

OLD FRENCH SERIES • VOLUME 5

TRISTAN

Le Roman de Tristan
La Folie Tristan d'Oxford
La Folie Tristan de Berne

Tristan

Bérout's Romance, with the Two Folies Tristan

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

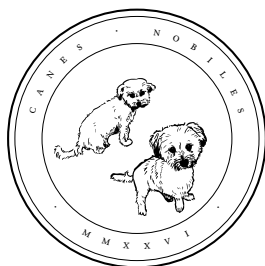


CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

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Volume 5 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows Ernest Muret's text, Bérout, *Le Roman de Tristan*,
poème du XIIe siècle, *Les Classiques français du Moyen Âge* 12,
second edition (Paris, 1922); Joseph Bédier's text, *Les deux poèmes*
de la Folie Tristan, Société des anciens textes français (Paris, 1907)

Bérout set from the Wikisource keying of Muret's second edition;
the two Folies from the page scan of Bédier's edition

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

Three spellings, each as its editor prints it and none harmonized to the others;
only the names are brought to one form. * * * marks a verse lost or illegible
in the manuscript, and the editors number those verses, so a run of them belongs
to the line count the margin carries. The guillemet at the head of every verse
of Tristan's letter is Muret's mark for a quotation running on. An editor's
bracketed conjecture and his query mark are apparatus and are not reproduced.

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BÉROUL

Le Roman de Tristan

The Romance of Tristan

The Tryst beneath the Pine

I

The manuscript opens in mid-scene, its first leaf lost. Iseult has come to a tryst with Tristan and has realized the king is listening, so she speaks for him to overhear: she reproaches Tristan for summoning her and swears she has loved him only as her lord's kinsman. Tristan answers in kind, offers to clear himself by fire, and asks her to have his pledges redeemed so that he can leave the country. She refuses and goes. Mark, up in the tree, has heard it all and swears to burn the dwarf who put him there.

* * *

(lacuna)

Que nul senblant de rien en face.

That no sign of thing thereof she-make

Come ele aprisme son ami,

As she approaches her friend

oiez com el l'a devanci:

hear how she him-has forestalled

«Sire Tristran, por Deu le roi,

Lord Tristan for God the king

si grant pechié avez de moi,

so great sin you-have of me

qui me mandez a itel ore!»

who me summon at such hour

Or fait senblant con s'ele plore.

Now she-makes semblance as if-she weeps

*** u roi

(lacuna) to-the king

10 ***

(lacuna)

(lacuna)

(lacuna)

(lacuna)

I ***

(Lacuna) (lacuna)

15 Conme ***

As (lacuna)

Par Deu, qui l'air fist et la mer,

By God who the-air made and the sea

ne me mandez nule foiz mais.

not me summon any time more

Je vos di bien, Tristran, a fais,

I (to-)you say plainly Tristan at once

certes, je n'i vendroie mie.

certainly I not-there would-come at-all

20 Li rois pense que par folie,

The king thinks that by folly

sire Tristran, vos aie amé;

lord Tristan you I-have loved

mais Dé plevis ma loiauté,

but to-God I-pledge my loyalty

qui sor mon cors mete flaele,

who upon my body may-set scourge

s'onques fors cil qui m'ot pucele

if-ever except he who me-had maiden

out m'amistié encor nul jor!

had my-love ever any day

Se li felon de cest'enor,

If the felons of this-domain

por qui jadis vos conbatistes

for whom formerly you fought

o le Morhout, quant l'oceïstes,

with the Morholt when him-you-slew

li font acroire (ce me senble)

(to-)him make believe that (to-)me seems

que nos amors jostent enseble,

that our loves join together

sire, vos n'en avez talent;

lord you not-thereof have desire

ne je, par Deu omnipotent,

nor I by God almighty

n'ai corage de druërie

not-I-have heart for love-dealing

qui tort a nule vilanie.

that turns to any baseness

Mex voudroie que je fuse arse,

Rather I-would-wish that I were burnt

aval le vent la poudre esparsse,

down the wind the ash scattered

jor que je vive que amor

day that I live than love

aie o home qu'o mon seignor;

I-have with man than-with my lord

25

30

35

et, Dex! si ne m'en croit il pas.

and God so not me-thereof believes he at-all

40 Je puis dire: de haut si bas!

I can say from high so low

Sire, mot dist voir Salemon:

Lord much said true Solomon

qui de forches traient larron,

who from gallows draw thief

ja pus nes amera nul jor.

ever after not-them he-will-love any day

Se li felon de cest'enor

If the felons of this-domain

45 * * *

(lacuna)

* * *

(lacuna)

* * *

(lacuna)

* * *

(lacuna)

* * * a nos deüsent il celer.

(lacuna) from us should they conceal

50 Mot vos estut mal endurer.

Much (to-)you it-bebooved ill to-endure

De la plaie que vos preïstes

Of the wound that you took

en la bataille que feïstes

in the battle that you-fought

o mon oncle je vos gari.

with my uncle I you healed

Se vos m'en eriez ami,

If you me-thereof were friend

n'ert pas merveille, par ma foi!

not-would-be at-all marvel by my faith

Et il ont fait entendre au roi

And they have made understand to-the king

que vos m'amez d'amor vilaine.

that you me-love with-love base

Si voient il Deu et son reigne!

So may-see they God and his kingdom

Ja nul verroient en la face.

Never any would-they-see in the face

Tristran, gardez en nule place

Tristan take-beed in any place

ne me mandez por nule chose:

not me summon for any thing

je ne seroie pas tant ose

I not would-be at-all so bold

que je i osase venir.

that I there might-dare come

Trop demor ci, n'en quier mentir.

Too-long I-tarry here not-thereof I-seek to-lie

S'or en savoit li rois un mot,

If-now thereof knew the king one word

mon cors seret desmenbré tot,

my body would-be dismembered wholly

et si seroit a mot grant tort;

and so it-would-be at very great wrong

bien sai qu'il me dorroit la mort.

well I-know that-be (to-)me would-give the death

55

60

65

Tristran, certes, li rois ne set

Tristan certainly the king not knows

70 que por lui pas vos aie ameit:

that for him at-all you I-have loved

por ce qu'ères du parenté

for that that-you-were of-the kindred

vos avoie je en chierté.

you had I in dearness

Je quidai jadis que ma mere

I thought formerly that my mother

amast mot les parenz mon pere;

loved much the kinsmen (of-)my father

75 et disoit ce, que ja mollier

and she-said this that ever wife

nen avroit le suen seignor chier

not would-have the her lord dear

qui les parenz n'en ameret.

who the kinsmen not-thereof loved

Certes, bien sai que voir diset.

Certainly well I-know that true she-said

Sire, mot t'ai por lui amé

Lord much thee-I-have for him loved

80 e j'en ai tot perdu son gré.

and I-thereof have wholly lost his favor

— Certes, et il n'en ***

Certainly and he not-thereof (lacuna)

Porquoi seroit tot suen li ***

Why would-be wholly his the (lacuna)

— Si home li ont fait acroire

His men (to-)him have made believe

de nos tel chose qui n'est voire.

of us such thing that not-is true

— Sire Tristan, que volez dire?

Lord Tristan what you-wish to-say

Mot est cortois li rois, mi sire;

Very is courtly the king my lord

ja nu pensast nul jor par lui

ever not-it he-would-think any day by himself

q'en cest pensé fuson andui.

that-in this thought we-were both

Mais l'en puet home desveier,

But one can man mislead

faire mal faire et bien laisier:

make ill to-do and good to-leave

si a l'on fait de mon seignor.

so has one done of my lord

Tristan, vois m'en, trop i demor.

Tristan I-go myself-thence too-long there I-tarry

— Dame, por amor Deu, merci!

Lady for love (of-)God mercy

Mandai toi, et or es ici:

I-summoned thee and now thou-art here

85

90

- 95 entent un poi a ma proiere.
attend a little to my prayer
 Ja t'ai je tant tenue chiere!»
Indeed thee-have I so-much beld dear
 Quant out oï parler sa drue,
When he-had heard speak his beloved
 sout que s'estoit aperceüe.
he-knew that she-had-herself perceived
 Deu en rent graces et merci,
(to-)God thereof he-renders graces and thanks
 100 or set que bien istront de ci.
now he-knows that well they-will-issue from here
 «Ahi! Yseut, fille de roi,
Ab Iseult daughter of king
 franche, cortoise, en bone foi
noble courtly in good faith
 par plusors foiz vos ai mandee,
by several times you I-have summoned
 puis que chanbre me fu vee
since that chamber to-me was forbidden
 105 ne puis ne poi a vos parler.
nor since not I-could to you speak
 Dame, or vos vuel merci crier,
Lady now (of-)you I-wish mercy to-cry
 qu'il vos menbre de cest chaitif
that-it you may-remind of this wretch
 qui a travail et a duel vif;
who in toil and in grief lives

car j'ai tel duel c'onques le roi

for I-have such grief that-ever the king

out mal pensé de vos vers moi

had ill thought of you toward me

qu'il n'i a el fors que je muere.

that-it not-there is other except that I die

Fort m'est ***

Hard to-me-is (lacuna)

Dame ***

Lady (lacuna)

D ***

(Lacuna) (lacuna)

(lacuna)

(lacuna)

*** mon corage

(lacuna) my heart

*** qu'il fust si sage

(lacuna) that-he were so wise

qu'il n'en creüst pas losengier

that-he not-thereof believed at-all slanderer

moi, desor lui, a esloignier

me from-about him to estrange

li fel cuivert Corneualeis

the felonious base Cornishmen

or en sont lié et font gabois.

now thereof are glad and make mockery

Or voi je bien, si con je quit,

Now see I well so as I think

110

115

120

qu'il ne voudroient que o lui

that-they not would-wish that with him

125 eüst home de son linage.

there-were man of his lineage

Mot m'a pené son mariage.

Much me-has pained his marriage

Dex! pourquoi est li rois si fol?

God why is the king so foolish

Ainz me lairoie par le col

Rather myself I-would-let by the neck

pendre a un arbre q'en ma vie

hang on a tree than-that-in my life

130 o vos preïse druërie.

with you I-should-take love-dealing

Il ne me lait sol escondire.

He not me lets even to-deny

Por ses felons vers moi s'aïre,

For his felons toward me he-himself-angers

trop par fait mal qu'il les en croit:

too much does ill that-he them thereof believes

deceü l'ont, gote ne voit.

deceived him-they-have a-while not he-sees

135 Mot les vi ja taisant et muz,

Much them I-saw once silent and mute

qant li Morhot fu ça venuz,

when the Morholt was hither come

ou nen i out uns d'eus tot sous

where not there was one of-them all alone

qui osast prendre ses adous.

who dared take his arms

Mot vi mon oncle iluec pensif,

Much I-saw my uncle there thoughtful

mex vosist estre mort que vif.

rather he-would-wish be dead than alive

Por s'onor croistre m'en armai,

For his-honor to-increase myself-thereof I-armed

conbati m'en, si l'en chaçai.

I-fought myself-thereof so him-thence I-drove

Ne deüst pas mis oncles chiers

Not should at-all my uncle dear

de moi croire ses losengiers.

of me believe his slanderers

Sovent en ai mon cuer irié.

Often thereof I-have my heart angered

Pensë il que n'en ait pechié?

Thinks he that not-thereof he-has sin

Certes, oïl, n'i faudra mie,

Certainly yes not-there it-will-fail at-all

por Deu, le fiz sainte Marie.

for God the son (of-)holy Mary

Dame, or le li dites errant,

Lady now it (to-)him say straightway

qu'il face faire un feu ardent;

that-he make make a fire burning

e je m'en entreraï el ré.

and I myself-thereinto will-enter in-the pyre

Se ja un poil en ai bruslé

If ever a hair thereof I-have burnt

de la haire qu'avrai vestu,

of the hair-sbirt that-I-shall-have worn

140

145

150

si me laist tot ardoir u feu;

then me let-him wholly burn in-the fire

155 qar je sai bien n'ert de sa cort

for I know well not-will-be of his court

qui a bataille o moi s'en tort.

who to battle with me himself-thereto turns

Dame, por vostre grant franchise,

Lady for your great nobleness

donc ne vos en est pitié prise?

then not (to-)you thereof is pity taken

Dame, je vos en cri merci:

Lady I (of-)you thereof cry mercy

160 tenez moi bien a mon ami.

bold me well as my friend

Qant je vinc ça a lui par mer...

When I came hither to him by sea

com a seignor i vol torner.

as to lord there I-wished to-turn

— Par foi, sire, grant tort avez,

By faith lord great wrong you-have

qui de tel chose a moi parlez

who of such thing to me speak

165 que de vos le mete a raison

that of you him I-may-put to reason

et de s'ire face pardon.

and of his-anger make pardon

Je ne vuel pas encor morir

I not wish at-all yet to-die

ne moi du tot en tot perir.

nor myself of-the all in all to-perish

Il vos mescroit de moi forment,

He you mistrusts of me greatly

et j'en tendrai le parlement?

and I-thereof shall-hold the parley

Donc seroie je trop hardie.

Then would-be I too bold

Par foi, Tristan, n'en ferai mie,

By faith Tristan not-thereof I-shall-do at-all

ne vos nu me devez requerre.

nor you not-it me ought to-ask

Tote sui sole en ceste terre.

All I-am alone in this land

Il vos a fait chambres veer

He (to-)you has made chambers forbid

por moi: s'il or m'en ot parler,

for me if-be now me-thereof hears speak

bien me porroit tenir por fole.

well me he-might hold for foolish

Par foi, ja n'en dirai parole;

By faith ever not-thereof I-shall-say word

et si vos dirai une rien,

and so (to-)you I-shall-say one thing

si vuel que vos le saciés bien:

so I-wish that you it may-know well

se il vos pardounot, beau sire,

if he you pardoned fair lord

par Deu, son mautalent et s'ire,

by God his ill-will and his-anger

j'en seroie joiose et lie.

I-thereof would-be joyful and glad

170

175

180

S'or savoit ceste chevauchie,

If-now he-knew this riding

185 cel sai je bien que ja resort,

that know I well that ever recourse

Tristan, n'avreit contre la mort.

Tristan not-would-have against the death

Vois m'en, imais ne prendrai some.

I-go myself-thence henceforth not I-shall-take rest

Grant poor ai que aucun home

Great fear I-have that some man

a moi vos ait ci veü venir.

to me you has here seen come

190 S'un mot en puet li rois oïr

If-one word thereof can the king hear

que nos fuson ça asenblé,

that we were hitber assembled

il me feroit ardoir en ré.

he me would-make burn in pyre

Ne seret pas mervelle grant.

Not would-be at-all marvel great

Mis cors trenble, poor ai tant!

My body trembles fear I-have so-much

195 De la poor qui or me prent

For the fear that now me takes

vois m'en, trop sui ci longuement.»

I-go myself-thence too I-am here long

Iseut s'en torne, il la rapele:

Iseult herself-thence turns he her calls-back

«Dame, por Deu, qui en pucele

Lady for God who in maiden

prist por le pueple umanité,

took for the people humanity

conseilliez moi, par charité.

counsel me by charity

Bien sai, n'i osez mais remaindre.

Well I-know not-there you-dare more to-remain

Fors a vos ne sai a qui plaindre,

Except to you not I-know to whom to-complain

bien sai que mot me het li rois.

well I-know that much me bates the king

Engagiez est tot mon hernois.

Pledged is all my harness

Car le me faites delivrer:

Now it (to-)me have released

si m'en fuirai, n'i os ester.

so myself-thence I-shall-flee not-there I-dare stay

Bien sai que j'ai si grant prooise,

Well I-know that I-have so great prowess

par tote terre ou sol adoise

through all land where sun reaches

bien sai que u monde n'a cort,

well I-know that in-the world not-is court

s'i vois, li sires ne m'avot.

if-there I-go the lord not me-would-avow

Et se onques point du suen oi,

And if ever whit of-the bis I-bad

200

205

210

Yseut, par cest mien chief le bloi,

Iseult by this my head the blond

nel se voudroit avoir pensé

not-it himself would-wish have thought

mes oncles, ainz un an passé,

my uncle before a year past

215 por si grant d'or com il est toz,

for so great of-gold as he is whole

ne vos en qier mentir deus moz.

not (to-)you thereof I-seek to-lie two words

Yseut, por Deu, de moi pensez,

Iseult for God of me think

envers mon oste m'aquitez.

toward my host me-acquit

— Par Deu, Tristan, mot me mervel,

By God Tristan much myself I-marvel

220 qui me donez itel conseil.

who (to-)me give such counsel

Vos m'alez porchaçant mon mal.

You me-go pursuing my harm

Icest conseil n'est pas loial.

This counsel not-is at-all loyal

Vos savez bien la mescreance,

You know well the mistrust

ou soit savoir ou set enfance.

whether it-be wisdom or be childishness

225 Par Deu, le sire glorios,

By God the lord glorious

qui forma ciel et terre et nos,

who formed heaven and earth and us

se il en ot un mot parler

if he thereof hears one word speak

que vos gages face aquiter,

that your pledges I-make redeem

trop par seroit aperte chose.

too much would-be open thing

Certes, je ne sui pas si osse

Certainly I not am at-all so bold

ne ce vos di por averté,

nor this (to-)you I-say for avarice

ce saciés vus de verité.»

this know you of truth

Atant s'en est Iseut tornee,

Thereupon herself-thence is Iseult turned

Tristran l'a plorant salüee.

Tristan her-has weeping saluted

Sor le perron de marbre bis

Upon the block of marble gray

Tristran s'apuie, ce m'est vis;

Tristan himself-leans that to-me-is seeming

demente soi a lui tot sol:

laments himself to himself all alone

«Ha! Dex, beau sire saint Evrol,

Ab God fair lord saint Evroul

je ne pensai faire tel perte

I not thought make such loss

ne foïr m'en a tel poverté!

nor flee myself-thence to such poverty

N'en merré armes ne cheval,

Not-thence I-shall-take arms nor horse

230

235

240

ne compaignon fors Governal.

nor companion except Governal

Ha! Dex, d'ome desatorné!

Ab God of-man unequipped

Petit fait om de lui chierté.

Little makes one of him esteem

245 Qant je serai en autre terre,

When I shall-be in other land

s'oi chevalier parler de gerre,

if-I-hear knight speak of war

ge n'en oserai mot soner:

I not-thereof shall-dare word to-sound

hom nu n'a nul leu de parler.

man naked not-has any place of speaking

Or m'estovra sofrir fortune,

Now me-it-will-beboove suffer fortune

250 trop m'avra fait mal et rancune!

too-much me-will-have done ill and rancor

Beaus oncles, poi me deconnut

Fair uncle little me misjudged

qui de ta feme me mescrut:

who of thy wife me mistrusted

onques n'oi talent de tel rage.

ever not-I-had desire of such madness

*** on corage.

(lacuna) (lacuna) heart

(lacuna)

(lacuna)

(lacuna)

Li rois qui sus en l'arbre estoit

The king who up in the-tree was

out l'asemblee bien veüe

had the-meeting well seen

et la raison tote entendue.

and the speech all heard

Itel pitié au cor li prist,

Such pity in-the heart him took

qu'il ne plorast ne s'en tenist

that-he not would-weep nor himself-thereof would-hold

por nul avoir, si a grant duel.

for any possession so he-has great grief

Mot het le nain de Tintaguel.

Much he-hates the dwarf of Tintagel

«Las!» fait li rois, «or ai veü

Alas says the king now I-have seen

que li nains m'a trop deceü.

that the dwarf me-has too-much deceived

En cest arbre me fist monter,

Into this tree me he-made climb

il ne me pout plus ahonter.

he not me could more shame

255

260

265

- De mon nevo me fist entendre
Of my nephew me he-made understand
- 270 mençonge, porquoi ferai pendre.
lie wherefore I-shall-make hang
- Por ce me fist metre en air,
For that me he-made put in wrath
- de ma mollier faire haïr.
of my wife make hate
- Ge l'en crui et si fis que fous.
I him-thereof believed and so I-did as fool
- Li gerredon l'en sera sous:
The reward him-thereof will-be his
- 275 se je le puis as poinz tenir,
if I him can in-the hands hold
- par feu ferai son cors fenir.
by fire I-shall-make his body end
- Par moi avra plus dure fin
By me he-will-have more hard end
- que ne fist faire Costentin
than — made make Constantine
- a Segoçon, qu'il escolla
on Segoçon whom-he gelded
- 280 qant o sa feme le trova.
when with his wife him he-found
- Il l'avoit coroné'a Rome
He her-had crowned-at Rome
- et la servoient maint prodome.
and her served many-a worthy-man

Il la tint chiere et honora:

He her held dear and honored

el li mesfist, puis en plora.»

she (to-)him did-wrong then thereof wept

The King Reconciled

II

Mark comes down persuaded of his wife's innocence and resolved to kill the dwarf, who reads his own death in the stars and flees to Wales. Iseult tells Brangain what passed at the pine and Brangain gives thanks; the king questions Iseult, who tells him the truth of the meeting and shames him with it. He embraces her and gives the lovers the freedom of the chamber, and sends Brangain to fetch Tristan. She plays her part, warning Tristan to come to the king reluctantly, and uncle and nephew are reconciled at last.

Tristran s'en ert pieça alez.

Tristan himself-thence was long-since gone

Li rois de l'arbre est devalez;

The king from the-tree is come-down

en son cuer dit or croit sa feme

in his heart he-says now he-believes his wife

et mescroit les barons du reigne,

and mistrusts the barons of-the realm

que li faisoient chose acroire

who (to-)him made thing believe

que il set bien que n'est pas voire

that he knows well that not-is at-all true

et qu'il a prové a mençonge.

and that-he has proved as lie

285

290

Or ne laira qu'au nain ne donge

Now not he-will-leave that-to-the dwarf — he-give

o s'espee si sa merite

with his-sword so his due

par lui n'iert mais traïson dite;

by him not-will-be more treason spoken

295 ne jamais jor ne mescroira

nor ever day not he-will-mistrust

Tristran d'Iseut, ainz lor laira

Tristan of-Iseult rather (to-)them he-will-leave

la chanbre tot a lor vouloir:

the chamber wholly at their will

«Or puis je bien enfin savoir.

Now can I well in-the-end know

Se feüst voir, ceste asenblee

If it-had-been true this meeting

300 ne feüst pas issi finee.

not it-had-been at-all thus ended

S'il s'amasent de fol'amor,

If-they themselves-loved with mad-love

ci avoient asez leïsor,

here they-had plenty leisure

bien les veïse entrebaisier.

well them I-should-have-seen kiss-each-other

Ges ai oï si gramoier,

Them I-have heard so lament

305 or sai je bien n'en ont corage.

now know I well not-thereof they-have heart

Porquoi cro je si fort outrage?

Wherefore believe I so strong outrage

Ce poise moi, si m'en repent:

That weighs (on-)me so myself-thereof repent

mot est fous qui croit tote gent.

very is foolish who believes all people

Bien deüse ainz avoir prové

Well I-should rather have proved

de ces deus genz la verité

of these two persons the truth

que je eüse fol espoir.

than I had foolish surmise

Buer virent apremier cest soir.

In-good-hour they-saw approach this evening

Au parlement ai tant appris

At-the parley I-have so-much learned

jamais jor n'en serai pensis.

ever day not-thereof I-shall-be thoughtful

Par matinet sera paiez

By morning will-be satisfied

Tristan o moi, s'avra congiez

Tristan with me and-be-will-have leave

d'estre a ma chanbre a son plesir.

to-be at my chamber at his pleasure

Or est remés li suen fuïr,

Now is left-off the his fleeing

qu'il voloit faire le matin.»

that-be wished to-do the morning

Oiez du nain boçu Frocin.

Hear of-the dwarf hunchbacked Frocin

Fors estoit, si gardoit en l'er,

Outside he-was so he-looked into the-air

310

315

320

vit orïent et Lucifer.

he-saw orient and Lucifer

Des estoiles le cors savoit,

Of-the stars the course he-knew

les set planestres devoit;

the seven planets he-described

325 il savoit bien que ert a estre:

he knew well what was to be

qant il oiet un enfant nestre,

when he heard a child be-born

les poinz contot toz de sa vie.

the points he-counted all of its life

Li nains Frocins, plains de voisdie,

The dwarf Frocin full of cunning

mot se penout de ceu deçoivre

much himself he-took-pains of that-one to-deceive

330 qui de l'ame le feroit soivre.

who from the-soul him would-make sunder

As estoiles choisist l'asente,

In-the stars he-descried the-omen

de mautalent rogist et enfle,

with ill-will he-reddens and swells

bien set li rois fort le menace,

well (he-)knows the king strongly him threatens

ne laira pas qu'il nu desface.

not he-will-leave at-all that-be him undo

335 Mot est li nain nerci et pales,

Very is the dwarf blackened and pale

mot tost s'en vet fuiant vers Gales.

very quickly himself-thence he-goes fleeing toward Wales

Li rois vait mot le nain querant,

The king goes much the dwarf seeking

nu puet trover, s'en a duel grant.

not-him he-can find so-thereof he-has grief great

Yseut est en sa chanbre entree.

Iseult is into her chamber entered

Brengain la vit descoloree,

Brangain her saw colorless

bien sout que ele avoit oï

well she-knew that she had heard

tel rien dont out le cuer marri,

such thing whereof she-had the heart grieved

qui si muoit et palisoit;

who so changed and paled

se li demande ce que doit.

so (of-)her she-asks that which it-means

Ele respont: «Bele magistre,

She answers Fair mistress

bien doi estre pensive et triste.

well I-ought to-be pensive and sad

Brengain, ne vos vuel pas mentir:

Brangain not (to-)you I-wish at-all to-lie

ne sai qui hui nos vout traïr,

not I-know who today us wished to-betray

mais li rois Marc estoit en l'arbre,

but the king Mark was in the-tree

ou li perrons estait de marbre.

where the block was of marble

Je vi son onbre en la fontaine.

I saw his shadow in the fountain

340

345

350

Dex me fist parler premeraine.

God me made speak first

Onques de ce que je i quis

Ever of that which I there sought

n'i out mot dit, ce vus plevis,

not-there was word said this (to-)you I-pledge

355 mais mervellos conplaignement

but marvelous lamenting

et mervellos gemissement.

and marvelous groaning

Gel blasmé que il me mandot,

I-him blamed that he me summoned

et il autretant me priout

and he as-much me besought

que l'acordase a mon seignor,

that I-should-reconcile-him to my lord

360 qui, a grant tort, ert a error

who by great wrong was in error

vers lui de moi; et je li dis

toward him of me and I (to-)him said

que grant folie avoit requis,

that great folly he-bad asked

que je a lui mais ne vendroie

that I to him more not would-come

ne ja au roi ne parleroie.

nor ever to-the king not I-would-speak

365 Ne sai que je plus racontasse.

Not I-know what I more might-relate

Conplainz i out une grant masse;

Complaints there was a great mass

onques li rois ne s'aperçut

ever the king not himself-perceived

ne mon estre ne desconnut.

nor my state not he-knew

Partie me sui du tripot.»

Parted myself I-am from-the tangle

Quant l'ot Brengain, mot s'en esjot:

370

When it-heard Brangain much herself-thereat she-rejoiced

«Iseut, ma dame, grant merci

Iseult my lady great grace

nus a Dex fait, qui ne menti,

(to-)us has God done who not lied

qant il vos a fait desevrer

when he you has made part

du parlement sanz plus outrer,

from-the parley without more going-on

que li rois n'a chose veüe

375

so-that the king not-has thing seen

qui ne puise estr'en bien tenue.

that not may be-in good taken

Granz miracles vos a fait Dex,

Great miracles (for-)you has done God

il est verais peres et tex

he is true father and such

qu'il n'a cure de faire mal

that-he not-has care of doing ill

a ceus qui sont buen et loial.»

380

to those who are good and loyal

Tristran ravoit tot raconté

Tristan had-in-turn all related

a son mestre com out ouvré.

to his master how he-had wrought

Qant conter l'ot, Deu en mercie

When tell him-he-heard God thereof he-thanks

que plus n'i out fait o s'amie.

that more not-there he-had done with his-friend

385 Ne pout son nain trover li rois.

Not could his dwarf find the king

Dex! tant ert a Tristran sordoï!

God so-much was for Tristan worse

A sa chanbre li rois en vient.

To his chamber the king thereupon comes

Iseut le voit, qui mot le crient:

Iseult him sees who much him fears

«Sire, por Deu, dont venez vos?

Lord for God whence come you

390 Avez besoin, qui venez sous?

Have-you need who come alone

— Roïne, ainz vien a vos parler

Queen rather I-come to you speak

et une chose demander.

and one thing ask

Si ne me celez pas le voir,

So not me hide at-all the truth

qar la verté en vuel savoir.

for the truth thereof I-wish to-know

395 — Sire, onques jor ne vos menti.

Lord ever day not (to-)you I-lied

Se la mort doi recevoir ci,

If the death I-must receive here

s'en dirai je le voir du tot:

so-thereof shall-say I the truth of-the all

ja n'i avra menti d'un mot.

ever not-there will-be lied by-one word

— Dame, veïs puis mon nevo?

Lady sawest-thou afterward my nephew

— Sire, le voir vos en desno.

Lord the truth (to-)you thereof I-declare

Ne croiras pas que voir en die,

Not thou-wilt-believe at-all that truth thereof I-say

mais jel dirai sanz tricherie.

but I-it shall-say without trickery

Gel vi et pus parlai a lui,

I-him saw and after I-spoke to him

o ton nevo soz cel pin fui.

with thy nephew under that pine I-was

Or m'en oci, roi, se tu veus.

Now me-thereof slay king if thou wishest

Certes, gel vi. Ce est grant deus;

Certainly I-him saw That is great grief

qar tu penses que j'aim Tristan

for thou thinkest that I-love Tristan

par puterie et par anjan.

by lechery and by deceit

Si ai tel duel que moi n'en chaut

So I-have such grief that (to-)me not-thereof matters

se tu me fais prendre un mal saut.

if thou me makest take an ill leap

400

405

410

Sire, merci a ceste foiz!

Lord mercy at this time

Je t'ai voir dit: si ne m'en croiz,

I thee-have truth said so not me-thereof thou-believest

einz croiz parole fole et vaine,

rather thou-believest word foolish and vain

ma bone foi me fera saine.

my good faith me will-make whole

415 Tristan, tes niés, vint soz cel pin

Tristan thy nephew came under that pine

qui est laienz en cel jardin,

which is within in that garden

si me manda qu'alasse a lui.

so me he-summoned that-I-should-go to him

Ne me dist rien, mais je li dui

Not me he-said thing but I (to-)him owed

anor faire non trop frarine.

honor do not too meager

420 Par lui sui je de vos roïne.

By him am I of you queen

Certes, ne fusent li cuvert

Certainly not were the base-ones

qui vos diënt ce qui ja n'ert,

who (to-)you say that which ever not-will-be

volantiers li feïse anor.

willingly (to-)him I-should-have-done honor

Sire, jos tien por mon seignor,

Lord I-you hold for my lord

425 et il est vostre niés, ç'oi dire.

and he is your nephew that-I-have-heard say

Por vos l'ai je tant amé, sire.

For you him-have I so-much loved lord

Mais li felon, li losengier,

But the felons the slanderers

quil vuelent de cort esloignier,

who-him wish from court to-estrangle

te font acroire la mençonge.

thee make believe the lie

Tristan s'en vet: Dex lor en doinge

Tristan himself-thence goes God (to-)them thereof grant

male vergoigne recevoir!

evil shame to-receive

A ton nevo parlai ersoir:

To thy nephew I-spoke yester-evening

mot se complaint com angoisos,

much himself he-complains as anguished

sire, que l'acordasse a vos.

lord that I-should-reconcile-him to you

Ge li dis ce, qu'il s'en alast,

I (to-)him said this that-he himself-thence should-go

nule foiz mais ne me mandast;

any time more not me should-summon

qar je a lui mais ne vendroie

for I to him more not would-come

ne ja a vos n'en parleroie.

nor ever to you not-thereof I-would-speak

Sire, de rien ne m'en creirez:

Lord of thing not me-thereof you-will-believe

il n'i ot plus. Se vos volez,

there not-there was more If you wish

430

435

440

ocïez moi, mes c'iert a tort.

slay me but that-will-be by wrong

Tristan s'en vet por le descort,

Tristan himself-thence goes for the discord

bien sai que outre la mer passe.

well I-know that beyond the sea he-passes

Dist moi que l'ostel l'aquitasse:

He-said (to-)me that the-lodging it-I-should-redeem

445 nel vol de rien nule aquiter

not-it I-wished of thing any to-redeem

ne longuement a lui parler.

nor long to him to-speak

Sire, or t'ai dit le voir sanz falle:

Lord now thee-I-have said the truth without fail

se je te ment, le chief me talle.

if I thee lie the head me cut-off

Ce saciez, sire, sanz doutance,

This know lord without doubt

450 je li feïse l'aquitance,

I (to-)him should-have-made the-redemption

se je osase, volentiers;

if I dared willingly

ne sol quatre besanz entiers

not even four besants whole

ne li vol metre en s'aumosniere,

not (to-)him I-wished to-put in his-purse

por ta mesnie noveliere.

for thy household tale-bearing

455 Povre s'en vet: Dex le conduie!

Poor himself-thence he-goes God him conduct

Par grant pechié li donez fuie.

By great sin (to-)him you-give flight

Il n'ira ja en cel païs

He not-will-go ever into that land

Dex ne li soit verais amis.»

(where-)God not (to-)him be true friend

Li rois sout bien qu'el'ot voir dit,

The king knew well that-she-had truth said

les paroles totes oït.

the words all be-heard

Acole la, cent foiz la besse.

He-embraces her hundred times her be-kisses

El plore: il dit qu'ele se tese:

She weeps he says that-she herself be-still

ja nes mescrerra mais nul jor

ever not-them will-mistrust more any day

por dit de nul losengeor;

for word of any slanderer

allent et viengent a lor buens.

let-them-go and let-them-come at their pleasures

Li avoïrs Tristan ert mes suens

The wealth (of-)Tristan was now his

et li suens avoir ert Tristan.

and the his wealth was (of-)Tristan

N'en crerra mais Corneualan.

Not-thereof be-will-believe more Cornishman

460

465

Or dit li rois a la roïne

Now says the king to the queen

470 conme le felon nain Frocine

how the felon dwarf Frocin

out anoncié le parlement

had announced the parley

et com el pin plus hautement

and how in-the pine most highly

le fist monter por eus voier

him be-made climb for them to-see

a lor asenblement, le soir.

at their meeting the evening

475 «Sire, estiez vos donc el pin?

Lord were you then in-the pine

— Oil, dame, par saint Martin.

Yes lady by saint Martin

Onques n'i ot parole dite

Ever not-there was word said

ge n'oïse, grant ne petite.

I not-heard(-it) great nor small

Qant j'oï a Tristan retraire

When I-heard to Tristan recount

480 la bataille que li fis faire,

the battle that (for-)him I-made fight

pitié en oi, petit falli

pity thereof I-had little it-lacked

que de l'arbre jus ne chaï.

that from the-tree down — I-fell

Et qant je vos oï retraire

And when I you heard recount

le mal q'en mer li estut traire

the ill that-in sea (for-)him it-behooved to-suffer

de la plaie dont le garistes,

of the wound whereof him you-healed

et les grans biens que li feïstes,

and the great goods that (for-)him you-did

et quant il vos requist quittance

and when he (of-)you asked release

de ses gages, si oi pesance

of his pledges so I-had grief

ne li vosistes aquiter

not (for-)him you-wished to-redeem

ne l'un de vos l'autre abiter,

nor the-one of you the-other to-approach

pitié m'en prist an l'arbre sus.

pity me-thereof took in the-tree above

Souef m'en ris, si n'en fis plus.

Softly myself-thereof I-laughed so not-thereof I-did more

— Sire, ce m'est mot buen forment.

Lord that to-me-is very good greatly

Or savez bien certainement.

Now you-know well certainly

Mot avion bele loisor:

Much we-had fair leisure

se il m'amast de fole amor,

if he me-loved with mad love

asez en veïsiez senblant.

plenty thereof you-should-have-seen semblance

485

490

495

Ainz, par ma foi, ne tant ne quant

Ever by my faith nor so-much nor how-much

ne veïstes qu'il m'aprimast

not you-saw that-he me-approached

500 ne me preïst ne me baisast.

nor me took nor me kissed

Bien senble ce chose certaine:

Well seems this thing certain

ne m'amot pas d'amor vilaine.

not he-me-loved at-all with-love base

Sire, s'or ne nos veïsiez,

Lord if-now not us you-had-seen

certes ne nos en creüsiez.

certainly not us thereof you-would-have-believed

505 — Par Deu, je non,» li rois respont.

By God I not the king answers

«Bregain (que Dex anor te donst!),

Brangain that God honor thee grant

por mon nevo va a l'ostel;

for my nephew go to the-lodging

et se il dit ou un ou el

and if he says either one or other

ou n'i vuelle venir por toi,

or not-there wishes to-come for thee

510 di je li mant qu'il vienge a moi.»

say I (to-)him send-word that-he come to me

Bregain li dit: «Sire, il me het:

Brangain (to-)him says Lord he me hates

si est a grant tort, Dex le set.

and it-is by great wrong God it knows

Dit par moi est meslez o vos,

He-says by me he-is embroiled with you

la mort me veut tot a estros.

the death me he-wishes wholly at once

G'irai; por vos le laissera

I-shall-go for you it he-will-leave

bien tost que ne me tochera.

well soon that not me he-will-touch

Sire, por Deu, acordez m'i,

Lord for God reconcile me-thereto

quant il sera venu ici.»

when he will-be come here

Oiez que dit la tricherresse!

Hear what says the deceiver

Mot fist que bone lecherresse;

Much she-did as good wanton

lores gaboit a esscient

then she-jested with knowledge

et se plaignoit de mal talent.

and herself she-complained of ill will

«Rois, por lui vois,» ce dist Brengain.

King for him I-go that said Brangain

«Acordez m'i, si ferez bien.»

Reconcile me-thereto so you-will-do well

Li rois respont: «G'i metrai paine.

The king answers thereto-I shall-put pains

Va tost poroc et ça l'amaine.»

Go quickly for-it and hither him-bring

515

520

525

Yseut s'en rist et li rois plus.

Iseult herself-thereat laughed and the king more

Brangain s'en ist les sauz par l'us.

Brangain herself-thence issues the leaps through the-door

Tristran estoit a la paroi,

Tristan was at the wall

530 bien les oiet parler au roi.

well them he-heard speak to-the king

Brangain a par les braz saisie,

Brangain he-has by the arms seized

acole la, Deu en mercie:

he-embraces her God thereof he-thanks

d'or en avant avra loisir

from-now thereon onward he-will-have leisure

d'estre o Yseut a son plaisir.

to-be with Iseult at his pleasure

535 Brangain mist Tristran a raison:

Brangain set Tristan to speech

«Sire, laiienz en sa maison

Lord within in his house

a li rois grant raison tenue

has the king great speech held

de toi et de ta chiere drue.

of thee and of thy dear beloved

Pardonné t'a son mautalent,

Pardoned thee-has his ill-will

540 or het ceus qui te vont meslant.

now he-hates those who thee go embroiling

Proïe m'a que vienge a toi;

Prayed me-he-has that I-come to thee

ge ai dit que ire as vers moi.

I have said that anger thou-hast toward me

Fai grant senblant de toi proier,

Make great semblance of thyself to-be-prayed

n'i venir mie de legier.

not-there come at-all with ease

Se li rois fait de moi proiere,

If the king makes of me prayer

fai par senblant mauvese chiere.»

make by semblance ill countenance

Tristran l'acole, si la beise,

Tristan her-embraces so her kisses

liez est que ore ra son esse.

glad he-is that now he-has-again his ease

A la chanbre painte s'en vont,

To the chamber painted themselves-thence they-go

la ou li rois et Yseut sont.

there where the king and Iseult are

Tristran est en la chanbre entrez.

Tristan is into the chamber entered

«Niés,» fait li rois, «avant venez.

Nephew says the king forward come

Ton mautalent quite a Brengain

Thy ill-will remit to Brangain

et je te pardorrai le mien.

and I thee shall-pardon the mine

— Oncle, chiers sire, or m'entendez:

Uncle dear lord now me-bear

545

550

555

legirement vos desfendez

lightly yourself you-defend

vers moi, qui ce m'avez mis sure

toward me who this me-have put upon

dont li mien cor el ventre pleure,

whereof the my heart in-the belly weeps

si grant desroi, tel felonie!

so great disorder such felony

560 Dannez seroie et el honie.

Damned I-should-be and she shamed

Ainz nu pensames, Dex le set.

Ever not-it we-thought God it knows

Or savez bien que cil vos het

Now you-know well that he you hates

qui te fait croire tel merveille.

who thee makes believe such marvel

D'or en avant meux te conselle,

From-now thereon onward better thee counsel

565 ne portë ire a la roïne

not bear anger to the queen

n'a moi, qui sui de vostre orine.

nor-to me who am of your stock

— Non ferai je, beaus niés, par foi.»

Not shall-do I fair nephew by faith

Acordez est Tristran au roi.

Reconciled is Tristan to-the king

Li rois li a doné congié

The king (to-)him has given leave

570 d'estre a la chanbre: es le vus lié.

to-be at the chamber behold him for-you glad

Tristan vait a la chanbre et vient,

Tristan goes to the chamber and comes

nule cure li rois n'en tient.

any heed the king not-thereof takes

The Flour Strewn between the Beds

III

Three barons of the court bind themselves by oath to force Tristan's exile and threaten war on Mark; the dwarf Frocin gives the king the plan. Mark is to send Tristan to Arthur with a sealed letter and to leave the chamber at first sleep, and the dwarf strews flour between the two beds. Tristan, his leg wounded by a boar, leaps the lance-length to the king's bed and the wound bleeds on the flour. The barons bind both lovers, and Tristan begs mercy for the queen and asks to clear himself in the field.

Ha! Dex, qui puet amor tenir

Ab God who can love hold

un an ou deus sanz descovrir?

one year or two without disclosing

Car amors ne se puet celer:

For love not itself can conceal

sovent cline l'un vers son per,

often inclines the-one toward his mate

sovent vienent a parlement,

often they-come to parley

et a celé et voiant gent.

and in secret and seeing folk

575

Par tot ne puënt aise atendre,

In all(-places) not they-can ease await

580 maint parlement lor estuet prendre.

many-a parley (for-)them it-behooves to-take

A la cort avoit trois barons,

At the court there-were three barons

ainz ne veïstes plus felons.

ever not you-saw more felonious

Par soirement s'estoient pris.

By oath themselves-they-had bound

Que, se li rois de son païs

That if the king from his land

585 n'en faisot son nevo partir,

not-thereof made his nephew depart

il nu voudroient mais souffrir,

they not-it would-wish more to-suffer

a lor chasteaus sus s'en traïroient

to their castles up themselves-thence they-would-draw

et au roi Marc gerre feroient.

and on-the king Mark war they-would-make

Qar, en un gardin, soz une ente,

For in a garden under a grafted-tree

590 virent l'autrier Yseut la gente

they-saw the-other-day Iseult the fair

ovoc Tristran en tel endroit

with Tristan in such place

que nus hon consentir ne doit;

that any man consent not ought

et plusors foiz les ont veüz

and several times them they-have seen

el lit roi Marc gesir toz nus.

in-the bed (of-)king Mark lie all naked

Quar, quant li rois en vet el bois,

For when the king thence goes into-the wood

et Tristan dit: «Sire, g'en vois;»

and Tristan says Lord I-thence go

puis se remaint, entre en la chanbre,

then himself he-stays enters into the chamber

iluec grant piece sont ensemble.

there great while they-are together

«Nos li diromes nos meïmes.

We (to-)him will-say(-it) we ourselves

Alon au ro et si li dimes,

Let-us-go to-the king and so (to-)him let-us-say

ou il nos aint ou il nos hast,

whether he us love or he us hate

nos volon son nevo en chast.»

we wish his nephew thence he-drive-out

Tuit ensemble ont ce conseil pris.

All together have this counsel taken

Le roi Marc ont a raison mis,

The king Mark they-have to speech set

a une part ont le roi trait:

to one side they-have the king drawn

«Sire,» font il, «malement vet.

Lord say they ill it-goes

Tes niés s'entraiment et Yseut,

Thy nephew each-other-love and Iseult

595

600

605

savoir le puet qui c'onques veut;

know it can who that-ever wishes

et nos nu volon mais sofrir.»

and we not-it wish more to-suffer

610 Li rois l'entent, fist un sospir,

The king it-hears made a sigh

son chief abesse vers la terre,

his head he-lowers toward the earth

ne set qu'il die, sovent erre.

not he-knows what he-may-say often he-paces

«Rois,» ce diënt li troi felon,

King this say the three felons

«par foi, mais nu consentiron;

by faith more not-it we-shall-consent

615 qar bien savon de verité

for well we-know of truth

que tu consenz lor cruauté,

that thou consentest (to-)their cruelty

et tu sez bien ceste merveille.

and thou knowest well this marvel

Q'en feras tu? Or t'en conselle!

What-thereof wilt-do thou Now thee-thereof counsel

Se ton nevo n'ostes de cort,

If thy nephew not-thou-put-out of court

620 si que jamais nen i retort,

so that ever not there he-return

ne nos tenron a vos jamez,

not we shall-hold to you ever-more

si ne vos tendron nule peiz.

so not (to-)you we-shall-keep any peace

De nos voisins feron partir

Of our neighbors we-shall-make depart

de cort, que nel poon souffrir.

from court since not-it we-can suffer

Or t'aron tost cest geu parti:

Now (to-)thee-we-shall-have soon this game set

tote ta volenté nos di.

all thy will (to-)us say

— Seignor, vos estes mi fael.

Lords you are my liegemen

Si m'aït Dex, mot me mervel

So me-help God much me I-marvel

que mes niés ma vergonde ait quise;

that my nephew my shame has sought

mais servi m'a d'estrangle guise.

but served me-he-has in-strange manner

Conseliez m'en, gel vos requier.

Counsel me-thereof I-it (of-)you ask

Vos me devez bien consellier,

You me ought well to-counsel

que servise perdre ne vuel.

for service to-lose not I-wish

Vos savez bien, n'ai son d'orguel.

You know well not-I-have care of-pride

— Sire, or mandez le nain devin:

Lord now summon the dwarf soothsayer

certes, il set de maint latin,

certainly he knows of many-a lore

si en soit ja li conseil pris.

so thereof be at-once the counsel taken

625

630

635

Mandez le nain, puis soit asis.»

Summon the dwarf then let-him-be seated

Et il i est mot tost venuz

And he there is very soon come

640 (dehez ait il!) conne boçuz.

cursed be he as hunchback

Li un des barons l'en acole,

The one of-the barons him-thereat embraces

li rois li mostre sa parole.

the king (to-)him shows his matter

Ha! or oiez qel traïson

Ah now hear what treason

et con faite seducion

and how made deceit

645 a dit au roi cil nain Frocin!

has said to-the king that dwarf Frocin

Dehé aient tuit cil devin!

Cursed be all those soothsayers

Qui porpensast tel felonie

Who would-devise such felony

con fist cist nain, qui Dex maudie?

as did this dwarf whom God curse

«Di ton nevo q'au roi Artur,

Say (to-)thy nephew that-to-the king Arthur

650 a Carduel, qui est clos de mur,

at Carduel which is enclosed with wall

covienge qu'il aut par matin;

it-behoove that-he go in (the-)morning

un brief escrit an parchemin

a letter written on parchment

port a Artur toz les galoz,

let-him-carry to Arthur all the gallops

bien seelé, a cire aclox.

well sealed with wax fastened

Rois, Tristan gist devant ton lit.

King Tristan lies before thy bed

Anevoies, en ceste nuit,

Straightway in this night

sai que voudra a li parler,

I-know that he-will-wish to her speak

por ceu que devra la aler.

for that that he-will-have-to thither go

Rois, de la chanbre is a prinsome.

King from the chamber go-out at first-sleep

Deu te jur et la loi de Rome,

(by-)God thee I-swear and the law of Rome

se Tristan l'aime folement,

if Tristan her-loves madly

a li vendra a parlement;

to her he-will-come to parley

et s'il i vient et je nul sai,

and if-be there comes and I any know-it

se tu nu voiz, si me desfai,

if thou not-it seest then me undo

et tuit ti home outreement:

and all thy men utterly

prové seront sanz soirement.

proved they-will-be without oath

655

660

665

Rois, or m'en laise convenir

King now me-thereof let arrange

et a ma volenté sortir,

and at my will dispose

et se li çole l'envoier

and so (from-)him conceal the-sending

670 desi qu'a l'ore du cochier.»

until that-at the-hour of-the going-to-bed

Li rois respont: «Amis, c'ert fait.»

The king answers Friend that-will-be done

Departent soi, chascun s'en vait.

They-part themselves each himself-thence goes

Mot fu li nain de grant voidie,

Much was the dwarf of great cunning

mot par fist rede felonie.

very much he-did harsh felony

675 Cil en entra chiés un pector,

He thereupon entered at-the-house-of a baker

quatre derees prist de flor,

four pennyworth he-took of flour

puis la lia a son guerron.

then it he-tied in his apron

Qui pensast mais tel traïson?

Who would-think ever such treason

La nuit, qant ot li rois mangié,

The night when had the king eaten

680 par la sale furent couchié.

through the hall they-were bedded

Tristran ala le roi couchier.

Tristan went the king to-put-to-bed

«Beaus niés,» fait-il, «je vos requier,

Fair nephew says-he I (of-)you ask

ma volenté faites, gel vuel.

my will do I-it wish

Au roi Artus, jusqu'a Carduel,

To-the king Arthur as-far-as Carduel

vos covendra a chevauchier.

you it-will-behoove to ride

Cel brief li faites desploier.

That letter (to-)him have unfolded

Niés, de ma part le salüez,

Nephew from my part him greet

o lui c'un jor ne sejoinez.»

with him that-one day not you-stay

Du message ot Tristan parler,

Of-the message heard Tristan speak

au roi respont de lui porter:

to-the king he-answers of it to-carry

«Rois, ge irai bien par matin.

King I shall-go indeed in (the-)morning

— O vos, ainz que la nuit ait fin.»

Yes you(-shall) before that the night have end

Tristan fu mis en grant esfrei.

Tristan was put in great fright

Entre son lit et cel au roi

Between his bed and that of-the king

avoit bien le lonc d'une lance.

there-was well the length of-a lance

Trop out Tristan fole atenance:

Too-much had Tristan foolish presumption

685

690

695

en son cuer dist qu'il parleroît

in his heart he-said that-he would-speak

a la roïne, s'il pooit,

to the queen if-he could

qant ses oncles ert endormiz.

when his uncle was asleep

700 Dex! quel pechié! trop ert hardi!

God what sin too he-was bold

Li nains la nuit en la chanbre ert:

The dwarf the night in the chamber was

oiez comment cele nuit sert.

hear how that night he-serves

Entre deus liez la flor respant,

Between two beds the flour he-strews

que li pas allent paraisant,

so-that the steps go appearing

705 se l'un a l'autre la nuit vient:

if the-one to the-other the night comes

la flor la forme des pas tient.

the flour the shape of-the steps holds

Tristran vit le nain besuchier

Tristan saw the dwarf busy-himself

et la farine esparpellier.

and the flour scatter

Porpensa soi que ce devoit,

He-bethought himself what that meant

710 qar si servir pas ne soloit;

for so to-serve at-all not he-was-wont

pus dist: «Bien tost a ceste place

then he-said Full soon at this place

espandroit flor por nostre trace

he-would-strew flour for our trace

veer, se l'un à l'autre iroit.

to-see if the-one to the-other would-go

Qui iroit or, que fous feroit;

Whoever would-go now as fool would-do

bien verra mais se or i vois.»

well he-will-see indeed if now there I-go

Le jor devant, Tristran, el bois,

The day before Tristan in-the wood

en la janbe nafrez estoit

in the leg wounded was

d'un grant sengler, mot se doloit.

by-a great boar much himself he-suffered

La plaie mot avoit saigné.

The wound much had bled

Desliez ert, par son pechié.

Unbound he-was through his sin

Tristran ne dormoit pas, ce quit;

Tristan not slept at-all this I-think

et li rois live a mie nuit,

and the king rises at mid night

fors de la chanbre en est issuz;

out of the chamber thereof is gone

o lui ala li nain boçuz.

with him went the dwarf hunchbacked

715

720

725 Dedenz la chanbre n'out clartez,
Within the chamber not-there-was light

cirge ne lanpë alumez.

candle nor lamp lit

Tristran se fu sus piez levez.

Tristan himself was on feet risen

Dex! porquoi fut? Or escoutez!

God wherefore was-it Now hear

Les piez a joinz, esme, si saut,

The feet he-has joined he-measures so he-leaps

730 el lit le roi chaï de haut.

into-the bed of-the king he-fell from high

Sa plaie escrive, forment saine;

His wound bursts strongly it-bleeds

le sanc qui'nn ist les dras ensaigne.

the blood that-therefrom issues the sheets stains

La plaie saigne; ne la sent,

The wound bleeds not it he-feels

qar trop a son delit entent.

for too-much on his delight he-is-intent

735 En plusors leus li sanc aüne.

In several places the blood gathers

Li nains defors est. A la lune

The dwarf outside is By the moon

bien vit josté erent ensenble

well he-saw joined they-were together

li dui amant. De joie en trenble,

the two lovers With joy thereat he-trembles

et dist au roi: «Se nes puez prendre

and he-said to-the king If not-them thou-canst take

ensemble, va, si me fai pendre.»

together go so me have hang

Iluec furent li troi felon

There were the three felons

par qui fu ceste traïson

by whom was this treason

porpensee priveement.

devised privately

Li rois s'en vient. Tristan l'entent,

The king himself-thence comes Tristan him-bears

live du lit, tot esfroïz,

he-rises from-the bed all frightened

errant s'en rest mot tost salliz.

straightway himself-thence he-is-again very quickly leapt

Au tresallir que Tristan fait,

At-the starting that Tristan makes

li sans decent (malement vait)

the blood descends ill it-goes

de la plaie sor la farine.

from the wound onto the flour

Ha! Dex, qel duel que la roïne

Ah God what grief that the queen

n'avot les dras du lit otez!

not-had the sheets of-the bed removed

Ne fust la nuit nus d'eus provez.

