a wolf in a snare once the king can tarry among them. He loves the press of shields and the lances shattering; he has no use for Basque companies or venal women or sacks of sterlings got by fraud; and he praises the lion, who is never fierce to a beaten thing.

Ar ve la coindeta sazos

Now comes the pretty season

que aribaran nostras naus,

when will-arrive our ships

e venra·l reis galhartz e pros,

and will-come-the king gallant and worthy

qu'anc lo reis Richartz no fo taus;

that-ever the king Richard not was such

adoncs veirem aur et argen despendre,

then we-shall-see gold and silver to-spend

peirieiras far destrapar e destendre,

mangonels to-make to-untent and to-unfurl

murs esfondrar, tors baissar e deissendre

walls to-breach towers to-lower and to-bring-down

e·ls enemics enchadenar e prendre.

and-the enemies to-enchain and to-take

Ges no'm platz de nostres baros

At-all not-to-me it-pleases of our barons

qu'an fachs sagramens, no sai quaus;

who-have made oaths not I-know which

per so n'estaran vergonhos

for that of-it-they-will-be shamefaced

com lo lops qu'a'l latz es enclaus,

as the wolf who-in-the snare is shut

quan nostre reis poira mest nos atendre;

when our king will-be-able among us to-tarry

qu'estiers nuls d'els no s'en poiran defendre,

that-otherwise any of-them not themselves-thence will-be-able to-defend

anz diran tuit: «Me no pot hom reprendre

rather they-will-say all Me not can one to-reproach

de nul mal plach, anz mi vuolh a vos rendre.»

of any ill pact rather myself I-wish to you to-yield

Bela m'es pressa de blezos,

Fair to-me-is press of shields

cobertz de teintz vermelhs e blaus,

covered of dyes red and blue

d'entresenhs e de gonfanos

of-devices and of gonfalons

de diversas colors tretaues,

of divers colors all-such

tendas e traps e rics pavilhos tendre,

tents and pavilions and rich awnings to-pitch

lanzas frassar, escutz traucar, e fendre

lances to-shatter shields to-pierce and to-cleave

elmes brunitz, e colps donar e prendre

belms burnished and blows to-give and to-take

(lacuna)

No'm platz companha de basclos

Not-to-me pleases company of Basques

ni de las putanas venaus;

nor of the harlots venal

sacs d'esterlis e de moutos

sacks of-sterlings and of sheep

m'es laitz, quan son vengut de fraus;

to-me-is foul when they-are come of frauds

e maisnadier eschars deuria hom pendre

and retainer niggard ought one to-hang

e ric home, quan son donar vol vendre;

and rich man when his giving he-wishes to-sell

en domn' escharsa no's deuria hom entendre

on lady niggard not-himself ought one to-fix

que per aver pot plegar et estendre.

who for wealth can to-fold and to-unfold

Bo·m sap l'usatges qu'a·l leos,

Good-to-me tastes the-custom which-has-the lion

qu'a re vencuda non es maus,

who-to thing conquered not is fierce

mas contr' orguolh es orgulhos;

but against pride he-is proud

e·l reis non a baros aitaus,

and-the king not has barons such

anz, quan vezon que sos afars es mendre,

rather when they-see that his affair is smaller

ponha chascus cossi·lh puoscha mesprendre;

strives each-one how-to-him he-may to-wrong

e no·us cujetz qu'ieu fassa motz a vendre,

and not-you think-you that-I make words for to-sell

mas per ric bar deu hom tot jorn contendre.

but for rich baron must one all day to-contend

S'ieu fos aissi senher ni poderos

25 • IF I WERE SO MUCH MY OWN MASTER

If he were master of himself and not in love's power, he would tell everyone what a death and what a grief it is that King Philip is not worthy and that Poitou is dwindling along with France. Richard takes hares and lions and leaves nothing in the plains or the bushes, while Philip hunts partridges with falcons and lets himself decay little by little. Philip's sister is set aside by a proud husband whom the king of Navarre has since given to his own daughter, and Philip is not even wrathful for his land. If he loses his rights as a boy, he will be ashamed when old; and come spring, Gaston will not save the Mont near Saint-Sever.

S'ieu fos aissi senher ni poderos

If-I were thus lord and powerful

de me mezeis que no fos amors,

of me myself that not I-were amorous

ni no m'agues amors e'l sieu poder,

and not me-bad love in-the its power

be feira tan qu'a totz feira saber

well I-would-do so-much that-to all I-would-make to-know

de'l rei Felip, quals mortz es e qual dan

of-the king Philip what death it-is and what harm

e quals dols es quar el be non es pros

and what grief it-is because he well not is worthy

e quar Peitaus vai ab Franza merman.

and because Poitou goes with France diminishing

E sai Richartz pren lebres e leos,
And here Richard takes hares and lions
 que no·n rema per plas ni per boissos,
that not-of-them remains through plains nor through bushes
 enanz los fai dos e dos remaner
rather them he-makes two and two to-remain
 per sa forza, qu'us no·s n'ausa mover,
by his strength that-one not-himself of-it-dares to-move
 e cuja be penre d'aissi enan
and he-thinks well to-take from-this forward
 las grans aiglas ab los esmerillos
the great eagles with the merlins
 et ab buzacs metr' austors en soan.
and with buzzards to-put goshawks in scorn

E·l reis Felips chassa lai ab falcos
And-the king Philip hunts there with falcons
 sos perdigals e·ls petitz auzelos,
his partridges and-the little birdlings
 e siei home no l'ausan dire·l ver
and his men not him-dare to-say-the truth
 quar pauc e pauc si laissa dechazer
for little and little himself he-lets to-decay
 sai a·n Richart, que l'a tolgut ogan
here to-Sir Richard who from-him-has taken this-year
 Engolesme, don s'es fachs poderos,
Angoulême whence himself-be-has made powerful
 e Tolosa, qu'el te sobre deman.
and Toulouse which-be holds beyond claim

E puous non es per sa terra iros,
And since not he-is for his land wrathful
 membre·lh sa sor e·l maritz orgulhos,
let-remember-to-him his sister and-the husband proud
 que la laissa e no la vol tener;
who her leaves and not her wishes to-keep
 aquest forfachs mi sembla desplaizer,
this misdeed to-me seems displeasure
 e tot ades que s'en vai perjuran,
and all at-once that himself-thence he-goes forswearing
 que·l reis navars l'a sai dat per espos
for-the king Navarrese him-has here given as spouse
 a sa filha, per que l'ant' es plus gran.
to his daughter for which the-shame is more great

E s'aissi pert sos drechs, entre qu'es tos,
And if-thus he-loses his rights while that-he-is boy
 lai quan er vielhs, en sera vergonhos;
there when he-will-be old of-it he-will-be shamed
 e ja Frances no n'aian bo esper,
and ever French not of-it-have good hope
 quar an lor tout qu'om sol sai tan temer,
for they-have from-them taken which-one used here so to-fear
 no prezan re lor dich ni lor deman
not they-prize anything their word nor their claim
 sai ves Peitau, enanz s'en fan janglos,
here toward Poitou rather themselves-thence they-make scoffers
 quan son ensems en Richartz e·n Bertran.
when they-are together Sir Richard and-Sir Bertran

E venran sai ab las novelas flors,
And they-will-come here with the new flowers
 e lor bobans sera de sobr' en jos,
and their pomp will-be from above to below
 e ja'n Gastos no poira pro tener
and ever-Sir Gaston not will-be-able profit to-hold
 que no·ns tolam lo Mon pres Saint-Sever,
that not-us we-take the Mont near Saint-Sever
 a Rocafort tot quan tolgut nos an,
at Rocafort all that taken from-us they-have
 si qu'en Peitau sera nostre brandos
so that-in Poitou will-be our firebrand
 gen alumnatz, si que tuit ho veiran.
nobly kindled so that all it they-will-see

Miei sirventes vuolh far de·ls reis amdos

26 • I WILL MAKE HALF A SIRVENTES

Half a sirventes about both kings, for we shall soon see which has the more knights: the worthy king of Castile is coming and will want soldiers, and Richard will pour out gold and silver by the hogshead and wants war more than a sparrowhawk wants a quail. If both kings are brave we shall see fields strewn with quarters of helms and shields, chargers running loose, and lances through flanks and breasts. Trumpets, drums, and standards; wealth taken from the usurers; and no merchant safe on the road. If the king comes, Bertran will be alive or in quarters.

Miei sirventes vuolh far de·ls reis amdos,

Half sirventes I-wish to-make of-the kings both

qu'en brieu veirem qu'aura mais chevaliers,

for-in short we-shall-see who-will-have more knights

de·l valen rei de Castela, n'Anfos,

of-the worthy king of Castile Sir-Alfonso

qu'auch dir que ve e volra soudadiers;

whom-I-bear to-say that he-comes and will-want soldiers

Richartz metra a muois et a sestiers

Richard will-lay-out by hogsheads and by sesters

aur et argen e te s'a benananza

gold and silver and he-holds himself-to happiness

metr' e donar e no vol sa fianza,

to-lay-out and to-give and not he-wishes his security

anz vol guerra mais que qualha esparviers.

rather he-wishes war more than quail sparrowhawk

S'amdui li rei son pro ni coratjos,
If-both the kings are worthy and courageous
 en brieu veirem champs jonchatz de quartiers,
in short we-shall-see fields strewn of quarters
 d'elms e d'escutz e de brans e d'arzos
of-helms and of-shields and of swords and of-saddlebows
 e de fendutz per bustz tro a·ls braiers,
and of split through trunks as-far to-the belts
 et arratge veirem anar destriers
and astray we-shall-see to-go chargers
 e per costatz e per pechs mainta lanza
and through flanks and through breasts many-a lance
 e gauch e plor e dol et alegranza:
and joy and weeping and grief and gladness
 lo perdr' er grans e·l guazanhs er sobriers.
the losing will-be great and-the gaining will-be greater

Trombas, tabors, senheras e penos
Trumpets drums standards and pennons
 et entresenhs e chavals blancs e niers
and devices and horses white and black
 veirem en brieu, que·l segles sera bos,
we-shall-see in short for-the age will-be good
 que hom tolra l'aver a·ls usuriers,
for one will-take the-wealth from-the usurers

e per chamis non anara saumiers
and by roads not will-go pack-driver
 jorn afiatz ni borges ses doptanza
day pledged nor burgher without doubting
 ni merchadiers que venha de ves Franza,
nor merchant who come from toward France
 anz sera rics qui tolra volontiers.
rather will-be rich whoever will-take willingly

Mas si'l reis ve, ieu ai en dieu fianza,
But if-the king comes I have in God trust
 qu'ieu serai vius o serai per quartiers;
that-I shall-be alive or shall-be in quarters

e si sui vius, er mi grans benananza,
and if I-am alive it-will-be to-me great happiness
 e si ieu muoir, er mi grans deliuriers.
and if I die it-will-be to-me great deliverance

Un sirventes fatz de·ls malvatz baros

27 · A SIRVENTES ABOUT THE WICKED BARONS

A sirventes about the wicked barons, and the last he will make of them: he has broken more than a thousand goads on them and never got one to run or trot, and they let themselves be disinherited without so much as an outcry. God curse them. Not one of them but you may shear and shave him like a lay-brother, or shoe him on all fours without tongs. Bos, Adhemar, Archambaut, and Gui ought to be showing their youth by now, for a young rich man who dislikes spending, courts, and war can never rise in worth.

Un sirventes fatz de·ls malvatz baros,

A sirventes I-make of-the wicked barons

e ja mais d'els no m'auziretz parlar,

and ever more of-them not me-you-will-bear to-speak

qu'en lor ai frachs mais de mil agulhos,

for-in them I-have broken more than thousand goads

qu'anc no·n puoc far un correr ni trotar,

that-ever not-of-them I-could to-make one to-run nor to-trot

anz si laissan ses clam deseretar;

rather themselves they-let without outcry to-disinherit

maldiga·ls dieus! E que cujan doncs far

curse-them God And what think-they then to-do

nostre baro? Qu'aissi com un confraire

our barons That-thus as a lay-brother

non i es us, no·l poschatz tondr' e raire

not there is one not-him you-may to-shear and to-shave

o ses congenhs de·ls quatre pes ferrar.

or without tongs of-the four feet to-shoe

Bos e n'Aimars, n'Archambautz e'n Guios

Bos and Sir-Adbemar Sir-Archambaut and-Sir Gui

degran oimais lor joven demostrar;

they-ought henceforth their youth to-show

quar joves rics cui no platz messios,

for young rich-man whom not pleases outlay

cortz ni guerra, no pot en pretz montar

courts or war not can in worth to-mount

ni's fai temer ni grazir ni honrar;

nor-himself he-makes to-fear nor to-welcome nor to-honor

(lacuna)

Que da Londres tro qu'a la ciutat d'Aire

For from London as-far as-to the city of-Aire

no'n i a un qu'en la terra son paire

not-of-them there is one that-in the land (of-)his father

no·lh fassan tort senes tot chalonjar.

not-to-him they-do wrong without any challenging

BERTRAN DE BORN

The Love Songs

Rassa, tan creis e monta e poia

28 · RASSA, SO SHE GROWS AND MOUNTS

The razo explains that Bertran called Count Geoffrey of Brittany Rassa, and that Richard, Geoffrey, the king of Aragon, and the count of Toulouse were all suitors to his lady Maeut of Montanhac, who refused them all for him. To keep them off he described her so exactly that he might have seen her naked. The song praises her hair, her color, her elbow, her breast, and her back, and then turns on the rich who give nothing, welcome nobody, accuse the innocent, and talk of hawking and never of arms or love.

