

OLD FRENCH SERIES • VOLUME 10

Yvain

CHRÉTIEN DE TROYES

Yvain

The Knight of the Lion

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

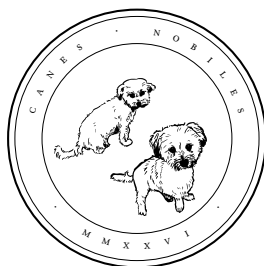


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Volume 10 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows Wendelin Foerster's text, Kristian von Troyes,
Yvain (Der Löwenritter), Romanische Bibliothek 5, fourth edition (Halle, 1912)

Set from a page scan of Foerster's fourth edition

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

The spelling is Foerster's normalized Champenois in his fourth edition,
with the acute on a tonic final e, the cedilla, and the tréma where
two vowels do not form a diphthong; speech stands between “ ” and a quoted word,
or a quotation inside a speech, between ‘ ’. The verse number the margin carries
every fifth row is the fourth edition's own count, not that of the *Sämtliche
Werke*, and the quatrain Foerster prints and does not count stands under
the numbers 1322a–d. His row of suspension points prints as an ellipsis,
a row of air marks each of his drop capitals that does not open a section,
and the reading sections and their English heads are this press's.

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Arthur's Court at Carduel

I

Arthur holds his court at Carduel in Wales at Pentecost, and after the meal the knights fall into talk; the poet breaks in to say that love has turned to a fable in his own day. The king withdraws to sleep, which no one has known him do at so great a feast. The queen comes out to the knights, Calogrenant rises alone to her, Kay mocks him for it and is rebuked, and Calogrenant is bidden to tell his tale.

Artus, li buens rois de Bretaingne,

Arthur the good king of Britain

la cui proesce nos ansaingne,

the whose prowess us teaches

que nos soiiens preu et cortois,

that we be valiant and courteous

tint cort si riche come rois

held court so rich as a-king

a cele feste, qui tant coste,

at that feast which so-much costs

qu'an doit clamer la pantecoste.

that-one must call the Pentecost

Li rois fu a Carduel an Gales.

The king was at Carduel in Wales

Aprés mangier parmi cez sales

After eating through these halls

li chevalier s'atropelerent

the knights themselves-gathered

la, ou dames les apelerent

there where ladies them called

ou dameiseles ou puceles.

or damsels or maidens

5

10

Li un recontoient noveles,

The ones recounted news

li autre parloient d'amors,

the others spoke of-love

des angoisses et des dolors

of-the anguishes and of-the sorrows

15 et des granz biens, qu'an ont sovant

and of-the great goods that-thereof have often

li deciple de son covant,

the disciples of its order

qui lors estoit riches et buens.

which then was rich and good

Mes ore i a mout po des suens;

But now there are very few of-the its-own

que a bien pres l'ont tuit leissiee,

for at well nigh it-have all abandoned

20 s'an est amors mout abeissiee;

so-thereby is love much abased

car cil, qui soloient amer,

for those who used to-love

se feisoient cortois clamer

themselves made courteous to-be-called

et preu et large et enorable.

and valiant and generous and honorable

Ore est amors tornee a fable

Now is love turned to a-fable

25 por ce que cil, qui rien n'an santent,

for this that those who anything not-thereof feel

dient qu'il aimment, mes il mantent,

say that-they love but they lie

et cil fable et mançonge an font,
and those a-fable and a-lie thereof make

qui s'an vantent et droit n'i ont.
who themselves-thereof boast and right not-therein have

Mes por parler de çaus, qui furent,
But to speak of those who were

leissons çaus, qui an vie durent!
let-us-leave those who in life endure

30

Qu'ancor vaut miauz, ce m'est avis,
For-still is-worth more this to-me-is opinion

uns cortois morz qu'uns vilains vis.
a courteous-man dead than-a churl alive

Por ce me plect a raconter
For this to-me pleases to recount

chose, qui face a escouter,
a-thing which be-fit to hear

del roi, qui fu de tel tesmoing,
of-the king who was of such report

35

qu'an an parole pres et loing;
that-one thereof speaks near and far

si m'acort de tant as Bretons,
so I-agree in so-much with-the Bretons

que toz jorz mes vivra ses nons;
that all days more will-live his name

et par lui sont ramanteü
and through him are remembered

li buen chevalier esleü,
the good knights chosen

40

qui an enor se traveillierent.
who in honor themselves labored

Mes cel jor mout s'esmerveillierent

But that day much themselves-marveled

del roi, qui d'anre aus se leva,

at-the king who from-among them himself rose

s'i ot de tes, cui mout greva

and-there were of such whom much it-grieved

45 et qui mout grant parole an firent

and who very great talk thereof made

por ce, que onques mes nel virent

for this that ever before not-him they-saw

a si grant feste an chanbre antrer

at so great a-feast into a-chamber to-enter

por dormir ne por reposer;

for to-sleep nor for to-rest

mes cel jor einsi li avint,

but that day thus to-him it-befell

50 que la reïne le detint,

that the queen him detained

si demora tant delez li,

so he-stayed so-long beside her

qu'il s'oblia et andormi.

that-he himself-forgot and fell-asleep

A l'uis de la chanbre defors

At the-door of the chamber outside

fu Dodiniaus et Sagremors

were Dodinel and Sagremor

55 et Kes et mes sire Gauvains,

and Kay and my lord Gawain

et si i fu mes sire Yvains,

and so there was my lord Yvain

et avuec aus Calogrenanz,

and with them Calogrenant

uns chevaliers mout avenanz,

a knight very comely

qui lor ot comancié un conte,

who to-them had begun a tale

non de s'enor, mes de sa honte.

not of his-honor but of his shame

Que que il son conte contoit,

While that he his tale told

et la reïne l'escoutoit,

and the queen it-listened-to

si s'est de lez le roi levee

so herself-is from beside the king risen

et vint sor aus si a anblee,

and came upon them so by stealth

qu'ainz que nus la poïst veoir,

that-before that anyone her could see

se fu leissiee antre aus cheoir, ...

herself was let among them to-fall —

fors que Calogrenanz sanz plus

except that Calogrenant without more

sailli an piez contre li sus.

sprang to feet toward her up

Et Kes, qui mout fu ranposneus,

And Kay who very was full-of-taunts

fel et poignanz et afiteus,

cruel and stinging and offensive

li dist: "Par De, Calogrenant!

to-him said By God Calogrenant

60

65

70

Mout vos voi or preu et saillant,
Very you I-see now valiant and springing
 et certes mout m'est bel, que vos
and certainly much to-me-is pleasing that you
 estes li plus cortois de nos;
are the most courteous of us

75 et bien sai, que vos le cuidiez,
and well I-know that you it think
 tant estes vos de san vuidiez;
so-much are you of sense emptied
 s'est droiz que ma dame le cuit,
so-it-is right that my lady it think
 que vos aiez plus que nos tuit
that you have more than us all
 de cortisie et de proesce.
of courtesy and of prowess

80 Ja le leissames por peresce,
Indeed it we-left for sloth
 espoir, que nos ne nos levames,
perhaps that we not ourselves rose
 ou por ce, que nos ne deignames!
or for this that we not deigned
 Par ma foi! sire, non feïmes,
By my faith lord not we-did
 mes por ce, que nos ne veïmes
but for this that we not saw

85 ma dame, ainz fustes vos levez.”
my lady before were you risen
 “Certes, Kes! ja fussiez crevez”,
Certainly Kay indeed you-would-have burst

fet la reïne, “au mien cuidier,

says the queen to-the my thinking

se ne vos poïssiez vuidier

if not you could empty

del venin, don vos estes plains.

of-the venom of-which you are full

Enuieus estes et vilains

Spiteful you-are and churlish

de ranposner voz compaignons.”

in taunting your companions

“Dame! se nos ne gaeignons”,

Lady if we not gain

fet Kes, “an vostre compaignie,

says Kay in your company

gardez que nos n’i perdons mie!

see that we not-therein lose at-all

Je ne cuit avoir chose dite,

I not think to-have a-thing said

qui me doie estre a mal escrite,

which to-me ought be to ill written

et je vos pri, teisiez vos an!

and I you beg be-silent you thereof

Il n’a cortisie ne san

There not-has courtesy nor sense

an plet d’oiseuse maintenir.

in a-plea of-idleness to-maintain

Cist plez ne doit avant venir,

This plea not must forward come

ne l’an nel doit plus haut monter;

nor one not-it must more high raise

90

95

100

mes faites nos avant conter

but make us forward tell

ce qu'il avoit ancomancié;

that which-he had begun

que ci ne doit avoir tancié.”

for here not must be quarreling

105 A ceste parole s'apont

At this word himself-readies

Calogrenanz et si respont:

Calogrenanz and so answers

“Sire!”, fet il, “de la tançon

Lord says he of the quarrel

n'ai je mie grant cusançon;

not-have I at-all great care

petit m'an est et po la pris.

little to-me-thereof is and little it I-prize

110 Se vos avez vers moi mespris,

If you have toward me offended

je n'i avrai ja nul damage:

I not-therein shall-have ever any harm

a miauz vaillant et a plus sage,

to better worthy and to more wise

mes sire Kes! que je ne sui,

my lord Kay than I — am

avez vos dit sovant enui;

have you said often vexation

115 que bien an estes costumiers.

for well thereof you-are accustomed

Toz jorz doit puïr li fumiers

All days must stink the dungbill

et taons poindre et maloz bruire,

and gadflies to-sting and bumblebees to-buzz

enuieus enuiier et nuire.

a spiteful-man to-vex and to-harm

Mes je n'an conterai hui mes,

But I not-thereof shall-tell today more

se ma dame m'an leisse an pes,

if my lady to-me-thereof leaves in peace

et je li pri, qu'ele s'an teise,

and I her beg that-she thereof be-silent

que ja chose, qui me despleise,

so-that ever a-thing which to-me displease

ne me comant, soe merci.”

not to-me command by-her leave

“Dame! trestuit cil, qui sont ci”,

Lady all those who are here

fet Kes, “buen gre vos an savront;

says Kay good thanks you thereof will-know

que volantiers l'escouteront;

for willingly it-they-will-hear

ne n'an faites ja rien por moi!

nor not-thereof make ever anything for me

Mes foi, que vos devez le roi,

But by-the-faith that you owe the king

le vostre seignor et le mien,

the your lord and the mine

comandez li, si feroiz bien”.

command her so you-will-do well

120

125

130

“Calogrenanz!”, fet la reïne,

Calogrenant says the queen

“ne vos chaille de l’anhatine

not you let-it-trouble of the-wrangling

mon seignor Ke, le seneschal!

of-my lord Kay the seneschal

Costumiers est de dire mal

Accustomed he-is to speak ill

135 si qu’an ne l’an puet chastier.

so that-one not him-thereof can chastise

Comander vos vuel et priier,

To-command you I-wish and to-beg

que ja n’an aiiez au cuer ire,

that ever not-thereof you-have in-the heart wrath

ne por lui ne leissiez a dire

nor for him not leave to tell

chose, qui nos pleise a oïr,

a-thing which us please to hear

140 se de m’amor volez joir,

if of my-love you-wish to-have-joy

mes comanciez tot de rechief!”

but begin all of anew

“Certes, dame! ce m’est mout grief,

Certainly lady this to-me-is very grievous

que vos me comandez a feire:

that you me command to do

ainz me leissasse un des iauz treire,

rather me I-would-let one of-the eyes tear-out

145 se correcier ne vos dotasse,

if to-anger not you I-feared

que hui mes nule rien contasse;

that today more any thing I-should-tell

mes je ferai ce qu'il vos siet,

but I shall-do that which-it you suits

comant que il onques me griet.

however that it ever me grieve

Des qu'il vos plest, ore antandez!

Since that-it you pleases now hear

Cuer et oroilles me randez!

Heart and ears to-me give

Car parole oïe est perdue,

For a-word heard is lost

s'ele n'est de cuer antandue.

if-it not-is with heart understood

De tes i a, que ce, qu'il öent,

Of such there are that that which-they hear

n'antandent pas et si le loent;

not-understand at-all and yet it praise

et cil n'an ont mes que l'oïe,

and those not-thereof have more than the-bearing

des que li cuers n'i antant mie.

since that the heart not-therein attends at-all

As oroilles vient la parole

To-the ears comes the word

aussi come li vanz, qui vole;

just as the wind which flies

mes n'i areste ne demore,

but not-therein stays nor lingers

ainz s'an part an mout petit d'ore,

rather itself-thence parts in very little of-time

150

155

160

se li cuers n'est si esveilliez,

if the heart not-is so awakened

qu'au prandre soit apareilliez;

that-at-the taking it-be ready

que cil la puet an son venir

for that-one it can at its coming

prandre et anclorre et retenir.

to-take and to-enclose and to-keep

165 Les oroilles sont voie et doiz,

The ears are the-way and the-conduit

par ou s'an vient au cuer la voiz;

by which itself-thence comes to-the heart the voice

et li cuers prant dedanz le vantre

and the heart takes within the belly

la voiz, qui par l'oroille i antre.

the voice which by the-ear therein enters

Et qui or me voldra antandre,

And who now me will-wish to-bear

170 cuer et oroilles me doit randre:

heart and ears to-me must give

car ne vuel pas parler de songe,

for not I-wish at-all to-speak of a-dream

ne de fable ne de mançoenge,

nor of a-fable nor of a-lie

don maint autre vos ont servi,

of-which many another you have served

ainz vos dirai ce, que je vi.

rather to-you I-shall-tell that which I saw

Calogrenant's Tale: the Forest and the Vavasour

II

Nearly seven years ago, he says, he rode out alone after adventure and took a road to the right through a thick wood. A day's riding brought him into Broceliande, to a stockade where a vavasour stood on the bridge with a mewed hawk on his fist. The man blessed the road he had come by a hundred times over; a maiden disarmed him and sat with him in a walled meadow, the household leaving them alone; and after supper the vavasour begged him to come back that way.

Il avint, pres a de set anz,

175

It happened near it-is by seven years

que je seus come paï sanz

that I alone as a-peasant

aloie querant avantures,

went seeking adventures

armez de totes armeüres

armed with all armor

si come chevaliers doit estre,

just as a-knight must be

et trovai un chemin a destre

180

and I-found a road to the-right

parmi une forest espesse.

through a forest thick

Mout i ot voie felenesse,

Much there was a-way perilous

de ronces et d'espines plainne;

of brambles and of-thorns full

a quelqu'enui, a quelque painne,

at whatever-vexation at whatever pain

185 ting cele voie et cel santier.

I-held that way and that path

A bien pres tot le jor antier

At well nigh all the day whole

m'an alai chevauchant ainsi

myself-thence I-went riding thus

tant que de la forest issi,

so-long that from the forest I-came-out

et ce fu an Broceliande.

and this was in Broceliande

190 De la forest an une lande

From the forest into a heath

antrai et vi une bretesche

I-entered and saw a stockade

a demie liue galesche:

at a-half league Welsh

se tant i ot, plus n'i ot pas.

if so-much there was more not-there was at-all

Cele part ving plus que le pas

That way I-came more than the pace

195 et vi le baille et le fossé

and I-saw the bailey and the ditch

tot environ parfont et le,

all around deep and wide

et sor le pont an piez estoit

and on the bridge on foot was

cil, cui la forteresce estoit,

he whose the fortress was

sor son poing un ostor müé.

on his fist a hawk mewed

Ne l'oi mie bien salüé,

Not him-I-had at-all well greeted

quant il me vint a l'estrier prendre,

when he to-me came at the-stirrup to-take

si me comanda a desçandre.

so me he-bade to dismount

Je desçandi; il n'i ot el,

I dismounted there not-there was other

que mestier avoie d'ostel;

for need I-had of-a-lodging

et il me dist tot maintenant

and he to-me said all at-once

plus de çant foiz an un tenant,

more than a-hundred times in one stretch

que beneoite fust la voie,

that blessed be the way

par ou leanz venuz estoie.

by which within come I-was

A tant an la cort an antrames,

There upon into the courtyard thereinto we-entered

le pont et la porte passames.

the bridge and the gate we-passed

Anmi la cort au vavassor,

In-the-middle-of the courtyard of-the vavasour

cui Des doint et joie et enor

to-whom God grant both joy and honor

tant come il fist moi cele nuit,

so-much as he did to-me that night

200

205

210

pandoit une table; je cuit

hung a board I believe

215 qu'il n'i avoit ne fer ne fust

that-there not-therein was neither iron nor wood

ne rien, qui de cuivre ne fust.

nor anything which of copper not were

Sor cele table d'un martel,

On that board with-a hammer

qui panduz iere a un postel,

which hung was from a post

feri li vavassors trois cos.

struck the vavasour three blows

220 Cil qui amont ierent anclos

Those who above were shut-in

oïrent la voiz et le son,

heard the voice and the sound

s'issirent fors de la meison

so-they-came out of the house

et vindrent an la cort aval.

and came into the courtyard down

Li un seisirent mon cheval,

The ones seized my horse

225 que li buens vavassors tenoit;

which the good vavasour held

et je vi que vers moi venoit

and I saw that toward me came

une pucele bele et jante.

a maiden fair and comely

An li esgarder mis m'antante:

On her to-look I-put my-attention

ele fu longue et gresle et droite.

she was tall and slender and straight

De moi desarmer fu adroite;

At me to-disarm she-was skillful

qu'ele le fist et bien et bel.

for-she it did both well and finely

Puis m'afubla un cort mantel,

Then to-me-she-put-on a short mantle

ver d'escarlata peonace,

vair of-scarlet-cloth peacock-blue

et tuit nos guerpirent la place,

and all to-us left the place

que avuec moi ne avuec li

so-that with me nor with her

ne remest nus, ce m'abeli;

not stayed anyone this to-me-pleased

que plus n'i queroie veoir.

for more not-therein I-sought to-see

Et ele me mena seoir

And she me led to-sit

el plus bel praelet del monde,

in-the most fair little-meadow of-the world

clos de bas mur a la reonde.

enclosed by a-low wall in the round

La la trovai si afeitiee,

There her I-found so well-mannered

si bien parlant et anseigniee,

so well speaking and taught

de tel sanblant et de tel estre,

of such bearing and of such manner

230

235

240

que mout m'i delitoit a estre,
that much to-me-therein it-delighted to be

245 ne ja mes por nul estovoir
nor ever more for any necessity

ne m'an queïsse remouvoir;
not myself-thence I-should-have-sought to-move

mes tant me fist la nuit de guerre
but so-much me made the night of trouble

li vavassors, qu'il me vint querre,
the vavasour that-he me came to-see

quant de soper fu tans et ore.
when of supper was the-time and hour

250 N'i poi plus feire de demore,
Not-there I-could more make of delay

si fis lués son comandement.
so I-did at-once his bidding

Del soper vos dirai briemant,
Of-the supper to-you I-shall-tell briefly

qu'il fu del tot a ma devise,
that-it was of-the all to my liking

des que devant moi fu assise
since that before me was seated

255 la pucele, qui s'i assist.
the maiden who herself-there sat

Aprés soper itant me dist

After supper this-much to-me said

li vavassors, qu'il ne savoit

the vavasour that-he not knew

le terme, puis que il avoit

the term since that he had

herbergié chevalier errant,

lodged a-knight errant

qui aventure alast querant,

who adventure might-go seeking

s'an avoit il maint herbergié.

so-thereof had he many-a-one lodged

Aprés ce me pria, que gié

After this me he-begged that I

par son ostel m'an revenisse

by his lodging myself-thence should-come-back

an guerredon, se je pöisse.

in guerdon if I could

Et je li dis: "Volantiers, sire!",

And I to-him said Willingly lord

que honte fust de l'escondire.

for a-shame it-would-be to it-refuse

Petit por mon oste feïsse,

Little for my host I-should-do

se cest don li escondeïsse.

if this gift to-him I-refused

260

265

The Herdsman and the Spring

III

Riding on, Calogrenant finds wild bulls fighting and a churl watching them, huge, hideous, and their master. Asked for an adventure, the churl says he never heard the word, but sends him to a spring nearby that boils and yet is colder than marble, under the fairest pine in the world, with a basin hanging on a long chain. Pour the water on the block beside it, he says, and you will see a tempest. Calogrenant pours; the storm nearly kills him, the pine fills with singing birds, and the lord of the spring rides down and unhorses him.

Mout fui bien la nuit ostelez,

Much I-was well the night lodged

270 et mes chevaus fu anselez,

and my horse was saddled

lués que l'an pot le jor veoir;

as-soon as one could the day see

car j'an oi mout proiié le soir;

for I-thereof had much begged the evening

si fu bien faite ma proiiere.

so was well made my prayer

Mon buen oste et sa fille chiere

My good host and his daughter dear

275 au saint Esperit comandai,

to-the holy Spirit I-commended

a trestoz congié demandai,

of everyone leave I-asked

si m'an alai lués que je poi.

so myself-thence I-went as-soon as I could

L'ostel gueires esloignié n'oi,

The-lodging much left-behind not-I-had

quant je trovai an uns essarz

when I found in some clearings

tors sauvages et espaarz,

bulls wild and scattered

qui s'antreconbatoient tuit

which each-other-were-fighting all

et demenoient si grant bruit

and made so great a-noise

et tel fierté et tel orguel,

and such fierceness and such pride

se le voir conter vos an vuel,

if the truth to-tell you thereof I-wish

que de peor me tres arriere;

that from fear me I-drew back

que nule beste n'est tant fiere

for any beast not-is so fierce

ne plus orgueilleuse de tor.

nor more proud than a-bull

Un vilain, qui ressanbloit mor,

A churl who resembled a-Moor

grant et hideus a desmesure,

big and hideous beyond measure

(einsi tres leide creature,

thus very ugly a-creature

qu'an ne porroit dire de boche),

that-one not could tell with mouth

vi je seoir sor une çoche,

saw I sitting on a stump

une grant maçue an sa main.

a great club in his hand

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- Je m'aprochai vers le vilain,
I myself-approached toward the churl
 295 si vi qu'il ot grosse la teste
so I-saw that-he had huge the head
 plus que roncins ne autre beste,
more than a-nag or another beast
 chevos meschiez et front pelé,
hair matted and forehead bald
 s'ot plus de deus espanz de le,
so-he-had more than two spans of breadth
 oroilles mossues et granz,
ears mossy and big
 300 autés come a uns olifanz,
just-such as on an elephant
 les sorciz granz et le vis plat,
the eyebrows big and the face flat
 iauz de çuête et nes de chat,
eyes of an-owl and nose of a-cat
 boche fandue come los,
mouth split like a-wolf
 danz de sangler, aguz et ros,
teeth of a-boar sharp and red
 305 barbe noire, grenons tortiz,
beard black mustaches twisted
 et le manton aers au piz,
and the chin joined to-the breast
 longue eschine, torte et boçue.
long spine crooked and humped
 Apoïiez fu sor sa maçue,
Leaning he-was on his club

vestuz de robe si estrange,

clothed in a-garment so strange

qu'il n'i avoit ne lin ne lange,

that-there not-therein was neither linen nor wool

ainz ot a son col atachiez

rather he-had at his neck fastened

deus cuirs de novel escorchiez

two hides — newly flayed

de deus toriaus ou de deus bués.

of two bullocks or of two oxen

An piez sailli li vilains lués

To feet leapt the churl as-soon

qu'il me vit vers lui aprochier.

as-he me saw toward him approach

Ne sai, s'il me voloit tochiez,

Not I-know if-he me wished to-touch

ne ne sai, qu'il voloit anprendre,

nor not I-know what-he wished to-undertake

mes je me garni de deffandre,

but I myself armed to defend

tant que je vi, que il s'estut

so-long that I saw that he himself-stood

an piez toz coiz, si ne se mut,

on feet all still so not himself moved

et fu montez dessor un tronc,

and was mounted upon a trunk

s'ot bien dis et set piez de lonc;

so-he-had well ten and seven feet of height

si m'esgarda et mot ne dist,

so me-he-looked-at and a-word not said

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ne plus qu'une beste feïst;

no more than-a beast would-do

325 et je cuidai que il n'eüst

and I thought that he not-had

reïson ne parler ne seüst.

reason nor to-speak not knew

Totes voies tant m'anhardi,

All the-same so-much myself-I-emboldened

que je li dis: "Va, car me di,

that I to-him said Go now to-me tell

se tu es buene chose ou non!"

if you are a-good thing or not

330 Et il me dist: "Je sui uns hon."

And he to-me said I am a man

"Ques hon ies tu?" — "Tes con tu voiz.

What a-man are you Such as you see

Je ne sui autre nule foiz."

I not am other any time

"Que fes tu ci?" — "Je m'i estois,

What do you here I myself-here stand

si gart cez bestes par cest bois."

so I-guard these beasts through this wood

335 "Gardes? Por saint Pere de Rome!

You-guard By holy Peter of Rome

Ja ne conoissent eles home.

Ever not know they a-man

Ne cuit qu'an plain ne an boschage

Not I-think that-in open-ground nor in woodland

puisse an garder beste sauvage,

can one to-guard a-beast wild

n'an autre leu por nule chose,

nor-in another place for any thing

s'ele n'est liiée ou anclose."

if-she not-is bound or shut-in

"Je gart si cestes et justis,

I guard so these and control

que ja n'istront de cest porpris."

that ever not-they-will-go-out of this enclosure

"Et tu comant? Di m'an le voir!"

And you how Tell to-me-thereof the truth

"N'i a celi, qui s'ost movoir,

Not-there is one who himself-dares to-move

des qu'eles me voient venir.

as-soon as-they me see to-come

Car quant j'an puis une tenir,

For when I-thereof can one to-hold

si la destraing par les deus corz

so her I-grip by the two horns

as poinz, que j'ai et durs et forz,

with-the fists which I-have both hard and strong

que les autres de peor tranblent

that the others from fear tremble

et tot environ moi s'assanblent

and all around me themselves-gather

aussi con por merci criër:

just as for mercy to-cry-out

ne nus ne s'i porroit fiër

nor anyone not himself-there could trust

fors moi, s'antre eles s'estoit mis,

except me if-among them himself-were put

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que maintenant ne fust ocis.

that at-once not he-were slain

355 Einsi sui de mes bestes sire:

Thus I-am over my beasts lord

et tu me redevroies dire,

and you me ought-in-turn to-tell

ques hon tu ies et que tu quiers.”

what a-man you are and what you seek

“Je sui, ce voiz, uns chevaliers,

I am this you-see a knight

qui quier ce, que trover ne puis;

who seek this which to-find not I-can

360 assez ai quis et rien ne truis.”

enough I-have sought and anything not I-find

“Et que voldroies tu trover?”