Not would-have-been the night any of-them proved

Se ele s'en fust apensee,

If she herself-thereof had bethought

740

745

750

mot eüst bien s'anor tensee.

much she-had well her-honor defended

755 Mot grant miracle Deu i out,

Very great miracle (of-)God there was

quis garanti, si con li plot.

which-them protected so as (to-)him it-pleased

Li ros a sa chanbre revient;

The king to his chamber returns

li nain, que la chandele tient,

the dwarf who the candle holds

vient avoc lui. Tristan faisoit

comes with him Tristan was-making

760 senblant conme se il dormoit;

semblance as if he slept

quar il ronfloit forment du nes.

for he snored loudly through-the nose

Seus en la chanbre fu remés,

Alone in the chamber he-was left

fors tant que a ses piés gesoit

save so-much that at his feet lay

Pirinis, qui ne s'esmovoit,

Perinis who not himself-stirred

765 et la roïne a son lit jut.

and the queen in her bed lay

Sor la flor, chاوز, li sanc parut.

On the flour warm the blood appeared

Li rois choisi el lit le sanc:

The king espied in-the bed the blood

vermel en furent li drap blanc,

red thereof were the sheets white

et sor la flor en pert la trace,

and on the flour thereof appears the trace

du saut. Li rois Tristan menace.

of-the leap The king Tristan threatens

Li troi baron sont en la chanbre...

The three barons are in the chamber

Tristan par ire a son lit prenent.

Tristan with anger at his bed they-take

Cuelli l'orent cil en haïne,

Seized him-had they in hatred

por sa prooise, et la roïne.

for his prowess and the queen

Laidisent la, mot la menacent,

They-abuse her much her they-threaten

ne lairont justice n'en facent.

not they-will-leave justice thereof they-do

Voient la janbe qui li saine.

They-see the leg which (to-)him bleeds

«Trop par a ci veraie enseigne:

Too much is here true token

provez estes,» ce dist li rois;

proved you-are this said the king

«vostre escondit n'i vaut un pois.

your denial not-there is-worth a pea

Certes, Tristan, demain, ce quit,

Certainly Tristan tomorrow this I-think

soyez certain d'estre destruit.»

be certain to-be destroyed

Il li crie: «Sire, merci!

He (to-)him cries Lord mercy

770

775

780

Por Deu, qui passion soufri,

For God who passion suffered

785 sire, de nos pitié vos prenge!»

lord of us pity you take

Li fel diënt: «Sire, or te venge.

The felons say Lord now thee avenge

— Beaus oncles, de moi ne me chaut:

Fair uncle of me not (to-)me it-matters

bien sai, venuz sui a mau saut.

well I-know come I-am to an-ill leap

Ne fust por vos a corocier,

Not were-it for you to anger

790 cist plez fust ja venduz mot chier;

this plea would-be already sold very dear

ja, por lor eulz, ne le pensasent

ever for their eyes not it they-would-think

que ja de lor mains m'atochasent;

that ever with their hands me-they-should-touch

mais envers vos nen ai je rien.

but toward you not have I thing

Or, tort a mal ou tort a bien,

Now turn to ill or turn to good

795 de moi ferez vostre plesir,

of me you-will-do your pleasure

et je sui prest de vos souffrir.

and I am ready of you to-suffer

Sire, por Deu, de la roïne

Lord for God of the queen

aiez pitié!» Tristan l'encline.

have pity Tristan him-bows-to

«Qar il n'a home en ta meson,

For there not-is man in thy house

se disoit ceste traïson

if he-said this treason

que pris eüse druërie

that taken I-had love-dealing

o la roïne par folie,

with the queen through folly

ne m'en trovast en chanp, armé.

not me-thereof he-would-find in field armed

Sire, merci de li, por Dél.»

Lord mercy on her for God

Li troi qui an la chanbre sont

The three who in the chamber are

Tristran ont pris et lié l'ont,

Tristan have taken and bound him-they-have

et liée ront la roïne.

and bound they-have-in-turn the queen

Mot est torné a grant haïne.

Much is it-turned to great hatred

Ja, se Tristran ice seüst

Indeed if Tristan this had-known

que escondire nul leüst,

that to-deny-himself not-at-all were-allowed

mex se laisast vif depecier

rather himself he-would-have-let alive tear-to-pieces

que lui ne lié soufrist liër.

than him nor her he-should-suffer to-bind

800

805

810

Mais en Deu tant fort se fïot

But in God so strongly himself he-trusted

que bien savoit e bien quidoit,

that well he-knew and well he-thought

815 s'a escondit peüst venir,

if-to denial he-could come

nus nen osast armes saisir

any not would-dare arms seize

encontre lui, lever ne prendre:

against him raise nor take

bien se quidoit par chanp defendre.

well himself he-thought by field to-defend

Por ce ne vout envers le roi

For this not he-wished toward the king

820 mesfaire soi par nul desroi;

to-misdo himself by any violence

qar, s'il seüst ce que en fut

for if-he had-known that which thereof was

et ce qui avenir lor dut,

and that which to-come (to-)them must

il les eüst tuëz toz trois,

he them would-have killed all three

ja ne les en gardast li rois.

ever not them thereof would-have-bindered the king

825 Ha! Dex, pourquoi ne les ocist?

Ab God wherefore not them he-slew

A mellor plait asez venist.

To better plea much it-would-have-come

The Leap from the Chapel

IV

The city wakes to the news and weeps for the two, but Mark will hear no plea and orders a pyre of thorn. Led out to burn, Tristan asks leave to pray in a chapel built on the cliff, and once inside goes out at the window and leaps down to a stone that Cornishmen still call the Leap of Tristan. Governal has ridden out of the town with his master's sword and a hauberk under his tunic; Tristan sees him first and calls him, and Governal holds him back from running at the fire.

Li criz live par la cité

The cry rises through the city

qu'endui sont ensenble trové

that-both are together found

Tristran et la roïne Iseut

Tristan and the queen Iseult

et que li rois destruire eus veut.

and that the king to-destroy them wishes

Pleurent li grant e li petit,

Weep the great and the small

sovent l'un d'eus a l'autre dit:

often the-one of-them to the-other says

«A! las, tant avon a plorer!

Ah alas so-much we-have to weep

Ahi! Tristran, tant par es ber!

Alas Tristan so much art-thou brave

Qel damage qu'en traïson

What harm that-in treason

vos ont fait prendre cil gloton!

you they-have made to-take these gluttons

830

835

Ha! roïne franche, honoree,

Ab queen noble honored

en qel terre sera mais nee

in what land will-be ever born

filie de roi qui ton cors valle?

daughter of king who thy body may-match

840 Ha! nains, ç'a fait ta devinalle!

Ab dwarf this-has done thy soothsaying

Ja ne voie Deu en la face,

Ever not may-see God in the face

qui trovera le nain en place,

whoever will-find the dwarf in place

qui nu ferra d'un glaive el cors!

who not-him will-strike with-a blade in-the body

Ahi! Tristan, si grant dolors

Alas Tristan so great sorrow

845 sera de vos, beaus chiers amis,

will-be for you fair dear friend

qant si seroiz a destroit mis!

when so you-will-be to torment put

Ha! las, quel duel de vostre mort!

Ab alas what grief for your death

Qant le Morhout prist ja ci port,

When the Morholt took once here port

qui ça venoit por nos enfanz,

who hither came for our children

nos barons fist si tos taisanz

850

our barons he-made so soon silent

que onques n'ot un si hardi

that ever not-there-was one so bold

qui s'en osast armer vers lui.

who himself-thereto dared arm against him

Vos enpreïstes la batalle

You undertook the battle

por nos trestoz de Cornoualle

for us all of Cornwall

et oceïstes le Morhout.

855

and you-slew the Morholt

Il vus navra d'un javelot,

He you wounded with-a javelin

sire, dont tu deüs morir.

lord whereof thou hadst-to die

Ja ne devrion consentir

Ever not we-ought consent

que vostre cors fust ci destruit.»

that your body were here destroyed

Live la noisë et li bruit;

860

Rises the noise and the din

tuit en corent droit au palès.

all thereat run straight to-the palace

Li rois fu mot fel et engrès;

The king was very felonious and fierce

n'i ot baron tant fort ne fier
not-there was baron so strong nor proud

qui ost le roi mot araisnier
who dared the king a-word address

865 que li pardonast cel mesfait.
that (to-)him he-pardon that misdeed

Or vient li jor, la nuit s'en vait.
Now comes the day the night itself-thence goes

Li rois commande espine querre
The king commands thorn to-seek

et une fosse faire en terre.
and a pit to-make in earth

Li rois, tranchanz, demaintenant
The king trenchant straightway

870 par tot fait querre les sarmenz
through all makes seek the vine-shoots

et assenbler o les espines
and gather with the thorns

aubes et noires o racines.
white and black with roots

Ja estoit bien prime de jor.
Already it-was well prime of day

Les banz crièrent par l'enor,
The bans they-cried through the-domain

875 que tuit en allent a la cort.
that all thence go to the court

Cil qui plus puet plus tost acort.
He who most can most quickly runs

Asenblé sunt Corneualeis.
Assembled are the-Cornishmen

Grant fu la noise et li tabois:

Great was the noise and the uproar

n'i a celui ne face duel,

not-there is one not makes grief

fors que li nains de Tintajol.

except that the dwarf of Tintagel

880

Li rois lor a dit et monstre

The king (to-)them has said and shown

qu'il veut faire dedenz un ré

that-he wishes make within a pyre

ardoir son nevo et sa feme.

to-burn his nephew and his wife

Tuit s'escriënt la gent du reigne:

All cry-out the people of-the realm

«Rois, trop feriez lai pechié,

King too you-would-do ugly sin

885

s'il n'estoient primes jugié.

if-they not-were first judged

Puis les destrui. Sire, merci!»

Afterward them destroy Lord mercy

Li rois par ire respondi:

The king with anger answered

«Par cel Seignor qui fist le mont,

By that Lord who made the world

totes les choses qui i sont,

all the things which there are

890

por estre moi desherité,

for to-be me disinherited

ne lairoie ne l'arde en ré.

not I-would-leave — her-burn in pyre

Se j'en sui araisnié jamais,

If I-thereof am arraigned ever

laisiez m'en tot ester en pais.»

leave me-thereof wholly stand in peace

895 Le feu conmande a alumer

The fire be-commands to light

et son nevo a amener,

and his nephew to bring

ardoir le veut premierement.

to-burn him be-wishes first

Or vont por lui, li rois l'atent.

Now they-go for him the king him-awaits

Lors l'en ameinent par les mains:

Then him-thence they-lead by the hands

900 par Deu, trop firent que vilains!

by God too-much they-did as churls

Tant ploroit, mais rien ne li monte,

So-much he-wept but thing not (to-)him avails

fors l'en ameinent a grant honte.

out him-thence they-lead with great shame

Yseut plore, par poi n'enrage:

Iseult weeps by little she-raves

«Tristran,» fait ele, «quel damage

Tristan says she what harm

905 qu'a si grant honte estes liez!

that-with so great shame you-are bound

Qui m'oceïst, si garisiez,

Whoever me-would-slay so you-were-saved

ce fust grant joie, beaus amis;
that would-be great joy fair friend
 encor en fust vengeance pris.»
still thereof would-be vengeance taken

Oez, seignors, de Damledé,

Hear lords of the-Lord-God

conment il est plains de pité;

how he is full of pity

ne vieat pas mort de pecheor.

not he-wishes at-all death of sinner

Receü out le cri, le plor

Received he-had the cry the weeping

que faisoient la povre gent

that made the poor folk

por ceus qui eirent a torment.

for those who went to torment

Sor la voie par ont il vont,

Along the way by which they go

une chapele est sor un mont,

a chapel is on a height

u coin d'une roche est asise.

in-the corner of-a rock is set

Sor mer ert faite, devers bise.

Over sea it-was made toward north-wind

La part que l'en clame chancel

The part that one calls chancel

fu asise sor un moncel;

was set upon a billock

oultre n'out rien fors la falise.

beyond not-there-was thing except the cliff

910

915

920

Cil mont est plain de pierre alise.

That height is full of stone smooth

S'uns escureus de lui sausist,

If-a squirrel from it should-leap

si fust il mort, ja n'en garist.

so would-be it dead ever not-thereof it-would-recover

925 En la dube out une verrine,

In the apse there-was a window

que un sainz i fist, porperine.

that a saint there made purple

Tristran ses meneors apele:

Tristan his escorts calls

«Seignors, vez ci une chapele:

Lords behold here a chapel

por Deu, quar m'i laissez entrer.

for God now me-there let enter

930 Pres est mes termes de finer:

Near is my term to end

preerai Deu qu'il merci ait

I-shall-pray God that-he mercy have

de moi, quar trop li ai forfait.

on me for much (to-)him I-have offended

Seignors, n'i a que ceste entree;

Lords not-there is except this entry

a chascun voi tenir s'espee.

to each I-see hold his-sword

935 Vos savez bien, ne pus issir,

You know well not I-can go-out

par vos m'en estuet revertir;

by you me-thence it-behooves to-return

et quant je Dé proié avrai,
and when I (to-)God prayed shall-have

a vos ici lors revendrai.»
to you here then I-shall-return

Or l'a l'un d'eus dit a son per:
Now it-has the-one of-them said to his mate

«Bien le poon laisier aler.»
Well him we-can let go

Les lians sachent, il entre enz.
The bonds they-draw he enters in

Tristran ne vait pas conme lenz,
Tristan not goes at-all as slow

triés l'autel vint a la fenestre,
behind the-altar he-came to the window

a soi l'en traist a sa main destre,
to himself it-thence he-drew with his hand right

par l'overture s'en saut hors.
through the-opening himself-thence he-leaps out

Mex veut sallir que ja ses cors
Rather he-wishes to-leap than ever his body

soit ars, voiant tel aünee.
be burnt seeing such assembly

Seignors, une grant pierre lee
Lords a great stone broad

out u mileu de cel rochier:
there-was in-the middle of that rock

Tristran i saut mot de legier.
Tristan there leaps very with ease

Li vens le fiert entre les dras,
The wind him strikes between the clothes

940

945

950

quil defent qu'il ne chie a tas.

which-him defends that-he not fall in heap

Encor clament Corneualan

Still call the-Cornishmen

cele pierre le Saut Tristan.

that stone the Leap (of-)Tristan

955 La chapele ert plaine de pueple.

The chapel was full of people

Tristran saut sus: l'araine ert moble,

Tristan leaps up the-sand was soft

toz a genoz chiet en la glise.

all on knees he-falls in the clay

Cil l'atendent defors l'glise,

They him-await outside the-church

mais por noient: Tristran s'en vet,

but for nothing Tristan himself-thence goes

960 bele merci Dex li a fait!

fair mercy God (to-)him has done

La riviére granz sauz s'en fuit.

(Along-)the river great leaps himself-thence he-flees

Mot par ot bien le feu qui bruit,

Very much he-heard well the fire which roars

n'a corage que il retort,

not-he-has heart that he return

ne puet plus corre que il cort.

not he-can more run than he runs

965 Mais or oiez de Govenal:

But now hear of Govenal

espee çainte, sor cheval,

sword girded on horse

de la cité s'en est issuz.

from the city himself-thence he-is gone

Bien set, se il fust conseüz,

Well he-knows if he were overtaken

li rois l'arsist por son seignor;

the king him-would-burn for his lord

fuiant s'en vait por la poor.

fleeing himself-thence he-goes for the fear

Mot ot li mestre Tristan chier,

Much held the master Tristan dear

qant il son brant ne vout laisier,

when he his brand not wished to-leave

ançois le prist la ou estoit;

rather it he-took there where it-was

avoc le suen l'en aportoit.

with the his it-thence he-carried

Tristrans son mestrë aperceut,

Tristan his master perceived

ahucha le (bien le connut);

he-called him well him he-knew

et il i est venuz a hait.

and he there is come with eagerness

Qant il le vit, grant joie en fait.

When he him saw great joy thereof he-makes

«Maistre, ja m'a Dex fait merci:

Master already me-has God done mercy

eschapé sui, et or sui ci.

escaped I-am and now I-am here

Ha! las, dolent, et moi que chaut?

Ah alas wretched and (to-)me what matters

970

975

980

Qant n'ai Yseut, rien ne me vaut.

When not-I-have Iseult thing not (to-)me is-worth

Dolent! el saut que orainz fis,

Wretched in-the leap that just-now I-made

que dut ice que ne m'ocis?

what meant this that not me-I-slew

985 Ce me peüst estre mot tart.

That (for-)me might have-been very late

Eschapé sui! Yseut, l'en t'art!

Escaped I-am Iseult one thee-burns

Certes, por noient eschapai.

Certainly for nothing I-escaped

En l'art por moi, por li morrai.»

One her-burns for me for her I-shall-die

Dist Govenal: «Por Deu, beau sire,

Said Govenal For God fair lord

990 confortez vos, n'acuelliez ire.

comfort you not-take-on anger

Veez ci un espès buison,

See here a thick bush

clos a fossé tot environ.

enclosed with ditch all around

Sire, meton nos la dedenz.

Lord let-us-put ourselves there within

Par ci trespasse maintes genz:

By here pass many folk

995 asez orras d'Iseut novele.

plenty thou-wilt-bear of-Iseult news

Et se en l'art, jamais an cele

And if one her-burns ever into saddle

ne montez vos, se vos briment

not mount you if you swiftly

n'en prenez aspre vengeance!

not-thereof take harsh vengeance

Vos en avrez mot bone aïe.

You thereof will-have very good help

Ja, par Jesu, le fiz Marie,

Ever by Jesus the son (of-)Mary

ne gerrai mais dedenz maison

not I-shall-lie more within house

tresque li troi felon larron

until the three felon robbers

par quoi'st destruite Yseut ta drue

by whom-is destroyed Iseult thy beloved

en avront la mort receüe.

thereof will-have the death received

S'or estiez, beau sire, ocis,

If-now you-were fair lord slain

que vengeance n'en fust ainz pris,

so-that vengeance not-thereof were first taken

jamais nul jor n'avroie joie.»

ever any day not-I-should-have joy

Tristran respont: «Trop vus anoie!

Tristan answers Too-much (to-)you it-troubles

Beau mestre, n'ai point de m'espee.

Fair master not-I-have whit of my-sword

— Si as, que je l'ai aportee.»

So thou-hast for I it-have brought

1000

1005

1010

Dist Tristan: «Maistre, donc est bien.

Said Tristan Master then is well

Or ne criem, fors Deu, imais rien.

Now not I-fear except God henceforth thing

— Encor ai je soz ma gonele

Still have I under my gown

tel rien qui vos ert bone et bele:

such thing which (to-)you will-be good and fair

1015 un hauberjon fort et legier,

a hauberk strong and light

qui vos porra avoir mestier.

which (to-)you will-be-able have use

— Dex!» dist Tristan, «balliez le moi.

God said Tristan give it (to-)me

Par icel Deu en qui je croi,

By that God in whom I believe

mex vuel estre tot depecié,

rather I-wish be all cut-to-pieces

1020 se je a tens i vien, au ré,

if I in time there come to-the pyre

ainz que getee i soit m'amie,

before that thrown there be my-friend

ceus qui la tienent nen ocie.»

those who her hold not I-slay

Governal dist: «Ne te haster.

Governal said Not thee hasten

Tel chose te puet Dex doner

Such thing thee can God give

1025 que te porras mot mex venger;

that thee thou-wilt-be-able much better avenge

n'i avras pas tel destorbier

not-there thou-wilt-have at-all such hindrance

con tu porroies or avoir.

as thou couldst now have

N'i voi or point de ton pooir,

Not-there I-see now whit of thy power

quar vers toi est iriez li rois;

for toward thee is angered the king

avocques sont tuit li borjois

therewith are all the burghers

et trestuit cil de la cité.

and all those of the city

Sor lor eulz a toz conmandé

Upon their eyes he-bas (to-)all commanded

que cil qui ainz te porra prendre,

that he who first thee will-be-able take

s'il ne te prent, fera le pendre.

if-he not thee takes be-will-make him hang

Chascun aime mex soi qu'autrui:

Each loves better himself than-another

se ja levout sor toi le hui,

if ever one-raised upon thee the hui

tex te voudroit bien delivrer,

such(-a-one) thee would-wish well deliver

ne l'oseret neis porpenser.»

not it-would-dare even to-think

Plore Tristan, mot fait grant duel.

Weeps Tristan much he-makes great grief

Ja, por toz ceus de Tintajol,

Ever for all those of Tintagel

1030

1035

1040

s'en le deüst tot depecier,

if-one him should wholly cut-to-pieces

qu'il n'en tenist piece a sa per,

so-that-he not-thereof should-hold piece to his mate

ne laisast il qu'il n'i alast,

not would-leave he that-he there should-go

se son mestre ne li veiast.

if his master not (to-)him forbade

The Lepers, and the Rescue

V

Iseult is brought to the pyre. Dinas of Dinan pleads for her and, refused, rides away rather than watch. Ivain the leper asks the king for her instead of the fire, since to live among his hundred companions would be worse than burning, and Mark gives her to him. Tristan and Governal break out of ambush and take her from the lepers, and the three go into the forest of Morrois. The dwarf, meanwhile, tells the king's secret to a thorn-bush and loses his head for it.

1045 En la chanbrë un mes acort,

Into the chamber a messenger runs

qui dist Yseut qu'ele ne plort,

who says (to-)Iseult that-she not weep

que ses amis est eschapez.

for her friend is escaped

«Et Dex, fait ele, en ait bungrez!

And God says she thereof may-have thanks

Or ne me chaut se il m'ociënt

Now not me it-matters if they me-slay

1050 ou il me liënt ou desliënt.»

or they me bind or unbind

Si l'avoit fait lier li rois,

So her-had made bind the king

par le comandement as trois,

by the command of-the three

qu'il li out si les poinz estroiz

that-be (to-)her had so the wrists tight

li sanc li est par toz les doiz.

the blood (to-)her is through all the fingers

«Par Deu! fait el, se je mes jor...

By God says she if I ever day

quant li felon losengeor

when the felon slanderers

qui garder durent mon ami

who to-guard were-to my friend

l'ont deperdu, la Deu merci,

him-have lost the (of-)God thanks

ne me devroit l'on mes proisier.

not me ought one more esteem

Bien sai que li nains losengier

Well I-know that the dwarf slanderer

et li felons, li plain d'envie,

and the felons the full of-envy

par qui conseil j'ere perie,

by whose counsel I-was undone

en avront encor lor deserte.

thereof will-have yet their deserving

Torner lor paise a male pertel!»

Turn (to-)them may-it to evil loss

1055

1060

1065 Seignor, au roi vient la novele

Lords to-the king comes the news

q'eschapez est par la chapele

that-escaped is by the chapel

ses niés, qui il devoit ardoir.

his nephew whom he was-to burn

De mautalent en devint noir,

With ill-will thereat he-became black

de duel ne set con se contienge;

with grief not he-knows how himself he-may-bear

1070 par ire rove qu'Yseut vienge.

in anger he-orders that-Iseult come

Yseut est de la sale issue.

Iseult is from the hall gone-out

La noise live par la rue.

The noise rises through the street

Qant la dame liée virent

When the lady bound they-saw

(a laidor ert), mot s'esfroïrent.

to shame she-was much they-were-dismayed

1075 Qui ot le duel qu'il font por li,

Who heard the grief that-they make for her

com il criënt a Deu merci!

how they cry to God mercy

Ha! roïne franche, honoree,

Ab queen noble honored

qel duel ont mis en la contree

what grief they-have put in the land

par qui ceste novele est sorse!

by whom this news is arisen

Certes, en asez poi de borse

1080

Certainly in quite small of purse

en porront metre le gaain.

thereof they-will-be-able put the gain

Avoir en puisent mal mehain!»

Have thereof may-they evil maiming

Amenee fu la roïne

Brought was the queen

jusquë au ré ardent d'espine.

as-far-as to-the pyre burning of-thorn

Dinas, li sire de Dinan,

1085

Dinas the lord of Dinan

qui a merveille amoit Tristan,

who to marvel loved Tristan

se lait choier au pié le roi:

himself lets fall at-the foot (of-)the king

«Sire,» fait il, «entent a moi.

Lord says he attend to me

Je t'ai servi mot longuement,

I thee-have served very long

sanz vilanie, loiaument.

1090

without villainy loyally

Ja n'avras home en tot cest reigne,

Ever not-thou-wilt-have man in all this realm

povre orfelin ne vielle feme,

poor orphan nor old woman

qui por vostre seneschaucie,

who for your seneschalsbip

que j'ai eü tote ma vie,

that I-have had all my life

1095 me donast une beauveisine.

me would-give one Beauvais-penny

Sire, merci de la roïne!

Lord mercy on the queen

Vos la volez sanz jugement

You her wish without judgment

ardoir en feu: ce n'est pas gent,

to-burn in fire this not-is at-all seemly

qar cest mesfait ne connoist pas.

for this misdeed not she-acknowledges at-all

1100 Duel ert, se tu le suen cors ars.

Grief it-will-be if thou the her body burnest

Sire, Tristran est eschapez;

Lord Tristan is escaped

les plains, les bois, les pas, les guez

the plains the woods the passes the fords

set forment bien, et mot est fiers.

he-knows exceedingly well and much he-is fierce

Vos estes oncle et il tes niés:

You are uncle and he thy nephew

1105 a vos ne mesferoit il mie.

against you not would-do-wrong he at-all

Mais vos barons, en sa ballie

But your barons in his power

s'il les trovout ne vilonast,

if-be them found or he-would-outrage

encor en ert ta terre en gast.

still thereof will-be thy land in waste

Sire, certes, nel quier noier,

Lord certainly not-it I-seek to-deny

qui avroit sol un escuier

who would-have only one squire

por moi destruit ne a feu mis,

for me destroyed nor to fire put

se iere roi de set païs,

if I-were king of seven lands

ses me metroit il en balence

so-them me would-put he in the-balance

ainz que n'en fust prise vengeance.

before that thereof were taken vengeance

Pensez que de si franche feme,

Think that for so noble woman

qu'il amena de lointain reigne,

that-be brought from distant realm

que lui ne poist s'ele est destruite?

that (to-)him not it-weigh if-she is destroyed

Ainz en avra ancor grant luite.

Rather thereof he-will-have yet great strife

Rois, rent la moi, par la merite

King render her (to-)me by the merit

que servi t'ai tote ma vite.»

that served thee-I-have all my life

Li troi par qui cest'ovre sort

The three by whom this-work springs

sont devenu taisant et sort;

are become silent and deaf

qar bien sevent Tristan s'en vet,

for well they-know Tristan himself-thence goes

mot grant dote ont qu'il nes aget.

very great dread they-have that-be them ambush

1110

1115

1120

- 1125 Li rois prist par la main Dinas,
The king took by the hand Dinas
 par ire a juré saint Thomas
in anger he-has sworn saint Thomas
 ne laira n'en face justise
not he-will-leave thereof he-do justice
 et qu'en ce fu ne soit la mise.
and that-in this fire — she-be the put
 Dinas l'entent, mot a grant duel.
Dinas it-hears much he-has great grief
- 1130 Ce poise li: ja par son vuel
This weighs (on-)him ever by his will
 nen iert destruite la roïne.
not would-be destroyed the queen
 En piez se live o chiere encline:
On feet himself he-raises with countenance lowered
 «Rois, je m'en vois jusqu'a Dinan.
King I myself-thence go as-far-as-to Dinan
 Par cel seignor qui fist Adan,
By that lord who made Adam
- 1135 ja ne la verroie j'ardoir
ever not her would-see I-to-burn
 por tot l'or ne por tot l'avoir
for all the-gold nor for all the-wealth
 c'onques ourent li plus riche home
that-ever had the most rich men
 qui furent des le bruit de Rome.»
who were since the fame of Rome

Puis monte el destrier, si s'en torne,

Then he-mounts on-the charger so himself-thence he-turns

chiere encline, marriz et morne.

1140

countenance lowered grieved and gloomy

Iseut fu au feu amenee.

Iseult was to-the fire brought

De gent fu tote avironee,

By folk she-was all surrounded

qui trestuit braient et tuit criënt,

who all shout and all cry

les traïtors le roi maudiënt.

the traitors of-the king they-curse

L'eve li file aval le vis.

1145

The-water (to-)her runs down the face

En un bliaut de païle bis

In a tunic of silk gray

estoit la dame, estroit vestu

was the lady tightly clad

e d'un fil d'or menu cosu.

and with-a thread of-gold finely sewn

Si chevel hurtent a ses piez,

Her hair strikes at her feet

d'un filet d'or les a trechiez.

1150

with-a fillet of-gold them she-has braided

Qui voit son cors et sa facion,

Who sees her body and her fashion

trop par avroit le cuer felon

too much would-have the heart felonious

qui nen avroit de lié pitié.

who not would-have on her pity

Mot sont li braz estroit lié.

Much are the arms tightly bound

1155 Un malade out en Lancien,

A sick-man there-was in Lantien

par non fu apelé Ivein:

by name he-was called Ivain

a merveille par fu desfait.

to marvel much he-was disfigured

Acoru fu voier cel plait,

Run-up he-was to-see that trial

bien out o lui cent compaignons

well he-had with him hundred companions

1160 o lor puioz, o lor bastons:

with their crutches with their staves

ainz ne veïstes tant si lait

ever not you-saw so-many so foul

ne si boçu ne si desfait.

nor so hunchbacked nor so disfigured

Chascun tenoit sa tartarie;

Each held his clapper

criënt au roi... a voiz serie:

they-cry to-the king with voice soft

1165 «Sire, tu veus faire justise,

Lord thou wishest do justice

ta feme ardoir en ceste gise.

thy wife to-burn in this fashion

Granz est; mes se je ainz rien soi,

Great it-is but if I ever thing knew

ceste justise durra poi.

this justice will-last little

Mot l'avra tost cil grant feu arse

Much her-will-have soon that great fire burnt

et la poudre cist venz espars.

and the ash this wind scattered

Cest feu charra: en ceste brese

This fire will-fall in this ember

ceste justise ert tost remese.

this justice will-be soon ceased

Tel justise de li ferez;

Such justice on her you-will-do

mais, se vos croire me volez...

but if you to-believe me wish

et que voudroit mex mort avoir;

and that she-would-wish rather death to-have

qu'ele vivroit, et sanz valoir,

than-she would-live and without worth

et que nus n'en orroit parler

and that any not-thereof would-hear speak

qui plus ne t'en tenist por ber.

who more not thee-thereof would-hold for brave

Rois, voudroies le faire issi?»

King wouldst-thou it to-do thus

Li rois l'entent, si respondi:

The king it-hears so he-answered

«Se tu m'enseignes cest, sanz falle,

If thou me-teachest this without fail

1170

1175

1180

qu'ele vivē et que ne valle,

that-she may-live and that not be-worth

gré t'en savrai, ce saches bien;

thanks thee-thereof I-shall-know this know-thou well

et se tu veus, si pren du mien.

and if thou wishest so take of-the mine

1185 Onques ne fu dit tel maniere,

Ever not was said such manner

tant dolerose ne tant fire,

so grievous nor so cruel

qui orendroit tote la pire

whoever just-now all the worst

seüst, por Deu le roi, eslire,

he-could for God the king choose

que il n'üst m'amor tot tens.»

that he not-should-have my-love all time

1190 Ivains respont: «Si con je pens

Ivain answers So as I think

je te dirai, asez briment.

I thee shall-say quite briefly

Veez, j'ai ci conpaignons cent:

See I-have here companions hundred

Yseut nos done, s'ert conune.

Iselt (to-)us give and-she-will-be common

Païor fin dame n'ot mais une.

Worse end lady not-had ever one

Sire, en nos a si grant ardor

1195

Lord in us is so great ardor

soz ciel n'a dame qui un jor

under heaven not-is lady who one day

peüst souffrir nostre convers:

could suffer our converse

li drap nos sont au cors aers.

the clothes (to-)us are to-the body stuck

O toi soloit estre a honor,

With thee she-used be in honor

o vair, o gris et o baudor;

1200

with vair with gray and with mirth

les buens vins i avoit appris

the good wines there she-had learned

es granz soliers de marbre bis.

in-the great halls of marble gray

Se la donez a nos meseaus,

If her you-give to us lepers

qant el verra nos bas bordeaus

when she will-see our low hovels

et eslira l'escüellier

1205

and will-choose the-dish-sharing

et l'estovra a nos couchier

and it-will-beboove-her with us to-lie

(sire, en leu de tes beaus mengiers

lord in place of thy fair meats

avra de pieces, de quartiers

she-will-have of scraps of quarters

que l'en nos envoi'a cel hues),

that one (to-)us sends-for that use

1210 por cel seignor qui maint lasus,
for that lord who dwells above
 qant or verra la nostre cort,
when now she-will-see the our court
 adonc verra son desconfort.
then she-will-see her distress

Donc voudroit miex morir que vivre,
Then she-would-wish rather to-die than to-live
 donc savra bien Yseut la givre
then will-know well Iseult the viper

1215 que malement avra ovré:
that ill she-will-have wrought
 mex voudroit estre arse en un ré.»
rather she-would-wish to-be burnt in a pyre

Li rois l'entent, en piez estut
The king it-bears on feet he-stood
 ne de grant pice ne se mut.
nor for great while not himself he-moved

Bien entendi que dit Ivain,
Well he-understood what says Ivain

1220 cort a Yseut, prist l'a la main.
he-runs to Iseult took her-by the hand

Ele crie: «Sire, merci!
She cries Lord mercy

Ainz que m'i doignes, art moi ci.»
Before that me-thereto thou-givest burn me here

Li rois li done, et cil la prent.
The king her gives and he her takes

Des malades i ot bien cent,
Of-the sick-men there was well hundred

qui s'aünent tor entor li.

1225

who themselves-gather round about her

Qui ot le brait, qui ot le cri,

Who heard the sbriek who heard the cry

a tote gent en prent pitiez.

in all folk thereof takes pity

Qui q'en ait duel, Yvains est liez.

Whoever thereat has grief Ivain is glad

Vait s'en Yseut, Yvains l'en meine

Goes herself-thence Iseult Ivain her-thence leads

tot droit aval, par sus l'araine.

1230

all straight downward by over the-sand

Des autres meseaus li conplot

Of-the other lepers the crowd

(n'i a celui n'ait son puiot)

not-there is one (who-)not-has his crutch

tot droit vont vers l'enbuschement

all straight they-go toward the-ambush

ou ert Tristran, qui les atent.

where was Tristan who them awaits

A haute voiz Govenal crie:

1235

With high voice Govenal cries

«Filz, que feras? Ves ci t'amie.

Son what wilt-thou-do See here thy-friend

— Dex!» dist Tristran, «quel aventure!

God said Tristan what adventure

Ahi! Yseut, bele figure,

Alas Iseult fair figure

con deüstes por moi morir

how you-had-to for me die

1240 et je redui por vos perir,

and I in-turn-had-to for you perish

tel gent vos tienent entre mains,

such folk you hold between hands

de ce soient il toz certains,

of this be they all certain

se il n'os laissent en present,

if they not-you leave at present

tel i ara ferai dolent.»

such there will-be I-shall-make sorry

1245 Fiert le destrier, du buison saut,

He-strikes the charger from-the bush be-leaps

a qant qu'il puet s'escrïe en haut:

with as-much as-he can he-cries in loud

«Ivain, asez l'avez menee.

Ivain enough her-you-have led

Laissez la tost, qu'a cest'espee

Leave her quickly for-with this-sword

ne vos face le chief voler.»

— you I-make the head fly

1250 Ivain s'ageut a desfubler,

Ivain himself-sets to unmantle

en haut s'escrïe: «Or as puioz!

in loud he-cries Now to-the crutches

Or i parra qui ert des noz.»

Now there it-will-appear who is of-the ours

Qui ces meseaus veïst soffler,

Whoever these lepers had-seen puff

oster chapes et desfubler!

take-off cloaks and unmantle

Chascun li crolle sa potence,

1255

Each (at-)him brandishes his staff

li uns menace et l'autre tence.

the one threatens and the-other quarrels

Tristran n'en vost rien atochier

Tristan not-thereof wished thing to-touch

ne entester ne laidengier.

nor to-batter nor to-abuse

Governal est venuz au cri,

Governal is come at-the cry

en sa main tint un vert jarri

1260

in his hand he-beld a green oak-branch

et fiert Yvain, qui Yseut tient.

and he-strikes Ivain who Iseult holds

Li sans li chiet, au pié li vient.

The blood (to-)him falls to-the foot (to-)him it-comes

Bien aïde a Tristran son mestre,

Well helps to Tristan his master

Yseut saisist par la main destre.

Iseult he-seizes by the hand right

Li conteor diënt qu'Yvain

1265

The tale-tellers say that-Ivain

furent nïer, qui sont vilain;

they-made drown who are churls

n'en sevent mie bien l'estoire,

not-thereof they-know at-all well the-story

Berox l'a mex en sen memoire.

Béroul it-has better in his memory

Trop ert Tristan preuz et cortois

Exceedingly was Tristan valiant and courtly

1270 a ocirre gent de tes lois.

to kill folk of such orders

Tristan s'en voit a la roïne;

Tristan himself-thence goes with the queen

lasent le plain, et la gaudine

they-leave the plain and the woodland

s'en vet Tristan et Govenal.

themselves-thence goes Tristan and Govenal

Yseut s'esjot, or ne sent mal.

Iseult rejoices now not she-feels ill

1275 En la forest de Morrois sont,

In the forest of Morrois they-are

la nuit jurent desor un mont.

the night they-lay upon a height

Or est Tristan si a seür

Now is Tristan as in safety

con s'il fust en chastel o mur.

as if-be were in castle with wall

En Tristan out mot buen archier,

In Tristan there-was very good archer

1280 mot se sout bien de l'arc aidier.

much himself he-knew well of the-bow to-help

Govenal en ot un toloit

Govenal thereof had one taken

a un forestier, qu'il tenoit,

from a forester that-he held

et deus seetes enpenees,

and two arrows feathered

barbelees, ot l'en menees.

barbed he-had them-thence brought

Tristran prist l'arc, par le bois vait,

Tristan took the-bow through the wood he-goes

vit un chevrel, ancoche et trait,

he-saw a roe he-notches and draws

el costé destre fiert forment:

in-the side right he-strikes hard

brait, saut en haut et jus decent.

it-brays it-leaps in high and down comes

Tristran l'a pris, atot s'en vient.

Tristan it-has taken with-it himself-thence he-comes

Sa loge fait: au brant qu'il tient

His lodge he-makes with-the brand that-he holds

les rains trenche, fait la fullie;

the boughs he-cuts he-makes the leaf-lodge

Yseut l'a bien espès jonchie.

Iseult it-has well thick strewn

Tristran s'asist o la roïne.

Tristan himself-sat with the queen

Governal sot de la cuisine,

Governal knew of the cookery

de seche busche fait buen feu.

of dry wood he-makes good fire

Mot avoient a faire queu!

Much they-had to make cook

Il n'avoient ne lait ne sel

They not-had nor milk nor salt

a cele foiz a lor ostel.

at that time at their lodging

1285

1290

1295

La roïne ert forment lassee

The queen was exceedingly wearied

1300 por la poor qu'el'ot passee;

for the fear that-she-had passed

somel li prist, dormir l'estut,

sleep her took to-sleep it-behooved-her

sor son ami dormir se veut.

on her friend to-sleep she wishes

Seignors, eisi font longuement

Lords thus they-do long

en la forest parfondement,

in the forest deeply

1305 longuement sont en cel desert.

long they-are in that desert

Oiez du nain com au roi sert.

Hear of-the dwarf how to-the king he-serves

Un conseil sot li nains du roi,

A secret knew the dwarf of-the king

ne sot que il. Par grant desroi

not knew-it except he By great outrage

le descovri: il fist que beste,

it he-disclosed he did as beast

1310 qar puis an prist li rois la teste.

for after thereof took the king the head

Li nain ert ivres, li baron

The dwarf was drunk the barons

un jor le mistrent a raison

one day him set to speech

que ce devoit que tant parloient,

what that meant that so-much they-spoke

il et li rois, et conselloient.

he and the king and took-counsel

«A celer bien un suen conseil

1315

At to-conceal well a his secret

mot m'a trové toz jors feel.

much me-be-has found all days faithful

Bien voi que le volez oïr,

Well I-see that it you-wish to-hear

et je ne vuel ma foi mentir.

and I not wish my faith to-belie

Mais je merrai les trois de vos

But I shall-lead the three of you

devant le Gué Aventuros.

1320

before the Ford Adventurous

Et iluec a une aube espine,

And there is a white thorn

une fosse a soz la racine:

a pit there-is under the root

mon chief porai dedenz boter

my head I-shall-be-able within thrust

et vos m'orrez defors parler.

and you me-will-bear outside speak

Ce que dirai, c'ert du segroi

1325

That which I-shall-say that-will-be of-the secret

dont je sui vers le roi par foi.»

whereof I am toward the king by faith

Li baron viennent a l'espine,

The barons come to the-thorn

devant eus vient li nains Frocine.

before them comes the dwarf Frocin

Li nains fu cort, la teste ot grose.

The dwarf was short the head he-had big

1330 Delivrement ont fait la fosse,

Promptly they-have made the pit

jusq'as espauls li ont mis.

as-far-as-to-the shoulders (to-)him they-have put

«Or escoutez, seignor marchis!

Now hear lords marquises

Espine, a vus, non a vasal:

Thorn to you not to vassal

Marc a orelles de cheval.»

Mark has ears of horse

1335 Bien ont oï le nain parler.

Well they-have heard the dwarf speak

S'avint un jor, après disner,

So-it-happened one day after dinner

parlout a ses barons roi Marc,

he-spoke to his barons king Mark

en sa main tint d'auborc un arc.

in his hand he-held of-laburnum a bow

Atant i sont venu li troi

Thereupon there are come the three

1340 a qui li nains dist le secrei,

to whom the dwarf said the secret

au roi diënt priveement:

to-the king they-say privately

«Roi, nos savon ton celement,

King we know thy concealment

que as orelles de cheval.»

that thou-hast ears of horse

Li rois s'iraist et dist: «Ce mal

The king himself-angers and said This ill

m'est avenu par cest devin:

1345

to-me-is come by this soothsayer

certes, ja ert fait de lui fin.»

certainly at-once will-be made of him end

Traist l'espee, le chief en prent.

He-drew the-sword the head thereof he-takes

Mot en fu bel a mainte gent,

Much thereof was fair to many folk

que haoient le nain Frocine

who hated the dwarf Frocin

por Tristan e por la roïne.

1350

for Tristan and for the queen

The Hermit Ogrin, and the Hound Husdent

VI

The lovers live hard in the wood and come one day to the hermitage of Ogrin, who preaches repentance to them. Tristan answers that the potion leaves him no choice, and Iseult tells the hermit that neither of them loves the other except through the herbed wine. Meanwhile Husdent, Tristan's brachet, will not eat and is loosed; he runs the whole trail to the chapel and out into the wood until he finds his master. Rather than kill him, Tristan takes less than a month to teach the hound to hunt without giving tongue.

Seignors, mot avez bien oï

Lords much you-have well heard

comment Tristran avoit salli

how Tristan had leapt

tot contreval, par le rochier,

all downward by the rock

et Govenal sor le destrier

and Govenal on the charger

1355 s'en fu issuz, quar il cremoit

himself-thence was gone for he feared

qu'il fust ars, se Marc le tenoit...

that-he were burnt if Mark him held

or sont ensenble en la forest,

now they-are together in the forest

Tristran de veneison les pest.

Tristan on venison them feeds

Longuement sont en cel boschage.

Long they-are in that thicket

1360 La ou la nuit ont herberjage,

There where the night they-have lodging

si s'en trestornent au matin.

so themselves-thence they-turn at-the morning

En l'ermitage frere Ogrin

Into the-hermitage (of-)brother Ogrin

vindrent un jor, par aventure.

they-came one day by chance

Aspre vie meinent et dure:

Harsh life they-lead and hard

tant s'entraiment de bone amor

so-much each-other-they-love with good love

l'un por l'autre ne sent dolor.

the-one for the-other not feels sorrow

Li hermite Tristran connut,

The hermit Tristan knew

sor sa potence apoïé fu;

on his staff leaned he-was

aresne le, oiez comment:

he-addresses him hear how

«Sire Tristran, grant soirement

Lord Tristan great oath

a l'en juré par Cornoualle,

has one sworn through Cornwall

qui vus rendroit au roi, sanz falle

whoever you would-render to-the king without fail

cent mars avroit a gerredon.

hundred marks he-would-have as reward

En ceste terre n'a baron

In this land not-is baron

au roi ne l'ait plevi en main,

to-the king (who-)not it-has pledged in hand

1365

1370

1375

vos rendre a lui o mort ou sain.»

you to-render to him either dead or sound

Ogrins li dit mot bonement:

Ogrin (to-)him said very kindly

«Par foi! Tristan, qui se repent

By faith Tristan who himself repents

par foi et par confession,

by faith and by confession

1380 Deu du pechié li fait pardon.»

God for-the sin (to-)him makes pardon

Tristan li dit: «Sire, par foi,

Tristan (to-)him says Lord by faith

se ele m'aime en bone foi,

if she me-loves in good faith

vos n'entendez pas la raison:

you not-understand at-all the reason

s'el m'aime, c'est par la poison.

if-she me-loves that-is by the potion

1385 Ge ne me pus de lié partir,

I not myself can from her part

n'ele de moi, n'en quier mentir.»

nor-she from me not-thereof I-seek to-lie

Ogrins li dist: «Et quel confort

Ogrin (to-)him said And what comfort

puet on doner a home mort?

can one give to man dead

Assez est mort qui longuement

Quite is dead who long

1390 gist en pechié, s'il ne repent.

lies in sin if-he not repents

Doner ne puet nus penitance

Give not can anyone penance

a pecheor sanz repentance.»

to sinner without repentance

L'ermite Ogrins mot les sarmone,

The-hermit Ogrin much them preaches

du repentir conseil lor done.

of-the repenting counsel (to-)them gives

Li hermites sovent lor dit

The hermit often (to-)them says

les profecies de l'escrit,

the prophecies of the-writing

et mot lor amentoît sovent

and much (to-)them he-recalled often

l'ermite le Dé jugement.

the-hermit the (of-)God judgment

A Tristan dist par grant desroi:

To Tristan he-said with great vehemence

«Que feras-tu? Conselle toi.

What wilt-do-thou Counsel thyself

— Sire, j'am Yseut a merveille,

Lord I-love Iseult to (a-)marvel

si que n'en dor ne ne somelle.

so that not-thereof I-sleep nor not I-slumber

Du tot an est li conseil pris:

Of-the all thereof is the counsel taken

1395

1400

mex aim o li estre mendis

rather I-love with her be beggar

1405 et vivre d'erbes et de glan

and to-live on-herbs and on acorn

q'avoir le reigne au roi Otran.

than-to-have the realm of-the king Otran

De lié laisier parler ne ruis,

Of her to-leave to-speak not I-ask

certes, quar faire ne le puis.»

certainly for do not it I-can

Iseut au pié l'ermite plore,

Iseult at-the foot (of-)the-hermit weeps

1410 mainte color mue en poi d'ore,

many-a color she-changes in little of-hour

mot li crie merci sovent:

much (to-)him she-cries mercy often

«Sire, por Deu omnipotent,

Lord for God almighty

il ne m'aime pas, ne je lui,

he not me-loves at-all nor I him

fors par un herbé dont je bui

except by a herb-drink whereof I drank

1415 et il en but: ce fu pechiez.

and he thereof drank this was sin

Por ce nos a li rois chaciez.»

For this us has the king driven-out

Li hermites tost li respont:

The hermit quickly (to-)her answers

«Diva, cil Dex qui fist le mont,

Come-now that God who made the world

il vus donst voire repentance.»

he (to-)you may-give true repentance

Ce saciez de voir, sanz dotance,

This know of truth without doubt

cele nuit jurent chiés l'ermite;

that night they-lay at-the-house-of the-hermit

por eus esforça mot sa vite.

for them he-strained much his way-of-life

Au matinet s'en part Tristrans.

At-the early-morning himself-thence parts Tristan

Au bois se tient, let les plains chans.

To-the wood himself he-keeps he-leaves the open fields

Li pain lor faut, ce est grant deus.

The bread (to-)them fails this is great grief

De cers, de biches, de chevreus

Of stags of binds of roes

ocist asez par le boscage.

he-kills plenty through the thicket

La ou prenent lor herbergement,

There where they-take their lodging

font lor cuisine e lor beau feu.

they-make their cookery and their fair fire

Sol une nuit sont en un leu.

Only one night they-are in one place

Seignors, oiez con por Tristan

Lords hear how for Tristan

out fait li rois crïer son ban!

had made the king cry his ban

1420

1425

1430

En Cornoualle n'a parroise

In Cornwall not-is parish

ou la novele n'en angoise

where the news not-thereof torments

1435 que, qui porroit Tristan trover,

that whoever could Tristan find

qu'il en feïst le cri lever.

that-he thereof should-make the cry raise

Qui veut oïr une aventure,

Whoever wishes to-hear an adventure

con grant chose a an noretur,

how great thing is in rearing

si m'escoute un sol petitet!

so me-listen a only little

1440 Parler m'orez d'un buen brachet:

Speak me-you-will-hear of-a good brachet

gens ne rois n'out tel berserez.

count nor king not-had such hunting-bound

Il ert isneaus et toz tens prez,

He was swift and all times ready

quar il ert bauz, legiers, non lenz,

for he was lively light not slow

et si avoit a non Husdenz.

and so he-bad for name Husdent

1445 Liëz estoit en un landon.

Tied he-was in a clog

Li chiens gardoit par le donjon;

The dog kept-watch through the keep

qar mis estoit a grant freor,

for put he-was in great distress

qant il ne voiet son seignor.

when he not saw his lord

Ne vout mengier ne pain ne past

Not he-wished to-eat nor bread nor mash

ne nule rien q'en li donast;

nor any thing that-one (to-)him gave

grignout et si feroit du pié,

he-growled and so he-struck with-the foot

des uiz lermant. Dex! qel pitié

from-the eyes weeping God what pity

faisoit a mainte gent li chiens!

made to many folk the dog

Chascun disoit: «S'il estoit miens.

Each said If-be were mine

Gel metroie du landon fors;

I-him would-put from-the clog out

quar, s'il enrage, ce ert deus.

for if-be goes-mad this will-be grief

Ahi! Husdent, ja tex brachetz

Alas Husdent ever such brachet

n'ert mais trové, qui tant set prez

not-will-be more found who so-much be ready

ne tel duel face por seignor;

nor such grief make for lord

beste ne fu de tel amor.

beast not was of such love

Salemon dit que droituriers

Solomon says that (the-)righteous(-man)

que ses amis, c'ert ses levriers.

that his friend that-was his greyhound

1450

1455

1460

A vos le poon nos prover:

By you it can we prove

vos ne volez de rien goster,

you not wish of anything to-taste

1465 pus que vostre sire fu pris.

since that your lord was taken

Rois, quar soit fors du landon mis!»

King now let-him-be out of-the clog put

Li rois a dit, a son corage:

The king has said in his heart

«Por son seignor croi qu'il enrage.

For his lord I-believe that-he goes-mad

Certes, mot a li chiens grant sens:

Certainly much has the dog great sense

1470 je ne quit mais q'en nostre tens,

I not think ever that-in our time

en la terre de Cornoualle,

in the land of Cornwall

ait chevalier qui Tristan valle.»

there-be knight who Tristan may-match

De Cornoualle baron troi

Of Cornwall barons three

en ont araisoné le roi:

thereof have addressed the king

1475 «Sire, quar desliez Husdant!

Lord now unbind Husdent

Si verron bien certainement

So we-shall-see well certainly

se il meine ceste dolor

if he shows this sorrow

por la pitié de son seignor;

for the pity of his lord

quar ja si tost n'ert desliëz

for already so soon not-be-will-be unbound

q'il ne morde, s'est enragiez,

that-be not bite if-be-is enraged

1480

ou autre rien ou beste ou gent:

either other thing either beast or folk

s'avra la langue overte au vent.»

so-be-will-have the tongue open to-the wind

Li rois apele un escuier

The king calls a squire

por Husdan faire desliër.

for Husdent to-make unbind

Sor bans, sor seles puient haut,

On benches on stools they-climb high

1485

quar le chien criment de prin saut.

for the dog they-fear of first leap

Tuit disoient: «Husdent enrage.»

All said Husdent goes-mad

De tot ce n'avoit il corage.

Of all this not-had he heart

Tantost com il fu desliëz,

As-soon as he was unbound

par mié les renz cort, esvelliez,

through the-midst-of the ranks he-runs awakened

1490

que onques n'i demora plus.

so-that ever not-there he-stayed more

De la sale s'en ist par l'us,

From the hall himself-thence he-issues by the-door

vint a l'ostel ou il soloit

he-came to the-lodging where he used

trover Tristan. Li rois le voit,

to-find Tristan The king him sees

1495 et li autre qui après vont.

and the others who after go

Li chiens escrie, sovent gront,

The dog cries-out often growls

mot par demeine grant dolor.

very much he-shows great sorrow

Encontré a de son seignor:

Met he-has of his lord

onques Tristan ne fist un pas,

ever Tristan not made a step

1500 qant il fu pris, qu'il dut estre ars,

when he was taken when-he had-to be burnt

que li brachez nen aut après;

that the brachet not goes after

et dit chascun: «De venir mes!»

and says each Of coming more

Husdant an la chanbrë est mis

Husdent into the chamber is put

o Tristan fu traït et pris;

where Tristan was betrayed and taken

1505 criant s'en vet vers la chapele,

crying himself-thence he-goes toward the chapel

la part fait saut et voiz, cha rele.
that way he-makes leap and voice hither he-bays

Li pueple vait après le chien.