Bertrans de Born si s'apelava «Rassa» ab lo comte
Bertran of Born thus (mutually-)called Rassa with the count
Jaufre de Bretanha, qu'era fraire de·l rei jove e d'en
Geoffrey of Brittany who-was brother of-the king young and of-Sir
Richart, qu'era coms de Peitau. E·n Richartz e·n Jaufres
Richard who-was count of Poitou and-Sir Richard and-Sir Geoffrey
si s'entendian en la domna d'en Bertran de Born, na
thus themselves-aimed at the lady of-Sir Bertran of Born Lady
Maeut de Montanhac, e·l reis n'Anfos d'Arago e·n
Maeut of Montanhac and-the king Sir-Alfonso of-Aragon and-Sir
Reimons, lo coms de Tolosa. Et ela los refudava totz
Raymond the count of Toulouse And she them refused all
per en Bertran de Born, que avia pres per entendedor
for Sir Bertran of Born whom she-had taken as suitor
e per chastiador. E per so que ilh remasessen de·ls
and as chastiser And for that that they might-desist from-the
precis d'ela, el volc mostrar a·l comte Jaufre, quals era
prayers of-her he wished to-show to-the count Geoffrey which was
la domna en cui el s'entendia, e si la lauzet en tal
the lady at whom he himself-aimed and thus her he-praised in such

maneira que paria qu'el l'agues vista nuda e tenguda. E
manner that it-seemed that-he her-had seen naked and held And
 volc be qu'om saubes que na Maeuz era la soa domna,
he-wished well that-one might-know that Lady Maeut was the his lady
 aquela que refudava Peitau, so era en Richartz, qu'era
she who refused Poitou that was Sir Richard who-was
 coms de Peitau, e'n Jaufre, qu'era coms de Bretanha,
count of Poitou and-Sir Geoffrey who-was count of Brittany
 e'l rei d'Arago, qu'era senher de Saragosa, e'l comte
and-the king of-Aragon who-was lord of Saragossa and-the count
 Raimon, qu'era senher de Tolosa, e per so dis en
Raymond who-was lord of Toulouse and for that said Sir
 Bertrans:

Bertran

Rassa, a'ls rics es orgolhosa
Rassa to-the rich she-is haughty
 e fai gran sen a lei de tosa,
and does great sense in manner of maid
 que no vol Peitau ni Tolosa
who not wishes Poitou nor Toulouse
 ni Bretanha ni Saragosa,
nor Brittany nor Saragossa

anz es de pretz tan enveiosa

rather she-is of worth so desirous

qu'a'ls pros paubres es amorosa.

that-to-the worthy poor she-is loving

E d'aquesta razo que-us ai dicha el fetz so sirventes

And of-this matter which-to-you I-have said he made his sirventes

e de blasmar los rics que re no donan e que

and of to-blame the rich who anything not give and who

mal acolhon e sonan e que senes tort ochaisonan e,

ill welcome and speak and who without wrong accuse and

qui lor quier merce, que no perdonan ni servizi no

who to-them asks mercy that not they-pardon and service not

guizerdonan; et aquels que mais no parlan si no de volada

they-requite and those who more not speak if not of flight

d'austor, ni mais d'amor ni d'armas non ausan parlar entre

of-goshawk and more of-love or of-arms not they-dare to-speak among

lor. E volia que'l coms Richartz guerreies lo vescomte de

them And he-wished that-the count Richard might-war the viscount of

Lemotges e que'l vescoms si defendes proosamen. —

Limoges and that-the viscount himself might-defend valiantly

E d'aquestas razos si fetz lo sirventes que ditz: «Rassa,

And of-these matters thus he-made the sirventes which says Rassa

tan creis e mont' e poia cela qu'es de totz enjans

so grows and mounts and climbs she who-is of all deceits

voia».

empty

Rassa, tan creis e monta e poia

Rassa so grows and mounts and climbs

cela qu'es de totz enjans voia,

she who-is of all deceits empty

sos pretz a las autras enoia,

her worth to the others vexes

qu'una no-i a que ren i noia,

for-one not-there there-is that anything there harms

que·l vezers de sa beutat loia

for-the seeing of her beauty binds

los pros a sos ops, cui que coia;

the worthy to her uses whom that it-irks

que·lh plus conoissen e·lh melhor

for-the most knowing and-the best

mantenon ades sa lauzor

uphold ever her praise

e la tenon per la genzor,

and her hold as the fairest

qu'ilh sap far tan entieir' onor,

for-she knows to-do so entire honor

no vol mas un sol pregador.

not she-wishes but one single wooer

Rassa, domn' ai qu'es frescha e fina,

Rassa lady I-have who-is fresh and fine

coinda e gaia e mesquina,

comely and gay and slender

pel saur ab color de robina,

hair golden with color of ruby

blancha pe·l cors com flors d'espina,

white through-the body as flower of-thorn

coude mol ab dura tetina,

elbow soft with firm breast

e sembla conil de l'esquina;

and she-resembles rabbit of the-back

a la fina frescha color,

by the fine fresh color

a·l bo pretz et a la lauzor

by-the good worth and by the praise

lieu podon triar la melhor

easily they-can to-choose the best

cilh que si fan conoissedor

those who themselves make judges

de me ves qual part ieu azor.

of me toward which part I adore

Rassa, a·ls rics es orgolhosa

Rassa to-the rich she-is haughty

e fai gran sen a lei de tosa,

and does great sense in manner of maid

que no vol Peitau ni Tolosa

who not wishes Poitou nor Toulouse

ni Bretanha ni Saragosa,

nor Brittany nor Saragossa

anz es de pretz tan enveiosa

rather she-is of worth so desirous

qu'a·ls pros paubres es amorosa;

that-to-the worthy poor she-is loving

puois m'a pres per chastiador,

since me-she-has taken as chastiser

prec li que tenha char s'amor

I-pray to-her that she-hold dear her-love

et am mais un pro vasvassor

and she-love more a worthy vavassor

qu'un comte o duc gualiator

than-a count or duke deceiver

que la tengues a desonor.

who her would-hold to dishonor

Rassa, rics hom que re no dona

Rassa rich man who anything not gives

ni acuolh ni met ni no sona

nor welcomes nor spends and not speaks

e que senes tort ochaisona

and who without wrong accuses

e, qui merce·lh quier, no perdona

and who mercy-to-him asks not pardons

m'enoia, e tota persona

me-vexes and every person

que servizi no guizerdona;

who service not requites

e li ric home chassador

and the rich men hunters

m'enoian e·lh buzacador

me-vex and-the buzzard-keepers

gaban de volada d'austor,

boasting of flight of-goshawk

ni ja mais d'armas ni d'amor

and ever more of-arms nor of-love

no parlaran mot entre lor.

not they-will-speak word among them

Rassa, aisso-us prec que vos plassa:

Rassa this-to-you I-pray that to-you it-please

rics hom que de guerra no's lassa

rich man who of war not-himself wearies

ni no s'en recre per menassa,

and not himself-thence gives-up for threat

tro qu'om si lais que mal no·lh fassa,

until that-one himself leave that ill not-to-him be-do

val mais que ribieira ni chassa,

is-worth more than fowling or hunting

que bo pretz n'acuolh e n'abrassa;

for good worth of-it-be-gathers and of-it-embraces

Maurin ab n'Aigar, so senhor,

Maurin with Sir-Aigar his lord

te hom per bo envazidor,

holds one as good assailant

e·l vescoms defenda s'onor,

and-the viscount let-him-defend his-honor

e·l coms deman la·lh per vigor,

and-the count let-him-claim it-from-him by force

e veiam l'ades a·l pascor.

and let-us-see it-at-once at-the springtime

Mariniers, vos avetz honor,

Mariner you you-have honor

e nos avem chamjat senhor

and we have changed lord

bo guerrier per torneiador,

good warrior for tourneyer

e prec a'n Golfier de la Tor,

and I-pray to-Sir Golfier of — Lastours

mos chantars no·lh fassa paor.

my singing not-to-him may-cause fear

Papiols, mon chantar recor

Papiol my song recite

en la cort mo mal Bel Senhor.

in the court (of-)my ill Fair Lord

Ai! Lemozis, francha terra cortesa

29 · AH, LIMOUSIN, NOBLE AND COURTEOUS LAND

The razo tells how Maeut of Montanhac dismissed Bertran and accused him of loving Guischarda, wife of the viscount of Comborn, a Burgundian lady of great beauty and breeding whom he had praised before he ever saw her. These two stanzas are his welcome to her: joy and worth and delight and courtesy are coming into the Limousin, and a man who paints himself a lover should look to the works by which a lady is to be sought — gifts, service, outfitting, largesse, arms, courts, wars, and tourneys.

Bertrans de Born si era drutz de ma domna Maeut de
Bertran of Born thus was lover of my lady Maeut of
Montanhac, de la molher de Talairan, que era aitals domna
Montanhac of the wife of Talairan who was such lady
com vos ai dich en la razo de·l sirventes de «la domna
as to-you I-have said in the matter of-the sirventes of the lady
soisseubuda». E si com ieu vos dis, ela·l partit de
borrowed And just as I to-you said she-him parted from
se e det li comjat et encusava lo de ma domna
herself and gave to-him leave and accused him of my lady
Guischarda, de la molher de·l vescomte de Comborn, d'una
Guischarda of the wife of-the viscount of Comborn of-a
valen domna, que fo de Borgonha, sor d'en Guischart
worthy lady who was of Burgundy sister of-Sir Guischart
de Beljoc. Avinens domna et ensenhada era, complida
of Beaujeu Pleasing lady and schooled she-was complete
de totas beutatz; si la lauzava fort en comtan et en
of all beauties thus her praised greatly in telling and in
chantan Bertrans. Enanz qu'el la vis, era sos amics per
singing Bertran Before that-he her saw he-was her friend for

lo be qu'el auzit d'ela, et enanz qu'ela fos venguda a
the good which-he heard of-her and before that-she were come to
 marit a'l vescomte de Comborn, e per l'alegreza qu'el
husband to-the viscount of Comborn and for the-gladness which-he
 ac de la soa venguda si fetz aquestas coblas que
had of the her coming thus he-made these stanzas which
 dizon:

say

Ai! Lemozis, francha terra cortesa,
Ab Limousin noble land courteous
 mout mi sap bo quar tals honors vos creis,
much to-me it-tastes good for such honor to-you grows
 que jois e pretz e deportz e gaiesa,
that joy and worth and delight and gaiety
 cortesia e solatz e domneis
courtesy and cheer and wooing
 s'en ve a nos, o'l cors estet anceis;
itself-thence comes to us where-the heart stood before
 be's deu guardar qui a drutz si depeis,
well-himself must to-guard who as lover himself paints
 per quals obras deu domna esser quesa.
by what works must lady to-be sought

Dos e servirs e guarnirs e larguesa

Gifts and services and outfittings and largesse

noiris amors, com fai l'aiga los peis,

nourishes love as does the-water the fishes

ensenhemens e valors e proesa,

schooling and merit and prowess

armas e cortz e guerras e torneis;

arms and courts and wars and tourneys

e, qui pros es ni de proeza's feis,

and who worthy is or of prowess-himself feigns

mal estara, s'aoras no pareis,

ill it-will-stand if-now not be-appears

puois na Guischarda nos es sai tramesa.

since Lady Guischarda to-us is here sent

E per aquesta domna Guischarda si'l partit de

And for this lady Guischarda thus-him parted from

se ma domna Maeuz, qu'ela crezia qu'el li volgues

herself my lady Maeut for-she believed that-he to-her wished

mielhs que ad ela, e qu'ela li fezes amor. E per

better than to her and that-she to-him showed love And for

aquest departimen el fetz «la domna soisseubuda» e'l

this parting he made the lady borrowed and-the

sirventes que ditz: «Ieu m'escondisc, domna, que mal no

sirventes which says I excuse-myself lady that ill not

mier».

I-deserve

Cel que chamja bo per melhor

30 • HE WHO CHANGES GOOD FOR BETTER

He who exchanges good for better is worth the more for it, and Bertran means to serve the Best so well that she may turn him to hope from the grief of the lady who wronged him and meant to kill him. Better-than-good has come to the Limousin, and no lady could hold all the good a man can see in her; her joy makes the sad laugh, and her courtiers go away from her longing. She has promised him her love when she wants a knight, and will take the man who best knows how to be worth something.

Cel que chamja bo per melhor,

He who changes good for better

si·l mielhs pren, be deu mais valer,

if-the best he-take well be-must more to-be-worth

qu'ieu ai cor, e dieus do·m poder,

that-I have heart and God give-me power

que tan serva·l Mielhs et azor

that so I-serve-the Best and adore

que de l'ira e de la dolor

that of the-grief and of the pain

o·m mes cilh que·m degra valer,

where-me put she who-to-me ought to-avail

que·m trãit e cujet m'aucire,

who-me betrayed and thought me-to-kill

plassa·lh que·m torn en bo esper;

may-it-please-to-her that-me I-turn into good hope

qu'enves me no·s pot escondire,

for-toward me not-herself she-can to-excuse

qu'a·l sieu tort no·m dones lezer.

that-at-the her wrong not-to-me she-give respite

Lemozi, be vos deu plazer

Limousin well to-you must to-please

qu'ara·us es vengutz Mielhs-de-be;

that-now-to-you is come Better-than-good

tan com mars clau ni terra te

so-much as sea encloses or land holds

non a domna on puoscha chaber

not there-is lady where she-might to-fit

lo bes qu'om pot en lieis vezet;

the good which-one can in her to-see

no·i a joi qui de lieis no·l te,

not-there there-is joy who of her not-it holds

qu'ela sap tan gen far e dire

for-she knows so nobly to-do and to-say

tot so qu'a bo pretz aperte

all that which-to good worth belongs

qu'ab son joi fai los iratz rire,

that-with her joy she-makes the sad to-laugh

tan avinenmen si chapte.

so becomingly herself she-bears

Aquesta vos dic que mante

This-one to-you I-say that upholds

pretz e joi, tan ama·n honor,

worth and joy so-much she-loves-thereof honor

joven e solatz et amor
youth and cheer and love
 et acuelh, dona e rete
and welcomes gives and keeps
 grat de totz cels que si conve;
thanks of all those whom thus it-befits
 per que tuit siei corteiador
for which all her courtiers
 parton denan lieis ab desire,
part before her with longing
 tan lor a sos vezers sabor;
so-much to-them has her seeing savor
 qu'om no la ve que no consire
that-one not her sees who not considers
 qu'anc de sos uolhs no vi genzor.
that-ever of his eyes not he-saw fairer