And what would-wish you to-find

“Avantures por esprover

Adventures for to-prove

ma proesce et mon hardemant.

my prowess and my boldness

Or te pri et quier et demant,

Now you I-beg and ask and demand

365 se tu sez, que tu me consoille

if you know that you me counsel

ou d'avanture ou de mervoille.”

either of-adventure or of marvel

“A ce”, fet il, “faudras tu bien:

In this says he will-fail you quite

d'avanture' ne sai je rien,

of-adventure not know I anything

n'onques mes n'an oï parler.

nor-ever before not-thereof I-heard to-speak

Mes se tu voloies aler

But if you would-wish to-go

ci pres jusqu'a une fontaine,

here near as-far-as a spring

n'an revandroies pas sanz painne,

not-thence you-would-come-back at-all without pain

se tu li randoies son droit.

if you to-it rendered its due

Ci pres troveras ore androit

Here near you-will-find right away

un santier, qui la te manra.

a path which there you will-lead

Tote la droite voie va,

All the straight way go

se bien viaus tes pas anploier;

if well you-wish your steps to-employ

que tost porroies desvoier,

for soon you-could go-astray

qu'il i a d'autres voies mout.

for-there there are of-other ways many

La fontaine verras, qui bout,

The spring you-will-see which boils

s'est ele plus froide que marbres.

and-yet-is she more cold than marble

Onbre li fet li plus biaux arbres,

Shade to-it makes the most fair tree

qu'onques poïst feire Nature.

that-ever could make Nature

370

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380

An toz tans la fuelle li dure,

In all seasons the leaf to-it lasts

385 qu'il ne la pert por nul iver,

for-it not it loses for any winter

et s'i pant uns bacins de fer

and so-there hangs a basin of iron

a une si longue chaainne,

on a so long chain

qui dure jusqu'an la fontaine.

which reaches down-into the spring

Lez la fontaine troveras

Beside the spring you-will-find

390 un perron tel, con tu verras,

a block such as you will-see

(je ne te sai a dire, quel,

I not you know to tell what-kind

que je n'an vi onques nul tel),

for I not-thereof saw ever any such

et d'autre part une chapele

and on-the-other side a chapel

petite, mes ele est mout bele.

small but she is very fair

395 S'au bacin viaus de l'eve prendre

If-from-the basin you-wish of the-water to-take

et dessor le perron espandre,

and upon the block to-pour

la verras une tel tanpeste,

there you-will-see a such tempest

qu'an cest bois ne remandra beste,

that-in this wood not will-remain a-beast

chevriaus ne dains ne cers ne pors,

roe buck nor deer nor stag nor boar

nes li oisel s'an istront fors;

even the birds themselves-thence will-go out

car tu verras si foudroier,

for you will-see so to-hurl-lightning

vanter et arbres peçoier,

to-blow and trees to-shatter

plover, toner et espartir,

to-rain to-thunder and to-flash

que, se tu t'an puez departir

so-that if you yourself-thence can depart

sanz grant enui et sanz pesance,

without great vexation and without grief

tu seras de meillor cheance

you will-be of better fortune

que chevaliers, qui i fust onques." —

than a-knight who there was ever

Del vilain me parti adonques,

From-the churl myself I-parted then

qui bien m'ot la voie mostree.

who well to-me-had the way shown

Espoir si fu tierce passee

Perhaps so was terce past

et pot estre pres de midi,

and it-could be near to noon

quant l'arbre et la chapele vi.

when the-tree and the chapel I-saw

400

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Bien sai de l'arbre (c'est la fins)

Well I-know of the-tree this-is the end

que ce estoit li plus biaux pins,

that this was the most fair pine

415 qui onques sor terre creüst.

which ever on earth grew

Ne cuit qu'onques si fort pleüst,

Not I-think that-ever so hard it-rained

que d'eve i passast une gote,

that of-water there passed a drop

einçois coloït par dessus tote.

rather it-ran along above wholly

A l'arbre vi le bacin pandre

On the-tree I-saw the basin hang

420 del plus fin or, qui fust a vandre

of-the most fine gold which were for sale

onques ancōre an nule foire.

ever yet in any fair

De la fontaine poez croire,

Of the spring you-can believe

qu'ele boloit come eve chaude.

that-it boiled like water hot

Li perrons fu d'une esmeraude,

The block was of-an emerald

425 perciez aussi come une boz,

pierced just like a wineskin

s'i ot quatre rubiz dessoz

and-there were four rubies beneath

plus flanboianz et plus vermauz,

more flaming and more crimson

que n'est au matin li solauz,

than not-is in-the morning the sun

quant il apert an oriant.

when he appears in the-east

Ja, que je sache, a esciant

Ever that I know in awareness

ne vos an mantirai de mot.

not you thereof I-shall-lie by a-word

La mervoille a veoir me plot

The marvel to see me pleased

de la tanpeste et de l'orage,

of the tempest and of the-storm

don je ne me ting mie a sage;

whereof I not myself held at-all as wise

que volantiers m'an repantisse

for willingly myself-thereof I-would-have-repented

tot maintenant, se je poïsse,

all at-once if I could

quant je oi le perron crosé

when I had the block hollowed

de l'eve au bacin arosé.

with the-water from-the basin sprinkled

Mes trop an i versai, ce dot;

But too-much thereof there I-poured this I-fear

que lors vi le ciel si derot,

for then I-saw the sky so broken

que de plus de quatorze parz

that from more than fourteen quarters

me feroit es iauz li esparz,

me struck in-the eyes the lightning

430

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440

et les nues tot pesle mesle

and the clouds all pell mell

gitoient noif et pluie et gresle.

threw snow and rain and hail

445 Tant fu li tans pesmes et forz,

So-much was the weather cruel and violent

que çant foiz cuidai estre morz

that a-hundred times I-thought to-be dead

des foudres, qu'antor moi cheoient,

from-the thunderbolts which-around me fell

et des arbres, qui depecçoient.

and from-the trees which shattered

Sachiez que mout fui esmaïiez

Know that much I-was dismayed

450 tant que li tans fu rapaïiez.

so-long as the weather was calmed

Mes Des tant me rasseïra,

But God so-much me reassured

que li tans gueires ne dura

that the weather much not lasted

et tuit li vant se reposerent:

and all the winds themselves rested

quant De ne plot, vanter n'oserent.

when to-God not it-pleased to-blow not-they-dared

455 Et quant je vi l'er cler et pur,

And when I saw the-air clear and pure

de joie fui toz a sœur;

with joy I-was all in safety

que joie, s'onques la conui,

for joy if-ever it I-knew

fet tost obliër grant enui.

makes soon to-forget great vexation

Des que li tans fu trespassez,

As-soon as the weather was passed

vi sor le pin tant amassez

I-saw upon the pine so-many gathered

oisiaus (s'est, qui croire m'an vuelle),

birds it-is-so who believe me-thereof wish

qu'il n'i paroit branche ne fuelle,

that-there not-therein appeared branch nor leaf

que tot ne fust covert d'oisiaus,

that all not were covered with-birds

s'an estoit li arbres plus biaux;

so-thereby was the tree more fair

et trestuit li oisel chantoient

and all the birds sang

si que mout bien s'antracordoient.

so that very well each-other-attuned

Mes divers chanz chantoit chascuns;

But different songs sang each

qu'onques ce, que chantoit li uns,

that-ever that which sang the one

a l'autre chanter n'i oi.

in the-other to-sing not-therein I-heard

De lor joie me resjoï,

At their joy myself I-rejoiced

s'escoutai tant qu'il orent fet

so-I-listened so-long that-they had made

lor servise trestot a tret;

their service wholly to the-end

460

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qu'ains mes n'öi si bele joie,

for-ever before not-I-heard so fair a-joy

ne mes ne cuit, que nus hon l'oie,

nor more not I-think that any man it-bear

475 se il ne va öir celi,

if he not goes to-bear that

qui tant me plot et abeli,

which so-much me pleased and delighted

que je m'an dui por fol tenir. —

that I myself-thereof had for a-fool to-bold

Tant i fui, que j'öi venir

So-long there I-was that I-heard to-come

chevaliers, ce me fu avis —

knights this to-me was opinion

480 bien cuidai que il fussent dis:

well I-thought that they were ten

tel noise et tel fraint demenoit

such a-noise and such a-din made

uns seus chevaliers, qui venoit.

one single knight who came

Quant je le vi tot seul venant,

When I him saw all alone coming

mon cheval restrains maintenant,

my horse I-tightened at-once

485 n'au monter demore ne fis;

nor-at-the mounting delay not I-made

et cil come mautalantis

and he like a-wrathful-man

vint plus tost qu'uns alerions,

came more swiftly than-an eagle

fiers par sanblant come lions.

fierce in seeming like a-lion

De si haut, come il pot criër,

At as loud as he could cry-out

me comança a desfiër

me he-began to defy

et dist: "Vassaus! mout m'avez fet

and said Vassal much to-me-you-have done

sanz desfiance honte et let.

without defiance shame and harm

Desfiër me deüssiez vos,

To-defy me ought-to-have you

s'il eüst querele antre nos,

if-there were a-quarrel between us

ou au mains droiture requerre,

or at-the least right to-demand

ainz que vos me meüssiez guerre.

before that you me should-stir war

Mes se je puis, sire vassaus!

But if I can lord vassal

Sor vos retornera li maus

Upon you will-return the harm

del damage, qui est paranz;

of-the damage which is evident

anviron moi est li garanz

around me is the witness

de mon bois, qui est abatuz.

of my wood which is felled

Plaindre se doit, qui est batuz:

To-complain himself must who is beaten

490

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et je me plaing, si ai reison,
and I myself complain so I-have reason

que vos m'avez de ma meison
that you me-have from my house

505 chacié a foudres et a pluie.
driven with thunderbolts and with rain

Fet m'avez chose, qui m'enuie,
Done to-me-you-have a-thing which to-me-vexes

et dahez et, cui ce est bel;
and cursed be-he to-whom this is pleasing

qu'an mon bois et an mon chastel
that-in my wood and in my castle

m'avez faite tel anvaïe,
to-me-you-have done such an-assault

510 que mestier ne m'eüst aïe
that use not to-me-would-have-had help

de jant ne d'armes ne de mur.
of folk nor of-arms nor of wall

Onques n'i ot home a seür
Ever not-there was a-man in safety

an fortresce, qui i fust,
in a-fortress which there were

de dure pierre ne de fust.
of hard stone nor of wood

515 Mes sachiez bien, que des or mes
But know well that from now on

n'avroiz de moi triues ne pes."
not-you-will-have of me truce nor peace

A cest mot nos antrevenimes,
At this word ourselves we-came-at-each-other

les escuz anbraciez tenimes,

the shields braced we-held

si se covri chascuns del suen.

so himself covered each with-the his-own

Li chevaliers ot cheval buen

The knight had a-horse good

et lance roide, et fu sanz dote

and a-lance stiff and he-was without doubt

plus granz de moi la teste tote.

more tall than me by-the head whole

Einsi del tot a meschief fui,

Thus in-the all at a-disadvantage I-was

que je fui plus petiz de lui,

for I was more small than he

et ses chevaus plus forz del mien.

and his horse more strong than-the mine

Parmi le voir, ce sachiez bien,

Through the truth this know well

m'an vois, por ma honte covrir.

myself-thence I-go for my shame to-cover

Si grant cop, con je poi ferir,

So great a-blow as I could to-strike

li donai, qu'onques ne m'an fains;

to-him I-gave that-ever not myself-thereof I-spared

el conble de l'escu l'atains,

on-the top of the-shield him-I-struck

s'i mis trestote ma puissance

so-there I-put all my strength

si qu'an pieces vola ma lance;

so that-in pieces flew my lance

520

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et la soe remest antiere,

and the his remained whole

qu'ele n'estoit mie legiere,

for-it not-was at-all light

535 ainz pesoit plus au mien cuidier,

rather it-weighed more to-the my thinking

que nule lance a chevalier;

than any lance of a-knight

qu'ains nule si grosse ne vi.

for-ever any so thick not I-saw

Et li chevaliers me feri

And the knight me struck

si roidemant, que del cheval

so hard that from-the horse

540 parmi la crope contre val

over the crupper down ward

me mist a la terre tot plat,

me he-put on the ground all flat

si me leissa honteus et mat;

so me he-left shamed and beaten

qu'onques puis ne me regarda.

so-that-ever after not me he-looked-at

Mon cheval prist et moi leissa,

My horse he-took and me he-left

545 si se mist arriere a la voie.

so himself he-put back on the way

Et gié, qui mon roi ne savoie,

And I who my road not knew

remés angoisseus et pansis.

remained anguished and pensive

Delez la fontaine m'assis

Beside the spring myself-I-sat

un petit, si me reposai.

a little so myself I-rested

Le chevalier siure n'osai,

The knight to-follow not-I-dared

que folie feire dotasse:

for a-folly to-do I-feared

et se je bien siure l'osasse,

and if I well to-follow him-bad-dared

ne soi je, que il se devint.

not knew I what he himself became

An la fin volantez me vint,

In the end a-will me came

qu'a mon oste covant tandroie

that-to my host covenant I-would-bold

et que par lui m'an revandroie.

and that by him myself-thence I-would-return

Einsi me plot, einsi le fis;

Thus me it-pleased thus it I-did

mes mes armes totes jus mis,

but my arms all down I-put

por aler plus legierement,

for to-go more lightly

si m'an reving honteusement.

so myself-thence I-came-back shamefully

Quant je ving la nuit a l'ostel,

When I came the night to the-lodging

trouvai mon oste tot autel,

I-found my host all just-so

550

555

560

aussi lié et aussi cortois,

as glad and as courteous

come j'avoie fet einçois.

as I-had done before

565 Onques de rien ne m'aparçui

Ever of anything not I-perceived

ne de sa fille ne de lui,

neither in his daughter nor in him

que mains volantiers me veïssent

that less willingly me they-saw

ne que mains d'enor me feïssent,

nor that less of-honor me they-did

qu'il avoient fet l'autre nuit.

than-they had done the-other night

570 Grant enor me portèrent tuit,

Great honor me bore all

les lor merciz, an la meison,

by their favors in the house

et disoient, qu'onques mes hon

and they-said that-ever before a-man

n'iere eschapez, que il seüssent

not-was escaped that they knew

ne qu'il oï dire l'eüssent,

nor that-they heard tell it-had

575 de la, don j'estoie venuz,

from there whence I-was come

que n'i fust morz ou retenuz.

that not-there were dead or held

Einsi alai, einsi reving,

Thus I-went thus I-came-back

au revenir por fol me ting;

at-the returning for a-fool myself I-held

si vos ai conté come fos

so to-you I-have told like a-fool

ce qu'onques mes conter ne vos."

that which-ever before to-tell not I-wished

580

Yvain's Vow, and the King's

IV

Yvain claims Calogrenant as his own first cousin and undertakes, if he is allowed, to avenge the shame. Kay jeers that valor is cheap after dinner, and the queen turns on his tongue as the thing that makes him hated everywhere; Yvain answers that the man who strikes the first blow does not begin the quarrel. The king comes out from his long sleep, hears the tale, and swears three oaths to see the spring within the fortnight. But Yvain means to go alone, before Kay or Gawain can claim the battle, and to tell no one.

"Par mon chief!", dist mes sire Yvains,

By my head said my lord Yvain

"vos estes mes cosins germains,

you are my cousin german

si nos devons mout antramer;

so we ought much to-love-each-other

mes de ce vos puis fol clamer,

but of this you I-can a-fool to-call

quant vos le m'avez tant celé.

since you it to-me-have so-long bidden

Se je vos ai 'fol' apelé,

If I you have fool called

585

je vos pri qu'il ne vos an poist;

I you beg that-it not you thereof grieve

car, se je puis et il me loist,

for if I can and it me is-permitted

j'irai vostre honte vangier."

I-shall-go your shame to-avenge

590 "Bien pert qu'il est après mangier,"

Well it-appears that-it is after eating

fet Kes, qui teire ne se pot.

says Kay who to-be-silent not himself could

"Plus a paroles an plain pot

More there-are words in a-full pot

de vin, qu'an un mui de cervoise.

of wine than-in a hogshead of beer

L'an dit que chaz saous s'anvoise.

One says that a-cat sated himself-sports

595 Après mangier sanz remuër

After eating without stirring

va chascuns Noradin tuër,

goes each Noradin to-kill

et vos iroiz vangier Forré!

and you will-go to-avenge Forré

Sont vostre panel anborré

Are your saddle-pads stuffed

et voz chauces de fer froiices

and your hose of iron burnished

600 et voz banieres desploiees?

and your banners unfurled

Or tost, por De, mes sire Yvain!

Now quick for God my lord Yvain

Movroiz vos anuit ou demain?

Will-set-out you tonight or tomorrow

Feites le nos savoir, biaux sire,

Make it to-us to-know fair lord

quant vos iroiz a cest martire;

when you will-go to this martyrdom

que nos vos voldrons convoier.

for we you shall-wish to-escort

N'i avra prevost ne voier,

Not-there will-be provost nor bailiff

qui volantiers ne vos convoit.

who willingly not you escort

Et je vos pri, comant qu'il soit,

And I you beg however that-it be

n'an alez pas sanz noz congiez;

not-thence go at-all without our leaves

et se vos anquenuit songiez

and if you tonight dream

mauvés songe, si remanez!"

a-bad dream then stay

"Deable! Estes vos forsenez,

Devil Are you out-of-your-senses

mes sire Kes!", fet la reïne,

my lord Kay says the queen

"que vostre langue onques ne fine?

that your tongue ever not ceases

La vostre langue soit honie,

The your tongue be shamed

que tant i a d'escamonie!

for so-much therein is of-scammony

605

610

615

Certes, vostre langue vos het;

Certainly your tongue you hates

que tot le pis, que ele set,

for all the worst that it knows

dit a chascun, qui que il soit.

says to each whoever that he be

620 Langue, qui onques ne recroit

A-tongue which ever not leaves-off

de mal dire, soit maleoite!

of ill to-speak be accursed

La vostre langue si exploite,

The your tongue so works

qu'ele vos fet par tot haïr.

that-it you makes through all to-be-hated

Miauz ne vos puet ele traïr.

Better not you can it to-betray

625 Bien sachiez: Je l'apeleroie

Well know I it-would-accuse

de traïson, s'ele estoit moie.

of treason if-it were mine

Home, qu'an ne puet chastier,

A-man whom-one not can chastise

devroit an au mostier lier

ought one at-the minster to-bind

come desvé devant les prosnes."

like a-madman before the pulpits

630 "Certes, dame! de ses ranposnes",

Certainly lady of his taunts

fet mes sire Yvains, "ne me chaut.

says my lord Yvain not to-me matters

Tant puet et tant set et tant vaut
So-much can and so-much knows and so-much is-worth

mes sire Kes an totes corz,
my lord Kay in all courts
 qu'il n'i iert ja muëz ne sorz.
that-be not-therein will-be ever mute nor deaf

Bien set ancontre vilenie 635
Well he-knows against churlishness

respondre san et corteisie,
to-answer sense and courtesy
 si ne fist onques autrement.
so not he-did ever otherwise

Or savez vos bien, se je mant;
Now know you well if I lie
 mes je n'ai cure de tancier
but I not-have care of quarreling

ne de folie ancomancier; 640
nor of folly to-begin

que cil ne fet pas la meslee,
for he not makes at-all the fray
 qui fiert la premiere colee,
who strikes the first blow

ainz la fet cil, qui se revange.
rather it makes he who himself avenges

Bien tanceroit a un estrange,
Well he-would-quarrel with a stranger

qui ranposne son conpaignon. 645
who taunts his companion

Ne vuel pas sanbler le gaignon,
Not I-wish at-all to-resemble the cur

qui se hericē et retringne,

which himself bristles and snarls

quant autre mastins le rechingne.”

when another mastiff at-him growls

Que que il parloient einsi,

While that they spoke thus

650 li rois fors de la chanbre issi,

the king out of the chamber came

ou il ot fet longue demore;

where he had made a-long stay

que dormi ot jusqu'a cele ore.

for slept he-had until that hour

Et li baron, quant il le virent,

And the barons when they him saw

tuit an piez contre lui saillirent,

all on feet toward him sprang

655 et il toz rasseoir les fist.

and he all to-sit-again them made

Delez la reïne s'assist,

Beside the queen himself-he-sat

et la reïne maintenant

and the queen at-once

les noveles Calogrenant

the news of-Calogrenant

li reconta tot mot a mot;

to-him recounted all word by word

660 que bien et bel conter li sot.

for well and finely to-tell to-him she-knew

Li rois les oï volantiers

The king them heard willingly

et fist trois seiremanz antiers

and made three oaths entire

l'ame Uterpandragon son pere,

on-the-soul of-Uterpandragon his father

et la son fil et la sa mere,

and on-that of-his son and on-that of-his mother

qu'il iroit veoir la fontainne,

that-he would-go to-see the spring

ja ainz ne passeroit quinzainne,

ever before not would-pass a-fortnight

et la tanpeste et la mervoille,

and the tempest and the marvel

si que il i vandra la voille

so that he there will-come the eve

mon seignor saint Jehan Batiste,

of-my lord saint John Baptist

et si prandra la nuit son giste,

and so he-will-take the night his lodging

et dit que avuec lui iront

and says that with him will-go

tuit cil, qui aler i voldront.

all those who to-go there will-wish

De ce, que li rois devisa,

Of this that the king appointed

tote la corz miauz l'an pris;

all the court more him-thereof prized

665

670

- 675 car mout i voloient aler
for much there they-wished to-go
 li baron et li bachelier.
the barons and the young-knights
 Mes qui qu'an soit liez et joianz,
But whoever that-thereof be glad and joyful
 mes sire Yvains an fu dolanz,
my lord Yvain thereof was grieved
 qu'il i cuidoit aler toz seus,
for-he there thought to-go all alone
 680 s'an fu dolanz et angoisseus
so-thereof he-was grieved and anguished
 del roi, qui aler i devoit.
about-the king who to-go there was-to
 Por ce solemant li grevoit,
For this only to-him it-grieved
 qu'il savoit bien, que la bataille
that-he knew well that the battle
 avroit mes sire Kes sanz faille
would-have my lord Kay without fail
 685 ainz que il, — s'il la requeroit,
before that he if-he it asked
 ja vece ne li seroit, —
ever refused not to-him it-would-be
 ou mes sire Gauvains meïmes
or my lord Gawain himself
 espoir la demanderoit primes.
perhaps it would-ask first
 Se nus de cez deus la requiert,
If any of these two it asks

ja contredite ne li iert.

ever denied not to-him it-will-be

Mes il ne les atandra mie,

But he not them will-await at-all

qu'il n'a soing de lor conpaignie,

for-he not-has care of their company

einçois ira toz seus son vuel

rather he-will-go all alone his will

ou a sa joie ou a son duel;

either to his joy or to his grief

et qui que remaingne a sejour,

and whoever that remain at rest

il viaut estre jusqu'a tierz jor

he wishes to-be within-the third day

an Broceliande et querra,

in Broceliande and will-seek

se il puet, tant qu'il trovera

if he can so-long that-he will-find

l'estroit santier tot boissoneus,

the-narrow path all busby

— que trop an est cusançoneus, —

for too-much thereof he-is desirous

et la lande et la meison fort

and the heath and the house strong

et le solaz et le deport

and the comfort and the entertainment

de la cortoise dameisele,

of the courteous damsel

qui tant est avenanz et bele,

who so-much is comely and fair

690

695

700

- 705 et le prodome avuec sa fille,
and the worthy-man with his daughter
 qui an enor feire s'essille,
who in honor to-do himself-exerts
 tant est frans et de buene part.
so-much he-is noble and of good stock
 Puis verra les tors an l'essart
Then he-will-see the bulls in the-clearing
 et le grant vilain, qui les garde.
and the great churl who them guards
- 710 Li veoirs li demore et tarde
The seeing to-him delays and tarries
 del vilain, qui tant par est lez,
of-the churl who so-much much is ugly
 granz et hideus et contrefez
big and hideous and misshapen
 et noirs a guise de ferron.
and black in guise of a-smith
 Puis verra, s'il puet, le perron
Then he-will-see if-he can the block
- 715 et la fontaine et le bacin
and the spring and the basin
 et les oisiaus dessor le pin,
and the birds upon the pine
 si fera plovoir et vanter.
so he-will-make to-rain and to-blow
 Mes il ne s'an quiert ja vanter,
But he not himself-thereof seeks ever to-boast

ne ja son vuel nus nel savra
nor ever his will anyone not-it will-know
 jusqu'a tant que il an avra
until so-long that he thereof will-have
 grant honte ou grant enor eüe,
great shame or great honor had
 puis si soit la chose seüe.
then so be the thing known

720

Yvain Rides Out Alone

V

Yvain slips away from court, calls the one squire he keeps nothing from, and charges him to follow with his arms and his newly shod horse and to tell no one who asks. Armed in a byway off the road, he rides for days through wild country to the thorny path, and finds the vavasour and his daughter better than Calogrenant had described. Next morning he passes the bulls and the churl, pours the water, and the knight of the spring rides down. They fight mounted until Yvain splits his helm to the brain; the knight flees to his castle, and Yvain, needing proof against Kay's taunts, chases him through empty streets to the palace gate.

Mes sire Yvains de la cort s'able
My lord Yvain from the court himself-slips
 si qu'a nul home ne s'assamble,
so that-to any man not himself-he-joins
 mes seus vers son ostel s'an va.
but alone toward his lodging himself-thence goes
 Tote sa mesniee trova,
All his housebold he-found

725

si comanda metre sa sele

so he-ordered to-put his saddle

et un suen escuier apele,

and a of-his squire he-calls

cui il ne celoit nule rien.

to-whom he not concealed any thing

730 "Di va!" fet il, "après moi vien

Say go says he after me come

la fors et mes armes m'apporte!

there outside and my arms to-me-bring

Je m'an istrai par cele porte

I myself-thence shall-go-out by that gate

sor mon palefroi tot le pas.

on my palfrey all the walk

Garde, ne demorer tu pas;

See-to-it not to-delay you at-all

735 qu'il me covient mout loing errer.

for-it me behooves very far to-travel

Et mon cheval fai bien ferrer,

And my horse have well shod

si l'amainne tost après moi,

so it-bring soon after me

puis ramanras mon palefroi.

then you-will-lead-back my palfrey

Mes garde bien, je te comant,

But see well I you charge

740 s'est nus, qui de moi te demant,

if-there-is anyone who of me you should-ask

que ja novele ne l'an dies.

that ever news not to-him-thereof you-tell

Se tu de rien an moi te fies,

If you in anything in me yourself trust

ja mar t'i fiëroies mes."

never ill-starred you-therein would-trust more

"Sire!" fet il, "il an iert pes;

Lord says he it thereof will-be peace

que ja par moi nus nel savra.

for ever by me anyone not-it will-know

Alez! que je vos siurai ja."