The people goes after the dog

Ainz, puis qu'il fu fors du lien,

Ever since that-he was out of-the leash

ne fina, si fu au montier

not he-stopped until he-was at-the church

fondé en haut sor le rochier.

founded on high on the rock

1510

Husdent li bauz, qui ne voit lenz,

Husdent the lively who not goes slow

par l'us en la chapele entre enz,

by the-door into the chapel enters in

saut sor l'autel, ne vit son mestre,

he-leaps onto the-altar not he-saw his master

fors s'en issi par la fenestre.

out himself-thence he-issued by the window

Aval la roche est avalez,

Down the rock he-is descended

1515

en la janbe s'est esgenez,

in the leg himself-he-is hurt

a terre met le nes, si crie.

to earth he-puts the nose so he-cries

A la silve du bois florie,

At the thicket of-the wood flowering

ou Tristan fist l'enbuschement,

where Tristan made the-ambush

un petit s'arestut Husdent;

a little himself-stopped Husdent

1520

fors s'en issi, par le bois vet.
out himself-thence he-issued through the wood he-goes

Nus ne le voit qui pitié n'ait.
Anyone not him sees who pity not-has

Au roi diënt li chevalier:
To-the king say the knights

«Laison a seurre cest trachier.
Let-us-leave to follow this tracker

1525 En tel leu nos porroit mener
Into such place us he-might lead

dunt griés seroit le retorner.»
whence grievous would-be the returning

Laisent le chien, tornent arire.
They-leave the dog they-turn back

Husdent aqeut une chariere,
Husdent takes a cart-track
 de la rote mot s'esbaudist.
of the trail much himself-he-emboldens

1530 Du cri au chien li bois tentist.
With-the cry of-the dog the wood resounds

Tristran estoit el bois aval
Tristan was in-the wood below

o la reïne et Govenal.
with the queen and Govenal

La noise oient, Tristran l'entent:
The noise they-bear Tristan it-hears

«Par foi,» fait il, «je oi Husdent.»
By faith says he I hear Husdent

1535 Trop se criement, sont esfroï.
Much themselves they-fear they-are frightened

Tristran saut sus; son arc tendi.

Tristan leaps up his bow he-bent

En un'espoise aval s'en traient:

Into a-thicket below themselves-thence they-draw

crime ont du roi, si s'en esmaient,

dread they-have of-the king so themselves-thereof they-dismay

diënt qu'il vient o le brachet.

they-say that-he comes with the brachet

Ne demora c'un petitet

Not it-delayed but-a little-while

li brachet, qui la rote sut.

the brachet who the trail followed

Quant son seignor vit et connut,

When his lord he-saw and knew

le chief, la queue hoque et crole.

the head the tail he-shakes and wags

Qui voit conme des ioes se molle

Whoever sees how with-the eyes himself he-wets

dire puet qu'ainz ne vit tel joie.

say he-can that-ever not he-saw such joy

A Yseut a la crine bloie

To Iseult with the hair blond

acort, et pus a Govenal;

he-runs and then to Govenal

toz fait joie, nis au cheval.

(to-)all he-makes joy even to-the horse

Du chien out Tristran grant pitié:

Of-the dog had Tristan great pity

1540

1545

- 1550 «Ha! Dex,» fait-il, «par quel pechié
Ab God says-he by what sin
 nos a cist berseret seü?
us has this hunting-bound followed
 Chien qi en bois ne se tient mu
Dog who in wood not himself keeps mute
 n'a mestier a home bani.
not-has use to man banished
 El bois somes, du roi häi;
In-the wood we-are by-the king hated
- 1555 par plain, par bois, par tote terre,
through plain through wood through all land
 dame, nos fait li rois Marc quere;
lady us makes the king Mark seek
 s'il nos trovout ne pooit prendre,
if-be us found or could take
 il nos feroit ardoir ou pendre.
he us would-make burn or hang
 Nos n'avon nul mestier de chien.
We not-have any use of dog
- 1560 Une chose sachiez vos bien:
One thing know you well
 se Husdens avè nos remaint,
if Husdent with us remains
 poor nos fera et duel maint.
fear (to-)us he-will-make and grief many
 Asez est mex qu'il soit ocis
Much is better that-he be slain
 que nos soion par son cri pris.
than we be by his cry taken

Et poise m'en, por sa franchise,

1565

And it-weighs me-thereof for his nobleness

que il la mort a ici quise.

that he the death has here sought

Grant nature li faisoit fere;

Great nature (to-)him made do(-it)

mais comment m'en pus je retraire?

but how me-thereof can I withdraw

Certes, ce poise moi mot fort

Certainly this weighs (on-)me very hard

que je li doie doner mort.

1570

that I (to-)him must give death

Or m'en aidiez a consellier:

Now me-thereof help to counsel

de nos garder avon mestier.»

of us to-guard we-have need

Yseut li dist: «Sire, merci!

Iseult (to-)him said Lord mercy

Li chiens sa beste prent au cri,

The dog his beast takes with-the cry

que par nature, que par us.

1575

whether by nature whether by use

J'oï ja dire qu'un seüs

I-heard once say that-a bound

avoit un forestier galois,

had a forester Welsh

puis que Artus en fu fait rois,

since that Arthur thereof was made king

que il avoit si afaitié:

that he had so trained

- 1580 qant il avoit son cerf sagnié
when he had his stag bled
 de la seete berserece,
by the arrow hunting
 puis ne fuïst par cele adrece
then not it-would-flee by that way
 que li chiens nel suïst le saut;
that the dog not-it would-follow the leap
 por crier n'estonast le gaut
for to-cry not-be-would-make-resound the wood
 1585 ne ja n'atainsist tant sa beste
nor ever not-be-would-overtake so-much his beast
 que criast ne feïst moleste.
that he-would-cry nor would-make trouble
 Amis Tristran, grant joie fust,
Friend Tristan great joy it-would-be
 por metre peine qui peüst
for to-put pains whoever could
 faire Hudent le cri laisier,
make Husdent the cry leave
 1590 sa beste ataindrë et chacier.»
his beast to-overtake and to-chase
 Tristran s'estut et escouta.
Tristan himself-stood and listened
 Pitié l'en prist; un poi pensa,
Pity him-thereof took a little he-thought

puis dist itant: «Se je pooie

then he-said this-much If I could

Husdent par paine metre en voie

Husdent by pains put in way

que il laisast cri por silence,

that he should-leave cry for silence

mot l'avroie a grant reverence.

much it-I-would-have in great reverence

Et a ce metrai je ma paine

And to this shall-put I my pains

ainz que ja past ceste semaine.

before that ever pass this week

Pesera moi se je l'oci,

It-will-grieve me if I him-slay

et je criem mot du chien le cri;

and I fear much of-the dog the cry

quar je porroie en tel leu estre,

for I might in such place be

o vos ou Governal mon mestre,

with you or Governal my master

se il criout, feroit nos prendre.

if he cried he-would-make us take

Or vuel peine metre et entendre

Now I-wish pains to-put and to-attend

a beste prendre sans crier.»

to beast take without to-cry

Or voit Tristan en bois berser.

Now goes Tristan into wood to-shoot

Afaitiez fu, a un dain trait:

Trained he-was at a buck he-shot

1595

1600

1605

li sans en chiet, li brachet brait,

the blood thereof falls the brachet bays

li dains navrez s'en fuit le saut.

the buck wounded himself-thence flees the leap

1610 Husdent li bauz en crie en haut,

Husdent the lively thereat cries on high

li bois du cri au chien resone.

the wood with-the cry of-the dog resounds

Tristran le fiert, grant cop li done.

Tristan him strikes great blow (to-)him be-gives

Li chien a son seignor s'areste,

The dog at his lord himself-stops

lait le crïer, gerpist la beste;

be-leaves the crying he-abandons the beast

1615 haut l'esgarde, ne set qu'il face,

high him-be-looks-at not he-knows what-be may-do

n'ose crïer, gerpist la trace.

not-be-dares cry he-abandons the trail

Tristran le chien desoz lui bote,

Tristan the dog under himself thrusts

o l'estortore bat la rote;

with the-cudgel he-beats the trail

et Husdent en revot crïer.

and Husdent thereat wisbes-again to-cry

1620 Tristran l'aqueut a doutriner.

Tristan him-takes to instruct

Ainz que li premier mois pasast,

Before that the first month passed

fu si le chien dontez u gast

was so the dog tamed in-the waste

que sanz crier suiet sa trace.

that without to-cry he-follows his trail

Sor noif, sor herbe ne sor glace

On snow on grass nor on ice

n'ira sa beste ja laschant,

not-he-will-go his beast ever loosing

tant n'iert isnele et remuant.

so-much it-will-be swift and stirring

Or lor a grant mestier li chiens,

Now (to-)them has great use the dog

a mervelles lor fait grans biens.

to marvels (for-)them he-does great goods

S'il prent el bois chevrel ne dain,

If-he takes in-the wood roe or buck

bien l'enbusche, cuevre de rain;

well it-he-bides he-covers with bough

et s'il enmi lande l'ataint,

and if-he in-midst-of beath it-he-overtakes

com il s'avient en i prent maint,

as it happens thereof there he-takes many-a-one

de l'erbe gete asez desor,

of the-grass he-throws plenty above

arire torne a son seignor,

back he-turns to his lord

la le maine ou sa beste a prise.

there him he-leads where his beast he-has taken

Mot sont li chien de grant service!

Much are the dogs of great service

1625

1630

1635

The Wood of Morrois

VII

Governal ambushes one of the three barons and brings his head back to the leaf-lodge, and after that no one dares enter the forest. Tristan makes the bow called Which-Never-Fails, which strikes whatever touches the boughs where it is set, and it feeds them. Then on a summer morning he goes out to it and comes back weary to sleep beside Iseult, and a forester who has found their lair sees the two asleep with a naked sword between them, and runs to the king's court to sell the news.

Seignors, mot fu el bois Tristrans.

Lords much was in-the wood Tristan

Mot i out paines et ahans.

Much there he-had pains and hardships

En un leu n'ose remanoir;

In one place not-he-dares to-remain

1640 dont lieve au main ne gist au soir.

whence he-rises at-the morning not he-lies at-the evening

Bien set que li rois le fait querre

Well he-knows that the king him makes seek

et que li bans est en sa terre

and that the ban is in his land

por lui prendre, quil troveroit.

for him to-take whoever-him would-find

Mot sont el bois del pain destroit,

Much they-are in-the wood of-the bread straitened

1645 de char vivent, el ne menguënt.

on flesh they-live other-thing not they-eat

Que puënt il, se color muënt?

What can they if color they-change

Lor dras ronpent, rains les decirent.

Their clothes tear boughs them rend

Longuement par Morrois fuïrent.

Long through Morrois they-fled

Chascun d'eus soffre paine elgal,

Each of-them suffers pain equal

qar l'un por l'autre resent mal:

for the-one for the-other feels-in-turn ill

grant poor a Yseut la gente

great fear has Iseult the fair

Tristran por lié ne se repente;

Tristan for her not himself repent

e a Tristran repoise fort

and to Tristan it-weighs-in-turn hard

que Yseut a por lui descort...

that Iseult has for him discord

qu'il repente de la folie.

that-he repent of the folly

Un de ces trois que Dex maudie,

One of these three whom God curse

par qui il furent descovert,

by whom they were discovered

oiez conment par un jor sert!

hear how by one day he-serves

Riches hom ert et de grant bruit,

Rich man he-was and of great renown

les chiens amoit por son deduit.

the dogs he-loved for his delight

1650

1655

1660

De Cornoualle li nâif

Of Cornwall the natives

de Morrois erent si eschif

of Morrois were so shy

qu'il n'i osout un sol entrer.

that-they not-there dared a single enter

Bien lor faisoit a redouter;

Well (to-)them it-was to be-dreaded

1665 qar, se Tristan les peüst prendre:

for if Tristan them could take

il les feïst as arbres pendre:

he them would-make on-the trees hang

bien devoient donques laisier.

well they-ought then leave(-it)

Un jor estoit o son destrier

One day be-was with his charger

Governal sol a un doitil,

Governal alone at a rivulet

1670 qui decendoit d'un fontenil.

which descended from-a spring

Au cheval out osté la sele:

From-the horse be-had taken-off the saddle

de l'erbete paisoit novele.

of the-grass it-grazed new

Tristan gesoit en sa fullie,

Tristan lay in his leaf-lodge

estroitement ot enbrachie

tightly he-had embraced

la roïne, por qu'il estoit

the queen for whom-he was

mis en tel peine, en tel destroit;

put in such pain in such straits

endormi erent amedoi.

asleep they-were both

Governal ert en un esquoi,

Governal was in a covert

oï les chiens par aventure,

he-heard the dogs by chance

le cerf chacent grant aleüre.

the stag they-chase great speed

C'erent li chien a un des trois

They-were the dogs of one of-the three

par qui conseil estoit li rois

by whose counsel was the king

meslez ensenble la roïne.

embroiled together the queen

Li chien chacent, li cerf ravine.

The dogs chase the stag rushes

Governal vint une charire

Governal came a cart-track

en une lande; luin arire

into a heath far back

vit cel venir que il bien set

he-saw that-one come whom he well knows

que ses sires onques plus het,

that his lord ever most hates

1675

1680

1685

tot solement sanz escuier.

all alone without squire

1690 Des esperons a son destrier

Of-the spurs to his charger

a tant doné que il escache,

he-has so-much given that he crushes(-it)

sovent el col fiert o sa mache.

often on-the neck he-strikes with his club

Li chevaus ceste sor un marbre.

The horse stumbled on a marble-stone

Governal s'acoste a un arbre,

Governal himself-sets-beside at a tree

1695 enbuschiez est, celui atent

bidden he-is that-one he-awaits

qui trop vient tost et fuira lent.

who too comes soon and will-flee slow

Nus retorner ne puet fortune:

Any to-turn-back not can fortune

ne se gaitoit de la rancune

not himself he-guarded from the rancor

que il avoit a Tristan fait.

that he had to Tristan done

1700 Cil qui desoz l'arbre s'estait

He who under the-tree himself-stood

vit le venir, hardi l'atent;

saw him come boldly him-awaits

dit mex veut estre mis au vent

he-says rather he-wishes be put to-the wind

que ja de lui n'ait la vengeance;

than ever of him not-he-have the vengeance

qar par lui et par sa faisance

for by him and by his doing

durent il estre tuit destruit.

1705

had-to they be all destroyed

Li chien le cerf sivent, qui fuit;

The dogs the stag follow which flees

li vasaus après les chiens vait.

the vassal after the dogs goes

Governal saut de sen agait;

Governal leaps from his ambush

du mal que cil ot fait li membre,

of-the ill that he had done (to-)him it-recalls

a s'espee tot le desmenbre,

1710

with his-sword all him he-dismembers

le chief en prent, atot s'en vet.

the head thereof he-takes with-it himself-thence he-goes

Li veneor, qui l'ont parfait,

The huntsmen who it-have performed

sivoient le cerf esmeü.

followed the stag started

De lor seignor virent le bu,

Of their lord they-saw the trunk

sanz la teste, soz l'arbre jus.

1715

without the head under the-tree down

Qui plus tost cort, cil s'en fuit plus:

Who most quickly runs he himself-thence flees more

bien quident ce ait fait Tristan

well they-think this has done Tristan

dont li rois fist faire le ban.

whereof the king made make the ban

Par Cornoualle ont entendu

Through Cornwall they-have heard

1720 l'un des trois a le chief perdu

the-one of-the three has the head lost

qui meslot Tristan o le roi.

who embroiled Tristan with the king

Poor en ont tuit et esfroi,

Fear thereof have all and fright

puis ont en pes le bois laisié;

then they-have in peace the wood left

n'out pus el bois sovent chacié.

not-there-was afterward in-the wood often hunted

1725 Des cel'ore qu'eu bois entroit,

From that-hour that-in-the wood one-entered

fust por chacier, chascuns dotoit

were-it for to-hunt each feared

que Tristan li preus l'encontrast.

that Tristan the valiant him-should-meet

Crient fu u plain et plus u gast.

Feared he-was in-the plain and more in-the waste

Tristan se jut an la fullie.

Tristan himself lay in the leaf-lodge

1730 Chau tens faisoit, si fu jonchie.

Hot weather it-was so it-was strewn

Endormiz est, ne savoit mie

Asleep he-is not he-knew at-all

que cil eüst perdu la vie

that he had lost the life

par qui il dut mort recevoir:

by whom he had-to death receive

liez ert, quant en savra le voir.

glad he-was when thereof he-will-know the truth

Governal a la loge vient,

Governal to the lodge comes

la teste au mort a sa main tient;

the head of-the dead-man in his hand he-holds

a la forche de la ramee

at the fork of the leafy-bough

l'a cil par les cheveus nouee.

it-has he by the hairs knotted

Tristran s'esvelle, vit la teste,

Tristan himself-wakes he-saw the head

saut esfriez, sor piez s'arest.

he-leaps frightened on feet himself-stops

A haute voiz crie son mestre:

With high voice cries his master

«Ne vos movez! seürs puez estre:

Not yourselves stir safe thou-canst be

a ceste espee l'ai ocis.

with this sword him-I-have slain

Saciez, cist ert vostre anemis.»

Know this-one was your enemy

Liez est Tristran de ce qu'il ot

Glad is Tristan of that which-he hears

cil est ocis qu'il plus dotot.

he is slain whom-he most feared

1735

1740

1745

Poor ont tuit par la contree.

Fear have all through the land

La forest est si esfreee

The forest is so terrified

que nus n'i ose ester dedenz.

that any not-there dares stand within

1750 Or ont le bois a lor talenz.

Now they-have the wood at their pleasures

La ou il erent en cel gaut,

There where they were in that wood

trova Tristan l'arc Qui ne faut.

found Tristan the-bow Which not fails

En tel maniere el bois le fist

In such manner in-the wood it be-made

riens ne trove qu'il n'oceïst.

thing not it-finds that-it not-should-slay

1755 Se par le bois vait cerf ne dains,

If through the wood goes stag or buck

se il atouchë a ces rains

if it touches at those boughs

ou cil arc est mis et tenduz,

where that bow is put and bent

se haut hurte, haut est feruz,

if high it-strikes high it-is struck

et se il hurte a l'arc an bas,

and if it strikes at the-bow in low

1760 bas est feruz eneslepas.

low it-is struck straightway

Tristan, par droit et par raison,

Tristan by right and by reason

qant ot fait l'arc, li mist cel non.

when he-had made the-bow (to-)it he-put that name

Mot a buen non l'arc, qui ne faut

Much has good name the-bow which not fails

riens qu'il en fire, bas ne haut;

thing that-it thereof strike low nor high

et mot lor out pus grant mestier,

and much (to-)them it-had after great use

de maint grant cerf lor fist mengier.

of many-a great stag (for-)them it-made eat

Mestier ert que la sauvagine

Need it-was that the wild-game

lor aïdast en la gaudine;

(to-)them should-help in the woodland

qar falliz lor estoit li pains,

for failed (to-)them was the bread

n'il n'osoient issir as plains.

nor-they not-dared go-out to-the plains

Longuement fu en tel dechaz.

Long he-was in such persecution

Mervelles fu de buen porchaz:

Marvelously he-was of good foraging

de venoison ont grant plenté.

of venison they-have great plenty

Seignor, ce fu un jor d'esté,

Lords this was one day of-summer

en icel tens que l'en aoste,

in that time when one harvests

un poi après la Pentecoste.

a little after the Pentecost

1765

1770

1775

Par un matin, a la rousee,

By one morning at the dew

li oisel chantent l'ainzjornee.

the birds sing the-daybreak

Tristran de la loge ou il gist,

Tristan from the lodge where he lies

1780 çaint s'espee, tot sol s'en ist,

girded his-sword all alone himself-thence he-issues

l'arc Qui ne faut vet regarder;

the-bow Which not fails he-goes to-look-at

parmi le bois ala berser.

through the wood he-went to-shoot

Ainz qu'il venist, fu en tel paine...

Before that-he came he-was in such pain

fu ainz maiss gent tant eüst paine?

was ever before folk so-much had pain

1785 Mais l'un por l'autre ne le sent,

But the-one for the-other not it feels

bien orent lor aaisement.

well they-had their ease

Ainz, puis le tens que el bois furent,

Ever since the time that in-the wood they-were

deus genz itant de tel ne burent;

two folk so-much of such not drank

ne, si conme l'estoire dit,

nor so as the-story says

1790 la ou Berox le vit escrit,

there where Bérout it saw written

nule gent tant ne s'entramerent

any folk so-much not each-other-loved

ne si griment nu conpererent.

nor so grievously not-it paid-for

La roïne contre lui live.

The queen toward him rises

Li chauz fu granz, qui mot les grive.

The heat was great which much them troubles

Tristan l'acole et il dit ce:

Tristan her-embraces and he says this

1795

«* * *

(lacuna)

— Amis, ou avez vos esté?

Friend where have you been

— Après un cerf, qui m'a lassé.

After a stag which me-has wearied

Tant l'ai chacié que tot m'en duel.

So-much it-I-have chased that all me-thereof I-grieve

Somel m'est pris, dormir me vuel.»

Sleep to-me-is taken to-sleep me I-wish

1800

La loge fu de vers rains faite,

The lodge was of green boughs made

de leus en leus ot fuelle atraite,

from places in places there-was leaf drawn

et par terre fu bien jonchie.

and by earth it-was well strewn

Yseut fu premire couchie;

Iseult was first laid

Tristan se couche et trait s'espee,

Tristan himself lies and draws his-sword

1805

entre les deus chars l'a posee.

between the two bodies it-be-has placed

Sa chemise out Yseut vestue

Her shift had Iseult worn

(se ele fust icel jor nue,

if she had-been that day naked

mervelles lor fust meschoiet),

marvelously (to-)them would-have-been befallen

1810 e Tristan ses braies ravoit.

and Tristan his breeches had-in-turn

La roïne avoit en son doi

The queen had on her finger

l'anel d'or des noces le roi,

the-ring of-gold of-the wedding of-the king

o esmeraudes planteïz.

with emeralds set

Mervelles fu li doiz gresliz,

Marvelously was the finger slender

1815 a poi que li aneus n'en chiet.

by little that the ring thence falls

Oez com il se sont couchiez:

Hear how they themselves are laid

desoz le col Tristan a mis

under the neck (of-)Tristan she-has put

son braz, et l'autre, ce m'est vis,

her arm and the-other this to-me-is seeming

li out par dedesus geté.

(to-)him she-had over above thrown

1820 Estroitement l'ot acolé,

Tightly him-she-had embraced

et il la rot de ses braz çainte.

and he her had-in-turn with his arms girt

Lor amistié ne fu pas fainte.

Their love not was at-all feigned

Les bouches furent pres asises,

The mouths were near set

et neporquant si ot devises

and nevertheless so there-was partings

que n'asenbloient pas ensemble.

that not-they-joined at-all together

Vent ne cort ne fuelle ne trenble.

Wind not runs nor leaf not trembles

Uns rais decent desor la face

A ray descends upon the face

Yseut, que plus reluist que glace.

(of-)Iseult which more shines than ice

Eisi s'endorment li amant,

Thus themselves-sleep the lovers

ne pensent mal ne tant ne quant.

not they-think ill nor much nor little

N'avoit qu'eus deus en cel païs;

Not-there-was but-they two in that land

quar Govenal, ce m'est avis,

for Govenal this to-me-is seeming

s'en ert alez o le destrier

himself-thence was gone with the charger

aval el bois au forestier.

below into-the wood to-the forester

1825

1830

- 1835 Oez, seignors, quel aventure:
 Hear lords what adventure
 tant lor dut estre pesme et dure!
 so-much (to-)them had-to be grievous and hard
 Par le bois vint uns forestiers,
 Through the wood came a forester
 qui avoit trové lor fulliers
 who had found their leafy-lairs
 ou il erent el bois geü.
 where they were in-the wood lain
- 1840 Tant a par le fuellier seü
 So-much he-has through the leafy-bower followed
 qu'il fu venuz a la ramee
 that-he was come to the leafy-bough
 ou Tristan out fait s'aünee.
 where Tristan had made his-gathering
 Vit les dormanz, bien les connut:
 He-saw the sleepers well them he-knew
 li sans li fuit, esmarriz fut.
 the blood (to-)him flees dismayed he-was
- 1845 Mot s'en vet tost, quar se doutoit;
 Much himself-thence he-goes quickly for himself he-feared
 bien sot, se Tristan s'esvellot,
 well he-knew if Tristan himself-woke
 que ja n'i metroit autre ostage,
 that ever not-there he-would-put other pledge
 fors la teste lairoit en gage.
 except the head he-would-leave in gage

Se il s'en fuit, n'est pa merveille;

If he himself-thence flees not-is at-all marvel

du bois s'en ist, cort a merveille.

from-the wood himself-thence he-issues he-runs at marvel

1850

Tristran avoc s'amie dort:

Tristan with his-friend sleeps

par poi qu'il ne reçurent mort.

by little that-they — received death

D'iluec endroit ou il dormoient,

From-there thereabout where they slept

qui, deus bones liues estoient

which two good leagues there-were

la ou li rois tenet sa cort.

there where the king held his court

Li forestier grant erre acort;

The forester great pace runs

qar bien avoit oï le ban

for well he-had heard the ban

que l'en avoit fait de Tristran:

that one had made about Tristan

cil qui au roi en diroit voir

he who to-the king thereof would-say truth

asez aroit de son avoir.

plenty would-have of his wealth

Li forestier bien le savoit,

The forester well it knew

por c'acort il a tel exploit.

for that-runs he at such speed

1855

1860

Et li rois Marc en son palais

And the king Mark in his palace

o ses barons tenoit ses plaiz;

with his barons held his pleas

1865 des barons ert plaine la sale.

of-the barons was full the hall

Li forestier du mont avale

The forester from-the height descends

et s'en est entré, mot vait tost.

and himself-thereinto is entered much he-goes quickly

Pensez que onc arester s'ost

Think that ever to-stop he-dared

de si que il vint as degrez

from so that he came to-the steps

1870 de la sale? Sus est montez.

of the hall Up he-is climbed

Li rois le voit venir grant erre,

The king him sees come great pace

son forestier apele en erre:

his forester he-calls in haste

«Sez noveles, qui si tost viens?

Knowest-thou news who so quickly comest

Ome senbles qui core a chiens,

Man thou-seemest who runs with dogs

1875 qui chast sa beste por ataindre.

who chases his beast to overtake

Veus tu a cort de nullui plaindre?

Wishest thou at court of anyone to-complain

Tu senbles home qu'ait besoin,

Thou seemest man that-has need

qui ça me soit tramis de loin.

who hither me be sent from far

Se tu veus rien, di ton mesage.

If thou wishest thing say thy message

A toi nus hon veé son gage

Has thee any man refused his pledge

1880

ou chacié vus de ma forest?

or driven you from my forest

— Escoute moi, roi, se toi plect,

Hear me king if thee it-please

et si m'entent un sol petit.

and so me-attend a single little

Par cest païs a l'on banit,

Through this land has one banned

qui ton nevo porroit trover,

whoever thy nephew might-be-able find

1885

qu'ançois s'osast laisier crever

that-rather himself-should-dare let burst

qu'il nu preïst, ou venist dire.

than-be not-him should-take or should-come to-say

Ge l'ai trové, s'en criem vostre ire:

I him-have found so-thereof I-fear your anger

se nel t'ensein, dorras moi mort.

if not-it (to-)thee-I-show thou-wilt-give me death

Je te merrai la ou il dort,

I thee shall-lead there where he sleeps

1890

et la roïne ensenble o lui.

and the queen together with him

Ges vi, poi a, la ou andui

I-them saw little ago there where both

fermement erent endormi.

firmly they-were asleep

Grant poor oi, quant la les vi.»

Great fear I-had when there them I-saw

1895 Li rois l'entent, boufe et sospire,

The king it-hears he-puffs and sighs

esfreez est, forment s'aire;

frightened he-is greatly himself-angers

au forestier dist et conselle

to-the forester he-said and he-counsels

priveement, dedenz l'orelle:

privately within the-ear

«En qel endroit sont il? Di moi!

In what place are they Say (to-)me

1900 — En une loge de Morroi

In a lodge of Morrois

dorment estroit et enbrachiez.

they-sleep close and embraced

Vien tost, ja serez d'eus vengiez.

Come quickly at-once you-will-be on-them avenged

Rois, s'or n'en prens aspre venjance,

King if-now not-thereof thou-takest harsh vengeance

n'as droit en terre, sanz doutance.»

not-thou-hast right in land without doubt

1905 Li rois li dist: «Is t'en la fors.

The king (to-)him said Go thee-thence there out

Si chier conme tu as ton cors,

As dear as thou hast thy body

ne dire a nul ce que tu sez,
not say to any that which thou knowest

tant soit estrange ne privez.
so-much be-he stranger nor intimate

A la Croiz Roge, au chemin fors,
At the Cross Red at-the road out

la on enfuet sovent les cors,
there one buries often the bodies

ne te movoir, iluec m'atent.
not thyself stir there me-await

Tant te dorrai or et argent
So-much (to-)thee I-shall-give gold and silver

con tu voudras, je l'afi toi.»
as thou wilt-wish I it-pledge (to-)thee

Li forestier se part du roi,
The forester himself parts from-the king

a la Croiz vient, iluec s'asiet.
to the Cross he-comes there himself-sits

Male gote les eulz li criet,
Evil gout the eyes (to-)him (may-)burst

qui tant voloit Tristan destruire!
who so-much wished Tristan to-destroy

Mex li venist son cors conduire,
Better (for-)him it-would-have-come his body to-conduct

qar puis morut a si grant honte
for afterward he-died with so great shame

con vos orrez avant el conte.
as you will-bear further in-the tale

1910

1915

1920

The Sword between Them

VIII

Mark rides out alone with the forester, comes on the sleepers, and raises his sword; then he sees the queen's shift, the naked blade, and Tristan's breeches, and reads it all as innocence. Instead of killing he leaves signs — his gloves against the sun on her face, his sword for Tristan's, his ring for hers — and rides home, lying about where he has been. The lovers wake, read the exchange as a threat rather than a mercy, and flee toward Wales. Three full years from the drinking, the potion's term runs out, and Tristan begins to count what his exile has cost.

Li rois est en la chanbre entrez,

The king is into the chamber entered

a soi manda toz ses privez,

to himself he-summoned all his intimates

pus lor voia et defendi

then (to-)them he-forbade and prohibited

qu'il ne soient ja si hardi

that-they not be ever so bold

1925 qu'il allent après lui plain pas.

that-they go after him single step

Chascun li dist: «Rois, est ce gas,

Each (to-)him said King is this jest

a aler vus sous nule part?

to go you alone any where

Ainz ne fu rois qui n'ait regart.

Ever not was king who not-have guard

Qel novele avez vos oïe?

What news have you heard

1930 Ne vos movez por dit d'espie.»

Not yourselves stir for word of-spy

Li rois respont: «Ne sai novele,

The king answers Not I-know news

mais mandé m'a une pucele

but sent-word (to-)me-has a maiden

que j'alle tost a lié parler.

that I-go quickly to her to-speak

Bien me mande n'i moigne per.

Well me she-sends-word not-there I-lead companion

G'irai tot seus sor mon destrier,

I-shall-go all alone on my charger

ne merrai per ne escuier,

not I-shall-lead companion nor squire

a ceste foiz irai sanz vos.»

at this time I-shall-go without you

Il responnent: «Ce poise nos.

They answer This weighs (on-)us

Chatons conmanda a son filz

Cato commanded to his son

a eschiver les leus soutiz.»

to shun the places lonely

Il respont: «Je le sai assez.

He answers I it know enough

Laissez moi faire auques mes sez.»

Let me do somewhat my pleasures

1935

1940

Li rois a fait sa sele metre,

The king has made his saddle put

s'espee çaint, sovent regrete

bis-sword he-girds often he-laments

1945 a lui tot sol la cuvertise

to himself all alone the baseness

que Tristrans fist, quant il l'ot prisse

that Tristan did when he her-had taken

Yseut la bele o le cler vis,

Iseult the fair with the bright face

o qui s'en est alé fuitis.

with whom himself-thence is gone fugitive

S'il les trove, mot les menace,

If-he them finds much them he-threatens

1950 ne laira pas ne lor mesface.

not he-will-leave at-all — (to-)them he-do-harm

Mot est li rois acoragiez

Very is the king emboldened

de destruire: c'es granz pechiez.

to destroy that-is great sin

De la cité s'en est issuz

From the city himself-thence he-is gone

et dist mex veut estre penduz

and he-said rather he-wishes be hanged

1955 qu'il ne prenge de ceus venjance

than-he not take of those vengeance

qui li ont fait tel avilance.

who (to-)him have done such outrage

A la Croiz vint, ou cil l'atent,

To the Cross he-came where he him-awaits

dist li qu'il aut isnelement

he-said (to-)him that-he go swiftly

et qu'il le meint la droite voie.

and that-he him lead the straight way

El bois entrent, qui mot onbroie.

Into-the wood they-enter which much casts-shade

1960

Devant le roi se met l'espie;

Before the king himself puts the-spy

li rois le sieut, qui bien se fie

the king him follows who well himself trusts

en l'espee que il a çainte,

in the-sword that he has girded

dont a doné colee mainte.

whereof he-has given blow many

Si fait il trop que sorquidez;

So does he too-much as presumptuous

1965

quar, se Tristan fust esvelliez,

for if Tristan were awakened

li niés o l'oncle se meslast,

the nephew with the-uncle himself would-fight

li uns morust, ainz ne finast.

the one would-die ever not it-would-end

Au forestier dist li roi Mars

To-the forester said the king Mark

qu'il li dorroit d'argent vint mars,

that-he (to-)him would-give of-silver twenty marks

1970

sel menoit tost a lor recet.

if-him he-led quickly to their retreat

Li forestier (qui vergonde ait!)

The forester who shame may-have

dist que pres sont de lor besoigne.

he-said that near they-are of their business

Du buen cheval, né de Gascoingne,

From-the good horse born of Gascony

1975 fait l'espie le roi decendre,

makes the-spy the king dismount

de l'autre part cort l'estrier prendre;

from the-other side he-runs the-stirrup to-take

a la branche d'un vert pomier

at the branch of-a green apple-tree

la reigne liënt du destrier.

the rein they-tie of-the charger

Poi vont avant, quant ont veü

Little they-go forward when they-have seen

1980 la loge por qu'il sont meü.

the lodge for which they-are set-out

Li rois deslace son mantel,

The king unlaces his mantle

dont a fin or sont li tassel:

whereof of fine gold are the clasps

desfublez fu, mot out gent cors.

unmantled he-was much he-had noble body

Du fuerre trait l'espee fors,

From-the sheath he-draws the-sword out

1985 iriez s'atorne, sovent dit

angered himself-he-makes-ready often he-says

q'or veut morir s'il nes ocit.

that-now he-wishes to-die if-be not-them slays

L'espee nue an la loge entre.

The-sword naked into the lodge he-enters

Le forestier entre soventre,

The forester enters behind

grant erre après le roi acort:

great pace after the king he-runs

li ros li çoine qu'il retort.

the king (to-)him signals that-he turn-back

1990

Li rois en haut le cop leva,

The king on high the blow raised

iré le fait, si se tresva.

anger it makes so himself he-grows-faint

Ja decendist li cop sor eus:

Already would-have-descended the blow upon them

ses oceïst, ce fust grant deus.

if-them he-would-have-slain this would-have-been great grief

Qant vit qu'ele avoit sa chemise

When he-saw that-she had her shift

1995

et q'entre eus deus avoit devise,

and that-between them two there-was partition

la bouche o l'autre n'ert jostee,

the mouth with the-other not-was joined

et qant il vit la nue espee

and when he saw the naked sword

qui entre eus deus les deseerot,

which between them two them separated

vit les braies que Tristan out:

he-saw the breeches that Tristan had

2000

«Dex!» dist li rois, «que ce puet estre?

God said the king what this can be

Or ai veü tant de lor estre,

Now I-have seen so-much of their state

Dex! je ne sai que doie faire,

God I not know what I-must do

ou de l'ocire ou du retraire.

either of the-slaying or of-the withdrawing

2005 Ci sont el bois, bien a long tens.

Here they-are in-the wood well for long time

Bien puis croire, se je ai sens,

Well I-can believe if I have sense

se il s'amasent folement,

if they themselves-loved wantonly

ja n'i eüsent vestement,

ever not-there they-would-have garment

entre eus deus n'i eüst espee,

between them two not-there would-be sword

2010 autrement fust cest'asemblee.

otherwise would-be this-meeting

Corage avoie d'eus ocire:

Heart I-had of-them to-slay

nes tocherai, retrairai m'ire.

not-them I-shall-touch I-shall-withdraw my-anger

De fole amor corage n'ont.

Of wanton love heart not-they-have

N'en ferrai nul. Endormi sont:

Not-thereof I-shall-strike any Asleep they-are

2015 se par moi eirent atouchié,

if by me they-were touched

trop par feroie grant pechié;

too much I-should-do great sin

et se g'esvel cest endormi

and if I-wake this sleeper

et il m'ocit ou j'oci lui,

and he me-slays or I-slay him

ce sera laide reparlance.

this will-be ugly report

Je lor ferai tel demostrance

I (to-)them shall-make such demonstration

que, puis que il s'esvelleront,

that after that they themselves-will-wake

certainement savoir porront

certainly to-know they-will-be-able

qu'il furent endormi trové

that-they were asleep found

et q'en a eü d'eus pité,

and that-one has had of-them pity

que je nes vuel noient ocire,

that I not-them wish at-all to-slay

ne moi ne gent de mon empire.

nor me nor folk of my empire

Ge voi el doi a la reïne

I see on-the finger of the queen

l'anel a pierre esmeraudine

the-ring with stone of-emerald

que li donnai (mot par est buens),

that (to-)her I-gave very much it-is good

et g'en rai un qui refu suens:

and I-thereof have-in-turn one that was-in-turn hers

osterai li le mien du doi.

I-shall-take-off (from-)her the mine from-the finger

2020

2025

2030

Uns ganz de voie rai j'o moi,

A-pair-of gloves for travel have-in-turn I-with me

qu'el'aporta o soi d'Irlande.

that-she-brought with her from-Ireland

Le rai qui sor la face brande

The ray which upon the face burns

2035 (qui, li fait chaut) en vuel covrir;

which (to-)her makes heat thereof I-wish to-cover

et, qant vendra au departir,

and when it-will-come to-the departing

prendrai l'espee d'entre eus deus

I-shall-take the-sword from-between them two

dont au Morhot fu el chief dors.»

whereof to-the Morholt was in-the head four-fingers-deep

Li rois a deslié les ganz,

The king has untied the gloves

2040 vit ensemble les deus dormanz,

he-saw together the two sleepers

le rai qui sor Yseut decent

the ray which upon Iseult descends

covre des ganz mot bonement.

he-covers with-the gloves very gently

L'anel du doi defors parut:

The-ring of-the king outside appeared

souef le traist, qu'il ne se mut.

softly it he-drew so-that-it not itself moved

2045 Primes i entra il enviz;

First there entered it with-difficulty

or avoit tant les doiz gresliz

now she-had so-much the fingers slender

qu'il s'en issi sanz force fere;

that-it itself-thence went-out without force to-make

mot l'en sot bien li rois fors traire.

much it-thence knew well the king out to-draw

L'espee qui entre eus deus est

The-sword which between them two is

souef oste, la soue i met.

softly he-takes-away the his-own there he-puts

De la loge s'en issi fors,

From the lodge himself-thence he-issued out

vint au destrier, saut sor le dos;

he-came to-the charger he-leaps on the back

au forestier dist qu'il s'en fuie,

to-the forester he-said that-he himself-thence flee

son cors trestort, si s'en conduie.

his body he-remove so himself-thence he-conduct

Vet s'en li rois, dormant les let,

Goes himself-thence the king sleeping them he-leaves

a cele foiz n'i a plus fait.

at that time not-there he-has more done

Reperiez est a sa cité.

Returned he-is to his city

De plusorz parz out demandé

From several sides (one-)had asked

ou a esté et ou tant fut.

where he-has been and where so-long he-was

2050

2055

2060 Li rois lor ment, pas n'i connut
The king (to-)them lies at-all not-there he-acknowledged

ou il ala ne que il quist
where he went nor what he sought

ne de faisance que il fist.
nor of doing that he did

Mais or oiez des endormiz,
But now hear of-the sleepers

que li rois out el bois gerpiz.
whom the king had in-the wood abandoned

2065 Avis estoit a la roïne
Seeming it-was to the queen

qu'ele ert en une grant gaudine,
that-she was in a great woodland

dedenz un riche pavellon:
within a rich pavilion

a li venoient dui lion,
to her came two lions

qui la voloient devorer;
which her wished to-devour

2070 el lor voloit merci crïer,
she (to-)them wished mercy to-cry

mais li lion, destroiz de fain,
but the lions constrained by hunger

chascun la prenoit par la main.
each her took by the hand

De l'esfroi que Iseut en a
From the-fright that Iseult thereof has

geta un cri, si s'esvella.
she-threw a cry so herself-she-woke

Li gant paré du blanc hermine

The gloves adorned with-the white ermine

li son choiet sor la poitrine.

(to-)her they-are fallen upon the breast

Tristran, du cri qu'il ot, s'esvelle,

Tristan from-the cry that-he hears himself-wakes

tote la face avoit vermelle.

all the face he-had crimson

Esfreez s'est, saut sus ses piez,

Frightened himself-he-is he-leaps upon his feet

l'espee prent com home iriez,

the-sword he-takes as man angered

regarde el brant, l'osche ne voit:

he-looks at-the brand the-notch not he-sees

vit le pont d'or qui sus estoit,

he-saw the bilt of-gold which above was

connut que c'est l'espee au roi.

he-knew that it-is the-sword of-the king

La roïne vit en son doi

The queen saw on her finger

l'anel que li avoit doné,

the-ring that (to-)her he-had given

le suen revit du dei osté.

the his she-saw-in-turn from-the finger taken-off

Ele cria: «Sire, merci!

She cried Lord mercy

Li rois nos a trovez ici.»

The king us has found here

Il li respont: «Dame, c'est voirs.

He (to-)her answers Lady this-is true

2075

2080

2085

- 2090 Or nos covient gerpir Morrois,
Now (to-)us it-behooves to-abandon Morrois
 qar mot li par somes mesfait.
for very (toward-)him much we-are at-fault
 M'espee a, la soe me lait:
My-sword he-has the his (to-)me he-leaves
 bien nos peüst avoir ocis.
well us he-might have slain
 — Sire, voire, ce m'est avis.
Lord true this to-me-is seeming
- 2095 — Bele, or n'i a fors du fuir.
Fair now not-there is except of-the fleeing
 Il nos laissa por nos traïr:
He us left for us to-betray
 seus ert: si est alez por gent,
alone he-was so he-is gone for folk
 prendre nos quide, voirement.
to-take us he-thinks truly
 Dame, fuion nos en vers Gales.
Lady let-us-flee ourselves thence toward Wales
- 2100 Li sanc me fuit.» Tot devient pales.
The blood me flees All he-becomes pale
 Atant, es vus lor escuier,
Thereupon behold you their squire
 qui s'en venoit o le destrier.
who himself-thence came with the charger
 Vit son seignor pales estoit,
He-saw his lord pale he-was
 demande li que il avoit.
he-asks (of-)him what he had

«Par foi, mestre, Marc li gentis

2105

By faith master Mark the wellborn

nos a trovez ci endormis;

us has found here asleep

s'espee lait, la moie en porte:

his-sword he-leaves the mine thence he-carries

felonie criem qu'il anorte.

felony I-fear that-he intends

Du doi Yseut l'anel, le buen,

From-the finger (of-)Iseult the-ring the good

en a porté, si lait le suen:

2110

thence he-has carried so he-leaves the his

par cest change poon parçoivre,

by this exchange we-can perceive

mestre, que il nos veut deçoivre;

master that he us wishes to-deceive

quar il ert seus, si nos trova,

for he was alone so us he-found

poor li prist, si s'en torna.

fear (to-)him took so himself-thence he-turned

Por gent s'en est alé arrire,

2115

For folk himself-thence is gone back

dont il a trop et baude et fire.

whereof he has much both bold and fierce

Ses amerra, destruire veut

And-them he-will-bring to-destroy he-wishes

et moi et la roïne Yseut;

both me and the queen Iseult

voiant le pueple, nos veut prendre,

in-sight-of the people us he-wishes to-take

- 2120 faire ardoir et venter la cendre.
make burn and winnow the ash
 Fuion, n'avon que demorer.»
Let-us-flee not-we-have (cause) to-tarry
 N'avet en eus que sejourner.
Not-there-was in them (cause) to-stay
 S'il ont poor, n'en puënt mais:
If-they have fear not-thereof they-can more
 le roi sevent fel et engrès.
the king they-know felonious and fierce
- 2125 Torné s'en sont bone aleüre,
Turned themselves-thence they-are good pace
 le roi doutent, por l'aventure.
the king they-fear for the-adventure
 Morrois trespasent, si s'en vont,
Morrois they-cross so themselves-thence they-go
 grans jornees par poor font,
great journeys through fear they-make
 droit vers Gales s'en sont alé.
straight toward Wales themselves-thence they-are gone
- 2130 Mot les avra amors pené:
Much them will-have love pained
 trois anz plainiers sofrirent peine,
three years full they-suffered pain
 lor char pali et devint vaine.
their flesh paled and became wan

Seignors, du vin de qoi il burent

Lords of-the wine of which they drank

avez oï, por qoi il furent

you-have heard for which they were

en si grant paine lonctens mis;

in so great pain long-time put

mais ne savez, ce m'est avis,

but not you-know this to-me-is seeming

a combien fu determinez

for how-long was determined

li lovendrincs, li vin herbez:

the love-drink the wine herbed

la mere Yseut, qui le bollit,

the mother (of-)Iseult who it boiled

a trois anz d'amistié le fist.

for three years of-love it she-made

Por Marc le fist et por sa fille:

For Mark it she-made and for her daughter

autre en pruva, qui s'en essille.

another thereof tasted who himself-thereby exiles

Tant con durerent li troi an,

So-long as lasted the three years

out li vins si soupris Tristan

had the wine so overcome Tristan

et la roïne ensenble o lui

and the queen together with him

que chascun disoit: «Las n'en sui.»

that each said Weary not-thereof I-am

2135

2140

2145

L'endemain de la saint Jehan

The-morrow of the saint John

aconpli furent li troi an

accomplished were the three years

que cil vin fu determinez.

that that wine was determined

2150 Tristran fu de son lit levez,

Tristan was from his bed risen

Iseut remest en sa fullie.

Iseult remained in her leaf-lodge

Tristran, sachiez, une doitie

Tristan know a bolt

a un cerf traist, qu'il out visé,

at a stag he-drew that-he had aimed-at

par les flans l'a outrebersé.

through the flanks it-be-has shot-through

2155 Fuit s'en li cerf, Tristran l'ageut;

Flees itself-thence the stag Tristan it-pursues

que soirs fu plains tant le porseut.

so-that evening was full so-long it he-pursues

La ou il cort après la beste,

There while he runs after the beast

l'ore revient, et il s'aresté,

the-hour returns and he himself-stops

qu'il ot beü le lovendrant.

that he-had drunk the love-drink

2160 A lui seus senpres se repent:

To himself alone straightway himself he-repents

«Ha! Dex,» fait il, «tant ai travail!

Ah God says he so-much I-have torment

Trois anz a hui, que rien n'i fal,

Three years there-is today that anything not-there I-fail

onques ne me falli pus paine

ever not me failed after pain

ne a foirié n'en sorsemaine.

neither on holiday nor-on workweek

Oublié ai chevalerie,

2165

Forgotten I-have chivalry

a seure cort et baronie.

to follow court and baronage

Ge sui essilié du païs,

I am exiled from-the land

tot m'est falli et vair et gris,

all to-me-is failed both vair and gray

ne sui a cort a chevaliers.

nor I-am at court among knights

Dex! tant m'amast mes oncles chiers,

2170

God so-much me-would-love my uncle dear

se tant n'eüse a lui mesfez!

if so-much not-I-had toward him misdone

Ha! Dex, tant foiblement me vet!

Ah God so-much feebly (for-)me it-goes

Or deüse estre a cort a roi,

Now I-ought to-be at court of king

et cent danzeaus avoques moi,

and hundred young-lords with me

qui servisent por armes prendre

2175

who should-serve for arms to-take

et a moi lor service rendre.

and to me their service to-render

Aler deüse en autre terre

To-go I-ought into other land

soudoier et soudees querre.

to-soldier and wages to-see

Et poise moi de la roïne,

And it-weighs (on-)me for the queen

2180 qui je doins loge por cortine.

to-whom I give lodge for curtain

En bois est, et si peüst estre

In wood she-is and so she-might be

en beles chanbres, o son estre,

in fair chambers with her retinue

portenduës de dras de soie.

hung with cloths of silk

Por moi a prise male voie.

For me she-has taken evil way

2185 A Deu, qui est sire du mont,

To God who is lord of-the world

cri ge merci, que il me donst

cry I mercy that he me give

itel corage que je lais

such heart that I leave

a mon oncle sa feme en pais.

to my uncle his wife in peace

A Deu vo je que jel feroie

To God vow I that I-it would-do

2190 mot volentiers, se je pooie,

very willingly if I could

si que Yseut fust acordee

so that Iseult were reconciled

o le roi Marc, qui'st esposee,

with the king Mark to-whom-she-is wedded

las! si qel virent maint riche ome,

alas so that-it saw many-a rich man

au fuer q'en dit la loi de Rome.»

at-the custom that-one says the law of Rome

The Letter to King Mark

IX

Tristan laments the wrong he has done his uncle Mark, and Iseult mourns the name of queen the potion cost her. They go back to the hermit Ogrin, who says a little fair lying may cover shame. He writes their letter: Tristan will give the queen back, prove in Mark's court that there was no wrong between them, and serve another king if Mark will not keep him. That night Tristan carries it to the king's window himself, calls him, and rides back to the hermitage.

Tristran s'apuie sor son arc,

Tristan himself-leans on his bow

sovent regrete le roi Marc,

often he-laments the king Mark

son oncle, qui a fait tel tort,

his uncle to-whom he-has done such wrong

sa feme mise a tel descort.

his wife put to such discord

Tristran au soir se dementot:

Tristan at-the evening himself lamented

oiez d'Iseut con li estoit!

bear of-Iseult how (to-)her it-was

2195

2200

Sovent disoit: «Lasse, dolente,

Often she-said Wretched sorrowful

porqoi eüstes vos jovente?

wherefore had you youth

En bois estes com autre serve,

In wood you-are as another bondwoman

petit trovez qui ci vus serve.

little you-find who here you may-serve

2205 Je sui roïne, mais le non

I am queen but the name

en ai perdu par la poison

thereof I-have lost by the potion

que nos beümes en la mer.

that we drank on the sea

Ce fist Brengain, qu'i dut garder:

This did Brangain who-it had-to guard

lasse! si male garde en fist!

wretched so evil guard thereof she-made

2210 El n'en pout mais, quar j'ai trop pris.

She not-thereof could more for I-have too-much taken

Les damoiseles des anors,

The damsels of-the domains

les filles as frans vavasors

the daughters of-the noble vavasors

deüse ensemble o moi tenir

I-ought together with me hold

en mes chanbres, por moi servir,

in my chambers for me to-serve

et les deüse marier

2215

and them I-ought to-marry

et as seignors por bien doner.

and to-the lords for good to-give

Amis Tristan, en grant error

Friend Tristan into great error

nos mist qui le boivre d'amor

us put who the drink of-love

nos aporta ensenble a boivre.

us brought together to drink

Mex ne nos pout il pas deçoivre.»

2220

Better not us could he at-all deceive

Tristan li dist: «Roïne gente,

Tristan (to-)her said Queen noble

en mal uson nostre jovente.

in ill we-use our youth

Bele amie, se je peüse,

Fair friend if I could

par conseil que je en eüse,

by counsel that I thereof had

faire au roi Marc acordement,

2225

make with-the king Mark agreement

qu'il pardonnast son mautalent

that-be should-pardon his ill-will

et qu'il preïst nostre escondit,

and that-be should-take our denial

c'onques nul jor, n'en fait n'en dit,

that-ever any day nor-in deed nor-in word

- n'oi o vos point de druërie
not-I-had with you whit of love-dealing
- 2230 qui li tornast a vilanie,
which (to-)him should-turn to baseness
- n'a chevalier en son roiaume,
not-is-there knight in his kingdom
- ne de Lidan tresque en Dureaume,
nor from Lidan as-far-as to Durham
- s'il voloit dire que amor
if-be wished say that love
- eüse o vos por deshonor,
I-had with you for dishonor
- 2235 ne m'en trovast en chanp, armé.
not me-thereof he-would-find in field armed
- Et s'il avoit en volenté,
And if-be had in will
- quant vos avriez deresnie,
when you would-have vindicated(-yourself)
- qu'il me souffrist de sa mesnie,
that-be me should-suffer of his household
- gel serviroie a grant honor,
I-him would-serve with great honor
- 2240 conme mon oncle et mon seignor:
as my uncle and my lord
- n'avroit soudoier en sa terre
not-be-would-have mercenary in his land
- qui miex le servist de sa gerre.
who better him would-serve in his war

Et s'il estoit a son plesir

And if-it were at his pleasure

vos a prendre et moi de gerpir,

you to take and me to abandon

qu'il n'eüst soin de mon servise,

that-be not-had care of my service

2245

ge m'en iroie au roi de Frise,

I myself-thence would-go to-the king of Frisia

ou m'en passeroie en Bretagne

or myself-thence I-would-pass into Brittany

o Governal, sanz plus compaignie.

with Governal without more company

Roïne franche, ou que je soie,

Queen noble wherever that I be

vostre toz jorz me clameroie.

2250

yours all days me I-would-call

Ne vosise la departie,

Not I-would-wish the parting

s'estre peüst la compaignie,

if-to-be it-could the company

ne fust, bele, la grant soufraite

not were-it fair the great privation

que vos soufrez et avez faite

that you suffer and have made

tanz dis, por moi, par desertine.