Et a'm convenguda s'amor,
And she-to-me-has promised her-love
 quan volra chavalier aver;
when she-will-wish knight to-have
 que cel que mais sabra valer
for he who most will-know to-be-worth
 sofrira per entendedor;
she-will-suffer as suitor
 et er be malvatz qui no cor
and he-will-be well wicked who not runs
 a'l cors on hom met tan d'aver;
to-the body where one puts so of-wealth

que·l mielhs qu'om puosch' e·l mon eslire

for-the best which-one can in-the world to-choose

pot guazanhar e conquerer,

he-can to-gain and to-conquer

s'es larcs et adrechs e servire

if-he-is generous and upright and serving

e sap far e dire plazer.

and he-knows to-do and to-say pleasure

Guilhelme Bertran, fai saber

Guilhem Bertran make to-know

per tot aquest dir de part me,

through all this saying on part of-me

e qui pros er esforze·n se,

and who worthy will-be let-him-exert-therein himself

paubre e ric, segon poder,

poor and rich according-to power

qu'ela volra son dich tener,

that-she will-wish her word to-keep

que cel on mais veira de be

for he in-whom most she-will-see of good

n'aura guizerdo ses desdire,

of-it-will-have reward without refusal

(lacuna)

Qu'en tal luoc vol son joi assire

For-in such place she-wishes her joy to-set

(lacuna)

Guilhelme, a Torena vai dire

Guilhem at Turenne go to-say

a·n Bos, que·s chaptenha tan be

to-Sir Bos that-himself he-bear so well

qu'om puoscha d'uai enan eslire

that-one may from-today onward to-choose

que amors de son joi l'estre.

that love of his joy him-shape

Ieu m'escondisc, domna, que mal no mier

31 · I CLEAR MYSELF, LADY

An escondich, a song of denial. Bertran swears he has not deserved what the slanderers told his lady, and stakes a chain of forfeits on it: may he lose his sparrowhawk at the first cast, may his strength fail him when the two of them are alone, may he never win a penny at the board, may his lady leave him for another knight and the wind fail him at sea. He ends by asking whether a man with a good goshawk would want a poor one instead, and turns on the slanderers who carried the tale.

Ieu m'escondisc, domna, que mal no mier,

I excuse-myself lady that ill not I-deserve

de so que·us an de me dich lauzengier;

of that which-to-you have of me said slanderers

per merce·us prec qu'om no puoscha mesclar

by mercy-to-you I-pray that-one not may to-embroil

lo vostre cors fi, leial, vertadier,

the your body true loyal truthful

humil e franc, cortes e plazentier

humble and noble courteous and pleasing

ab me, domna, per menzonjas comtar.

with me lady through lies to-tell

A·l premier get perd' ieu mon esparvier,

At-the first cast may-lose I my sparrowhawk

que·l m'aucian e·l ponh falco lanier

that-it for-me-kill on-the fist falcon lanner

e porten l'en, qu'ieu·l lor veia plumar,

and let-them-carry it-thence that-I-it to-them may-see to-pluck

s'ieu non am mais de vos lo consirier
if-I not love more of you the thinking
 que de nul' outra aver lo desirier
than of any other to-have the desiring
 que·m do s'amor ni·m retenha a·l colgar.
that-to-me she-give her-love or-me she-keep at-the bedding

Autr' escondich vos farai plus sobrier,
Other excuse to-you I-shall-make more excessive
 e no mi puosc orar plus d'encombrier:
and not myself I-can to-pray more of-barm
 s'ieu anc falhi ves vos neis de·l pensar,
if-I ever failed toward you even in-the thinking
 quan serem sol en chambra o dintz vergier,
when we-shall-be alone in chamber or within orchard
 falha·m poders debes mon companhier
let-fail-to-me power toward my companion
 de tal guisa que no·m puoscha ajudar.
of such wise that not-me it-can to-help

S'ieu per jogar m'asset pres de·l taulier,
If-I for to-play myself-seat near of-the gaming-board
 ja no·i puoscha baratar un denier
ever not-there I-may to-win a penny
 ni ab taula presa no puoscha entrar,
and with board taken not I-may to-enter
 anz get ades lo reirazar derier,
rather may-I-throw always the back-losing-throw last

s'ieu outra domna deman ni enquier

if-I other lady I-ask or seek

mas vos, cui am e desir e tenh char.

but you whom I-love and desire and bold dear

Senher sia ieu de chastel parzonier,

Lord may-be I of castle sbarer

et en la tor s'iam quatre parier,

and in the tower let-us-be four peers

e ja l'us l'autre no·ns poscham amar,

and ever the-one the-other not-us may-we to-love

anz m'aian ops totz temps arbalestier,

rather me-let-there-be need all time crossbowmen

metg' e sirven e guachas e portier,

physician and sergeant and watchmen and porter

s'ieu anc aic cor d'otra domna amar.

if-I ever had heart of-other lady to-love

Ma domna·m lais per autre chavalier,

My lady-me let-leave for other knight

e puois no sai a que m'aia mestier,

and then not I-know to what me-is need

e falha·m vens, quan serai sobre mar,

and let-fail-to-me wind when I-shall-be upon sea

en cort de rei mi batan li portier,

in court of king me let-beat the porters

et en cocha fassa·l fugir primier,
and in rout let-me-make-the fleeing first
 si no mentit cel que·us anet comtar.
if not lied he who-to-you went to-tell

Domna, s'ieu ai mon auctor anedier
Lady if-I have my goshawk duck-hunting
 bel e mudat, be prenden e maisnier,
fair and mewed well seizing and tame
 que tot auzel puoscha apoderar,
which every bird can to-master
 cinh' e grua et aigro blanc e nier,
swan and crane and heron white and black
 volrai lo donc mal mudat, galinier,
shall-I-wish it then ill mewed hen-hunting
 gras, debaten, que no puoscha volar?
fat flapping which not can to-fly

Fals, enveios, fementit lauzengier,
False envious perjured slanderer
 puis ab mi dons m'avetz mes destorbier,
since with my lady me-you-have put hindrance
 be lauzera que·m laissassetz estar.
well I-would-advise that-me you-would-let to-stay

Domna, puois de me no-us chal

32 · LADY, SINCE YOU CARE NOTHING FOR ME

The razo of the borrowed lady, and the song it introduces. Maeut of Montanhac has dismissed him, and finding no woman her equal, Bertran sets out to assemble one from the best ladies he knows: fresh color and a loving glance from Cembelis, jesting speech from Lady Elis, throat and hands from the viscountess of Chalais, Agnes' hair, Audiart's features, Better-than-good's body, Faidida's teeth, gaiety and stature from Fair Mirror. He asks only that he may want the made lady as much as he wants his Fair Lord.

Bertrans de Born si era drutz d'una domna gentil e jove e
Bertran of Born thus was lover of-a lady gentle and young and
fort prezada, et avia nom ma domna Maeuz de Montanhac,
greatly prized and she-had name my lady Maeut of Montanhac
molher d'en Talairan, qu'era fraire de-l comte de Peiregorc, et
wife of-Sir Talairan who-was brother of-the count of Périgord and
ela era filha de-l vescomte de Torena e sor de ma domna
she was daughter of-the viscount of Turenne and sister of my lady
Maria de Ventadorn e de n'Elis de Monfort. E, segon
Maria of Ventadorn and of Lady-Elis of Montfort And according
qu'el dis en son chantar, ela-l partit de se e-lh det
as-he says in his song she-him parted from herself and-to-him gave
comjat, don el fo mout tristz et iratz e fetz razo que
leave whereby he was much sad and angered and made reckoning that
ja mais no la cobraria ni outra no trobava que fos tan
ever more not her he-would-recover and another not he-found who were so
bela ni tan bona ni tan plazens ni tan ensenhada. E penset,
fair or so good or so pleasing or so schooled And he-thought
puois qu'el no-n poiria cobrar neguna que pogues esser
since that-he not-of-it would-be-able to-recover any who might to-be

engals a la soa domna, qu'el en fezes una en aital guisa
equal to the his lady that-be of-it should-make one in such wise
 qu'el soisseubes de las autras bonas domnas e belas de
that-be might-borrow of the other good ladies and fair of
 chascuna una beutat o un bel semblan o un bel acollhimen
each-one a beauty or a fair seeming or a fair welcoming
 o un avinen parlar o un bel chaptenemen o un bel gran o
or a pleasing speech or a fair bearing or a fair stature or
 un bel talh de persona; et enaissi el anet queren a totas
a fair shape of person and thus he went seeking to all
 las bonas domnas que chascuna li dones un d'aquestz
the good ladies that each-one to-him should-give one of-these
 dos que m'avetz auzit nomar per restaurar la soa domna,
gifts which me-you-have heard to-name for to-restore the his lady
 qu'avia perduda. Et e·l sirventes qu'el fetz d'aquesta razo
whom-be-had lost And in-the sirventes which-be made of-this matter
 vos auziretz nomar totas las domnas a las quals el anet
you you-will-bear to-name all the ladies to the whom he went
 querre socors et ajuda a far la domna soisseubuda. E·l
to-seek succor and aid to to-make the lady borrowed And-the
 sirventes qu'el fetz d'aquesta razo si comenza: «Domna
sirventes which-be made of-this matter thus begins Lady
 puis de me no·us chal e partit m'avetz de vos.»
since of me not-to-you it-matters and parted you-have-me from you

Domna, puois de me no·us chal

Lady since of me not-to-you it-matters

e partit m'avetz de vos

and parted you-have-me from you

senes totas ochaisos,

without any grounds

no sai on m'enqueira;

not I-know where I-should-see

que ja mais

that ever more

non er per me tan rics jais

not will-be through me so rich joy

cobratz; e, si de·l semblan

regained and if of-the seeming

no trop domna a mon talan

not I-find lady to my liking

que valha vos qu'ai perduda,

who be-worth you whom-I-have lost

ja mais no vuolh aver druda.

ever more not I-wish to-have mistress

Puois no·us puosc trobar engal,

Since not-you I-can to-find equal

que fos tan bela ni pros,

who were so fair or worthy

ni sos rics cors tan joios,

nor her rich body so joyous

de tan bela tieira

of so fair bearing

ni tan gais

or so gay

ni sos rics pretz tan verais:

nor her rich worth so true

irai per tot achaptan

I-shall-go through all begging

de chascuna un bel semblan

of each-one a fair seeming

per far domna soisseubuda,

for to-make lady borrowed

tro vos mi siatz renduda.

until you to-me you-be restored

Frescha color natural

Fresh color natural

pren, bels Cembelis, de vos

I-take fair Cembelis of you

e·l doutz esguart amoros

and-the sweet glance loving

e fatz gran sobrieira

and I-do great excess

quar re·i lais,

for anything-there I-leave

qu'anc res de be no·us sofrais;

that-ever anything of good not-to-you failed

mi dons na Elis deman

my lady Lady Elis I-ask

son adrech parlar gaban,

her apt speech jesting

que·m do a mi dons aiuda,

that-to-me she-give to my lady aid

puois non er fada ni muda.

so-that not she-will-be foolish nor mute

De Chales la vescomtal

Of Chalais the viscountess

vuolh que·m done ad estros

I-wish that-to-me she-give at once

la gola e·ls mas amdos;

the throat and-the hands both

puois tenh ma charrieira,

then I-hold my road

no·m biais,

not-me I-swerve

ves Rochachoart m'eslais

toward Rochechouart myself-I-dart

a·ls pels n'Anhes que·m dara·n;

to-the hairs of-Lady-Agnes which-to-me she-will-give-of-them

qu' Iseutz, la domna Tristan,

for Iseut the lady of-Tristan

qu'en fo per totz mentauguda,

who-of-it was by all renowned

no·ls ac tan bels a saubuda.

not-them had so fair to knowledge

N'Audiartz, si be·m vol mal,

Lady-Audiart though well-me she-wishes ill

vuolh que·m do de sas faissos,

I-wish that-to-me she-give of her features

que·lh estai gen liazos,

for-to-her stands nobly lacing

e quar es entieira,

and because she-is entire

qu'anc no·s frais

that-ever not-itself it-broke

s'amors ni·s vols en biais;

her-love nor-itself it-turned in slant

a mo Mielhs-de-be deman

of my Better-than-good I-ask

son adrech, nuou cors prezan,

her apt new body prized

de que par a la veguda,

of which it-appears at the sight

la fassa bo tener nuda.

her it-would-make good to-bold naked

De na Faiddid' autretal

Of Lady Faiddida likewise

vuolh sas belas dens en dos,

I-wish her fair teeth in gift

l'acohir e·l gen respos

the-welcoming and-the noble answer

don es presentieira

whereof she-is bountiful

dintz son ais;

within her dwelling

mos Bels Miralhs vuolh que·m lais

my Fair Mirror I-wish that-to-me she-leave

sa gaieza e son bel gran,

her gaiety and her fair stature

e quar sap son benestan

and because she-knows her seemliness

far, don es reconoguda,

to-do whereby she-is acknowledged

e no·s chambia ni·s muda.

and not-herself she-changes nor-herself alters

Bels Senher, ieu no·us quier al

Fair Lord I not-of-you ask anything-else

mas que fos tan cobeitos

but that I-were so covetous

d'aquesta com sui de vos;

of-this as I-am of you

qu'una lechadieira

that-a greedy

amors nais,

love is-born

don mos cors es tan lechais,

whence my heart is so greedy

mais vuolh de vos lo deman

more I-wish of you the asking

que outra tener baisan;

than another to-hold kissing

doncs mi dons per que·m refuda,

therefore my lady for what me-she-refuses

puois sap que tan l'ai volguda?

since she-knows that so-much her-I-have wished

Papiols, mon Aziman

Papiol my Magnet

m'anaras dir en chantan

me-you-shall-go to-say in singing

qu'amors es desconoguda

that-love is unacknowledged

sai e d'aut bas chazeguda.

here and from-high low fallen

S'abril e fuolhas e flors

33 • IF APRIL AND LEAVES AND FLOWERS

The razo tells how Bertran, dismissed by Maeut, went to Saintonge to Tibors of Montausier, and what she answered: she would not take him as knight and servitor until she knew whose the fault was, but she would undertake to make the peace. Maeut then took him back and told him to take leave of Tibors; the song does so, then turns on the rich — those who want praise without giving, the warriors who cannot keep themselves without engineers, the builders of towers and vaults, the hunters, and the tourneyers who follow pledged tourneys to take their own vavasors.