Go for I you will-follow at-once

Mes sire Yvains maintenant monte,

My lord Yvain at-once mounts

qui vangerà, s'il puet, la honte

who will-avenge if-be can the shame

son cosin, ainz que il retort.

of-his cousin before that he return

Li escuiers as armes cort

The squire to-the arms runs

et au cheval, si monta sus;

and to-the horse so be-mounted up

que de demore n'i ot plus,

for of delay not-there was more

qu'il n'i failloit ne fers ne clos.

for-it not-therein lacked neither shoe nor nail

Son seignor siut toz les esclos

His lord he-follows all the tracks

tant que il le vit desçandu;

until that he him saw dismounted

745

750

755

qu'il l'avoit un po atandu

for-he him-had a little awaited

loing del chemin an un destor.

far from-the road in a byway

Tot son hernois et son ator

All his harness and his gear

ot aporté, si l'atorna.

he-had brought so him-he-arrayed

760 Mes sire Yvains ne sejorna,

My lord Yvain not tarried

puis qu'armez fu, ne tant ne quant,

after that-armed he-was neither so-much nor how-much

einçois erra chascun jor tant

rather he-rode each day so-much

par montaignes et par valees

by mountains and by valleys

et par forez longues et lees,

and by forests long and wide

765 par leus estranges et sauvages,

by places strange and wild

et passa mainz felons passages

and passed many cruel passages

et maint peril et maint destroit,

and many-a peril and many-a strait

tant qu'il vint au santier tot droit,

until that-he came to-the path all straight

plain de ronces et d'oscurté,

full of brambles and of-darkness

770 et lors fu il a seürté;

and then was he in safety

qu'il ne pooit mes esgarer.

for-he not could more to-go-astray

Qui que le doie comparer,

Whoever that it must to-pay-for

ne finera tant que il voie

not he-will-stop until that he see

le pin, qui la fontaine onbroie,

the pine which the spring shades

et le perron et la tormante,

and the block and the storm

qui gresle et pluet et tone et vante.

which hails and rains and thunders and blows

La nuit ot, ce poez savoir,

That night he-had this you-can to-know

tel ostel, come il vost avoir;

such a-lodging as he wished to-have

car plus de bien et plus d'enor

for more of good and more of-honor

trova assez el vavassor,

he-found much in-the vavasour

qu'an ne li ot conté ne dit;

than-one not to-him had told nor said

et an la pucele revit

and in the maiden he-saw-again

de san et de biauté çant tanz,

of sense and of beauty a-hundred times

que n'ot conté Calogrenanz;

than not-had told Calogrenant

775

780

- 785 qu'an ne puet pas dire la some
for-one not can at-all to-tell the sum
 de buene dame et de prodome.
of a-good lady and of a-worthy-man
 Des qu'il s'atorne a grant bonté,
As-soon as-he himself-turns to great goodness
 ja n'iert tot dit ne tot conté;
ever not-it-will-be all said nor all told
 que langue ne porroit retreire
for a-tongue not could to-recount
- 790 tant d'enor, con prodon set feire.
so-much of-honor as a-worthy-man knows to-do
 Mes sire Yvains cele nuit ot
My lord Yvain that night bad
 mout buen ostel et mout li plot,
very good a-lodging and much to-him it-pleased
 et vint es essarz l'andemain,
and he-came into-the clearings the-next-day
 si vit les tors et le vilain,
so he-saw the bulls and the churl
- 795 qui la voie li anseigna;
who the way to-him showed
 mes plus de çant foiz se seigna
but more than a-hundred times himself be-crossed
 de la mervolle, que il ot,
at the marvel which he had
 comant Nature feire sot
how Nature to-make knew
 oeuvre si leide et si vilainne.
a-work so ugly and so vile

Puis erra jusqu'a la fontaine,

Then he-rode as-far-as the spring

si vit quanquë il vost veoir.

so he-saw all-that-which he wished to-see

Sanz arester et sanz seoir

Without stopping and without sitting

versa sor le perron de plain

he-poured on the block at full

de l'eve le bacin tot plain;

of the-water the basin all full

et maintenant vanta et plut

and at-once it-blew and it-rained

et fist tel tans, con feire dut.

and made such weather as to-make it-bad-to

Et quant Des redona le bel,

And when God gave-back the fair

sor le pin vindrent li oisel

on the pine came the birds

et firent joie merveilleuse

and made joy marvelous

sor la fontaine perilleuse.

over the spring perilous

Ainz que la joie fust remese,

Before that the joy was ceased

vint, d'ire plus ardanz que brese,

came with-wrath more burning than embers

li chevaliers a si grant bruit,

the knight with so great a-noise

con s'il chaçast un cerf de ruit,

as if-he chased a stag in rut

800

805

810

815 et maintenant qu'il s'antrevirent,
and at-once that-they each-other-saw

s'antrevindrent et sanblant firent,
each-other-came-at and seeming made
 qu'il s'antrehaïssent de mort.

that-they each-other-hated to death

Chascuns ot lance roide et fort,
Each had a-lance stiff and strong

si s'antredonent si granz cos,
so each-other-give so great blows

820 qu'andeus les escuz de lor cos
that-both the shields from their necks

percent, et li hauberc deslicent,
they-pierce and the hauberks come-unlaced

les lances fandent et esclicient,
the lances split and shiver

et li tronçon volent an haut.
and the shafts fly on high

Li uns l'autre a l'espee assaut,
The one the-other with the-sword assails

825 si ont au chape des espees
so they-have in-the hacking of-the swords

les guiges des escuz coupees
the straps of-the shields cut

et les escuz dehachiez toz
and the shields hewn all

et par dessus et par dessoz,
both by above and by below

si que les pieces an dependent,
so that the pieces thereof hang

n'il ne s'an cuevrent ne deffandent;

830

nor-they not themselves-thereby cover nor defend

car si les ont harigotez,

for so them they-have tattered

qu'a delivre sor les costez

that-at freedom on the sides

et sor les braz et sor les hanches

and on the arms and on the haunches

se fierent des espees blanches.

themselves they-strike with-the swords white

Felensesmant s'antrespuevent,

835

Cruelly each-other-try

n'onques d'un estal ne se muevent

nor-ever from-one stand not themselves move

ne plus que feïssent dui gres.

no more than would-do two millstones

Ains dui chevalier si angrés

Ever two knights so eager

ne furent de lor mort haster.

not were of their death to-basten

N'ont cure de lor cos gaster;

840

Not-they-have care of their blows to-waste

qu'au miauz qu'il pueent les anploient.

for-at-the best that-they can them they-employ

Li hiaumë anbuïngnent et ploient,

The helms are-dented and bend

et des haubers les mailles volent

and from-the hauberks the mails fly

si que del sanc assez se tolent;

so that of-the blood enough themselves they-take

845 car d'aus meïsmes sont si chaut
for from-them themselves are so hot
 li hauberc, que li suens ne vaut
the hauberks that the his not is-worth
 a chascun gueires plus d'un froc.
to each much more than-a frock
 Anz el vis se fierent d'estoc,
Right into-the face themselves they-strike with-a-thrust
 s'est mervaille, comant tant dure
so-it-is a-marvel how so-long lasts

850 bataille si fiere et si dure;
a-battle so fierce and so hard
 mes andui sont de si grant cuer,
but both are of so great heart
 que li uns por l'autre a nul fuer
that the one for the-other at any price
 de terre un pié ne guerpiroit,
of ground a foot not would-yeild
 se jusqu'a mort ne l'anpiroit.
if until death not him-be-harmed

855 Et de ce firent mout que preu,
And of this they-did much that valiantly
 qu'onques lor chevaus an nul leu
that-ever their horses in any place
 ne navrerent ne anpirierent;
not they-wounded nor they-harmed
 qu'il ne vostreint ne ne deignierent;
for-they not wished nor not deigned
 mes toz jorz a cheval se tindrent,
but all days on horseback themselves they-held

que nule foiz a pié ne vindrent;

so-that any time on foot not they-came

s'an fu la bataille plus bele.

so-thereby was the battle more fair

An la fin son hiaume escartelee

In the end his helm splits

au chevalier mes sire Yvains.

of-the knight my lord Yvain

Del cop fu estordiz et vains

By-the blow was stunned and faint

li chevaliers, si s'esmaia;

the knight so he-was-dismayed

qu'ains si felon cop n'essaia;

for-ever so cruel a-blow not-he-experienced

qu'il li ot dessoz le chapel

for-he to-him had beneath the cap

le chief fandus jusqu'au cervel,

the head split down-to-the brain

si que del cervel et del sanc

so that with-the brain and with-the blood

taint la maille del hauberc blanc,

stained the mail of-the hauberk white

don si tres grant dolor santi,

whereof so very great pain he-felt

qu'a po li cuers ne li manti.

that-for little the heart not to-him failed

S'adonc foï, n'ot mie tort;

If-then he-fled not-he-had at-all wrong

qu'il se santi navrez a mort;

for-he himself felt wounded to death

860

865

870

- 875 car riens ne li valut deffanse.
for anything not to-him availed defense
 Si tost s'an fuit, come il s'apanse,
So soon himself-thence he-flees as he himself-bethinks
 vers son chastel toz esleissiez,
toward his castle all at-full-speed
 et li ponz li fu abeissiez
and the bridge to-him was lowered
 et la porte overte a bandon;
and the gate opened at large
 880 et mes sire Yvains de randon,
and my lord Yvain in a-rush
 quanqu'il puet, après esperone.
all-that-he can after spurs
 Si con girfauz grue randone,
Just as a-gerfalcon a-crane pursues
 qui de loing muet, et tant l'aproche,
which from afar it-starts and so-much it-approaches
 tenir la cuide, mes n'i toche:
to-hold it he-thinks but not-therein touches
 885 einsi fuit cil, et cil le chace
thus flees he and he him chases
 si pres, a po qu'il ne l'anbrace,
so near for little that-he — him-embraces
 et si ne le par puet ataindre,
and yet not him quite can overtake
 si est si pres, que il l'ot plaindre
so he-is so near that he him-bears to-complain
 de la destresce que il sant;
of the distress which he feels

mes toz jorz au foïr antant.

but all days at-the fleeing he-attends

Et cil del chacier s'esvertue:

And he at-the chasing himself-exerts

qu'il crient sa painne avoir perdue,

for-he fears his labor to-have lost

se mort ou vif ne le detient;

if dead or alive not him he-holds

que des ranposnes li sovient,

for of-the taunts to-him it-comes-to-mind

que mes sire Kes li ot dites.

that my lord Kay to-him had said

N'iert pas de la promesse quites,

Not-he-will-be at-all of the promise quit

que son cosin avoit promise,

which to-his cousin he-had promised

ne creüz n'iert an nule guise,

nor believed not-he-will-be in any wise

s'ansaignes veraies n'an porte.

if-tokens true not-thereof he-brings

A esperon jusqu'a la porte

At spur as-far-as the gate

de son chastel l'an a mené,

of his castle him-thence he-has led

si sont anz anbedui antré,

so they-are within both entered

n'ome ne fame ne troverent

neither-man nor woman not they-found

es rues, par ou il passerent,

in-the streets by which they passed

890

895

900

905 et vindrent anbedui d'eslés
and they-came both at-full-speed
 jusqu'a la porte del palés.
as-far-as the gate of-the palace

The Portcullis

VI

The castle gate is a trap, a narrow way with a sliding iron portcullis held on two springs, and another such gate behind it. Riding hard on the fleeing knight, Yvain is caught between them: the falling gate cuts his horse through behind the saddle and shears both spurs at his heels, the knight escapes through the second gate, and Yvain is shut alive in the gilded hall. A damsel comes out of a little chamber, knows him for Urien's son, repays a courtesy he once did her at the king's court with a ring that hides its wearer, and brings him food.

La porte fu mout haute et lee,
The gate was very high and wide
 si avoit si estroite antree,
and it-had so narrow an-entry
 que dui home ne dui cheval
that two men nor two horses
 910 sanz anconbrier et sanz grant mal
without hindrance and without great harm
 n'i poissent ansamble antrer,
not-therein could together to-enter
 n'anmi la porte antrancontrer;
nor-in-the-middle-of the gate to-meet-each-other
 car ele estoit autressi faite,
for it was just-so made

con l'arbaleste, qui agueite
as the-crossbow which lies-in-wait-for
 le rat, quant il vient au forfet;
the rat when it comes to-the misdeed
 et l'espee est an son aguet
and the-sword is in its ambush
 dessus, qui tret et fiert et prant;
above which shoots and strikes and takes
 qu'ele eschape lués et desçant,
so-that-it escapes at-once and descends
 que riens nule adoise a la clef,
as-soon-as thing any touches at the trigger
 ja n'i tochera si soef.
ever not-there it-will-touch so softly
 Einsi dessoz la porte estoient
Thus beneath the gate were
 dui trebuchet, qui sostenoient
two springs which held-up
 amont une porte colant
above a gate sliding
 de fer, esmolue et tranchant.
of iron sharpened and cutting
 Se riens sor cel angin montoit,
If anything on that engine trod
 la porte d'amont desçandoit,
the gate from-above came-down
 s'estoit pris et detranchiez toz,
so-was taken and hewn all
 cui la porte ataignoit dessoz.
whom the gate reached beneath

915

920

925

- Et tot anmi a droit conpas
And all in-the-middle at right measure
- 930 estoit si estroiz li trespas,
was so narrow the passage
- con se fust uns santiers batuz.
as if it-were a path beaten
- El droit chemin s'est anbatuz
In-the straight road himself-is rushed
- li chevaliers mout sagemant,
the knight very wisely
- et mes sire Yvains folemant
and my lord Yvain madly
- 935 hurte grant aleüre après,
drives great pace after
- si le vint ateignant si pres,
so him he-came reaching so near
- qu'a l'arçon deriere le tint.
that-at the-saddlebow behind him he-held
- Et de ce mout bien li avint,
And of this very well to-him it-befell
- qu'il se fu avant estanduz.
that-he himself was forward stretched
- 940 Toz eüst esté porfanduz,
All he-would-have been cloven
- se ceste avanture ne fust:
if this adventure not were
- que li chevaus marcha le fust,
that the horse trod-on the timber
- qui tenoit la porte de fer.
which held the gate of iron

Aussi con deables d'anfer

Just as a-devil of-hell

desçant la porte contreval,

descends the gate downward

s'ataint la sele et le cheval

so-it-reaches the saddle and the horse

deriere et tranche tot parmi;

behind and cuts all through

mes ne tocha, la De merci,

but not it-touched by God's mercy

mon seignor Yvain fors que tant,

my lord Yvain except that so-much

qu'au res del dos li vint reant,

that-at-the level of-the back to-him it-came shaving

si qu'anbedeus les esperons

so that-both the spurs

li trancha au res des talons.

to-him it-cut at-the level of-the heels

Et il cheï toz esmaïiez,

And he fell all dismayed

et cil, qui iere a mort plaïiez,

and he who was to death wounded

li eschapa an tel meniere.

to-him escaped in such a-manner

Une autel porte avoit deriere

Another such gate there-was behind

come cele devant estoit.

as that in-front was

Li chevaliers, qui s'an fuioit,

The knight who himself-thence fled

945

950

955

par cele porte s'an foï,

by that gate himself-thence fled

960 et la porte après lui cheï.

and the gate after him fell

Einsi fu mes sire Yvains pris:

Thus was my lord Yvain taken

mout angoisseus et antrepris

very anguished and hard-pressed

remest dedanz la sale anclos,

he-remained within the hall shut-in

qui tote estoit celee a clos

which all was ceiled with nails

965 dorez, et paintes les meisieres

gilded and painted the walls

de buene oevre et de colors chieres;

of good work and of colors costly

mes de rien si grant duel n'avoit

but of anything so great grief not-be-had

con de ce, que il ne savoit,

as of this that he not knew

quel part cil an estoit alez.

which way he thence was gone

970 D'une chanbrete iluec delez

From-a little-chamber there beside

oï ovrir un huis estroit,

he-heard to-open a door narrow

que que il iere an cel destroit;

while that he was in that strait

s'an issi une dameisele

so-thence came-out a damsel

sole, mout avenanz et bele,

alone very comely and fair

et l'uis après li referma.

and the-door after her she-shut-again

Quant mon seignor Yvain trova,

When my lord Yvain she-found

si s'esmaia mout de premiers.

so herself-she-dismayed much at first

"Certes", fet ele, "chevaliers!

Certainly says she knight

Je criem que mal soïiez venuz.

I fear that ill you-be come

Se vos estes ceanz veüz,

If you are within seen

vos i seroiz toz depeciez;

you there will-be all hacked-to-pieces

car mes sire est a mort bleciez,

for my lord is to death wounded

et bien sai que vos l'avez mort.

and well I-know that you him-have killed

Ma dame an fet un duel si fort,

My lady thereof makes a grief so strong

et ses janz environ li crient,

and her folk around her cry-out

que por po de duel ne s'ocient,

that for little of grief — themselves-they-kill

si vos sevent il bien ceanz!

and-yet you know they well within

975

980

985

Mes antre aus est li diaus si granz,

But among them is the grief so great

que il n'i pueent ore antandre.

that they not-there-to can now to-attend

990 S'il vos vuelent ocirre ou prandre,

If-they you wish to-kill or to-take

a ce ne pueent il faillir,

in this not can they to-fail

quant il vos vandront assaillir."

when they you will-come to-assail

Et mes sire Yvains li respont:

And my lord Yvain to-her answers

"Ja, se De plest, ne m'ocirront,

Ever if God pleases not me-they-will-kill

995 ne ja par aus pris ne serai."

nor ever by them taken not I-shall-be

"Non", fet ele; "car j'an ferai

No says she for I-thereof shall-do

avuec vos ma puissance tote.

with you my power all

N'est mie prodon, qui trop dote.

Not-is at-all a-worthy-man who too-much fears

Por ce cuit, que prodon soiez,

For this I-think that a-worthy-man you-are

1000 que n'estes pas trop esmaiez.

since not-you-are at-all too dismayed

Et sachiez bien, se je pooie,

And know well if I could

servise et enor vos feroie;

a-service and honor you I-would-do

que vos le feïstes ja moi.

for you it did once to-me

Une foiz a la cort le roi

One time to the court of-the king

m'anvoia ma dame an message.

me-sent my lady on an-errand

Espoir si ne fui pas si sage,

Perhaps so not I-was at-all so wise

si cortoise ne de tel estre,

so courteous nor of such bearing

come pucele deüst estre;

as a-maiden ought to-be

mes onques chevalier n'i ot,

but ever a-knight not-there was

qu'a moi deignast parler un mot,

who-to me deigned to-speak a word

fors vos tot seul, qui estes ci;

except you all alone who are here

mes vos, la vostre grant merci,

but you by your great favor

m'i enorastes et servistes.

me-there honored and served

De l'enor, que la me feïstes,

For the-honor which there to-me you-did

vos randrai ci le guerredon.

you I-shall-render here the guerdon

Bien sai, comant vos avez non,

Well I-know how you have name

et reconeü vos ai bien:

and recognized you I-have well

1005

1010

1015

fiz estes au roi Uriien

son you-are of-the king Urien

et avez non mes sire Yvains.

and you-have name my lord Yvain

1020 Or soiez seürs et certains,

Now be sure and certain

que ja, se croire me volez,

that ever if to-believe me you-wish

ne seroiz pris ne afolez.

not you-will-be taken nor injured

Et cest mien anelet prandroiz

And this my little-ring you-will-take

et, s'il vos plect, sel me randroiz,

and if-it you pleases so-it to-me you-will-give-back

1025 quant je vos avrai delivré.”

when I you shall-have delivered

Lors li a l'anelet livré,

Then to-him she-has the-little-ring given

si li dist qu'il avoit tel force,

and to-him said that-it had such power

come a dessor le fust l'escorce,

as has upon the wood the-bark

qui le cuevre, qu'an n'an voit point;

which it covers so-that-one not-thereof sees at-all

1030 mes il covient que l'an l'anpoint,

but it behooves that one it-press

si qu'el poing soit la pierre anclose,

so that-in-the fist be the stone enclosed

puis n'a garde de nule chose

then not-he-has fear of any thing

cil, qui l'anel an son doi a;

he who the-ring on his finger has

que ja veoir ne le porra

for ever to-see not him will-be-able

nus hon, tant et les iauz overz,

any man however he-have the eyes open

ne que le fust, qui est coverz

any-more than the wood which is covered

de l'escorce, qui sor lui nest.

with the-bark which upon it grows

Ice mon seignor Yvain plest,

This-thing to-my lord Yvain pleases

et quant ele li ot ce dit,

and when she to-him had this said

sel mena seoir an un lit

so-him she-led to-sit on a bed

covert d'une coute si riche,

covered with-a quilt so rich

qu'ains n'ot tel li dus d'Osteriche,

that-ever not-had such the duke of-Austria

et li dist que, se il voloit,

and to-him said that if he wished

a mangier li aporteroit;

to eat to-him she-would-bring

et il dist que li estoit bel.

and he said that to-him it-was pleasing

1035

1040

1045

La dameisele cort isnel

The damsel runs swift

a sa chanbre et revint mout tost,

to her chamber and came-back very soon

s'aporta un chapon an rost

and-brought a capon in roast

et un gastel et une nape

and a cake and a cloth

1050 et vin, qui fu de buene grape.

and wine which was of good grape

Plain pot d'un blanc henap covert,

A-full pot with-a white cup covered

si li a a mangier ofert.

so to-him she-has to eat offered

Et cil, cui il estoit mestiers,

And he to-whom it was needful

manja et but mout volantiers.

ate and drank very willingly

Hidden in the Hall

VII

Lunete warns him to lie still and slips away. The household breaks in with staves and swords, hunting their lord's killer; they find the two halves of his horse, the saddle, and his severed spurs, and beat the beds and benches all around the bed where he lies, which no blow touches. No door or window, they say, would let anything out but a bird: either they are enchanted, or devils have carried him off. Then the body is borne through and its wounds bleed afresh, which proves the slayer present. The lady tears her hair and blames God for hiding him.

Quant il ot mangié et beü,

When he had eaten and drunk

par leanz furent esmeü

through within were stirred

li chevalier, qui le queroient;

the knights who him sought

que lor seignor vangier voloient,

who their lord to-avenge wished

qui ja estoit an biere mis.

who already was in a-bier laid

Et cele li a dit: "Amis!

And she to-him has said Friend

Oëz, qu'il vos quierent ja tuit?

Hear that-they you seek already all

Mout i a grant noise et grant bruit.

Much there is great noise and great din

Mes qui que vaingne ne qui voise,

But whoever that come nor who go

ne vos movez ja por la noise:

not yourself move ever for the noise

1055

1060

- 1065 que vos n'i seroiz ja trovez,
for you not-therein will-be ever found
 se de cest lit ne vos movez.
if from this bed not yourself you-move
 Ja verroiz plainne ceste sale
Soon you-will-see full this hall
 de jant mout enuieuse et male,
of folk very hateful and evil
 qui trover vos i cuideront,
who to-find you there will-think
- 1070 et si cuit qu'il apporteront
and so I-think that-they will-bring
 par ci le cors, por metre an terre;
by here the body for to-put in earth
 si vos comanceront a querre
so you they-will-begin to seek
 et dessoz bans et dessoz liz.
both beneath benches and beneath beds
 Ce seroit solaz et deliz
This would-be a-solace and a-delight
- 1075 a home, qui peor n'avroit,
to a-man who fear not-would-have
 quant jant si avugle verroit;
when folk so blind he-would-see
 qu'il seront tuit si avuglé,
for-they will-be all so blinded
 si desconfit, si desjuglé,
so confounded so befooled
 que il esrageront tuit d'ire.
that they will-rage all with-wrath

Je ne vos sai or plus que dire,

I not you know now more what to-say

ne je n'i os plus demorer.

nor I not-therein dare more to-stay

Mes De puisse je aorer,

But God may I to-adore

qui m'a doné le leu et l'eise

who to-me-has given the place and the-opportunity

de feire chose, qui vos pleise;

of doing a-thing which to-you may-please

que mout grant talant an avoie.”

for very great a-desire thereof I-had

Lors s'est arriers mise a la voie,

Then herself-is back put on the way

et, quant ele s'an est tornee,

and when she herself-thence is turned

fu tote la janz aünee,

was all the folk gathered

qui de deus parz as portes vindrent

who from two sides at-the doors came

et bastons et espees tindrent,

and staves and swords held

s'i ot mout grant fole et grant presse

so-there was very great a-crowd and great a-press

de jant felenesse et angresse,

of folk cruel and eager

et virent del cheval tranchié

and they-saw of-the horse cut

devant la porte la meitié.

before the gate the half

1080

1085

1090

- 1095 Lors cuidoient bien estre cert,
Then they-thought well to-be certain
 quant li huis seroient overt,
when the doors would-be open
 que dedanz celui troveroient,
that within him they-would-find
 que il por ocirre queroient.
whom they for to-kill sought
 Puis firent treire amont les portes,
Then they-had to-draw up the gates
 1100 par quoi maintes sanz furent mortes;
by which many folk were killed
 mes il n'i ot a celui triege
but there not-therein was at that spot
 tandu ne trebuchet ne piege,
set neither trap nor snare
 ainz i antrerent tuit de front.
rather there entered all — abreast
 Et l'autre meitié trovee ont
And the-other half found they-have
 1105 del cheval mort delez le suel;
of-the horse dead beside the threshold
 mes onques antre aus n'orent oel,
but ever among them not-they-had an-eye
 don mon seignor Yvain veïssent,
whereby my lord Yvain they-might-see
 que mout volantiers oceïssent.
whom very willingly they-would-have-killed

Et il les veoit esragier

And he them saw to-rage

et forsener et correcier.

and to-go-mad and to-grow-angry

Et disoient: "Ce que puet estre?