2255

so-many days for me through desert

Por moi perdez non de roïne.

For me you-lose name of queen

Estre peüses a anor

Be thou-mightest in honor

en tes chanbres, o ton seignor,

in thy chambers with thy lord

ne fust, dame, li vins herbez

not were-it lady the wine berbed

2260 qui an la mer nos fu donnez.

that on the sea (to-)us was given

Yseut, franche, gente façon,

Iseult noble fair fashion

conselle moi que nos feron.

counsel me what we shall-do

— Sire, Jesu soit gracïez,

Lord Jesus be thanked

qant degerpir volez pechiez!

when to-abandon you-wish sins

2265 Amis, membre vos de l'ermite

Friend remember you of the-hermit

Ogrin, qui de la loi escrite

Ogrin who of the law written

nos preecha et tant nos dist,

(to-)us preached and so-much (to-)us said

quant tornastes a son abit,

when you-turned to his dwelling

qui est el son de chest boschage!

which is in-the end of this thicket

2270 Beaus amis douz, se ja corage

Fair friend sweet if ever heart

vos ert venuz de repentir,

(to-)you was come of to-repent

or ne peüst mex avenir.

now not it-could better befall

Sire, corons a lui ariere.

Lord let-us-run to him back

De ce sui tote fianciere:

Of this I-am wholly confident

consel nos doroit honorable,

2275

counsel (to-)us he-would-give honorable

par quoi a joie pardurable

by which to joy everlasting

porron encore bien venir.»

we-shall-be-able yet well come

Tristran l'entent, fist un sospir

Tristan it-bears he-made a sigh

et dist: «Roïne de parage,

and said Queen of lineage

tornon arire a l'ermitage.

2280

let-us-turn back to the-hermitage

Encor enuit ou le matin,

Still tonight or the morning

o le consel de maistre Ogrin,

with the counsel of master Ogrin

mandon au roi nostre talent

let-us-send to-the king our mind

par brief, sanz autre mandement.

by letter without other message

— Amis Tristran, mot dites bien.

2285

Friend Tristan much you-say well

Au riche roi celestien

To-the mighty king heavenly

puison andui crier merci,

let-us-be-able both to-cry mercy

qu'il ait de nos, Tristan, ami!»

that-he have on us Tristan friend

Arrire tornent el boschage,

Back they-turn into-the thicket

2290 tant ont erré qu'à l'ermitage

so-much they-have journeyed that-to the-hermitage

vindrent ensemble li amant.

they-came together the lovers

L'ermite Ogrin trovent lisant.

The-hermit Ogrin they-find reading

Quant il les vit, bel les apele

When he them saw fairly them he-calls

(assis se sont en la chapele):

seated themselves they-are in the chapel

2295 «Gent dechacie, a con grant paine

Folk driven-out at how great pain

amors par force vos demeine!

love by force you leads

Combien durra vostre folie?

How-long will-last your folly

Trop avez mené ceste vie.

Too-much you-have led this life

Et, queles, quar vos repentez!»

And now-then now yourselves repent

2300 Tristan li dist: «Or escoutez.

Tristan (to-)him said Now hear

Si longuement l'avons menee,

So long it-we-have led

itel fu notre destinee.

such was our destiny

Trois anz a bien, si que n'i falle,

Three years there-is well so that not-there fail

onques ne nos falli travaille.

ever not (to-)us failed toil

S'or poïons conseil trover

If-now we-could counsel find

de la roïne racorder,

of the queen to-reconcile

je ne querrai ja plus nul jor

I not shall-seek ever more any day

estre o le roi Marc a seignor;

to-be with the king Mark as lord

ainz m'en irai ançois un mois

rather myself-thence I-shall-go before a month

en Bretaigne ou en Loenois.

into Brittany or into Loonois

Et se mes oncles veult souffrir

And if my uncle wishes suffer

moi a sa cort por lui servir,

me at his court for him to-serve

gel servirai si con je doi,

I-him shall-serve so as I ought

si con mon oncle et riche roi.

so as my uncle and mighty king

Le mellor conseil nos donnez,

The best counsel (to-)us give

2305

2310

2315

por Deu, sire, de ce qu'oez,
for God lord of that which-you-bear

et nos feron vos volentez
and we shall-do your wills

(lacuna)

Seignors, oiez de la roïne:

Lords hear of the queen

2320 as piez l'ermite chiet encline,
at-the feet (of-)the-hermit she-falls bowed

de lui proier point ne se faint
of him to-pray whit not herself she-holds-back

qu'il les acort au roi, si plaint:
that-he them reconcile to-the king so she-laments

«Qar ja corage de folie
For ever heart of folly

nen avrai je jor de ma vie.
not shall-have I day of my life

2325 Ge ne di pas, a vostre entente,
I not say at-all to your understanding

que de Tristan jor me repente
that of Tristan day me I-repent

que je ne l'aim de bone amor
that I not him-love with good love

et com ami, sanz desanor:
and as friend without dishonor

de la comune de mon cors
of the intercourse of my body

2330 et je du suen somes tuit fors.»
and I of-the his we-are wholly out

L'ermites l'ot parler, si plore,

The-hermit her-bears speak so he-weep

de ce q'il ot Deu en aoure:

of that which-he hears God thereof he-adores

«Ha! Dex, beaus rois onipotent,

Ab God fair king almighty

graces, par mon buen cuer, vus rent,

thanks by my good heart (to-)you I-render

qui vivre tant m'avez laisié

who to-live so-long me-have let

que ces deus genz de lor pechié

that these two persons of their sin

a moi en vindrent conseil prendre.

to me thereof came counsel to-take

Granz grez vos en puise je rendre!

Great thanks (to-)you thereof may-be-able I to-render

Ge jur ma creance et ma loi,

I swear my belief and my faith

buen conseil aurez de moi.

good counsel you-will-have from me

Tristran, entent moi un petit

Tristan attend me a little

(ci es venuz a mon habit),

here thou-art come to my dwelling

et vos, roïne, a ma parole

and you queen to my word

entendez, ne soiez pas fole.

attend not be at-all foolish

Qant home et feme font pechié,

When man and woman do sin

2335

2340

2345

s'anz se sont pris et sont quitié,
if-before themselves they-are taken and are parted

et s'aus viennent a penitance
and if-they come to penance

et aient bone repentance,
and have good repentance

Dex lor pardone lor mesfait,
God (to-)them pardons their misdeed

2350 tant ne seroit orible et lait.
however-much not it-would-be horrible and foul

Tristran, roïne, or escoutez
Tristan queen now hear

un petitet, si m'entendez.
a little-while so me-attend

Por honte oster et mal covrir
For shame to-remove and ill to-cover

doit on un poi par bel mentir.
ought one a little by fair to-lie

2355 Qant vos conseil m'avez requis,
Since you counsel me-have asked

gel vos dorrai sanz terme mis.
I-it (to-)you shall-give without term set

En parchemin prendrai un brief:
On parchment I-shall-take a letter

saluz avra el premier chief.
greetings it-will-have at-the first head

A Lancien le trametez,
To Lantien it send

le roi par bun salu mandez

2360

the king by good greeting send-word

en bois estes o la roïne;

in wood you-are with the queen

mais, s'il voloit de lui saisine

but if-he wished of her seisin

et pardonast son mautalent,

and should-pardon his ill-will

vos feriez por lui itant

you would-do for him this-much

vos en iriez a sa cort;

2365

you thereof would-go to his court

n'i avroit fort, sage ne lort,

not-there would-be strong wise nor dull

s'il veut dire qu'en vilanie

if-he wishes say that-in baseness

eüsiez prise druërie,

you-had taken love-dealing

si vos face li rois Mars pendre,

so you may-make the king Mark hang

se vos ne vos poez defendre.

2370

if you not yourself can defend

«Tristan, por ce t'os bien loer,

Tristan for this thee-I-dare well advise

que ja n'i troveras ton per

that ever not-there thou-wilt-find thy peer

qui gage doinst encontre toi.

who pledge may-give against thee

Icest conseil te doin par foi.

This counsel thee I-give by faith

2375 Ce ne puet il metre en descort:

This not can he put in dispute

qant il vos vout livrer a mort

when he you wished deliver to death

et en feu ardoir, por le nain

and in fire to-burn for the dwarf

(cortois le virent et vilain),

courtly it saw and churl

il ne voloit escouter plait.

he not wished to-hear plea

2380 Qant Dex vos an ot merci fait

When God you thereof had mercy done

que d'iluec fustes eschapez,

that from-there you-were escaped

si com il est oï assez,

so as it is heard enough

que, se ne fust la Deu vigor,

that if not were-it the (of-)God strength

destruit fusiez a deshonor

destroyed you-would-have-been to dishonor

2385 (tel saut feïstes qu'il n'a home,

such leap you-made that not-there-is man

de Costentin entresqu'a Rome,

from Cotentin as-far-as-to Rome

se il le voit, n'en ait hisdor),

if he it sees not-thereof have horror

iluec fuïstes par poor.

there you-fled by fear

Vos rescosistes la roïne,

You rescued the queen

s'avez esté pus en gaudine.

2390

so-you-have been since in woodland

De sa terre vus l'amenastes,

From her land you her-brought

par mariage li donastes.

by marriage (to-)him you-gave

Tot ce fu fait, il le set bien;

All this was done he it knows well

nocie fu a Lencien.

wedded she-was at Lantien

Mal vos estoit lié a fallir,

2395

Ill (for-)you it-was her to fail

o lié vosistes mex fuïr.

with her you-wished rather to-flee

S'il veut prendre vostre escondit,

If-he wishes take your denial

si qel verront grant et petit,

so that-it will-see great and small

vos li offrez a sa cort faire.

you (to-)him offer at his court to-make

Et se lui venoit a viaire,

2400

And if (to-)him it-came to mind

qant vos serez de lui loiaus,

when you will-be toward him loyal

au loement de ses vasaus

at-the approval of his vassals

preïst sa feme la cortoise...

let-him-take his wife the courtly

et, se savez que lui n'en poise,

and if you-know that (to-)him not-thereof it-weighs

- 2405 o lui serez ses soudoiers,
with him you-will-be his mercenary
 servirez le mot volentiers.
you-will-serve him very willingly
 Et s'il ne veut vostre servise,
And if-he not wishes your service
 vos passerez la mer de Frise,
you will-cross the sea of Frisia
 iroiz servir un autre roi.
you-will-go to-serve an other king
- 2410 Tex ert li brief. — Et je l'otroi.
Such will-be the letter And I it-grant
 Tant ait plus mis, beau sire Ogrin,
So-much let-him-have more put fair lord Ogrin
 vostre merci, el parchemin,
your mercy in-the parchment
 que je ne m'os en lui fier:
that I not myself-dare in him trust
 de moi a fait un ban crïer.
of me he-has made a ban to-cry
- 2415 Mais je li prié, com a seignor
But I (to-)him pray as to lord
 que je mot aim par bone amor,
whom I much love with good love
 un autre brief reface faire,
an other letter let-him-have-again made
 s'i face escrire tot son plaire;
so-therere let-him-have written all his pleasure
 a la Croiz Røge, anmi la lande,
at the Cross Red in-midst-of the beath

pende le brief, si le conmande.

2420

let-him-hang the letter so it command

Ne li os mander ou je sui,

Not (to-)him I-dare send-word where I am

ge criem qu'il ne me face ennui.

I fear that-he — me do harm

Ge crerai bien, quant je l'avrai,

I shall-believe well when I it-shall-have

le brief: quant qu'il voudra ferai.

the letter whatever that-he will-wish I-shall-do

Maistre, mon brief set seelé!

2425

Master my letter be sealed

En la queue escriroiz: Vale!

On the tail you-will-write Vale

A ceste foiz je n'i sai plus.»

At this time I not-there know more

Ogrins l'ermite lieve sus,

Ogrin the-hermit rises up

pene et enque et parchemin prist,

pen and ink and parchment be-took

totes ces paroles i mist.

2430

all these words there be-put

Qant il out fait, prist un anel,

When he had done be-took a ring

la pierre passot el seel.

the stone be-passed on-the seal

Seelé est, Tristan le tent,

Sealed it-is (to-)Tristan it be-holds-out

il le reçut mot bonement.

he it received very kindly

2435 «Quil portera?» dist li hermites.

Who-it will-carry said the hermit

«Gel porterai. — Tristan, nu dites.

I-it shall-carry Tristan not-it say

— Certes, sire, si ferai bien,

Certainly lord so I-shall-do well

bien sai l'estre de Lancien.

well I-know the-layout of Lantien

Beau sire Ogrin, vostre merci,

Fair lord Ogrin your mercy

2440 la roïne remaindra ci;

the queen will-remain here

et anevois, en tens oscur,

and straightway in time dark

qant li rois dormira seür,

when the king will-sleep secure

ge monterai sor mon destrier,

I shall-mount on my charger

o moi merrai mon escuier.

with me I-shall-lead my squire

2445 Defors la vile a un pendant:

Outside the town is a slope

la decendrai, s'irai avant.

there I-shall-dismount so-I-shall-go forward

Mon cheval gardera mon mestre,

My horse will-guard [will-be-kept] my master

mellor ne vit ne lais ne prestre.»

better not saw nor layman nor priest

Anuit, après solel couchier,

Tonight after sun setting

qant li tens prist a espoisier,

when the weather began to darken

Tristran s'en torne avoc son mestre.

Tristan himself-thence turns with his master

Bien sot tot le païs et l'estre.

Well he-knew all the land and the-state

A Lancien, a la cité,

To Lantien to the city

en sont venu, tant ont erré.

thereinto they-are come so-much they-have journeyed

Il decent jus, entre en la vile.

He descends down he-enters into the town

Les gaïtes cornent a merveille.

The watchmen sound-horns at marvel

Par le fossé dedenz avale

By the ditch within he-goes-down

et vint errant tresque en la sale.

and he-came running as-far-as into the hall

Mot par est mis Tristran en fort.

Very much is put Tristan in straits

A la fenestre ou li rois dort

At the window where the king sleeps

en est venu, souef l'apele,

thereto he-is come softly him-he-calls

n'avoit son de crïer harele.

not-he-had care of to-cry outcry

Li rois s'esvelle et dit après:

The king himself-wakes and says after

2450

2455

2460

«Qui es, qui a tel eure ves?

Who art-thou who at such hour goest

2465 As tu besoin? Di moi ton non.

Hast thou need Say (to-)me thy name

— Sire, Tristan m'apele l'on.

Lord Tristan me-calls one

Un brief aport, sil met ci jus

A letter I-bring so-it I-put here down

el fenestrier de cest enclus.

in-the window-ledge of this enclosure

Longuement n'os a vos parler,

Long not-I-dare to you speak

2470 le brief vos lais, n'os plus ester.»

the letter (to-)you I-leave not-I-dare more stay

Tristan s'en torne, li rois saut,

Tristan himself-thence turns the king leaps

par trois foiz l'apela en haut:

by three times him-he-called in loud

«Por Deu, beaus niés, ton oncle atent!»

For God fair nephew thy uncle await

Li rois le brief a sa main prent.

The king the letter in his hand takes

2475 Tristan s'en vet, plus n'i remaint,

Tristan himself-thence goes more not-there he-stays

de soi conduire ne se faint,

of himself to-take-away not himself he-holds-back

vient a son mestre, qui l'atent,

he-comes to his master who him-awaits

el destrier saut legierement.

on-the charger he-leaps lightly

Governal dist: «Fol, quar exploites!

Governal said Fool now make-haste

Alon nos en les destoletes!»

2480

Let-us-go us thence the by-ways

Tant ont erré par le boschage

So-much they-have journeyed through the thicket

qu'au jor vindrent à l'ermitage.

that-at-the day they-came to the-hermitage

Enz sont entré. Ogrins prioït

In they-are entered Ogrin prayed

au roi celestre quant qu'il pot

to-the king heavenly all that-he could

Tristran defende d'enconbrier

2485

Tristan defend from-hindrance

et Governal, son escuier.

and Governal his squire

Qant il les vit, es le vos lié:

When he them saw behold him for-you glad

son criator a gracié.

his creator he-has thanked

D'Iseut n'estuet pas demander

of-Iseult not-it-behooves at-all to-ask

s'ele out poor d'eus encontrer.

2490

if-she bad fear (of-)them to-meet

Ainz, pus le soir qu'il en issirent

Never since the evening that-they thereof went-out

tresque l'ermite et el les virent,

until the-hermit and she them saw

n'out les eulz essuiez de lermes:

not-she-had the eyes wiped of tears

mot par li senbla lons cis termes.

very much (to-)her seemed long this term

2495 Qant el le vit venir, lor prie...

When she him saw come them she-prays

que il i fist, ne fu parole.

that he there did not was word

«Amis, di moi, se Dex t'anort,

Friend say (to-)me so God thee-honor

fus tu donc pus a la roi cort?»

wast thou then afterward at the (of-)king court

Tristran lor a tot reconté,

Tristan (to-)them has all related

2500 comment il fu a la cité

how he was at the city

et comment o le roi parla,

and how with the king he-spoke

coment li rois le rapela,

how the king him called-back

et du brief que il li gerpit,

and of-the letter that he (to-)him left

et con li rois trova l'escrit.

and how the king found the-writing

2505 «Dex!» dist Ogrins, «graces te rent.

God said Ogrin thanks thee I-render

Tristran, sachiez, asez briment

Tristan know enough shortly

orez noveles du ro Marc.»

you-will-hear news of-the king Mark

Tristran decent, met jus son arc.

Tristan dismounts he-puts down his bow

The King's Answer

X

Mark has the letter read to his barons; Dinas speaks first for bearing it out, and the court, saying that those who accused the queen never had any sense, advises the king to take his wife back and send his nephew to serve the king who wars in Galloway. The answer is hung at the Red Cross and Tristan carries it to Ogrin, who reads out the terms: the meeting is set at the Ford of Adventure in three days, and Tristan is to serve abroad a year or two. Tristan and Iseult exchange the dog Husdent and a green jasper ring, and Ogrin buys her rich clothes at the Mount.

Or sejoignent a l'ermitage.

Now they-stay at the-hermitage

Li rois esvelle son barnage.

The king wakes his baronage

Primes manda le chapelain,

First he-summoned the chaplain

le brief li tent qu'a en la main.

the letter (to-)him he-holds-out that-he-has in the hand

Cil fraint la cire et lut le brief.

He breaks the wax and read the letter

Le roi choisi el premier chief,

The king he-espied in-the first head

a qui Tristan mandoit saluz.

to whom Tristan sent greetings

Les moz a tost toz conneüz,

The words he-has quickly all known

au roi a dit le mandement.

to-the king he-has said the message

Li rois l'escoute bonement;

The king it-listens kindly

2510

2515

- a grant merveille s'en esjot,
at great marvel himself-thereat he-rejoices
- 2520 qar sa feme forment amot.
for his wife greatly be-loved
- Li rois esvelle ses barons,
The king wakes his barons
- les plus proisiez mande par nons;
the most esteemed he-summons by names
- et qant il furent tuit venu,
and when they were all come
- li rois parla, il sont teü:
the king spoke they are silent
- 2525 «Seignors, un brief m'est ci tramis.
Lords a letter to-me-is here sent
- Rois sui sor vos, vos mi marchis.
King I-am over you you my marquises
- Li briés soit liez et soit oïz;
The letter be read and be heard
- et qant liz sera li escriz,
and when read will-be the writing
- conselliez m'en: jel vos requier.
counsel me-thereof I-it (of-)you ask
- 2530 Vos m'en devez bien consellier.»
You me-thereof ought well to-counsel
- Dinas s'en est premiers levez,
Dinas himself-thence is first risen
- dist a ses pers: «Seignors, oez.
he-said to his peers Lords hear
- S'or oiez que ne die bien,
If-now you-hear that not I-say well

ne m'en creez de nule rien.

not me-thereof believe of any thing

Qui mex savra dire, si die,

2535

Whoever better will-know to-say so let-him-say

face le bien, lest la folie.

let-him-do the good let-him-leave the folly

Li brief nos est ici tramis

The letter (to-)us is here sent

nos ne savon de qel païs:

we not know from what land

soit liz li briés premierement;

be read the letter first

et pus, solonc le mandement,

2540

and then according-to the message

qui buen conseil savra doner,

whoever good counsel will-know to-give

sil nos doinst buen. Nel quier celer:

so-it (to-)us let-him-give good Not-it I-seek to-hide

qui son droit seignor mesconselle

whoever his rightful lord misadvises

ne puet faire greignor mervelle.»

not can do greater marvel

Au roi diënt Corneualois:

2545

To-the king say (the-)Cornishmen

«Dinas a dit trop que cortois.

Dinas has said much as courtly

Dan chapelain, lisiez le brief,

Sir chaplain read the letter

oiant nos toz, de chief en chief.»

bearing us all from head to head

Levez s'en est li chapelains,

Risen himself-thence is the chaplain

2550 le brief deslie o ses deus mains,

the letter he-unfolds with his two hands

en piez estut devant le roi:

on feet he-stood before the king

«Or escoutez, entendez moi.

Now hear attend me

Tristran, li niés nostre seignor,

Tristan the nephew (of-)our lord

saluz mande prime et amor

greetings sends first and love

2555 au roi et a tot son barnage:

to-the king and to all his baronage

»rois, tu sez bien le mariage

king thou knowest well the marriage

»de la fille le roi d'Irlande.

of the daughter (of-)the king of-Ireland

»Par mer en fui je en demande,

By sea thereto was I in quest

»par ma proece la conquis,

by my prowess her I-won

2560 »le grant serpent cresté ocis,

the great serpent crested I-slew

»par qui ele me fu donee.

by which she (to-)me was given

»Amenai la en ta contree.

I-brought her into thy land

»Rois, tu la preïs a mollier,

King thou her tookest as wife

»si que virent ti chevalier.

so as saw thy knights

»N'eüs gaires o li esté,

Not-thou-hadst much with her been

»quant losengier en ton reigné

when slanderers in thy realm

»te firent acroire mençonge.

thee made believe lie

»Ge sui tot prest que gage en donge,

I am all ready that pledge thereof I-give

»qui li voudroit blasme lever,

whoever (to-)her would-wish blame raise

»lié alegier contre mon per,

her to-clear against my peer

»beau sire, a pié ou a cheval

fair lord on foot or on horse

»(chascuns ait armes par egal),

each have arms in equal

»qu'onques amor nen out vers moi,

that-ever love not she-had toward me

»ne je vers li, par nul desroi.

nor I toward her by any wrong

»Se je ne l'en puis alegier

If I not her-thereof can clear

»et en ta cort moi deraisnier,

and in thy court myself vindicate

»jugier me fai devant ton ost.

to-judge me have before thy host

2565

2570

2575

»N'i a baron que je t'en ost
Not-there is baron that I thee-thereof exclude

»n'i a baron, por moi plaisier,
not-there is baron for me to-please

2580 »ne me face ardoir, ou jugier.
not me be-would-make burn or judge

»Vos savez bien, beaus oncles, sire,
You know well fair uncle lord

»nos vosistes ardoir en ire;
us you-wished to-burn in anger

»mais a Deu en prist grant pitié,
but to God thereof took great pity

»s'en aorames Damledé.
so-thereof we-adored Lord-God

2585 »La roïne par aventure
The queen by chance

»en eschapa. Ce fu droiture,
thereof escaped This was justice

»se Dex me saut; quar a grant tort
so God me save for by great wrong

»li voliez doner la mort.
(to-)her you-wished give the death

»G'enn eschapai, si fis un saut
I-thereof escaped so I-made a leap

2590 »contreval un rochier mot haut.
downward a rock very high

»Lors fu donnee la roïne
Then was given the queen

»as malades en decepline.
to-the sick-men in punishment

»Ge l'en portai, si li toli,

I her-thence carried so (from-)him I-took

»puis ai toz tens o li fuï.

then I-have all times with her fled

»Ne li devoie pas fallir,

Not (to-)her I-ought at-all to-fail

»qant a tort dut por moi morir.

when by wrong she-had-to for me die

»Puis ai esté o lié par bos,

Then I-have been with her through woods

»que je n'estoie pas tant os

for I not-was at-all so bold

»que je m'osase an plain mostrer.

that I myself-dared in open show

»Vos feïstes un ban crier

You made a ban to-cry

»a prendre nus et a vos rendre.

to take us and to you render

»Feïsiez nos ardoir ou pendre:

You-would-make us burn or hang

»por ce nos estovoit fuïr.

for this us it-behooved to-flee

»Mais, s'or estoit vostre plesir

But if-now it-were your pleasure

»a prendre Yseut o le cler vis,

to take Iseult with the bright face

»n'avroit baron en cest païs

not-there-would-be baron in this land

»plus vos servist que je feroie.

more you would-serve than I would-do

2595

2600

2605

»Se l'uen vos met en autre voie,

If one you puts into other way

»que ne vuelliez le mien servise,

so-that not you-wish the my service

2610 »ge m'en irai au roi de Frise;

I myself-thence shall-go to-the king of Frisia

»jamais n'oras de moi parler,

ever not-thou-wilt-bear of me speak

»passerai m'en outre la mer.

I-shall-cross myself-thence beyond the sea

»De ce q'oiez, roi, pren conseil.

Of that which-you-bear king take counsel

»Ne puis mes souffrir tel trepel:

Not I-can more suffer such torment

2615 »ou je m'acorderai a toi,

either I myself-shall-reconcile to thee

»ou g'en merrai la fille au roi

or I-thence shall-lead the daughter of-the king

»en Irlandë, ou je la pris.

into Ireland where I her took

»Roïne ert de cel son país.»

Queen she-will-be of that her land

Li chapelains a au roi dit:

The chaplain has to-the king said

2620 «Sire, n'a plus en cest escrit.»

Lord not-there-is more in this writing

Li baron oient la demande,
The barons hear the demand
 qe por la fille au roi d'Irlande
that for the daughter of-the king of-Ireland
 offre Tristan vers eus bataille.
offers Tristan against them battle
 N'i a baron de Cornoualle
Not-there is baron of Cornwall
 ne die: «Rois, ta feme pren.
not he-says King thy wife take
 Onques cil n'orent nul jor sen
Ever they not-had any day sense
 qui ce distrent de la roïne...
who this said of the queen
 dont la parole est ci oïe.
whereof the word is here heard
 Ne te sai pas conseil doner
Not thee I-know at-all counsel to-give
 Tristan remaigne deça mer.
Tristan let-him-remain this-side-of sea
 Au riche roi aut, en Gavoie,
To-the mighty king let-him-go into Galloway
 a qui li roiz escoz gerroie.
against whom the king Scottish makes-war
 Si se porra la contenir,
So himself he-will-be-able there maintain
 et tant porrez de lui oïr...
and so-much you-will-be-able of him hear
 vos manderez por lui, qu'il vienge.
you will-send-word for him that-he come

2625

2630

2635

Ne savon el qel voie tienge.

Not we-know otherwise what way he-take

Mandez par brief que la roïne

Send-word by letter that the queen

vos ameint ci a brief termine.»

(to-)you he-bring here at brief term

Li rois son chapelain apele:

The king his chaplain calls

2640 «Soit fait cist brief o main isnele.

Be made this letter with hand swift

Oï avez que i metroiz.

Heard you-have what there you-will-put

Hastez le brief: mot sui destroiz,

Hasten the letter very I-am straitened

mot a ne vi Yseut la gente;

much there-is — I-saw Iseult the fair

trop a mal trait en sa jovente.

too she-has ill borne in her youth

2645 Et quant li brief ert seelez,

And when the letter will-be sealed

a la Croiz Roge le pendez;

at the Cross Red it hang

ancor enuit i soit penduz.

still tonight there let-it-be hung

Ecrivez i par moi saluz.»

Write there from me greetings

Quant l'ot li chapelain escrit,

When it-has the chaplain written

2650 a la Croiz Roge le pendit.

at the Cross Red it be-hung

Tristran ne dormi pas la nuit.

Tristan not slept at-all the night

Ainz que venist la mie nuit,

Before that came the mid night

la Blanche Lande out traversee,

the White Heath he-had crossed

la charte porte seelee.

the charter he-carries sealed

Bien sout l'estre de Cornoualle.

Well he-knew the-state of Cornwall

Vient a Ogrin, il la li balle.

He-comes to Ogrin he it (to-)him hands

Li hermite la chartre a prise,

The hermit the charter has taken

lut les letres, vit la franchise

he-read the letters he-saw the generosity

du roi, qui pardonne a Yseut

of-the king who pardons to Iseult

son mautalent, et que il veut

his ill-will and that he wishes

repenre la tant bonement;

to-take-back her so kindly

vit le terme d'acordement.

he-saw the term of-agreement

Ja parlera si com il doit

Now he-will-speak so as he ought

et con li hon qui an Deu croit:

and as the man who in God believes

«Tristran, quel joie t'est creüe!

Tristan what joy (to-)thee-is grown

2655

2660

2665

Ta parole est tost entendue,

Thy word is quickly heard

que li rois la roïne prent.

that the king the queen takes

Loé li ont tote sa gent;

Advised (to-)him have all his folk

mais ne li osent pas loer

but not (to-)him they-dare at-all advise

2670 toi retenir et soudeer.

thee to-keep and to-pay

Mais va servir en autre terre

But go to-serve in other land

un roi a qui on face gerre,

a king to whom one make war

un an ou deus. Se li rois veut,

a year or two If the king wishes

revien a lui et a Yseut.

come-back to him and to Iseult

2675 D'ui en tierz jor, sanz nul deçoivre,

From-today in third day without any deceiving

est li rois prest de lié reçoivre.

is the king ready of her to-receive

Devant le Gué Aventuros

Before the Ford Adventurous

est li plez mis d'eus et de vos:

is the plea set of-them and of you

la li rendroiz, iluec ert prise.

her (to-)him you-will-render there she-will-be taken

2680 Cist briés noient plus ne devise.

This letter anything more not sets-out

— Dex!» dist Tristran, «quel departie!

God said Tristan what parting

Mot est dolenz qui pert s'amie.

Very is sorrowful who loses his-friend

Faire l'estuet, por la soufrete

To-do it-behooves for the privation

que vos avez por moi fort trete:

that you have for me hard borne

n'avez mestier de plus souffrir.

not-you-have need of more to-suffer

Qant ce vendra au departir,

When this will-come to-the parting

ge vos dorrai ma druërie,

I (to-)you shall-give my love-token

vos moi la vostre, bele amie.

you (to-)me the yours fair friend

Ja ne serai en cele terre

Ever not I-shall-be in that land

que ja me tienge pais ne gerre

that ever me hold peace nor war

que mesage ne vos envoi.

that message not (to-)you I-send

Bele amie, remandez moi

Fair friend send-word-back (to-)me

de tot en tot vostre plesir.»

of all in all your pleasure

Iseut parla o grant sospir:

Iseult spoke with great sigh

«Tristran, entent un petitet:

Tristan attend a little

2685

2690

2695

Husdent me lesse, ton brachet.

Husdent (to-)me leave thy brachet

Ainz berseret a veneor

Ever hunting-bound of huntsman

n'ert gardé e a tel honor

not-was kept — in such honor

con cist sera, beaus douz amis.

as this will-be fair sweet friend

2700 Qant gel verrai, ce m'est avis,

When I-him shall-see this to-me-is seeming

menberra moi de vos sovent.

it-will-remind me of you often

Ja n'avrai si le cuer dolent,

Ever not-I-shall-have so the heart sorrowful

se je le voi, ne soie lie.

if I him see not I-be glad

Ainz, puis que la loi fu jugie,

Ever since that the law was ordained

2705 ne fu beste si herbergie

not was beast so lodged

ne en si riche lit couchie.

nor in so rich bed laid

Amis Tristan, j'ai un anel:

Friend Tristan I-have a ring

un jaspe vert a u seel.

a jasper green there-is in-the seal

Beau sire, por l'amor de moi,

Fair lord for the-love of me

2710 portez l'anel en vostre doi;

carry the-ring on your finger

et s'il vos vient, sire, a corage

and if-it (to-)you comes lord to heart

que me mandez rien par mesage,

that (to-)me you-send-word anything by messenger

tant vus dirai, ce saciez bien,

so-much (to-)you I-shall-say this know well

certes, je n'en croiroie rien,

certainly I not-thereof would-believe anything

se cest anel, sire, ne voi.

if this ring lord not I-see

Mais, por defense de nul roi,

But for prohibition of any king

se voi l'anel, ne lairai mie,

if I-see the-ring not I-shall-leave at-all

ou soit savoir ou soit folie,

whether be-it wisdom or be-it folly

ne face çou que il dira,

— I-do that which he will-say

qui cest anel m'aportera,

who this ring me-will-bring

porce qu'il soit a nostre anor:

provided that-it be to our honor

je vos pramet par fine amor.

I (to-)you promise by fine love

Amiz, dorrez me vos tel don,

Friend will-give (to-)me you such gift

Husdant le baut, par le landon?»

Husdent the lively by the clog

Et il respont: «La moie amie,

And he answers The mine friend

2715

2720

2725

Husdent vos doins par druërie.

Husdent (to-)you I-give by love-token

— Sire, c'est la vostre merci.

Lord this-is the your mercy

Qant du brachet m'avez seisi,

Since of-the brachet me-you-have seised

tenez l'anel, de gerredon.»

take the-ring as reward

2730 De son doi l'oste, met u son.

From her finger it-she-takes-off she-puts on-the his

Tristran en bese la roïne,

Tristan thereof kisses the queen

et ele lui, par la saisine.

and she him by the seisin

Li hermites en vet au Mont,

The hermit thereof goes to-the Mount

por les richeces qui la sont.

for the riches which there are

2735 Assés achate ver et gris,

Plenty he-buys vair and gray

dras de soie et de porpre bis,

cloths of silk and of purple gray

escarlates et blanc chainsil,

scarlets and white linen

asez plus blanc que flor de lil,

much more white than flower of lily

et palefroï souef anblant,

and palfrey softly ambling

2740 bien atorné d'or flanboiant.

well harnessed with-gold flaming

Ogrins l'ermite tant achate

Ogrin the-hermit so-much buys

et tant acroit et tant barate

and so-much borrows and so-much bargains

pailes, vairs et gris et hermine

silks vairs and grays and ermine

que richement vest la roïne.

that richly he-clothes the queen

Par Cornoualle fait huchier

2745

Through Cornwall he-has cry

li rois s'acorde a sa mollier:

the king himself-reconciles to his wife

«Devant le Gué Aventuros

Before the Ford Adventurous

iert pris acordement de nos.»

will-be taken agreement of us

Oï en ont par tot la fame;

Heard thereof have through all the report

n'i remest chevalier ne dame

2750

not-there remained knight nor lady

qui ne vienge a cel'asemblee.

who not comes to that-assembly

La roïne ont mot desirree:

The queen they-have much desired

amee estoit de tote gent,

loved she-was of all folk

fors des felons que Dex cravent!

except of-the felons whom God crush

Tuit troi en orent tels soudees:

2755

All three thereof had such wages

li dui en furent mort d'espees,

the two thereof were dead by-swords

li tierz d'une seete ocis;

the third by-an arrow slain

a duel morurent el païs.

in grief they-died in-the land

Li forestier quis encusa

The forester who-them accused

2760 mort crüeie n'en refusa;

death cruel not-thereof refused

quar Perinis, li franc, li blois,

for Perinis the noble the fair

l'ocist puis d'un gibet el bois.

him-slew afterward with-a club in-the wood

Dex les venga de toz ces quatre,

God them avenged of all these four

qui vout le fier orguel abatre.

who wished the fierce pride to-abase

The Ford of Adventure

XI

At the appointed day the meadow is full of tents. Tristan rides in with the queen, settles with her on the ring that will prove his messages, then gives her back to Mark and offers to clear them both by combat in his court. The three barons persuade Mark to send him away for a year all the same, and Tristan rides for the sea with Dinas escorting him. Iseult is led in joy to the church of Saint Samson, where she lays on the altar the gold-embroidered silk Dinas gave her; a chasuble is made of it.

Seignors, au jor du parlement

2765

Lords at-the day of-the parley

fu li rois Marc a mot grant gent.

was the king Mark with very great folk

La out tendu maint pavellon

There was pitched many-a pavilion

et mainte tente de baron:

and many-a tent of baron

loin ont porpris la prairie.

far they-have occupied the meadow

Tristran chevauchë o s'amie,

2770

Tristan rides with his-friend

Tristran chevauche et voit le merc.

Tristan rides and sees the boundary-mark

Souz son bliaut ot son hauberc;

Under his tunic he-had his hauberk

quar grant poor avoit de soi,

for great fear he-had for himself

por ce qu'il out mesfait au roi.

for that that-he had done-wrong to-the king

- 2775 Choisi les tentes par la pree,
He-espied the tents through the meadow
 conut le roi et l'asemblee.
he-knew the king and the-assembly
 Iseut apele bonement:
Iseult he-calls kindly
 «Dame, vos retenez Hudent.
Lady you keep Husdent
 Pri vos, por Deu, que le gardez;
I-pray you for God that him you-guard
 2780 s'onques m'amastes, donc l'amez.
if-ever me-you-loved then him-love
 Vez la le roi, vostre seignor,
See there the king your lord
 o lui li home de s'onor.
with him the men of his-domain
 Nus ne porron mais longuement
We not we-shall-be-able more long
 aler nos deus a parlement.
go we two to parley
 2785 Je voi venir ces chevaliers
I see come these knights
 et le roi et ses soudoiers,
and the king and his mercenaries
 dame, qui viennent contre nos.
lady who come toward us
 Por Deu, le riche glorios,
For God the mighty glorious
 se je vos mant aucune chose,
if I (to-)you send-word some thing

hastivement ou a grant pose,

hastily or after great while

dame, faites mes volentez.

lady do my wishes

— Amis Tristan, or m'escoutez.

Friend Tristan now me-listen-to

Par cele foi que je vos doi,

By that faith that I (to-)you owe

se cel anel de vostre doi

if that ring from your finger

ne m'envoiez, si que jel voie,

not (to-)me-you-send so that I-it see

rien qu'il deïst ge ne croiroie...

thing that-be might-say I not would-believe

mais, des que reverrai l'anel,

but from that I-shall-see-again the-ring

ne tor ne mur ne fort chastel

nor tower nor wall nor strong castle

ne me tendra ne face errant

not me will-bold — I-do straightway

le mandement de mon amant,

the command of my lover

solonc m'enor et loiauté

according-to my-honor and loyalty

et je sace soit vostre gré.

and I know it-be your pleasure

— Dame,» fait il, «Dex gré te sace!»

Lady says he God thanks (to-)thee know

Vers soi l'atrait, des braz l'enbrace.

Toward himself her-be-draws with-the arms her-be-embraces

2790

2795

2800

2805 Yseut parla, qui n'ert pas fole:

Iseult spoke who not-was at-all foolish

«Amis, entent a ma parole.

Friend attend to my word

— Or me fai donc bien a entendre.

Now (to-)me make then well to understand

— Tu me conduiz, si me veuz rendre

Thou me conductest so me tbou-wishest to-render

au roi, par le conseil Ogrin,

to-the king by the counsel (of-)Ogrin

2810 l'ermite, qui ait bone fin.

the-hermit who have good end

Por Deu vos pri, beaus douz amis,

For God you I-pray fair sweet friend

que ne partez de cest païs

that not you-part from this land

tant qos saciez conment li rois

so-much that-you know how the king

sera vers moi, iriez ou voirs.

will-be toward me angered or true

2815 Gel prié, qui sui ta chiere drue,

I-it pray who am thy dear beloved

qant li rois m'avra retenue,

when the king me-will-have taken-back

que chiés Orri le forestier

that at-the-house-of Orri the forester

t'alles la nuit la herbergier.

thysel-thou-go the night there to-lodge

Por moi sejourner ne t'ennuit!

For me to-stay not thee-it-trouble

Nus i geümes mainte nuit,

2820

We there lay many-a night

en nostre lit que nos fist faire...

in our bed that us made make

li troi qui nos quierent moleste

the three who us seek harm

mal troveront en la parfin:

ill they-will-find in the end

li cors giront el bois, sovin.

the bodies will-lie in-the wood supine

Enfer ovre, qui les trangle!

2825

Hell open which them swallow

Beau chiers amis, et g'en ai dote:

Fair dear friend and I-thereof have dread

ges dot, quar il sont mot felon...

I-them fear for they are very felonious

el buen celier, soz le buron,

in-the good cellar under the but

seras entrez, li miens amis.

thou-wilt-be entered the mine friend

Manderai toi par Perinis

2830

I-shall-send-word (to-)thee by Perinis

les noveles de la roi cort.

the news of the (of-)king court

Li miens amis, que Dex t'enort!

The mine friend that God thee-honor

Ne t'ennuit pas la herbergier!

Not thee-it-trouble at-all there to-lodge

Sovent verrez mon mesagier:

Often you-will-see my messenger

2835 manderai toi de ci mon estre

I-shall-send-word (to-)thee from here my state

par mon vaslet et a ton mestre...

by my varlet and to thy master

— non fera il, ma chiere amie.

not will-do he my dear friend

Qui vos reprovera folie

Who (to-)you will-reproach folly

gart soi de moi con d'anemi!

let-him-guard himself from me as from-enemy

2840 — Sire,» dist Yseut, «grant merci!

Lord said Iseult great thanks

Or sui je mot boneüree:

Now am I very happy

a grant fin m'avez asenee.»

to great end me-you-have brought

Tant sont alé et cil venu

So-much are gone and those come

qu'il s'entrediënt lor salu.

that-they each-other-say their greeting

2845 Li rois venoit mot fierement

The king came very proudly

le trait d'un arc devant sa gent:

the shot of-a bow before his folk

o lui Dinas, qui, de Dinan.

with him Dinas who of Dinan

Par la reigne tenoit Tristan

By the rein held Tristan

la roïne, qui conduioit.

the queen whom he-conducted

La, salua si com il doit:

2850

There he-greeted so as he ought

«Rois, ge te rent Yseut, la gente:

King I thee render Iseult the fair

hon ne fist mais plus riche rente.

man not made ever more rich rent

Ci voi les homes de ta terre

Here I-see the men of thy land

et, oiant eus, te vuel requerre

and hearing them thee I-wish to-ask

que me sueffres a esligier

2855

that me thou-suffer to acquit-myself

et en ta cort moi deraisnier

and in thy court myself to-vindicate

c'onques o lié n'oi druërie,

that-ever with her not-I-had love-dealing

ne ele o moi, jor de ma vie.

nor she with me day of my life

Acroire t'a l'en fait mençonge;

Believe thee-has one made lie

mais, se Dex joie et bien me donge,

2860

but so God joy and good me give

onques ne firent jugement.

ever not they-made judgment

Conbatre a pié ou autrement

To-fight on foot or otherwise

dedenz ta cort, sire, m'en soffre.

within thy court lord me-thereto suffer

Se sui dannez, si m'art en soffre;

If I-am condemned so me-burn in brimstone

2865 et, se je m'en pus faire sauf,
and if I myself-thereof can make safe
 qu'il n'i ait chevelu ne chauv..
that not-there be hairy nor bald
 si me retien ovocques toi,
so me keep with thee
 o m'en irai en Loenoi.»
or myself-thence I-shall-go into Loonois

Li rois a son nevo parole.

The king to his nephew speaks

2870 Andrez, qui fu nez de Nicole,
Andret who was born of Lincoln
 li a dit: «Rois, quar le retiens,
(to-)him has said King now him keep
 plus en seras doutez et criens.»
more thereby thou-wilt-be feared and dreaded
 Mot en faut poi que ne l'otroie,
Very thereof lacks little that — it-be-grants
 le cuer forment l'en asouploie.
the heart greatly (to-)him-thereat softens

2875 A une part li rois se trait;
To one side the king himself draws
 la roïne ovoc Dinas let,
the queen with Dinas he-leaves
 qui mot par ert voirs et loiaus
who very much was true and loyal
 et d'anor faire comunax.
and of-honor to-do liberal
 O la roïne geue et gabe,
With the queen he-plays and jests

du col li a osté la chape, 2880
from-the neck (to-)her he-has taken-off the cloak

qui ert d'escarlade mot riche.

which was of-scarlet very rich

Ele out vestu une tunique

She had worn a tunic

desus un grant bliaut de soie.

over a great tunic of silk

De son mantel que vos diroie?

Of her mantle what (to-)you should-I-say

Ainz l'ermite, qui l'achata, 2885

Ever the-hermit who it-bought

le riche fuer ne regreta.

the rich price not regretted

Riche ert la robe et gent le cors:

Rich was the robe and fair the body

les eulz out vers, les cheveus sors.

the eyes she-had gray-green the hair golden

Li seneschaus o lié s'envoise.

The seneschal with her himself-disports

As trois barons forment en poise: 2890

To-the three barons greatly thereof it-weighs

mal aient il, trop sont engrés!

ill have they too they-are eager

Ja se trairont du roi plus pres:

Now themselves they-will-draw of-the king more near

«Sire,» font il, «a nos entent:

Lord say they to us attend

consel te doron bonement.

counsel thee we-shall-give kindly

- 2895 La roïne a esté blasmee
The queen has been blamed
 et foï hors de ta contree.
and fled out of thy land
 Se a ta cort resont ensenble,
If at thy court they-are-again together
 ja dira l'en, si con nos senble,
at-once will-say one so as (to-)us seems
 que en consent lor felonie:
that one consents-to their felony
- 2900 poi i avra qui ce ne die.
few there will-be who this not say
 Lai de ta cort partir Tristan:
Let from thy court depart Tristan
 et, quant vendra jusqu'a un an,
and when it-will-come until a year
 que tu seras aseürez
that thou wilt-be assured
 qu'Yseut te tienge loiautez,
that-Iseult (to-)thee keep loyalty
- 2905 mande Tristan qu'il vienge a toi.
send-word (to-)Tristan that-be come to thee
 Ce te loons par bone foi.»
This thee we-advise by good faith
 Li rois respont: «Que que nus die,
The king answers Whatever that any say
 de vos conselz n'istrai je mie.»
from your counsels not-shall-depart I at-all
 Ariere en vienent li baron,
Back thence come the barons

por le roi content sa raison.

2910

for the king they-relate his speech

Quant Tristan oit n'i a porloigne,

When Tristan bears not-there is delay

que li rois veut qu'il s'en esloigne,

that the king wishes that-he himself-thence remove

de la roïne congié prent;

of the queen leave he-takes

l'un l'autre esgarde bonement.

the-one the-other looks-at kindly

La roïne fu coloree,

2915

The queen was flushed

vergoigne avoit por l'asemblee.

shame she-had for the-assembly

Tristan s'en part, ce m'est avis:

Tristan himself-thence parts this to-me-is seeming

Dex! tanz cuers fist le jor pensis!

God so-many hearts he-made the day sorrowful

Li rois demande ou tornera.

The king asks where he-will-turn

Qant qu'il voudra, tot li dorra;

2920

Whatever that-he will-wish all (to-)him he-will-give

mot par li a a bandon mis

very much (to-)him he-has at disposal put

or et argent et vair et gris.

gold and silver and vair and gray

Tristan dist: «Rois de Cornoualle,

Tristan said King of Cornwall

ja n'en prendrai mie maalle.

ever not-thereof I-shall-take at-all farthing

2925 A qant que puis vois a grant joie,
With as-much as I-can I-go with great joy

au roi riche que l'en gerroie.»
to-the king mighty whom one wars-on

Mot out Tristan riche convoi
Much had Tristan rich escort

des barons et de Marc le roi.
of-the barons and of Mark the king

Vers la mer vet Tristan sa voie.
Toward the sea goes Tristan his way

2930 Yseut o les euz le convoie;
Iseult with the eyes him escorts

tant con de lui ot la veüe
so-long as of him she-had the sight

de la place ne se remue.
from the place not herself she-moves

Tristan s'en vet, retorné sont
Tristan himself-thence goes turned-back are

cil qui pose convoié l'ont.
those who a-while escorted him-have

2935 Dinas encor le convoiout,
Dinas still him escorted

sovent le besse et li proiot
often him he-kisses and (to-)him prayed

seürement revienge a lui.
safely he-come-back to him

Entrafié se sont il dui:
Pledged-each-other themselves have they two

«Dinas, entent un poi a moi.
Dinas attend a little to me

De ci m'en part, bien sez por qoi.

2940

From here myself-thence I-part well thou-knowest for what

Se je te mant par Govenal

If I (to-)thee send-word by Govenal

aucune chose besoignal,

some thing needful

avance la, si con tu doiz.»

advance it so as thou oughtest

Baisié se sont plus de set foiz.

Kissed themselves they-have more than seven times

Dinas li prie ja nel dot,

2945

Dinas (to-)him prays ever not-it be-doubt

die son buen: il fera tot.

let-him-say his pleasure he will-do all

Dit mot a bele deseuree...

He-says much at fair parting

mais, sor sa foi aseüree,

but upon his faith assured

la retendra ensenble o soi.

her he-will-keep together with himself

Non feroit, certes, por le roi.

2950

Not he-would-do certainly for the king

Iluec Tristan de lui s'en torne:

There Tristan from him himself-thence turns

au departir andui sont morne.

at-the parting both are gloomy

Dinas s'en vient après le roi,

Dinas himself-thence comes after the king

qui l'atendoit a un chaumoi.

who him-awaited at a moor

- 2955 Ore chevauchent li baron
Now ride the barons
 vers la cité tot a bandon.
toward the city all at speed
 Tote la gent ist de la vile,
All the folk goes-out from the town
 et furent plus de quatre mile,
and they-were more than four thousand
 qu'omes que femes que enfant.
both-men and women and children
- 2960 Que por Yseut, que por Tristrant,
Both for Iseult and for Tristan
 merveilleuse joie menoient.
marvelous joy they-led
 Li saint par la cité sonoient.
The bells through the city rang
 Qant il oient Tristan s'en vet,
When they hear Tristan himself-thence goes
 n'i a un sol grant duel ne fet.
not-there is one single great grief (who-)not makes
- 2965 D'Iseut grant joie demenoient,
of-Iseult great joy they-led
 de li servir mot se penoient;
of her to-serve much themselves they-took-pains
 quar, ce saciez, ainz n'i ot rue
for this know ever not-there was street
 ne fust de paile portendue:
not it-were with silk hung
 cil qui n'out paile mist cortine.
he who not-bad silk put curtain

Par la ou aloit la roïne

2970

By there where went the queen

est la rue mot bien jonchie.

is the street very well strewn

Tot contremont, par la chaucie,

All upward along the causeway

s'en vont au mostier Saint Sanson.

themselves-thence they-go to-the minster Saint Samson

La roïne et tuit li baron

The queen and all the barons

en sont trestuit ensemble alé.

2975

thereto are all together gone

Evesque, clerc, moine et abé

Bishop clerk monk and abbot

encontre lié sont tuit issu,

toward her are all gone-out

d'aubes, de chapes revestu;

with-albs with copes clothed

et la roïne est decendue,

and the queen is dismounted

d'une porpre inde fu vestue.

2980

with-a purple-cloth indigo she-was clad

L'evesque l'a par la main prise,

The-bishop her-has by the hand taken

si l'a dedenz le mostier mise;

so her-has within the minster put

tot droit la meinent a l'auter.

all straight her they-lead to the-altar

Dinas li preuz, qui mot fu ber,

Dinas the valiant who very was noble

- 2985 li aporta un garnement
(to-)her brought a garment
 qui bien valoit cent mars d'argent,
which well was-worth hundred marks of-silver
 un riche paile fait d'orfrois
a rich silk made of-gold-embroidery
 (onques n'out tel ne qens ne rois);
ever not-had such nor count nor king
 et la roïne Yseut l'a pris
and the queen Iseult it-has taken
 2990 et, par buen cuer, sor l'autel mis.
and with good heart upon the-altar put
 Une chasublë en fu faite,
A chasuble thereof was made
 qui ja du tresor n'iert hors traite
which ever from-the treasury not-will-be out drawn
 se as grans festes anvës non.
except at-the great feasts annual not
 Encore est ele a Saint Sanson:
Still is it at Saint Samson
 2995 ce diënt cil qui l'on veüe.
this say those who it-have seen
 Atant est du mostier issue.
Thereupon she-is from-the minster gone-out
 Li rois, li prince et li contor
The king the princes and the counts
 l'en meinent el palais hautor.
her-thence lead into-the palace lofty
 Grant joie i ont le jor menee.
Great joy there they-have the day led

Onques porte n'i fu veee:

3000

Ever gate not-there was denied

qui vout entrer si pout mengier,

whoever wished enter so he-could eat

onc a nul n'i fist on dangier.

ever to any not-there made one hindrance

Mot l'ont le jor tuit honoree:

Much her-have the day all honored

ainz le jor que fu esposee

ever the day that she-was wedded

ne li fist hom si grant honor

3005

not (to-)her did man so great honor

con l'on li a fait icel jor.

as one (to-)her has done that day

Le jor franchi li rois cent sers

The day freed the king hundred serfs

et donna armes et haubers

and gave arms and hauberks

a vint danzeaus qu'il adouba.

to twenty squires that-he dubbed

Or oiez que Tristan fera.

3010

Now hear what Tristan will-do

Orri's Cellar, and the Barons' Demand

XII

Tristan turns off the road to Orri the forester, who hides him in his cellar, and Perinis brings him news of the queen. Within the month the three barons demand that Iseult answer for herself by law; Mark rounds on them, forbids them his land, and tells them it was for their sake he drove out his nephew. They part in anger, and at Tintagel Iseult reads the king's face, thinks Tristan taken, and swoons at his feet. Revived, she devises her own answer: let Mark summon the country to the White Heath, and she will clear herself there before Arthur. The term is cried at a fortnight, and the three barons are glad of it.

Tristran s'en part, fait a sa rente.

Tristan himself-thence parts done he-has his restitution

Let le chemin, prent une sente;

He-leaves the road he-takes a path

tant a erré voie et sentier

so-much he-has journeyed way and path

qu'a la herberge au forestier

that-to the lodging of-the forester

3015 en est venu celeement.

thereto he-is come secretly

Par l'entree priveement

By the-entry privately

le mist Orri el bel celier.

him put Orri into-the fair cellar

Tot li trove quant q'ot mestier.