Bertrans de Born si fo acomjadatz de soa domna, ma
Bertran of Born thus was dismissed by his lady my
domna Maeut de Montanhac, e no·lh tenc pro sacramens
lady Maeut of Montanhac and not-to-him held profit oaths
ni esdichs qu'el fezes en comtan ni en chantan qu'ela
nor disclaimers which-he made in telling or in singing that-she
volgues creire qu'el non ames na Guischarda. E si
might-wish to-believe that-he not loved Lady Guischarda And thus
s'en anet en Saintonge vezer ma domna na Tiborc
himself-thence he-went into Saintonge to-see my lady Lady Tibors
de Montausier, qu'era de las plus prezadas domnas que
of Montausier who-was of the most prized ladies who
fossen e·l mon, de beutat e de valor e d'ensenhamen.
were in-the world of beauty and of merit and of-breeding
Et aquesta domna era molher de·l senhor de Chales e
And this lady was wife of-the lord of Chalais and
de Berbesil e de Montausier. E·n Bertrans si·lh fetz
of Barbezieux and of Montausier and-Sir Bertran thus-to-her made
reclam de ma domna Maeut que l'avía partit de se e
complaint of my lady Maeut who him-had parted from herself and

no·l volia creire per sacramen ni per esdich que li
not-him wished to-believe by oath nor by disclaimer which to-her
fezes qu'el no volgues ben a na Guischarda. E si la
he-made that-he not wished well to Lady Guischarda And thus her
preguet qu'ela·l degues recebre per chavalier e per servidor.
he-begged that-she-him should to-receive as knight and as servitor
Ma domna na Tibors, com savia domna qu'ela era, si·lh
My lady Lady Tibors as wise lady that-she was thus-to-him
respondet enaissi: «Bertrans, per la razo que vos etz
answered in-this-way Bertran for the matter for-which you are
vengutz sai a me, ieu en sui mout alegra e gaia e tenh
come here to me I of-it am much glad and gay and I-hold
m'o a gran honor, e d'autra part si mi desplatx: ad
it-to-me as great honor and of-other part thus to-me it-displeases to
honor m'o tenh, quar vos m'etz vengutz vezer ni pregar
honor it-to-me I-hold because you to-me-are come to-see and to-beg
qu'ieu vos prenda per chavalier e per servidor, e desplatx
that-I you take as knight and as servitor and it-displeases
mi mout, si vos avetz fach ni dich so per que ma domna
to-me much if you you-have done or said that for which my lady
Maeuz vos aia dat comjat ni per que sia irada ab vos.
Maeut to-you has given leave or for which she-be angered with you
Mas ieu sui aquela que sai be com si chambja tost cors
But I am she who I-know well how itself changes soon heart
d'amadors e d'amairitz. E si vos non avetz falhit ves
of-lovers and of-women-lovers And if you not you-have failed toward
ma domna Maeut, tost en sabrai la vertat; e si vos
my lady Maeut soon of-it I-shall-know the truth and thus you
retornarai en la soa gracia, s'enaissi es. E si en vos es lo
I-shall-return into the her grace if-thus it-is And if in you is the

falhimens, ieu ni outra domna no·us deu mais acolhir ni
fault I or other lady not-you must more to-welcome nor
 recebre per chavalier ni per servidor. Mas ieu farai ben
to-receive as knight nor as servitor But I shall-do indeed
 aitan qu'ieu vos penrai a mantener et a far lo concordi
so-much that-I you I-shall-take to to-uphold and to to-make the concord
 entre vos et ela.» Bertrans si s'en tenc mout per
between you and her Bertran thus himself-thence held much as
 pagatz de la responsio de ma domna na Tiborc e promes
satisfied of the answer of my lady Lady Tibors and promised
 li qu'el non amara mais outra domna ni servira si
to-her that-he not would-love more other lady nor would-serve if
 no ma domna na Tiborc, si chausa era qu'el no pogues
not my lady Lady Tibors if thing it-were that-he not might
 recobrar l'amor de ma domna Maeut. E ma domna na
to-recover the-love of my lady Maeut And my lady Lady
 Tibors promes a·n Bertran, s'ela no·l podia acordar ab
Tibors promised to-Sir Bertran if-she not-him could to-accord with
 ma domna Maeut, qu'ela·l recebria per chavalier e per
my lady Maeut that-she-him would-receive as knight and as
 servidor. E non anet longa sazoz, que ma domna Maeuz
servitor And not went long season that my lady Maeut
 saup qu'en Bertrans non avia colpa, et escoutet los precz
learned that-Sir Bertran not had fault and she-listened-to the prayers
 que·lh eran fach per en Bertran e si·l tornet en
which-to-her were made by Sir Bertran and thus-him she-returned into
 gracia de vezer lo e d'auzir sos precz. Et el li comtet
grace of to-see him and of-to-hear his prayers And he to-her recounted
 e·lh dis lo mantenemen que·lh avia fach ma domna
and-to-her said the upholding which-to-him had done my lady

na Tibors e la promessio qu'ela avia fach' ad el. Don
Lady Tibors and the promise which-she had made to him Whereby
 ma domna Maeuz li dis qu'el preses comjat de ma domna
my lady Maeut to-him said that-he take leave of my lady
 na Tiborc e que's fezes absolver las promessios e'ls
Lady Tibors and that-himself he-make to-absolve the promises and-the
 sacramens que ilh avian fachs entre lor. Don Bertrans
oaths which they had made between them Whereby Bertran
 de Born fetz aquest sirventes: «S'abrils e fuolhas e flors.»
of Born made this sirventes If-April and leaves and flowers
 E si recordet lo socors qu' Janet a demandar a ma
And thus he-recalled the succor which-he-went to to-ask of my
 domna na Tiborc e l'acollimen qu'ela li fetz dintz son
lady Lady Tibors and the-welcome which-she to-him made within her
 repaire en una cobla que dis: «Domna, s'ieu quisi socors.»
dwelling in a stanza which said Lady if-I sought succor
 Et en las autras coblas blasmet los rics baros que ses
And in the other stanzas he-blamed the rich barons who without
 donar, per paor volian pretz aver e cujavan qu'om non auses
to-give for fear wished worth to-have and thought that-one not dared
 retraire los mals que ilh fazian; et autres que basten volian
to-recount the ills which they did and others who building wished
 si far parer rics, autres per tener chas et austors; et
themselves to-make to-seem rich others for to-keep dogs and gosbawks and
 autres que per guerreiar laissavan joi e joven et amor, et
others who for to-war left joy and youth and love and
 autres per los grans guazanh's que fazian a'ls torneiamens
others for the great gains which they-made at-the tourneys

on raubavan los paubres chavaliers e laissavan los grans
where they-robbed the poor knights and they-left the great
 fachs d'onor. E d'aquestas razos fetz aquest sirventes:
deeds of-honor And of-these matters he-made this sirventes

S'abril e fuolhas e flors
If-April and leaves and flowers
 e·lh bel mati e·lh clar ser
and-the fair mornings and-the clear evenings
 d'un ric joi cui ieu esper
of-a rich joy which I await
 no m'aiudan et amors,
not me-help and love
 e·lh rossinholet qu'auch braire
and-the little-nightingale whom-I-hear to-cry
 e·l nuous temps vertz e grazitz
and-the new season green and welcome
 que·ns adutz jois e doussors
which-us brings joys and sweetnesses
 e·l coindes pascors floritz
and-the comely springtide flowered
 mi dons son ardit no creis,
my lady her boldness not increases
 e no·lh merma l'espavens:
and not-to-her lessens the-fear
 tart m'en venra jauzimens.
late to-me-of-it will-come rejoicing

Domna, s'ieu quisi socors

Lady if-I sought succor

alhors, non ho fis en ver,

elsewhere not it I-did in truth

e ve·us m'a·l vostre plazer,

and behold-you me-at-the your pleasure

me e mos chans e mas tors;

me and my songs and my towers

e pren comjat de·l repaire

and I-take leave of-the dwelling

on tan gen fui acolhitz,

where so nobly I-was welcomed

on nais jois, sens e valors;

where is-born joy sense and merit

e cel que mante faiditz

and he who upholds exiles

per honor de se mezeis,

for honor of him himself

quan fai bos acordamens,

when he-makes good accords

a sols los afiamens.

has alone the pledges

Vostre reptars m'es sabors,
Your reproaching to-me-is savor
 ric, quar cujatz tan valer
rich-man for you-think so to-be-worth
 que ses donar, per temer
that without to-give through to-fear
 volriatz aver lauzors
you-would-wish to-have praises
 e qu'om no·us auses retraire,
and that-one not-you dared to-recount
 quan us fai que deschausitz;
when one acts as discourteous
 mas semblaria paors,
but it-would-seem fear
 si n'era per me cobritz
if of-it-were by me covered
 coms ni vescoms, ducs ni reis;
count or viscount duke or king
 mas faitz vostres fachs tan gens
but do-you your deeds so nobly
 que·us en sega dichs valens.
that-you of-it follow words worthy

Us n'i a guerreiadors,
Some of-them there-are warriors
 que an de mal far lezer
who have of ill to-do leisure
 e no's sabon chaptener
and not-themselves know to-govern
 nul temps ses enginhadors,
any time without engineers
 tan aman lanzar e traire;
so they-love to-hurl and to-shoot
 e vei los totz temps guarnitz
and I-see them all time armed
 coma Vivia de cors;
like Vivian of body
 per qu'ieu no lor sui aisitz,
for which-I not to-them am at-ease
 qu'anc a bo pretz non ateis
that-ever to good worth not attained
 rics hom, si jois e jovens
rich man if joy and youth
 e dars no l'en fo guirens.
and giving not to-him-of-it was warrant

D'autres n'i a bastidors,

Of-others of-them there-are builders

rics homes de gran poder

rich men of great power

que sabon terra tener

who know land to-hold

e fan portals e bestors

and make portals and turrets

de chauz e d'arena ab quaire

of lime and of-sand with squared-stone

e fan tors, voutas e vitz;

and make towers vaults and stairs

e vei los bos manjadors,

and I-see them good eaters

e·n fan lor dos plus petitz,

and-of-it they-make their gifts more small

e ges bos pretz no lor creis,

and at-all good worth not to-them grows

quar aitals chaptenemens

for such conduct

no val mest las bonas gens.

not is-worth among the good folk

D'autres n'i a chassadors

Of-others of-them there-are hunters

per la costuma tener,

for the custom to-keep

que·s fan ric home parer,

who-themselves make rich men to-seem

quar aman chas et austors

because they-love dogs and goshawks

e corn e tabor e laire,

and horn and drum and lure

qu'es lor pretz tan frevolitz

so-that-is their worth so feeble

et an tan pauc de valors

and they-have so little of merit

e lor poders tan freizitz

and their powers so sbrunk

que res mas bestia o peis

that anything but beast or fish

no lor es obediens

not to-them is obedient

ni fai lor comandamens.

nor does their commands

Ges de·ls rics torneiadors,

At-all of-the rich tourneyers

si tot si guastan l'aver,

though wholly themselves they-waste the-wealth

no·m pot us a·l cor plazer,

not-to-me can one at-the heart to-please

tan los trop gualiadors;

so-much them I-find deceivers

rics hom que per aver traire

rich man who for wealth to-draw

sec torneiamens plevitz,

follows tourneys pledged

per penre sos vasvassors,

for to-take his vavassors

no l'es honors ni arditz;

not to-him-is honor nor boldness

mas els non estrenh correis,

but them not tightens (the)-belt

sol qu'ab els s'en an l'argens,

only that-with them itself-thence go the-silver

s'om puois s'en es mal dizens.

if-one then himself-of-it is ill speaking

Ric home vuolh qu'ab amors

Rich men I-wish that-with love

sapchan chavaliers aver

they-know knights to-have

e que·ls sapchan retener

and that-them they-know to-retain

ab befach et ab honors

with benefit and with honors

e qu'om los trop ses tort faire,

and that-one them find without wrong to-do

francs e cortes e chausitz

noble and courteous and discerning

e larcs e bos donadors,

and generous and good givers

qu'aissi fo pretz establitz

for-thus was worth established

qu'om guerreies ab torneis,

that-one should-war with tourneys

e quaresmas et avens

and Lents and Advents

fessen soudadiers manens.

they-should-make soldiers wealthy

N'Atempre, jois m'es cobitz,

Sir-Temperate joy to-me-is coveted

qu'ieu n'ai mais que s'era reis;

that-I of-it-have more than if-I-were king

que'l fels mesclatz ab aissens

for-the gall mingled with wormwood

m'es endevengutz pimens.

to-me-is become spiced-wine

Papiols, s'est tan arditz,

Papiol if-you-are so bold

pren mon chan e vai ab eis

take my song and go with it

a n'Oc e No, quar presens

to Sir-Yes and No for presents

li fatz de maintz dichs cozens.

to-him I-make of many words biting

Chazutz sui de mal en pena

34 • I AM FALLEN FROM ILL INTO PAIN

He is fallen from ill into pain, for he goes where his heart leads and will never be unloaded of that burden. A gay, smooth Lena drew him with a sidelong glance, and it is he who has kept the long Lent, though he says he has now reached the Thursday of the Supper; he will die if she does not favor him with a sweet kiss. No court is complete where nobody jests or laughs, and a court without gifts is only a park of barons. Nothing in her beauty deceives, her throat makes the night look like day, and he is pensive for her night and day in Normandy.