And they-said This what can be

Que ceanz n'a huis ne fenestre,

For within not-there-is door nor window

par ou riens nule s'an alast,

by which thing any itself-thence went

se ce n'iere oisiaus, qui volast,

if this not-were a-bird which flew

ou escuriaus ou cisemus,

or a-squirrel or a-dormouse

ou beste aussi petite ou plus;

or a-beast as small or more

que les fenestres sont ferrees

for the windows are barred

et les portes furent fermees,

and the doors were shut

des que mes sire an issi fors.

since that my lord thence went out

Morz ou vis est ceanz li cors;

Dead or alive is within the body

que la fors ne remest il mie.

for there out not remained he at-all

La sele assez plus que demie

The saddle much more than half

est ça dedanz, ce veons bien,

is here within this we-see well

1110

1115

1120

ne de lui ne veomes rien

nor of him not we-see anything

1125 fors que les esperons tranchiez,

except that the spurs cut

qui li cheïrent de ses piez.

which to-him fell from his feet

Or del cerchier par toz cez angles,

Now of-the searching through all these corners

si leissomes ester cez jangles!

and let-us-leave to-stand these idle-words

Qu'ancore est il ceanz, ce cuit,

For-still is he within this I-think

1130 ou nos somes anchanté tuit,

either we are enchanted all

ou tolu le nos ont maufé.”

or taken-away him from-us have devils

Einsi trestuit d'ire eschaufé

Thus all with-wrath heated

parmi la sale le queroient

through the hall him they-sought

et parmi les paroiz feroient

and through the walls they-struck

1135 et parmi liz et parmi bans;

and through beds and through benches

mes des cos fu quites et frans

but from-the blows was quit and free

li liz, ou il s'estoit couchiez,

the bed where he himself-was lain

qu'il n'i fu feruz ne tochiez;

for-it not-therein was struck nor touched

mes assez ferirent antor

but much they-struck around

et mout randirent grant estor

and much they-gave great an-onslaught

par tot leanz de lor bastons,

through all within with their staves

come avugles, qui a tastons

like a-blind-man who by groping

vet aucune chose cerchant. —

goes some thing seeking

Que qu'il aloient reverchant

While that-they went ransacking

dessoz liz et dessoz eschames,

beneath beds and beneath footstools

vint une des plus beles dames,

came one of-the most fair ladies

qu'onques veïst riens terriene.

that-ever saw a-thing earthly

De si tres bele crestienne

Of so very fair a-Christian-woman

ne fu onques plez ne parole.

not was ever a-discourse nor a-word

Mes de duel feire estoit si fole,

But of grief making she-was so mad

qu'a po qu'ele ne s'ocioit.

that-for little that-she — herself-killed

A la foïee s'escroit

At the times she-cried-out

si haut, qu'ele ne pooit plus,

so loud that-she not could more

1140

1145

1150

et recheoit pasmee jus.

and fell-back swooned down

1155 Et quant ele estoit relevee,

And when she was risen-again

aussi come fame desvee

just like a-woman crazed

se comançoit a descirer

herself she-began to tear

et ses chevos a detirer.

and her hair to pull

Ses chevos tire et ront ses dras,

Her hair she-tears and rends her clothes

1160 si se repasme a chascun pas,

and herself she-swoons-again at each step

ne riens ne la puet conforter;

nor anything not her can to-comfort

que son seignor an voit porter

for her lord thence she-sees to-carry

devant li an la biere mort,

before her in the bier dead

don ja ne cuide avoir confort;

whereof ever not she-thinks to-have comfort

1165 por ce crioit a haute voiz.

for this she-cried in a-high voice

L'eve beneoite et la croiz

The-water holy and the cross

et li cierge aloient devant

and the tapers went before

avuec les dames d'un covant,

with the ladies of-a convent

et li texte et li ançansier

and the gospels and the censors

et li clerc, qui sont despansier

and the clerks who are the-dispensers

de feire la haute despanse,

of doing the high spending

a quoi la cheitive ame panse.

to which the wretched soul thinks

Mes sire Yvains oï les criz

My lord Yvain heard the cries

et le duel, qui ja n'iert descriz;

and the grief which ever not-will-be described

que nus ne le porroit descrivre,

for anyone not it could to-describe

ne tes ne fu escriz an livre.

nor such not was written in a-book

Et la processions passa,

And the procession passed

mes anmi la sale amassa

but in-the-middle-of the hall gathered

antor la biere uns granz toauz;

around the bier a great throng

que li sans chaux, clers et vermauz

for the blood hot clear and crimson

rissi au mort parmi la plaie.

sprang from-the dead through the wound

Et ce fu provance veraie,

And this was a-proof true

1170

1175

1180

qu'ancore estoit leanz sanz faille

that-still was within without fail

cil, qui feite avoit la bataille,

he who made had the battle

1185 et qui l'avoit mort et conquis.

and who him-had killed and conquered

Lors ont par tot cerchié et quis

Then they-have through all searched and sought

et reverchié et remüé

and ransacked and moved

tant que tuit furent tressüé

so-much that all were sweating

et de l'angoisse et del tooil,

both from the-anguish and from-the crush

1190 qu'il orent por le sanc vermoil,

which they-had for the blood crimson

qui devant aus fu degotez;

which before them had dripped

si fu mout feruz et botez

so he-was much struck and thrust

mes sire Yvains la, ou il jut,

my lord Yvain there where he lay

n'onques por ce ne se remut.

nor-ever for this not himself he-moved

1195 Et les janx plus et plus desvoient

And the folk more and more grew-mad

por les plaies, qui escrevoient,

for the wounds which broke-open

si se mervoillent, por quoi saignent,

so themselves they-marvel for what they-bleed

ne ne sevent, a quoi s'an praignent.

nor not they-know at what themselves-thereof they-should-take

Et dit chascuns et cist et cist:

And says each both this-one and this-one

“Antre nos est cil, qui l’ocist,

1200

Among us is he who him-killed

ne nos ne le veomes mie.

nor we not him see at-all

Ce est mervoille et deablie.”

This is a-marvel and a-devilry

Por ce tel duel par demenoit

For this such grief much made

la dame, qu’ele forsenoit

the lady that-she went-mad

et crioit come fors del san:

1205

and cried like out of-the sense

“Ha! Des! don ne trovera l’an

Ab God then not will-find one

l’omecide, le traïtor,

the-murderer the traitor

qui m’a ocis mon buen seignor?

who to-me-has slain my good lord

Buen? Voire le meilleur des buens!

Good Indeed the best of-the good

Voirs Des, li torz an sera tuens,

1210

True God the wrong thereof will-be yours

s’einsi le leisses eschaper.

if-thus him you-let to-escape

Autrui que toi n’an sai blasmer;

Another than you not-thereof I-know to-blame

que tu le m'anbles a veüe,

for you him from-me-steal from sight

ains tes force ne fu veüe

ever such a-power not was seen

1215 ne si lez torz, con tu me fes,

nor so ugly a-wrong as you to-me do

que nes veoir tu ne me les

that not-even to-see you not me let

celui, qui est si pres de moi.

him who is so near to me

Bien puis dire, quant je nel voi,

Well I-can to-say when I not-him see

que antre nos s'est ceanz mis

that among us himself-is here-within put

1220 ou fantosmes ou anemis,

either a-phantom or the-fiend

s'an sui anfantosmee tote.

so-thereof I-am bewitched wholly

Ou il est coarz, si me dote:

Or he is a-coward so me he-fears

coarz est il, quant il me crient.

a-coward is he since he me fears

De grant coardise li vient,

Of great cowardice to-him it-comes

1225 quant devant moi mostrer ne s'ose.

when before me to-show not himself-he-dares

Ha! fantosmes, coarde chose!

Ab phantom cowardly thing

Por qu'ies vers moi acoardie,

Why are-you toward me turned-coward

quant vers mon seignor fus hardie?

when toward my lord you-were bold

Chose vaine, chose faillie,

Thing empty thing failing

que ne t'ai ore an ma baillie!

1230

that not you-I-have now in my power

Que ne te puis ore tenir!

That not you I-can now to-hold

Mes ce comant pot avenir,

But this how could to-happen

que tu mon seignor oceïs,

that you my lord slew

s'an traïson ne le feïs?

if-in treason not it you-did

Ja voir par toi conquis ne fust

1235

Ever truly by you conquered not would-be

mes sire, se veü t'eüst;

my lord if seen you-be-had

qu'el monde son paroil n'avoit,

for-in-the world his equal not-had

ne Des ne hon ne l'i savoit,

neither God nor man not it-there knew

n'il n'an i a mes nul de tes.

nor-there not-thereof there is more any of such

Certes, se tu fusses mortés,

1240

Certainly if you were mortal

n'osasses mon seignor atandre;

not-you-would-dare my lord to-await

qu'a lui ne se pooit nus prandre."

for-with him not himself could anyone to-match

The Lady's Grief

VIII

The burial is done, the searchers weary and give up, and the nuns and priests finish the office. Lunete remembers Yvain and tells him what a host has beaten through the house after him. He asks to watch the procession from some window, though he cares nothing for the body and says it only for the lady. She sets him at a little window, where he watches the widow commend her lord's soul and tear at whatever comes to her hands, and can hardly keep from running to hold them. Lunete warns him against a rash word and bids him stay in peace.

Einsi la dame se debat,

Thus the lady herself beats

einsi tot par li se combat,

thus all by herself herself fights

1245 einsi se tormante et confont.

thus herself torments and confounds

Et ses janz avuec li refont

And her folk with her renew

si grant duel, que greignor ne pueent;

so great grief that greater — they-can

le cors an portent, si l'anfueent. ...

the body thence they-carry so it-they-bury —

et tant ont quis et tribolé,

and so-much they-have sought and ransacked

1250 que del querre sont tuit lassé,

that of-the seeking are all wearied

si le leissent tuit par enui,

so it they-leave all for weariness

quant ne pueent veoir nelui,

when not they-can to-see anyone

qui de rien an face a mescroire.

who of anything thereof makes to suspect

Et les nonains et li provoivre

And the nuns and the priests

orent ja fet tot le servise.

had already done all the service

1255

Repeirié furent de l'iglise

Returned were from the-church

et venu sor la sepouture. —

and come upon the grave

Mes de tot ice n'avoit cure

But of all this not-had care

la dameisele de la chanbre.

the damsel of the chamber

De mon seignor Yvain li manbre,

1260

Of my lord Yvain to-her comes-to-mind

s'est a lui venue mout tost

herself-is to him come very soon

et dist: "Biaus sire! a mout grant ost

and said Fair lord with very great a-host

a sor vos ceste janz esté.

has upon you this folk been

Mout ont par ceanz tanpesté

Much they-have through here-within stormed

et reverchié toz cez quachez

1265

and ransacked all these hiding-places

plus menuëmant, que brachez

more minutely than a-bound

ne va traçant perdriz ne quaille.

— goes tracking partridge nor quail

Peor avez eü sanz faille.”

Fear you-have had without fail

“Par foi!”, fet il, “vos dites voir!

By faith says he you say true

1270 Ja ne cuidai si grant avoir.

Ever not I-thought so great to-have

Ancore, se il pooit estre,

Yet if it could to-be

ou par pertuis ou par fenestre

either through a-hole or through a-window

verroie volantiers la fors

I-would-see willingly there outside

la procession et le cors.”

the procession and the body

1275 Mes il n'avoit antancion

But he not-had intention

n'au cors n'a la procession;

nor-to-the body nor-to the procession

qu'il vossist qu'il fussent tuit ars,

for-he would-wish that-they were all burnt

si li eüst costé mil mars.

even-if to-him it-had cost thousand marks

Mil mars? Voire, par foi, trois mile.

Thousand marks Indeed by faith three thousand

1280 Mes por la dame de la vile,

But for the lady of the town

que il voloit veoir, le dist.

whom he wished to-see it he-said

Et la dameisele le mist

And the damsel him put

a une fenestre petite.

at a window small

Quantqu'ele puet, vers lui s'aquite

As-much-as-she can toward him herself-acquits

de l'enor, qu'il li avoit feite.

of the-honor which-he to-her had done

Parmi cele fenestre agueite

Through that window watches

mes sire Yvains la bele dame,

my lord Yvain the fair lady

qui dist: "Biaus sire! de vostre ame

who said Fair lord of your soul

et Des merci si voiremant,

have God mercy so truly

come onques au mien esciant

as ever to-the my knowledge

chevaliers sor sele ne sist,

a-knight upon saddle not sat

qui de rien nule vos vaussist!

who in thing any you was-worth

De vostre enor, biaux sire chiers!

Of your honor fair lord dear

Ne fu onques nus chevaliers,

Not was ever any knight

ne de la vostre cortiesie.

nor of the your courtesy

Largesce estoit la vostre amie,

Largesse was the your friend

1285

1290

1295

et hardemanz vostre conpainz.

and boldness your companion

An la conpaignie des sainz

In the company of-the saints

soit la vostre ame, biaux douz sire!"

be the your soul fair sweet lord

1300 Lors se dehurte et se descire

Then herself she-strikes and herself tears

trestot, quanquë as mains li vient.

all whatever to-the hands to-her comes

A mout grant painne se detient

With very great pain himself restrains

mes sire Yvains, a quoi que tort,

my lord Yvain at whatever that turns

que les mains tenir ne li cort.

that the hands to-hold — to-her he-runs

1305 Mes la dameisele li prie

But the damsel him prays

et loe et comande et chastie

and counsels and commands and admonishes

come cortoise et de bon' eire,

as courteous and of good breeding

qu'il se gart de folie feire,

that-he himself guard from folly to-do

et dit: "Vos estes ci mout bien.

and says You are here very well

1310 Ne vos movez por nule rien

Not yourself move for any thing

tant que cist diaus soit abeissiez,

until that this grief be abated

et cez janz departir leissiez;

and these folk to-depart let

qu'il se departiront par tans.

for-they themselves will-depart in time

Se vos contenez a mon sans

If you bear-yourself to my sense

si con je vos lo contenir,

just as I you counsel to-bear-yourself

granz biens vos an porra venir.

great good to-you thereof will-be-able to-come

Ci poez ester et seoir

Here you-can to-stand and to-sit

et anz et fors les janz veoir,

both within and without the folk to-see

qui passeront parmi la voie;

who will-pass through the way

ne ja n'iert nus, qui ci vos voie,

nor ever not-will-be anyone who here you sees

s'i avroiz mout grant avantage.

so-therein you-will-have very great advantage

Mes gardez vos de dire outrage;

But guard yourself from saying outrage

car qui se desroie et sormainne

for whoever himself misbehaves and overreaches

et d'outrage feire se painne,

and of-outrage to-do himself takes-pains

quant il an a et eise et leu,

when he thereof has both ease and place

je l'apel plus mauvés que preu.

I him-call more wicked than worthy

1315

1320

Gardez, se vos pansez folie,

Take-care if you think folly

que por ce ne la faites mie.

that for this not it you-do at-all

1325 Li sages son fol pansé cuevre

The wise-man his foolish thought covers

et met, s'il puet, le bien a oevre.

and puts if-he can the good to work

Or vos gardez donc come sages,

Now yourself guard therefore as a-wise-man

que n'i metez la teste an gages;

that not-therein you-put the head in pledge

que l'an n'an prandroit reançon.

for one not-thereof would-take ransom

1330 Soiiez por vos an cusançon,

Be for yourself in concern

et de mon consoil vos sovaingne!

and of my counsel to-you may-it-remember

Soiiez an pes tant que je vaingne;

Be in peace until that I come

que je n'os ci plus arester.

for I not-dare here more to-stay

Je porroie tant demorer

I could so-much to-tarry

espoir, que l'an me mescerroit

perhaps that one me would-suspect

por ce, que l'an ne me verroit

for this that one not me would-see

avuec les autres an la presse,

with the others in the press

s'an prandroie male confesse."

so-thereof I-would-take ill shrift

1335

Love at the Window

IX

Yvain grieves that he has no token to prove he killed the lord, for without one Kay's taunts will never end; but Love has lodged in him instead, and the poet argues that the lady is avenged more sharply than she knows, since her enemy now loves the one being who most hates him. Left alone to weep and read her psalter, she is watched from the window by Yvain, who praises her hair and her face, calls himself a fool, and tells himself that a woman has a thousand moods. Lunete offers to bring him to safety, and he refuses to leave by theft.

Atant s'an part, et cil remaint,

Thereupon herself-thence departs and he remains

qui ne set, comant se demaint.

who not knows how himself he-should-conduct

Del cors, qu'il voit que l'an anfuert,

Of-the body which-he sees that one buries

1340

li poise, quant avoir n'an puet

to-him it-grieves when to-have not-thereof he-can

aucune chose, qu'il an port

some thing that-he thence carry

tesmoing, qu'il l'a conquis et mort,

witness that-he him-has conquered and killed

1345 que mostrer puisse an aparant.

which to-show he-may in the-open

S'il n'an a tesmoing et garant,

If-he not-thereof has witness and warrant

donc est il honiz an travers.

then is he shamed in full

Tant par est Kes fel et pervers,

So much is Kay cruel and perverse

plains de ranposnes et d'enui,

full of taunts and of-annoyance

1350 que ja mes ne garroit a lui;

that ever more not he-would-escape from him

toz jorz mes l'iroit afitant

all days more him-would-go taunting

et gas et ranposnes gitant,

and jests and taunts throwing

aussi come il fist l'autre jor.

just as he did the-other day

Celes ranposnes a sejour

Those taunts in residence

1355 li sont el cuer batanz et fresches,

to-him are in-the heart beating and fresh

mes de son çucre et de ses bresches

but with her sugar and with her honeycombs

li radoucist novele Amors,

to-him sweetens-again new Love

qui par sa terre a fet son cors,

who through his land has made her course

s'a tote sa proie acoillie.

so-has all her prey gathered

Son cuer an mainne s'anemie,

His heart thence leads his-enemy

s'aimme la rien, qui plus le het.

so-he-loves the being who most him hates

Bien a vangiee, et si nel set,

Well has avenged and yet not-it she-knows

la dame la mort son seignor.

the lady the death of-her lord

Vanjance an a prise greignor,

Vengeance thereof she-has taken greater

qu'ele prandre ne l'an seüst,

than-she to-take — it-thereof would-have-known

s'Amors vangiee ne l'eüst,

if-Love avenged not her-had

qui si doucemant le requiert,

who so sweetly him assails

que par les iauz el cuer le fiert.

that through the eyes in-the heart him she-strikes

Et cist cos a plus grant duree,

And this blow has more great duration

que cos de lance ne d'espee:

than blow of lance nor of-sword

1360

1365

1370

cos d'espee garist et saine

blow of-sword heals and mends

mout tost, des que mires i painne,

very soon from that physician thereat labors

et la plaie d'Amors anpire,

and the wound of-Love worsens

quant ele est plus pres de son mire.

when it is more near to its physician

1375 Cele plaie a mes sire Yvains,

That wound has my lord Yvain

dont il ne sera ja mes sains;

whereof he not will-be ever more whole

qu'Amors s'est tote a lui randue.

for-Love herself-is wholly to him surrendered

Les leus, ou ele iere expandue,

The places where she was spread

va reverchant et si s'an oste:

goes searching and so herself-thence removes

1380 ne viaut avoir ostel ne oste

nor wishes to-have lodging nor host

se cestui non, et que preuz fet,

except this-one alone and how worthily she-does

quant de mauvés leu se retret,

when from an-evil place herself she-withdraws

por ce qu'a lui tote se doint;

for this that-to him wholly herself she-give

ne viaut qu'aillors et de li point,

nor wishes that-elsewhere may-have of her a-whit

1385 si cerche toz cez vils ostés.

yet searches all these vile lodgings

C'est granz honte, qu'Amors est tes,

This-is great shame that-Love is such

et quant ele si mal se prueve,

and when she so ill herself proves

que el plus vil leu, qu'ele trueve,

that in-the most vile place that-she finds

se herberge tot aussi tost,

herself she-lodges just as soon

come an tot le meillor de l'ost.

as in all the best of the-host

Mes ore est ele bien venue,

But now is she well come

ci iert ele a enor tenue

here will-be she in honor held

et ci li fet buen demorer.

and here to-ber it-makes good to-stay

Einsi se devroit atoner

Thus herself should array

amors, qui si est haute chose,

love who so is a-high thing

que mervoille est, comant ele ose

that a-marvel it-is how she dares

de honte an si vil leu desçandre.

for shame in so vile a-place to-descend

Celui sanble, qui an la çandre

Him she-resembles who in the ashes

et an la poudre espant son basme,

and in the dust spills his balm

et het enor et aime blasme,

and hates honor and loves blame

1390

1395

1400

et destanpre çucre de fiel,

and tempers sugar with gall

et mesle suie avueques miel.

and mixes soot with honey

Mes or n'a ele pas fet ceu,

But now not-has she at-all done this

ainz s'est logiee an un franc leu,

rather herself-is lodged in a noble place

1405 don nus ne li puet feire tort. —

whereof anyone not to-her can to-do wrong

Quant an ot anfoï le mort,

When one had buried the dead-man

s'an partirent totes les janx.

so-thence departed all the folk

Clers ne chevaliers ne serjanx

Clerk nor knight nor sergeant

ne dame n'i remest que cele,

nor lady not-there remained but she

1410 qui sa dolor mie ne cele.

who her grief at-all not bides

Mes cele i remaint tote sole,

But she there remains all alone

qui sovant se prant a la gole

who often herself takes by the throat

et tort ses poinx et bat ses paumes

and wrings her hands and beats her palms

et list an un sautier ses saumes,

and reads in a psalter her psalms

1415 anluminé a letres d'or.

illuminated with letters of-gold

Et mes sire Yvains est ancor

And my lord Yvain is still

a la fenestre, ou il l'esgarde,

at the window where he her-watches

et come il plus s'an done garde,

and as he more himself-thereof gives heed

plus l'aimme et plus li abelist.

more her-he-loves and more to-him she-pleases

Ce qu'ele plore et qu'ele list,

That which-she weeps and which-she reads

vossist qu'ele leissié eüst,

he-would-wish that-she left had

et qu'a li parler li leüst.

and that-to her to-speak to-him were-lawful

An cest vouloir l'a Amors mis,

In this wish him-has Love put

qui a la fenestre l'a pris.

who at the window him-has taken

Mes de son vouloir se despoire;

But of his wish himself he-despairs

car il ne puet cuidier ne croire,

for he not can to-think nor to-believe

que ses voloirs puisse avenir,

that his wish can to-happen

et dit: "Por fol me puis tenir,

and says For a-fool myself I-can to-bold

quant je vuel ce que ja n'avrai.

when I wish that which ever not-I-will-have

Son seignor a mort li navrai,

Her lord to death to-her I-wounded

1420

1425

1430

et je cuit a li pes avoir?

and I think with her peace to-have

Par foi! ne cuit mie savoir,

By faith not I-think at-all to-know

qu'ele me het plus ore androit,

for-she me hates more now at-this-moment

que nule rien, et si a droit.

than any thing and so has right

1435 D'ore androit' ai je dit que sages;

Of-now at-this-moment have I said like a-wise-man

que fame a plus de mil corages.

for woman has more than a-thousand moods

Celui corage, qu'ele a ore,

That mood which-she has now

espoir changera ele ancore, —

perhaps will-change she yet

ainz le changera sanz 'espoir',

rather it she-will-change without perhaps

1440 si sui mout fos, qui m'an despoir.

so I-am very mad who myself-thereof despair

Et Des li doint par tans changier!

And God to-her grant in time to-change

Qu'estre m'estuet an son dangier

For-to-be to-me-bebooves in her power

toz jorz mes, des qu'Amors le viaut!

all days more since that-Love it wishes

Qui Amor an gre ne requiaut,

Whoever Love in favor not receives

1445 des que ele antor li l'atret,

from that she around her him-draws

felenie et traïson fet,

felony and treason does

et je di (qui se viaut, si l'oïe!),

and I say whoever himself wishes so it-bear

que n'an doit avoir bien ne joie.

that not-thereof he-must to-have good nor joy

Mes por ce ne perdrai je mie,

But for this not will-lose I at-all

ançois amerai m'anemie;

rather I-will-love my-enemy

que je ne la doi pas haïr,

for I not her must at-all to-hate

se je ne vuel Amor traïr.

if I not wish Love to-betray

Ce qu'Amors viaut, doi je amer.

That which-Love wishes must I to-love

Et moi doit ele ami clamer?

And me must she friend to-call

Oïl voir, por ce que je l'aim.

Yes truly for this that I her-love

Et je m'anemie la claim,

And I my-enemy her call

qu'ele me het, si n'a pas tort;

for-she me hates and not-has at-all wrong

que ce, qu'ele amoit, li ai mort.

for that which-she loved to-her I-have killed

Et donc sui je ses anemis?

And so am I her enemy

Nenil certes, mes ses amis;

No indeed but her friend

1450

1455

1460

qu'onques rien tant amer ne vos.

for-ever a-thing so-much to-love not I-wished

Grant duel ai de ses biaux chevos,

Great grief I-have for her fair hairs

qui fin or passent, tant reluisent:

which fine gold surpass so-much they-shine

d'ire m'esprannent et aguisent,

with-wrath me-they-kindle and sharpen

1465 quant je li voi ronpre et tranchier;

when I to-her see to-break and to-cut

n'onques ne pueent estanchier

nor-ever not can to-stanch

les lermes, qui des iauz li chieent.

the tears which from-the eyes to-her fall

Totes cez choses me dessieent.

All these things me displease

Atot ce qu'il sont plain de lermes,

For-all this that-they are full of tears

1470 si que n'an est ne fins ne termes,

so that not-thereof is nor end nor limit

ne furent onques si bel oel.

not were ever so fair eyes

De ce qu'ele plore, me duel,

For this that-she weeps me I-grieve

ne de rien n'ai si grant destresce

nor for anything not-I-have so great distress

come de son vis, qu'ele blesce;

as for her face which-she wounds

1475 qu'il ne l'eüst pas desservi.

for-it not it-had at-all deserved

Onques si bien taillié ne vi

Ever so well fashioned not I-saw

ne si fres ne si coloré.

nor so fresh nor so colored

Et ce me par a acoré,

And this me much has grieved

que je li voi sa gorge estraindre.

that I to-her see her throat to-clutch

Certes, ele ne se set faindre,

Certainly she not herself knows to-spare

qu'au pis, qu'ele puet, ne se face.

that-to-the worst that-she can not herself she-does

Et nus cristaus ne nule glace

And any crystal nor any ice

n'est si clere ne si polie.

not-is so clear nor so polished

Des! por quoi fet si grant folie

God for what does-she so great folly

et por quoi ne se blesce mains?

and for what not herself wounds less

Por quoi detort ses beles mains

For what wrings-she her fair hands

et fiert son piz et esgratine?

and strikes her breast and scratches

Don ne fust ce mervoille fine

Then not would-be this a-marvel perfect

a esgarder, s'ele fust liee,

to behold if-she were glad

quant ele est or si bele iriee?

when she is now so fair angered

1480

1485

1490

Oïl voir, bien le puis jurer:

Yes truly well it I-can to-swear

onques mes si desmesurer

ever before so to-exceed

an biauté ne se pot Nature;

in beauty not herself could Nature

que trespassee i a mesure.

for surpassed therein she-has measure

1495 Ou ele espoir n'i ovra onques?

Or she perhaps not-therein worked ever

Comant poïst avenir donques?

How could to-happen then

Don fust si granz biautez venue?