All (to-)him he-finds whatever that-had need

Orris estoit mervelles frans.

Orri was marvelously noble

Senglers, lehes prenet o pans,

Boars sows he-took with nets

en ses haies grans cers et biches,

in his hedges great stags and binds

dains et chevreus. Il n'ert pas chiches,

bucks and roes He not-was at-all niggardly

mot en donet a ses serjanz.

much thereof he-gave to his sergeants

O Tristan ert la sejoernanz

With Tristan he-was there staying

priveement en souterrin.

privately in underground-place

Par Perinis, le franc meschin,

By Perinis the noble youth

soit Tristan noves de s'amie.

knew Tristan news of his-friend

Oiez des trois, que Dex maudie,

Hear of-the three whom God curse

par qui Tristan an est alez:

by whom Tristan thence is gone

par eus fu mot li rois malez.

by them was much the king harmed

Ne tarja pas un mois entier

Not it-delayed at-all a month whole

que li rois Marc ala chacier,

that the king Mark went to-hunt

et avoc lui li traïtor.

and with him the traitors

Or escoutez que font cel jor:

Now hear what they-do that day

3020

3025

3030

- 3035 en une lande, a une part,
in a heath at one side
 ourent ars li vilain essart;
had burnt the peasants clearing
 li rois s'estut el bruelleiz,
the king himself-stood in-the copse
 de ses buens chiens oï les cris.
of his good dogs he-heard the cries
 La sont venu li troi baron,
There are come the three barons
- 3040 qui le roi mistrent a raison:
who the king set to speech
 «Rois, or entent nostre parole.
King now attend our word
 Se la roïne a esté fole,
If the queen has been wanton
 el n'en fist onques escondit...
she not-thereof made ever denial
 s'a vilanie vus est dit;
so-to baseness (to-)you it-is said
- 3045 et li baron de ton païs
and the barons of thy land
 t'en ont par mainte foiz requis,
thee-thereof have by many-a time required
 qu'il vuelent bien s'en escondie
that-they wish well herself-thereof (should-)clear
 qu'ou Tristan n'ot sa druërie.
that-with Tristan not-she-had her love-dealing
 Escondire se doit c'on ment.
To-clear herself she-ought that-one lies

Si l'en fai faire jugement

3050

So her-thereto make do judgment

et enevoies l'en requier,

and straightway her-thereof require

priveement, a ton couchier.

privately at thy bedtime

S'ele ne s'en veut escondire,

If-she not herself-thereof wishes to-clear

lai l'en aler de ton empire.»

let her-thence go from thy empire

Li rois rogi, qui escouta:

3055

The king reddened who listened

«Par Deu! seignors Cornot, mot a

By God lords Cornishmen much there-is

ne finastes de lié blasmer.

not you-ceased of her to-blame

De tel chose l'oï ci reter

Of such thing her-I-heard here accuse

qui bien peüst remaindre atant.

which well might remain thereupon

Dites se vos alez querant

3060

Say if you go seeking

que la roïne aut en Irlande.

that the queen go into Ireland

Chascun de vos que li demande?

Each of you what (of-)her be-asks

N'offri Tristan li a defendre?

Not-offered Tristan her to defend

Ainz n'en osastes armes prendre.

Ever not-thereof you-dared arms take

- 3065 Par vos est il hors du païs.
By you is he out of-the land
 Or m'avez vous du tot surpris.
Now me-have you of-the all overcome
 Lui ai chacié: or chaz ma feme?
Him I-have driven-out now I-drive my wife
 Cent dehez ait par mié la cane
Hundred curses have-be through midst-of the throat
 qui me rova de lui partir!
who me asked from him to-part
- 3070 Par Saint Estiene le martir,
By Saint Stephen the martyr
 vos me sorquerez, ce me poise.
you me press-too-far this me weighs
 Quel merveille que l'en si toise!
What marvel that one so stretches(-it)
 S'il se mesfit, il est en fort.
If-he himself did-wrong he is in trouble
 N'avez cure de mon deport,
Not-you-have care of my pleasure
- 3075 o vos ne puis plus avoir pes.
with you not I-can more have peace
 Par Saint Tresmor de Caharès,
By Saint Tresmor of Carhaix
 ge vos ferai un geu parti:
I (to-)you shall-make a game divided [a-choice]
 ainz ne verroiz passé marsdi
ever not you-will-see passed Tuesday
 (hui est lundi), si le verrez.»
today is Monday so it you-will-see

Li rois les a si effreez

3080

The king them has so frightened

qu'il n'i a el fors prengent fuie.

that-it not-there is else except they-take flight

Li rois Marc dist: «Dex vus destruire,

The king Mark said God you destroy

qui si alez querant ma honte!

who so go seeking my shame

Por noient, certes, ne vos monte:

For nothing certainly not (to-)you it-avails

ge ferai le baron venir

3085

I shall-make the baron come

que vos aviez fait fuür.»

whom you had made flee

Qant il voient le roi marri,

When they see the king angered

en la lande, sor un larri,

in the heath upon a slope

sont decendu tuit troi a pié,

are dismounted all three on foot

le roi lessent el chanp, irié.

3090

the king they-leave in-the field angered

Entre eus diënt: «Que porron faire?

Between them they-say What shall-we-be-able do

Li rois Marc est trop deputaire;

The king Mark is too spiteful

bien tost mandera son neveu,

well soon he-will-send-for his nephew

ja n'i tendra ne fei ne veu.

ever not-there he-will-hold nor faith nor vow

- 3095 S'il ça revient, de nos est fin:
If-he hither comes-back of us is end
ja en forest ne en chemin
ever in forest nor in road
ne trovera nul de nos trois
not he-will-find any of us three
le sanc n'en traie du cors, frois.
the blood not-thereof he-draw from-the body cold
Dison le roi or avra pes,
Let-us-say to-the king now he-will-have peace
- 3100 n'en parleron a lui jamès.»
not-thereof we-shall-speak to him ever
Enmié l'essart li rois s'estot
In-midst-of the-clearing the king himself-stood

(lacuna)
De lor parole n'a mes cure;
Of their word not-he-has more care
la loi qu'il tient de Deu en jure
the law that-he holds of God thereon he-swears
- 3105 tot souavet entre ses denz:
all softly between his teeth
mar fu jostez cil parlemen.
in-an-ill-hour was joined that parley
S'il eüst or la force o soi,
If-he had now the force with himself
la fusent pris, ce dit, tuit troi.
there they-would-be taken this he-says all three
«Sire,» font il, «entendez nos:
Lord say they attend us

marriz estes et corçoçs

3110

angered you-are and wrathful

por ce que nos dison t'anor.

because that we say thy honor

L'en devroit par droit son seignor

One ought by right his lord

consellier: tu nos sez mal gré.

to-counsel thou (to-)us knowest ill thanks

Mal ait quant qu'a soz son baudré

Ill have whatever that-he-has under his belt

cil qui te het! Cil s'en ira,

3115

he who thee hates He himself-thence will-go

ja mar o toi s'en marrira.

never in-an-ill-hour with thee himself-thence he-will-grieve

Mais nos, qui somes ti feel,

But we who are thy faithful

te donions loial conseil.

thee we-gave loyal counsel

Quant ne nos croiz, fai ton plaisir:

Since not us thou-believest do thy pleasure

assez nos en orras taisir.

3120

enough us thereof thou-wilt-bear be-silent

Icest mal talent nos pardonne.»

This ill will us pardon

Li rois escoute, mot ne sone,

The king listens word not he-sounds

sor son arçon s'est acoutez,

on his saddle-bow himself-be-is leaned

ne s'est vers eus noient tornez:

not himself-be-is toward them at-all turned

- 3125 «Seignors, mot a encor petit
Lords very there-is yet little
 que vos oïstes l'escondit
that you heard the-denial
 que mes niés fist de ma mollier:
that my nephew made of my wife
 ne vosistes escu ballier.
not you-wished shield to-take-up
 Querant alez a terre pié:
Seeking you-go on ground foot [on-foot]
- 3130 la meslee des or vos vié.
the fight from now (to-)you I-forbid
 Or gerpisiez tote ma terre.
Now abandon all my land
 Par Saint André, que l'en vet querre
By Saint Andrew whom one goes to-see
 outre la mer, jusque en Escoce,
beyond the sea as-far-as into Scotland
 mis m'en avez el cuer la boce,
put me-thereof you-have in-the heart the boil
- 3135 qui n'en istra jusqu'a un an:
which not-thereof will-issue until a year
 g'en ai por vos chacié Tristan.»
I-thereof have for you driven-out Tristan
 Devant lui viennent li felon,
Before him come the felons
 Godoïñe et Guenelon
Godoine and Guenelon
 et Danaalain qu'est mot feus;
and Denoalen who-is very fell

le roi ont aresnié entre eus,

the king they-have addressed among them

mais n'i porent plai enconter:

but not-there they-could plea find

vet s'en li rois sanz plus ester.

goes himself-thence the king without more to-stay

Cil s'en partent du roi par mal.

They themselves-thence part from-the king in anger

Forz chasteaus ont, bien clos de pal,

Strong castles they-have well enclosed of pale

soiant sor roche, sor haut pui;

sitting on rock on high bill

a lor seignor feront ennui,

to their lord they-will-make trouble

se la chose n'est amende.

if the thing not-is amended

Li rois n'a pas fait longe estee,

The king not-has at-all made long stay

n'atendi chien ne veneor;

not-be-awaited dog nor huntsman

a Tintajol, devant sa tor,

at Tintagel before his tower

est decendu, dedenz s'en entre:

he-is dismounted within himself-thence be-enters

nus ne sut ne ne voit soventre.

any not knew nor not sees behind

Es chanbres entre, çaint'espee.

Into-the chambers he-enters girded-with-sword

Yseut s'est contre lui levée,

Iseult herself-is toward him risen

3140

3145

3150

- 3155 **encontre vient, s'espee a prise,**
toward-him she-comes his-sword she-has taken
pus est as piez le roi asise.
then she-is at-the feet (of-)the king seated
Prist l'a la main, si l'en leva;
He-took her-by the hand so her-thence he-raised
la roïne li enclina,
the queen (to-)him bowed
amont le regarde, a la chiere,
upward him she-looks-at at the face
- 3160 **mot la vit et cruel et fiere,**
very it she-saw both cruel and fierce
aperçut soi qu'il ert marriz:
she-perceived herself that-he was angered
venuz s'en est aeschariz.
come himself-thence he-is alone
«Lasse,» fait ele, «mes amis
Wretched says she my friend
est trovez, mes sires l'a pris!»
is found my lord him-has taken
- 3165 **Souef le dit entre ses denz.**
Softly it she-says between her teeth
Li sanz de li ne fu si loinz
The blood of her not was so far
qu'il ne li set monté el vis,
that-it not (to-)her should-be mounted into-the face
li cuer el ventre li froidist;
the heart in-the belly (to-)her grows-cold
devant le roi choï enverse,
before the king she-fell backward

pasme soi, la color a perse...

3170

she-swoons herself the color she-has livid

q'entre ses braz l'en a levee,

that-between his arms her-thence he-has raised

besie l'a et acolee;

kissed her-he-has and embraced

pensa que mal l'eüst ferue.

he-thought that ill her-he-had struck

Quant de pasmer fu revenue:

When from swooning she-was returned

«Ma chiere amie, que avez?

3175

My dear friend what have-you

— Sire, poor. — Ne vus tamez.»

Lord fear Not yourself fear

Qant ele l'ot qui l'aseüre,

When she it-heard who her-assures

sa color vient, si aseüre;

her color comes so she-assures(-herself)

adonc li rest asouagié.

then (to-)her it-is-again soothed

Mot bel a le roi aresnié:

3180

Very fairly she-has the king addressed

«Sire, ge voi a ta color,

Lord I see by thy color

fait t'ont marri ti veneor.

made thee-have angry thy huntsmen

Ne te doiz ja marrir de chace.»

Not thee thou-oughtest ever anger of chase

Li rois l'entent, rist, si l'enbrace,

The king it-bears he-laughed so her-he-embraces

- 3185 e li a fait li rois: «Amie,
and (to-)her has said the king Friend
 j'ai trois felons, d'ancesorie,
I-have three felons from-ancestry
 qui heent mon amedement;
who hate my amendment
 mais se encor nes en desment...
but if yet not-them thereof I-belie
 que nes enchaz fors de ma terre.
so-that not-them I-drive out of my land
- 3190 Li fel ne crient mais ma gerre.
The felons not fear more my war
 Il m'ont asez adesentu,
They me-have much deceived
 et je lor ai trop consentu:
and I (to-)them have too consented
 n'i a mais rien del covertir.
not-there is more thing of-the changing
 Par lor parler, par lor mentir,
By their speaking by their lying
- 3195 ai mon nevo de moi chacié.
I-have my nephew from me driven-out
 N'ai mais cure de lor marchié.
not-I-have more care of their bargain
 Prochainement s'en revendra,
Soon himself-thence he-will-return
 des trois felons me vengera:
of-the three felons me he-will-avenge
 par lui seront encor pendu.»
by him they-will-be yet hanged

La roïne l'a entendu;

3200

The queen it-has heard

ja parlast haut, mais ele n'ose;

now she-would-speak loud but she not-dares

el fu sage, si se repose

she was wise so herself she-restrains

et dist: «Dex i a fait vertuz,

and said God there has done miracles

qant mes sires s'est irascuz

when my lord himself-is angered

vers ceus par qui blasme ert levé.

3205

toward those by whom blame was raised

Deu pri qu'il soient vergondé.»

(to-)God I-pray that-they be shamed

Souef le dit, que nus ne l'ot.

Softly it she-says so-that any not it-heard

La bele Yseut, qui parler sot,

The fair Iseult who to-speak knew

tot simplement a dit au roi:

all simply has said to-the king

«Sire, quel mal ont dit de moi?

3210

Lord what ill have-they said of me

Chascun puet dire ce qu'il pense.

Each can say that which-he thinks

Fors vus, ge n'ai nule defense:

Except you I not-have any defense

por ce vont il querant mon mal.

for this go they seeking my harm

De Deu, le pere espirital

Of God the father spiritual

3215 aient il male maudicon!

have they evil malediction

Tantes foiz m'ont mis'en frichon!

So-many times me-they-have put-in shudder

— Dame,» fait li rois, «or m'entent:

Lady says the king now me-attend

parti s'en sont par mautalent

parted themselves-thence are in ill-will

trois de mes plus proisiez barons.

three of my most esteemed barons

3220 — Sire, porquoi? por quels raisons?

Lord wherefore for what reasons

— Blasmer te font. — Sire, porquoi?

To-blame thee they-make Lord wherefore

— Gel te dirai,» dit li li roi:

I-it thee shall-say said (to-)her the king

«N'as fait de Tristan escondit.

Not-thou-hast made of Tristan denial

Se ne l'en fais, et il m'ont dit...

If not it-thereof thou-makest and they me-have said

3225 qu'il le m'ont dit. — Ge prest'en sui.

that-they it me-have said I ready-thereof am

— Qant le feras? Ancor ancui?

When it thou-wilt-do Still today

— Brif terme i mez. — Asez est loncs.

Brief term there thou-puttest Quite it-is long

— Sire, por Deu et por ses nons,

Lord for God and for his names

entent a moi, si me conselle.

attend to me so me counsel

Que puet ce estre? Quel merveille

3230

What can this be What marvel

qu'il ne me lesent an pes eure!

that-they not me leave in peace hour

Se Damledeu mon cors seceure,

If Lord-God my body succor

escondit mais ne lor ferai,

denial more not (to-)them I-shall-make

fors un que je deviserai.

except one that I shall-devise

Se lor faisoie soirement,

3235

If (to-)them I-made oath

sire, a ta cort, voiant ta gent,

lord at thy court seeing thy folk

jusqu'a tierz jor me rediroient

until third day me they-would-say-again

q'autre escondit avoir voudroient.

that-other denial to-have they-would-wish

Rois, n'ai en cest païs parent

King not-I-have in this land kinsman

qui por le mien desraignement

3240

who for the mine vindication

en feïst gerre ne revel.

thereof would-make war nor uproar

Mais de ce me seret mot bel.

But of this me it-would-be very fair

De lor rebeche n'ai mes cure.

Of their carping not-I-have more care

Se il vuelent avoir ma jure

If they wish have my oath

3245 ou s'il volent loi de juïse,

or if-they wish law of ordeal

ja n'en voudront si roide guise

ever not-thereof they-will-wish so harsh manner

(metent le terme) que ne face.

let-them-set the term that not I-do

A terme avrai en mié la place

At term I-shall-have in midst-of the place

le roi Artus et sa mesnie.

the king Artbur and his household

3250 Se devant lui sui alegie,

If before him I-am cleared

qui me voudroit après sordire,

whoever me would-wish afterward to-slander

cil me voudroient escondire,

those me would-wish to-clear

qui avront veü ma deraisne,

who will-have seen my vindication

vers un Cornot ou vers un Saisne.

against a Cornishman or against a Saxon

3255 Por ce m'est bel que cil i soient

For this to-me-is fair that those there be

et mon deresne a lor eulz voient.

and my vindication with their eyes see

Se en place est Artus li rois,

If in place is Artbur the king

Gauvains, ses niés, li plus cortois,

Gawain his nephew the most courtly

Girflez et Qeu li seneschaus,

Girflet and Kay the seneschal

teus cent en a li rois vasaus

such hundred thereof has the king vassals

n'en mentiront por rien qu'il oient,

not-thereof they-will-lie for thing that-they hear

por les seurdiz se conbatroient.

for the slanders themselves they-would-fight

Rois, por c'est bien devant eus set

King for this-is well before them be

faiz li deraisme de mon droit.

made the vindication of my right

Li Cornot sont reherceor,

The Cornishmen are rehearsers

de plusieurs evres tricheor.

of several works cheaters

Esgarde un terme, si lor mande

Appoint a term so (to-)them send-word

que tu veus an la Blanche Lande

that thou wishest in the White Heath

tuit i soient, et povre et riche.

all there be both poor and rich

Qui n'i sera, tres bien t'afiche

Whoever not-there will-be very well thyself-affirm

que lor toudras lor heritez:

that (from-)them thou-wilt-take-away their heritages

si reseras d'eus aquiter.

so thou-wilt-be-again of-them to-acquit

Et li mien cors est toz seürs,

And the mine body is all sure

3260

3265

3270

des que verra li rois Artus

from that will-see the king Arthur

3275 mon mesage, qu'il vendra ça:

my message that-he will-come hither

son corage sai des piça.

his heart I-know from long-ago

Li rois respont: «Bien avez dit.»

The king answers Well you-have said

Atant est li termes baniz

Thereupon is the term proclaimed

a quinze jorz par le païs.

at fifteen days through the land

3280 Li rois le mande as trois eschis

The king it sends-word to-the three hostile

que par mal sont parti de cort:

who by ill are parted from court

mot en sont lié, a que qu'il tort.

much thereof are glad at what that-it turn

Perinis at Arthur's Court

XIII

Iseult sends Perinis to Tristan in Orri's cellar, telling him to sit at the Mal Pas in a leper's clothes with a cup and a crutch, and Tristan swears to come there disguised as a beggar. Perinis rides on to Arthur's court and asks him to hear the oath with a hundred knights. Arthur grants it; Gawain, Girflet, and Yvain each vow the ruin of one of the three felons, and Arthur escorts Perinis on his way with a greeting for the queen, who is glad of his news.

Or sevent tuit par la contree

Now know all through the land

le terme asis de l'asemblee,

the term appointed of the-assembly

et que la ert li rois Artus,

and that there will-be the king Arthur

et de ses chevaliers le plus

and of his knights the most

o lui vendront de sa mesnie.

with him will-come of his household

Yseut ne s'ert mie atargie:

Iseult not herself-was at-all delayed

par Perinis manda Tristan

by Perinis she-sent-word (to-)Tristan

tote la paine et tot l'ahan

all the pain and all the-hardship

qu'el'a por lui ouan eüe.

that-she-has for him this-year had

Or l'en soit la bonté rendue!

Now (to-)her-thereof be the goodness rendered

3285

3290

Metre la puet, s'il veut, en pes:

Put her be-can if-he wishes in peace

«Di li qu'il set bien un marchès,

Say (to-)him that-he knows well a marsh

3295 au chief des planches, au Mal Pas:

at-the end of-the planks at-the Mal Pas

g'i sollé ja un poi mes dras.

there-I soiled once a little my clothes

Sor la mote, el chief de la planche,

On the mound at-the end of the plank

un poi deça la Lande Blanche,

a little this-side-of the Heath White

soit, revestuz de dras de ladre;

let-him-be clothed with clothes of leper

3300 un henap port o soi de madre,

a cup let-him-carry with himself of maple

une botele ait dedesoz

a bottle let-him-have beneath

o coroe atachie a noz,

with strap fastened at knots

a l'autre main tienge un puiot,

in the-other hand let-him-hold a crutch

si aprengé de tel tripot.

so let-him-learn of such trick

3305 Au terme ert sor la mote assis:

At-the term be-will-be on the mound seated

ja set assez bociez son vis

already he-knows quite blotched his face

port le henap devant son front,

let-him-carry the cup before his brow

a ceus qui iluec passeront

to those who there will-pass

demant l'aumosne simplement.

let-him-ask the-alms simply

Il li dorront or et argent:

They (to-)him will-give gold and silver

3310

gart moi l'argent, tant que le voie

let-him-keep (for-)me the-silver until that him I-see

priveement, en chanbre coie.»

privately in chamber quiet

Dist Perinis: «Dame, par foi,

Said Perinis Lady by faith

bien li dirai si le secroi.»

well (to-)him I-shall-say so the secret

Perinis part de la roïne;

3315

Perinis parts from the queen

el bois, par mié une gaudine,

into-the wood through midst-of a woodland

entre, tot sos par le bois vet;

he-enters all alone through the wood he-goes

a l'avesprer vient au recet

at the-evening he-comes to-the retreat

ou Tristan ert, el bel celier.

where Tristan was in-the fair cellar

Levé estoient du mengier.

3320

Risen they-were from-the eating

Liez fu Tristan de sa venue:

Glad was Tristan of his coming

bien sout, noveles de sa drue

well he-knew news of his beloved

li aporte li vaslet frans.

(to-)him brings the varlet noble

Il dui se tienent par les mains,

They two themselves hold by the hands

3325 sor un sige haut sont monté.

on a seat high they-are climbed

Perinis li a tot conté

Perinis (to-)him has all related

le mesage de la roïne.

the message of the queen

Tristran vers terre un poi encline

Tristan toward earth a little bows

et jure quant que puet ataindre:

and swears whatever that he-can reach

3330 mar l'ont pensé; ne puet remaindre,

in-an-ill-hour it-they-have thought not it-can remain

il en perdront encor les testes

they thereof will-lose yet the heads

et as forches pendront, as festes.

and on-the gallows they-will-hang at-the feasts

«Di la roïne mot a mot:

Say (to-)the queen word by word

g'irai au terme, pas n'en dot.

I-shall-go at-the term at-all not-thereof let-her-doubt

3335 Face soi lie, saine et baude!

Let-her-make herself glad sound and bold

Ja n'avrai mais bain d'eve chaude

Ever not-I-shall-have more bath of-water warm

tant qu'a m'espee aie venjance

until that-with my-sword I-have vengeance

de ceus qui li ont fait pesance:

of those who (to-)her have done grief

il sont traïtre fel prové.

they are traitors felons proved

Di li que tot ait bien trové

Say (to-)her that all she-have well found

a sauver soi du soirement.

to save herself from-the oath

Je la verrai assez briment.

I her shall-see quite shortly

Va, si li di que ne s'esmait,

Go so (to-)her say that not herself-she-dismay

ne dot pas que je n'alle au plet,

not let-her-doubt at-all that I go to-the plea

atapiné comme tafurs.

disguised as (a-)beggar

Bien me verra li roi Artus

Well me will-see the king Arthur

soier au chief sor le Mal Pas,

sitting at-the end on the Mal Pas

mais il ne me connoistra pas.

but he not me will-know at-all

S'aumosne avrai, se l'en pus traire.

His-alms I-shall-have if it-thereof I-can draw

3340

3345

3350 A la roïne puez retraire
To the queen thou-canst relate
 ce que t'ai dit el sozterrîn
that which thee-I-have said in-the underground-place
 que fist fere si bel, perrin.
that be-made make so fair of-stone

De moi li porte plus saluz
From me (to-)her carry more greetings
 qu'il n'a sor moi botons menuz.
than there-are on me buds small

3355 — Bien li dirai,» dist Perinis.
Well (to-)her I-shall-say said Perinis

Lors s'est par les degrez fors mis:
Then himself-be-is by the steps out put
 «G'en vois au roi Artus, beau sire.
I-thence go to-the king Arthur fair lord

Ce mesage m'i estuet dire:
This message me-there it-behooves to-say
 qu'il vienge oïr le soirement,
that-he come to-hear the oath

3360 ensenble o lui chevaliers cent,
together with him knights hundred
 qui puis garant li porteroient,
who afterward warrant (to-)her would-bear
 se li felon de rien greignoient
if the felons of thing murmured
 a la dame de loiauté.
against the lady of loyalty

Dont n'est ce bien? — Or va a Dé.»
Then not-is this well Now go with God

Toz les degrez en puie a orne,

All the steps thereof he-climbs in order

el chaceor monte et s'en torne;

on-the hunter he-mounts and himself-thence turns

n'avra mais pais a l'esperon,

not-he-will-have more peace to the-spur

si ert venu a Cuerlion.

until he-be come to Caerleon

Mot out cil poines por servir,

Much had this-one pains for to-serve

mot l'en devroit mex avenir.

much (to-)him-thereof ought better to-befall

Tant a enquis du roi novele

So-much he-has inquired of-the king news

que l'en li a dit bone et bele,

that one (to-)him has said good and fair

que li rois ert a Isneldone.

that the king was at Isneldone

Cele voie qui la s'adone

That way which thither leads

vet li vaslez Yseut la bele.

goes the varlet (of-)Iseult the fair

A un pastor qui chalemele

To a shepherd who pipes

a demandé: «Ou est li rois?

he-has asked Where is the king

— Sire,» fait il, «il sit au dois.

Lord says he he sits at-the dais

Ja verroiz la Table Reonde,

Already you-will-see the Table Round

3365

3370

3375

3380 qui tornoie conme le monde.

which turns like the world

Sa mesnie sit environ.»

His household sits around

Dist Perinis: «Ja en iron.»

Said Perinis Now thence we-shall-go

Li vaslet au perron decent,

The varlet at-the block dismounts

maintenant s'en entra dedanz.

straightway himself-thence he-entered within

3385 Mot i avoit filz a contors

Much there were sons of counts

et filz a riches vavasors,

and sons of rich vavasors

qui servoient por armes tuit.

who served for arms all

Uns d'eus s'en part, con s'il s'en fuit;

One of-them himself-thence parts as if-he himself-thence flees

il vint au roi, et cil l'apele:

he came to-the king and he him-calls

3390 «Va, dont viens tu? — J'aport novele:

Go whence comest thou I-bring news

la defors a un chevauchant,

there outside is a rider

a grant besoin te va querant.»

at great need thee goes seeking

Atant estes vos Pirinis:

Thereupon behold you Perinis

esgardez fu de maint marchis;

looked-at he-was by many-a marquis

devant le roi vint a l'estage

3395

before the king he-came to the-platform

ou seioient toz li barnage.

where sat all the baronage

Li vaslet dit tot a seür:

The varlet says all in assurance

«Dex saut,» fait il, «le roi Artur,

God save says he the king Arthur

lui et tote sa compaignie,

him and all his company

de par la bele Yseut s'amie!»

3400

from by the fair Iseult his-friend

Li rois se lieve sus des tables:

The king himself raises up from-the tables

«Et Dex,» fait il, «espiritables

And God says he spiritual

la saut et gart, et toi, amis!

her save and keep and thee friend

Dex!» fait li rois, «tant ai je quis

God says the king so-much have I sought

de lié avoir un sol mesage!

3405

from her to-have one single message

Vaslet, voiant cest mien barnage,

Varlet seeing this my baronage

otroi a li qant que requiers.

I-grant to her whatever that thou-askest

Toi tiers seras fet chevaliers,

Thou third wilt-be made knight

por le message a la plus bele

for the message from the most fair

3410 qui soit de ci jusq'en Tudele.

who be from here as-far-as-into Tudela

— Sire,» fait il, «vostre merci!

Lord says he your mercy

Oiez por qoi sui venu ci;

Hear for what I-am come here

et si entendent cil baron,

and so let-them-attend these barons

et mes sires Gauvain par non.

and my lord Gawain by name

3415 La roïne s'est acordee

The queen herself-is reconciled

o son seignor, n'i a celee:

with her lord not-there is concealment

sire, la ou il s'acorderent,

lord there where they themselves-reconciled

tuit li baron du reigne i erent.

all the barons of-the realm there were

Tristran s'offri a esligier

Tristan himself-offered to acquit-himself

3420 et la roïne a deraisnier,

and the queen to vindicate

devant le roi, de loiauté.

before the king of loyalty

Ainz nus de trestot le barné

Ever any of all the baronage

ne vout armes saisir ne prendre.

not wished arms seize nor take

Sire, or font le roi Marc entendre

Lord now they-make the king Mark understand

que il prenge de lié deraisne.

that he take of her vindication

Il n'a frans hon, François ne Sesne,

There not-is noble man French nor Saxon

a la roi cort, de son linage.

at the (of-)king court of his lineage

Ge oi dire que souef nage

I heard say that softly swims

cil qui on sostient le menton.

he whom one supports the chin

Rois, se nos ja de ce menton,

King if we ever of this lie

si me tenez a losengier.

so me hold as slanderer

Li rois n'a pas coraige entier,

The king not-has at-all heart whole

senpres est ci et senpres la.

straightway he-is here and straightway there

La bele Yseut respondu l'a

The fair Iseult answered it-has

qu'ele en fera droit devant vus.

that-she thereof will-do right before you

Devant le Gué Aventuros

Before the Ford Adventurous

vus requiert et merci vos crie,

you she-requires and mercy you cries

comme la vostre chiere amie,

as the your dear friend

3425

3430

3435

que vos soiez au terme mis,

that you be at-the term set

3440 cent i aiez de vos amis.

hundred there have of your friends

Vostre cort set atant loial,

Your court she-knows so-much loyal

vostre mesnie natural.

your household natural

Dedevant vos iert alegiee,

Before you she-will-be cleared

et Dex la gart que n'i meschiee!

and God her keep that not-there she-suffer-harm

3445 Que, pus li seriez garant,

For afterward (to-)her you-would-be warrant

neu faudriez ne tant ne quant.

not-it you-would-fail nor so-much nor how-much

D'ui en huit jors est pris li termes.»

From-today in eight days is taken the term

Plorer en font o grosses lermes:

Weep thereat they-make with big tears

n'i a un sol qui de pitié

not-there is one single who from pity

3450 n'en ait des euilz le vis mollié.

not-thereof have from-the eyes the face wetted

«Dex!» fait chascun, «que li demandent?

God says each what (of-)her they-ask

Li rois fait ce que il commandent,

The king does that which they command

Tristran s'en vet fors du païs.

Tristan himself-thence goes out of-the land

Ja ne voist il en paradis,

Ever not may-go he into paradise

se li rois vait, qui la n'ira

if the king goes who there not-will-go

et qui par droit ne l'aidera!»

and who by right not her-will-help

Gauvains s'en est levé en piez,

Gawain himself-thence is risen on feet

parla et dist conme afaitiez:

he-spoke and said as well-bred

«Oncle, se j'ai de toi l'otrise,

Uncle if I-have from thee the-leave

la deresne qui est assise

the vindication which is appointed

torra a mal as trois felons.

will-turn to ill to-the three felons

Li plus coverz est Guenelons:

The most covert is Guenelon

gel connois bien, si fait il moi.

I-him know well so does he me

Gel boutai ja an un fangoi,

I-him thrust once into a mire

a un bohort fort et plenier.

at a tourney strong and full

Se gel retien, par Saint Richier,

If I-him take-again by Saint Riquier

n'i estovra Tristan venir.

not-there it-will-beboove Tristan to-come

Se gel pooie as poins tenir,

If I-him could in-the hands hold

3455

3460

3465

ge li feroie asez ennui

I (to-)him would-do plenty trouble

3470 et lui pendrë an un haut pui.»

and him to-bang on a high bill

Gerflet s'en lieve enprès Gauvain

Gerflet himself-thence rises after Gawain

et si s'en vindrent main a main.

and so themselves-thence came hand in hand

«Rois, mot par heent la roïne

King very much hate the queen

Denaalain et Godoïne

Denoalen and Godoïne

3475 et Guenelon, mot a lonc tens.

and Guenelon much there-is long time

Ja ne me tienge Dex en sens,

Ever not me bold God in sense

se vois encontre Goudoïne,

if I-go against Godoïne

se de ma grant lance fresnine

if with my great lance of-ash

ne pasent outre li coutel,

not pass through the blades

3480 ja nen enbraz soz le mantel

ever not I-embrace under the mantle

bele dame desoz cortine.»

fair lady beneath curtain

Perinis l'ot, le chief li cline.

Perinis it-bears the head (to-)him he-inclines

Dit Evains, li filz Urien:

Says Yvain the son (of-)Urien

«Asez connois Dinoalain:

Well-enough I-know Denoalen

tot son sens met en acuser,

all his sense he-puts in accusing

bien set faire le roi muser,

well he-knows make the king muse

tant li dira que il le croie.

so-much (to-)him he-will-say that he me believe

Se je l'encontre enmié ma voie,

If I him-meet in-midst-of my way

con je fis ja une autre foiz,

as I did once an other time

ja ne m'en tienge lois ne fois,

ever not me-thereof hold law nor faith

s'il ne se puet de moi defendre,

if-he not himself can from me defend

s'a mes deus mains ne le fais pendre.

if-with my two hands not him I-make hang

Mot doit on felons chastier.

Much ought one felons to-chastise

Du roi joent si losengier.»

Of-the king play his slanderers

Dist Perinis au roi Artur:

Said Perinis to-the king Arthur

«Sire, je sui de tant seür

Lord I am of so-much sure

que li felon prendront colee,

that the felons will-take blow

qui la roïne ont quis meslee.

who the queen have sought strife

3485

3490

3495

Ainz a ta cort n'ot menacié

Ever at thy court not-had threatened

3500 home de nul luitain reigné

man of any distant realm

que n'en aiez bien trait a chief:

that not-thereof you-have well drawn to head

au partir en remestrent grief

at-the parting thereat remained grieved

tuit cil qui l'ourent deservi.»

all those who it-they-had deserved

Li rois fu liez, un poi rougi:

The king was glad a little be-reddened

3505 «Sire vaslez, alez mangier.

Lord varlet go eat

Cist penseront de li vengier.»

These will-think of her to-avenge

Li rois en son cuer out grant joie;

The king in his heart had great joy

parla, bien vout Perinis l'oie:

he-spoke well he-wished Perinis it-hear

«Mesnie franche et honoree,

Household noble and honored

3510 gardez qu'encontre l'asemblee

see-to-it that-against the-assembly

soient vostre cheval tuit gras,

be your horses all fat

vostre escu neuf, riche vus dras.

your shields new rich your clothes

Bohorderons devant la bele

We-shall-joust before the fair

dont vos oiez tuit la novele.

whereof you hear all the news

Mot porra poi sa vie amer

Much will-be-able little his life to-love

qui se faindra d'armes porter.»

who himself will-feign of-arms to-bear

Li rois les ot trestoz semons:

The king them had all summoned

le terme heent qui'st si lons,

the term they-hate which-is so long

lor vuel fust il a l'endemain.

their wish would-be it at the-morrow

Oiez du franc de bone main:

Hear of-the noble of good hand

Perinis le congié demande.

Perinis the leave asks

Li rois monta sor Passelande,

The king mounted on Passelande

qar convoier veut le meschin.

for to-escort he-wishes the youth

Contant vont par mié le chemin:

Telling they-go through midst-of the road

tuit li conte sont de la bele

all the tales are of the fair

qui metra lance par astele.

who will-put lance in splinter

Ainz que parte li parlemenzen,

Before that part the parley

3515

3520

3525

li rois offre les garnemenz

the king offers the trappings

Perinis d'estre chevalier,

(to-)Perinis of-to-be knight

3530 mais il nes vout encor ballier.

but he not-them wished yet to-take

Li rois convoié l'a un poi,

The king escorted him-has a little

por la bele franche au chief bloi,

for the fair noble with-the head blond

ou il n'a point de mautalent:

where there not-is whit of ill-will

mot en parloient an alent.

much thereof they-spoke in going

3535 Li vaslez out riche convoi

The varlet had rich escort

des chevaliers et du franc roi;

of-the knights and of-the noble king

a grant enviz sont departi.

at great regret they-are parted

Li rois le claime: «Bel ami,

The king him calls Fair friend

alez vos en, ne demorez.

go you thence not delay

3540 Vostre dame me salüez

Your lady me greet

de son demoine soudoier,

from her own mercenary

qui vient a li por apaier.

who comes to her for to-appease

Totes ferai ses volentez,

All I-shall-do her wills

por lié serai entalentez.

for her I-shall-be zealous

El me porra mot avancier.

She me will-be-able much to-advance

Menbre li de l'espié lancier,

Let-it-remind her of the-spear throwing

qui fu en l'estache feru:

which was into the-post struck

elle savra bien ou ce fu.

she will-know well where this was

Prié vos que li d'iez einsi.

I-pray you that (to-)her you-say thus

— Rois, si ferai, gel vos afi.»

King so I-shall-do I-it (to-)you pledge

Adonc hurta le chaceor.

Then he-spurred the hunter

Li rois se rest mis el retor.

The king himself is-again put on-the return

Cil s'en vient: son mesage a fait

He himself-thence comes his message he-has done

Perinis qui tant mal a trait

Perinis who so-much ill has borne

por le servise a la roïne.

for the service to the queen

Conme plus puet, et il chemine;

As most he-can and he journeys

3545

3550

3555

onques un jor ne sejorna

ever one day not he-tarried

tant qu'il vint la d'ou il torna.

until that-he came there whence he turned

Reconté a sa chevauchie

Related he-has his riding

3560 a celi qui mot en fu lie,

to her who much thereof was glad

du roi Artur et de Tristan.

of-the king Arthur and of Tristan

Cele nuit furent a Lidan.

That night they-were at Lidan

The Leper at the Mal Pas

XIV

Tristan dresses as a leper in frieze and a wide cloak, sends Govenal to hide near the ford with his shield, lance, and horse, and takes his place on the mound above the marsh. He begs from everyone who crosses, and gets King Arthur's over-bose and King Mark's hood for himself. Asked about his mistress, he tells Mark that only one woman was fairer, the fair Iseult, whose dress she copies; then he points the three barons at the softest ground, and they sink to their saddle-flaps.

Cele nuit fu la lune dime.

That night was the moon tenth

Que diroie? Li terme aprime

What should-I-say The term draws-near

3565 de soi alegier la roïne.

of herself to-clear the queen

Tristran, li suens amis, ne fine,

Tristan the her friend not ceases

vestu se fu de mainte guise:

clad himself he-was in many-a fashion

il fu en legne, sanz chemise;

he was in wool without shirt

de let burel furent les cotes

of ugly frieze were the coats

et a quarreaus furent ses botes.

and with patches were his boots

Une chape de burel lee

A cloak of frieze wide

out fait tallier, tote enfumee.

he-had made cut all smoke-blackened

Affublez se fu forment bien,

Muffled himself he-was exceedingly well

malade senble plus que rien;

sick-man he-seems more than anything

et nequeden si ot s'espee

and nevertheless so he-had his-sword

entor ses flans estroit noee.

about his flanks tightly knotted

Tristan s'en part, ist de l'ostal

Tristan himself-thence parts he-goes-out from the-lodging

celeement, a Govenal,

secretly with Govenal

qui li enseigne et si li dit:

who (to-)him instructs and so (to-)him says

«Sire Tristan, ne soiez bric.

Lord Tristan not be foolish

Prenez garde de la roïne,

Take heed of the queen

3570

3575

3580

qu'el ne fera senblant ne signe.

that-she not will-make semblance nor sign

— Maistre,» fait il, «si ferai bien.

Master says he so I-shall-do well

Gardez que vos faciez mon buen.

See-to-it that you do my pleasure

3585 Ge me criem mot d'aperchevance.

I myself fear much of-discovery

Prenez mon escu et ma lance,

Take my shield and my lance

ses m'aportez et mon cheval

them (to-)me-bring and my horse

enreignez, mestre Govenal...

bridle master Govenal

se mestier m'est, que vos soiez

if need to-me-is that you be

3590 au pasage, prez, enbuschiez:

at-the passage near hidden

vus savez bien le buen pasage,

you know well the good passage

pieç'a que vos en estes sage.

long-since that you thereof are wise

Li cheval est blans conme flor:

The horse is white as flower

covrez le bien trestot entor,

cover it well all around

3595 que il ne soit mes conneüz

so-that it not be more known

ne de nul home aperceüz.

nor by any man perceived

La ert Artus atot sa gent,

There will-be Arthur with-all his folk

et li rois Marc tot ensement.

and the king Mark all likewise

Cil chevalier d'estrange terre

Those knights of-strange land

bohorderont por los aquerre;

will-joust for praise to-win

et, por l'amor Yseut m'amie,

and for the-love (of-)Iseult my-friend

i ferai tost une esbaudie.

there I-shall-make soon a display

Sus la lance soit le penon

On the lance be the pennon

dont la bele me fist le don.

whereof the fair (to-)me made the gift

Mestre, or alez, pri vos forment

Master now go I-pray you strongly

que le faciez mot sauvement.»

that it you-do very safely

Prist son henap et son puiot,

He-took his cup and his crutch

le congié prist de lui, si l'ot.

the leave he-took of him so it-be-had

Governal vint a son ostel,

Governal came to his lodging

son hernois prist, ainz ne fist el,

his harness he-took ever not he-did other

puis si se mist tost a la voie.

then so himself he-put quickly on the way

3600

3605

3610

Il n'a cure que nus le voie.

He not-has care that any him see

Tant a erré qu'enbuschié s'est

So-much he-has journeyed that-bidden himself-be-is

pres de Tristan, qui au Pas est.

near of Tristan who at-the Pas is

3615 Sor la mote, au chief de la mare,

On the mound at-the end of the marsh

s'asist Tristan sanz autre afaire.

himself-sat Tristan without other business

Devant soi fiche son bordon:

Before himself he-fixes his staff

atachié fu a un cordon

fastened it-was to a cord

a quei l'avet pendu au col.

by which it-he-had hung at-the neck

3620 Entor lui sont li taier mol.

Around him are the mires soft

Sor la mote forment se tret.

Onto the mound strongly himself he-draws

Ne senbla pas home contret,

Not he-seemed at-all man crippled

qar il ert gros et corporuz,

for he was big and well-bodied

il n'ert pas nains, contrez, boçuz.

he not-was at-all dwarf crippled hunchbacked

3625 La rote entent, la s'est asis.

The throng he-hears there himself-be-is seated

Mot ot bien bocelé son vis.

Much he-had well blotched his face

Qant aucun passe devant lui,

When someone passes before him

en plaignant disoit: «Mar i fui!

in complaining he-said In-an-ill-hour there I-was

Ja ne quidai estre aumosnier

Ever not I-thought be almsman

ne servir jor de cest mestier,

nor to-serve day of this trade

mais n'en poon or mais el faire.»

but not-thereof we-can now more other do

Tristran lor fait des borses trere,

Tristan (to-)them makes of-the purses draw

quar il fait tant chascun li done.

for he does so-much each (to-)him gives

Il les reçoit, que mot ne sone.

He them receives so-that word not he-sounds

Tex a esté set anz mignon

Such-one has been seven years minion

ne set si bien traire guignon.

not knows so well to-draw gain

Meïsmes li corlieu a pié

Even the runners on foot

et li garçon li mains proisié,

and the boys the least esteemed

qui vont mangant par le chemin,

who go eating along the road

Tristran, qui tient le chief enclin,

Tristan who holds the head bowed

lor aumosne por Deu lor quiert.

their alms for God (of-)them he-asks

3630

3635

3640

L'un l'en done, l'autre le fiert.

The-one (to-)him-thereof gives the-other him strikes

Li cuvert gars, li desfaé

The base lads the faithless-ones

mignon, herlot l'ont apelé.

minion vagabond him-have called

3645 Escoute Tristan, mot ne sone:

Listens Tristan word not he-sounds

por Deu, ce dit, le lor pardone.

for God this he-says it (to-)them he-pardons

Li corlieu, qui sont plain de rage,

The runners who are full of madness

li font ennui, et il est sage.

(to-)him make trouble and he is wise

Truant le clament et herlot.

Beggar him they-call and vagabond

3650 Il les convoie o le puiot,

He them escorts with the crutch

plus de quatorze en fait saignier,

more than fourteen thereof he-makes bleed

si qu'il ne puënt estanchier.

so that-they not can stanch

Li franc vaslet de bone orine

The noble varlets of good stock

ferlin ou maalle esterline

farthing or halfpenny sterling

3655 li ont doné: il les reçoit.

(to-)him have given he them receives

Il lor dit que il a toz boit,

He (to-)them says that he for all drinks

si grant arson a en son cors

so great burning he-has in his body

a poine l'en puet geter fors.

with difficulty it-thence he-can throw out

Tuit cil qui l'oient a parler

All those who him-hear to speak

de pitié prenent a plorer;

of pity begin to weep

ne tant ne quant pas nu mescroient

nor so-much nor how-much at-all not-it they-mistrust

qu'il ne soit ladres cil quil voient.

that-be not be leper he whom-they see

Pensent vaslet et escuier

Think varlets and squires

qu'il se hastent de soi logier

that-they themselves hasten of themselves to-lodge

e des tres tendre lor seignors,

and of-the tents to-pitch (for-)their lords

pavellons de maintes colors:

pavilions of many colors

n'i a riche home n'ait sa tente.

not-there is rich man (who-)not-have his tent

A plain erre, chemin et sente,

At full pace road and path

li chevalier viennent après.

the knights come after

Mot a grant presse en cel marchès;

Much there-is great press in that marsh

esfondré l'ont, mos est li fans.

broken-up it-they-have soft is the mud

3660

3665

3670

Li cheval entrent jusq'as flans,

The horses enter as-far-as-to-the flanks

maint en i chiet, qui que s'en traie.

many-a-one thereof there falls whoever that himself-thence draw

Tristran s'en rist, point ne s'esmaie,

Tristan himself-thereat laughs whit not himself-be-dismays

3675 par contraire lor dit a toz:

by contrary (to-)them he-says to all

«Tenez vos reignes par les noz,

Hold your reins by the knots

si hurtez bien de l'esperon;

so strike well with the-spur

par Deu, ferez tot a bandon,

by God strike all at speed

qu'il n'a avant point de taier.»

that-there not-is ahead whit of mire

3680 Qant il le pensent essayer,

When they it think to-try

li marois font desoz lor piez.

the marshes give-way beneath their feet

Chascun qui entre est entaiez:

Each who enters is mired

qui n'a hueses, s'en a soffrete.

who not-has boots so-thereof has want

Li ladres a sa main fors traite;

The leper has his hand out drawn

3685 qant en voit un qui el tai voitre,

when thereof he-sees one who in-the mire wallows

adonc flavele cil a cuite.

then be-rattles he in haste

Qant il le voit plus en fangoi,

When he him sees most in mire

li ladres dit: «Pensez de moi,

the leper says Think of me

que Dex vos get fors du Mal Pas!

that God you cast out of-the Mal Pas

Aidiez a noveler mes dras.»

3690

Help to renew my clothes

O sa botele el henap fiert.

With his bottle on-the cup he-strikes

En estrange leu les requiert;

In strange place them he-asks

mais il le fait par lecherie,

but he it does by trickery

qant or verra passer s'amie,

when now he-will-see pass his-friend

Yseut, qui a la crine bloie,

3695

Iseult who has the hair blond

que ele an ait en son cuer joie.

so-that she thereof have in her heart joy

Mot a grant noise en cel Mal Pas.

Much there-is great noise in that Mal Pas

Li passeor sollent lor dras,

The passers soil their clothes

de luien puet l'um oïr les huz

from afar can one hear the shouts

de ceus qui solle la paluz.

3700

of those whom soils the marsh

Cil qui la passe n'est seürs.

He who there passes not-is safe

Atant es vos le roi Artus:

Thereupon behold you the king Arthur

esgarder vient le passeor,

to-look he-comes the passage

o lui de ses barons plusor.

with him of his barons several

3705 Criement que li marois ne fonde.

They-fear that the marsh — give-way

Tuit cil de la Table Reonde

All those of the Table Round

furent venu sor le Mal Pas,

were come onto the Mal Pas

o escu fres, o chevaus cras,

with shield fresh with horses fat

de lor armes entreseignié.

of their arms marked

3710 Tuit sont covert, que mens que pié;

All are covered both hands and feet

maint drap de soie i ot levé.

many-a cloth of silk there was raised

Bohordant vont devant le gé.

Jousting they-go before the ford

Tristran connoisoit bien le roi

Tristan knew well the king

Artus, si l'apela a soi:

Arthur so him-be-called to himself

3715 «Sire Artus, rois, je sui malades,

Lord Arthur king I am sick

bociez, meseaus, desfaiz et fades.

blotched leprous disfigured and wasted

Povre est mon pere, n'out ainz terre.

Poor is my father not-he-had ever land

Ça sui venuz l'aumosne querre,

Hither I-am come the-almes to-seek

mot ai oï de toi bien dire,

much I-have heard of thee good say

tu ne me doiz pas escondire.

thou not me oughtest at-all to-refuse

Tu es vestu de beaux grisens

Thou art clad in fair grays

de Renebors, si con je pens.

of Ratisbon so as I think

Desoz la toile renciène

Under the cloth of-Rheims

la toue char est blanche et plaine.

the thy flesh is white and smooth

Tes janbes voi de riche paile

Thy legs I-see of rich silk

chaucies et o verte maile,

shod and with green mail

et les sorchauz d'une escarlate.

and the over-hose of-a scarlet

Rois Artus, voiz con je me grate?

King Arthur seest-thou how I myself scratch

J'ai les granz froiz, qui qu'ait les chaux.

I-have the great colds whoever that-has the hot

Por Deu me donne ces sorchauz.»

For God me give those over-hose

Li nobles rois an ot pitié:

The noble king thereof had pity

3720

3725

3730

dui damoisei l'ont deschaucié.

two squires him-have unsbod

Li malades les sorchaux prent,

The sick-man the over-hose takes

otot s'en vet isnelement,

with-all himself-thence he-goes swiftly

3735 asis se rest sor la muterne.

seated himself he-is-again upon the hillock

Li ladres nus de ceus n'esperne

The leper any of those not-spare

qui devant lui sont trespasé;

who before him are passed

fins dras en a a grant plenté

fine clothes thereof he-has in great plenty

et les sorchauz Artus le roi.

and the over-hose (of-)Arthur the king

3740 Tristran s'asist sor le maroi.

Tristan himself-sat upon the marsh

Qant il se fu iluec assis,

When he himself was there seated

li rois Marc, fiers et posteïs,

the king Mark fierce and powerful

chevaucha fort vers le taier.

rode hard toward the mire

Tristran l'aqeut a essaier

Tristan him-takes to try

3745 s'il porra rien avoir du suen.

if-he will-be-able anything have of-the his

Son flavel sonë a haut suen,

His clapper he-sounds at high sound

a sa voiz roe crie a paine,

with his voice hoarse he-cries with pain

o le nes fait subler l'alaine:

with the nose he-makes whistle the-breath

«Por Deu, roi Marc, un poi de bien!»

For God king Mark a little of good

S'aumuce trait, si li dit: «Tien,

3750

His-hood he-draws so (to-)him he-says Take

frere, met la ja sus ton chief:

brother put it now on thy head

maintes foiz t'a li tens fait grief.

many times thee-has the weather done harm

— Sire,» fait il, «vostre merci!

Lord says he your mercy

Or m'avez vos de froit gari.»

Now me-have you of cold cured

Desoz la chape a mis l'aumuce,

3755

Under the cloak he-has put the-hood

qant qu'il puet la trestorne et muce.

as-much as-he can it he-turns-about and hides

«Dont es tu, ladres?» fait li rois.

Whence art thou leper says the king

— «De Carloon, filz d'un Galois.

Of Caerleon son of-a Welshman

— Qanz anz as esté fors de gent?

How-many years hast-thou been out of folk

— Sire, trois anz i a, ne ment.

3760

Lord three years there is not I-lie

Tant con je fui en saine vie,

So-long as I was in sound life

mot avoie cortoise amie.

much I-bad courtly friend

Por lié ai je ces boces lees;

For her have I these blotches broad

ces tartaries plain dolees

these clappers full planed

3765 me fait et nuit et jor soner

me she-makes both night and day sound

et o la noisë estoner

and with the noise deafen

toz ceus qui je demant du lor

all those whom I ask of-the theirs

por amor Deu le criator.»

for love (of-)God the creator

Li rois li dit: «Ne celez mie

The king (to-)him says Not hide at-all

3770 comment ce te donna t'amie.

how this thee gave thy-friend

— Dans rois, ses sires ert meseaus,

Lord king her lord was leprous

o lié faisoie mes joiaus,

with her I-made my delights

cist maus me prist de la comune.

this ill me took of the intercourse

Mais plus bele ne fu que une.

But more fair not was except one

3775 — Qui est ele? — La bele Yseut:

Who is she The fair Iseult

einsi se vest con cele seut.»

thus herself she-dresses as that-one is-wont

Li rois l'entent, riant s'en part.

The king it-hears laughing himself-thence he-parts

Li rois Artus de l'autre part

The king Arthur from the-other side

en est venuz, qui bohordot;

thence is come who was-jousting

joios se fist, que plus ne pout.

joyous himself he-made as more not he-could

Artus enquist de la roïne.