Chazutz sui de mal en pena,

Fallen I-am from ill into pain

quar vau lai o'l cors mi mena,

for I-go there where-the heart me leads

don ja mais

whence ever more

no-m descargarai de'l fais;

not-me I-shall-unload of-the burden

quar mes m'a en tal chadena

for put me-has in such chain

don malha no's deschadena,

whereof mesh not-itself unchains

quar m'atrais

for me-she-drew

ab un esguart de biais

with a glance of slant

una gaia, lisa Lena;

a gay smooth Lena

fach ai longa quarantena,

made I-have long Lent

mas oimais

but henceforth

sui a'l dijous de la Cena.

I-am at-the Thursday of the Supper

Tan es d'amorosa mena

So she-is of-amorous kind

que morrai, si no m'estrena

that I-shall-die if not me-she-favors

d'un doutz bais,

of-a sweet kiss

mas en trop d'orguolh m'eslais:

but into too-much of-pride myself-I-dart

de tota beutat terrena

of all beauty earthly

an pretz las tres de Torena

have worth the three of Turenne

fis, verais;

pure truthful

mas ilh n'a sobre lor mais

but she of-it-has above them more

tan quan fis aurs sobr' arena,

so-much as pure gold above sand

qu'ieu no vuolh aver Ravena

that-I not wish to-have Ravenna

ni Roais

nor Edessa

ses cujar qu'ela-m retena.

without to-think that-she-me keeps

Ja mais non er cortz complia

Ever more not will-be court complete

on hom no gap ni no ria,

where one not jests and not laughs

cortz ses dos

court without gifts

non es mas parcs de baros;

not is but park of barons

et agra·m mort ses falia

and would-have-me killed without fail

l'enuois e la vilania

the-vexation and the churlishness

d'Argentos,

of-Argentan

ma·l gentils cors amors

but-the gentle body loving

e la doussa chara pia

and the sweet face kindly

e la bona companhia

and the good company

e·l respos

and-the answer

de la Saissa·m defendia.

of the Saissa-me defended

Ren en beutat no gualia

Anything in beauty not deceives

ni·n fai nula fantaumia

nor-of-it makes any phantom

lo joios,

the joyous

joves, gens cors amoros,

young noble body loving

e genza, qui la deslia,

and it-grows-fairer whoever it unbinds

et on hom plus n'ostaria

and where one more of-it-would-remove

guarnizos,

garments

seria·n plus enveios,

he-would-be-of-it more desirous

que la noch fai parer dia

for the night makes to-seem day

la gola, e qui·n vezia

the throat and whoever-of-it saw

plus en jos,

more in below

totz lo mons en genzaria.

all the world of-it would-grow-fairer

Doncs be's tanh qu'amors m'aucia

Therefore well-itself befits that-love me-slay

per la genzor qu'e'l mon sia

for the fairest who-in-the world be

en perdos,

in vain

que, quan remir sas faissos,

for when I-gaze-at her features

conosc que ja non er mia,

I-know that ever not she-will-be mine

que chausir pot, si's volia,

who to-choose can if-herself she-wished

de'ls plus pros

of-the most worthy

chastelas o rics baros;

castellans or rich barons

qu'en lieis es la senhoria

for-in her is the lordship

de pretz e de cortesia,

of worth and of courtesy

de gens dos

of noble gifts

e de far que be l'estia.

and of to-do what well to-her-becomes

Domna, sai en Normandia

Lady here in Normandy

sui per vos la noch e·l dia

I-am for you the night and-the day

apensos,

pensive

que·l vostre gens cors joios

for-the your noble body joyous

mi sembra qu'ades mi ria.

to-me seems that-always to-me it-laughs

Ges de disnar no fora oimais matis

35 · DINNER WOULD BE NO EARLY MATTER

The razo tells how Bertran went to see Richard's sister Eleanor, wife of the duke of Saxony and mother of the emperor Otto, and how Richard seated him beside her. On campaign one winter Sunday past midday, nobody had eaten or drunk, and hunger pressed Bertran into this song. Dinner would be no early matter, he says, for a man with good lodging, meat, bread, and wine. He greets the ladies of the Limousin, praises a young body of high and royal lineage, and says the Roman crown would be honored by that head.

Bertrans de Born si era anatz vezer una seror de-l rei
Bertran of Born thus was gone to-see a sister of-the king
Richart, que fo maire de l'emperador Ot, la quals avia nom
Richard who was mother of the-emperor Otto the who had name
ma domna Eleina, que fo molher de-l duc de Sansonha. Bela
my lady Eleanor who was wife of-the duke of Saxony Fair
domna era e mout cortesa et ensenhada e fazia gran
lady she-was and much courteous and schooled and made great
honor en son acolhimen et en son gen parlar. E-n Richartz,
honor in her welcoming and in her noble speaking and-Sir Richard
qu'era adoncs coms de Peitau, si l'assis lonc sa seror, e
who-was then count of Poitou thus him-seated beside his sister and
si-lh comandet qu'ela-lh disses e-lh fezes plazer
thus-to-her commanded that-she-to-him should-say and-to-him should-do pleasure
e gran honor; et ela, per la gran voluntat qu'ela avia de
and great honor and she through the great will which-she had of
pretz e d'onor, e per so qu'ela sabia qu'en Bertrans era tan
worth and of-honor and for that that-she knew that-Sir Bertran was so
fort preztatz hom e valens e qu'el la podia fort enanzar,
greatly prized man and worthy and that-he her could greatly to-advance

si·lh fetz tan d'onor qu'el s'en tenc fort per pagatz
thus-to-him did so of-honor that-he himself-thence held greatly as paid
 et enamoret si fort de lieis, si qu'el la comenzet lauzar
and enamored himself greatly of her so that-he her began to-praise
 e grazir. — En aquela sazo qu'el l'avía vista, el era ab lo
and to-honor In that season that-he her-had seen he was with the
 comte Richart en una host e·l temps d'invern, et en aquela
count Richard in a host in-the season of-winter and in that
 host avia gran desaise. E quan venc un dia d'una domenga,
host there-was great discomfort And when came one day of-a Sunday
 era be mieis dia passatz, que non avian manjat ni begut.
it-was well mid day passed that not they-had eaten nor drunk
 E la fams lo destrenhia mout, et adoncs fetz aquest
And the hunger him pressed much and then he-made this
 sirventes que dis: «Ges de disnar no fora oïmais matis.»
sirventes which says At-all of to-dine not it-would-be henceforth early

Ges de disnar no fora oïmais matis,
At-all of to-dine not it-would-be henceforth early
 qui agues pres bo hostau,
whoever had taken good lodging
 e fos dedintz la charns e·l pas e·l vis,
and were within the meat and-the bread and-the wine
 e·l fuocs fos clars com de fau;
and-the fire were clear as of beech
 lo plus rics jorns es huoi de la setmana,
the most rich day is today of the week
 e degra m'estar soau,
and I-ought to-me-to-be at-ease

qu'aitan, volgra, volgues mon pro na Lana

that-as-much I-should-wish might-wish my profit Lady Lana

com lo senher de Peitau.

as the lord of Poitou

Per saludar torn entre·ls Lemozis

For to-greet I-turn among-the Limousins

celas que an pretz chabau;

those who have worth chief

mos Bels Senher e mos bels Cembelis

my Fair Lord and my fair Cembelis

queieran oimais qui las lau;

let-them-seek henceforth who them praises

qu'ieu ai trobat de·l mon la plus certana

for-I have found of-the world the most sure

e la genzor qu'om mentau;

and the fairest whom-one names

per que s'amors m'es tan quotidiana

for which her-love to-me-is so daily

qu'a las autras mi fai brau.

that-to the others me it-makes fierce

Gens, joves cors, francs e verais e fis,

Noble young body noble and true and pure

d'aut paratge e de reiau,

of-high lineage and of royal

per vos serai estranhs de mon päis
for you I-shall-be a-stranger from my land
 e·m mudarai part Anjau;
and-myself I-shall-remove beyond Anjou
 e, quar etz tan sobr' autras sobeirana,
and because you-are so above others sovereign
 vostra valors n'es plus au;
your merit of-it-is more high
 qu'onrada n'er la corona romana,
that-honored of-it-will-be the crown Roman
 si·l vostre chaps s'i enclau.
if-the your head itself-in-it encloses

Ab doutz esguar que·m fetz et ab clar vis
With sweet glance which-to-me she-made and with clear face
 mi fetz amors son esclau,
me made love its imprint
 e mos senher m'ac pres de lieis assis
and my lord me-had near of her seated
 sobr' un feutre emperiau,
upon a cushion imperial
 e la paraula fo doussa et humana
and the word was sweet and gracious
 e·lh dich cortes e soau,
and-the sayings courteous and gentle
 e de solatz mi semblet Catalana
and of cheer to-me she-seemed Catalan
 e d'acohir de Fanjau.
and of-welcoming of Fanjeaux

A·l gen parlar que·m fetz et a·l bel ris,
At-the noble speaking which-to-me she-made and at-the fair laugh

quan vi las dens de cristau
when I-saw the teeth of crystal

e·l cors graile, delgat e fresc e lis,
and-the body slender delicate and fresh and smooth

trop ben estan en bliau,
very well standing in tunic

e la colors fo frescha e rosana:
and the color was fresh and rosy

retenc mon cor dintz sa clau;
she-kept my heart within her lock

mais aic de joi que, qui·m des Corrozana,
more I-had of joy than whoever-to-me gave Khorasan

quar a son grat m'en esjau.
for at her pleasure myself-thence I-rejoice

De totas es na Maier sobeirana
Of all is Lady Maier sovereign
 de quan mars e terra clau.
of as-much-as sea and land encloses

BERTRAN DE BORN

Poems of Various Matter



Folheta, vos mi pregatz que ieu chan

36 • FOLHETA, YOU BEG ME TO SING

Folheta has asked for a song, and gets one. Bertran has neither lord nor neighbor he cares to chide in verse, and Folheta holds shame with profit dearer than honor with harm, which is an ill choice. Then the reckoning: the hoarse voice he shouts with, the black body that makes him look a Saracen, the poor words he tells his tales in, the smell of fir and resin and pine about him, like the worthless folk of Savoy, and his foul array. If he will only go away, Bertran will do whatever he asks.

Folheta, vos mi pregatz que ieu chan,

Folheta you me you-beg that I sing

pero non ai ni senhor ni vezi,

yet not I-have nor lord nor neighbor

d'aquest afar aia cor ni talan

of-this business I-may-have heart nor desire

ni vuolha ges qu'en chantan lo chasti,

nor I-may-wish at-all that-in singing him I-chide

mas vos vos tenetz a joia

but you yourself you-hold as joy

anta ab pro mais que honor ab dan

shame with profit more than honor with harm

et avetz mal chausit a'l mieu semblan.

and you-have ill chosen at-the my seeming

La raucha votz, don cridatz en chantan,

The hoarse voice whence you-cry in singing

e'l negre cors, don semblatz Sarazi,

and-the black body whence you-seem Saracen

e·lh paubre mot que dizetz en comtan

and-the poor words which you-say in telling

e quar flairatz sap e gema e pi

and because you-smell fir and resin and pine

com avols gens de Savoia

as worthless folk of Savoy

e quar etz lait guarnitz e mal estan,

and because you-are foully arrayed and ill standing

ab que·us n'anetz, farai vostre coman.

provided that-you thence-go I-shall-do your command

Folheta, ges autres vergiers

37 · FOLHETA, NO OTHER ORCHARD

March and February make no orchard leaf but Folheta, who has come down from the mountain too early, before the heat: Bertran has seen a tree in a hurry killed by the frost. Folheta always leaves his own country with the first, before the flower is in the meadow, and tells tales of the poverty the winter shut him in with. He is advised to take service with Archambaut, the last-born, since the other has given up prowess altogether; and Temperate is told he is too light, like a sparrowhawk that gives up, where Bertran holds on like a bound.

Folheta, ges autres vergiers

Folheta at-all other orchards

no fai folhar martz ni febriers

not makes to-leaf March nor February

mas vos, que vos etz trop cochat,

but you who you you-are too hasty

de montanha sai devalat,

from mountain here come-down

enanz que grans chautz s'abata,

before that great heat itself-fall

qu'ieu ai ja vist albre folhat

that-I have already seen tree leafed

que's cocha, puois gels lo mata.

which-itself hastens then frost it kills

Mas totz temps eissetz volontiers

But all time you-come-out willingly

de vostra terr' ab los primiers,

from your land with the first

anz que sia la flors e·l prat,
before that be the flower in-the meadow
 e fatz comte de paubretat,
and you-make account of poverty
 com vos e vostr' asiata
how you and your dependent
 a tengut l'inverns enserrat,
has held the-winter shut-in
 qu'anc us no·n passet la lata.
that-ever one not-of-it passed the boundary

Folheta, siatz soudadiers
Folheta be-you soldier
 N'Archambaut, que nasquet deriers,
of-Sir-Archambaut who was-born last
 que l'autre si a tot laissat
for the-other thus has all left
 de proeza et el guazanhât;
of prowess and he gained
 e, puois lieu e gen barata,
and since easily and nobly he-trades
 e·l vei adrech et alinhat,
and-bim I-see upright and straight
 lau qu'en proeza s'abata.
I-advice that-in prowess he-fall-to

N'Atempre, vos etz trop leugiers

Sir-Temperate you you-are too light

e fatz ho coma esparviers

and you-do it like sparrowhawk

que·s laissa, quan a randonat;

which-itself gives-up when it-has flown-at-random

mas ieu com sahus afichat:

but I as bound eager

des qu'en la rota m'abata,

since that-into the track me-I-fall

non auria mil ans chamjat,

not I-would-have thousand years changed

qu'ieu sivals tot jorn no·i glata.

that-I at-least all day not-there bay

N'Atempre, ges de Lieucata

Sir-Temperate at-all of Leucate

no sui, anz ho ai tot laissat

not I-am rather it I-have all left

et estau a Damiata.

and I-stand at Damietta

Mailoli, joglar malastruc

38 • MAILOLI, ILL-STARRED JONGLEUR

A flyting against the jongleur Mailoli, who has come asking for songs. He is worthless and looks good; he would do better as a hired champion than live off other men's leavings. His company is such that another man would find it tiresome; he is more foolish than a sheep, and a jackdaw sings clearer. Big and young, he looks as if he had courage, but where a hare is a lion he is a coward. He is hollower than an elder, a mite has more heart than he has, and he is quicker to a roasting sheep than to a stronghold.