Whence would-be so great beauty come

Ja la fist Des de sa main nue,

Surely her made God with his hand bare

por Nature feire muser.

to Nature to-make to-gape

1500 Tot son tans i porroit user,

All her time thereon she-could to-spend

s'ele la voloit contrefeire;

if-she her wished to-counterfeit

que ja n'an porroit a chief treire.

that ever not-thereof she-could to end to-bring

Nes Des, s'il s'an voloit pener,

Not-even God if-he himself-thereof wished to-trouble

n'i porroit, ce cuit, assener,

not-therein could this I-think to-attain

que ja mes nule tel feïst
that ever more any such he-would-make

1505

por painne, que il i meïst.”
for pains that he thereon might-put

Einsi mes sire Yvains devise

Thus my lord Yvain describes

celi, qui de duel se debrise,
her who with grief herself breaks

ne mes ne cuit, qu’il avenist,
nor more not I-think that-it happened

que nus hon, qui prison tenist,
that any man who prison held

1510

tel con mes sire Yvains la tient,
such as my lord Yvain it holds

qui de la teste perdre crient,
who of the head to-lose fears

amast an si fole meniere,
loved in so mad a-manner

dont il ne fera ja proïiere
whereof he not will-make ever prayer

ne autre por lui, puet cel estre.
nor another for him may that be

1515

Tant fu iluec a la fenestre,
So-long was there at the window

qu’il an vit la dame raler,
that-he thence saw the lady to-go-back

et que l’an ot fet avaler
and that one had made to-lower

anbedeus les portes colanz.
both the gates sliding

1520 De ce fust uns autre dolanz,
At this would-be an other grieved
 qui miauz amast sa delivrance,
who better would-love his deliverance
 qu'il ne feïst la demorance.

than-he — would-do the staying

Et il met autretant a oevre,

And he puts as-much to work

se l'an les clot, con s'an les oevre.

if one them shuts as if-one them opens

1525 Il ne s'an alast mie certes,

He not himself-thence would-go at-all certainly

se eles li fussent overtes,

if they to-him were open

ne se la dame li donast

nor if the lady to-him gave

congié et si li pardonast

leave and so to-him pardoned

la mort son seignor buenemant,

the death of-her lord willingly

1530 si s'an alast seüremant;

so himself-thence he-would-go safely

qu'Amors et Honte le detient,

for-Love and Shame him detain

qui de deus parz devant li vienent.

who from two sides before him come

Il est honiz, se il s'an va;

He is shamed if he himself-thence goes

que ce ne crerroit nus hon ja,

for this not would-believe any man ever

qu'il eüst ainsi exploitié.

that-be had thus achieved

D'autre part a tel coveitié

On-the-other side be-has such longing

de la bele dame veoir

of the fair lady to-see

au mains, se plus n'an puet avoir,

at least if more not-thereof he-can to-have

que de la prison ne li chaut;

that for the prison not to-him it-matters

morir viaut ainz que il s'an aut. —

to-die he-wishes rather than he himself-thence go

Mes la dameisele repeire,

But the damsel returns

qui li viaut conpaignie feire

who to-him wishes company to-make

et solacier et deporter,

and to-solace and to-divert

et porchacier et apporter,

and to-procure and to-bring

quanqu'il voldra, a sa devise.

whatever-he will-wish at his pleasure

De l'amor, qui an lui s'est mise,

With the-love which in him itself-is put

le trova trespansé et vain,

him she-found pensive and faint

si li a dit: "Mes sire Yvain!

so to-him she-has said My lord Yvain

Quel siecle avez vos hui eü?"

What a-time have you today had

1535

1540

1545

1550 "Tel", fet il, "qui mout m'a pleü."

Such says he which much me-has pleased

"Pleü? Por De! dites vos voir?

Pleased For God say you true

Comant? Puet donc buen siecle avoir,

How Can then a-good time to-have

qui voit qu'an le quiert por ocirre,

who sees that-one him seeks for to-kill

s'il ne viaut sa mort ou desirre?"

if-be not wishes his death or desires

1555 "Certes", fet il, "ma douce amie,

Certainly says he my sweet friend

morir ne voldroie je mie,

to-die not would-wish I at-all

et si me plot mout tote voie

and yet me pleased much all the-same

ce que je vi, se Des me voie,

that which I saw so God me see

et plest et pleira toz jorz mes."

and pleases and will-please all days more

1560 "Or leissomes trestot an pes",

Now let-us-leave everything in peace

fet ele; "que bien sai antandre,

says she for well I-know to-understand

ou ceste parole viaut tandre.

where this word wishes to-tend

Ne sui si nice ne si fole,

Not I-am so simple nor so foolish

que bien n'antande une parole;

that well not-I-understand a word

mes ore an venez après moi;

but now thence come after me

que je prandrai prochain conroi

for I will-take prompt measures

de vos giter fors de prison.

to you to-cast out of prison

Bien vos metrai a garison,

Well you I-will-put in safety

s'il vos plect, anuit ou demain.

if-it you pleases tonight or tomorrow

Ore an venez, je vos an main.”

Now thence come I you thence lead

Et il respont: “Soiiez certaine,

And he answers Be certain

je n'istrai de ceste semaine

I not-will-go-out within this week

an larrecin ne an anblee.

in theft nor in stealth

Quant la janz iert tote assanblee

When the folk will-be all assembled

parmi cez rues la defors,

through these streets there outside

plus a enor m'an istrai lors,

more with honor myself-thence I-will-go then

que je ne feroie nuitantre.”

than I — would-do by-night

A cest mot après li s'an antre

At this word after her himself-thence he-enters

dedanz la petite chanbrete.

within the little chamber

1565

1570

1575

- 1580 La dameisele, qui fu brete,
The damsel who was crafty
 fu de lui servir an espans,
was of him to-serve in thought
 si li fist creance et despans
so to-him made credit and expense
 de tot, quanquë il li covint.
of all whatever it to-him behooved
 Et quant leus fu, bien li sovint
And when time was well to-her it-remembered
- 1585 de ce, que il li avoit dit,
of this that he to-her had said
 que mout li plot ce que il vit,
that much to-him pleased that which he saw
 quant par la sale le queroient
when through the hall him they-sought
 cil qui ocirre le voloient.
those who to-kill him wished

Lunete Reasons with Her Lady

X

Lunete puts it to her lady that grief will not bring her lord back, that King Arthur is to come to the block and the spring the next week, and that of all her men not one will be bold enough to mount a horse for it. Driven off for saying so, she comes back and argues that the man who conquered her lord is by that fact the better knight. The lady calls it the greatest unreason ever spoken and forbids her to name him again. Lunete answers that she was promised no ill will, and that a good silence has been wasted.

La dameisele estoit si bien

The damsel was so well

de sa dame, que nule rien

with her lady that any thing

a dire ne li redotast,

to say not to-her she-feared

a quoi que la chose montast;

to what that the matter amounted

qu'ele estoit sa mestre et sa garde.

for-she was her governess and her guardian

Mes por quoi fust ele coarde

But for what would-be she a-coward

de sa dame reconforter

of her lady to-comfort

et de s'enor amonester?

and of her-honor to-admonish

La premiere foiz a consoil

The first time in private

li dist: "Dame! mout me mervoil,

to-her said Lady much myself I-marvel

1590

1595

que folemant vos voi ovrer.

that foolishly you I-see to-act

1600 Dame! cuidiez vos recovrer

Lady think you to-recover

vostre seignor por feire duel?”

your lord by making grief

“Nenil”, fet ele, “mes mon vuel

No says she but my wish

seroie je morte d’enui.”

would-be I dead of-sorrow

“Por quoi?” — “Por aler après lui.”

For what For to-go after him

1605 “Après lui? Des vos an deffande

After him God you thereof defend

et aussi buen seignor vos rande,

and as good a-lord to-you give

si come an est poesteïs.”

so as one is powerful

“Ains tel mançonge ne deïs;

Ever such a-lie not you-said

qu’il ne me porroit si buen randre.”

for-he not to-me could so good to-give

1610 “Meillor, se vos le volez prandre,

Better if you him wish to-take

vos randra il, sel proverai.”

to-you will-give he and-it I-will-prove

“Fui! tes! Ja voir nel troverai.”

Away be-still Ever truly not-him I-will-find

“Si feroiz, dame! s’il vos siet.

Yes you-will-do lady if-it you suits

Mes or dites, si ne vos griet:

But now say if not you it-grieve

vostre terre qui deffandra,

your land who will-defend

quant li rois Artus i vandra,

when the king Arthur thither will-come

qui doit venir l'autre semaine

who must to-come the-next week

au perron et a la fontainne?

to-the block and to the spring

Vos an avez eü message

You thereof have had message

de la Dameisele Sauvage,

from the Damsel Savage

qui letres vos an anvea.

who letters to-you thereof sent

Ahi! con bien les anplea!

Ah how well them she-employed

Vos deüssiez or consoil prandre

You ought now counsel to-take

de vostre fontainne deffandre,

of your spring to-defend

et vos ne finez de plorer!

and you not cease from weeping

N'i eüssiez que demorer,

Not-therein you-would-have but to-delay

s'il vos pleüst, ma dame chiere!

if-it to-you pleased my lady dear

1615

1620

1625

Que certes une chanberiere

For certainly a chambermaid

ne valent tuit, bien le savez,

not are-worth all well it you-know

1630 li chevalier, que vos avez.

the knights whom you have

Ja par celui, qui miauz se prise,

Ever by the-one who most himself prizes

n'an iert escuz ne lance prise.

not-thereof will-be shield nor lance taken

De jant mauveise avez vos mout,

Of folk worthless have you much

mes ja n'i avra si estout,

but ever not-there will-be one-so bold

1635 qui sor cheval monter an ost;

who on a-horse to-mount thereof dare

et li rois vient a si grant ost,

and the king comes with so great a-host

qu'il seisira tot sanz deffanse."

that-he will-seize all without defense

La dame set mout bien et panse,

The lady knows very well and thinks

que cele la consoille an foi;

that she her counsels in faith

1640 mes une folor a an soi,

but a folly she-has in herself

que les autres fames i ont,

which the other women therein have

et a bien pres totes le font,

and at well near all it do

que de lor folies s'escusent

that of their follies themselves-they-excuse

et ce, qu'eles vuelent, refusent.

and that which-they wish they-refuse

“Fui!”, fet ele, “ne dire mes!

1645

Away says she not to-say more

Se je t'an oi parler ja mes,

If I you-thereof hear to-speak ever more

ja mar feras mes que t'an fuies!

never ill-starred you-will-do more but you-thence flee

Tant paroles, que trop m'enuies.”

So-much you-speak that too-much me-you-weary

“A buen eür”, fet ele, “dame!

At good fortune says she lady

Bien i pert, que vos estes fame,

1650

Well therein appears that you are a-woman

qui se corroce, quant ele ot

who herself angers when she hears

nelui, qui bien feire li lot.”

anyone who well to-do to-her counsels

Lors s'an parti, si la leissa;

Then herself-thence departed and her left

et la dame se rapansa

and the lady herself bethought

qu'ele avoit mout grant tort eü.

1655

that-she had very great wrong had

Mout vossist bien avoir seü,

Much she-would-wish well to-have known

comant ele porroit prover,

how she could to-prove

qu'an porroit chevalier trover

that-one could a-knight to-find

meillor, qu'onques ne fu ses sire.

better than-ever — was her lord

1660 Mout volantiers li orroit dire,

Very willingly to-her she-would-bear to-say

mes ele li a deffandu.

but she to-her has forbidden

An cest vouloir a atandu

In this wish she-has waited

jusqu'a tant que ele revint.

until so-much that she returned

Mes onques deffanse n'an tint,

But ever prohibition not-thereof held

1665 ainz li redit tot maintenant:

rather to-her says-again all straightway

“Ha, dame! est ce ore avenant,

Ah lady is this now seemly

que si de duel vos ociëz?

that so with grief yourself you-kill

Por De! car vos an chastiëz,

For God pray yourself thereof correct

sel leissiez seviaus non de honte.

and-it leave at-least if-not for shame

1670 A si haute dame ne monte,

To so high a-lady not it-befits

que duel si longuemant maintaingne.

that grief so long she-maintain

De vostre enor vos ressovaingne

Of your honor to-you let-it-recur

et de vostre grant jantillesce!

and of your great nobility

Cuidiez vos, que tote proesce

Think you that all prowess

soit morte avuec vostre seignor?

be dead with your lord

Çant aussi buen et çant meilleur

A-hundred as good and a-hundred better

an sont remés parmi le monde.”

thereof are left through the world

“Se tu n’an manz, Des me confonde!

If you not-thereof lie God me confound

Et neporquant un seul m’an nome,

And nevertheless one single to-me-thereof name

qui et tesmoing de si prodome,

who have witness of so worthy-a-man

con mes sire ot tot son aé.”

as my lord had all his lifetime

“Ja m’an savriiez vos mal gré,

Surely to-me-thereof would-know you ill will

si vos an corroceriiez

and you thereof would-anger

et m’an remenaceriiez.”

and me-thereof would-threaten-again

“Non ferai, je t’an asseür.”

Not will-do I you-thereof assure

“Ce soit a vostre buen eür,

This be to your good fortune

1675

1680

1685

qui vos an est a avenir,

which to-you thereof is to to-come

se il vos venoit a pleisir,

if it to-you came to pleasure

et Des doit ce, que il vos pleise!

and God grant this that it to-you please

1690 Ne voi rien, por quoi je me teise;

Not I-see thing for what I myself be-silent

que nus ne nos ot ne escoute.

for anyone not us hears nor listens

Vos me tandroiz ja por estoute,

You me will-hold surely for presumptuous

mes je dirai bien, ce me sanble,

but I will-say well this to-me seems

quant dui chevalier sont ansamble

when two knights are together

1695 venu as armes an bataille,

come to arms in battle

li ques cuidiez vos, qui miauz vaille,

the which think you who better is-worth

quant li uns a l'autre conquis?

when the one has the-other conquered

Androit de moi doing je le pris

In-respect of me give I the prize

au veinqueur. Et vos que feites?"

to-the victor And you what do-you

1700 "Il m'est avis, que tu m'agueites,

It to-me-is opinion that you me-waylay

si me viaus a parole prandre."

and me you-wish at word to-take

“Par foi! vos poez bien antandre,

By faith you can well to-understand

que je m’an vois parmi le voir,

that I myself-thence go through the truth

et si vos pruis par estovoir,

and so to-you I-prove by necessity

que miauz vaut icil, qui conquist

that better is-worth he who conquered

vostre seignor, que il ne fist.

your lord than he not did

Il le conquist et sel chaça

He him conquered and so-him chased

par hardemant an jusque ça,

by boldness right unto here

si qu’il l’anclost an sa meison.”

so that-he him-shut in his house

“Ore oi”, fet ele, “desreison

Now I-bear says she unreason

la plus grant, qui onques fust dite.

the most great that ever was said

Fui! plainne de mal esperite,

Away full of evil spirit

fui! garce fole et enuieuse!

away wench foolish and tiresome

Ne dire ja mes tel oiseuse,

Not to-say ever more such idle-talk

ne ja mes devant moi ne vaingnes,

nor ever more before me not you-come

por quoi de lui parole taignes!”

for which of him speech you-bold

1705

1710

1715

“Certes, dame! bien le savoie,

Certainly lady well it I-knew

que ja de vos gre n'an avroie,

that ever from you thanks not-thereof I-would-have

et jel vos dis mout bien avant.

and I-it to-you said very well before

1720 Mes vos m'eüstes an covant,

But you to-me-had in covenant

que mal gre ne m'an savriiez

that ill will not to-me-thereof you-would-know

ne ja ire n'an avriiez.

nor ever wrath not-thereof you-would-have

Mal m'avez mon covant tenu,

Ill to-me-you-have my covenant kept

si m'est ore einsì avenu,

so to-me-is now thus happened

1725 que dit m'avez vostre pleisir,

that said to-me-you-have your pleasure

si ai perdu un buen teisir.”

so I-have lost a good silence

The Lady Turns

XI

Alone that night the lady pleads the case with herself, grants that Lunete counseled her in good faith, and finds that the knight wronged neither her nor her lord, since her lord would have killed him had he been able; so she acquits him, and kindles like a log that smokes before it catches. Next morning she asks his name and station, hears he is Yvain son of Urien, and says she will make him lord of her land and of herself. The damsel promises him within three days, feigns the errand, bathes and clothes him where he lies bidden, and then leads him in, telling him he is to be her lady's prisoner, since whoever loves is in prison.

Atant vers la chanbre retorne

Thereupon toward the chamber she-returns

la, ou mes sire Yvains sejourne,

there where my lord Yvain stays

cui ele garde a mout grant eise;

whom she keeps in very great ease

mes n'i a chose, qui li pleise,

but not-there has a-thing which to-him pleases

quant la dame veoir ne puet;

when the lady to-see not he-can

et del plet, que cele li muet,

and of-the plea which she for-him moves

ne se garde ne n'an set mot.

not himself beeds nor not-thereof knows word

Mes la dame tote nuit ot

But the lady all night had

a li meisme grant tançon;

with herself herself great dispute

1730

1735

qu'ele estoit an grant cusançon

for-she was in great anxiety

de sa fontaine garantir,

of her spring to-protect

si se comance a repantir

so herself she-begins to repent

de celi, qu'ele avoit blasmee

of her whom-she had blamed

1740 et leidie et mesaesmee;

and reviled and misprized

qu'ele est tote seüre et certe,

for-she is all sure and certain

que por loier ne por desserte

that for reward nor for desert

ne por amor, que a lui et,

nor for love that to him she-have

ne l'an mist ele onques an plet;

not him-thereof put she ever in plea

1745 et plus aime ele li que lui,

and more loves she her than him

ne sa honte ne son enui

nor her shame nor her trouble

ne li loeroit ele mie;

not to-her would-counsel she at-all

car trop est sa leaus amie.

for too-much is her loyal friend

Ez vos ja la dame changiee

Behold you now the lady changed

1750 de celi, qu'ele ot leidangiee;

toward her whom-she had reviled

que ne cuide ja a nul fuer,

that not she-thinks ever at any price

qu'amer la doie de bon cuer.

that-to-love her she-ought with good heart

Et celui, qu'ele ot refusé,

And him whom-she had refused

a mout leaumant escusé

she-has very loyally excused

par reison et par droit de plet,

by reason and by right of plea

qu'il ne li avoit rien forfet;

that-he not to-her had anything wronged

si se desresne tot ainsi,

so herself she-argues all thus

con s'il fust venuz devant li.

as if-he were come before her

Lors si comance a pleidoiier:

Then so she-begins to plead

"Va!" fet ele, "puez tu noier,

Go says she can you to-deny

que par toi ne soit morz mes sire?"

that by you not be dead my lord

"Ce", fet il, "ne puis je desdire,

This says he not can I to-gainsay

ainz l'otroi bien." — "Di donc, por quoi?

rather it-I-grant well Say then for what

Feïs le tu por mal de moi,

Did it you for harm of me

por haïne ne por despit?"

for hatred nor for spite

1755

1760

1765

“Ja n’aie je de mort respit,

Ever not-may-have I from death respite

s’onques por mal de vos le fis.”

if-ever for harm of you it I-did

“Donc n’as tu rien vers moi mespris,

Then not-have you anything toward me offended

ne vers lui n’eüs tu nul tort;

nor toward him not-had you any wrong

1770 car, s’il poïst, il t’eüst mort.

for if-he could be you-would-have killed

Por ce mien esciant cuit gié,

For this my knowledge think I

que j’ai bien et a droit jugié.”

that I-have well and by right judged

Einsi par li meïsme prueve,

Thus by herself herself she-proves

que droit, san et reison i trueve,

that right sense and reason therein she-finds

1775 qu’an lui haïr n’a ele droit,

that-in him to-hate not-has she right

s’an dit ce, que ele voldroit,

so-theroof says this that she would-wish

et par li meïsme s’alume

and by herself herself she-kindles

aussi con la busche, qui fume,

just as the log which smokes

tant que la flame s’i est mise,

until that the flame itself-therin is put

1780 que nus ne sofle ne atise,

which anyone not blows nor stirs

et s'or venoit la dameisele,
and if-now came the damsel
 ja desresneroit la querele,
surely she-would-win-at-law the quarrel
 dont ele l'a tant pleidoiee,
whereof she it-has so-much pleaded
 s'an a esté mout leidangiee.
so-thereof she-has been much reviled

Et ele revint par matin,
And she came-again by morning

si recomance son latin
and begins-again her discourse

la, ou ele l'avoit leissié.
there where she it-had left

Et cele tint le chief beissié,
And she held the head lowered

qui a mesfeite se savoit
who as having-offended herself knew

de ce que leidie l'avoit;
of this that reviled her-she-had

mes or li voldra amander
but now to-her she-will-wish to-amend

et del chevalier demander
and of-the knight to-ask

le non et l'estre et le linage:
the name and the-condition and the lineage

1785

1790

si s'umelie come sage

so herself-humbles as a-wise-woman

1795 et dit: "Merci criër vos vuel

and says Mercy to-cry you I-wish

del grant outrage et de l'orguel,

for-the great outrage and for the-pride

que je vos ai dit come fole,

that I to-you have said as a-foolish-woman

si remandrai a vostre escole.

so I-will-remain at your school

Mes dites moi, se vos savez,

But tell me if you know

1800 li chevaliers, don vos m'avez

the knight of-whom you to-me-have

tenue an plet si longuemant,

held in plea so long

ques hon est il et de quel jant?

what man is he and of what folk

Se il est tes, qu'a moi ataingne,

If he is such that-to me be-attain

(mes que de par lui ne remaingne,)

provided that from by him not it-remain

1805 je le ferai, ce vos otroi,

I him will-make this to-you I-grant

seignor de ma terre et de moi.

lord of my land and of me

Mes il le covandra si feire,

But it it will-behoove so to-do

qu'an ne puisse de moi retreire

that-one not may of me to-relate

ne dire: 'C'est cele, qui prist

nor to-say This-is she who took

celui, qui son seignor ocist.'

1810

him who her lord slew

"En non De, dame! ainsi iert il.

In name of-God lady thus will-be it

Seignor avroiz le plus jantil

A-lord you-will-have the most noble

et le plus franc et le plus bel,

and the most generous and the most fair

qui onques fust del ling Abel."

who ever was of-the line of-Abel

"Comant a non?" — "Mes sire Yvains."

1815

How has-be name My lord Yvain

"Par foi! cist n'est mie vilains,

By faith this-one not-is at-all base

ainz est mout frans, je le sai bien,

rather is very noble I it know well

si est fiz au roi Urien."

and is son to-the king Urien

"Par foi, dame! vos dites voir."

By faith lady you say true

"Et quant le porrons nos avoir?"

1820

And when him shall-be-able we to-have

"Jusqu'a cinc jorz." — "Trop tarderoit;

Within five days Too-much it-would-delay

que mon vuel ja venuz seroit.

for my wish already come he-would-be

Vaingne anuit ou demain seviaus!"

Let-him-come tonight or tomorrow at-least

"Dame! ne cuit que nus oisiaus

Lady not I-think that any bird

1825 poïst an un jor tant voler.

could in one day so-much to-fly

Mes je i ferai ja aler

But I thither will-make now to-go

un mien garçon, qui mout tost cort,

a of-mine boy who very swiftly runs

qui ira bien jusqu'a la cort

who will-go well as-far-as the court

le roi Artu au mien espoir

of-the king Arthur to-the my hope

1830 au mains jusqu'a demain au soir;

at least by tomorrow at-the evening

que jusque la n'iert il trovez."

for until then not-will-be he found

"Cist termes est trop lons assez.

This term is too long by-far

Li jor sont lonc. Mes dites li,

The days are long But say to-him

que demain au soir resoit ci

that tomorrow at-the evening he-be-back here

1835 et aut plus tost, que il ne siaut;

and go more swiftly than he — is-wont

car, se bien esforcier se viaut,

for if well to-exert himself he-wishes

fera de deus jornees une.

he-will-make of two days'-journeys one

Et anquenuit luira la lune,

And tonight will-shine the moon

si reface de la nuit jor.

so let-him-make of the night day

Et je li donrai au retor,

And I to-him will-give at-the return

quanqu'il voldra, que je li doingne."

whatever-he will-wish that I to-him give

"Sor moi leissiez ceste besoingne;

Upon me leave this business

que vos l'avroiz antre voz mains

for you him-will-have between your hands

jusqu'a tierz jor a tot le mains.

within third day at all the least

Et andemantres manderoiz

And meanwhile you-will-summon

voz janx et si demanderoiz

your folk and so you-will-ask

consoil del roi, qui doit venir.

counsel about-the king who must to-come

Por la costume maintenir

For the custom to-maintain

de vostre fontaine deffandre,

of your spring to-defend

vos covandroit buen consoil prendre.

to-you it-would-behoove good counsel to-take

Et il n'i avra ja si haut,

And there not-there will-be ever one-so high

qui s'ost vanter, que il i aut.

who himself-dare to-boast that he thither go

1840

1845

1850

Lors porroiz dire tot a droit,

Then you-will-be-able to-say all by right

que mariër vos covandroit.

that to-marry you it-would-behoove

1855 Uns chevaliers mout alosez

A knight much renowned

vos requiert, mes vos ne l'osez

you woos but you not him-dare

prandre, s'il nel vos loent tuit.

to-take if-they not-it to-you counsel all

Et ce praing je bien an conduit:

And this take I well in charge

tant les conois je a mauvés,

so-much them know I for worthless

1860 que por chargier autrui le fes,

that for to-load another the burden

dont il seroient trop chargé,

wherewith they would-be too-much loaded

vos an vandront trestuit au pié,

to-you thereof will-come all to-the foot

et si vos an merciëront,

and so you thereof will-thank

que fors de grant painne seront.

for out of great trouble they-will-be

1865 Car, qui peor a de son onbre,

For whoever fear has of his shadow

s'il puet, volantiers se desconbre

if-he can willingly himself he-rids

d'ancontre de lance ou de dart;

of-encounter of lance or of dart

car c'est mauvés jeus a coart."

for this-is a-bad game for a-coward

Et la dame respont: "Par foi!

And the lady answers By faith

Einsi le vuel et si l'otroi,

Thus it I-wish and so it-I-grant

et je l'avoie ja pansé

and I it-had already thought

si con vos l'avez devisé,

just as you it-have devised

et tot einsi le ferons nos.

and all thus it will-do we

Mes ci por quoi demorez vos?

But here for what tarry you

Alez! ja plus ne delaïiez,

Go ever more not delay

si feites tant que vos l'aiiez.

and do so-much that you him-have

Je remandrai avuec mes janz."

I will-remain with my folk

Einsi fina li parlemanz.

Thus ended the conference

Et cele faint, qu'ele anvoit querre

And she pretends that-she sends to-seek

mon seignor Yvain an sa terre,

my lord Yvain in his land

si le fet chascun jor beignier

and him she-makes each day to-bathe

et laver et aplanoïier.

and to-wash and to-smooth

1870

1875

1880

Et avuec ce li aparaille

And with this for-him she-prepares

robe d'escarlate vermoille

a-robe of-scarlet-cloth crimson

1885 de ver forree atot la croie.

of miniver lined with the chalk

N'est riens, qu'ele ne li acroie,

Not-is a-thing that-she not to-him lends

qui covaingne a lui acesmer:

which befits to him to-adorn

fermail d'or a son col fermer,

a-clasp of-gold at his neck to-fasten

ovré a pierres precieuses,

worked with stones precious

1890 qui font les janz mout gracieuses,

which make the folk very gracious

et ceinturë et aumosniere,

and a-belt and an-alms-purse

qui fu d'une riche seigniere.

which was of-a rich brocade

Bien l'a del tot apareillié,

Well him-she-has — wholly arrayed

et a sa dame a conseillié,

and to her lady she-has told

1895 que revenuz est ses messages,

that returned is her messenger

si a exploitié come sages.

and has performed as a-wise-man

“Comant?”, fet ele, “Quant vandra

How says she When will-come

mes sire Yvains?” — “Ceanz est ja.”

my lord Yvain Here-within is already

“Ceanz est il? Vaingne donc tost

Here-within is he Let-him-come then quickly

celeemant et an repost,

secretly and in hiding

demantres qu’avuec moi n’est nus.

while that-with me not-is anyone

Gardez que n’an i vaingne plus;

See that not-thereof thither come more

car je harroie mout le quart.”

for I would-hate much the fourth

La dameisele a tant s’an part,

The damsel at that herself-thence departs

s’est venue a son oste arriere:

and-is come to her guest back

mes ne mostra mie a sa chiere

but not showed at-all in her face

la joie, que ses cuers avoit,

the joy which her heart had

ainz dist, que sa dame savoit,

rather said that her lady knew

qu’ele l’avoit leanz gardé,

that-she him-had there-within kept

et dit: “Mes sire Yvains! par De!

and says My lord Yvain by God

Ne m’i vaut mes neant celee.