Arthur inquired of the queen

«El vient,» fait Marc, «par la gaudine,

She comes says Mark through the woodland

dan roi, ele vient o Andret:

lord king she comes with Andret

de lié conduire s'entremet.»

of her to-conduct himself-he-takes-charge

Dist l'un a l'autre: «Ne sai pas

Said the-one to the-other Not I-know at-all

comment isse de cest Mal Pas.

how she-may-issue from this Mal Pas

Or eston ci, si prenon garde.»

Now let-us-stand here so let-us-take heed

Li troi felon (qui mal feu arde!)

The three felons whom ill fire burn

vindrent au gué, si demanderent

came to-the ford so they-asked

au malade par ont passerent

of-the sick-man by where passed

cil qui mains furent entaié.

those who least were mired

3780

3785

3790

Tristran a son puiot drecié

Tristan has his crutch raised

et lor enseigne un grant molanc:

and (to-)them shows a great bog

«Vez la cel torbe après cel fanc,

See there that turf after that mud

3795 la est li droiz asseneors;

there is the right direction

g'i ai veü passer plusors.»

I-there have seen pass several

Li felon entrent en la fange.

The felons enter into the mire

La ou li ladres lor enseigne,

There where the leper (to-)them shows

fange troverent a merveille

mire they-found at marvel

3800 desi q'as auves de la selle.

as-far-as to-the flaps of the saddle

Tuit troi chiënt a une flote.

All three fall at one heap

Li malade fu sus la mote,

The sick-man was upon the mound

si lor cria: «Poigniez a fort,

so (to-)them he-cried Spur with force

se vos estes de tel tai ort.

if you are of such mud foul

3805 Alez, seignor! Par saint apostre,

Go lords By holy apostle

si me done chascun du vostre!»

so me give each of-the yours

Li cheval fondent el taier:

The horses sink in-the mire

cil se prenent a esmaier,

they themselves begin to be-dismayed

qar ne trovent rive ne fonz.

for not they-find bank nor bottom

Cil qui bohordent sor le mont

Those who joust upon the height

sont acoru isnelement.

are run-up swiftly

Oiez du ladre com il ment:

Hear of-the leper how he lies

«Seignors,» fait il a ces barons,

Lords says he to these barons

«tenez vus bien a vos archons.

hold yourselves well to your saddle-bows

Mal ait cil fans qui si est mos!

Ill have that mud which so is soft

Ostez ces manteaus de vos cox,

Take-off those mantles from your necks

si braçoiez parmié le tai.

so flounder through-midst-of the mire

Je vos di bien (que tres bien sai),

I (to-)you say well that very well I-know

g'i ai hui veü gent passer.»

I-there have today seen folk pass

Qui donc veïst henap casser!

Whoever then had-seen cup break

Qant li ladres le henap loche,

When the leper the cup shakes

3810

3815

3820

o la coroine fiert la boche

with the strap he-strikes the bottle

et o l'autre des mains flavele.

and with the-other of-the hands he-rattles

Atant es vos Yseut la bele

Thereupon behold you Iseult the fair

3825 el taier vit ses ainemis,

in-the mire she-saw her enemies

sor la mote sist ses amis.

on the mound sat her friend

Joie en a grant, rit et envoise,

Joy thereof she-has great she-laughs and disports

a pié decent sor la faloise.

on foot she-dismounts on the cliff

The Barons in the Mire

XV

The three barons drag themselves out of the mire, fouled past washing, while the leper taunts them and tips Denoalen back in. Dinas warns Iseult that the ford will ruin her gown, so she sends her palfrey across alone and has the leper carry her over the plank on his back, before both kings and the whole court. Tristan and Governal then arm in black and in vair; Tristan unhorses Andret, Governal kills the forester who had betrayed Tristan, and the two ride off taken for phantoms.

De l'autre part furent li roi

On the-other side were the kings

et li baron qu'il ont o soi,

and the barons that-they have with them

qui esgardent ceus du taier

who look-at those of-the mire

torner sor coste et ventrellier.

turn on side and wallow

Et li malades les arguë:

And the sick-man them taunts

«Seignors, la roïne est venue

Lords the queen is come

por fere son desresnement,

to make her vindication

alez oïr cel jugement.»

go to-hear that judgment

Poi en i a joie n'en ait.

Few thereof there is (who-)joy not-thereof have

Oiez del ladre, du desfait,

Hear of-the leper of-the disfigured

3830

3835

Donoalen met a raison:

Denoalen he-sets to speech

3840 «Pren t'a la main a mon baston,

Take thee-by the hand to my staff

tire a deus poinz mot durement.»

pull with two hands very hard

Et cil li tent tot maintenant.

And he (to-)him holds-out all straightway

Le baston li let li degiez:

The staff (to-)him lets-go the stricken-one

ariere chiet, tot est plungiez,

backward he-falls all he-is plunged

3845 n'en vit on fors le poil rebors.

not-thereof saw one except the hair reversed

Et qant il fu du tai trait fors,

And when he was from-the mire drawn out

fait li malades: «N'en poi mes.

says the sick-man Not-thereof I-could more

J'ai endormi jointes et ners,

I-have numbed joints and sinews

les mains gourdes por le mal d'Acre,

the hands stiff for the ill of-Acre

3850 les piez enflez por le poacre.

the feet swollen for the gout

Li maus a enpirié ma force,

The ill has impaired my strength

ses sont mi braz com une escorce.»

so are my arms like a tree-bark

Dinas estoit o la roïne,
Dinas was with the queen
 aperçut soi, de l'uiel li cline.
he-perceived himself with the-eye (to-)her he-signs
 Bien sout Tristran ert soz la chape,
Well he-knew Tristan was under the cloak
 les trois felons vit en la trape;
the three felons he-saw in the trap
 mot li fu bel et mot li plot
very (to-)him it-was fair and much (to-)him it-pleased
 de ce qu'il sont en lait tripot.
of that that-they are in ugly plight
 A grant martire et a dolor
With great torment and with sorrow
 sont issu li encuseor
are gone-out the accusers
 du taier defors: a certain,
from-the mire outside for certain
 ja ne seront mais net sanz bain.
ever not they-will-be more clean without bath
 Voiant le pueple, se despollent,
In-sight-of the people themselves they-strip
 lor dras laissent, autres racuellent.
their clothes they-leave others they-take-up
 Mais or oiez du franc Dinas,
But now hear of-the noble Dinas
 qui fu de l'autre part du Pas:
who was on the-other side of-the Pas
 la roïne met a raison.
the queen he-sets to speech

3855

3860

3865

«Dame,» fait il, «cel siglaton

Lady says he that gown

estera ja forment laidiz.

will-be at-once greatly soiled

3870 Cist garez est plain de rouïz:

This ford is full of rust

marriz en sui, forment m'en poise,

grieved thereof I-am greatly me-thereof it-weighs

se a vos dras point en adoise.»

if on your clothes at-all thereof touch

Yseut rist, qui n'ert pas coarde,

Iseult laughed who not-was at-all cowardly

de l'uel li guigne, si l'esgarde.

with the-eye (to-)him she-winks so him-she-looks-at

3875 Le penser sout a la roïne.

The thought he-knew of the queen

Un poi aval, lez une espine,

A little below beside a thorn

torne a un gué lui et Andrez,

he-turns to a ford he and Andret

ou trepasserent auques nez.

where they-crossed somewhat clean

De l'autre part fu Yseut sole.

On the-other side was Iseult alone

3880 Devant le gué fu grant la fole

Before the ford was great the crowd

des deus rois et de lor barnage.

of-the two kings and of their baronage

Oiez d'Yseut com el fu sage!

Hear of-Iseult how she was wise

Bien savoit que cil l'esgardoient

Well she-knew that those her-watched

qui outre le Mal Pas estoient.

who beyond the Mal Pas were

Ele est au palefroi venue,

She is to-the palfrey come

prent les langues de la sanbue,

she-takes the flaps of the saddle-cloth

ses noua desus les arçons:

them she-knotted above the saddle-bows

nus escuiers ne nus garçons

any squires nor any boys

por le taier mex nes levast

for the mire better not-them would-raise

ne ja mex nes aparellast.

nor ever better not-them would-arrange

Le lorain boute soz la selle,

The harness she-thrusts under the saddle

le poitral oste Yseut la bele,

the breast-strap takes-off Iseult the fair

au palefroi oste son frain.

from-the palfrey she-takes-off his bridle

Sa robe tient en une main,

Her robe she-holds in one hand

de l'autre la corgie tint.

with the-other the whip she-held

Au gué o le palefroi vint,

To-the ford with the palfrey she-came

3885

3890

3895

de la corgie l'a feru,

with the whip it-she-has struck

et il passe outre la palu.

and it passes beyond the marsh

La roïne out mot grant esgart

The queen had very great gaze

3900 de ceus qui sont de l'autre part.

from those who are on the-other side

Li roi prisié s'en esbahirent,

The kings esteemed themselves-thereat were-astonished

et tuit li autre qui le virent.

and all the others who it saw

La roïne out de soie dras:

The queen had of silk clothes

aporté furent de Baudas,

brought they-were from Baghdad

3905 forré furent de blanc hermine.

lined they-were with white ermine

Mantel, bliaut, tot li traïne.

Mantle gown all (to-)her trails

Sor ses espauls sont si crin,

Upon her shoulders are her locks

bendé a ligne sor or fin.

banded with ribbon upon gold fine

Un cercle d'or out sor son chief,

A circlet of-gold she-had upon her head

3910 qui empare de chief en chief,

which adorns from end to end

color rosine, fresche et blanche.

color rosy fresh and white

Einsi s'adrece vers la planche:

Thus herself-she-directs toward the plank

«Ge vuel avoir a toi afere.

I wish to-have with thee business

— Roïne franche, debonere,

Queen noble gracious

a toi irai sanz escondire,

to thee I-shall-go without refusing

mais je ne sai que tu veus dire.

but I not know what thou wishest to-say

— Ne vuel mes dras enpalüer:

Not I-wish my clothes to-bemire

asne seras de moi porter

ass thou-wilt-be of me to-carry

tot souavet par sus la planche.

all softly by over the plank

— Avoil!» fait il, «roïne franche,

Nay says he queen noble

ne me requerez pas tel plet:

not me require at-all such plea

ge sui ladres, bociez, desfait.

I am leper blotched disfigured

— Cuite,» fait ele, «un poi t'arenge.

Hurry says she a little thee-arrange

Quides tu que ton mal me prenge?

Thinkest thou that thy ill me may-take

N'en aies doute, non fera.

Not-thereof have doubt not it-will-do

— A! Dex,» fait il, «ce que sera?

Ab God says he this what will-be

3915

3920

3925

A li parler point ne m'ennoie.»

To her to-speak at-all not me-troubles

O le puiot sovent s'apoie.

With the crutch often himself-be-leans

«Diva! malades, mot es gros!

Come-now sick-man very thou-art big

3930 Ton vis la torne et ça ton dos:

Thy face thither turn and hither thy back

ge monterai comme vaslet.»

I shall-mount as varlet

Et lors s'en sorrlist li deget,

And then himself-thereat smiled the stricken-one

torne le dos, et ele monte.

he-turns the back and she mounts

Tuit les gardent, et roi et conte.

All them watch both king and count

3935 Ses cuises tient sor son puiot:

Her thighs he-holds upon his crutch

l'un pié sorlieve et l'autre clot,

the-one foot he-raises and the-other he-lowers

sovent fait senblant de choier;

often he-makes semblance of to-fall

grant chiere fai de soi doloir.

great countenance he-makes of himself to-suffer

Yseut la bele chevaucha,

Iseult the fair rode

3940 janbe deça, janbe dela.

leg this-side leg that-side

Dist l'un a l'autre: «Or esgardez

Said the-one to the-other Now look

(lacuna)

Vez la roïne chevauchier

See the queen to-ride

un malade qui seut clochier.

a sick-man who is-wont to-limp

Pres qu'il ne chiet de sor la planche.

Near that-he — falls from upon the plank

Son puiot tient desor sa hanche.

His crutch he-holds upon his hip

Alon encontre cel mesel

Let-us-go toward that leper

a l'issue de cest gacel.»

at the-issue of this ford

La corurent li damoisel

There ran the squires

(lacuna)

Li rois Artus cele part torne,

The king Arthur that way turns

et li autre trestot a orne.

and the others all in order

Li ladres ot enclin le vis,

The leper had bowed the face

de l'autre part vint el päis.

on the-other side he-came into-the land

Yseut se lait escolorgier.

Iseult herself lets slip-down

3945

3950

3955

Li ladres prent a reperier,

The leper begins to go-back

au departir il redemande

at-the parting he asks-again

la bele Yseut anuit viande.

the fair Iseult tonight food

Artus dist: «Bien l'a deservi.

Arthur said Well it-he-has deserved

3960 Ha! roïne, donez la lui!»

Ab queen give it (to-)him

Yseut la bele dist au roi:

Iseult the fair said to-the king

«Par cele foi que je vos doi,

By that faith that I (to-)you owe

forz truanz est, asez en a,

strong beggar he-is plenty thereof he-has

ne mangera hui ce qu'il a.

not he-will-eat today that which-he has

3965 Soz sa chape senti sa guige.

Under his cloak I-felt his strap

Rois, s'aloiere n'apetich:

King his-pouch not-shrinks

les pains demiés et les entiers

the loaves halved and the whole

et les pieces et les quartiers

and the pieces and the quarters

ai bien parmié le sac sentu.

I-have well through-midst-of the sack felt

3970 Viande a, si est bien vestu.

Food he-has so he-is well clad

De vos sorchauz, s'il les veut vendre,

Of your over-bow if-he them wishes to-sell

puet il cinc soz d'esterlins prendre;

can be five shillings of-sterlings take

et de l'aumuce mon seignor

and from the-hood (of-)my lord

achat bun lit et covertor,

let-him-buy good bed and coverlet

ou un asne qui past le tai.

or an ass which may-pass the mire

Il est herlot, si con jel sai.

He is vagabond so as I-it know

Hui a suï bone pasture,

Today he-has followed good pasture

trové a gent a sa mesure.

found he-has folk to his measure

De moi n'en portera qui valle

From me not-thereof he-will-carry (ought)-which may-be-worth

un sol ferlinc n'une maalle.»

one single farthing nor-a halfpenny

Grant joie en meinent li dui roi.

Great joy thereof make the two kings

Amené ont son palefroi,

Brought they-have her palfrey

montee l'ont; d'iluec tornerent.

mounted her-they-have from-there they-turned

Qui ont armes lors bohorderent.

Whoever have arms then jousted

3975

3980

3985 Tristan s'en vet du parlement,

Tristan himself-thence goes from-the parley

vient a son mestre, qui l'atent.

he-comes to his master who him-awaits

Deus chevaus riches de Castele

Two horses rich of Castile

ot amené, o frain, o sele,

he-had brought with bridle with saddle

et deus lances et deus escuz.

and two lances and two shields

3990 Mot les out bien desconneüz.

Very them he-bad well disguised

Des chevaliers que vus diroie?

Of-the knights what (to-)you should-I-say

Une guiple blanche de soie

A wimple white of silk

out Governal sor son chief mise:

had Governal upon his head put

n'en pert que l'uel en nule guise.

not-thereof appears but the-eye in any manner

3995 Arire s'en torne le pas,

Back himself-thence he-turns at-the pace

mot par out bel cheval et cras.

very much he-bad fair horse and fat

Tristan rot le Bel Joeor:

Tristan bad-in-turn the Bel Joeor

ne puet on pas trover mellor.

not can one at-all find better

Cote, sele, destrier et targe

Coat saddle charger and targe

out covert d'une noire sarge,

4000

he-had covered with-a black serge

son vis out covert d'un noir voil,

his face he-had covered with-a black veil

tot ot covert et chief et poil.

all he-had covered both head and hair

A sa lance ot l'enseigne mise

On his lance he-had the-ensign put

que la bele li ot tramise.

that the fair (to-)him had sent

Chascun monte sor son destrier,

4005

Each mounts upon his charger

chascun out çaint le brant d'acier.

each had girded the brand of-steel

Einsi armé, sor lor chevaus,

Thus armed upon their horses

par un vert pré, entre deus vaus,

through a green meadow between two vales

sordent sus en la Blanche Lande.

they-rise up into the Blanche Lande

Gauvains, li niés Artus, demande

4010

Gawain the nephew (of-)Arthur asks

Gerflet: «Vez en la deus venir,

Gerflet See thereof there two come

qui mot viennent de grant aïr.

who much come of great fury

Nes connois pas: Ses tu qu'il sont?

Not-them I-know at-all Knowest thou who-they are

— Ges connois bien,» Girflet respont.

I-them know well Girflet answers

4015 «Noir cheval a et noire enseigne:

Black horse he-has and black pennon

ce est li Noirs de la Montaigne.

this is the Black of the Mountain

L'autre connois as armes vaires,

The-other I-know by-the arms vair

qar en cest païs n'en a gaires.

for in this land not-thereof there-is much

Il sont faé, gel sai sanz dote.»

They are enchanted I-it know without doubt

4020 Icil vindrent fors de la rote,

These came out of the throng

les escus pres, lances levees,

the shields close lances raised

les enseignes as fers fermees.

the pennons at-the irons fastened

Tant bel portent lor garnemenz

So fair they-carry their trappings

comme s'il fuserent né dedenz.

as if-they were born within

4025 Des deus parolent assez plus

Of-the two speak much more

li rois Marc et li rois Artus

the king Mark and the king Arthur

qu'il ne font de lor deus compaignes,

than-they — do of their two companies

qui sont laïs es larges plaines.

which are yonder in-the wide plains

Es rens perent li dui sovent,

In-the ranks appear the two often

esgardé sont de mainte gent.

looked-at they-are by many folk

Parmié l'angarde ensemble poignent,

Through-midst-of the-height together they-spur

mais ne trovent a qui il joignent.

but not they-find with whom they join

La roïne bien les connut:

The queen well them knew

a une part du renc s'estut,

at one side of-the rank herself-she-stood

ele et Brengain. Et Andrez vint

she and Brangain And Andret came

sor son destrier, ses armes tint;

on his charger his arms he-held

lance levee, l'escu pris,

lance raised the-shield taken

a Tristan saut en mié le vis.

at Tristan he-leaps in midst-of the face

Nu connoisoit de nule rien,

Not-bim he-knew of any thing

et Tristan le connoisoit bien.

and Tristan him knew well

Fiert l'en l'escu, en mié la voie

He-strikes him-on the-shield in midst-of the way

l'abat et le braz li peçoie.

bim-be-fells and the arm (to-)bim he-shatters

4030

4035

4040

Devant les piez a la roïne

Before the feet of the queen

cil jut sanz lever sus l'eschine.

he lay without to-raise up the-spine

4045 Governal vit le forestier

Governal saw the forester

venir des tres, sor un destrier,

come from-the tents on a charger

qui vout Tristan livrer a mort

who wished Tristan to-deliver to death

en sa forest, ou dormoit fort.

in his forest where he-slept deep

Grant aleüre a lui s'adrece,

Great speed to him himself-be-directs

4050 ja ert de mort en grant destrece.

soon he-was of death in great straits

Le fer trenchant li mist el cors,

The iron cutting (to-)him he-put in-the body

o l'acier bote le cuir fors.

with the-steel he-thrusts the hide out

Cil chaï mort, si c'onques prestre

He fell dead so that-ever priest

n'i vint a tens ne n'i pot estre.

not-there came in time nor not-there could be

4055 Yseut, qui ert et franche et simple,

Iseult who was both noble and simple

s'en rist doucement soz sa gingle.

herself-thereat laughed sweetly under her wimple

Gerflet et Cinglor et Ivain,

Gerflet and Cinglor and Ivain

Tolas et Coris et Vauvain

Tolas and Coris and Gawain

virent laidier lor conpaignons:

saw (them-)maltreat their companions

«Seignors,» fait Gaugains, «que ferons?

4060

Lords says Gawain what shall-we-do

Li forestier gist la baé.

The forester lies there gaping

Saciez que cil dui sont faé.

Know that these two are enchanted

Ne tant ne quant nes connoisons:

Nor so-much nor how-much not-them we-know

or nos tiennent il por bricons.

now us bold they for fools

Brochons a eus, alons les prendre.

4065

Let-us-spur at them let-us-go them to-take

— Quis nos porra,» fait li rois, «rendre

Whoever-them (to-)us will-be-able says the king to-render

mot nos avra servi a gré.»

much (to-)us be-will-have served at pleasure

Tristran se trait aval au gé,

Tristan himself draws down to-the ford

et Governal, outre passerent.

and Governal beyond they-passed

Li autre sirre nes oserent,

4070

The others to-follow not-them dared

an pais remestrent, tuit destroit;

in peace they-remained all straitened

bien penserent fantosme soit.

well they-thought (a-)phantom be-may-be

As herberges vuelent torner,

To-the lodgings they-wish to-turn

qar laisié ont le bohorder.

for left they-have the jousting

The Oath on the Relics

XVI

The two courts lodge on the heath, and next morning every relic in Cornwall is laid out on a silk cloth. Arthur rebukes Mark for listening to slander and states the oath. Iseult swears on the relics that no man has entered between her thighs save the leper who bore her over the fords and Mark her husband, and offers to do more. The court cries that she has sworn beyond what was asked, Arthur warns the three barons off, and the kings part.

4075 Artus la roïne destroie.

Arthur the queen conducts

Mot li senbla brive la voie

Much (to-)him seemed short the way

(lacuna)

Que la voie aloignast sor destre.

That the way he-should-lengthen on right

Decendu sont a lor herberges.

Dismounted they-are at their lodgings

4080 En la lande ot assez herberges:

In the heath there-were plenty lodgings

mot en costerent li cordel.

much thereof cost the cords

En leu de jonc et de rosel,

In place of rush and of reed

glagié avoient tuit lor tentes.

iris-strewn they-had all their tents

Par chemins viennent et par sentes;

By roads they-come and by paths

la Blanche Lande fut vestue,

the White Heath was clothed

maint chevalier i out sa drue.

many-a knight there had his beloved

Cil qui la fu enz en la pree

He who there was within in the meadow

de maint grant cerf ot la menee.

of many-a great stag had the chase

La nuit sejoignent an la lande.

The night they-stay in the heath

Chascuns rois sist a sa demande.

Each king sat at his petitioning

Qui out devices n'est pas lenz:

Whoever had riches not-is at-all slow

li uns a l'autre fait presenz.

the one to the-other makes presents

Ly rois Artus, après mengier,

The king Arthur after eating

au tref roi Marc vait cointoier,

to-the tent (of-)king Mark goes to-parade

sa privee maisni'en maine.

his private household-thence he-leads

La ot petit de dras de laine,

There was little of cloths of wool

tuit li plusor furent de soie.

all the most-part were of silk

4085

4090

4095

Des vesteüres que diroie

Of-the garments what should-I-say

de laine? Qui out drap de laine,

of wool Whoever had cloth of wool

4100 escarlate ce fu en graine.

fine-cloth this was in grain

Mot ot gent de riches atorz.

Much there-was folk of rich array

Nus ne vit deus plus riches corz:

Any not saw two more rich courts

mestier nen est dont la nen ait.

craft not is whereof there not be

Es pavellons ont joie fait.

In-the pavilions they-have joy made

4105 La nuit devisent lor afaire,

The night they-settle their business

comment la franche debonere

how the noble gracious-one

se doit deraisnier de l'outrage,

herself must vindicate of the-outrage

voiant les rois et lor barnage.

seeing the kings and their baronage

Couchier s'en vait li rois Artus

To-lie-down himself-thence goes the king Arthur

4110 o ses barons et o ses druz.

with his barons and with his intimates

Maint calemel, mainte troïne,

Many-a reed-pipe many-a horn

qui fust la nuit en la gaudine

whoever were the night in the woodland

oïst an pavellon soner.

would-bear in pavilion sound

Devant le jor prist a toner:

Before the day it-began to thunder

a fermeté, fu de chalor.

in truth it-was from heat

Les gaites ont corné le jor;

The watchmen have sounded the day

par tot commencent a lever,

through all they-begin to rise

tuit sont levé sanz demorer.

all are risen without delay

Li soleuz fu chاوز sor la prime,

The sun was hot upon the prime

choiete fu et nielle et frime.

dissipated was both mist and frost

Devant les tentes as deus rois

Before the tents of-the two kings

sont asenblé Corneualois:

are assembled the-Cornishmen

n'out chevalier en tot le reigne

not-there-was knight in all the realm

qui n'ait o soi a cort sa feme.

who not-have with him at court his wife

Un drap de soie, un paile bis

A cloth of silk a brocade gray

devant le tref au roi fu mis:

before the tent of-the king was put

4115

4120

4125

ovrez fu en bestes, menuz.

worked it-was in beasts finely

Sor l'erbe vert fu estenduz.

On the-grass green it-was spread

Li dras fu achaté en Niques.

The cloth was bought in Nicaea

4130 En Cornoualle n'ot reliques

In Cornwall not-there-were relics

en tresor ne en filatieres,

in treasury nor in phylacteries

en aumaires n'en autres bieres,

in cupboards nor-in other coffins

en fiertres n'en escrinz n'en chases,

in shrines nor-in caskets nor-in reliquaries

en croiz d'or ne d'argent n'en mases,

in cross of-gold nor of-silver nor-in relic-masses

4135 sor le paile les orent mises,

upon the silk them they-had put

arengies, par ordre asises.

ranged in order set

Li roi se traient une part,

The kings themselves draw one side

faire i volent loial esgart.

make there they-wish loyal award

Li rois Artus parla premier,

The king Arthur spoke first

4140 qui de parler fu prinsautier:

who of to-speak was ready

«Rois Marc,» fait il, «qui te conselle

King Mark says he whoever thee counsels

tel outrage si fait merveille:

such outrage so makes marvel

certes,» fait il, «sil se desloie.

certainly says he so-he himself is-disloyal

Tu es legier a metre en voie,

Thou art easy to put in way

ne dois croire parole fause.

not thou-shouldst believe word false

Trop te fesoit amere sause

Too thee it-made bitter sauce

qui parlement te fist joster.

he-who parley thee made join

Mot li devroit du cors coster

Much (to-)him it-ought of-the body to-cost

et ennuer, qui voloit faire.

and to-trouble who wished to-do(-it)

La franche Yseut, la debonere,

The noble Iseult the gracious

ne veut respit ne terme avoir.

not wishes respite nor term to-have

Cil puënt bien de fi savoir,

Those can well of certain know

qui vendront sa deresne prendre,

who will-come her vindication to-take

que ges ferai encore pendre,

that I-them shall-make yet to-hang

4145

4150

- 4155 qui la reteront de folie
who her will-accuse of folly
 pus sa deresne, par envie:
after her vindication by envy
 digne seroient d'avoir mort.
worthy they-would-be of-to-have death
 Or oiez, roi: qui ara tort,
Now hear king who will-have wrong
 la roïne vendra avant,
the queen will-come forward
 4160 si qel verront petit et grant,
so that-it will-see small and great
 et si jurra o sa main destre,
and so she-will-swear with her hand right
 sor les corsainz, au roi celestre
upon the relics to-the king heavenly
 qu'el'onques n'ot amor commune
that-she-ever not-had love common
 a ton nevo, ne deus ne une,
with thy nephew nor two nor one
 4165 que l'en tornast a vilanie,
that one should-turn to baseness
 n'amor ne prist par puterie.
nor-love not took by lechery
 Dan Marc, trop a ice duré:
Lord Mark too has this lasted
 qant ele avra eisi juré,
when she will-have thus sworn
 di tes barons qu'il aient pes.
say (to-)thy barons that-they have peace

— Ha! sire Artus, q'en pus je mes?

4170

Ab lord Arthur what-thereof can I more

Tu me blasmes, et si as droit,

Thou me blamest and so thou-hast right

quar fous est qui envieus croit.

for foolish is who envious believes

Ges ai creüz outre mon gré.

I-them have believed beyond my will

Se la deraisme est en cel pré,

If the vindication is in that meadow

ja n'i avra mais si hardiz,

4175

ever not-there will-be more so bold

se il après les escondiz

if he after the denials

en disoit rien se anor non,

thereof said thing except honor not

qui n'en eüst mal gerredon.

who not-thereof had ill reward

Ce saciez vos, Artus, frans rois,

This know you Arthur noble king

c'a esté fait, c'est sor mon pois.

4180

that-has been done that-is against my will

Or se gardent d'ui en avant!»

Now themselves let-them-guard from-today thereon onward

Li conseil departent atant.

The counsels part thereupon

Tuit s'asistrent par mié les rens,

All themselves-seated through midst-of the ranks

fors les deus rois. C'est a grant sens:

except the two kings This-is with great sense

4185 Yseut fu entre eus deus as mains.

Iseult was between them two by-the hands

Pres des reliques fu Gauvains;

Near of-the relics was Gawain

la mesnie Artus, la proisie,

the household (of-)Arthur the esteemed

entor le paile est arengie.

around the silk is ranged

Artus prist la parole en main,

Arthur took the word in hand

4190 qui fu d'Iseut le plus prochain:

who was of-Iseult the most near

«Entendez moi, Yseut la bele,

Attend me Iseult the fair

oiez de qoi on vos apele:

hear of what one you challenges

que Tristan n'ot vers vos amor

that Tristan not-had toward you love

de puteé ne de folor,

of lechery nor of folly

4195 fors cele que devoit porter

except that which he-should bear

envers son oncle et vers sa per.

toward his uncle and toward his mate

— Seignors,» fait el, «por Deu merci!

Lords says she for God mercy

Saintes reliques voi ici.

Holy relics I-see here

Or escoutez que je ci jure,

Now listen what I here swear

de quoi le roi ci aseüre:

4200

of which the king here I-assure

si m'ait Dex et saint Ylaire,

so me-help God and saint Hilary

ces reliques, cist saintuaire,

these relics this reliquary

totes celes qui ci ne sont

all those which here not are

et tuit icil de par le mont,

and all those from through the world

q'entre mes cuises n'entra home,

4205

that-between my thighs not-entered man

fors le ladre qui fist soi some,

except the lazarus who made himself beast-of-burden

qui me porta outre les guez,

who me carried beyond the fords

et li rois Marc mes espousez.

and the king Mark my husband

Ces deus ost de mon soirement,

These two I-except from my oath

ge n'en ost plus de tote gent.

4210

I not-thereof except more of all folk

De deus ne me pus escondire:

Of two not myself I-can clear

du ladre, du roi Marc, mon sire.

of-the lazarus of-the king Mark my lord

Li ladres fu entre mes janbes

The lazar was between my legs

* * *

(lacuna)

4215 Qui voudra que je plus en face,

Whoever will-wish that I more thereof do

tote en sui preste en ceste place.»

all thereof I-am ready in this place

Tuit cil qui l'ont oï jurer

All those who her-have heard swear

ne püent pas plus endurer:

not can at-all more endure

«Dex!» fait chascuns, «si fiere a jure!

God says each so fierce she-has(-sworn) oath

4220 Tant en a fait après droiture!

So-much thereof she-has done beyond justice

Plus i a mis que ne disoient

More there she-has put than — they-said

ne que li fel ne requeroient:

nor than the felons — required

ne li covient plus escondit.

not (to-)her it-bebooves more denial

Q'avez oï, grant et petit,

What-you-have heard great and small

4225 du roi Marc et de son nevo?

of-the king Mark and of his nephew

Ele a juré et mis en vo

She has sworn and put in vow

q'entre ses cuises nus n'entra

that-between her thighs any not-entered

que li meseaus qui la porta

but the leper who her carried

ier, endroit tierce, outre les guez,

yesterday about tierce beyond the fords

et li rois Marc, ses espousez.

and the king Mark her wedded

Mal ait jamais l'en mesquerra!»

Ill have ever-more her-thereof will-mistrust

Li rois Artus en piez leva,

The king Arthur on feet rose

le roi Marc a mis a raison,

the king Mark he-has set to speech

que tuit l'oïrent li baron:

so-that all it-heard the barons

«Rois, la deraisne avon veüe

King the vindication we-have seen

et bien oïe et entendue.

and well heard and understood

Or esgardent li troi felon,

Now let-them-beware the three felons

Donoalent et Guenelon,

Denoalen and Guenelon

et Goudoïne li mauvès,

and Godoïne the wicked

qu'il n'en parolent sol jamès.

that-they not-thereof speak only ever-more

4230

4235

4240

Ja ne seront en cele terre

Ever not they-will-be in that land

que m'en tenist ne pais ne gerre,

that me-thereof should-hold nor peace nor war

des que j'orroie la novele

from that I-should-hear the news

de la roïne Yseut la bele,

of the queen Iseult the fair

4245 que n'i allons a esperon

that not-there we-go at spur

lui deraisnier par grant raison.

her to-vindicate by great reason

— Sire,» fait el, «vostre merci!»

Lord says she your mercy

Mot sont de cort li troi haï.

Much are by court the three hated

Les corz departent, si s'en vont.

The courts they-part so themselves-thence they-go

4250 Yseut la bele o le chief blont

Iseult the fair with the head blond

mercie mot le roi Artur.

thanks much the king Arthur

«Dame,» fait-il, «jos aseür:

Lady says-he I-you assure

ne trouverez mais qui vos die,

not you-will-find ever who (to-)you say

tant con j'aie santé ne vie,

so-long as I-have health nor life

4255 nis une rien se amor non.

even one thing except love not

Mal le penserent li felon.

Ill it thought the felons

Ge prié le roi vostre seignor,

I pray the king your lord

et feelment, mot par amor,

and faithfully much by love

que mais felon de vos ne croie.»

that more felon of you not he-believe

Dist li roi Marc: «Se jel faisoie

Said the king Mark If I-it did

d'or en avant, si me blasmez.»

from-now thereon onward so me blame

Li uns de l'autre s'est seurez,

The one from the-other himself-is parted

chascun s'en vient a son roiaume:

each himself-thence comes to his kingdom

li rois Artus vient a Durelme,

the king Arthur comes to Durham

rois Marc remest en Cornoualle.

king Mark remained in Cornwall

Tristran sejourne, poi travaille.

Tristan stays little he-suffers

4260

4265

The Vengeance of Tristan

XVII

A spy offers the three barons a hole in the wall of the queen's chamber; Godoïne draws the first watch. Tristan, going to Iseult by night, lies in wait for Godoïne and misses him, then meets Denoalen, kills him, and cuts off his tresses to show the queen. Godoïne is already at the hole; Iseult sees his head against the light and, without naming him, has Tristan string his bow. The arrow goes through the eye, and the manuscript breaks off in the middle of the dying man's cry.

Li rois a Cornoualle en pes,

The king has Cornwall in peace

tuit le criement et luin et pres.

all him fear both far and near

En ses deduiz Yseut en meine,

Into his sports Iseult thence he-leads

4270 de lié amer forment se paine.

of her to-love greatly himself he-takes-pains

Mais, qui q'ait pais, li troi felon

But whoever that-have peace the three felons

sont en esgart de traïson.

are in watch of treason

A eus fu venue une espie,

To them was come a spy

qui va querant changier sa vie.

who goes seeking to-change his life

4275 «Seignors,» fait-il, «or m'entendez.

Lords says-be now me-attend

Se je vos ment, si me pendez.

If I you lie so me hang

Li rois vus sout l'autrier malgré

The king (to-)you knew the-other-day ill-will

et vos en acuelli en hé,

and you thereat took in hatred

por le deraisne sa mollier.

for the vindication (of-)his wife

Pendre m'otroi ou essillier,

To-hang me-I-grant or to-exile

se ne vos mostre apertement

if not you I-show openly

Tristran, la ou son aise atent

Tristan there where his opportunity he-awaits

de parler o sa chiere drue.

of to-speak with his dear beloved

Il est repost, si sai sa mue.

He is bidden so I-know his lair

Qant li rois vait a ses deduiz...

When the king goes to his sports

(Tristran set mot de Malpertuis),

Tristan knows much of Malpertuis

en la chanbre vet congié prendre.

into the chamber he-goes leave to-take

De moi faciez en un feu cendre,

Of me make in a fire ash

se vos alez a la fenestre

if you go to the window

de la chanbre, derier'a destre,

of the chamber behind-at right

se n'i veez Tristran venir,

if not-there you-see Tristan come

4280

4285

4290

s'espee çainte, un arc tenir,

his-sword girded a bow to-hold

deus seetes en l'autre main.

two arrows in the-other hand

Enuit li verrez ou par main.

Tonight him you-will-see or in the-morning

4295 — Comment le sez? — Je l'ai veü.

How it thou-knowest I it-have seen

— Tristan? — Je, voire, et conneü.

Tristan I truly and recognized

— Qant i fu il? — Hui main l'i vi.

When there was he Today morning him-there I-saw

— Et qui o lui? — Cel son ami.

And who with him That his friend

— Ami? et qui? — Dan Govenal.

Friend and who Lord Govenal

4300 — Ou se sont mis? — En haut ostal

Where themselves are-they put In noble lodging

se deduint. — C'est chiés Dinas?

themselves they-disport This-is at-the-house-of Dinas

— Et je que sai? — Il n'i sont pas

And I what know-I They not-there are at-all

sanz son seü! — Asez puet estre.

without his knowledge Quite it-can be

— Ou verron nos? — Par la fenestre

Where shall-see we Through the window

4305 de la chanbre, ce es tot voir.

of the chamber this is all true

Se gel vos mostre, grant avoir

If I-it you show great wealth

en doi avoir, quant l'en ratent

thereof I-must have since one it-awaits-in-turn

— nomez l'avoir. — Un marc d'argent.

name the-wealth A mark of-silver

— Et plus assez que la pramesse,

And more much than the promise

si vos aït iglise et messe.

so you help church and mass

Se tu mostres, n'i puez fallir

If thou showest not-there thou-canst fail

ne te façon amanantir.

not thee we-make to-enrich

— Or m'entendez,» fait li cuvert...

Now me-attend says the base-one

«et un petit pertus overt

and a little hole open

endroit la chanbre la roïne.

opposite the chamber of-the queen

Par dedevant vet la cortine.

In front goes the curtain

Triés la chanbrë est grant la doiz

Behind the chamber is great the spring

et bien espesse li jagloiz.

and very thick the sedge

L'un de vos trois i aut matin;

The-one of you three there let-him-go in-the-morning

4310

4315

- 4320 par la fraite du neuf jardin
by the breach of-the new garden
 voist belement tresque au pertus.
let-him-go quietly as-far-as to-the hole
 Fors la fenestre n'i a plus.
Except the window not-there is more
 Faites une longue brochete,
Make a long little-spit
 a un coutel, bien agüete;
with a knife well sharpened
 4325 poigniez le drap de la cortine
prick the cloth of the curtain
 o la broche poignant d'espine.
with the point sharp of-thorn
 La cortine souavet sache
The curtain softly draw
 au pertuset (c'on ne l'estache),
at-the little-hole that-one not it-fasten
 que tu voies la dedenz cler,
so-that thou see there within clearly
 4330 qant il venra a li parler.
when he will-come to her to-speak
 S'eissi t'en prenz sol trois jorz garde,
If-thus thee-thereof thou-takest only three days heed
 atant otroi que l'en m'en arde,
thereupon I-grant that one me-thereof burn
 se ne veez ce que je di.»
if not you-see that which I say

Fait chascun d'eus: «Je vos afi

Says each of-them I you pledge

a tenir nostre covenant.»

to hold our covenant

L'espie font aler avant.

The-spy they-make go forward

Lors devisent li geus d'eus trois

Then they-settle the which of-them three

ira premier voier l'orlois

will-go first to-see the-dalliance

que Tristran an la chanbre maine

that Tristan in the chamber leads

o celié qui seue est demeine.

with her who his is proper

Otroié ont que Goudoïne

Granted they-have that Godoïne

ira au premerain termine.

will-go at-the first term

Departent soi, chascun s'en vet,

They-part themselves each himself-thence goes

demain savront con Tristran sert.

tomorrow they-will-know how Tristan serves

Dex! la franche ne se gardoit

God the noble-one not herself guarded

des felons ne de lor tripot.

from-the felons nor from their plot

Par Perinis, un suen prochain,

By Perinis a her kinsman

4335

4340

4345

avoit mandé que l'endemain

she-had sent-word that the-morrow

Tristran venist a lié matin:

Tristan should-come to her in-the-morning

4350 li rois iroit a Saint Lubin.

the king would-go to Saint Lubin

Oez, seignors, quel aventure!

Hear lords what adventure

L'endemain fu la nuit obscure.

The-morrow was the night dark

Tristran se fu mis a la voie

Tristan himself was put on the way

par l'espece d'un'espinoie.

through the-thicket of-a-thorn-brake

4355 A l'issue d'une gaudine

At the-issue of-a woodland

garda, vit venir Gondoïne:

he-looked he-saw come Godoïne

et s'en venoit de son recet.

and himself-thence he-came from his retreat

Tristran li a fet un aget,

Tristan (for-)him has made an ambush

repost se fu an l'espinoi.

bidden himself he-was in the-thorn-brake

4360 «Ha! Dex,» fait il, «regarde moi,

Ab God says he look-at me

que cil qui vient ne m'aperçoive

that he who comes not me-perceive

tant que devant moi le reçoive!»

until that before me him I-receive

En sus l'atent, s'espee tient.

At distance him-be-awaits his-sword he-holds

Goudoïne autre voie tient.

Godoine other way holds

Tristran remest, a qui mot poise.

4365

Tristan remained to whom much it-weighs

Ist du buison, cele part toise,

He-goes-out from-the bush that way he-heads

mais por noient; quar cil s'esloigne,

but for nothing for he himself-removes

qui en fel leu a mis sa poine.

who in evil place has put his pains

Tristran garda au luien, si vit

Tristan looked to-the far so he-saw

(ne demora que un petit)

4370

not it-delayed but a little

Denoalan venir anblant,

Denoalen come ambling

o deus levriers, meruelles grant.

with two greyhounds marvelously great

Afustez est a un pomier.

Posted he-is at an apple-tree

Denoalent vint le sentier

Denoalen came the path

sor un petit palefroï noir.

4375

on a little palfrey black

Ses chiens out envoié mover

His dogs he-had sent to-rouse

en une espoise un fier sengler.

into a thicket a fierce boar

Ainz qu'il le puisen desangler,

Before that-they it can dislodge

avra lor mestre tel colee

will-have their master such blow

4380 que ja par mire n'ert sanee.

that ever by physician not-it-will-be healed

Tristran li preuz fu desfublez.

Tristan the valiant was unmantled

Denoalen est tost alez;

Denoalen is quickly gone

ainz n'en sout mot, quant Tristran saut.

ever not-thereof he-knew word when Tristan leaps

Füir s'en veut, mais il i faut:

To-flee himself-thence he-wishes but he there fails

4385 Tristran li fu devant trop pres.

Tristan (to-)him was before too near

Morir le fist. Q'en pout il mes?

To-die him he-made What-thereof could he more

Sa mort queroit: cil s'en garda,

His death he-sought he himself-thereof guarded

que le chief du bu li sevrá.

so-that the head from-the trunk (to-)him he-severed

Ne li lut dire: «Tu me bleces.»

Not (to-)him it-was-allowed to-say Thou me woundest

4390 O l'espee trencha les trecés,

With the-sword he-cut the tresses

en sa chauce les a boutées,

into his hose them he-has thrust

qant les avra Yseut mostrees,

when them he-will-have (to-)Iseult shown

qu'ele l'en croie qu'il l'a mort.

so-that-she him-thereof believe that-he him-has killed

D'iluec s'en part Tristran an fort.

From-there himself-thence parts Tristan in anxiety

«Ha! las,» fait il, «qu'est devenuz

4395

Ab alas says he what-is become

Goudouïnë (or s'est toluz),

(of-)Godoine now himself-he-is removed

que vi venir orainz si tost?

whom I-saw come just-now so soon

Est il passez par la tantost?

Is he passed by there so-soon

S'il m'atendist, savoir peüst

If-he me-had-awaited to-know he-might

ja mellor gerredon n'eüst

4400

ever better reward not-he-would-have

Donoalan, le fel, n'en porte

Denoalen the felon thereof carries

qui j'ai laisié la teste morte.»

whose I-have left the head dead

Tristran laise le cors gesant

Tristan leaves the body lying

enmié la lande, envers, sanglent.

in-midst-of the heath face-up bloody

Tert s'espee, si l'a remise

4405

He-wipes his-sword so it-he-has put-back

en son fuerre, sa chape a prise,

into its sheath his cloak he-has taken

le chaperon el chief se met,

the hood on-the head himself he-puts

sor le cors un grant fust atret,
upon the body a great log he-drag

a la chanbre sa drue vint.
to the chamber (of-)his beloved he-came

4410 Mais or oiez con li avint.
But now hear how (to-)him it-befell

Goudoïne fu acoruz

Godoiné was come-running

et fu ainz que Tristan venuz.
and was before that Tristan come

La cortine ot dedenz percie.
The curtain he-had within pierced

Vit la chanbre, qui fu jonchie,
He-saw the chamber which was strewn

4415 tot vit quant que dedenz avoit,
all he-saw whatever that within there-was
 home fors Perinis ne voit.
man except Perinis not he-sees

Brengain i vint, la damoisele,
Brangain there came the damsel

ou out pignié Yseut la bele:
where she-had combed Iseult the fair

le pieigne avoit encor o soi.
the comb she-had still with her

4420 Le fel qui fu a la paroi
The felon who was at the wall

garda, si vit Tristan entrer,
looked so he-saw Tristan enter

qui tint un arc d'aubor. Li ber
who held a bow of-laburnum The noble-one

en sa main tint ses deus seetes,
in his hand he-held his two arrows

en l'autre deus treces longuetes.
in the-other two tresses longish

Sa chape osta, pert ses genz cors.
His cloak he-took-off there-appears his fair body

4425

Iseut, la bele o les crins sors,
Iseult the fair with the locks golden

contre lui lieve, sil salue.
toward him rises and-him greets

Par sa fenestre vit la nue
Through her window she-saw the shadow

de la teste de Gondoïne.
of the head of Godoïne

De grant savoir fu la roïne,
Of great wisdom was the queen

4430

d'ire tresue sa persone.
with-anger sweats her person

Yseut Tristrans en araisone:
Iseult Tristan thereupon addresses

«Se Dex me gart,» fait il, «au suen,
So God me guard says he (among-)the his-own
 vez les treces Denoalen.
see the tresses (of-)Denoalen

Ge t'ai de lui pris la venjance:
I thee-have of him taken the vengeance

4435

jamaïs par lui escu ne lance

ever by him shield nor lance

n'iert achatez ne mis en pris.

not-will-be bought nor put in price

— Sire,» fait ele, «ge q'en puis?

Lord says she I what-thereof can

Mes prié vos que cest arc tendez,

But I-pray you that this bow you-bend

4440 et verron com il est bendez.»

and we-shall-see how it is strung

Tristran s'esteut, si s'apensa,

Tristan himself-stood so himself-be-bethought

oiez! en son penser tensa.

bear in his thought he-strove

Prent s'entente, si tendi l'arc.

He-takes his-attention so he-bent the-bow

Enquiert noveles du roi Marc:

He-inquires news of-the king Mark

4445 Yseut l'en dit ce qu'ele en sot.

Iseult (to-)him-thereof says that which-she thereof knew

* * *

(lacuna)

S'il en peüst vis eschaper,

If-he thereof could alive escape

du roi Marc et d'Iseut sa per

of-the king Mark and of-Iseult his mate

referoit sordre mortel gerre.

he-would-make-again to-rise mortal war

4450 Cil, qui Dex doinst anor conquerre,

He to-whom God grant honor to-win

l'engardera de l'eschaper.

him-will-binder from the-escaping

Yseut n'out cure de gaber:

Iseult not-had care of jesting

«Amis, une seete encorde,

Friend an arrow string

garde du fil qu'il ne retorde.

take-heed of-the cord that-it not twist

Je voi tel chose dont moi poise.

4455

I see such thing whereof (to-)me it-weighs

Tristran, de l'arc nos pren ta toise.»

Tristan of the-bow (for-)us take thy draw

Tristran s'estut, si pensa pose,

Tristan himself-stood so he-thought a-while

bien soit q'el voit aucune chose

well he-knows that-she sees some thing

qui li desplait. Garda en haut:

which (to-)her displeases He-looked on high

grant poor a, trenble et tresaut.

4460

great fear he-has be-trembles and be-starts

Contre le jor, par la cortine,

Against the day through the curtain

vit la teste de Godoïne:

he-saw the head of Godoïne

«Ha! Dex, vrai roi, tant riche trait

Ah God true king many-a rich shot

ai d'arc et de seete fait:

I-have of-bow and of arrow made

consentez moi qu'a cest ne falle!

4465

grant me that-at this not I-fail

Un des trois feus de Cornoualle

One of-the three felons of Cornwall

voi, a grant tort, par la defors.

I-see at great wrong through there outside

Dex, qui le tuen saintisme cors

God who the thine most-holy body

por le pueple meïs a mort,

for the people thou-puttest to death

4470 lai moi vengeance avoir du tort

let me vengeance have of-the wrong

que cil felon muevent vers moi!»

that these felons move toward me

Lors se torna vers la paroi,

Then himself he-turned toward the wall

sovent ot entesé, si trait.

often he-had aimed so he-shoots

La seete si tost s'en vait

The arrow so swiftly itself-thence goes

4475 riens ne peüst de li gander.

thing not could from it escape

Par mié l'uel la li fait brandir,

Through midst-of the-eye it (to-)him it-makes quiver

trencha le test et la cervelle.

it-cut the skull and the brain

Esmerillons ne arondele

Merlin nor swallow

de la moitié si tost ne vole;

by the half so swiftly not flies

4480 se ce fust une pome mole,

if this were an apple soft

n'issist la seete plus tost.

not-would-issue the arrow more swiftly

Cil chiet, si se hurte a un post,

He falls so himself he-strikes at a post

onques ne piez ne braz ne mut.

ever nor feet nor arm not he-moved

Seulement dire ne li lut:

Even to-say not (to-)him it-was-allowed

«Bleciez sui! Dex! confession

Wounded I-am God confession

* * *

(lacuna)

4485

ANONYMOUS

La Folie Tristan d'Oxford

The Madness of Tristan: The Oxford Poem

Tristan's Grief, and the Crossing

I

Tristan is at home in his own country, sick with the loss of Iseult and telling no one, not even Kaberdin. He resolves to cross to England on foot and poorly dressed so as not to be known, takes ship, and lands at Tintagel, where Mark is holding his court and where he hears that the queen is there and pensive. Neither prowess nor cunning can win him speech of her, so he plays the fool: he trades clothes with a fisherman, shears his head high and in a cross, stains his face with a herb, changes his voice, and comes with a stake to the castle gate, where the porter takes him for a madman.

Tristran surjurne en sun païs,

Tristan sojourns in his land

dolent, murnes, tristes, pensifs.

sorrowful gloomy sad pensive

Purpenset soi ke faire pot,

He-bethinks himself what to-do he-can

car acun confort lu estot:

for some comfort (to-)him it-behooves

confort lu estot de guarir

comfort (to-)him it-behooves of to-recover

u, si ço nun, melz volt murir;

or if that not rather he-wishes to-die

melz volt murir a une faiz

rather he-wishes to-die at one time

ke tut dis estre si destraiç,

than all days to-be so tormented

- e melz volt une faiz murir
and rather he-wishes one time to-die
- 10 ke tut tens en peine languir.
than all time in pain to-languish
- Mort est assez k'en dolur vit;
Dead is quite who-in sorrow lives
- penser confunt hume e ocist;
thought confounds man and kills
- peine, dolur, penser, ahan
pain sorrow thought toil
- tut ensement confunt Tristan.
all likewise confound Tristan
- 15 Il veit ke il ne puet guarir;
He sees that he not can recover
- senz cunfort lui estot murir.
without comfort (to-)him it-behooves to-die
- Ore est il dunc de la mort cert,
Now is he then of the death certain
- quant il s'amur, sa joie pert;
when he his-love his joy loses
- quant il pert la reine Ysolt,
when he loses the queen Iseult
- 20 murir desiret, murir volt,
to-die he-desires to-die he-wishes
- mais sul tant ke ele soüst
but only so-much that she should-know
- k'il pur la sue amur murrust,
that-he for the her love should-die
- kar si Ysolt sa mort saveit,
for if Iseult his death knew

siveus plus suef en murreit.

at-least more softly thereof he-would-die

Vers tute gent se cele e doute,

25

From all folk himself he-bides and fears

ne ne volt descobrir le dute;

nor not he-wishes to-uncover the dread

il s'en celet, ço est la fin,

he himself-thereof bides that is the end

vers sun compaingnun Kaherdin;

from his companion Kaberdin

car ço cremeit, s'il li cuntast

for that he-feared if-he (to-)him told

de sun purpens, k'il l'en ostast,

30

of his purpose that-he him-thereof should-dissuade

kar ço pensoit e ço voleit

for that he-thought and that he-wished

aler en Engleterre dreit,

to-go into England straight

nent a cheval, mais tut a pé,

not on horse but all on foot

k'el país ne seit entercié...

so-that-in-the land not he-be recognized

kar il i ert mult cuneüz,

35

for he there was much known

si serrait tost aparceüz;

so he-would-be soon perceived

mais de povre home k'a pé vait

but of poor man who-on foot goes

nen est tenu gueres de plait;

not is held much of account

- de povre message e de nu
of poor messenger and of naked
- 40 est poi de plait en curt tenu.
is little of account in court held
- Il se penset si desguiser
He himself thinks so to-disguise
- e sun semblant si remuer
and his semblance so to-alter
- ke ja nuls hom ne conestrat
that ever any man not will-know
- ke Tristan seit, tant nel verrat.
that Tristan be-be so-much him be-will-see
- 45 Parent, procein, per ne ami
Kinsman near-kin peer nor friend
- ne pot saver l'estre de li,
not can know the-state of him
- tant par se covre en sun curage
so much himself be-covers in his heart
- k'a nul nel dit, si fait ke sage,
that-to any not-it be-says so be-does as wise
- kar suvent vent damage grant:
for often comes harm great
- 50 par dire sun conseil avant:
by telling his counsel forth
- ki s'i celast e nel deïst,
whoever himself-there concealed and not-it said
- ja mal, so crei, n'en avenist;
ever ill that I-believe not-thereof would-come

par conseil dire e descuvrir

by counsel to-tell and to-disclose

solt maint mal suvent avenir.

is-wont many-an ill often to-come

La gent en sunt mult desturbé

The folk thereat are much troubled

de so ke vunt suvent pensé.

of that which they-go often thinking

Tristran se cele cuintement,

Tristan himself hides cunningly

si pense mult estreitement.

so he-thinks very closely

Il nel met mie en long respit;

He not-it puts at-all in long delay

la nuit se purpense en sun lit

the night himself he-bethinks in his bed

e l'endemain très par matin

and the-morrow very by morning

acueut sun erre et sun chemin.

he-takes-up his journey and his road

Il ne finat unke d'errer

He not ceased ever from-journeying

si est venu droit a la mer.

so he-is come straight to the sea

A la mer vent e truve prest

To the sea he-comes and finds ready

la nef e quanque mester est.

the ship and whatever needful is

La nef ert fort et bele e grande,

The ship was strong and fair and great

55

60

65

bone cum cele k'ert markande;

good as one which-was merchant

de plusurs mers chargee esteit;

of several wares laden it-was

70 en Engleterre curre devait.

into England to-run it-was-to

Li notiner alent lur treff

The sailors raise their sail

et desancrerent cele nef:

and unanchored that ship

aler volent en alte mer;

to-go they-wish into high sea

li venz est bon pur ben sigler.

the wind is good for well to-sail

75 Atant es vus Tristan li pruz;

Thereupon behold you Tristan the valiant

dit lur: «Sennurs, Deu vus guard tuz!

he-says (to-)them Lords God you keep all

Quel part en irés vus, Deu l'oié?