Mailoli, joglar malastruc,

Mailoli jongleur ill-starred

puois acoindat m'a hom de vos

since acquainted me-has one of you

e mi venetz querre chanzos,

and me you-come to-seek songs

en talan ai qu'ie·us en valha.

in desire I-have that-I-to-you of-it be-worth

Quar etz avols e semblatz bos,

For you-are worthless and you-seem good

mielhs fora, fossetz champions

better it-would-be you-were champion

que viure d'autrui curalha.

than to-live of-another's offal

Aital solatz m'avetz faissuc

Such cheer me-you-have burdensome

qu'autr' om en seria enoios,

that-another man of-it would-be vexed

et etz plus nescis que montos,

and you-are more foolish than sheep

e chanta plus clar la gralha;

and sings more clearly the jackdaw

porc qu'om reguarda milhargos

pig which-one watches millet-fed

fai melhor escoutar que vos

makes better to-hear than you

o nafrat, quan hom lo talha.

or wounded when one it cuts

Qui·us apelava paoruc,

Whoever-you called fearful

semblaria que vers no fos;

it-would-seem that true not it-were

quar etz grans e joves e tos,

for you-are big and young and fresh

fatz semblan qu'aiatz coralha;

you-make seeming that-you-have courage

mas lai on lebres es leos

but there where hare is lion

vos etz volpilhs e nualhos,

you you-are craven and sluggish

flacs, ses tota defensalha.

slack without any defense

Dedintz etz plus chaus d'un säuc

Within you-are more hollow than-an elder

et a maior cor us soiros,

and has greater heart a mite

mas lo fetges e lo polmos

but the liver and the lung

es grans sotz la chabessalha.

is great beneath the pillow

Et etz de mati somelhos,

And you-are of morning drowsy

que, qui·us sona un mot o dos,

that whoever-you calls a word or two

fatz semblan que no·us en chalha.

you-make seeming that not-to-you of-it it-matters

Mal vos tenon per acertuc

Ill you they-bold as sure

d'armas en la host de·ls basclos,

of-arms in the host of-the Basques

que un non i a de·ls garzos

that one not there is of-the boys

que denan vos non assalha;

who before you not assail

si·s defendian ab melos,

if-themselves they-defended with melons

chascus entrar' i anz que vos,

each-one would-enter there before than you

s'aviatz elm e ventalha.

if-you-had helm and ventail

* * *

(lacuna)

Lai on sentetz raustir montos

There where you-smell to-roast sheep

vos fatz de l'entrar plus cochos

you you-make of the-entering moreasty

qu'a·l pal ni a la serralha;

than-at-the stake or at the stronghold

e non es tan grans lo ronhos

and not is so great the kidney

qu'en un sol morsel o en dos

that-in one single morsel or in two

no l'empassetz, qui·l vos talha.

not it-you-swallow whoever-it to-you carves

Raimons de Planel, quar es pros,

Raimon of Planel because he-is worthy

vuolh qu'auia·l sirventes de vos,

I-wish that-he-hear-the sirventes of you

e·l sos iescha·n ab trebalha;

and-the tune go-forth-of-it with trouble

quar sordeis chantatz que paos

for worse you-sing than peacocks

e gavanhatz los motz e·ls sos,

and you-mar the words and-the tunes

per qu'es fols qui los vos balha.

for which-is foolish who them to-you gives

Senher en coms, a blasmar

39 · LORD COUNT, YOU ARE TO BLAME

The count is blamed, and without fail, for not daring to go and speak with the lady when she wished it; by the custom of Catalonia Bertran is ashamed on his behalf. A true lover does not tarry when a message comes. When the count saw his own jongleur coming back from her he should not have halted for the gift of Normandy. So rich men are not made for loving: they have too much to think about. Bertran would rather laugh with his lady than govern Gascony. The song goes to Sir Adhemar.

Senher en coms, a blasmar

Lord Sir count to to-blame

vos fai senes falhia,

you it-makes without fail

quar no·i ausetz anar,

because not-there you-dared to-go

puois ela ho volia,

since she it wished

a la domna parlar;

to the lady to-speak

et a·l for de Catalonha

and at-the custom of Catalonia

a·l vostr' ops ieu n'ai vergonha

for-the your need I of-it-have shame

quar la·i fezetz fadiar.

because her-there you-made to-languish

E fis drutz no·s deu tarzar,

And pure lover not-himself must to-tarry

si messatge·lh venia,

if message-to-him came

mas que pens de l'anar

but that he-think of the-going

e que·s meta en la via;

and that-himself he-put on the way

com no sap son afar

how not he-knows his affair

de si dons ni sa besonha,

of his lady nor her need

be lieu a talan que jonha,

well easily she-has desire that he-join

per que no·s deu aturar.

for which not-himself he-must to-linger

E quan vitz vostre joglar,

And when you-saw your jongleur

que de ves lieis venia,

who from toward her came

ja no·us degratz restar,

ever not-you you-ought to-halt

qui·us dones Normandia;

whoever-you gave Normandy

s'acsetz bo cor d'anar,

if-you-had good heart of-to-go

entre Bera e Dordonha

between Bera and Dordogne

de reguart no·us deratz sonha,

of fear not-to-you you-would-give care

ni ja no·us degra membrar.

and ever not-to-you it-ought to-remember

Mas ara podetz proar,

But now you-can to-prove

s'es ver so qu'ieu dizia

if-it-is true that which-I said

que no fai ad amar

that not is-fit to to-love

rics hom per drudaria;

rich man through gallantry

tan an a consirar,

so-much they-have to to-ponder

per que·l jois d'amor los lonha;

for which-the joy of-love them removes

qu'ieu no vuelh aver Borgonha

that-I not wish to-have Burgundy

ses temer e ses celar.

without to-fear and without to-hide

Qu'ieu ja no vuelh esser bar

For-I ever not wish to-be baron

ni de gran manentia,

nor of great wealth

per que·m pogues reptar

for which-me might to-reproach

nuls hom de vilania;

any man of churlishness

mais am rire e gabar

more I-love to-laugh and to-jest

ab mi dons que m'en somonha,

with my lady who me-of-it summons

qu'ieu no volria Guasconha

that-I not would-wish Gascony

ni Bretanha chapdelar.

nor Brittany to-govern

Mon chan vir ves n'Azemar,

My song I-turn toward Sir-Adebemar

que en s'onor s'abria,

who in his-honor himself-shelters

cui nostre senher char

whom our lord curry

sa paucha Lombardia;

his little Lombardy

tan gen sap domneiar

so nobly he-knows to-woo

que no·s chamja ni s'embronha

that not-himself he-changes nor himself-lowers

per menassas, anz resonha

for threats rather he-daunts

Lemotg' e·l fai reserrar.

Limoges and-it makes to-shut-again

Si·l coms Jaufres no s'eslonha,

If-the count Geoffrey not himself-removes

Peitau aura e Guasconha,

Poitou he-will-have and Gascony

si tot no sap domneiar.

though wholly not he-knows to-woo

Bel m'es, quan vei chamjar lo senhoratge

40 • IT PLEASES ME TO SEE THE LORDSHIP CHANGE

The song of youth and age. It is fair to see lordship change and the old leave their houses to the young. A lady is old when she has no knight, when a worthless man serves her, when she needs paint, when jongleurs weary her, when she talks too much; young when she honors lineage, guards her body, and does not care to be gossiped about. A man is young when he pledges his goods and is well in want, when hostages cost him dear, when he burns chest and cask; old when he puts nothing in pledge and has corn and wine and bacon to spare.

Bel m'es, quan vei chamjar lo senhoratge

Fair to-me-is when I-see to-change the lordship

e·lh vielh laissan a·ls joves lor maisos,

and-the old leave to-the young their houses

e chascus pot giquir a son linhatge

and each-one can to-leave to his lineage

aitans d'enfans que l'us puosch' esser pros:

so-many of-children that the-one can to-be worthy

adoncs m'es vis que·l segles renovel

then to-me-is seen that-the age renews

mielhs que per flor ni per cantar d'auzel;

better than through flower or through singing of-bird

e qui domna ni senhor pot chamjar,

and whoever lady or lord can to-change

vielh per jove, be·s deu renovar.

old for young well-himself he-must to-renew

Per vielha tenh domna, puois qu'a pelatge,

For old I-hold lady after that-she-has baldness

et es vielha, quan chavalier non a;

and she-is old when knight not she-has

vielha la tenh, si de dos drutz s'apatge

old her I-hold if of two lovers herself-she-content

et es vielha, si avols hom lo·lh fa;

and she-is old if worthless man it-to-her does

vielha la tenh, si ama dintz son chastel,

old her I-hold if she-loves within her castle

et es vielha, quan l'a ops de fachel;

and she-is old when to-her-is need of point

vielha la tenh, puois l'enoian joglar,

old her I-hold after her-vex jongleurs

et es vielha, quan trop vuolha parlar.

and she-is old when too she-wishes to-talk

Joves es domna que sap honrar paratge

Young is lady who knows to-honor lineage

et es joves per bos fachs, quan los fa,

and she-is young through good deeds when them she-does

joves si te, quan a adrech coratge

young herself she-holds when she-has upright heart

e ves bo pretz avol mestier non a;

and toward good worth worthless trade not she-has

joves si te, quan guarda son cors bel,

young herself she-holds when she-guards her body fair

et es joves domna, quan be·s chapdel;

and she-is young lady when well-herself she-governs

joves si te, quan no·i chal divinar,

young herself she-holds when not-there it-matters to-divine

qu'ab bel joven si quart de mal estar.

that-with fair youth herself she-guard from ill standing

Joves es hom que lo sieu ben enguatge,

Young is man who the his goods pledges

et es joves, quan es be sofrachos;

and he-is young when he-is well needy

joves si te, quan pro·lh costan ostaatge,

young himself he-holds when much-to-him cost hostages

et es joves, quan fai estragatz dos;

and he-is young when he-makes lavish gifts

joves si te, quan art l'archa e·l vaissel

young himself he-holds when he-burns the-chest and-the cask

e fai estorn e vouta e cembel;

and makes onslaught and rout and skirmish

joves si te, quan li platz domneiar,

young himself he-holds when to-him it-pleases to-woo

et es joves, quan be vuolha jogar.

and he-is young when well he-wishes to-play

Vielhs es rics hom, quan re no met en guatge

Old is rich man when anything not he-puts in pledge

e li sobra blatz e vis e bacos;

and to-him abounds corn and wine and bacon

per vielh lo tenh, quan liura uous e fromatge

for old him I-hold when he-serves eggs and cheese

a jorn charnal se e sos companhos;

on day of-flesh himself and his companions

per vielh, quan vest chapa sobre mantel,

for old when he-wears cape over mantle

e vielh, si a chaval qu'om sieu apel;

and old if he-has horse which-one his call

vielhs es, quan vol un jorn en patz estar,

old he-is when he-wishes one day in peace to-stay

e vielhs, si pot guandir ses baratar.

and old if he-can to-escape without to-bargain

Mo sirventesc port' e vielh e novel,

My little-sirventes carry both old and new

Arnautz joglars, a Richart, que'l chapdel,

Arnaut jongleur to Richard that-it he-govern

e ja tesaur vielh no vuolh' amassar,

and ever treasure old not let-him-wish to-heap

qu'ab tesaur jove pot pretz guazanhar.

for-with treasure young he-can worth to-gain

Be·m platz lo gais temps de pascor

41 · IT PLEASURES ME WELL, THE GAY TIME OF SPRING

The most famous of the sirventes. He likes the spring that brings leaves and flowers, and the birds; but he likes still better the sight of tents and pavilions pitched on the meadows, and knights and horses ranged in the open country. He likes outriders driving folk and goods before them, castles besieged and outworks thrown down, and a lord first at the assault. He names maces, swords, and pierced shields, and the dead who carry lance-stumps and pennons in their sides; beside the cry of "At them," eating and drinking and sleeping have no savor.