Not to-me-therein avails more anything concealment

1900

1905

1910

Tant est de vos la chose alee,

So-far is of you the matter gone

que ma dame la chose set,

that my lady the matter knows

qui mout m'an blasme et mout m'an het

who much me-thereof blames and much me-thereof hates

1915 et mout m'an a achoisonee.

and much me-thereof has accused

Mes tel seürté m'a donee,

But such assurance to-me-she-has given

que devant li vos puis conduire

that before her you I-can to-lead

sanz rien grever et sanz rien nuire.

without anything to-burden and without anything to-harm

Ne vos grevera rien, ce croi,

Not you will-burden anything this I-believe

1920 fors tant (que mantir ne vos doi,

except so-much that to-lie not to-you I-must

que je feroie traïson):

for I would-do treason

avoir vos viaut an sa prison,

to-have you she-wishes in her prison

et s'i viaut si avoir le cors,

and so-therein she-wishes so to-have the body

que nes li cuers n'an soit defors."

that not-even the heart not-thereof be outside

1925 "Certes", fet il, "ce vuel je bien,

Certainly says he this wish I well

ce ne me grevera ja rien.

this not me will-burden ever anything

An sa prison vuel je bien estre.”

In her prison wish I well to-be

“Si seroiz vos, par la main destre,

So will-be you by the hand right

don je vos taing! Ore an venez

wherewith I you hold Now thence come

et a mon los vos contenez

and at my counsel yourself bear

si hunblemant devant sa face,

so humbly before her face

que male prison ne vos face.

that an-ill prison not to-you she-make

Ne por el ne vos esmaïiez!

Nor for aught-else not yourself dismay

Ne cuit mie, que vos aiiez

Not I-think at-all that you have

prison, qui trop vos soit grevainne.”

a-prison which too-much to-you be grievous

La dameisele einsî l’an mainne,

The damsel thus him-thence leads

si l’esmaïë et rasseüre

and him-dismays and reassures

et parole par couverture

and speaks by covering

de la prison, ou il iert mis;

of the prison where he will-be put

que sanz prison n’est nus amis.

for without prison not-is any friend

1930

1935

1940

Ele a droit, se prison le claimme;

She has right if prison it she-calls

que bien est an prison, qui aime.

for well is in prison whoever loves

The Meeting

XII

Yvain comes to the chamber in such fear that he stands off, until Lunete curses whoever brings a knight who will not approach and pulls him forward by the arm. He kneels and says he will never cry mercy but will thank her for whatever she wills, even his death. Asked what wrong he did, he answers that a man who kills an assailant in defending himself offends in nothing, and she remits him every wrong. The force that binds him comes from his heart, his heart from his eyes, his eyes from her beauty. He undertakes to defend her spring against all men, and she gives herself to him.

La dameisele par la main

The damsel by the hand

an mainne mon seignor Yvain

thence leads my lord Yvain

1945 la, ou il iert mout chier tenuz,

there where he will-be very dear held

si crient il estre mal venuz;

yet fears he to-be ill come

et s'il le crient, n'est pas merveille.

and if-he it fears not-is at-all a-marvel

Dessor une coute vermoille

Upon a cushion crimson

troverent la dame seant.

they-found the lady sitting

Grant peor, ce vos acreant,

1950

Great fear this to-you I-warrant

ot mes sire Yvains a l'antree

had my lord Yvain at the-entry

de la chanbre, ou il a trovee

of the chamber where he has found

la dame, qui ne li dist mot.

the lady who not to-him said word

Et por ce plus grant peor ot,

And for this more great fear he-had

si fu de peor esbaïz,

1955

so he-was with fear dismayed

qu'il cuida bien estre traïz;

for-he thought well to-be betrayed

et s'estut loing cele part la,

and himself-stood far that side there

tant que la pucele parla

until that the maiden spoke

et dist: "Cinc çanz dahez et s'ame,

and said Five hundred curses have bis-soul

qui mainne an chanbre a bele dame

1960

who leads into a-chamber to a-fair lady

chevalier, qui ne s'an aproche

a-knight who not himself-thereto approaches

et qui n'a ne langue ne boche

and who not-has nor tongue nor mouth

ne san, dont acointier se sache."

nor sense whereby to-acquaint himself he-knows

A cest mot par le braz le sache,

At this word by the arm him she-pulls

- 1965 si li a dit: "Ça vos traïiez,
and to-him has said Here yourself draw
 chevaliers! et peor n'aiiez
knight and fear not-have
 de ma dame, qu'ele vos morde,
of my lady that-she you bite
 mes querez li pes et acorde.
but seek from-her peace and accord
 Et j'an proierai avuec vos,
And I-thereof will-pray with you
- 1970 que la mort Esclados, le Ros,
that the death of-Esclados the Red
 qui fu ses sire, vos pardoint."
who was her lord to-you she-pardon
 Mes sire Yvains maintenant joint
My lord Yvain straightway joins
 ses mains, si s'est a genouz mis
his hands and himself-is on knees put
 et dist come verais amis:
and said as a-true friend
- 1975 "Dame! ja voir ne criërai
Lady ever truly not I-will-cry
 merci, ainz vos merciërai
mercy rather you I-will-thank
 de quanque vos me voldroiz feire;
for whatever you to-me will-wish to-do
 que riens ne me porroit despleire."
for anything not me could to-displease
 "Non, sire? Et se je vos oci?"
No lord And if I you kill

“Dame! la vostre grant merci;

1980

Lady the your great thanks

que ja ne m'an orroiz dire el.”

for ever not me-thereof you-will-hear to-say otherwise

“Ains mes”, fet ele, “n'oï tel,

Ever before says she not-I-heard such

que si vos metez a devise

that so yourself you-put at disposal

del tot an tot an ma franchise

of-the all in all in my power

sanz ce, que ne vos an esforz.”

1985

without this that — you thereto I-force

“Dame! nule force si forz

Lady any force so strong

n'est come cele sanz mantir,

not-is as that without lying

qui me comande a consantir

which me commands to to-consent

vostre voloir del tot an tot.

your will of-the all in all

Rien nule a feire ne redot,

1990

Thing any to to-do not I-fear

que moi vos pleise a comander.

which to-me you it-please to to-command

Et se je pooie amander

And if I could to-amend

la mort, don je n'ai rien mesfet,

the death whereof I not-have anything done-amiss

je l'amanderoie sanz plet.”

I it-would-amend without dispute

1995 “Comant?”, fet ele, “Or le me dites,

How says she Now it to-me say

si soïiez de l'amande quites,

and be of the-amends quit

se vos de rien ne mesfeïstes,

if you in anything not did-amiss

quant vos mon seignor oceïstes?”

when you my lord slew

“Dame!”, fet il, “vostre merci,

Lady says he your leave

2000 quant vostre sire m’assailli,

when your lord me-assailed

quel tort oi je de moi deffandre?

what wrong had I in myself to-defend

Qui autrui viaut ocirre ou prandre,

Whoever another wishes to-kill or to-take

se cil l’ocit, qui se deffant,

if he him-kills who himself defends

dites, se de rien i mesprant?”

say if in anything therein he-offends

2005 “Nenil, qui bien esgarde a droit.

No whoever well judges at right

Et je cuit, que rien ne vaudroit,

And I think that anything not would-avail

quant fet ocirre vos avroie.

when made to-kill you I-would-have

Et ce mout volantiers savroie,

And this very willingly I-would-know

don cele force puet venir,

whence that force can to-come

qui vos comande a consantir

which you commands to to-consent

tot mon vouloir sanz contredit.

all my will without gainsaying

Toz torz et toz mesfez vos quit.

All wrongs and all misdeeds to-you I-remit

Mes seez vos, si me contez,

But seat yourself and to-me tell

comant vos estes si dontez.”

how you are so tamed

“Dame!”, fet il, “la force vient

Lady says he the force comes

de mon cuer, qui a vos se tient;

from my heart which to you itself holds

an cest vouloir m’a mes cuers mis.”

in this wish me-has my heart put

“Et qui le cuer, biaux douz amis?”

And what the heart fair sweet friend

“Dame! mi oel.” — “Et les iauz qui?”

Lady my eyes And the eyes what

“La granz biautez, que an vos vi.”

The great beauty which in you I-saw

“Et la biautez qu’i a forfet?”

And the beauty what-therein has-it done-amiss

“Dame! tant que amer me fet.”

Lady so-much that to-love me it-makes

“Amer? Et cui?” — “Vos, dame chiere.”

To-love And whom You lady dear

“Moi?” — “Voire”. — “Voir? an quel meniere?”

Me Indeed Truly in what manner

2010

2015

2020

- 2025 “An tel, que graindre estre ne puet,
In such that greater to-be not it-can
 an tel, que de vos ne se muet
in such that from you — itself stirs
 mes cuers, n'onques aillors nel truis,
my heart nor-ever elsewhere not-it I-find
 an tel, qu'aillors panser ne puis,
in such that-elsewhere to-think not I-can
 an tel, que toz a vos m'otroi,
in such that wholly to you myself-I-grant
- 2030 an tel, que plus vos aim que moi,
in such that more you I-love than myself
 an tel, s'il vos plest, a delivre,
in such if-it you pleases at liberty
 que por vos vuel morir ou vivre.”
that for you I-wish to-die or to-live
 “Et oseriez vos anprendre
And would-dare you to-undertake
 por moi ma fontaine a deffandre?”
for me my spring to to-defend
- 2035 “Oïl voir, dame! vers toz homes.”
Yes truly lady against all men
 “Sachiez donc, bien acordé somes.”
Know then well agreed we-are
 Einsi sont acordé briemant!
Thus they-are agreed briefly
 Et la dame ot son parlemant
And the lady had her conference
 devant tenu a ses barons,
before held with her barons

et dit: "De ci nos an irons

2040

and says From here we thence will-go

an cele sale, ou mes janz sont,

into that hall where my folk are

qui loé et conseillié m'ont

who counseled and advised me-have

por le besoing que il i voient;

for the need which they therein see

que mari a prandre m'otroient.

that a-husband to to-take to-me-they-grant

Et jel ferai por le besoing:

2045

And I-it will-do for the need

ci meïsmes a vos me doing;

here itself to you myself I-give

qu'a seignor refuser ne doi

for-as lord to-refuse not I-must

buen chevalier et fil de roi."

a-good knight and son of a-king

The Barons Consent, and the Wedding

XIII

In the hall the seneschal tells the barons that the king is preparing to lay waste their lands, that a woman can bear no shield, and that his lady must take a lord. They come to her feet and urge it, and she yields as though against her will to what Love already bids. She names Yvain, son of King Urien, and is wedded that same day, with bishops, miters, and croziers. The feasting lasts till the eve of the king's coming. Kay mocks the absent Yvain, asks the battle, and is sent over his saddle in a somersault; Yvain then names himself and bids the king lodge with him eight days.

Ore a la dameisele fet,

Now has the damsel done

2050 quanqu'ele voloit antreset.

whatever-she wished forthwith

Et mes sire Yvains est plus sire,

And my lord Yvain is more lord

qu'an ne porroit conter ne dire;

than-one — could to-count nor to-tell

et la dame avuec li l'an mainne

and the lady with her him-thence leads

an la sale, qui estoit plainne

into the hall which was full

2055 de chevaliers et de serjanz.

of knights and of men-at-arms

Et mes sire Yvains fu si janz,

And my lord Yvain was so comely

qu'a mervoilles tuit l'esgarderent,

that-with marvels all him-beheld

et ancontre aus tuit se leverent,

and to-meet them all themselves rose

et tuit salüent et anclinent

and all salute and bow-to

mon seignor Yvain et devinent:

my lord Yvain and guess

“C'est cil, que ma dame prandra.

This-is he whom my lady will-take

Dahez et, qui li deffandra;

A-curse have whoever to-her will-forbid

qu'a mervoilles sanble prodome.

for-with marvels be-seems a-worthy-man

Certes, l'anpererriz de Rome

Certainly the-empress of Rome

seroit an lui bien mariëe.

would-be in him well married

Car l'eüst il ore afiëe

Would-that he-had he now betrothed

et ele lui de nue main,

and she him with bare hand

si l'esposast hui ou demain!”

and he-be-wedded today or tomorrow

Einsi parloient tuit an ranc.

Thus spoke all in row

Au chief de la sale ot un banc,

At-the head of the hall was a bench

ou la dame s'ala seoir,

where the lady herself-went to-sit

la, ou tuit la porent veoir.

there where all he could to-see

Et mes sire Yvains sanblant fist,

And my lord Yvain semblance made

2060

2065

2070

qu'a ses piez seoir se vossist,

that-at her feet to-sit himself he-wished

2075 quant ele l'an leva amont,

when she him-thence raised up

et de la parole semont

and to the speech summons

son seneschal, que il la die,

her seneschal that he it say

si qu'ele soit de toz oïe.

so that-it be by all heard

Lors comança li seneschaus,

Then began the seneschal

2080 qui n'estoit ne restis ne baus.

who not-was nor stubborn nor tongue-tied

"Seignor!", fet il, "guerre nos sort.

Lords says he war on-us rises

N'est jorz, que li rois ne s'atort,

Not-is a-day that the king not himself-prepares

de quanquë il se puet haster,

with whatever he himself can to-hasten

por venir noz terres gaster.

to come our lands to-waste

2085 Einçois que la quinzainne past,

Before that the fortnight pass

sera trestot alé a gast,

will-be everything gone to waste

se buen mainteneor n'i a.

if a-good defender not-there has

Quant ma dame se maria,

When my lady herself married

n'a mie ancor set anz parclos,

not-has at-all yet seven years complete

si le fist ele par voz los.

and it did she by your counsel

Morz est ses sire, ce li poise.

Dead is her lord this to-her grieves

N'a or de terre qu'une toise

Not-has now of land but-a fathom

cil, qui tot cest païs tenoit

he who all this land held

et qui mout bien i avenoit.

and who very well thereto was-suited

C'est granz diaus, que po a vescu.

This-is great grief that little he-has lived

Fame ne set porter escu,

A-woman not knows to-bear a-shield

ne ne set de lance ferir.

nor not knows with a-lance to-strike

Mout amander et ancherir

Much to-better and to-embance

se puet de prandre un buen seignor.

herself she-can by taking a good lord

Ains mes n'an ot mestier greignor!

Ever before not-thereof bad need greater

Loez li tuit, que seignor praingne,

Counsel to-her all that a-lord she-take

ainz que la costume remaingne,

before that the custom lapse

qui an cest chastel a esté,

which in this castle has been

2090

2095

2100

plus de seissante anz a passé.”

more than sixty years has passed

2105 A cest mot dient tuit ansamble,

At this word say all together

que bien a feire lor ressanble,

that well to do to-them it-seems

et trestuit jusqu'au pié li vient.

and all as-far-as-the foot to-her come

De son voloir an grant la tienent;

Of her will in eagerness her they-hold

si se fet proïier de son buen,

so herself makes to-be-prayed for her pleasure

2110 tant que aussi con maugré suen

until that just as against-will hers

otroie ce, qu'ele feïst,

she-grants this which-she would-do

se chascuns li contredeïst,

if everyone to-her had-gainsaid

et dit: “Seignor! des qu'il vos siet,

and says Lords since that-it you suits

cist chevaliers, qui lez moi siet,

this knight who beside me sits

2115 m'a mout proïee et mout requise.

me-has much prayed and much besought

An m'enor et an mon servise

In my-honor and in my service

se viaut metre, et je l'an merci,

himself wishes to-put and I him-thereof thank

et vos l'an merciëz aussi!

and you him-thereof thank also

N'onques mes certes nel conui,

Not-ever before certainly not-him I-knew

s'ai mout oï parler de lui.

yet-I-have much heard to-speak of him

Si hauz hon est, ce sachiez bien,

So high man is this know well

con li fiz au roi Urien.

as the son to-the king Urien

Sanz ce, qu'il est de haut parage,

Besides this that-he is of high lineage

est il de si grant vasselage

is he of so great valor

et tant a cortisie et san,

and so-much has courtesy and sense

que desloer nel me doit l'an.

that to-dissuade not-him to-me must one

De mon seignor Yvain, ce cuit,

Of my lord Yvain this I-think

avez bien oï parler tuit,

you-have well heard to-speak all

et ce est il, qui me requiert.

and this is he who me woos

Plus haut seignor, qu'a moi n'afiert,

A-more high lord than-to me not-befits

avrai au jor, que ce sera."

I-shall-have on-the day that this will-be

Tuit dient: "Ja ne passera

All say Ever not will-pass

cist jorz, se vos feites que sage,

this day if you do as a-wise-one

2120

2125

2130

que n'aïiez fet le mariage.

but you-have made the marriage

2135 Car mout est fos, qui se demore

For very is a-fool whoever himself delays

de son preu feire une sole ore."

from his profit to-do one single hour

Tant li prïent, que lor otroie

So-much to-her they-pray that to-them she-grants

ce, qu'ele feïst tote voie;

this which-she would-do all the-same

qu'Amors a feire li comande

for-Love to do to-her commands

2140 ce, don los et consoil demande;

this whereof approval and counsel she-asks

mes a plus grant enor le prant,

but with more great honor it she-takes

quant ele a le los de sa jant.

when she has the counsel of her folk

Et les proïieres rien n'i grievent,

And the prayers anything not-therein burden

ainz li esmuevent et solievent

rather to-her stir and lift

2145 le cuer a feire son talant.

the heart to do her desire

Li chevaus, qui ne va pas lant,

The horse which not goes at-all slow

s'esforce, quant an l'esperone.

himself-exerts when one him-spurs

Veant toz ses barons se done

Before all her barons herself gives

la dame a mon seignor Yvain.

the lady to my lord Yvain

Par la main d'un suen chapelain

By the hand of-a of-hers chaplain

2150

prise a Laudine de Landuc,

taken has Laudine of Landuc

la dame, qui fu fille au duc

the lady who was daughter to-the duke

Laudunet, dont an note un lai.

Laudunet whereof one sings a lay

Le jor meïsmes sanz delai

The day itself without delay

l'esposa et firent les noces.

2155

her-be-wedded and they-made the nuptials

Assez i ot mitres et croces;

Many there were miters and croziers

car la dame i avoit mandez

for the lady thither had summoned

ses evesques et ses abez.

her bishops and her abbots

Mout i ot joie et mout leesce,

Much there was joy and much gladness

mout i ot jant et mout richesce,

2160

much there was folk and much riches

plus que conter ne vos savroie,

more than to-count — to-you I-would-know

quant lonc tans pansé i avroie.

when long time thought thereon I-should-have

Miauz me vient teire, que po dire. —

Better to-me comes to-be-silent than little to-say

Mes ore est mes sire Yvains sire,

But now is my lord Yvain lord

2165 et li morz est toz obliëz.

and the dead-man is all forgotten

Cil, qui l'ocist, est mariëz

He who him-slew is married

an sa fame, et ansamble gisent,

to his wife and together they-lie

et les janz aiment plus et prisent

and the folk love more and prize

le vif, qu'onques le mort ne firent.

the living than-ever the dead — they-did

2170 A ses nocés bien le servirent,

At his nuptials well him they-served

qui durerent jusqu'a la voille,

which lasted until the eve

que li rois vint a la mervoille

that the king came to the marvel

de la fontaine et del perron,

of the spring and of-the block

et avuec lui si conpaignon;

and with him his companions

2175 et trestuit cil de sa mesniee

and all those of his household

furent an cele chevauchiee:

were on that riding

qu'uns trestoz seus n'an fu remés.

for-a all alone not-thereof was left

Et si disoit mes sire Kes:

And so said my lord Kay

“Ahi! qu’est ore devenuz

Ah what-is now become-of

Yvains, quant il n’est ça venuz,

Yvain when he not-is here come

qui se vanta après mangier,

who himself boasted after eating

qu’il iroit son cosin vangier?

that-he would-go his cousin to-avenge

Bien pert, que ce fu après vin.

Well appears that this was after wine

Foïz s’an est, je le devin;

Fled himself-thence is I it divine

qu’il n’i osast venir por l’uel.

for-he not-there would-dare to-come for the-eye

Mout se vanta de grant orguel.

Much himself he-boasted with great pride

Mout est hardiz, qui vanter s’ose

Very is bold whoever to-boast himself-dares

de ce, dont autre ne l’alose,

of this whereof another not him-praises

ne n’a tesmoing de sa loange,

nor not-has witness of his praise

se ce n’est par fausse losange.

if this not-is by false flattery

Mout a antre mauvés et preu;

Much there-is between coward and worthy

2180

2185

2190

que li mauvés joste le feu

for the coward beside the fire

dit de lui unes granz paroles,

says of himself some great words

si tient totes les janz a foles,

and holds all the folk for fools

2195 et cuide, que l'an nel conoisse.

and thinks that one not-him know

Et li preuz avroit grant anguisse,

And the worthy-man would-have great anguish

se il ooit dire a autrui

if he heard to-say by another

les proescs, qui sont an lui.

the prowesses which are in him

Neporquant certes bien m'acort

Nevertheless certainly well I-agree

2200 au mauvés, qu'il n'a mie tort,

with-the coward that-he not-has at-all wrong

se il se prise et il se vante;

if he himself prizes and he himself boasts

qu'il ne trueve, qui por lui mante.

for-he not finds who for him lies

Se il nel dit, qui le dira?

If he not-it says who it will-say

Tuit s'an teisent, nes li hira,

All themselves-thereof keep-silent not-even the herald

2205 qui des vaillanz crïent le ban

who of-the valiant cry the proclamation

et les mauvés gietent au van."

and the cowards throw to-the winnowing-fan

Einsi mes sire Kes parloit,

Thus my lord Kay spoke

et mes sire Gauvains disoit:

and my lord Gawain said

“Merci, mes sire Kes, merci!

Mercy my lord Kay mercy

Se mes sire Yvains n'est or ci,

2210

If my lord Yvain not-is now here

ne savez, quel essoine il a.

not you-know what hindrance he has

Onques voir tant ne s'avilla,

Ever truly so-much not himself-be-debased

qu'il deïst de vos vilenie

that-be would-say of you a-baseness

tant come il a fet corteisie.”

so-much as he has done courtesy

“Sire!”, fet Kes, “et je m'an tes.

2215

Lord says Kay and I myself-thereof keep-silent

Ne m'an orroiz parler hui mes,

Not me-thereof you-will-bear to-speak today more

des que je voi, qu'il vos enueie.”

since that I see that-it you annoys

Et li rois por veoir la pluie,

And the king to to-see the rain

versa de l'eve plain bacin

poured of the-water a-full basin

sor le perron dessoz le pin,

2220

upon the block beneath the pine

et plut tantost mout fondelmant.

and it-rained at-once very violently

Ne tarda mie longuemant,

Not tarried at-all long

que mes sire Yvains sanz arest

that my lord Yvain without stop

antra armez an la forest,

entered armed into the forest

2225 et vint plus tost que les galos

and came more swiftly than the gallop

sor un cheval et gras et gros,

on a horse both fat and big

fort et hardi et tost alant.

strong and bold and swiftly going

Et mes sire Kes ot talant,

And my lord Kay had desire

qu'il demanderoit la bataille;

that-he would-ask-for the battle

2230 car ques que fust la definaille,

for whatever that were the ending

il voloit comancier toz jorz

he wished to-begin all days

les batailles et les estorz,

the battles and the assaults

ou il i eüst grant corroz.

where — there might-be great anger

Le roi apele devant toz,

The king be-calls before all

2235 que ceste bataille li lest.

that this battle to-him be-leave

“Kes!”, fet li rois, “des qu’il vos plect

Kay says the king since that-it you pleases

et devant toz l’avez rovee,

and before all it-you-have asked

ne vos doit pas estre vee.”

not to-you must at-all to-be denied

Kes l’an mercie, puis si monte.