What part thence will-go you God it-bear

— En Engleterre», funt cil, «a joie!»

Into England say they with joy

Tristan respunt al notiner:

Tristan answers to-the sailor

80 «A joie i pussez vus aler!

With joy there may-be-able you go

Sennurs, kar me portez od vus!

Lords now me carry with you

En Bretaine aler volun nus.»

Into Britain to-go wish we

Cil li ad dit: «Ben le graant;

He (to-)him has said Well it I-grant

entrez dunc tost, venez avant.»

enter then quickly come forward

Tristran i vent e si entre enz.

Tristan there comes and so he-enters in

El vail amunt s'i fiert li venz.

In-the sail above itself-there strikes the wind

A grant esplait s'en vunt par l'unde,

At great speed themselves-thence they-go over the-wave

trenchant en vunt la mer parfunde.

cutting thence they-go the sea deep

Mult unt bon vent a grant plenté,

Much they-have good wind at great plenty

a plaisir e lur volunté.

at pleasure and their will

Tut droit vers Engleterre curent,

All straight toward England they-run

dous nuiz e un jur i demurent;

two nights and one day there they-tarry

al secund jur venent al port,

at-the second day they-come to-the port

a Tintagel, si droit record.

at Tintagel so rightly I-record

Li roi Markes i surjurnout,

The king Mark there sojourned

si fesait la reïne Ysolt,

so did the queen Iseult

85

90

95

e la grant curt iloc esteit

and the great court there was

cum li reis a custume aveit.

as the king in custom had

Tintagel esteit un chastel

Tintagel was a castle

100 ki mult par ert e fort e bel;

which very much was both strong and fair

ne cremout asalt ne engin

not it-feared assault nor engine

(lacuna)

*** ki vaile:

(lacuna) which be-worthy

sur la mer sist en Cornuaile

over the sea it-sat in Cornwall

105 la tur ki ert e fort e grant:

the tower which was both strong and great

jadis la fermerent jeant.

formerly it built giants

De marbre sunt tut li quarel

Of marble are all the blocks

asis e junt mult ben e bel.

set and joined very well and fair

Eschekerez esteit le mur

Checkered was the wall

110 si cum de sinopre e d'azur.

so as of sinople and of-azure

Al chastel esteit une porte:

At-the castle was a gate

ele esteit bele e grant e forte.

it was fair and great and strong

Ben serreit l'entree e l'issue

Well would-be the-entry and the-issue

par dous prudumes defendue.

by two worthy-men defended

La surjurnout Markes li reis,

115

There sojourned Mark the king

od Bretuns, od Cornualeis,

with Britons with Cornishmen

pur le chastel ke il amout;

for the castle that he loved

si feseit la raïne Ysolt.

so did the queen Iseult

Plentet i out de praerie,

Plenty there was of meadow

plentet de bois, de venerie,

120

plenty of wood of venery

d'ewes duces, de pescheries

of-waters sweet of fisheries

e des beles guaaineries.

and of-the fair farmlands

Les nefes ki par la mer siglouent

The ships which by the sea sailed

al port del chastel arivoient;

at-the port of-the castle arrived

par mer iloc al rei veneient

125

by sea there to-the king came

genz d'autres terres kil querreient,

folk of-other lands who-him sought

e li estrange e li privé,

both the strangers and the intimates

e pur so l'ad il enamé.

and for that it-has be loved

Li lius ert beus e delitables,

The place was fair and delightful

130 li païs bons e profitables,

the land good and profitable

e si fu jadis apelez

and so it-was formerly called

Tintagel li chastel faez.

Tintagel the castle enchanted

Chastel faé fu dit a dreit,

Castle enchanted it-was said by right

kar dous faiz l'an tuz se perdeit.

for two times in-the-year wholly it lost-itself

135 Li païsant dient pur veir

The country-folk say for truth

ke dous faiz l'an nel pot l'en veir,

that two times in-the-year not-it can one see

ne hom del païs ne nul hom,

nor man of-the land nor any man

ja si grant garde en prenge l'on,

ever so great heed thereof may-take one

une en ivern, autre en esté;

one in winter other in summer

140 so dient la gent del vengné.

that say the folk of-the region

La nef Tristan est arivee:

The ship (of-)Tristan is arrived

el port senement est ancree.

in-the port safely it-is anchored

Tristan salt sus e si s'en ist

Tristan leaps up and so himself-thence he-goes-out

e sur la rive si s'asist.

and on the shore so himself-he-sat

Nuveles demande e enquete

News he-asks and inquires

del rai Markes e u il ert.

of-the king Mark and where he was

Hom li dit k'en la vile esteit

One (to-)him says that-in the town he-was

e grant curt tenue i aveit.

and great court held there he-had

«E u est Ysolt la raïne,

And where is Iseult the queen

e Brenguain, sa bele meschine?

and Brangain her fair maid

— Par fai, e eles sunt ici:

By faith and they are here

encor n'at guere ke les vi;

still not-there-is much since them I-saw

mais certes la raïne Ysolt

but certainly the queen Iseult

pensive est mult, cum ele solt.»

pensive is much as she is-wont

Tristan, quant ot Ysolt numer,

Tristan when he-bears Iseult name

145

150

155

del quer cumence a suspir;

from-the heart he-begins to sigh

purpenset sai d'une vaidie:

he-bethinks himself of-a ruse

cum il purrat veer s'amie.

how he shall-be-able see his-friend

Ben set ke n'i purrat parler

Well he-knows that not-there he-shall-be-able speak

160 pur nul engin ke pot trover.

for any device that he-can find

Proeisse ne lu pot valeir,

Prowess not (to-)him can avail

sen, ne cuintise, ne saveir,

sense nor cunning nor wisdom

kar Markes li rois, so set ben,

for Mark the king that he-knows well

le heeit sur trestute ren,

him hates above every thing

165 e s'il vif prendre le poeit,

and if-be alive to-take him could

il set ben ke il l'ocireit.

he knows well that he him-would-slay

Dunc se purpense de s'amie

Then himself he-bethinks of his-friend

e dit: «Ki en cheut s'il m'ocie?

and says Who thereof cares if-be me-slay

Ben dai murir pur sue amur.

Well I-must die for her love

170 Las! ja me mur jo chescun jur.

Alas already me die I each day

Ysolt, pur vus tant par me doil,

Iseult for you so much me I-grieve

Ysolt, pur vus ben murir voil.

Iseult for you well to-die I-wish

Ysolt, si ci me savïez,

Iseult if here me you-knew

ne sai s'a mai parlerïez;

not I-know if-to me you-would-speak

pur vostre amur sui afolez,

for your love I-am maddened

si sui venu e nel savez.

so I-am come and not-it you-know

Ne sai cument parler od vus:

Not I-know how to-speak with you

pur ço sui jo tant anguissus.

for that am I so anguished

«Or voil espruver autre ren,

Now I-wish to-try other thing

saver si ja me vendreit ben:

to-know if ever (to-)me it-would-come well

feindre mei fol, faire folie;

to-feign myself fool to-make folly

dunc n'est ço sen e grant veisdie?

then not-is that sense and great ruse

Cuintise est; quant n'ai liu e tens,

Cunning it-is since not-I-have place and time

ne puis faire nul greniur sens.

not I-can do any greater sense

175

180

- 185 Tels me tendra pur asoté
Such-a-one me will-hold for besotted
 ke plus de lu serraï sené,
who more than he I-shall-be sensible
 e tels me tendra pur bricun
and such-a-one me will-hold for fool
 k'avra plus fol en sa maisun.»
who-will-have more fool in his house
 Tristan a cest conseil se tient:
Tristan to this counsel himself holds
- 190 un peschur vait ki vers lu vient.
a fisherman he-sees who toward him comes
 Une gunele aveit vestue
A tunic he-bad worn
 d'une esclavine ben velue;
of-a rough-cloak well shaggy
 la gunele fu senz gerun,
the tunic was without gore
 mais desus out un caperun.
but above there-was a hood
- 195 Tristan le vait, vers lu le ceine:
Tristan him sees toward him him he-beckons
 en liu repost od lu l'en maine.
into place hidden with him him-thence he-leads
 «Amis», fet il, «changuns nos dras;
Friend says he let-us-change our clothes
 li men sunt bons, ke tu avras;
the mine are good which thou wilt-have
 ta cote avrai, ke mult me plest,
thy coat I-shall-have which much me pleases

kar de tels dras suvent me vest.»

200

for of such clothes often me I-clothe

Li peschere vit les dras bons,

The fisherman saw the clothes good

prist les, si li dunat les sons,

he-took them so (to-)him he-gave — his

e quant il fu saisi des dras,

and when he was seized of-the clothes

lez fu, si s'en parti chaut pas.

glad he-was so himself-thence he-parted hot pace

Tristran unes forces aveit

205

Tristan a shears had

k'il meïmes porter soleit;

that-he himself to-carry was-wont

de grant manere les amat;

of great manner them he-loved

Ysolt les forces lu donat.

Iseult the shears (to-)him gave

Od les forces haut se tundi;

With the shears high himself he-shore

ben senlle fol u esturdi;

210

well he-seems fool or crazed

en après se tundi en croiz;

in after himself he-shore in cross

Tristran sout bien muer sa voiz;

Tristan knew well to-change his voice

od une herbete teinst sun vis

with a little-herb he-stained his face

k'il aporta de sun päis:

that-he brought from his land

- 215 il oinst sun vis de la licur,
he anointed his face with the juice
 puis ennerci, muad culur;
then be-blackened be-changed color
 n'aveit hume ki al mund fust
not-there-was man who in-the world were
 ki pur Tristan le cuneüst,
who for Tristan him should-know
 ne ki pur Tristan l'enterçast,
nor who for Tristan him-should-recognize
 220 tant nel veüst u escutast.
so-much him be-should-see or hear
 Il ad d'une haie un pel pris
He has from-a hedge a stake taken
 e en sun col l'en ad il mis.
and on his neck it-thereof has he put
 Vers le chastel en vait tut dreit;
Toward the castle thence he-goes all straight
 chaskun ad poür ki le veit.
each has fear who him sees
 225 Li porters, quant il l'ad veü,
The porter when he him-has seen
 mult l'ad cum fol bricun tenu.
much him-has as mad fool held
 Il li ad dit: «Venez avant;
He (to-)him has said Come forward
 u avez vus demurré tant?»
where have you stayed so-long

Li fols respunt: «As noces fui

The fool answers At-the wedding I-was

l'abé del Munt, ke ben cunui.

230

(of-)the-abbot of-the Mount whom well I-knew

Une habeesse ad espusee,

An abbess he-has wedded

une grosse dame velee.

a fat lady veiled

Il nen ad prestre ne abé,

There not is priest nor abbot

moine ne clerc ne ordiné

monk nor clerk nor ordained

de Besençon des ke al Munt,

235

from Besançon right up to-the Mount

de quel manere ke il sunt,

of what manner that they be

ki ne seient mandé as noces,

who not be summoned to-the wedding

e tuz i portent pels e croces;

and all there carry stakes and croziers

en la lande, suz Bel Encumbre,

in the heath under Bel Encumbre

la sailent e juent en l'umbre.

240

there they-leap and play in the-shade

Je m'en parti pur ço ke dai

I myself-thence parted for that that I-must

al manger ui servir le rai».

at-the meal today to-serve the king

The Fool before King Mark

II

The porter lets him in for a son of Urgan the shaggy, and the varlets hoot him through the court to the hall. Before Mark he says his mother was a whale and a tigress suckled him, and offers his sister in exchange for Iseult; asked where he would keep her, he describes a hall of glass hung in the air. Then he names himself Trantris to the queen and recalls the Morholt, the poisoned wound, the healing, the dragon, the sword in the bath, and the drink on the ship; she calls it lies and would have him put out, but Mark keeps her seated and asks the fool what he can hunt.

Li porter li ad respondu:

The porter (to-)him has answered

«Entrez, fis Urgan le velu.

Enter son (of-)Urgan the shaggy

245 Granz e velu estes assez:

Big and shaggy you-are enough

Urgan en so ben resemblez.»

Urgan in that well you-resemble

Li fol entre enz par le wiket;

The fool enters in by the wicket

cuntre lui current li valet.

toward him run the varlets

Il l'escrient cum hom fet lu:

They him-shout-at as one does (to-)wolf

250 «Veez le fol! hu! hu! hu! hu!»

See the fool hu hu hu hu

Li valet e li esquier

The varlets and the squires

de buis le cuident arocher.

with boxwood him think to-pelt

Par la curt le vunt cunvaient

Through the court him they-go escorting

li fol valet kil vunt siwant.

the mad varlets who-him go following

Il lur tresturne mult suvent;

He (to-)them turns-about very often

estes ki li gacte a tanlent.

those-are who (at-)him throws at will

Si nus l'asalt devers le destre,

If any him-assails toward the right

il turne e fert devers senestre.

he turns and strikes toward left

Vers l'us de la sale aprochat;

Toward the-door of the hall he-approached

le pel el col, dedenz entrat.

the stake on-the neck within he-entered

Senes s'en aparçout li rais

Straightway himself-thereof perceives the king

la u il sist al mestre dais.

there where he sat at-the chief dais

Il dit: «Or vai un bon sergant;

He says Now I-see a good sergeant

fetes le mai venir avant».

make him (to-)me come forward

Plusurs sailent, cuntre li vunt,

Several leap toward him they-go

en sa guise saluet l'unt,

in his manner greeted him-they-have

255

260

265

puis si amenerent le fol

then so they-led the fool

devant le rai, le pel el col.

before the king the stake on-the neck

Markes dit: «Ben vengez, amis;

Mark says Well be-come friend

270 dunt estes vus? K'avez ci quis?»

whence are you What-you-have here sought

Li fols respunt: «Ben vus dirrai

The fool answers Well (to-)you I-shall-say

dunt sui e ke je ci quis ai.

whence I-am and what I here sought have

Ma mere fu une baleine,

My mother was a whale

en mer hantat cume sereine,

in sea she-dwelt as siren

275 mès je ne sai u je nasqui.

but I not know where I was-born

Mult sai jo ben ki me nurri:

Much know I well who me nursed

une grant tigre m'aleitat

a great tigress me-suckled

en une roche u me truvat.

in a rock where me she-found

El me truvat suz un perun,

She me found under a block

280 quidat ke fusse sun foïn,

she-thought that I-were her cub

si me nurri de sa mamele.

so me she-nursed of her teat

Mais une sorur ai mult bele:

But a sister I-have very fair

ge la vus durai, si volez,

I her (to-)you shall-give if you-wish

pur Ysolt ke vus tant amez.»

for Iseult whom you so-much love

Li rais s'en rit e puis respunt:

The king himself-thereat laughs and then answers

«Ke dit la merveile del mund?

What says the marvel of-the world

— Reis, je vus durai ma sorur

King I (to-)you shall-give my sister

pur Ysolt ki aim par amur.

for Iseult whom I-love by love

Fesum bargaine, fesum change:

Let-us-make bargain let-us-make exchange

bon est a asaër estrange;

good it-is to try strange

d'Ysolt estes tut ennuez,

of-Iseult you-are all wearied

a un' autre vus acuintez;

with an other yourself acquaint

baillez moy la, jo la prendrai;

give me her I her shall-take

reis, pur amur vus servirai».

king for love you I-shall-serve

Li reis l'entant e si s'en rit

The king it-bears and so himself-thereat he-laughs

e dit al fol: «Si Deu t'ait,

and says to-the fool So God thee-help

285

290

295

si jo te doinse la roïne

if I thee should-give the queen

en eire e mete en ta saisine,

in haste and put in thy seisin

or me di ke tu en fereies

now me say what thou thereof wouldst-do

300 u en quel part tu la merraies.

or into what part thou her wouldst-lead

— Reis», fet li fol, «la sus en l'air

King says the fool there above in the-air

ai une sale u je repair.

I-have a hall where I dwell

De veire est faite, bele e grant;

Of glass it-is made fair and great

li solail vait par mi raiant;

the sun goes through midst(-of-it) shining

305 en l'air est e par nues pent,

in the-air it-is and by clouds it-hangs

ne berce e ne crolle pur vent.

not it-rocks and not it-shakes for wind

Delez la sale ad une chambre

Beside the hall there-is a chamber

faite de cristal e de lambre.

made of crystal and of paneling

Li solail, quant main leverat,

The sun when morning it-will-rise

310 leenz mult grant clarté rendrat.»

therein very great brightness it-will-render

Li reis e li autre s'en rient,
The king and the others themselves-thereat laugh
 entre els en parolent e dient:
among themselves thereof they-speak and say
 «Cist est bon fol, mult par dit ben;
This is good fool very much he-says well
 ben parole sur tute ren.
well he-speaks above every thing

— Reis», fet li fols, «mult aim Ysolt:

315

King says the fool much I-love Iseult
 pur lu mis quers se pleint e dolt.
for her my heart itself complains and grieves
 Jo sui Trantris, ki tant l'amai
I am Trantris who so-much her-loved
 e amerai tant cum vivrai.»
and shall-love so-long as I-shall-live

Ysolt l'entent, del quer suspire,
Iseult it-hears from-the heart she-sighs

vers le fol ad curuz e ire,
toward the fool she-has wrath and anger

320

dit: «Ki vus fist entrer ceenz?
she-says Who you made enter herein

Fol, tu n'es pas Trantris, tu menz.»
Fool thou not-art at-all Trantris thou liest

Li fols vers Ysolt plus entent
The fool toward Iseult more attends

k'il ne fesait vers l'autre gent;
than-he — did toward the-other folk

- 325 ben aparceit k'ele ad irrur,
well he-perceives that-she has anger
kar el vis mue la culur.
for in-the face she-changes the color
Puis dit après: «Raïne Ysolt,
Then he-says after Queen Iseult
Trantris sui, ki amer vus solt.
Trantris I-am who to-love you is-wont
Membre vus dait quant fui navrez,
To-remember you it-behooves when I-was wounded
330 (maint home le savent assez),
many-a man it know enough
quant me combati al Morhout
when myself I-fought with-the Morholt
ki vostre treü aver volt:
who your tribute to-have wished
a tel heür me cumbati
at such fortune myself I-fought
ke je l'en ocis, pas nel ni.
that I him-thereof slew at-all not-it I-deny
335 Malement i fu je navrés,
Badly there was I wounded
kar li bran fu envenimés.
for the brand was envenomed
L'os de la hanche m'entamat
The-bone of the hip me-it-cut-into
e li fors venim eschauffat,
and the strong venom it-beated
en l'os s'aerst, vertir le fist,
in the-bone itself-it-fastened to-turn it it-made

e tel dolor puis i assist

340

and such pain then there it-set

ki ne pout par mire guarir,

that not it-could by physician heal

si ke quidoie ben murir.

so that I-thought well to-die

En mer me mis, la voil murir,

Into sea myself I-put there I-wish to-die

tant par m'ennuat le languir.

so much me-wearied the languishing

Li venz levat, turment out grant,

345

The wind rose tempest it-had great

e chaçat ma nef en Irlant.

and drove my ship into Ireland

Al païs m'estut ariver

At-the land me-it-bebooved to-arrive

ke jo deveie plus duter,

which I ought most to-fear

kar j'aveie ocis le Morholt:

for I-had slain the Morholt

vostre uncle fu, raïne Ysolt;

350

your uncle he-was queen Iseult

pur ço dutai mult le païs,

for that I-feared much the land

mais jo fu naufrez e chitifs.

but I was wounded and wretched

Od ma harpe me delitoie,

With my harp myself I-delighted

je n'oi confort, ke tant amoie.

I not-had comfort that so-much I-loved

- 355 Ben tost en oïstes parler
Well soon thereof you-heard speak
 ke mult savoie ben harper;
that much I-knew well to-harp
 je fu sempres a curt mandez
I was straightway to court summoned
 tut issi cum ere navrez.
all thus as I-was wounded
 La raïne là me guari
The queen there me healed
 360 de ma plaie, sue merci.
of my wound her mercy
 Bons lais de harpe vus apris,
Good lays of harp (to-)you I-taught
 lais bretuns de vostre païs.
lays Breton of your land
 Membrer vus dait, dame raïne,
To-remember you it-behooves lady queen
 cum je guarri par la mecine.
how I recovered by the medicine
 365 Iloc me numai je Trantris:
There myself named I Trantris
 ne sui je ço? ke vus est vis?»
not am I that what (to-)you is seeming
 Isolt respunt: «Par certes, nun!
Iseult answers By certain no
 Kar cil est beus e gentils hum,
For he is fair and noble man
 e tu es gros, hidus e laiz,
and thou art big hideous and ugly

ke pur Trantris numer te faiz.

370

who for Trantris to-name thyself makest

Or te tol, ne hue sur mei;

Now thyself remove not howl at me

ne pris mie tes gas ne tei.»

not I-prize at-all thy jests nor thee

Li fols se turne a icest mot,

The fool himself turns at this word

si se fet ben tenir pur sot.

so himself he-makes well to-hold for simpleton

Il fert ces k'il trove en sa veie,

375

He strikes those that-he finds in his way

del deis desc' a l'us les cumveie,

from-the dais as-far-as to the-door them he-escorts

puis lur escrie: «Foles genz,

then (to-)them he-cries Mad folk

tolez, issez puis de ceenz!

remove-yourselves go-out then from herein

Laissez m'a Ysolt consiler:

Leave me-with Iseult to-counsel

je la sui venu doneier.»

380

I her am come to-woo

Li reis s'en rit, kar mult li plect;

The king himself-thereat laughs for much (to-)him it-pleases

Ysolt ruvist e si se test.

Iseult reddens and so herself she-is-silent

E li reis s'en aparceit ben;

And the king himself-thereof perceives well

al fol ad dit: «Musart, ça ven.

to-the fool he-has said Trifler hither come

- 385 N'est la raine Ysolt t'amie?
Not-is the queen Iseult thy-friend
 — Oïl, par fai! je nel ni mie.»
Yes by faith I not-it deny at-all
 Isolt respunt: «Certes tu menz!
Iseult answers Certainly thou liest
 Metez le fol hors de ceenz!»
Put the fool out of herein
 Li fol respunt tut en riant
The fool answers all in laughing
 390 et dit a Ysolt sun semblant:
and says to Iseult his mind
 «Ne vus membre, raine Ysolt,
Not (to-)you it-recalls queen Iseult
 quant li reis envaer me volt,
when the king to-send me wished
 cume si fist? Il m'envaiat
how so he-did He me-sent
 pur vus, k'il ore esspusee ad.
for you whom-he now wedded has
 395 Je i alai cum marcheant,
I there went as merchant
 ki aventure alai querant.
who adventure I-went seeking
 Mult ere haï al païs,
Much I-was bated in-the land
 kar le Morholt aveie ocis;
for the Morholt I-bad slain
 pur ço alai cum marcheant,
for that I-went as merchant

si fis de ço cointise grant.

400

so I-made of that cunning great

Quere vus dui a l'os le rei,

To-see you I-had-to for the-use of-the king

vostre sennur ke je ci vei,

your lord whom I here see

ki el païs n'ert nent cheriz,

who in-the land not-was at-all cherished

e j'i fu durement haïs;

and I-there was grievously bated

j'ere chevaler mervilus,

405

I-was knight marvelous

mult enpernant e curajus:

very enterprising and courageous

ne dutai par mun cors nul home

not I-feared by my body any man

ki fust d'Escoce tresk' a Rume.»

who were from-Scotland as-far-as to Rome

Isolt respunt: «Or oi bon cunte.

Iseult answers Now I-bear good tale

As chevalers faites vus hunte,

410

To-the knights make you shame

kar vus estes un fol naïf;

for you are a fool natural

ço est dol ke tant estes vif.

that is grief that so-much you-are alive

Tol tei de ci, si Deu t'ait!»

Remove thyself from here so God thee-help

Li fols l'entent, e si s'en rit.

The fool it-bears and so himself-thereat he-laughs

415 Dunc dit après si faitement:

Then he-says after so fashioned

«Raïne dame, del serpent

Queen lady of-the serpent

menbrer vus dait ke je l'ocis

to-remember you it-behooves that I it-slew

quant jo vinc en vostre païs.

when I came into your land

La teste li sevrail del cors,

The head (to-)it I-severed from-the body

420 la langue trenchai e pris hors;

the tongue I-cut and took out

dedenz ma chauce la botai

within my hose it I-thrust

e del venim si eschaufai

and from-the venom so I-heated

ben quidai estre morz en fin;

well I-thought to-be dead at end

paumez me jeu lez le chemin.

swooning myself I-lay beside the way

425 Vostre mere é vus i venistes

Your mother and you there came

e de la mort me guaresistes:

and from the death me you-bealed

par grant mecine e par engin

by great medicine and by device

me garesistes del venim.

me you-bealed of-the venom

Del bain vus membre u enz jo sis?

Of-the bath you it-recalls where within I sat

Iloc m'aviez près ocis.

There me-you-had nearly slain

Merveile grant voliez faire,

Marvel great you-wished to-do

quant alastes m'espeie traire;

when you-went my-sword to-draw

e quant vus l'oüstes sachee

and when you it-had drawn

e si la trovastes oschee,

and so it you-found notched

dunc pensastes, e ço a dreit,

then you-thought and that by right

ke Morholt ocis en esteit;

that Morholt slain thereby was

tost purpensastes grant engin,

soon you-devised great device

si defermastes vostre eserin,

so you-unlocked your casket

e la pece dedenz trovastes

and the piece within you-found

ke del test al Morholt ostastes;

that from-the skull of-the Morholt you-took

la pece junsistes al brant:

the piece you-joined to-the brand

cele se joinst de maintenant.

it itself joined of straightway

430

435

440

Mult par fustes granment osee

Very much you-were greatly bold

quant vus enz el bain od m'espee

when you within in-the bath with my-sword

445 me voliez sempres ocire;

me you-wished straightway to-slay

mult par est fenme de grant ire!

very much is woman of great anger

E la raïne en vint al cri,

And the queen thereat came at-the cry

kar el vus aveit ben oï.

for she you had well heard

Ben savez ke je m'acordai,

Well you-know that I myself-reconciled

450 kar suvent merci vus criai,

for often mercy (of-)you I-cried

e je vus deveie defendre

and I you ought to-defend

vers celui ki vus voleit prendre.

against him who you wished to-take

Vus nel prendriez en nul fuor,

You not-it would-take at any price

kar il vus ert encuntre quor.

for he (to-)you was against heart

455 Ysolt, jo vus en defendi.

Iseult I you thereof defended

N'est vair iço ke je vus di?

Not-is true that that I (to-)you say

— N'est mie vair, einz est mensunge;

Not-is at-all true rather it-is falsehood

mais vus recuntez vostre sunge.

but you relate your dream

Anuit fustes ivre al cucher

Last-night you-were drunk at-the going-to-bed

e l'ivrece vus fist sunger.

and the-drunkenness you made to-dream

— Veirs est: d'itel baivre sui ivre

True it-is of-such drink I-am drunk

dunt je ne quid estre delivre.

whereof I not think to-be freed

Ne membre vus quant vostre pere

Not it-recalls you when your father

me baillat vus, e vostre mere?

me handed you and your mother

En la nef vus mistrent en mer:

Into the ship you they-put on sea

al rai ici vus dui mener.

to-the king here you I-had-to lead

Quant en haute mer nus meïmes,

When into high sea we put-ourselves

ben vus dirrai quai nus feïmes.

well (to-)you I-shall-say what we did

Li jur fu beus e fesait chaut,

The day was fair and it-made hot

e nus fumes ben en haut.

and we were well in high

Pur la chalur eüstes sei:

For the heat you-had thirst

460

465

470

ne vus membre, fille de rai?

not (to-)you it-recalls daughter of king

D'un hanap beümes andui.

From-a cup we-drunk both

Vus en beüstes e j'en bui.

You thereof drank and I-thereof drank

475 Ivre en ai esté tut tens puis,

Drunk thereof I-have been all time since

mais male ivrece mult i truis.»

but ill drunkenness much there I-find

Quant Ysolt ço entent et ot,

When Iseult that understands and hears

en sun mantel sun chef enclot,

in her mantle her head she-encloses

volt s'en aler e leve sus;

she-wishes herself-thence to-go and rises up

480 li rais la prent, si l'aset jus;

the king her takes so her-sets down

par le mantel hermin l'a prise,

by the mantle ermine her-be-has taken

si l'ad dejuste lui resise:

so her-has beside him seated-again

«Sufrez un poi, Ysolt amie,

Suffer a little Iseult friend

si parorum ceste folie.

so let-us-hear-out this folly

485 Fol,» fet li reis, «or voil oïr

Fool says the king now I-wish to-hear

de quel mester tu sez servir.»

of what craft thou knowest to-serve

Li fols a Markes respondi:

The fool to Mark answered

«Reis, dus e cuntes ai servi.

King dukes and counts I-have served

— Sez tu de chens? sez tu d'oisels?

Knowest thou of dogs knowest thou of-birds

— Oïl,» fet il, «jo oi des bels!»

Yes says he I have of-the fair

Li fols li dit: «Reis, quant me plect

The fool (to-)him says King when me pleases

chacer en bois u en forest,

to-hunt in wood or in forest

od mes levrers prendrai les grues

with my greybounds I-shall-take the cranes

ki volent la sus par ces nues;

which fly there above through those clouds

od mes liemers cingnes preng,

with my leasb-bounds swans I-take

owes blanches, bises, de reng;

geese white gray in row

quant vois od mun arc berser hors,

when I-go with my bow to-shoot out

malarz preng, plunjuns e butors.»

mallards I-take divers [loons] and bitterns

Markes del fol bonement rit,

Mark of-the fool kindly laughs

si funt li grant e li petit,

so do the great and the small

490

495

500

pus dit al fol: «Amis, beu frere,
then he-says to-the fool Friend fair brother
 ke sez tu prendre en la rivere?»
what knowest thou to-take in the river

The Fool and the Queen

III

The fool boasts of the game his hawks take, and Mark laughs and rides out to disport himself. Iseult pleads sickness and tells Brangain in her chamber that the man must be a diviner, since no one but she, Brangain, and Tristan knew what he has said. Brangain answers that it is Tristan himself, and is sent to try him; she bears him name the flask and the drink on the high sea, and brings him in. Iseult draws back from him, and he tells over the seneschal in the snow, the dwarf, and the flour between the beds.

Li fols respunt, a rire a pris;
The fool answers to laugh he-has begun
 «Reis, tut i preng quanquez i truis,
King all there I-take whatever there I-find
 505 kar je prendrai od mes osturs
for I shall-take with my gosawks
 les lus de bois e les granz urs;
the wolves of wood and the great bears
 les senglers preng de mes girfaus,
the boars I-take with my gerfalcons
 ja ne les garde muns ne vaus;
ever not them guard mountains nor vales

de mes pitiz faucuns hauteins

with my little falcons high-flying

prendrai les chevres e les daims;

I-shall-take the goats and the bucks

d'esperver prendrai le gupil

with-sparrowhawk I-shall-take the fox

k'est de vers la keue gentil;

which-is of toward the tail noble

d'esmerelun prendrai le levre,

with-merlin I-shall-take the hare

de hobel li kac e le bevre.

with hobby the wildcat and the beaver

Quant veng arere a mun ostel,

When I-come back to my lodging

dunc sai ben eskermir de pel:

then I-know well to-fence with staff

nul ne se cuvrerat tant ben

any not himself will-cover so well

ke il nen ait aukes del men;

that he not have somewhat of-the mine

ben resai partir les tisuns

well I-know-also to-share the firebrands

entre esquiers, entre garsuns;

among squires among boys

ben sai tenprer e harpe e rote

well I-know to-tune both harp and rote

e chanter après a la note;

and to-sing after to the tune

riche raïne sai amer,

mighty queen I-know to-love

510

515

520

si n'at suz cel amant mun per;
so not-has under heaven lover my peer

525 od cultel sai doler cospels,
with knife I-know to-shape shavings

jeter les puis par ces rusels.
to-throw them I-can along these streams

Enne sui je bon menestrel?
Then-not am I good minstrel

Ui vus ai servi de mun pel.»
Today (to-)you I-have served with my staff

Puis fert del pel en virun sei:
Then he-strikes with-the staff round about himself

530 «Tolez», fet il, «de sur le rei!
Remove says he from upon the king

A voz ostels tost en alez:
To your lodgings quickly thence go

n'avez mangé? ke demurez?»
not-you-have eaten what you-tarry

Li reis s'en rit a chascun mot,
The king himself-thereat laughs at each word

ke mult ot bon deduit del sot;
for much he-had good delight of-the fool

535 puis cunmande a un esquier
then he-commands to a squire

ke il li ameint sun destrer,
that he (to-)him bring his charger

dit ke aler dedure volt
he-says that to-go to-disport he-wishes

cum a custume faire solt.
as at custom to-do he-is-wont

Cil chevaler se vunt od lui

Those knights themselves go with him

e li esquier pur l'ennui.

and the squires for the-trouble

«Sire, merci!» ço dit Ysolt.

Lord mercy that says Iseult

«Malade sui, le chef me dolt.

Sick I-am the head me aches

En ma chambre irrai reposer,

Into my chamber I-shall-go to-rest

ne puis ceste noise escuter.»

not I-can this noise to-hear

Li reis atant aler la lait;

The king thereupon to-go her lets

cele salt sus e si s'en vait.

she leaps up and so herself-thence she-goes

En sa chambre vent mult pensive,

Into her chamber she-comes very pensive

dolente se claime e chaitive;

sorrowful herself she-calls and wretched

a sun lit vent, desus se sist;

to her bed she-comes thereon herself she-sat

mult fu li dol grant k'ele fist.

much was the grief great that-she made

«Lasse»! fait el, «pur quei nasqui?

Wretched says she for what I-was-born

Mult ai le quor gref e marri.

Much I-have the heart heavy and grieved

Brenguain», fait ele, «bele sor,

Brangain says she fair sister

540

545

550

certes a poi ke ne me mor.

certainly at little that — me I-die

555 Melz me serait fusse jo morte,

Better (to-)me it-would-be were I dead

quant ma vie est tant dure e forte;

since my life is so hard and harsh

quant ke je vai m'est a contraire:

whatever that I see to-me-is at contrary

certes, Brenguain, ne sai quai faire;

certainly Brangain not I-know what to-do

kar la enz est un fol venuz,

for there within is a fool come

560 ki mult est haut en croiz tunduz.

who very is high in cross shorn

A la male ure i vint il hui,

At the evil hour there came he today

kar mult m'ad il fait grant ennui.

for much me-has he done great trouble

Certes, cist fol, cist fous jugleres

Certainly this fool this mad jongleur

il est devins u enchanteres,

he is diviner or enchanter

565 kar il set mun estre e ma vie

for he knows my state and my life

de chef en chef, ma dulce amie.

from end to end my sweet friend

Certes, Brenguain, mult me merveil

Certainly Brangain much me I-marvel

ki li descuvri mun cunseil,

who (to-)him disclosed my counsel

kar nus nel sout, fors je e vus

for any not-it knew except I and you

e Tristran, le conseil de nus.

and Tristan the counsel of us

Mais cist tafur, men escient,

But this beggar in-my knowledge

le set tut par enchantement.

it knows all by enchantment

Unques nul hom plus veir ne dist,

Ever any man more truth not said

kar unques d'un mot ne mesprist.»

for ever of-one word not be-erred

Brenguain respunt: «Je pens pur droit

Brangain answers I think for right

k'ïço Tristran meïmes soit.

that-this Tristan himself be

— Nu l'est, Brenguain, kar cist est laiz

Not it-is Brangain for this-one is ugly

e hidus e mult conterfait,

and hideous and very misshapen

e Tristran est tant alinieiz,

and Tristan is so shapely

bels hom, ben fait, mult ensenez,

fair man well made very well-bred

ne serroit truvez en païs

not would-be found in land

nul chevaler de greniur pris:

any knight of greater worth

570

575

580

pur ço ne crerai je uwan

for that not shall-believe I this-year

k'ïço sait mun ami Tristan;

that-this be my friend Tristan

585 mais cist fol soit de Deu maldit!

but this fool be by God cursed

Maldite soit l'ure k'il vit,

Cursed be the-hour that-he lives

e cele nef maldite sait

and that ship cursed be

en ki li fol vint ça endreit!

in which the fool came hither straight

Dol fu k'il ne neat en l'unde

Grief it-was that-he not drowned in the-wave

590 la hors en cele mer parfunde!

there outside in that sea deep

— Taisez, dame,» ço dit Brenguain,

Be-silent lady that says Brangain

«mult estes or de male main.

much you-are now of evil hand

U apreïstes tel mester?

Where learned-you such trade

Mult savez ben escuminger!

Much you-know well to-excommunicate

595 — Brenguain, kar cil m'ad fet desver.

Brangain for he me-has made to-rave

N'oïstes home si parler.

Not-you-heard man so to-speak

— Dame, je quid, par sen Johan,

Lady I think by saint John

k'il seit le messenger Tristan.

that-be be the messenger (of-)Tristan

— Certes, ne sai, nel cunus mie;

Certainly not I-know not-him I-recognize at-all

mès alez i, ma bele amie,

but go there my fair friend

parler od li, si vus poez,

to-speak with him if you can

saveir si vus le cunustrez.»

to-know if you him will-know

Branguain salt sus, curteise esteit,

Branguain leaps up courtly she-was

e vint en la sale tut dreit;

and came into the hall all straight

mès el n'i trovat serf ne franc,

but she not-there found serf nor free

fors le fol, seant sur un banc;

except the fool sitting on a bench

li autre en sunt trestuz alé

the others thereof are all gone

a lur ostels par la cité.

to their lodgings through the city

Branguain le vait, de luin estut,

Branguain him sees from afar she-stood

e Tristan mult ben la cunuit.

and Tristan very well her knew

Le pel jeta lors de sa main

The staff he-cast then from his hand

e puis dit: «Ben vengez, Branguain.

and then he-said Well be-you-come Branguain

600

605

610

Franche Brenguain, pur Deu vus pri

Noble Brangain for God you I-pray

ke vus de mai aez merci.»

that you of me have mercy

615 Brenguain respunt: «E je de quai?

Brangain answers And I of what

Volez k'aie merci de tei?

You-wish that-I-have mercy of thee

— E! cheles! ja sui je Tristan,

Ab come-now indeed am I Tristan

ki en tristur vif e haan.

who in sadness live and toil

Je sui Tristan, ki tant se dolt

I am Tristan who so-much himself grieves

620 pur l'amur la raïne Ysolt.»

for the-love (of-)the queen Iseult

Brenguain li dit: «Nu l'estes veir,

Brangain (to-)him says Not it-you-are true

si cum jo quid, al men espeir.

so as I think in-the my belief

— Certes, Brenguain, veirs je le sui;

Certainly Brangain true I it am

Tristan oi nun quant ça me mui.

Tristan I-had name when hither me I-moved

625 Ja sui je Tristan veirement.

Indeed am I Tristan truly

Brenguain, ne vus menbre cument

Brangain not (to-)you it-recalls how

ensemble partimes d'Irlande,

together we-parted from-Ireland

cume vus mist en ma cumande,

how you she-put in my charge

e vus e la raïne Ysolt

both you and the queen Iseult

ke or cunustre ne me volt,

who now to-know not me wishes

la raïne, quant a mei vint

the queen when to me she-came

e par la destre main vus tint,

and by the right hand you she-held

si me baillat vus par la main?

so me banded you by the hand

Menbrer vus dait, bele Brenguain.

To-remember you it-behooves fair Brangain

Ysolt e vus me cumandat,

Iseult and you (to-)me she-commended

mult me requist, bel me priat

much me she-required fairly me she-prayed

k'en ma garde vus receüsse,

that-in my guard you I-should-receive

guardasse al mëlz ke je peüsse.

I-should-guard at-the best that I could

Lors vus baillat un costeret,

Then (to-)you she-banded a little-flask

n'ert gueres grant, mès petitet;

not-it-was much great but tiny

dist ke vus ben le guardisiez,

she-said that you well it should-guard

cum s'amur aver voliez.

as her-love to-have you-wished

630

635

640

Quant venimes en haute mer,

When we-came into high sea

li tans se prist a eschaufier.

the weather itself began to heat

645 J'aveie vestu un blialt,

I-had worn a tunic

tressué fu e si oi chault;

sweating I-was and so I-had heat

j'oi sai, a baivre demandai:

I-had thirst to drink I-asked

ben savez si vair vus dit ai.

well you-know if true (to-)you said I-have

Un valet ki a mes pez sist

A varlet who at my feet sat

650 levat e le costerel prist;

rose and the little-flask took

en un hanap d'argent versat

into a cup of-silver poured

le baivre ke il denz trovat,

the drink that he therein found

puis m'assist le hanap al poing

then me-set the cup at-the hand

e je en bui a cel bosuing;

and I thereof drank at that need

655 la maité ofri a Ysolt

the half I-offered to Iseult

ki sai aveit e baivre volt.

who thirst had and to-drink wished

Cel baivre, bele, mar le bui,

That drink fair in-an-ill-bour it I-drunk

e je unques mar vus cunui.

and I ever in-an-ill-hour you I-knew

Bele, ne vus en menbrë il?»

Fair not you thereof recalls it

Brenguain respunt: «Par fai, nenil.

660

Brangain answers By faith no

Brenguain, des puis k'amai Ysolt,

Brangain from since that-I-loved Iseult

a nul autre dire nel volt:

to any other to-tell not-it she-wished

vus le soüstes e oïstes,

you it knew and heard

e vus l'ovraïne consentistes;

and you the-work consented

ço ne sout nul ki fust el mund,

665

that not knew any who were in-the world

fors nus treis, de tus çoüs ki sunt.»

except us three of all those who are

Brenguain entent ke cil cuntat;

Brangain bears what he related

sun pas vers la chambre en alat.

her pace toward the chamber thence she-went

Cil salt sus, si la parsiwi,

He leaps up so her he-followed

mult par lu vait criant merci.

670

very much (to-)her be-goes crying mercy

Brenguain est venue a Ysolt,

Brangain is come to Iseult

si li surrist cum faire solt.

so (to-)her she-smiled as to-do she-is-wont

Ysolt culur muad e teinst

Iseult color changed and turned-pale

e semprez malade se feinst.

and straightway sick herself she-feigned

675 La chambre fu semprez voidée,

The chamber was straightway emptied

kar la raïne ert deshaitee.

for the queen was ill

E Brenguain pur Tristran alat,

And Brangain for Tristan went

dreit en la chambre le menat.

straight into the chamber him she-led

Quant il vint enz e vit Ysolt,

When he came in and saw Iseult

680 il vait vers lu, baiser la volt;

he goes toward her to-kiss her he-wishes

mais ele se trait lors arere,

but she herself draws then back

huntuse fu de grant manere,

ashamed she-was of great manner

kar ne saveit quai faire dut

for not she-knew what to-do she-must

e tressuat u ele estut.

and she-sweated where she stood

685 Tristran vit k'ele l'eschivat.

Tristan saw that-she him-avoided

Huntus fu, si se vergundat,

Asbamed he-was so himself he-shamed

si s'en est un poi tret en sus

so himself-thence he-is a little drawn in back

vers le parei, dejuste l'us.

toward the wall beside the-door

Puis dit aukes de sun voleir:

Then he-says somewhat of his wish

«Certes, unc ne quidai ço veir

Certainly ever not I-thought that true

de vus, Ysolt, franche raïne,

of you Iseult noble queen

ne de Brenguain, vostre meschine.

nor of Brangain your maid

Allas, ki tant avrai vescu,

Alas that so-long I-shall-have lived

quant je cest de vus ai veü

when I this of you have seen

ke vus en desdein me tenez

that you in disdain me hold

e pur si vil ore m'avez!

and for so vile now me-have

En ki me purreie fier,

In whom me I-should-be-able trust

quant Ysolt ne me deigne amer,

when Iseult not me deigns to-love

quant Ysolt a si vil me tient

when Iseult at so vile me holds

k'ore de mai ne li suvent?

that-now of me not (to-)her it-recalls

Ohi! Ysolt, ohi! amie,

Oh Iseult oh friend

690

695

700

hom ke ben aime tart ublie.

man who well loves late forgets

Mult valt funteine ki ben surt,

Much is-worth fountain which well springs

dunt li reus est bon e ben curt;

whereof the stream is good and well runs

705 e de l'ure k'ele secchist,

and from the-hour that-it dries

k'ewe n'i surt n'ewe n'en ist,

so-that-water not-there springs nor-water not-thence issues

si ne fet gueres a praiser:

so not it-is much to be-prized

ne fait amur, quant volt boiser.

not does love when it-wishes to-deceive

Ysolt respunt: «Frere, ne sai.

Iseult answers Brother not I-know

710 Je vus esguard e si m'esmai,

I you look-at and so myself-I-dismay

kar n'aparceif mie de vus

for not-I-perceive at-all of you

ke seiez Tristan l'Amerus.»

that you-be Tristan the-Lover

Tristan respunt: «Raïne Ysolt,

Tristan answers Queen Iseult

je sui Tristan, k'amer vus solt.

I am Tristan who-to-love you was-wont

715 Ne membre vus del seneschal

Not it-recalls you of-the seneschal

ki vers le rei nus teneit mal?

who toward the king us held ill

Mis conpainz fu en un ostel,

My companion he-was in a lodging

fumes junes par uel.

we-were young in equal [alike]

Par une nuit, quant m'en issi,

By a night when myself-thence I-went-out

il levat sus, si me siuvi.

he rose up so me followed

Il out negé, si me trazat,

It had snowed so me he-tracked

al paliz vint, utre passat,

to-the palisade he-came beyond he-passed

en vostre chambre nus guaitat

in your chamber us he-watched

e l'endemain nus encusat.

and the-morrow us he-accused

Ço fu li primer ki al rei

That was the first who to-the king

nus encusat, si cum je crei.

us accused so as I believe

Del naim vus redait ben menbrer

Of-the dwarf you it-behooves-in-turn well to-remember

ke vus soliez tant duter.

whom you were-wont so-much to-fear

Il n'amad pas nostre deduit:

He not-loved at-all our delight

entur nus fu e jur e nuit;

around us he-was both day and night

720

725

730

mis i fu pur nus aguaiter

put there be-was for us to-watch

e servi de mult fol mester.

and served of very base office

Senez fumes a une faiz.

Bled we-were at one time

Cum amanz ki trop sunt destraiz

As lovers who too are straitened

735 purpensisent de mainte veidise,

devise of many-a wile

d'engin e d'art e de cuintise,

of-device and of-art and of craft

cum il purunt entre assembler,

how they will-be-able together to-assemble

parler, envaiser e juer,

to-speak to-disport and to-play

si feïmes nus: senez fumes

so did we bled we-were

740 en vostre chambre u nus jeümes;

in your chamber where we lay

mais li fel naims de pute orine

but the felon dwarf of vile stock

entre noz liz pudrat farine,

between our beds strewed flour

car par itant quidat saver

for by so-much he-thought to-know

l'amur de nus, si ço fust veir.

the-love of us if that were true

745 Mais je de ço m'en averti,

But I of that myself-thereof took-heed

a vostre lit joinz pez sailli.

to your bed joined feet I-leapt

Al sailer le braz me crevat

At-the leaping the arm me it-burst

e vostre lit ensenglentat;

and your bed it-bloodied

arere saili ensement

back I-leapt likewise

e le men lit refis sanglant.

and the my bed I-made-again bloody

750

Husdent, the Ring, and the Recognition

IV

Tristan goes on: the Little Creü, the Irish harper, the shavings floated down the stream, the king in the pine, and the oath she swore for him. The queen sees that every word is true and still cannot see Tristan in the man before her, and he reproaches her with the cave in the rock where they lived in the wood. Husdent is brought in and fawns on him, though the dog will suffer no one but Iseult and Brangain; and when the ring of refined gold is drawn out, Iseult weeps for a dead man. Then Tristan speaks in his own voice, Iseult knows him and embraces him, and Brangain washes the stain from his face.

Li reis Markes survint atant

The king Mark came-suddenly thereupon

e vostre lit trovat sanglant;

and your bed found bloody

al men en vint en es le pas

to-the mine thereto he-came in at the pace [at-once]

e si trovat sanglanz mes dras.

and so he-found bloody my clothes

- 755 Raïne, pur vostre amisté
Queen for your love
 fu de la curt lores chascé.
I-was from the court then driven
 Ne membre vus, ma bele amie,
Not it-recalls you my fair friend
 d'une petite druerie,
of-a little love-token
 ke une faiz vus envaiai
that one time (to-)you I-sent
- 760 un chenet ke vus purchaçaï?
a little-dog that (for-)you I-procured
 E ço fu le Petit Creü,
And that was the Little Creü
 ke vus tant cher avez eü.
that you so-much dear have had
 E souvenir vus en dait ben,
And to-remember you thereof it-bebooves well
 Ysolt amie, d'une ren:
Iseult friend of-a thing
- 765 quant cil d'Irlande a la curt vint,
when he of-Ireland to the court came
 li reis l'onurrat, cher le tint.
the king him-honored dear him held
 Harpeür fu, harper saveit:
Harper he-was to-harp he-knew
 ben saviez ke cil esteit.
well you-knew who that-one was
 Li reis vus dunat al harpur:
The king you gave to-the harper

cil vus amenat par baldur

he you led by joy

tresqu'a sa nef e dut entrer.

as-far-as-to his ship and had-to enter

En bois fu, si l'oï cunter:

In wood I-was so it-I-heard tell

une rote pris, vinc après

a rote I-took I-came after

sur mon destrer le grant eslès.

on my charger the great pace

Cunquise vus out par harper,

Conquered you he-had by to-harp

e jo vus cunquis par roter.

and I you conquered by to-play-the-rote

Raïne, souvenir vus dait

Queen to-remember you it-behooves

quant li rais cungié m'aveit

when the king leave me-had

e je ere mult anguisus,

and I was very anguished

amie, de parler od vus

friend of to-speak with you

e quis engin, vinc el vergé

and I-sought device I-came into-the orchard

u suvent fumes enveisé;

where often we-were disported

desus un pin en l'umbre sis,

beneath a pine in the-shade I-sat

770

775

780

de mun canivet cospels fis

of my little-knife shavings I-made

785 k'erent enseignes entre nus

which-were tokens between us

quant me plaiseit venir a vus.

when me it-pleased to-come to you

Une funteine iloc surdeit

A fountain there sprang

ki devers la chambre curreit;

which toward the chamber ran

en ewe jetai les cospels,

into water I-cast the shavings

790 aval les porta li rusels.

downward them carried the stream

Quant veïez la doleüre,

When you-saw the carving

si savïez ben a dreiture

so you-knew well by right

que jo i vendreie la nuit

that I there would-come the night

pur envaiser par mun deduit.

for to-disport by my delight

795 Li neims sempres s'en aparceut:

The dwarf straightway himself-thereof perceived

rei Markes cunter le curut.

(to-)king Mark to-tell it he-ran

Li rais vint la nuit el gardin

The king came the night into-the garden

e si en est munté el pin.

and so thereinto is climbed into-the pine

Jo vinc après, ke mot n'en soi,

I came after who word not-thereof knew

mais si cum j'oi esté un poi,

but so as I-had been a little

si aparceu l'umbre le roi,

so I-perceived the-shadow of-the king

ke seet el pin ultre moi.

who sat in-the pine beyond me

De l'autre part venistes vus.

From the-other side came you

Certes j'ere dunc poerus,

Certainly I-was then fearful

kar je dutoie, ço sachez,

for I feared that know-you

que vus trop vus en hastisez.

that you too yourself thereof should-basten

Mais Deus nel volt, sue merci:

But God not-it wished his mercy

l'umbre veïstes ke je vi,

the-shadow you-saw that I saw

si vus en traisistes arere

so you thereof drew back

e jo vus mustrai ma priere

and I (to-)you showed my prayer

ke vus al rai m'acordissez,

that you to-the king me-should-reconcile

si vus fere le poussez,

if you to-do it could

800

805

810

u il mes guages aquitast

or he my pledges should-redeem

e del regne aler me lessast.

and from-the realm to-go me should-let

815 Par tant fumes lores sauvez;

By so-much we-were then saved

al rei Markes fu acordez.

to-the king Mark I-was reconciled

Isolt, menbre vus de la lai

Iseult it-recalls you of the law

ke feïtes, bele, pur mai?

that you-made fair for me

Quant vus eisistes de la nef,

When you went-out from the ship

820 entre mes bras vus tinc suef.

between my arms you I-held softly

Je m'ere mult ben desguisé

I myself-was very well disguised

si cum vus m'aviez mandé;

so as you me-had commanded

le chef teneie mult enbrunc;

the head I-held very bowed

ben sai quai me deïstes dunc:

well I-know what me you-said then

825 k'od vus me laissasse chaeir.

that-with you me I-should-let fall

Ysolt amie, n'est ço vair?