Be·m platz lo gais temps de pascor,

Well-to-me pleases the gay time of springtide

que fai fuolhas e flors venir,

which makes leaves and flowers to-come

e platz mi, quan auch la baudor

and it-pleases to-me when I-hear the gladness

de·ls auzels, que fan retentir

of-the birds who make to-ring

lor chan per lo boschatge,

their song through the woodland

e platz mi, quan vei sobre·ls pratz

and it-pleases to-me when I-see upon-the meadows

tendas e pavilhos fermatz,

tents and pavilions pitched

et ai gran alegratge,

and I-have great gladness

quan vei per champanha rengatz

when I-see through open-country ranged

chavaliers e chavals armatz.

knights and horses armed

E platz mi, quan li corredor
And it-pleases to-me when the outriders
 fan las gens e l'aver fugir,
make the folk and the-goods to-flee
 e platz mi, quan vei apres lor
and it-pleases to-me when I-see after them
 gran re d'armatz ensems venir,
great number of-armed together to-come
 e platz mi en mon coratge,
and it-pleases to-me in my heart
 quan vei fortz chastels assetjatz
when I-see strong castles besieged
 e·ls barris rotz et esfondratz
and-the outworks broken and thrown-down
 e vei l'ost e·l ribatge,
and I-see the-host and-the rampart
 qu'es tot entorn claus de fossatz
which-is all around closed of ditches
 ab lissas de fortz pals serratz.
with palisades of strong stakes bound

Et autresi·m platz de senhor,
And likewise-to-me it-pleases of lord
 quan es primiers a l'envazir
when he-is first at the-assailing
 en chaval, armatz, ses temor,
on horse armed without fear

qu'aissi fai los sieus enardir

for-thus he-makes the his to-embolden

ab valen vassalatge;

with worthy vassalage

e puois que l'estorns es mesclatz,

and after that the-onslaught is mingled

chascus deu esser acesmatz

each-one must to-be arrayed

e segre·l d'agradatge,

and to-follow-him with-good-will

que nuls hom non es re prezatx,

for any man not is anything prized

tro qu'a maintz colps pres e donatz.

until that-he-has many blows taken and given

Massas e brans, elms de color,

Maces and swords helms of color

escutz trauchar e desguarnir

shields to-pierce and to-strip

veirem a l'entrar de l'estor

we-shall-see at the-entering of the-onslaught

e maintz vassals ensems ferir,

and many vassals together to-strike

don anaran arratge

whence will-go astray

chaval de·ls mortz e de·ls nafratz;

horses of-the dead and of-the wounded

e quan er en l'estorn entratz,

and when he-will-be in the-onslaught entered

chascus hom de paratge

each-one man of lineage

no pens mas d'asclar chaps e bratz,

not let-him-think but of-cleaving beads and arms

que mais val mortz que vius sobratz.

for more is-worth dead than alive overcome

Ie-us dic que tan no m'a sabor

I-to-you say that so-much not to-me-has savor

manjar ni beure ni dormir

to-eat nor to-drink nor to-sleep

com a, quan auch cridar: «A lor!»

as it-has when I-hear to-cry At them

D'ambas las partz et auch ennir

From-both the sides and I-hear to-neighbor

chavals vochs per l'ombratge,

horses empty through the-shade

et auch cridar; «Aidatz! Aidatz!»

and I-hear to-cry Help-you Help-you

E vei chazer per los fossatz

And I-see to-fall through the ditches

paucs e grans per l'erbatge,

small and great through the-grass

e vei los mortz que pe·ls costatz

and I-see the dead who through-the flanks

an los tronzos ab los cendatz.

have the stumps with the pennons

Baro, metetz en guatge

Barons put-you in pledge

chastels e vilas e ciutatz,

castles and towns and cities

enanz qu'usquecs no·us guerreiatz.

before that-each-one you make-war

BERTRAN DE BORN

The Appendix

Quan mi perpens ni m'albire

I · WHEN I PONDER AND CONSIDER

A penitential song, which the manuscripts give Bertran but Stimming doubts. When he considers what he is and where he comes from, he marvels that God has borne with his wrongs so long. A man who uses any wile against God strips himself of all good, and one must do the good as soon as say it, for death is always watching. What is a man, and what is he worth? Nothing; and if he is rich, why does he pretend? He thanks Him who deigned to die on the cross to kill our death.

Quan mi perpens ni m'albire

When me I-ponder and I-consider

qui soi ni de qual part venh,

who I-am or of what part I-come

meravilh me molt e'm senh,

I-marvel me much and-myself I-cross

com dieus volc esser sofrir

how God wished to-be sufferer

tan longamen de·ls mieus tortz;

so long of-the my wrongs

mas el, qu'es verais e fortz,

but he who-is true and strong

pos li platz qu'a lui me vire,

since to-him it-pleases that-to him me I-turn

denh aisi·l pecat aucire

let-him-deign thus-the sin to-slay

com mos mals talans m'es mortz.

as my ill desire to-me-is dead

Be·s vol de tot be devire

Well-himself he-wishes of all good to-divest

qui contra dieu pren nul genh,

who against God takes any wile

que dieus no vol qu'om l'ensenh.

for God not wishes that-one him-instruct

Cujavam passar ab rire

We-thought to-pass with laughing

per nostres nescis deportz,

through our foolish sports

fraire, per pauc loncs acortz

brother for little long delay

no nos fetz trop tart assire;

— us made too late to-sit

tan tost deu hom far com dire

so soon must one to-do as to-say

lo be, qu'ades velha mortz.

the good for-at-once watches death

Que es hom, quan m'o consire,

What is man when it-to-me ponder

ni que val: a re no·l tenh;

or what is-worth as anything not-it I-hold

e doncs rics, per que si fenh?

and then rich for what himself he-feigns

Es rics? Anz n'es trop a dire;

Is-he rich Rather of-it-is too-much to say

quar tant es frevols l'esfortz

for so-much is feeble the-strength

lo jorn qu'om passa los portz

the day that-one crosses the passes

on tuit van ses contradire;

where all go without to-gainsay

qui que's fassa gais ni's mire:

whoever that-himself make gay or-himself gaze

a totz es cominals mortz.

to all is common death

Lo senhor qui es complire

The lord who is fulfiller

de totz bes prec qu'ab nos renh;

of all goods I-pray that-with us be-reign

ai las de'l cor, com m'estrenh,

ah alas of-the heart how me-it-wrings

quan mi membran li consire

when to-me come-to-mind the thoughts

desleial e'l fals conortz:

disloyal and-the false comfort

mas ar se chamja ma sortz

but now itself changes my lot

en be, per que no m'azire;

into good for which not me-I-vex

tals n'es be leu escharnire,

such of-it-is well easily mocker

qu'ieu soi vius et el es mortz.

that-I am alive and he is dead

Pos dieus pres per nos martire,

Since God took for us martyrdom

ja nos no n'aiam desdenh,

ever we not of-it-let-us-have disdain

c'ab autretal entresenh

for-with just-such token

nos a träitz lo träire

us has betrayed the traitor

saludan; don desconortz

greeting whence dismay

no m'es qu'a'l deabl' estortz

not to-me-is that-from-the devil escaped

sui era, cui fui servire,

I-am now whom I-was serving

non a plus poder que·m tire,

not he-has more power that-me he-draw

per que no·m fai paor mortz.

for which not-me makes fear death

Folquetz, si ses contradire

Folquet if without to-gainsay

crezetz so que·us auzi dire,

you-believe that which-to-you I-heard to-say

no m'agra fach paor mortz.

not to-me-would-have made fear death

Mas a cel en soi grazire

But to him of-it I-am thankful

qui per nostra mort aucire

who for our death to-slay

denhet esser en crotz mortz.

deigned to-be on cross dead

Gen part nostre reis liuranda

II · NOBLY OUR KING DEALS OUT THE ALLOWANCE

Our king deals out his allowance so nobly that his English are all fat and garlanded while the French rust in their armor and endure hunger, thirst, rain, and wind. A king who claims great land and never brings his horse out of a walk is boasting; the honor he came for among the Bretons will come to nothing if the end is like the beginning. War wants blood spilled and fire kindled; and the Bretons are out of bounds and low in honor, since a count of Saint Thomas entered Broceliande and they ask for their Arthur so feebly.

Gen part nostre reis liuranda,

Nobly deals-out our king allowance

per que son tuit gras

for which are all fat

siei Engles e nuou e ras

his English and new and shaven

e chascus porta guirlanda;

and each-one wears garland

e Frances son rozilhos

and French are rusty

de portar lor guarnizos

of to-wear their armor

e sofron fam e set e ploia e ven,

and they-suffer hunger and thirst and rain and wind

e-l reis conquer l'autrui e-l sieu defen.

and-the king conquers the-another's and-the his defends

Reis que gran terra demanda

King who great land claims

par que fassa gas,

it-seems that he-make boasts

quan chaval no trai de pas

when horse not he-draws from walk

ni chaussa de fer no randa;

and horse of iron not he-fills

e·l reis fetz que coratjos

and-the king did as courageous

quar venc sai entre·ls Bretos;

because he-came here among-the Bretons

mas cel' onors tornara a niën,

but that honor will-turn to nothing

s'es tals la fis com fetz comenzamen.

if-is such the end as made beginning

Guerra vol qu'om sanc espanda

War wishes that-one blood spill

e qu'om fuoc n'abras

and that-one fire of-it-kindle

e que ja no sia las

and that ever not he-be weary

de donar n'i meta guanda;

of to-give nor-there put stay

qu'ieu sai fraires aitals dos:

that-I know brothers such two

l'us es reis, l'autr' es coms pros;

the-one is king the-other is count worthy

mas ges no ditz vertat aissel que men,

but at-all not says truth he who lies

ni tuit lauzat no son pro ni valen.

and all praised not are brave nor worthy

Breto son fors de guaranda

Bretons are outside of bounds

e son d'onor bas,

and are of-honor low

quar us coms de Saint Tomas

because a count of Saint Thomas

entret en Bresilianda;

entered into Broceliande

be paron de bo cor blos

well they-seem of good heart bare

e tornat de sus en jos,

and turned from above to below

quar lor Artus demandan frevolmen;

because their Arthur they-claim feebly

no·n dirai plus, quar negus no m'enten.

not-of-it I-shall-say more because any not me-understands

A·ls baros cui argens blanda,

To-the barons whom silver coaxes

sirventes, diras

sirventes you-shall-say

qu'enanz que passen lo pas,

that-before that they-pass the pass

veian, si er foudatz granda,

let-them-see if it-will-be folly great

si er sens o dans o pros:

if it-will-be sense or harm or gain

quar per senhor dormilhos

because for lord sleepy

no vuolh entrar en guerra ni en conten,

not I-wish to-enter into war nor into strife

quar grieu conquer hom be terra en dormen.

because hardly conquers one well land in sleeping

Sirventes, vai t'en cochos

Sirventes go yourself-thence hasty

a'l comte qu'a nom n'Ugos,

to-the count who-has name Sir-Hugh

quar el val tan e ve e sap e sen

because he is-worth so and sees and knows and feels

que ja no vol penre malvatz argen.

that ever not he-wishes to-take wicked silver

Guerr' e pantais vei et afan

III · WAR AND TURMOIL I SEE

War and turmoil for many a knavish baron; Bertran cares little for the grief and less for the harm, so he makes a new sirventes. War pleases him though love and his lady war on him all year: out of war come courts, wooing, cheer, and song, and war makes a churl courteous. Within a year the two kings will show which of them is the less base in taking and spending and giving. Then it will appear who can better endure the hardship and the din; whatever comes of it, the dead are as much to him as the prisoners.

Guerr' e pantais vei et afan

War and turmoil I-see and toil

a maint baro malvatz, truan;

to many-a baron wicked knavish

pauc m'es de·l dol e mens de·l dan,

little to-me-is of-the grief and less of-the harm

per que·m vuolh alegrar chantan,

for which-me I-wish to-gladden singing

quar ab joi vau et ab joi pes,

because with joy I-go and with joy I-think

e pensamens no m'empacha

and thought not me-hinders

ni sabers no·m fai sofracha

and knowledge not-to-me makes lack

de far un novel sirventes.

of to-make a new sirventes

Guerra·m platz, si tot guerra·m fan

War-to-me pleases though wholly war-to-me make

amors e ma domna tot l'an,

love and my lady all the-year

quar de guerra vei traire enan

because of war I-see to-draw forward

cortz e domnei, solatz e chan;

courts and wooing cheer and song

guerra fai de vila cortes;

war makes of churl courteous

per que·m platz guerra be facha,

for which-to-me pleases war well made

e·m platz, quan la tregua es fracha

and-to-me it-pleases when the truce is broken

de·ls esterlis e de·ls tornes.

of-the sterlings and of-the tournois

Esterlis e tornes chamjan,

Sterlings and tournois exchanging

tolen e meten e donan

taking and spending and giving

veirem de·ls dos reis anz d'un an

we-shall-see of-the two kings before of-a year

lo mens cruoi segon mo semblan;

the less base according-to my seeming

per so·l senher coms, ducs, marques

for that-the lord count duke marquis

n'a be sa penhora tracha,

of-it-has well his pledge drawn

mas metre lo fan per guacha,

but to-put it they-make as watch

so-m dizon Guasco et Engles.

so-to-me say Gascon and English

Ara parra qui mielhs poiran

Now it-will-appear who better will-be-able

sofrir los maltrachs ni'l mazan;

to-endure the hardships and-the din

maint chaval bai e maint ferran,

many-a horse bay and many-a gray

maint escut, maint elm e maint bran

many-a shield many-a helm and many-a sword

e maint colp ferir demanes,

and many-a blow to-strike at-once

maint mur, mainta tor desfacha

many-a wall many-a tower unmade

veirem, mainta testa fracha,

we-shall-see many-a head broken

maint chastel forzat e conques.

many-a castle forced and conquered

Ges no crei, Frances ses deman

At-all not I-believe French without claim

tenham lo deseret que fan

hold the disinheriting which they-make

a tort a maint baro prezan;

by wrong to many-a baron prized

per que meravelha·m do gran

for which marvel-me I-give great

de·l senhor de·ls Aragones,

of-the lord of-the Aragonese

quar a lor dan no·ls destacha,

because to their harm not-them he-unleashes

puois a los ades a pacha

since he-has them at-once at truce

desmandatz lo coms, ducs, marques.

dismissed the count duke marquis

Qui·s vuolha n'aia mals o bes

Whoever-himself wish of-it-have ill or goods

o empacha o desempacha

or hindrance or unbindrance

o bratz rotz o testa fracha,

or arm broken or head cracked

que tan m'es de·ls mortz com de·ls pres.

for so-much to-me-is of-the dead as of-the taken

Gai mi te una gaia res,

Gay me holds a gay thing

avinens, joves, be facha,

pleasing young well made

et ai ab lieis una pacha

and I-have with her a pact

com an Pisa ab Genoes.

as have Pisa with Genoese

Mout mi platz quan vei dolenta

IV · IT PLEASES ME MUCH TO SEE THEM DOLEFUL

A sirventes against the churl who has grown rich. It pleases the poet to see the wealthy churls undone twenty or thirty a day, stripped bare and begging their bread. Wealth makes a fool of the churl, so his hopper should be kept empty and he should be left out in wind and rain; the man who does not prune him confirms him in disloyalty. He deserves no pity, since he will not help even his nearest kin, and the song closes by cursing the whole breed.