Kay him-thereof thanks then and mounts

S’or li puet feire un po de honte

If-now to-him he-can to-do a little of shame

mes sire Yvains, liez an sera

my lord Yvain glad thereof will-be

et mout volantiers li fera:

and very willingly to-him will-do

que bien le reconoist as armes.

for well him he-recognizes by-the arms

L’escu a pris par les enarmes,

The-shield he-has taken by the straps

et Kes le suen, si s’antresleissent,

and Kay the his and each-other-charge

chevaus poignent, les lances beissent,

horses they-spur the lances they-lower

que il tenoient anpoignies.

which they held gripped

Un petit les ont aloignies

A little them they-have lengthened

tant que par les quamois les tindrent,

so-much that by the leather-grips them they-held

et a ce, que il s’antrevindrent,

and at this that they each-other-met

2240

2245

2250

de tes cos ferir s'angoissierent,

with such blows to-strike themselves-strained

que andeus les lances froissierent

that both the lances they-shattered

et vont jusqu'anz es poinz fandant.

and go even-into in-the fists splitting

Mes sire Yvains cop si puissant

My lord Yvain a-blow so mighty

2255 li dona, que par son la sele

to-him gave that over above the saddle

a fet Kes la torneboele,

has made Kay the somersault

et li hiaumes an terre fiert.

and the helmet on ground strikes

Plus d'enui feire ne li quiert

More of-harm to-do not to-him he-seeks

mes sire Yvains, einçois desçant

my lord Yvain rather dismounts

2260 a la terre et le cheval prant;

to the ground and the horse takes

s'an fu mout bel a tes i ot,

and-thereof was very fair to such there were

et fu assez, qui dire sot:

and was many who to-say knew

"Ahi, ahi! come or gisiez

Aba aba how now you-lie

vos, qui les autres despisiez!

you who the others despise

2265 Et neporquant s'est il bien droiz,

And nevertheless yet-is it well right

qu'an le vos pardoint ceste foiz

that-one it to-you pardon this time

por ce qu'ains mes ne vos avint."

for this that-ever before not to-you it-happened

Antre tant devant le roi vint

In-the meantime before the king came

mes sire Yvains, et par le frain

my lord Yvain and by the bridle

menoit le cheval an sa main

led the horse in his hand

por ce, que il li voloît randre;

for this that he to-him wished to-give

si li dist: "Sire! faites prandre

and to-him said Lord have to-be-taken

cest cheval; que je mesferoie,

this horse for I would-do-amiss

se rien del vostre retenoie."

if anything of-the yours I-kept

"Et qui estes vos?" fet li rois;

And who are you says the king

"ne vos conoistroie des mois,

not you I-would-know for months

se je nomer ne vos ooie

if I to-name not you I-beard

ou desarmé ne vos veoie."

or unarmed not you I-saw

Lors s'est mes sire Yvains nomez,

Then himself-is my lord Yvain named

2270

2275

2280 s'an fu Kes de honte assomez
and-thereof was Kay with shame overwhelmed
 et maz et morz et desconfiz,
and dismayed and dead and discomfited
 qu'il dist, qu'il s'an estoit foiz.
for-he said that-he himself-thence was fled

Et li autre mout lié an sont,
And the others very glad thereof are
 qui de s'enor grant joie font.
who of his-honor great joy make

2285 Nes li rois grant joie an mena,
Even the king great joy thereof made
 et mes sire Gauvains an a
and my lord Gawain thereof has
 çant tanz plus grant joie que nus;
a-hundred times more great joy than anyone
 que sa conpaignie amoit plus
for his company he-loved more

que conpaignie, qu'il eüst
than company that-he had

2290 a chevalier, que il seüst.
with a-knight whom he knew

Et li rois li requiert et prie,
And the king him asks and prays
 se il li plest, que il li die,
if it to-him pleases that he to-him tell
 comant il avoit exploitié;
how he had fared

car mout avoit grant coveitié

for much he-had great longing

de savoir tote s'avanture:

to to-know all his-adventure

de voir dire mout le conjure.

to truth to-tell much him he-conjures

Et il lor a trestot conté

And he to-them has all told

et le servise et la bonté,

both the service and the kindness

que la dameisele li fist;

which the damsel to-him did

onques de mot n'i antreprist,

ever of a-word not-therein he-faltered

ne rien nule n'i oblia.

nor thing any not-therein he-forgot

Et après ce le roi pria,

And after this the king he-prayed

que il et tuit si chevalier

that he and all his knights

venissent o lui herbergier;

would-come with him to-lodge

qu'enor et joie li feroient,

for-honor and joy to-him they-would-do

quant o lui herbergié seroient.

when with him lodged they-would-be

2295

2300

2305

Et li rois dit, que volantiers

And the king says that willingly

li feroit huit jorz toz antiers

to-him he-would-do eight days all entire

enor et joie et conpaignie.

honor and joy and company

2310 Et mes sire Yvains l'an mercie,

And my lord Yvain him-thereof thanks

ne de demore plus n'i font.

nor of delay more not-therein they-make

Maintenant montent, si s'an vont

Straightway they-mount and themselves-thence go

vers le chastel la droite voie.

toward the castle the straight way

Et mes sire Yvains an anvoie

And my lord Yvain thence sends

2315 devant la rote un escuier,

before the company a squire

qui portoit un faucon gruiier,

who carried a falcon crane-hunting

por ce, que il ne sospreissent

for this that they not should-surprise

la dame, et que ses sanz feissent

the lady and that her folk should-make

contre le roi ses meisons beles.

against the king her houses fair

2320 Quant la dame oï les noveles,

When the lady heard the news

del roi, qui vient, s'an a grant joie.

of-the king who comes so-thereof has great joy

N'i a nul, qui la novele oie,

Not-there has any who the news hears

qui n'an soit liez et qui ne mont.

who not-thereof be glad and who not mount

Et la dame toz les semont

And the lady all them summons

et prie, qu'ancontre lui voient;

and prays that-to-meet him they-go

et il ne tacent ne ne noient;

and they not dispute nor not quarrel

que de feire sa volanté

for to do her will

estoient tuit antalanté.

were all eager

2325

Arthur Received, and Gawain's Counsel

XIV

The streets are spread with silk and carpets and hung with curtains against the sun, and the castle rings with bells, horns, and dancing as the king is led in. The lady comes out in ermine and a ruby garland to hold his stirrup, but the king will not wait for that and dismounts as soon as he sees her. Gawain makes friends with Lunete, whom the poet calls the moon to his sun, and she tells him how she bid Yvain from the men who hunted him. When the week is out, Gawain warns him against becoming one of the men who are worth less for their wives' sake, and urges him to come away and tourney.

Ancontre le roi de Bretaingne

Toward the king of Britain

2330 s'an vont sor granz chevaus d'Espaingne,

themselves-thence go on great horses of-Spain

si salüent mout hautemant

and salute very loudly

le roi Artu premieremant

the king Arthur firstly

et puis sa compaignie tote.

and then his company all

“Bien vaingne”, font il, “ceste rote,

Well come say they this company

2335 qui de si prodomes est plainne!

which of such worthy-men is full

Beneoiz soit cil, qui les mainne

Blessed be he who them leads

et qui si buens ostenos done!”

and who such good guests to-us gives

Contre le roi li chastiaus tone

For the king the castle thunders

de la joie, que l'an i fet.

with the joy which one therein makes

Li drap de soie sont fors tret

The cloths of silk are out drawn

et estandu a paremant,

and spread as adornment

et des tapiz font pavemant

and of-the carpets they-make pavement

et par les rues les estandent

and through the streets them they-spread

contre le roi, que il atendent;

for the king whom they await

et refont un autre aparoi;

and they-make-also an other preparation

que por la cholor del soloil

for because-of the heat of-the sun

cuevrent les rues de cortines.

they-cover the streets with curtains

Li sain, li cor et les buisines

The bells the horns and the trumpets

font le chastel si ressoner,

make the castle so to-resound

que l'an n'i oïst De toner.

that one not-there would-hear God to-thunder

Contre lui dacent les puceles,

For him dance the maidens

sonent flaütes et fresteles,

sound flutes and pipes

2340

2345

2350

timbre, tablettes et tabor.

timbrel castanets and drum

D'autre part refont lor labor

On-another side make-also their labor

2355 li legier bachelier, qui saillent;

the nimble young-men who leap

trestuit de joie se travaillent.

all with joy themselves exert

Et a ceste joie reçoivent

And with this joy they-receive

le roi, si con feire le doivent.

the king just as to-do it they-must

Et la dame rest fors issue

And the lady is-also out come

2360 d'un drap anperial vestue,

in-a cloth imperial clad

robe d'ermine tote fresche,

a-robe of-ermine all fresh

sur son chief une garlandesche

upon her head a garland

tote de rubiz atiriee,

all with rubies decked

ne n'ot mie la chiere iriee,

nor not-bad at-all the face angry

2365 ainz l'ot si gaie et si riant,

rather it-bad so gay and so laughing

qu'ele estoit au mien esciant

that-she was to-the my knowledge

plus bele que nule deesse.

more fair than any goddess

Antor li fu la presse espesse,

Around her was the press thick

et disoient trestuit a tire:

and said all in turn

“Bien vaingne li rois et li sire

Well come the king and the lord

des rois et des seignors del monde!”

of-the kings and of-the lords of-the world

Ne puet estre, qu’a toz responde

Not can to-be that-to all he-answer

li rois, qui vers lui voit venir

the king who toward him sees to-come

la dame a son estrier tenir,

the lady to his stirrup to-bold

et ce ne vost il pas atandre,

and this not wisbed he at-all to-await

ainz se hasta mout de desçandre,

rather himself hastened much to to-dismount

si desçandi lués, qu’il la vit.

and dismounted straightway that-he her saw

Et ele le salue et dit:

And she him salutes and says

“Bien vaingne par çant mile foiz

Well come by a-hundred thousand times

li rois, mes sire, et beneoiz

the king my lord and blessed

soit mes sire Gauvains, ses niés.”

be my lord Gawain his nephew

“Vostre janz cors et vostre chiés,”

Your comely body and your head

2370

2375

2380

fet li rois, "bele creature!

says the king fair creature

Et grant joie et buene aventure!"

And great joy and good fortune

2385 Puis l'anbraça parmi les flans

Then her-embraced about the flanks

li rois come jantis et frans,

the king as noble and generous

et ele lui tot a plain braz.

and she him all with full arms

Des autres parole ne faz,

Of-the others speech not I-make

comant ele les conjoï;

how she them welcomed

2390 mes onques nus parler n'oi

but ever anyone to-speak not-I-heard

de nule jant tant conjoïe,

of any folk so-much welcomed

tant enoree et tant servie.

so-much honored and so-much served

De la joie assez vos contasse,

Of the joy enough to-you I-would-tell

se ma parole n'i gastasse;

if my speech not-therein I-wasted

2395 mes solemant de l'acointance

but only of the-acquaintance

vuel feire une brief remembrance,

I-wish to-make a brief remembrance

qui fu faite a privé consoil

which was made in private counsel

antre la lune et le soloil.

between the moon and the sun

Savez, de cui je vos vuel dire?

Know-you of whom I to-you wish to-tell

Cil, qui des chevaliers fu sire

He who of-the knights was lord

et qui sor toz fu renomez,

and who above all was renowned

doit bien estre solauz clamez.

must well to-be sun called

Por mon seignor Gauvain le di;

For my lord Gawain it I-say

que de lui est tot autressi

for by him is all likewise

chevalerie anluminee,

knighthood illumined

con li solauz la matinee

as the sun the morning

oeuvre ses rais et clarté rant

opens his rays and brightness renders

par toz les leus, ou il s'espant.

through all the places where he himself-spreads

Et de celi refaz la lune,

And of her I-make-also the moon

dont il ne puet estre que une

whereof there not can to-be but one

de grant san et de cortisie.

of great sense and of courtesy

2400

2405

2410

Et neporuec je nel di mie

And nevertheless I not-it say at-all

solemant por son buen renon,

only for her good renown

mes por ce, que Lunete a non.

but for this that Lunete has name

2415 La dameisele ot non Lunete,

The damsel had name Lunete

et fu une avenanz brunete,

and was a comely Brunette

tres sage et veziiee et cointe.

very wise and shrewd and graceful

A mon seignor Gauvain s'acointe,

With my lord Gawain herself-acquaints

qui mout la prisë et mout l'aimme,

who much her prizes and much her-loves

2420 et por ce s'amie la claimme,

and for this his-friend her calls

qu'ele avoit de mort garanti

for-she had from death saved

son conpaignon et son ami,

his companion and his friend

si li ofre mout son servise.

and to-her offers much his service

Et ele li conte et devise,

And she to-him relates and describes

a con grant painne ele conquist

2425

with how great pain she won

sa dame, tant que ele prist

her lady so-much that she took

mon seignor Yvain a mari,

my lord Yvain as husband

et comant ele le gari

and how she him saved

des mains a çaus, qui le queroient;

from-the hands of those who him sought

antre aus estoit, si nel veoient.

2430

among them he-was and not-him they-saw

Mes sire Gauvains mout se rist

My lord Gawain much himself laughed

de ce, qu'ele li conte, et dist:

at this which-she to-him relates and says

“Ma dameisele! je vos doing

My damsel I to-you give

et a mestier et sanz besioing

both at need and without need

un tel chevalier con je sui.

2435

a such knight as I am

Ne me changiez ja por autrui,

Not me change ever for another

se amander ne vos cuidiez.

if to-better not yourself you-think

Je sui vostrë, et vos soïiez

I am yours and you be

d'ore an avant ma dameisele!”

from-now in forward my damsel

- 2440 "Vostre merci, sire!" fet ele.
Your thanks lord says she
 Einsi cil dui s'antracointoient,
Thus these two each-other-acquainted
 et li autre s'antredonnoient;
and the others each-other-gave
 car dames i ot tes nonante,
for ladies there were some ninety
 don chascune estoit bele et jante
of-whom each was fair and comely
 2445 et noble et cointe, preuz et sage,
and noble and graceful worthy and wise
 dameisele de haut parage;
a-damsel of high lineage
 si s'i pooient solacier
so themselves-therein they-could to-solace
 et d'acoler et de beisier
both with-embracing and with kissing
 et de parler et de veoir
and with speaking and with seeing
 2450 et de delez eles seoir:
and with beside them to-sit
 itant an orent il au mains.
so-much thereof had they at least
 Ore a feste mes sire Yvains
Now has feast my lord Yvain
 del roi, qui avuec lui demore.
of-the king who with him stays
 Et la dame tant les enore,
And the lady so-much them honors

chascun par soi et toz ansanble,

each by himself and all together

que tes fos i a, cui il sanble,

that such a-fool there is to-whom it seems

que d'amor vaingnent li atret

that from-love come the attentions

et li sanblant, qu'ele lor fet.

and the semblances which-she to-them makes

Et çaus puet l'an nices clamer,

And those can one simpletons to-call

qui cuident, que les vuelle amer,

who think that them she-wishes to-love

quant une dame est si cortoise,

when a lady is so courteous

qu'a un maleüreus adoise,

that-to a wretch she-comes-near

si li fet joie et si l'acole.

and to-him makes joy and so him-embraces

Fos est liez de bele parole,

A-fool is glad at a-fair word

si l'a an mout tost amusé. —

and him-has one very soon beguiled

A grant joie ont lor tans usé

In great joy they-have their time spent

trestote la semaine antiere:

all the week entire

deduit de bois et de riviere

sport of wood and of river

i ot mout, qui le vost avoir.

there was much for-whomever it wished to-have

2455

2460

2465

- 2470 Et qui vost la terre veoir,
And whoever wished the land to-see
 que mes sire Yvains ot conquise
which my lord Yvain had won
 an la dame, que il ot prise,
in the lady whom he had taken
 si se repot aler esbatre
so himself could-also to-go to-disport
 ou deus liues ou trois ou quatre
either two leagues or three or four
- 2475 par les chastiaus d'iluec antor.
among the castles of-there around
 Quant li rois ot fet son sejour,
When the king had made his stay
 tant qu'il n'i vost plus arester,
so-much that-he not-there wished more to-stay
 si refist son oirre aprester.
so he-made-again his journey to-be-prepared
 Mes il avoient la semaine
But they had the week
- 2480 trestuit proiïe et mise painne
all prayed and put pains
 au plus, qu'il s'an porent pener,
at-the most that-they themselves-thereof could to-trouble
 que il an poissent mener
that they thence might to-lead
 mon seignor Yvain avuec aus.
my lord Yvain with them
 "Comant? Seroiz vos or de çaus",
How Will-be you now of those

ce disoit mes sire Gauvains,

this said my lord Gawain

“Qui por lor fames valent mains?

Who for their wives are-worth less

Honiz soit de sainte Marie,

Shamed be by holy Mary

qui por anpirier se marie!

whoever for to-worsen himself marries

Amander doit de bele dame,

To-better must by a-fair lady

qui l'a a amie ou a fame,

whoever her-has as friend or as wife

ne n'est puis droiz, que ele l'aint,

nor not-is then right that she him-love

que ses pris et ses los remaint.

for his worth and his praise lapses

Certes, ancor seroiz iriez

Certainly yet you-will-be grieved

de s'amor, se vos anpiriez;

at her-love if you worsen

que fame a tost s'amor reprise,

for a-woman has soon her-love taken-back

ne n'a pas tort, s'ele desprise

nor not-has at-all wrong if-she despises

celui, qui de neant anpire,

him who for nothing worsens

quant il est del reaume sire.

when he is of-the realm lord

Or primes doit vostre pris croistre!

Now first must your worth to-grow

2485

2490

2495

- 2500 Ronpez le frain et le chevoistre,
Break the bridle and the halter
 s'ironz tornoier moi et vos,
and-we-will-go to-tourney me and you
 que l'an ne vos apiaut jalos.
so-that one not you call jealous
 Or ne devez vos pas songier,
Now not must you at-all to-dream
 mes les tornoiemanz ongier,
but the tournaments to-frequent
- 2505 anprendre estorz et fort joster,
to-undertake assaults and hard to-joust
 que que il vos doie coster!
whatever that it to-you must to-cost
 Assez songe, qui ne se muet.
Enough dreams whoever not himself stirs
 Certes, venir vos an estuet;
Certainly to-come you thence it-behooves
 que je serai an vostre ansaingne.
for I will-be under your banner
- 2510 Gardez, que an vos ne remaingne,
See that in you not it-fail
 biaux compainz! nostre conpaignie;
fair companion our company
 qu'an moi ne faudra ele mie.
for-in me not will-fail it at-all
 Mervolle est, comant an a cure
A-marvel it-is how one has care
 de l'eise, qui toz jorz li dure.
for the-ease which all days for-him lasts

Biens adoucist par delaiier,

Good sweetens by delaying

et plus est buens a essaier

and more is good to to-taste

uns petiz biens, quant il delaie,

a little good when it delays

qu'uns granz, que l'an adés essaie.

than-a great which one always tastes

Joie d'amor, qui vient a tart,

Joy of-love which comes — late

sanble la vert busche qui art,

resembles the green log which burns

qui de tant rant plus grant cholor

which by so-much renders more great heat

et plus se tient an sa valor,

and more itself holds in its worth

con plus se tient a alumer.

as more itself holds to to-kindle

L'an puet tel chose acostumer,

One can such a-thing to-make-a-habit

qui mout est grevainne a retreire;

which very is grievous to to-withdraw

quant an le viaut, nel puet an feire.

when one it wishes not-it can one to-do

Et por ce ne le di je mie,

And for this not it say I at-all

se j'avoie si bele amie,

if I-had so fair a-friend

con vos avez, sire conpainz!

as you have lord companion

2515

2520

2525

2530 Foi, que je doi De et ses sainz,

Faith which I owe God and his saints

mout a anviz la leisseroie!

much with unwillingness her I-would-leave

Mien esciant fos an seroie.

My knowledge a-fool thereof I-would-be

Mes tes consoille bien autrui,

But such-a-one counsels well another

qui ne savroit conseillier lui,

who not would-know to-counsel himself

2535 aussi con li preecheor,

just as the preachers

qui sont desleal tricheor:

who are disloyal cheats

ansaingnent et dient le bien,

teach and say the good

dont il ne vuelent feire rien.”

whereof they not wish to-do anything

The Year's Leave, and the Ring

XV

Yvain asks his wife for leave. She grants it to a term: he must be back within the year, eight days after Saint John, or lose her love. She gives him a ring that keeps a true lover from prison and wounds. He rides off with Gawain, and does so well that the year passes and much of another, until Arthur holds court at Chester. There a damsel rides in, greets everyone but Yvain, calls him traitor and thief of a heart, and demands the ring back.

Mes sire Gauvains tant li dist

My lord Gawain so-much to-him said

ceste chose et tant li requist,

this thing and so-much of-him besought

qu'il creanta, qu'il le diroit

that-be promised that-be it would-say

a sa fame et si s'an iroit,

to his wife and so himself-thence would-go

s'il an puet le congié avoir.

if-be thereof can the leave to-have

Ou face folie ou savoir,

Whether be-do folly or wisdom

ne leira, que congié ne praingne

not he-will-forbear but leave — be-take

de retorner an la Bretaingne.

to to-return into the Britain

La dame an a a consoil treite,

The lady thereof he-has to counsel drawn

qui del congié pas ne se gueite,

who of-the leave at-all not herself heeds

2540

2545

si li dist: "Ma tres chiere dame!

and to-her said My very dear lady

2550 Vos, qui estes mes cuers et m'ame,

You who are my heart and my-soul

mes biens, ma joie et ma santez,

my good my joy and my health

une chose me creantez

one thing to-me grant

por vostre enor et por la moie!"

for your honor and for the mine

La dame tantost li otroie,

The lady at-once to-him grants

2555 qui ne set, qu'il viaut demander,

who not knows what-he wishes to-ask

et dit: "Biaus sire! comander

and says Fair lord to-command

me poez, quanque buen vos iert."

me you-can whatever good to-you will-be

Maintenant congié li requiert

Straightway leave from-her asks

mes sire Yvains, de convoier

my lord Yvain to escort

2560 le roi et d'aler tornoier,

the king and to-go to-tourney

que l'an ne l'apiaut recreant.

so-that one not him-call recreant

Et ele dit: "Je vos creant

And she says I to-you grant

le congié jusqu'a un termine;

the leave until a term

mes l'amors devandra haïne,

but the-love will-become hatred

que j'ai a vos, seürs soiez,

which I-have for you sure be

certes, se vos trespasiez

certainly if you overpass

le terme, que je vos dirai.

the term which I to-you will-say

Sachiez que ja n'an mantirai:

Know that ever not-thereof I-will-lie

se vos mantez, je dirai voir.

if you lie I will-say truth

Se vos volez m'amor avoir

If you wish my-love to-have

et de rien nule m'avez chiere,

and in thing any me-you-hold dear

pansez de revenir arriere

think of to-come-again back

a tot le mains jusqu'a un an

at all the least within a year

huit jorz après la saint Jehan:

eight days after the saint John

hui an cest jor sont les huitaves.

today on this day are the octaves

De m'amor seroiz maz et haves,

Of my-love you-will-be checkmated and wan

se vos n'estes a icel jor

if you not-are on that day

ceanz avuec moi a sejour."

here-within with me at stay

2565

2570

2575

Mes sire Yvains plore et sospire

My lord Yvain weeps and sighs

2580 si fort, qu'a painnes li puet dire:

so hard that-with pains to-her he-can to-say

"Dame! cist termes est trop lons.

Lady this term is too long

Se je pooie estre colons

If I could to-be a-dove

totes les foiz, que je voldroie,

all the times that I would-wish

mout sovant avuec vos seroie.

very often with you I-would-be

2585 Et je pri De que, se lui plect,

And I pray God that if to-him it-pleases

ja tant demorer ne me lest.

ever so-long to-tarry not me he-let

Mes tes cuide mout tost venir,

But such-a-one thinks very soon to-come

qui ne set, qu'est a avenir.

who not knows what-is to to-happen

Et je ne sai, que m'avandra,

And I not know what to-me-will-happen

2590 se essoines me detandra

if a-hindrance me will-detain

de malage ne de prison;

of sickness or of prison

s'avez de tant fet mesprison,

so-you-have in so-much done wrong

que vos n'an avez mis defors

that you not-thereof have put outside

seviaus l'essoine de mon cors."

at-least the-hindrance of my body

"Sire!", fet ele, "et je l'i met.

Lord says she and I it-therein put

Et neporquant bien vos promet,

And nevertheless well to-you I-promise

que, se Des de mort vos deffant,

that if God from death you defends

nus essoines ne vos atant

any hindrance not you awaits

tant con vos sovandra de moi.

so-long as to-you it-will-remember of me

Mes or metez an vostre doi

But now put on your finger

cest mien anel, que je vos prest.

this of-mine ring which I to-you lend

Et de la pierre, ques ele est,

And of the stone what-sort it is

vos dirai je tot an apert:

to-you will-say I all in open

prison ne tient ne sanc ne pert

prison not holds nor blood not loses

nus amanz verais et leaus,

any lover true and loyal

ne avenir ne li puet maus,

nor to-happen not to-him can harm

2595

2600

2605

mes qu'il le port et chier le taigne

provided that-he it wear and dear it hold

et de s'amie li sovaingne,

and of his-friend to-him it-remember

einçois devient plus durs que fers.

rather he-becomes more hard than iron

2610 Cil vos iert escuz et haubers.

That to-you will-be shield and hauberk

Et onques mes a chevalier

And ever before to a-knight

ne le vos prester ne baillier,

not it I-wished to-lend nor to-hand-over

mes par amor le vos doing gié."

but for love it to-you give I

Ore a mes sire Yvains congié,

Now has my lord Yvain leave

2615 s'ont mout ploré au congié prendre. —

and-they-have much wept at-the leave taking

Et li rois ne vost plus atandre

And the king not wished more to-wait

por rien, qu'an dire li seüst,

for anything that-one to-say to-him could

ainz li tarda, qu'an lor eüst

rather to-him it-seemed-long that-one to-them had

tost les palefroiz amenez

soon the palfreys brought

2620 apareilliez et anfrenez.

prepared and bridled

Des qu'il le vost, mout fu tost fet:

As-soon-as that-he it wished very was soon done

li palefroi lor sont fors tret,

the palfreys for-them are out drawn

si n'i a mes que del monter.

so not-there is more but of-the mounting

Ne sai, que vos doie conter,

Not I-know what to-you I-should to-tell

comant mes sire Yvains s'an part,

how my lord Yvain himself-thence departs

et des beisiens, qu'an li depart,

and of-the kisses that-one to-him deals

qui furent de lermes semé

which were with tears sown

et de douçor anbaussemé.

and with sweetness embalmed

Et del roi que vos conteroie,

And of-the king what to-you should-I-tell

comant la dame le convoie

how the lady him escorts

et ses puceles avuec li

and her maidens with her

et si chevalier autressi?

and her knights likewise

Trop i feroie grant demore.