Iseult friend not-is that true

Suef a la terre chaïstes

Softly to the earth you-fell

e vos quissettes m'aüvristes,

and your little-thighs (to-)me-you-opened

e m'i laissai chaeir dedenz

and me-there I-let fall within

e ço virent tutes les genz:

and that saw all the folk

par tant fustes, se je l'entent,

by so-much you-were if I it-understand

Ysolt, guarie al jugement

Iseult saved at-the judgment

del serement e de la lai

of-the oath and of the law

ke feïstes en curt le rai.»

that you-made in court of-the king

La raïne l'entent e ot

The queen it-attends and bears

e ben ad noté chescun mot.

and well has noted each word

El l'esgarde, del quor suspire,

She him-looks-at from-the heart she-sighs

ne set suz cel ke puisse dire,

not she-knows under heaven what she-may say

kar Tristan ne semblout il pas

for Tristan not resembled he at-all

de vis, de semblanz ne de dras;

of face of semblance nor of clothes

830

835

840

mais a ço k'il dit ben entent
but at that that-he says well she-understands
 k'il dit veir e de ren ne ment:
that-he says truth and of thing not lies
 pur ço ad el quor grant anguisse
for that she-has in-the heart great anguish
 e si ne set que faire puisse.
and so not she-knows what to-do she-may

845 Folie serrait e engan
Folly it-would-be and deceit
 a entercer le pur Tristan,
to recognize him for Tristan
 quant ele vait e pense e creit
when she sees and thinks and believes
 n'est pas Tristan, mais autre esteit;
not-he-is at-all Tristan but other he-was
 e Tristan mult ben s'aperceuit
and Tristan very well himself-perceives

850 k'ele del tut le mescunuit.
that-she of-the whole him misknows
 Puis dit après: «Dame reïne,
Then he-says after Lady queen
 mult fustes ja de bon' orine
much you-were once of good stock
 quant vus m'amastes seinz desdeing:
when you me-loved without disdain
 certes de feintise or me pleing.
certainly of feigning now me I-complain
 855 Ore vus vai retraite e fainte,
Now you I-see withdrawn and feigning

ore vus ai de feinte ateinte;

now you I-have of falsehood convicted

mais jo vi ja, bele, tel jur

but I saw once fair such day

ke vus m'amastes par amur:

that you me-loved by love

quant Markes nus out cunjeiez

when Mark us had banished

e de la curt nus out chascez,

and from the court us had driven

as mains ensemble nus preïmes

by-the hands together us we-took

e hors de la sale en eissimes;

and out of the hall thereat we-issued

a la forest puis en alames

to the forest then thereto we-went

e un mult bel liu i truvames;

and a very fair place there we-found

en une roche fu cavee;

in a rock it-was hollowed

devant ert estraite l'entree;

before was narrow the-entry

dedenz fu voltisse e ben faite,

within it-was vaulted and well made

tant bele cum se fust purtraite;

so fair as if it-were painted

l'entaileüre de la pere

the-carving of the stone

esteit bele de grant manere;

was fair of great manner

860

865

870

en cele volte cunversames

in that vault we-dwelt

tant cum eu bois nus surjurnames;

so-long as in-the wood we sojourned

Hudein, mun chen, ke tant oi cher,

Husdent my dog whom so-much I-had dear

iloc l'afaitai senz crier.

there him-I-trained without to-cry

875 Od mun chen e od mun ostur,

With my dog and with my goshawk

nus pessoie je chascun jur.

us fed I each day

Reïne dame, ben savez

Queen lady well you-know

cum nus après fumes trovez.

how we after were found

Li reis meïmes nus trovat

The king himself us found

880 e li naim ke od li menat;

and the dwarf that with him he-led

mais Deus aveit uvré pur vus,

but God had wrought for you

quant trovat l'espee entre nus;

when he-found the-sword between us

e nus rejeümes de loins:

and we lay-again at distance

li reis prist le gant de sun poing

the king took the glove from his hand

e sur la face le vus mist

and upon the face it (to-)you put

tant suef ke un mot ne dist,

so softly that a word not he-said

kar il vit un rai de soleil

for he saw a ray of sun

ke out hallé e fait vermeil...

which had scorched and made red

li reis s'en est alez atant,

the king himself-thence is gone thereupon

si nus laissat iloc dormant,

so us he-left there sleeping

puis nen out nule suspeçon

then not he-had any suspicion

k'entre nus oüst si ben nun;

that-between us there-were except good not

sun maltalent nus pardonat

his ill-will us he-pardoned

e sempres pur nus envoiat.

and straightway for us he-sent

Isolt, menbrer vus en dait ben:

Iseult to-remember you thereof it-bebooves well

dunt vus donai Huden, mun chen.

whereof (to-)you I-gave Husdent my dog

K'en avez fait? Mustrez le mai.»

What-thereof you-have done Show it (to-)me

Ysolt respunt: «Je l'ai, par fai!

Iseult answers I it-have by faith

885

890

895

Cel chen ai je dunt vus parlez.

That dog have I whereof you speak

900 Certes ore endreit le verrez.

Certainly now straightway it you-will-see

Brenguain, ore alez pur le chen:

Brangain now go for the dog

amenez l'od tut le lien.»

bring it-with all the leash

Ele leve e en pez sailli,

She rises and on feet leapt

vint a Huden, e sil joï,

she-came to Husdent and so-it she-cheered

905 e le deslie, aler le lait:

and it she-unbinds to-go it she-lets

cil junst les pez e si s'en vait.

it joined the feet and so itself-thence goes

Tristan li dit: «Ça ven, Huden!

Tristan (to-)it says Hitber come Husdent

Tu fus ja men, or te repren.»

Thou wast once mine now thee take-again

Huden le vit, tost le cunut,

Husdent him saw quickly him knew

910 joie li fist cum faire dut.

joy (to-)him he-made as to-do he-must

Unkes de chen n'oï retraire

Ever of dog not-I-heard tell

ke poüst merur joie faire

that could greater joy make

ke Huden fist a sun sennur,

than Husdent made to his lord

tant par li mostra grant amur.

so much (to-)him he-showed great love

Sure lui curt, leve la teste,

Upon him he-runs he-raises the head

unc si grant joie ne fist beste,

ever so great joy not made beast

bute del vis e fert del pé;

he-butts with-the face and strikes with-the foot

aver en poüst l'en pité.

have thereof might one pity

Isolt le tint a grant merveille,

Iseult it held at great marvel

huntuse fu, devint vermeille

ashamed she-was she-became crimson

de ço ke il si le joï,

of that that he so it cheered

tant tost cum il sa voiz oï,

so soon as it his voice heard

kar il ert fel e de puite aire

for it was felonious and of vile nature

e mordeit e saveit mal faire

and it-bit and it-knew ill to-do

a tuz ices k' od lu juoent

to all those who with him played

e tuz ices kil manioent;

and all those who-it handled

915

920

925

nul ne s'i poeit acuinte

any not himself-there could acquaint

ne nul nel poeit manier

nor any not-it could handle

fors sul la raïne e Brenguain,

except only the queen and Brangain

930 tant par esteit de male main

so much it-was of evil hand

depuis k'il sun mestre perdi

since that-it its master lost

ki l'afaita e kil nurri.

who it-trained and who-it nursed

Tristran joïst Huden e tient.

Tristan cheers Husdent and holds

Dit a Ysolt: «Melz li suvient

He-says to Iseult Better (to-)him it-recalls

935 ke jol nurri, ke l'afaitai

that I-it nursed that it-I-trained

ke vus ne fait ki tant amai.

than (to-)you — does whom so-much I-loved

Mult par at en chen grant franchise

Very much there-is in dog great nobleness

e a en femme grant feintise.»

and there-is in woman great feigning

Isolt l'entent e culur mue,

Iseult it-hears and color changes

940 d'anguisse fremist e tressue.

of-anguish she-quivers and she-sweats

Tristran li dit: «Dame reïne,

Tristan (to-)ber says Lady queen

mult suliez estre enterine.

much you-were-wont to-be sincere

Ne menbre vus cum al vergé

Not it-recalls you how in-the orchard

u ensemble fumes cuché

where together we-were laid

li rais survint, si nus trovat

the king came-suddenly so us be-found

e tost arere returnat?

and quickly back be-returned

Si purpensa grant felunnie,

So be-devised great felony

ocirre vus volt par envie;

to-slay you he-wished by envy

mais Deus nel volt, sue merci,

but God not-it wished his mercy

kar je sempres m'en averti.

for I straightway myself-thereof took-beed

Bele, de vus m'estot partir,

Fair of you me-it-behooved to-part

kar li reis nus voleit hunir.

for the king us wished to-shame

Lors me donastes vostre anel

Then me you-gave your ring

d'or esmeré, ben fait e bel;

of-gold refined well made and fair

945

950

- 955 e jel reçui, si m'en alai
and I-it received so myself-thence I-went
- e al vair Deu vus cumandai.»
and to-the true God you I-commended
- Isolt dit: «Les ensengnez crei.
Iseult says The tokens I-believe
- Avez l'anel? Mustrez le mei.»
Have-you the-ring Show it (to-)me
- Il trest l'anel, si li donat;
He draws the-ring so (to-)her he-gave
- 960 Ysolt le prent, si l'esguardat,
Iseult it takes so it-she-looked-at
- si s'escreve dunc a plurer,
so herself-she-bursts then to weep
- ses poinz detort, quidat desver:
her hands she-wrings she-thought to-go-mad
- «Lasse!» fait ele, «mar nasqui!
Wretched says she in-an-till-hour I-was-born
- En fin ai perdu mun ami,
In end I-have lost my friend
- 965 kar ço sai je ben, s'il vif fust,
for that know I well if-he alive were
- ke autre hum cest anel n'üst;
that other man this ring not-would-have
- mais or sai jo ben k'il est mort.
but now know I well that-he is dead
- Lasse! ja meis n'avrai confort.»
Wretched ever more not-I-shall-have comfort

Mais quant Tristran plurer la vait,

But when Tristan to-weep her sees

pit   l'en prist, e   o fu droit.

pity him-thereof took and that was right

Puis li ad dit: «Dame ra  ne,

Then (to-)her he-has said Lady queen

bele estes or e enterine;

fair you-are now and sincere

d  s or ne m'en voil m  s cuvrir,

from now not me-thereof I-wish more to-cover

cunuistre me frai e o  r.»

to-know me I-shall-make and to-bear

Sa voiz muat, parlat a dreit.

His voice he-changed he-spoke at right [naturally]

Isolt sempres s'en aparceit;

Iseult straightway herself-thereof perceives

ses bras entur sun col jetat,

her arms about his neck she-cast

le vis e les oilz li baisat.

the face and the eyes (to-)him she-kissed

Tristran lores a Brenguain dit,

Tristan then to Brangain says

ki s'esjoi par grant delit:

who herself-rejoiced by great delight

«De l'ewe, bele, me baillez;

Of the-water fair (to-)me hand

laverai mun vis k'est sullez.»

I-shall-wash my face which-is soiled

970

975

980

Brengvain l'ewe tost aportat

Brangain the-water quickly brought

e ben tost sun vis en lavat;

and well quickly his face therewith she-washed

985 le teint de l'herbe e la licur

the stain of the-herb and the juice

tut en lavat od la suor.

all thereof she-washed with the sweat

En sa propre furme revint,

Into his own form he-returned

Ysolt entre ses braz le tint.

Iseult between her arms him held

Tel joie en ad de sun ami

Such joy thereof she-has of her friend

990 k'ele ad e tent dejuste li

that-she has and holds beside her

ke ne set cument contenir;

that not she-knows how to-contain-herself

ne le lerat anuit partir

not him she-will-let tonight to-part

e dit k'i avrat bon ostel

and she-says that-there he-will-have good lodging

e bon lit e ben fait e bel.

and good bed and well made and fair

Tristran autre chose ne quert

Tristan other thing not seeks

fors la raïne Ysolt, u ert;

except the queen Iseult where she-was

Tristran en est joius e lez;

Tristan thereof is joyous and glad

mult set ben k'il est herbigez.

much he-knows well that-he is lodged

ANONYMOUS

La Folie Tristan de Berne

The Madness of Tristan: The Berne Poem

Tristan's Exile, and the Fool at Mark's Court

I

Tristan is at odds with Mark's court. Mark, wronged over his wife, promises his barons his thanks and favor for whoever gives Tristan up; Dinas the seneschal sends a messenger to warn him. Unable to see Iseult, Tristan has his head shorn, crosses the sea, is booted and pelted with stones, and comes to court as Picous, son of a valiant man and a whale, offering his sister Brunebeut for Iseult and a house of flowers between the clouds and the sky. Then he tells Mark that he and Iseult drank the potion together, and boasts of holding the queen in his arms.

Mout est Tristanz mellez a cort,

Very is Tristan embroiled at court

ne set o aille ne ou tort

not he-knows where he-go nor where he-turn

* * *

(lacuna)

Formant redoute Marc lo roi,

Greatly he-fears Mark the king

que rois Mars formant lou menace,

for king Mark greatly him threatens

si viaut bien que Tristanz lou sache:

so he-wishes well that Tristan it know

se de lui puet avoir saisine,

if of him he-can have possession

mout li vaudra po sans n'orine

much (to-)him will-avail little sense nor-birth

que par lui ne reçoive mort.

that by him not he-receive death

De sa fame li a fait tort.

Of his wife (to-)him he-has done wrong

5

- 10 Clamé s'en est a son barnage
Complained himself-thereof he-is to his baronage
 et de la honte et de l'otrage
both of the shame and of the-outrage
 que Tristanz ses niés li a fait.
that Tristan his nephew (to-)him has done
 Honte a de ce qu'il li a fait;
Shame he-has of that that-he (to-)him has done
 ne pot mais aler sanz celer.
not he-can more go without to-conceal
- 15 Ses barons fait toz asanbler
His barons he-makes all assemble
 et lor a bien montree l'ovre;
and (to-)them he-has well shewn the-matter
 lo mesfait Tristan lor descovre:
the misdeed (of-)Tristan (to-)them he-discloses
 «Seignor,» fait il, «que porrai faire?»
Lords says he what shall-I-be-able to-do
 Mout me torna a grant contraire
Much (to-)me it-turned to great hurt
- 20 que de Tristan ne pris vangence,
that of Tristan not I-took vengeance
 sel me torne l'an a enfance.
so-it me turns one to childishness
 Foïz s'an est en ceste terre
Fled himself-thence he-is into this land
 que je no sei o jamais querre,
that I not-it know where ever to-see
 car mout l'avrai toz jorz salvé.
for much him-I-shall-have all days saved

Sé poise moi por saint Odé...

25

This weighs (on-)me for saint Odé

(lacuna)

Se nus de vos lou puet parçoivre,

If any of you it can perceive

faites lou moi savoir sanz faille.

make it (to-)me to-know without fail

Par saint Sanson de Cornouaille,

By saint Samson of Cornwall

quil me randroit, gré l'an savroie

whoever-him (to-)me would-deliver thanks (to-)him-thereof I-would-know

et tot jorz plus chier l'an avroie.»

30

and all days more dear him-thereof I-would-have

N'i a celui ne li promete

Not-there is one not (to-)him promises

que a lui prandre entante mete.

that to him to-take intent be-put

Dinas li senechax sopire,

Dinas the seneschal sighs

por Tritan a au cuer grant ire,

for Tristan be-has in-the heart great anger

forment l'an poise en son corage;

35

greatly (to-)him-thereof it-weighs in his heart

erramant a pris un message

straightway he-has taken a messenger

par cui a fait Tristan savoir

by whom he-has made (to-)Tristan to-know

con a perdu par non savoir

how he-has lost by not knowing

l'amor del roi, quil et de mort.

the-love of-the king who-him hates to death

40 Mar vit Tristanz son bel deport.

In-an-ill-hour saw Tristan his fair sport

Par envie est aparceüz;

By envy he-is discovered

mout en a esté deceüz.

much thereof he-has been deceived

Qant Tristanz oï la novele,

When Tristan heard the news

sachiez ne li fu mie bele;

know not (to-)him it-was at-all fair

45 n'ose repairier ou päis,

not-he-dares return into-the land

sovant en a esté fuitis.

often thereof he-has been fugitive

Sovant sopire et mout se dialt

Often he-sighs and much himself he-grieves

de ce c'o lui nen a Ysiaut.

of this that-with him not is Iseult

Ysiaut a il, mais nen a mie

Iseult has he but not he-has at-all

50 celi qui primes fu s'amie.

her who first was his-friend

Porpanse soi qu'il porra faire,

He-bethinks himself what-he will-be-able to-do

con la porra a soi atraire,

how her be-will-be-able to himself to-draw

car n'ose aler en sa contree.

for not-be-dares go into her land

«Ha! Dex,» fait il, «quel destinee!

Ab God says he what destiny

C'ai je sofert en tel amor!

What-have I suffered in such love

Onques de li ne fis clamor

Ever of her not I-made complaint

ne ne me plains de ma destrece:

nor not myself I-complained of my distress

por quoi m'asaut, por quoi me blece?

for what me-it-assails for what me it-wounds

Dex! ce que doit? qui me sanble...

God this what means who me seems

(lacuna)

Don ne fai je ce que demande?

Then not do I this that she-asks

Nenil, qant cele ai laissiee

No when her I-have left

qui a por moi tant de hachiee,

who has for me so-much of bardship

tant mal, tante honte et anui.

so-much ill so-much shame and trouble

55

60

Las!» fait il, «hé las! con je sui

Alas says he ah alas how I am

65 malaürox, et con mar fui !...

unhappy and how in-an-ill-hour I-was —

(lacuna)

Soferte et tante poine aüe!

Suffered and so-much pain had

Ainz si bele ne fu veüe.

Ever so fair not was seen

Ja n'an soit mais nul jor amez,

Ever not-thereof be more any day loved

ainz soit tot jorz failliz clamez

rather be all days failed called

70 qui de lui amer ja se faint!

whoever of her to-love ever himself holds-back

Amors, qui totes choses vaint,

Love who all things conquers

me doint encor que il avaigne

me give yet that it come

que a ma volanté la taigne!

that at my will her I-hold

Si ferai je, voir, se Deu plait.

So shall-do I truly if (to-)God it-please

75 A Deu pri ge qu'i ne me laist

To God pray I that-be not me let

morir devant ce que je l'aie.

to-die before this that I her-have

Mout me gari soef ma plaie:

Much me healed softly my wound

et Dex me doint encor tant vivre

and God me give yet so-much to-live

que la voie saine et delivre!

that her I-see sound and free

Encor avroie je mout chier

Still should-have I very dear

s'a li me pooie acointier,

if-to her myself I-could acquaint

et Dex li doint joie et santé,

and God (to-)her give joy and health

s'il vialt, por sa doce bonté,

if-he wishes for his sweet goodness

et il me doint enor et joie,

and he me give honor and joy

et si me tort en itel voie,

and so me turn in such way

q'ancore la puisse aviser,

that-still her I-may see

et li veoir et enconter!

and her to-see and to-meet

Dex! con sui maz et confonduz

God how I-am dejected and confounded

et en terre mout po cremuz!

and in land very little feared

Las! que ferai, quant ne la voi?

Alas what shall-I-do when not her I-see

Que por li sui en grant efrei

Since for her I-am in great fright

et nuit et jor et tot lo terme.

both night and day and all the time

80

85

90

Qant ne la voi a po ne derve.

When not her I-see at little — I-rave

Las! que ferai? Ne sai que faire,

Alas what shall-I-do Not I-know what to-do

95 que por lui sui en grant afaire...

that for her I-am in great trouble

* * *

(lacuna)

Morir devant ce que je l'aie.

To-die before this that I her-have

Mout me gari soef ma plaie

Much me healed softly my wound

que je reçui en Cornuaille,

that I received in Cornwall

qant a Mohort fis la bataille

when with Morholt I-made the battle

100 en l'ile ou fui menez a nage

in the-isle where I-was led by swimming

por desfandre lo treüssaje

for to-claim the tribute

que cil devoient de la terre:

that they owed of the land

a m'espee finé la guerre.

with my-sword I-ended the war

Tenir me porroie a mauvais,

To-bold myself I-should-be-able for base

se por nule menace lais

if for any threat I-leave

que je n'i aille en tapinaje

that I not-there go in disguise

o en abit de fol onbrage.

or in habit of fool gloomy

Por li me ferai rere et tondre,

For her myself I-shall-make shave and shear

s'autremant ne me puis repondre.

if-otherwise not myself I-can hide

Trop sui el païs coneüz:

Too I-am in-the land known

sanpres seroie deceüz,

straightway I-should-be discovered

se je ne puis changier a gré

if I not can change at will

ma vesteüre et mon aé.

my clotbing and my age

Ne finerai onques d'errer

Not I-shall-cease ever from-journeying

tant con porrai nes point aler.»

so-long as I-shall-be-able even a-whit to-go

Quant ce ot dit, plus ne demore,

When this he-had said more not he-stays

ainz s'an torne meïsmes l'ore,

rather himself-thence he-turns the-same hour

gerpi sa terre et son roiaume;

he-abandoned his land and his kingdom

il ne prinst ne hauberc ne hiaume;

he not took nor hauberk nor helm

105

110

115

- 120 d'errer ne fine nuit et jor,
of-journeying not he-ceases night and day
 jusq'a la mer ne prist sejour.
until-to the sea not he-took rest
 A mout grant poine vint il la,
At very great pain came he there
 et si vos di qu'il a pieç'a
and so (to-)you I-say that-he has long-since
 tel poine soferte por li
such pain suffered for her
- 125 et mout esté fol, je vos di.
and much been fool I (to-)you say
 Change son non, fait soi clamer
He-changes his name he-makes himself to-call
 Tantris. Qant il ot passé mer,
Tantris When he had passed sea
 passez est outre lo rivage.
passed he-is beyond the shore
 Ne vialt pas q'en lo taigne a sage:
Not he-wishes at-all that-one him hold for wise
- 130 ses dras deront, sa chere grate,
his clothes he-tears his face he-scratches
 ne voit home cui il ne bate;
not he-sees man whom he not beat
 tondrë a fait sa bloie crine.
to-sbear he-has made his blond hair
 N'i a un sol en la marine
Not-there is one single on the coast
 qui ne croie que ce soit rage;
who not believe that this be madness

mais ne sevent pas son corage.

135

but not they-know at-all his intent

En sa main porte une maçue;

In his hand he-carries a club

comme fox va; chascuns lo hue,

as fool he-goes each him boots

gitant li pierres a la teste.

casting (at-)him stones at the head

Tristanz s'en va, plus n'i areste.

Tristan himself-thence goes more not-there he-stops

Ensinc ala lonc tans par terre

140

Thus he-went long time through land

tot por l'amor Ysiaut conquerre.

all for the-love (of-)Iseult to-win

Mout li ert boen ce qu'il faisoit,

Much (to-)him was good that which-he did

nule rien ne li desplaisoit

any thing not (to-)him displeased

fors ce qu'il n'estoit o Ysiaut:

except this that-he not-was with Iseult

celi desirre, celi veut.

145

her he-desires her he-wishes

N'a encor pas esté a cort,

Not-he-has yet at-all been at court

mais or ira, a quel que tort,

but now he-will-go at whatever that it-turn

et se fera por fol sambler,

and himself he-will-make for fool to-seem

que a Ysiaut viaut il parler.

for to Iseult wishes he to-speak

- 150 Droit a la cort en est venuz,
Straight to the court thence he-is come
 onques huis ne li fu tenuz.
ever door not (to-)him was held
 Qant Tristanz vint devant lo roi,
When Tristan came before the king
 auques fu de povre conroi:
somewhat he-was of poor array
 haut fu tonduz, lonc ot lo col,
high he-was shorn long he-had the neck
- 155 a mervoille sambla bien fol,
at marvel he-seemed indeed fool
 mout s'est mis por amor en grande.
much himself-he-is put for love in anxiety
 Mars l'apele, si li demande:
Mark him-calls so (to-)him he-asks
 «Fox, con as non? — G'é non Picous.
Fool how hast-thou name I-have name Picous
 — Qui t'angendra? — Uns valerox.
Who thee-begot A valiant-man
- 160 — De que t'ot il? — D'une balaine.
Of what thee-had he Of-a whale
 Une suer ai, que vos amoine;
A sister I-have that (to-)you I-bring
 la meschine a non Bruneheut;
the maid has name Brunebeut
 vos l'avroiz, je avrai Ysiaut.
you her-you-will-have I shall-have Iseult
 — Se nos chanjon, que feras-tu?»
If we exchange what wilt-do-thou

Et dit Tristanz: «O bees tu?

165

And says Tristan Where aimest thou

Entre les nues et lo ciel

Between the clouds and the sky

de flors et de roses, sanz giel,

of flowers and of roses without frost

iluec ferai une maison

there I-shall-make a house

o moi et li nos deduiron.

where me and her ourselves we-shall-disport

A ces Galois, cui Dex doint honte!

170

To these Welshmen whom God give shame

Encor n'ai pas finé mon conte.

Still not-I-have at-all ended my tale

Rois Mars, demoisele Brangain

King Mark damsel Brangain

traist, je t'afi enz en ta main,

drew I thee-pledge within in thy hand

del boivre don dona Tristan,

of-the drink whereof gave Tristan

don il sofri puis grant ahan.

175

whereof he suffered after great toil

Moi et Ysaut, que je voi ci,

Me and Iseult whom I see here

en beümes: demandez li;

thereof we-drunk ask her

et, se lo tient or a mançonge,

and if it she-holds now for lie

don di je bien que ce fu songe,

then say I well that this was dream

- 180 car je lo songé tote nuit.
for I it dreamed all night
 Rois, tu n'ies mie encor bien duit;
King thou not-art at-all yet well taught
 esgarde moi en mi lo vis:
look me in midst-of the face
 don ne sanble je bien Tantris?
then not resemble I well Tantris
 Je ai sailli et lanciez jons,
I have leapt and thrown reeds
- 185 et sostenu dolez bastons,
and borne planed staves
 et en bois vescu de racine,
and in wood lived on root
 entre mes braz tenu raïne.
between my arms held queen
 Plus diré, se m'an entremet.
More I-shall-say if myself-thereof I-engage
 — Or te repose, Picolet;
Now thyself repose Picolet
- 190 ce poise moi que tant fait as;
this weighs (on-)me that so-much done thou-bast
 lai or huimais ester tes gas.
leave now for-today to-stand thy jests
 — A moi que chaut s'il vos en poise?
To me what matters if-it you thereof weighs
 Je n'i donroie un po de gloise.»
I not-there would-give a bit of clay

Or dient tuit li chevalier:

Now say all the knights

«N'a fol baer, n'a fol tancier!»

195

Not-(good)-at fool to-gape not-(good)-at fool to-quarrel

The Fool's Proofs, and Brangain

II

The fool reminds Mark of the day he found them asleep with the sword between them and stopped up the light with his gloves; Iseult curses the sailors who brought him, and the court begins to murmur that the king may believe him. Mark rides off hawking; Iseult sends Brangain to fetch the fool. He asks only that the queen repay a quarter of his service, and Brangain, looking at his arms and hands, begins to doubt; he names the drink of the little flask and tells her he is Tristan, and she brings him to the chamber.

«Rois, manbre vos d'une peor grant,

King it-recalls you of-a fear great

qant vos nos trovastes gisant

when you us found lying

dedanz la foilliee, estandu

within the leaf-lodge stretched

entre nos deus mon branc tot nu?

between us two my brand all naked

Là fis je sanblant de dormir,

200

There made I semblance of to-sleep

car je n'osoie pas foïr.

for I not-dared at-all to-flee

Chaut faisoit con el tans de mai;

Hot it-was as in-the time of May

par mi la loje vi un rai;

through midst-of the lodge I-saw a ray

li rais sor sa face luisoit:

the ray upon her face shone

205 mout faisoit Dex ce qu'il voloit;

much did God that which-he wished

tes ganz botas enz el pertuis,

thy gloves thou-thrustest in in-the hole

si t'an alas, il n'i ot plus;

so thee-thence thou-wentest he not-there had more

car je ne voil l'ovre conter,

for I not wish the-matter to-tell

car il li devoit bien manbrer.»

for it (to-)him ought well to-recall

210 Marc en esgarde la raïne,

Mark thereat looks-at the queen

et cele tint la chere encline,

and she held the face lowered

son chief covri de son mantel:

her head she-covered with her mantle

«Fol, mal aient li marinel

Fool ill may-have the sailors

qui ça outre vos amenerent,

who hither over you brought

215 qant en la mer ne vos giterent!»

when in the sea not you they-cast

Adonques a Tristanz parlé:

Then has Tristan spoken

«Dame, cist cox ait mal dahé!

Lady this blow may-have ill curse

Se estoiez certe de moi,

If you-were sure of me

se près vos m'avoiez, ce croi,

if near you me-had this I-believe

et vos saüssiez bien mon estre,

and you knew well my state

ne vos tandroit huis ne fenestre

not you would-hold door nor window

ne lo commandement lo roi.

nor the command (of-)the king

Encor ai l'anel près de moi

Still I-have the-ring near of me

que me donestes au partir

that (to-)me you-gave at-the parting

del parlemant que doi haïr.

of-the parley that I-must hate

Maldite soit ceste asanblee!

Cursed be this meeting

Mainte dolereuse jornee

Many-a sorrowful day

en ai puis aüe et soferte.

thereof I-have since had and suffered

Car m'estorez, dame, ma perte

Now me-restore lady my loss

en doz baisier de fine amor

in sweet kissing of fine love

ou embracier soz covertor.

or embracing under coverlet

Mout m'avroiez fait grant confort,

Much (to-)me-you-would-have done great comfort

220

225

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certes, o autremant sui mort.

certainly or otherwise I-am dead

Onques Yder, qui ocist l'ors,

Ever Yder who slew the-bear

235 n'ot tant ne poines ne dolors

not-had so-much nor pains nor sorrows

por Guenievre, la fame Artur,

for Guenevere the wife (of-)Arthur

con je por vos, car je en mur.

as I for you for I thereof die

Gerpi en ai tote Bretaine,

Abandoned thereof I-have all Brittany

par moi sui venuz en Espagne;

by myself I-am come into Spain

240 onques nel sorent mi ami,

ever not-it knew my friends

ne nel sot la suer Caadin.

nor not-it knew the sister (of-)Kaberdin

Tant ai erré par mer, par terre,

So-much I-have wandered by sea by land

que je vos sui venuz requerre.

that I you am come to-see

Se je ensin m'an vois do tot,

If I thus myself-thence go of-the whole

245 que l'un en l'autre ne vos bot,

so-that the-one in the-other not you I-thrust

donc ai je perdue ma joie;

then have I lost my joy

ja mais en augur nus ne croie.»

ever more in omen any not believe

En la sale maint en consoille;

In the hall many-a-one thereat takes-counsel

li uns dit a l'autre en l'oroille:

the one says to the-other in the-ear

«Mien esciant tost avandroit

(In-)my knowledge soon it-would-happen

que mes sires cel fol creroit.»

that my lord that fool would-believe

Li rois a demandé chevax,

The king has asked-for horses

aler veoir vialt ses oisiax

to-go to-see he-wishes his birds

la de defors voler as grues:

there of outside to-fly at-the cranes

pieç'a que n'issirent des mues.

long-since that not-they-issued from-the mews

Tuit s'an issent, la sale est vuie,

All themselves-thence go-out the hall is empty

et Tristanz a un banc s'apoie.

and Tristan on a bench himself-leans

La raïne entra en sa chambre

The queen entered into her chamber

don li pavemanz est de lanbre,

whereof the pavement is of paneling

a soi apele sa meschine;

to herself she-calls her maid

dit li a: «Por sainte Estrestine,

said (to-)her she-has For holy Estrestine

as tu oï del fol mervoilles?

hast thou heard of-the fool marvels

250

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Male goute ait il es oroilles!

Evil gout have he in-the ears

Tant a hui mes faiz regreté

So-much he-has today my deeds lamented

265 et les Tristan, c'ai tant amé

and those (of-)Tristan whom-I-have so-much loved

et fais encor, pas ne m'an fain!

and I-do still at-all not myself-thereof I-feign

Lasse! si m'a il en desdain,

Wretched so me-has he in disdain

et si m'an sofre encor a poine.

and so me-thereof he-suffers still with pain

Va por lo fol, si lo m'amoine!»

Go for the fool so him (to-)me-bring

270 Cele s'an torne eschevelee;

She herself-thence turns disbeveled

voit la Tristanz, mout li agree.

sees her Tristan much (to-)him it-pleases

«Dan fol, ma dame vos demande.

Lord fool my lady you asks-for

Mout avez hui esté en grande

Much you-have today been in eagerness

de raconter hui vostre vie.

of to-relate today your life

275 Plains estes de melancolie:

Full you-are of melancholy

si m'aïst Dex, qui vos pandroit,

so me-help God whoever you would-hang

je cuit que bien exploiteroit.»

I think that well he-would-act

— Certes, Brangien, ainz feroit mal;

Certainly Brangain rather he-would-do ill

plus fol de moi vait a cheval.

more fool than me goes on horse

— Quel deiable empané bis

What devil feathered dun

vos ont mon non ensi apris?

you have my name thus taught

— Bele, pieç'a que je lo soi.

Fair long-since that I it know

Par lo mien chef, qui ja fu bloi,

By the my head which once was blond

partie est de cest las raison:

departed is from this wretch reason

par vos est fox. Lo gerredon

by you he-is mad The reward

hui cest jor, bele, vos demant,

today this day fair (of-)you I-ask

que me façoiz solemant tant

that (to-)me you-do only so-much

que la raïne me merisse

that the queen me reward

la carte part de mon servise

the fourth part of my service

o la moitié de mon travail.»

or the half of my toil

Don sopira a grant baail.

Then he-sigbed with great yawn

Brangien si l'a bien agaitié:

Brangain so him-has well observed

280

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biaus braz, beles mains et biau pié

fair arms fair hands and fair foot

li voit avoir a desmesure;

(to-)him she-sees have beyond measure

295 bien est tailliez par la çainture.

well be-is shaped by the waist

En son cuer panse qu'il est sage

In her heart she-thinks that-he is wise

et a meillor mal que n'est rage.

and has better ill than is madness

«Chevaliers sire, Dex t'anort

Knight lord God thee-honor

et doint joie, mais qu'il ne tort

and give joy provided that-it not turn

300 a la raïne a desenor

to the queen to dishonor

ne a moi, qui sui de s'amor!

nor to me who am of her-love

Pardone moi ce que t'ai dit;

Pardon me that which thee-I-have said

ne m'an poise mie petit.

not me-thereof it-weighs at-all little

— Jel vos pardoin, pas ne m'an poise.»

I-it you pardon at-all not me-thereof it-weighs

305 A tant dit Brangien que cortoise:

At that-much said Brangain who courtly

«Toe merci porchace t'uevre:

(Of-)thy mercy pursue thy-work

d'autrui que de Tristan recovre.

of-another than of Tristan recover

— Ja si feroie je, mon voil;

Indeed so would-do I my wish

mais li boivres del trosseroil

but the drink of-the little-flask

m'a si emblé et cuer et sans

me-has so stolen both heart and sense

que je nan ai autre porpans

that I not-thereof have other purpose

fors tant que en amor servir.

except so-much as in love to-serve

Dex m'an doint a boen chief venir!

God me-thereof grant to good end to-come

Mar fu cele ovre appareilliee!

In-an-ill-hour was that work prepared

Mon san ai an folor changiee.

My sense I-have into folly changed

Et vos, Brangien, qui l'aportates,

And you Brangain who it-brought

certes malemant exploitates.

certainly badly you-acted

Cil boivres fu faiz a envers

That drink was made in reverse

de plusors herbés mout divers.

of several herbs very diverse

Je muir por li, ele nel sant:

I die for her she not-it feels

n'est pas parti oniemant;

not-it-is at-all shared evenly

car je sui Tristanz, qui mar fu.»

for I am Tristan who in-an-ill-hour was

310

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320

A cest mot l'a bien conneü.

At this word him-she-has well known

A ses piez chiet, merci li crie,

At his feet she-falls mercy (to-)him she-cries

325 qu'il li pardoint sa vilenie.

that-he (to-)her pardon her villainy

Cil la relieve par les doiz,

He her raises by the fingers

si la baisa plus de cent foiz.

so her he-kissed more than hundred times

Or la prie de sa besoingne

Now her he-prays of his business

et qu'el la face sans essoigne,

and that-she it do without excuse

330 bien s'an porra apercevoir,

well herself-thereof she-will-be-able to-perceive

et qu'ele en face son pooir.

and that-she thereof do her power

Brangien l'an moine par lo poin,

Brangain him-thence leads by the hand

l'uns près de l'autre, non pas loing,

the-one near of the-other not at-all far

et viennent en la chanbre ensamble.

and they-come into the chamber together

335 Voit lo Ysiau, li cuers li tranble,

Sees him Iscalt the heart (to-)her trembles

car mout lo het por les paroles

for much him she-hates for the words

que il dist hui matin si foles.

that he said today morning so mad

Mout boenemant et sanz losange

Very kindly and without flattery

la salua, a quel que praigne.

her he-greeted at what that it-take

The Queen, the Dog, and the Ring

III

Iseult will not know him, and he tells over the harping, the wound in the shoulder, the serpent's venom, the notched sword, the voyage, and Brangain's error with the cup — and she still calls it a tale learned from a good master. He asks after Husdent; the dog is brought and fawns on him, though it will let no one else near. Then he shows the little ring of fine gold she gave him at parting, and she knows him, faints, and is caught in his arms; and while Mark is at the river the two go behind the curtain.

«Dex saut,» fait ce il, «la raïne,

God save says that he the queen

avoc li Brangien sa meschine!

with her Brangain her maid

Car ele m'avroit tost gari

For she me-would-have soon healed

por sol moi apeler ami.

for only me to-call friend

Amis sui je et ele amie.

Friend am I and she friend

N'est pas l'amors a droit partie:

Not-is at-all the-love at right shared

je sui a doble travaillié,

I am at double tormented

340

345

mais el n'an a nule pitié.

but she not-thereof has any pity

O fain, o soif et ou durs liz,

With hunger with thirst and with hard beds

pansis, pansant, do cuer, do piz

pensive thinking of-the heart of-the breast

350 ai soferte mainte destrece;

I-have suffered many-a distress

n'ai rien mesfait par ma parece.

not-I-have anything misdane by my sloth

Mais cil Dex qui reigne sanz fin,

But that God who reigns without end

qui as noces Archedeclin

who at-the wedding (of-)Archedeclin

lor fu tant cortois botoillier

(to-)them was so courtly butler

355 que l'eve fist en vin changier,

that the-water he-made into wine to-change

icel Dex me mete en corage

that God me put in heart

que il me giet d'icest folage!»

that he me cast from-this folly

Cele se taist, qui mot ne sone.

She herself is-silent who word not sounds

Voit la Brangiens, si l'araisone:

Sees her Brangain so her-she-addresses

«Dame», fait ele, «quel sanblant

Lady says she what semblance

faites au plus loial amant

you-make to-the most loyal lover

qui onques fust ne ja mais soit?

that ever was nor ever more be

Vostre amor l'a trop en destroit.

Your love him-has too-much in straits

Metéz li tost voz braz au col!

Put (to-)him quickly your arms at-the neck

Por vos s'est tonduz conme fol.

For you himself-he-is shorn as fool

Dame, entandez que je i di:

Lady understand what I there say

ce est Tristans, gel vos afi.

this is Tristan I-it (to-)you pledge

— Damoisele, vos avez tort.

Damsel you have wrong

Car fussiez vos a lui au port

Would-that were you with him at-the port

o il ariva hui matin!

where he arrived today morning

Trop a en lui cointe meschin!

Exceedingly there-is in him (a-)fine youth

Se ce fust il, il n'aüst pas

If this were he he not-would-have at-all

hui dit de moi si vilains gas,

today said of me such churlish jests

oiant toz cez en cele sale;

bearing all these in that hall

360

365

370

375 miauz volsist estre el fonz de fale!
rather he-would-wish to-be in-the bottom of hold

— Dame, gel fis por nos covrir,
Lady I-it did for us to-cover

et por aux toz por fox tenir.
and for them all for fools to-hold

Ainz ne soi rien de devinaille.
Ever not I-knew anything of divining

La nostre amor trop me travaille.
The our love too-much me torments

380 Po vos manbre de Gamarien,
Little (to-)you it-recalls of Gamarien

qui ne demandoit autre rien
who not asked other thing

fors vostre cors qu'il en mena:
except your body that-he thence led

qui fu ce qui vos delivra?
who was this who you delivered

— Certes, Tristans, li niés lo roi,
Certainly Tristan the nephew (of-)the king

385 qui molt fu de riche conroi.»
who much was of rich array

Voit lo Tristans, mout li est buen:
Sees it Tristan much (to-)him it-is good

bien set que il avra do suen,
well he-knows that he will-have of-the hers

s'amor, car plus ne li demande;
her-love for more not (to-)her he-asks

sovant en a esté en grande.
often thereof he-has been in anxiety

«Resanble je point a celui

Resemble I at-all to him

qui sol, sanz aïe d'autrui,

who alone without help of-another

vos secorut a cel besoin,

you succored at that need

a Guimarant copa lo poin?

from Guimarant cut the band

— Oil, itant que estes home.

Yes so-much that you-are man

Ne vos conois, ce est la some.

Not you I-know this is the sum

— Certes, dame, c'est grant dolor.

Certainly lady this-is great grief

Ja fui je vostre harpeor

Once was I your harper

en la chanbre, de lui menistre,

in the chamber of him servant

tele ore que je fui molt triste

such hour that I was very sad

et vos, raïne, encor un poi;

and you queen still a little

car de la plaie que je oi,

for of the wound that I had

que il me fist par mi l'espaule,

that he me made through midst-of the-shoulder

si issi je de ceste aule,

so went-out I from this hall

me randistes et sauf et sain;

me you-rendered both safe and sound

390

395

400

405 autres de vos n'i mist la main.

other than you not-there put the hand

Del velin del cruiel serpent,

Of-the venom of-the cruel serpent

(panduz soie, se je en mant!)

hanged be-I if I thereof lie

me garesistes sanz mechain,

me you-healed without maiming

et, quant je fui entrez el bain,

and when I was entered into-the bath

410 traisistes vos mon branc d'acier:

drew you my brand of-steel

trovastes l'osche a l'essuier;

you-found the-notch at the-wiping

donc apelastes Perenis

then you-called Perinis

o la bande de paile bis

with the strip of silk gray

o la piece iert envelopee;

where the piece was wrapped

415 l'acier joinssistes a l'espee.

the-steel you-joined to the-sword

Quant l'un acier a l'autre joint,

When the-one steel to the-other joins

donc ne m'amastes vos donc point.

then not me-loved you then at-all

Par grant ire por moi ferir

By great anger for me to-strike

l'alastes a deus poinz saisir:

it-you-went with two hands to-seize

venistes ver moi tot iriee.

you-came toward me all angered

En po d'ore vos oi paiee

In little of-hour you I-had appeased

o la parole do chevol,

with the word of-the hair

don je ai puis aü grant dol.

whereof I have since had great grief

Vostre mere sot ce secroi,

Your mother knew this secret

ice vos aü je par foi;

this (to-)you pledge I by faith

don me fustes vos puis bailliee.

then (to-)me were you afterward banded

Bien fu la nés apareilliee.

Well was the ship prepared

Qant de havre fumes torné,

When from harbor we-were turned

au tiers jor nos failli oré.

at-the third day (to-)us failed wind

Toz nos estut nagier as rains;

All us it-behooved to-row at-the oars

je meïsmes i mis les mains.

I myself there put the hands

Granz fu li chاوز, s'aümes soif;

Great was the heat so-we-had thirst

Brangiens, qui ci est devant toi,

Brangain who here is before thee

corut en haste au trosseroil;

ran in haste to-the little-cask

420

425

430

- 435 ele meprist estre son voil:
she erred against her will
do buverage empli la cope,
of-the beverage she-filled the cup
mout par fu clers, n'i parut sope,
very much it-was clear not-there appeared sop
tandi lo moi, et je lo pris.
she-banded it (to-)me and I it took
Ainz ne iert mal ne après pis,
Ever not was ill nor after worse
440 car trop savez de la favele.
for too-much you-know of the fable
Mar vos vi onques, damoisele!
In-an-ill-hour you I-saw ever damsel
— De mout bon maistre avez leü!
Of very good master you-have read
A vostre voil seroiz tenu
At your wish you-would-be held
por Tristan, a cui Dex aït;
for Tristan to whom God help
445 mais toz en iroiz escondit.
but all thereof you-will-go refuted
Diroiz vos mais nule novele?
Will-say you more any news
— Oïl: lo saut de la chapele.
Yes the leap of the chapel
Qant a ardoir fustes jugiee
When to burn you-were judged
et as malades otroiee,
and to-the sick-men granted

mout s'antraloient desrainnant

much each-other-they-went disputing

et mout durement estrivant:

and very hard striving

a l'un en donerent le choïs,

to the-one thereof they-gave the choice

li qex d'aux vos avroit el bois.

the which of-them you would-have in-the wood

Je n'an fis autre enbuschemant

I not-thereof made other ambush

fors de Gorvenal solement.

except of Governal only

Mout me deüssiez bien conoistre,

Much me you-ought well to-know

car je formant lo fis je croistre.

for I greatly it made I to-grow

Ainz par moi n'en fu un desdit,

Ever by me not-thereof was one denied

mès Gorvenal, cui Dex äit,

but Governal to-whom God help

lor dona tex cox des bastons

(to-)them gave such blows of-the staves

ou s'apooient des moignons...

where they-leaned with-the stumps

en la forest fumes un terme,

in the forest we-were a term

o nos plorames mainte lerne.

where we wept many-a tear

Ne vit encor l'hermite Ugrin?

Not lives still the-hermit Ogrin

450

455

460

- 465 Dex mete s'ame a boene fin!
God put his-soul at good end
 — Ce poez bien laissier ester;
This you-can well let be
 de lui ne fait mie a parler.
of him not it-makes at-all to speak
 Vos nel resanbleroiz oan.
You not-it will-resemble this-year
 Il est prodom, et vos truanz.
He is worthy-man and you beggar
- 470 Estrange chose avez enprise:
Strange thing you-have undertaken
 maint engingniez par truandise.
many-a-one you-deceive by beggary
 Je vos feroie mout tost prendre
I you would-make very soon to-take
 et au roi vos ovres antandre.»
and to-the king your works to-hear
 — Certes, dame, si lo savoit,
Certainly lady if it he-knew
- 475 je cuit qu'il vos en peseroit.
I think that-it you thereof would-grieve
 L'an dit: qui ainz servi Amor,
One says whoever ever served Love
 tot lo gerredone en un jor.
all it he-rewards in one day
 Selonc les ovres que ci voi,
According-to the works that here I-see
 est ce granz errors endroit moi:
is this great error regarding me

je soloie ja avoir drue,

I was-wont once to-have beloved

mais or l'ai, ce m'est vis, perdue.

but now her-I-have this to-me-is seeming lost

— Sire, qui vos a destorbé?

Lord who you has troubled

— Cele qui tanz jorz m'a amé

She who so-many days me-has loved

et fera encor, se Deu plaist,

and will-do still if (to-)God it-please

ne n'est mestier c'ancor me laist.

nor not-is need that-still me she-leave

Or vos conterai autre rien:

Now (to-)you I-shall-tell other thing

estrange nature a en chien.

strange nature there-is in dog

Queles! qu'est Hudent devenu?

Well-then what-is Hudent become

Qant cil l'orent trois jorz tenu,

When they it-had three days held

ainz ne vost boire ne mangier,

ever not it-wished to-drink nor to-eat

por moi se voloit enragier.

for me itself it-wished to-go-mad

Donc abatirent au brechet

Then they-struck-off from-the brachet

lo bel lien o tot l'uisset.

the fair leasb with all the-kennel-door

Ainz ne fina, si vint a moi.

Ever not it-ceased so it-came to me

480

485

490

495 — Par cele foi que je vos doi,

By that faith that I (to-)you owe

certes, jel gart en ma saisine

certainly I-it keep in my seisin

a eüs celui cui me destine

at the-use-of him to-whom myself I-destine

q'ancor férons ensanble joie.

that-still we-shall-make together joy

— Por moi lairoit Ysiaut la bloie.

For me would-leave(-it) Iseult the blonde

500 Car lo me mostrez orandroit,

Now it (to-)me show straightway

savoir se il me conoistroit.

to-know if it me would-know

— Connoistre! vos dites richece.

To-know you say richness [a-grand-thing]

Po priseroit vostre destrece;

Little it-would-prize your distress

car puis que Tristanz s'an ala,

for since that Tristan himself-thence went

505 home de lui ne s'aprima

(a-)man of him not himself-approached

qu'il ne volsist mangier as danz.

that-it not wished to-eat with-the teeth

Il gent en la chanbre loianz.

It whines in the chamber within

Damoisele, amenez lo çal!»

Damsel bring it hither

Brangiens i cort, sou desloia.

Brangain there runs so-it unbound

Qant li brechez l'oï parler,

When the brachet him-heard speak

lo lien fait des mains voler

the leasb it-makes from-the hands to-fly

a la meschine qui l'amoine;

to the maid who it-leads

de venir a Tristan se poine,

of to-come to Tristan itself it-takes-pains

sore li cort, lieve la teste:

upon him it-runs it-raises the head

onques tel joie ne fist beste;

ever such joy not made beast

boute do groin et fiert do pié:

it-butts with-the snout and strikes with-the foot

toz li monz en aüst pitié;

all the world thereof would-have-had pity

ses mains loiche, de joie abaie.

his hands it-licks of joy it-bays

Voit lo Ysiaut, formant s'esmaie,

Sees it Iseult greatly herself-she-dismays

craint que il soit enchanteor

she-fears that he be enchanter

o aucun boen bareteor:

or some good deceiver

Tristanz ot povre vesteüre.

Tristan bad poor clothing

Au brachet dit: «La norriture

To-the brachet he-says The rearing

c'ai mis en toi soit beneoite!

that-I-have put in thee be blessed

510

515

520

- 525 Ne m'as mie t'amor toloite.
Not me-thou-hast at-all thy-love taken-away
- Molt m'as montré plus bel sanblant
Much me-thou-hast shown more fair semblance
- que celi cui j'amoie tant.
than she whom I-loved so-much
- Ele cuide que je me faigne:
She thinks that I myself feign
- ele verra la destre ensaigne
she will-see the right token
- 530 q'ele me dona en baisant,
that-she me gave in kissing
- qant departimes en plorant,
when we-parted in weeping
- cest enelet petit d'or fin:
this little-ring small of-gold fine
- mout m'a esté pruchien voisin;
much (to-)me-it-has been near neighbor
- mainte foiz ai a lui parlé,
many-a time I-have to it spoken
- 535 et quis consoil et demandé,
and sought counsel and asked
- et qan ne me savoit respondre,
and when not me it-knew to-answer
- avis m'iert que deüsse fondre:
seeming to-me-was that I-must melt
- par amor baisai l'esmeraude,
by love I-kissed the-emerald
- mi oil moillerent d'eve chaude.»
my eyes wetted with-water hot

Ysiaut conut bien l'anelet

Iseult knew well the-little-ring

et vit la joie del brechet

and saw the joy of-the brachet

que il fait, a poi ne s'anrage.

that it makes at little — she-goes-mad

Or s'aperçoit en son corage

Now herself-she-perceives in her heart

c'est Tristans a cui el parole.

this-is Tristan to whom she speaks

«Lasse!» fait ele, «tant sui fole!

Wretched says she so-much I-am foolish

Hé! mauvais cuers, por que ne fonz,

Ah wicked heart for what not thou-meltest

qant ne conois la rien el mont

when not thou-knowest the being in-the world

qui por moi a plus de tormant?

who for me has most of torment

Sire, merci! je m'an repant.»

Lord mercy I myself-thereof repent

Pasmee chiet, cil la reçoit.

Swooning she-falls he her receives

Or voit Brangiens ce qu'el voloit.

Now sees Brangain that which-she wished

Quant el revint, es flans l'anbrace;

When she came-round at-the flanks her-she-embraces

lo vis et lo nés et la face

the face and the nose and the visage

li a plus de mil foiz baisié.

(to-)him she-has more than thousand times kissed

540

545

550

555 «Ha! Tristanz sire, quel pechié,

Ab Tristan lord what sin

qui tel poine sofrez por moi!

who such pain you-suffer for me

Don mal soie fille de roi,

Then ill be-I daughter of king

s'or ne vos rant lo gerredon!

if-now not you I-render the reward

Quelles! Brangien, quel la feron?

Well-then Brangain what it shall-we-do

560 — Dame, nel tenez mie a gas:

Lady not-it hold at-all for jest

alez, si li querez les dras.

go so (for-)him seek the clothes

Il est Tristanz et vos Ysiaut.

He is Tristan and you Iseult

Or voit l'an bien qui plus se deut...

Now sees one well who most himself grieves

(lacuna)

A molt petitet d'achoisson.

At very little of-occasion

565 Et dit: «Quel aise li feron?

And she-says What ease (to-)him shall-we-make

— Tandis con vos avez loisir,

So-long as you have leisure

mout vos penez de lui servir,

much you take-pains of him to-serve

tant que Mars viegne de riviere.

until that Mark come from river

— Car la trovast il si plenièr

Would-that it found he so full

qu'il ne venist devant uit jorz!

that-he not came before eight days

(lacuna)

A ces paroles, sanz grant cri,

At these words without great cry

con vos avez ici oï,

as you have here heard

entre Tristanz soz la cortine:

enters Tristan under the curtain

entre ses braz tient la raïne.

between his arms he-holds the queen

570