Mout mi platz quan vei dolenta

Much to-me it-pleases when I-see doleful

la malvada gen manenta,

the wicked folk wealthy

qu'ab paratge muou contenta,

which-with lineage moves strife

e·m platz quan los vei desfar

and-to-me it-pleases when them I-see to-undo

de jorn en jorn, vint o trenta,

from day to day twenty or thirty

e·ls trop nutz, ses vestimenta,

and-them I-find naked without garment

e van lor pa achaptar,

and they-go their bread to-beg

e s'ieu men, m'amia·m menta.

and if-I lie my-mistress-to-me may-lie

Vilas a costum de troia,

Churl has custom of sow

que de gen viure s'enoia

who of nobly to-live himself-vexes

e, quan en gran ricor poia,

and when into great wealth he-climbs

l'avers lo fai foleiar;

the-wealth him makes to-play-the-fool

per que·lh deu hom la tremoia

for which-to-him must one the hopper

totas sazoz tener voia

all seasons to-keep empty

e·lh deu de·l sieu despensar

and-to-him (one)-must of-the his to-spend

e far sofrir ven e ploia.

and to-make to-suffer wind and rain

Qui so vila be no serma

Whoever his churl well not prunes

en desleiautat lo ferma,

in disloyalty him confirms

per qu'es fols qui no l'amerma,

for which-is foolish who not him-lessens

quan lo ve sobrepoiar;

when him he-sees to-climb-above

quar vilas, puois si conferma

because churl after himself he-establishes

ni en fort luoc si referma,

and in strong place himself he-strengthens

de maleza non a par,

of wickedness not he-has peer

que tot quan consec aderma.

for all that he-attains he-lays-waste

Ja vila no deu hom planher,

Ever churl not must one to-pity

si·lh ve bratz o chamba franher

if-to-him he-sees arm or leg to-break

ni re de sos ops sofranher;

or anything of his needs to-fail

quar vilas — si dieus m'ampar! —

because churl if God me-protect

a cel que plus li pot tanher,

to him who most to-him can to-belong

per planher ni per complanher

through to-pity nor through to-lament

no vol de·l sieu ajudar,

not he-wishes of-the his to-help

per qu'om deu sos fachs refranher.

for which-one must his deeds to-check

Rassa vilana, tafura,

Breed churlish knavish

plena d'enjan e d'usura,

full of-deceit and of-usury

d'orguolh e de desmesura!

of-pride and of excess

Lor fachs no pot hom durar,

Their deeds not can one to-endure

quar dieu getan a no-cura

because God they-cast to no-care

e leiautat e drechura,

and loyalty and uprightness

Adam cujan contrafar;

Adam they-think to-counterfeit

dieus lor do mal' aventura!

God to-them may-give ill fortune

Quan vei lo temps renovelar

V · WHEN I SEE THE SEASON RENEW

The razo tells the whole story of John Lackland. It covers the bride he took from Hugh the Brown, the barons who made Arthur their lord, the surprise at Mirebeau, Arthur drowned and Savaric of Mauléon shut in the tower of Corp, Normandy lost and Poitou lost but for La Rochelle, and the king sitting in his chamber in England while Savaric fought on without help. The sirventes, which the manuscripts give to Bertran's son, tells John he should be ashamed if he remembered his forebears, and that he loves jousting, hunting, and repose while he is disinherited alive.

Quan lo reis Richartz fo mortz, el remas us sos fraire,
When the king Richard was dead there remained one his brother
que avia nom Johans ses Terra, per so qu'el non avia
who had name John without Land for that that-he not had
part de la terra. E fo fachs reis d'Englaterra et ac lo
share of the land And he-was made king of-England and had the
reiesme e'l duchat de Quitania e'l comtat de Peitau.
kingdom and-the duchy of Aquitaine and-the county of Poitou
E tan tost com fo fachs reis e senher de'l duchat
And as soon as he-was made king and lord of-the duchy
e de'l comtat de Peitau, el s'en anet a'l comte
and of-the county of Poitou he himself-thence went to-the count
d'Engolesme, que avia una mout bela filha piucela, que
of-Angoulême who had a very fair daughter maiden who
avia be quinze ans, la qual avia facha jurar en Richartz
had fully fifteen years the which had made to-swear Sir Richard
a n'Ugo lo Bru, qu'era coms de la Marcha et era botz
to Sir-Hugh the Brown who-was count of the March and was nephew
d'en Jaufre de Lizinha et era sos vassals; e'l coms
of-Sir Geoffrey of Lusignan and was his vassal and-the count

d'Engolesme l'avia jurada la filha a molher e recebut
of-Angoulême to-him-had sworn the daughter as wife and received
 per filh, qu'el non avia plus ni filh ni filha. E dis
as son for-be not had more neither son nor daughter And he-said
 a'l comte d'Engolesme qu'el volia sa filha per molher, e
to-the count of-Angoulême that-be wished his daughter as wife and
 fetz si la dar et esposet la ades e montet a chaval
he-made thus her to-give and he-espoused her at-once and mounted on horse
 et anet s'en ab sa molher en Normandia. E quan
and went himself-thence with his wife into Normandy And when
 lo coms de la Marcha saup que'l reis l'avia toute sa
the count of the March learned that-the king from-him-had taken his
 molher, fo mout dolens et anet s'en reclamar a
wife he-was very grieving and went himself-thence to-complain to
 totz sos parens et a totz sos amics, e tuit en foron
all his kinsmen and to all his friends and all of-it were
 mout irat e preiron conselh que ilh s'en anessen
very angered and took counsel that they themselves-thence should-go
 en Bretanha e tolguessen lo filh de'l comte Jaufre, que
into Brittany and should-take the son of-the count Geoffrey who
 avia nom Artus, e qu'en fezessen lor senhor; que
had name Arthtur and that-of-him they-should-make their lord for
 per razo ho podian far, qu'el era filhs de'l comte Jaufre,
by right it they-could to-do for-be was son of-the count Geoffrey
 qu'era enanz natz que'l reis Johans. Et enaissi ho feiron
who-was earlier born than-the king John And thus it they-did
 e feiron d'Artus lor senhor e jureron li fezeutat e
and they-made of-Arthur their lord and they-swore to-him fealty and
 meneron lo en Peitau e tolgron a'l rei Peitau trachs
they-led him into Poitou and they-took from-the king Poitou except

alquans chastels e borcs fortz que avia en Peitau. Et el
some castles and towns strong which he-had in Poitou And he
 s'estava ab sa molher en Normandia, que noch ni jorn
himself-stayed with his wife in Normandy for night or day
 mais da lieis no's partia ni manjan ni beven ni
ever from her not-himself he-parted neither eating nor drinking nor
 dormen ni velhan, e menava la en chassa et en forest
sleeping nor waking and he-led her to hunting and into forest
 et en ribeira ab austors et ab falcos. Et aquist baro
and into riverside with goshawks and with falcons And these barons
 li tolian tota la terra.

from-him were-taking all the land

Be s'avenc qu'un jorn lor venc grans desaventura; que ilh
Well it-befell that-one day to-them came great misadventure for they
 avian sa maire assisa en un chastel, que a nom Mirabel,
had his mother besieged in a castle which has name Mirebeau
 et el per confort d'autrui si la socors a no-saubuda e
and he through comfort of-another thus her succored at unawares and
 venc si celadamen qu'anc no-n saubron novelas, tro qu'el
he-came thus secretly that-ever not-of-it they-knew news until that-he
 fo jos e'l borc ab els. E trobet los dormen e pres
was down in-the town with them And he-found them sleeping and took
 los totz: Artus e sos baros e totz aquels que tenian ab
them all Arthur and his barons and all those who held with
 el. E per jelosia de la molher, quar no podia viure ses
him And through jealousy of the wife because not he-could to-live without
 lieis, el abandonet Peitau e tornet s'en en Normandia
her he abandoned Poitou and returned himself-thence into Normandy
 e laisset los preisioniers per sagramens e per ostatges e
and left the prisoners on oaths and on hostages and

passet s'en en Englaterra e menet ab se Artus e·n
passed himself-thence into England and led with him Arthtur and-Sir
 Savaric de Mauleo e·l vescomte de Chastel Airaut. E
Savaric of Mauléon and-the viscount of Châtel Airault And
 fetz negar so nebot Artus, e·n Savaric de Mauleo fetz
he-made to-drown his nephew Arthtur and-Sir Savaric of Mauléon he-made
 metre en la tor Corp, lai on hom mais no manjava
to-put into the tower Corp there where one more not ate
 ni bevia, e·l vescomte de Chastel Airaut autresi. E tan
nor drank and-the viscount of Châtel Airault likewise And as
 tost com lo reis de Franza saup que lo reis Johans ab sa
soon as the king of France learned that the king John with his
 molher era passatz en Englaterra, el entret ab gran host
wife was passed into England he entered with great host
 en Normandia e tolç li tota la terra. E·lh baro
into Normandy and took from-him all the land And-the barons
 de Peitau si reveleron e tolgron li tot Peitau trach
of Poitou thus rebelled and took from-him all Poitou except
 La Rochela. E·n Savarics de Mauleo, com hom valens
La Rochelle and-Sir Savaric of Mauléon as man worthy
 e savis e larcs, si s'enginhèt si qu'el eschampet foras
and wise and generous thus himself-contrived so that-he escaped outside
 de la preiso e pres lo chastel on el estava pres. E·l
of the prison and took the castle where he was held And-the
 reis Johans fetz patz ab el, qu'el lo laisset anar e det
king John made peace with him that-he him let to-go and gave
 li en guarda tota la terra qu'el non avia perduda de
to-him in keeping all the land which-he not had lost of
 Peitau e de Guasconha. E·n Savarics s'en venc e
Poitou and of Gascony and-Sir Savaric himself-thence came and

comenzet la guerra ab totz los enemics de'l rei Johan e
began the war with all the enemies of-the king John and
 tolç lor tot Peitau e tota Guasconha. E'l reis si
took from-them all Poitou and all Gascony And-the king thus
 sojornava en Englaterra en cambra ab sa molher ni no
sojourned in England in chamber with his wife and not
 donava socors ni aiutori a'n Savaric de Mauleo d'aver ni
gave succor nor aid to-Sir Savaric of Mauléon of-wealth nor
 de gen. Don Bertrans de Born lo joves, lo filhs d'en
of folk Wherefore Bertran of Born the young the son of-Sir
 Bertran de Born que fetz aquels autres sirventes, per lo
Bertran of Born who made those other sirventes through the
 besonh qu'era a'n Savaric e per lo reclam que tota la
need which-was to-Sir Savaric and through the outcry which all the
 gens de Quitania e de'l comtat de Peitau en fazian, si
folk of Aquitaine and of-the county of Poitou of-it made thus
 fetz aquest sirventes: «Quan vei lo temps renovar.»
made this sirventes When I-see the season to-renew

Quan vei lo temps renovar,
When I-see the season to-renew
 e pareis la fuolha e la flors,
and appears the leaf and the flower
 mi dona ardimen amors
to-me gives boldness love
 e cor e saber de chantar;
and heart and skill of to-sing
 e puous vei qu'als no m'en sofranh,
and since I-see that-anything-else not to-me-of-it fails

farai un sirventes cozen,

I-shall-make a sirventes biting

que trametrai lai per presen

which I-shall-send there as present

a·l rei Johan, que·s n'avergonh.

to-the king John that-be-himself of-it-be-ashamed

E deuria·s be vergonhar,

And he-ought-himself well to-be-ashamed

si·lh membres de sos ancessors,

if-to-him it-remembered of his forebears

quar laissa sai Peitau e Tors

because he-leaves here Poitou and Tours

a·l rei Felip ses demandar;

to-the king Philip without to-claim

per que tota Guiana planh

for which all Guyenne laments

lo rei Richart, que defenden

the king Richard who defending

en mes maint aur e maint argen,

in-it put much gold and much silver

mas d'aquest no·m par, n'aia sonh.

but of-this not-to-me it-seems of-it-be-have care

Mais ama·l bordin e·l chassar

More he-loves-the jousting and-the hunting

e bracs e lebriers et austors

and bounds and greybounds and gosawks

e·l sojorn, per que·lh falh honors,

and-the repose for which-to-him fails honor

e·s laissa vius deseretar;

and-himself he-lets alive to-disinherit

mal sembra d'ardimen Galvanh,

ill he-resembles in-boldness Gawain

que sai lo viram plus soven;

whom here him we-saw more often

e puous autre conselh no pren,

and since other counsel not he-takes

lais sa terra a·l senhor de·l Gronh.

let-him-leave his land to-the lord of Logroño

Mielhs saup Lozovics desliurar

Better knew Louis to-deliver

Guilhelme e far ric socors

William and to-make rich succor

ad Aurenga, quan l'almassors

at Orange when the-almanzor

a Titbaut l'ac fach assetjar;

to Thibaut it-had made to-besiege

pretz et honor n'ac ab guazanh;

worth and honor of-it-he-had with gain

ieu ho dic per chastiamen

I it say for chastisement

a·l rei Johan, que pert sa gen,

to-the king John who loses his folk

que no lor socor pres ni lonh.

who not to-them succors near nor far

Baro, sai vir mon chastiar,

Barons here I-turn my chastising

a cui ieu blasme las folors

to whom I blame the follies

que avetz, e pren m'en dolors

which you-have and takes me-of-it grief

quar m'ave de vos a parlar;

because to-me-it-befalls of you to to-speak

que pretz avetz tombat e·l fanh

for worth you-have thrown in-the mire

et avetz apres un fol sen,

and you-have learned a foolish sense

que no doptatz chastiamen,

that not you-fear chastisement

mas qui-us ditz mal, aquel vos onh.

but whoever-to-you says ill that-one you anoints

Domna, cui desir e tenh char

Lady whom I-desire and bold dear

e dopt e blan part las melhors,

and dread and court beyond the best

tan es vera vostra lauzors

so is true your praise

qu'ieu no la sai dir ni comtar;

that-I not it I-know to-say nor to-tell

qu'aissi com aurs val mais d'estanh,

for-just as gold is-worth more than-tin

valetz mais part las melhors cen

you-are-worth more beyond the best hundred

et etz plus leials ves joven,

and you-are more loyal toward youth

no son a dieu cilh de Cadonh.

than are to God those of Cadouin

Savarics, reis cui cors sofranh

Savaric king to-whom heart fails

fara grieu bo envazimen,

will-make hardly good assault

e puous a cor flac, recrezen,

and since he-has heart slack recreant

ja mais nuls hom en el no ponh.

ever more any man in him not strives