Too-much therein I-would-make great delay

La dame, por ce qu'ele ploie,

The lady for this that-she weeps

prie li rois de remenoir

prays the king to to-remain

et de raler a son menoir.

and to to-go-back to her dwelling

2625

2630

2635

Tant li pria qu'a mout grant painne

So-much to-her he-prayed that-with very great pain

s'an retorne, sa jant an mainne.

herself-thence returns her folk thence leads

Mes sire Yvains mout a anviz

My lord Yvain very with unwillingness

2640 s'est de la dame departiz

himself-is from the lady parted

einsi, que li cuers ne se muet.

so that the heart not itself stirs

Li rois le cors mener an puet,

The king the body to-lead thence can

mes del cuer n'an manra il point;

but of-the heart not-thereof will-lead he a-while

car si se tient et si se joint

for so itself holds and so itself joins

2645 au cuer celi, qui se remaint,

to-the heart of-her who herself remains

qu'il n'a pooir, que il l'an maint.

that-he not-has power that he it-thence lead

Des que li cors est sanz le cuer,

As-soon-as that the body is without the heart

donc ne puet il vivre a nul fuer;

then not can it to-live at any price

et se li cors sanz le cuer vit,

and if the body without the heart lives

2650 tel mervoille nus hon ne vit.

such a-marvel any man not saw

Ceste mervoille est avenue;

This marvel is happened

qu'il a la vie retenue

for-he has the life retained

sanz le cuer, qui estre i soloit;

without the heart which to-be therein was-wont

que plus siure ne le voloit.

for more to-follow not it wished

Li cuers a buene remenance,

The heart has good lodging

et li cors vit an esperance

and the body lives in hope

de retorner au cuer arriere,

of to-return to-the heart back

s'a fet cuer d'estrage meniere

so-has made a-heart of-strange fashion

d'esperance, qui mout sovant

of-hope which very often

traïst et fausse de covant.

betrays and fails of covenant

Ja, ce cuit, l'ore ne savra,

Ever this I-think the-hour not he-will-know

qu'esperance traï l'avra;

that-hope betrayed him-will-have

car se il un seul jor trespasse

for if he one single day overpass

del terme, qu'il ont pris a masse,

of-the term which-they have taken in company

mout a anviz trovera mes

very with unwillingness he-will-find more

a sa dame triues ne pes.

from his lady truce nor peace

2655

2660

2665

Je cuit, qu'il le trespasera;

I think that-be it will-overpass

car departir nel laissera

for to-part not-him will-let

mes sire Gauvains d'avuec lui:

my lord Gawain from-with him

2670 car as tornois s'an vont andui

for to-the tourneys themselves-thence go both

par toz les leus, ou l'an tornoie.

through all the places where one tourneys

Et li anz passe tote voie,

And the year passes all the-same

sel fist si bien mes sire Yvains

and-it did so well my lord Yvain

tot l'an, que mes sire Gauvains

all the-year that my lord Gawain

2675 se penoit de lui enorer

himself took-pains to him to-honor

et si le fist tant demorer,

and so him made so-long to-tarry

que trestoz li anz fu passez

that all the year was passed

et de l'autre an après assez,

and of the-other year after much

tant que a la miaost vint,

until that to the mid-August it-came

2680 que li rois cort a Cestre tint,

when the king court at Chester held

et furent la voille devant

and they-were the eve before

revenu d'un tornoiemant,

returned from-a tournament

ou mes sire Yvains ot esté,

where my lord Yvain had been

s'an ot tot le pris aporté.

and-thence had all the prize carried

Et dit li contes, ce me sanble,

And says the tale this to-me seems

que li dui conpaignon ansanble

that the two companions together

ne vostrent an vile desçandre,

not wished in town to-lodge

ainz firent lor paveillon tandre

rather had their pavilion pitched

fors de la vile et cort i tindrent;

outside of the town and court there held

qu'onques a cort de roi ne vindrent,

for-ever to court of king not they-came

einçois vint li rois a la lor;

rather came the king to the theirs

qu'avuec aus furent li meillor

for-with them were the best

des chevaliers et toz li plus.

of-the knights and all the most

Antre aus seoit li rois Artus,

Among them sat the king Arthur

2685

2690

- 2695 quant Yvains tant ancomança
when Yvain so-much began
 a panser, que des lors an ça,
to to-think that from then till now
 que a sa dame ot congié pris,
that from his lady he-had leave taken
 ne fu tant de panser sospris
not was so-much with thinking seized
 con de celui; car bien savoit,
as with that for well he-knew
- 2700 que covant manti li avoit
that covenant broken to-her he-had
 et trespassez estoit li termes.
and overpassed was the term
 A grant painne tenoit ses lermes,
With great pain he-beld his tears
 mes honte li feisoit tenir.
but shame to-him made to-hold
 Tant pansa, que il vit venir
So-long he-thought that he saw to-come
- 2705 une dameisele a droiture,
a damsel — straightway
 et venoit mout grant anbleüre
and came at-very great amble
 sor un palefroi noir bauçant.
on a palfrey black piebald
 Devant le paveillon desçant,
Before the pavilion she-dismounts
 ne nus ne fu a son desçandre;
nor anyone not was at her dismounting

que nus n'ala son cheval prandre.

2710

for anyone not-went her horse to-take

Et lués, que ele pot veoir

And as-soon-as that she could to-see

le roi, si leissa jus cheoir

the king so let down to-fall

son mantel, et desafublee

her mantle and uncloaked

s'an est el paveillon antree

so-thence is into-the pavilion entered

et tres devant le roi venue,

2715

and right before the king come

si dist que sa dame salue

and said that her lady greets

le roi et mon seignor Gauvain

the king and my lord Gawain

et toz les autres fors Yvain,

and all the others except Yvain

le desleal, le traïtor,

the disloyal the traitor

le mançongier, le jeingleor,

2720

the liar the deceiver

qui l'a leissiee et deceüe.

who her-has left and deceived

“Bien a sa jangle aparceüe,

Well she-has his prattle perceived

qui se feisoit verais amerre,

who himself made a-true lover

s'estoit fel, soduianz et lerre.

and-was treacherous a-seducer and a-thief

- 2725 Ma dame a cist lerre soduite,
My lady has this thief seduced
 qui n'estoit de nul mal recuite,
who not-was of any evil aware
 ne ne cuidoit pas a nul fuer,
nor not thought at-all at any price
 qu'il li deüst anbler son cuer.
that-he from-her should to-steal her heart
 Cil n'anblent pas les cuers, qui aiment,
Those not-steal at-all the hearts who love
- 2730 si a tes, qui larrons les claimment,
yet there-are such who thieves them call
 qui an amor vont faunoiant
who in love go feigning
 et si n'an sevent tant ne quant.
and yet not-thereof know so-much nor how-much
 Li amis prant le cuer s'amie
The friend takes the heart of-bis-friend
 einsi, qu'il ne li anble mie,
so that-he not from-her steals at-all
- 2735 ainz le garde, que ne li anblent
rather it guards that — from-her steal
 larron, qui prodome ressanblent.
thieves who worthy-men resemble
 Et cil sont larron ipocrite
And those are thieves hypocrite
 et traïtor, qui metent luite
and traitors who put striving
 as cuers anbler, dont aus ne chaut;
to-the hearts to-steal whereof to-them not it-matters

mes li amis, quel part qu'il aut,

2740

but the friend what way that-he go

le tient chier et si le raporte.

it holds dear and so it brings-back

Mes Yvains a ma dame morte;

But Yvain has my lady killed

qu'ele cuidoit, qu'il li gardast

for-she thought that-he for-her would-keep

son cuer et si li raportast,

her heart and so to-her would-bring-back

einçois que fust passez li anz.

2745

before that were passed the year

Yvains! mout fus ore oblianz;

Yvain very you-were now forgetful

qu'il ne te pot ressovenir,

that-it not to-you could to-remember

que tu deüsses revenir

that you should to-come-back

a ma dame jusqu'a un an.

to my lady within a year

Jusqu'a la feste saint Jehan

2750

Until the feast saint John

te dona ele de respit,

to-you gave she of respite

et tu l'eüs an tel despit,

and you it-had in such contempt

qu'onques puis ne t'an remanbra.

that-ever since not to-you-thereof it-remembered

Ma dame paint an sa chanbre a

My lady painted in her chamber has

2755 trestoz les jorz et toz les tans;

all the days and all the seasons

car qui aime, est an grant porpans,

for whoever loves is in great thought

n'onques ne puet prandre buen some,

and-never not can to-take good sleep

mes tote nuit conte et assome

but all night counts and reckons

les jorz, qui viennent et qui vont.

the days which come and which go

2760 Sez tu, come li amant font?

Know you how the lovers do

Content le tans et la saison.

They-count the time and the season

N'est pas venue sanz reison

Not-is at-all come without reason

sa conplainte ne devant jor,

her complaint nor before day

si ne di je rien por clamor,

yet not say I anything for accusation

2765 mes tant di, que traïz nos a,

but so-much I-say that betrayed us he-bas

qui a ma dame t'esposa.

who to my lady you-wedded

Yvains! n'a mes cure de toi

Yvain not-has more care of you

ma dame, ainz te mande par moi.

my lady rather to-you sends by me

Que ja mes vers li ne revaingnes

That ever more toward her not you-come-back

ne son anel plus ne detaingnes.

nor her ring more not you-keep

Par moi, que ci an presant vois,

By me who here in present go

te mande, que tu li anvois.

to-you she-sends that you to-her send

Rant li! car randre le t'estuet."

Render to-her for to-render it to-you-bebooves

2770

The Madness in the Forest

XVI

The damsel takes back the ring, and Yvain cannot answer her. He steals away from the barons, is seized by a whirlwind in the head, tears his clothes, and lives naked in the wood on raw venison, until a hermit begins setting barley bread and water at a narrow window. Two damsels and their lady find him asleep, and one of them knows him by a wound on his face. She anoints him with an ointment of Morgan the Wise, empties the whole box against her lady's orders, leaves clothing beside him, and pretends to come upon him by chance; then she throws the box in a river.

Yvains respondre ne li puet,

Yvain to-answer not to-her can

que sans et parole li faut.

for sense and speech to-him fails

Et la dameisele avant saut.

And the damsel forward springs

Si li oste l'anel del doi,

And from-him takes the-ring from-the finger

2775

puis si comande a De le roi

then so commends to God the king

et toz les autres fors celui.

and all the others except him

2780 Cui ele leisse an grant enui. —

Whom she leaves in great distress

Et ses enuiz tot adés croist:

And his distress all continually grows

quanquë il ot, tot li ancroist,

whatever he bears all to-him increases

et quanque il voit, tot li enuie.

and whatever he sees all to-him grieves

Mis se voldroit estre a la fuie

Put himself would-wish to-be to the flight

2785 toz seus an si sauvage terre,

all alone in so wild a-land

que l'an ne le seüst, ou querre,

that one not him would-know where to-seek

n'ome ne fame n'i eüst,

nor-man nor woman not-there were

ne nus de lui rien ne seüst

nor anyone of him anything not would-know

ne plus, que s'il fust an abisme.

not more than if-be were in an-abyss

2790 Ne het tant rien con lui meïsme,

Not he-hates so-much anything as him himself

ne ne set, a cui se confort

nor not knows with whom himself he-comfort

de lui, qu'il meïsmes a mort:

about him whom-he himself has killed

mes ainz voldra le san changier,

but rather he-will-wish the sense to-change

que il ne se puisse vangier

than he not himself can to-avenge

de lui, qui joie s'est tolue.

on him who joy from-himself-is taken

2795

D'antre les barons se remue;

From-among the barons himself moves

qu'il crient antre aus issir del san.

for-he fears among them to-go-out of-the sense

Et de ce ne se gardoit l'an,

And of this not themselves heeded one

si l'an leissierent seul aler.

so him-thence they-let alone to-go

Bien sevent, que de lor parler

Well they-know that of their speaking

2800

ne de lor siecle n'a il soing.

nor of their company not-has he care

Et il va tant, que il fu loing

And he goes so-much that he was far

des tantes et des paveillons.

from-the tents and from-the pavilions

Lors li monta uns torbeillons

Then to-him rose a whirlwind

el chief si granz, que il forsane,

in-the head so great that he goes-mad

2805

lors se descire et se depane

then himself he-tears and himself rends

et fuit par chans et par arees

and flees through fields and through plowlands

et leisse ses janz esgarees,

and leaves his folk bewildered

qui se mervoillent, ou puet estre.

who themselves marvel where he-can to-be

2810 Querant le vont par trestot l'estre,

Seeking him they-go through all the-place

par les ostés as chevaliers

through the lodgings of-the knights

et par haies et par vergiers,

and through hedges and through orchards

sel quierent la, ou il n'est pas.

and-him they-seek there where he not-is at-all

Fuiant s'an va plus que le pas,

Fleeing himself-thence goes more than the walk

2815 tant qu'il trova delez un parc

until that-he found beside a park

un garçon, qui tenoit un arc

a boy who held a bow

et cinc saietes barbeles,

and five arrows barbed

qui mout ierent tranchanz et lees,

which very were sharp and broad

s'ot tant de san, que au garçon

and-bad so-much of sense that to-the boy

est alez tolir son arçon

he-is gone to-take his bow

et les saietes qu'il tenoit.

and the arrows which-he held

Por ce mes ne li sovenoit

For this more not to-him it-remembered

de nule rien, qu'il eüst faite.

of any thing that-he had done

Les bestes par le bois agueite,

The beasts through the wood he-stalks

si les ocit et si manje

and them kills and so eats

la veneison trestote crue.

the venison all raw

Et tant conversa el boschage

And so-long he-dwelt in-the thicket

come hon forsené et sauvage,

as a-man mad and wild

qu'une meison a un hermite

that-a house of a hermit

trova mout basse et mout petite,

he-found very low and very small

et li hermites essartoit.

and the hermit was-clearing

Quant vit celui, qui nuz estoit,

When he-saw him who naked was

bien pot savoir sanz nul redot,

well he-could to-know without any doubt

2820

2825

2830

qu'il n'avoit mie le san tot;

that-he not-had at-all the sense whole

2835 et si fist il, tres bien le sot.

and so did he very well it he-knew

De la peor, que il an ot,

From the fear which he thereof had

se feri an sa meisonete.

himself he-thrust into his little-house

De son pain et de s'eve nete

Of his bread and of his-water clean

par charité prist li prodon,

in charity took the worthy-man

2840 si li mist fors de sa meison

and for-him put outside of his house

dessor une fenestre estroite.

upon a window narrow

Et cil vient la, qui mout covoite

And he comes there who much covets

le pain, si le prant et s'i mort.

the bread and it takes and and-therein bites

Ne cuit, que onques de si fort

Not I-think that ever of so hard

2845 ne de si aspre eüst gosté.

nor of so bitter he-had tasted

N'avoit mie cinc souz costé

Not-had at-all five sous cost

li sestiers, don fu fez li pains,

the measure whereof was made the bread

qui plus iere egres que levains,

which more was sour than leaven

d'orge pestriz atot la paille,

of-barley kneaded with the straw

et avuec ce iere il sanz faille

and with this was it without fail

moisiz et ses come une escorce.

moldy and dry as a bark

Mes li fains l'angoisse et esforce,

But the hunger him-torments and constrains

tant que le pout li sot li pains;

so-much that it he-could to-him tasted the bread

qu'a toz mangiers est sausse fains

for-to all foods is sauce hunger

bien destanpree et bien confite.

well tempered and well prepared

Tot manja le pain a l'ermite

All ate the bread of the-hermit

mes sire Yvains, que buen li sot,

my lord Yvain which good to-him tasted

et but de l'eve froide au pot.

and drank of the-water cold from-the pot

Quant mangié ot, si se refiert

When eaten he-bad so himself thrusts-again

eI bois, et cers et biches quiert.

into-the wood and stags and binds seeks

Et li buens hon dessoz son toit

And the good man beneath his roof

prie De, quant aler l'an voit,

prays God when to-go him-thence he-sees

qu'il le deffande et qu'il le gart,

that-be him defend and that-be him keep

2850

2855

2860

que mes ne vaingne cele part.

that more not be-come that way

2865 Mes n'est riens, tan po de san et,

But not-is a-creature so little of sense it-have

que an leu, ou l'an bien li fet,

that to a-place where one well to-it does

ne revaingne mout volantiers.

not it-return very willingly

Puis ne passa uns jorz antiers,

Then not passed a day entire

tant come il fu an cele rage,

so-long as he was in that madness

2870 que aucune beste sauvage

that some beast wild

ne li aportast a son huis.

not to-him he-brought to his door

Iceste vie mena puis,

This life he-led then

et li buens hon s'antremetoit

and the good man himself-busied

de l'escorchier et si metoit

with the-flaying and so put

2875 assez de la veneison cuire,

enough of the venison to-cook

et li pains et l'eve an la buire

and the bread and the-water in the pitcher

estoit toz jorz sor la fenestre

was all days upon the window

por l'ome forsené repestre;

for the-man mad to-feed

s'avoit a mangier et a boire

so-be-had to eat and to drink

venaison sanz sel et sanz poivre

venison without salt and without pepper

et eve froide de fontainne.

and water cold from a-spring

Et li buens hon estoit an painne

And the good man was at pains

des cuirs vandre et d'acheter pain

of-the hides to-sell and to-buy bread

d'orge ou d'avainne ou d'autre grain,

of-barley or of-oats or of-other grain

s'ot puis tote sa livreison,

so-be-had then all his provision

pain a planté et venaison,

bread in plenty and venison

qui li dura tant longuemant,

which for-him lasted so long

qu'un jor le troverent dormant

that-one day him found sleeping

an la forest deus dameiseles

in the forest two damsels

et une lor dame avuec eles,

and a of-theirs lady with them

de cui mesniee eles estoient.

of whose household they were

Vers l'ome nu, que eles voient,

Toward the-man naked whom they see

cort et desçant l'une des trois,

runs and dismounts the-one of-the three

2880

2885

2890

mes mout le regarda, einçois

but much him she-looked-at first

2895 que rien nule sor lui veïst,

before thing any upon him she-saw

qui reconoistre li feïst;

which to-recognize to-her made

si l'avoit ele tant veü,

yet him-had she so-often seen

que tost l'eüst reconeü,

that soon him-she-would-have recognized

se il fust de si riche ator,

if he were of so rich array

2900 come il avoit esté maint jor.

as he had been many-a day

Au reconoistre mout tarda

At-the recognizing much she-delayed

et totes voies l'esgarda,

and all the-same him-she-beheld

tant qu'an la fin li fu avis

so-long that-in the end to-her it-was opinion

d'une plaie, qu'il ot el vis,

of-a wound which-he had on-the face

2905 qu'une tel plaie el vis avoit

that-a such wound on-the face had

mes sire Yvains; bien le savoit;

my lord Yvain well it she-knew

qu'ele l'avoit sovant veüe.

for-she it-had often seen

Par la plaie s'est parceüe,

By the wound herself-is perceived

que ce est il, de rien n'an dote;

that this is he in anything not-thereof doubts

mes de ce se mervolle tote,

but at this herself marvels wholly

comant ce li est avenu,

how this to-him is happened

que si l'a trouvé povre et nu.

that so him-she-has found poor and naked

Mout s'an saingne et mout s'an mervolle,

Much herself-thereat crosses and much herself-thereat marvels

mes ne le bote ne n'esvoille,

but not him pushes nor not-wakes

ainz prant son cheval, si remonte,

rather takes her horse and remounts

et vient as autres, si lor conte

and comes to-the others and to-them tells

s'avanture tote an plorant.

her-adventure all in weeping

Ne sai, qu'alasse demorant

Not I-know what-I-should-go delaying

a conter le duel, qu'ele an fist;

in to-tell the grief which-she thereof made

mes plorant a sa dame dist:

but weeping to her lady said

"Dame! je ai Yvain trouvé,

Lady I have Yvain found

le chevalier miauz esprové

the knight best proved

del monde et le miauz antechié.

of-the world and the best endowed

2910

2915

2920

Mes je ne sai, par quel pechié

But I not know by what sin

2925 est au franc home mescheü.

is to-the noble man befallen

Espoir aucun duel a eü,

Perhaps some grief he-has had

qui le fet ainsi demener;

which him makes thus to-behave

qu'an puet bien de duel forsener.

for-one can well from grief to-go-mad

Et savoir et veoir puet l'an,

And to-know and to-see can one

2930 qu'il n'est mie bien an son san;

that-he not-is at-all well in his sense

que ja voir ne li avenist,

for ever truly not to-him it-would-happen

que si vilmant se contenist,

that so vilely himself he-bore

se il n'eüst le san perdu.

if he not-had the sense lost

Car li eüst or Des randu

Would-that to-him had now God given-back

2935 le san au miauz, qu'il eüst onques,

the sense at-the best that-he had ever

et puis si li pleüst adonques,

and then so to-him it-pleased then

qu'il remassist an vostre aïe!

that-he remained in your help

Car trop vos a mal anvaïe

For too-much you has ill assailed

li cuens Alier, qui vos guerroie.

the count Alier who you wars-upon

La guerre de vos deus verroie

The war of you two I-would-see

2940

a vostre grant enor finée,

to your great honor ended

se Des si buene destinee

if God so good a-destiny

vos donoit, qu'il le remeïst

to-you gave that-he him restored

an son san, si s'antremeïst

in his sense and himself-busied

de vos eidier a cest besoing."

to you to-help at this need

2945

La dame dist: "Or n'aïiez soing!

The lady said Now not-have care

Que certes, se il ne s'an fuit,

For certainly if he not himself-thence flees

a l'aïe de De, ce cuit,

with the-help of God this I-think

li osterons nos de la teste

from-him will-take we from the head

tote la rage et la tanpeste.

all the madness and the tempest

2950

Mes tost aler nos an covient;

But soon to-go to-us thence it-behooves

car d'un oignemant me sovient,

for of-an ointment to-me it-remembers

que me dona Morgue, la sage,

which to-me gave Morgan the wise

et si me dist, que nule rage

and so to-me said that any madness

2955 n'est an teste, que il n'an ost."

not-is in a-head which it not-thereof removes

Vers le chastel s'an vont tantost,

Toward the castle themselves-thence go at-once

qui seoit pres, qu'il n'i ot pas

which sat near that-there not-there was at-all

plus de demie liue un pas,

more than half a-league a step

as liues, qui el païs sont;

by-the leagues which in-the land are

2960 car a mesure des noz font

for by measure of-the ours make

les deus une, les quatre deus.

the two one the four two

Et cil remest dormant toz seus,

And he remained sleeping all alone

et cele ala l'oignemant querre.

and she went the-ointment to-fetch

La dame un suen escrin desserre,

The lady a of-hers casket unlocks

2965 s'an tret la boiste et si la charge

and-thence draws the box and so it entrusts

a la dameisele, et trop large

to the damsel and too lavish

li prie, que ele n'an soit;

to-her prays that she not-thereof be

les tangles et le front l'an froit;

the temples and the forehead to-him-therewith she-rub

qu'aillors point metre n'an besoingne.

for-elsewhere a-whit to-put not-thereof is-needed

Les tangles seulement l'an oingne

The temples only to-him-therewith she-anoint

et le remenant bien li gart;

and the remainder well for-her she-keep

qu'il n'a point de mal autre part

for-he not-has a-whit of ill other part

fors que solemant el cervel.

except that only in-the brain

Robe veire, cote et mantel

A-robe of-miniver tunic and mantle

li fet porter de soie an grainne.

for-him she-makes to-carry of silk in scarlet

Cele li porte et si li mainne

She to-him carries and so for-him leads

an destre un palefroi mout buen.

in right-hand a palfrey very good

Et avuec ce i met del suen

And with this thereto she-puts of-the hers

chemise et braies deliiees

a-shirt and breeches fine

et chaues nueves bien tailliees.

and hose new well cut

Atot ice tres tost s'an va:

With this very soon herself-thence goes

2970

2975

2980

ancor celui dormant trova

still him sleeping she-found

la, ou ele l'avoit leissié.

there where she him-had left

Ses chevaus met an un pleissié,

Her horses she-puts in an enclosure

2985 ses atache et lie mout fort

them ties and binds very fast

et puis s'an vient la, ou cil dort,

and then herself-thence comes there where he sleeps

atot la robe et l'oignemant;

with the robe and the-ointment

et fet mout tres grant hardemant,

and does very very great boldness

que del forsené tant s'aproche,

for to-the madman so-much herself-approaches

2990 qu'ele le menoie et atoché,

that-she him handles and touches

et prant l'oignemant, si l'an oint,

and takes the-ointment and him-there-with anoints

tant come an la boiste an a point,

as-much as in the box thereof there-is a-whit

et sa garison tant covoite,

and his healing so-much she-covets

que de l'oindre par tot esploite;

that in the-anointing over all she-works

2995 si le met trestot an despanse,

and it puts all in expenditure

que ne li chaut de la deffanse

for not to-her it-matters of the prohibition

sa dame, ne ne l'an sovient.

of-her lady nor not to-her-thereof it-remembers

Plus an i met, qu'il ne covient,

More thereof therein she-puts than — behooves

mes bien, ce li est vis, l'anploie.

but well this to-her is opinion it-she-employs

Les tangles et le front l'an froie

The temples and the forehead to-him-thewith she-rubs

et tot le cors jusqu'a l'arvail.

and all the body down-to the-toe

Tant li froia au chaut soloil

So-much to-him she-rubbed in-the hot sun

les tangles et trestot le cors,

the temples and all the body

que del cervel li issi fors

that from-the brain to-him went out

la rage et la melancolie.

the madness and the melancholy

Mes del cors oindre fist folie;

But of-the body to-anoint she-did folly

qu'il ne l'an estoit nus mestiers.

for-there not to-him-thereof was any need

S'il an i eüst cinc sestiers,

If-there thereof therein had-been five measures

s'eüst ele autel fet, ce cuit.

yet-would-have she the-same done this I-think

La boiste an porte, si s'an fuit,

The box thence she-carries and herself-thence flees

3000

3005

3010

si s'est vers ses chevaus reposte.

and herself-is toward her horses bidden

Mes la robe mie n'an oste

But the robe at-all not-thence she-removes

por ce, que, se Des le ravoie,

for this that if God him restores

viaux, qu'apareilliee la voie

she-wishes that-prepared it he-see

3015 et qu'il la praingne et qu'il s'an veste.

and that-be it take and that-be himself-therewith clothe

Deriere un grant chasne s'areste

Behind a great oak herself-stops

tant que cil ot dormi assez,

until that he had slept enough

qui fu gariz et respassez,

who was healed and recovered

et rot son san et son memoire.

and got-back his sense and his memory

3020 Mes nuz se voit come un ivoire,

But naked himself he-sees as an ivory

s'a grant honte, et plus grant eüst,

and-has great shame and more great he-would-have

se il s'avanture seüst;

if he his-adventure had-known

mes n'an set plus, que nuz se trueve.

but not-thereof knows more than naked himself he-finds

Devant lui voit la robe nueue,

Before him he-sees the robe new

3025 si se mervuille a desmesure,

and himself marvels beyond measure

comant et par quel aventure

how and by what adventure

cele robe estoit la venue;

that robe was there come

mes de sa char, que il voit nue,

but of his flesh which he sees bare

est trespandez et esbaïz,

he-is troubled and dismayed

et dit, que morz est et traïz,

and says that dead he-is and betrayed

s'einsi l'a trové ne veü

if-thus him-has found or seen

riens nule, qui l'et coneü.

thing any which him-have known

Et tote voie si se vest

And all the-same so himself clothes

et regarde par la forest,

and looks through the forest

s'il verroit nul home venir.

if-he would-see any man to-come

Lever se cuide et sostenir,

To-rise himself he-thinks and to-support

mes ne puet tant, qu'aler s'an puisse.

but not can so-much that-to-go himself-thence he-may

Mestiers li est, qu'aïe truisse,

Need to-him it-is that-help he-find

qui li aït et qui l'an maint.

who to-him help and who him-thence lead

Car si l'a ses granz maus ataint,

For so him-has his great sickness stricken

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3040

qu'a painnes puet sor piez ester.

that-with pains he-can on feet to-stand

Or n'i viaut mes plus arester

Now not-there wishes more longer to-stay

la dameisele, ainz est montee

the damsel rather is mounted

et est par delez lui alee,

and is by beside him gone

3045 si con s'ele ne l'i seüst.

just as if-she not him-there knew

Et cil, qui grant mestier eüst

And he who great need had

d'aïe, ne li chaussist, quel,

of-help not to-him it-mattered which

qui le menast jusqu'a ostel,

who him should-lead as-far-as a-lodging

tant que il refust an sa force,

until that he were-again in his strength

3050 de li apeler mout s'esforce.

to her to-call much himself-strains

Et la dameisele autressi

And the damsel likewise

vet regardant environ li,

goes looking around her

con s'ele ne sache, qu'il a.

as if-she not knew what-there is

Esbaïe va ça et la;

Bewildered she-goes here and there

3055 que droit vers lui ne viaut aler.

for straight toward him not she-wishes to-go

Et cil comance a rapeler:

And he begins to to-call-again

“Dameisele! de ça! de ça!”

Damsel this way this way

Et la dameisele adreça

And the damsel directed

vers lui son palefroi anblant.

toward him her palfrey ambling

Cuidier li fist par tel sanblant,

To-think to-him she-made by such semblance

qu’ele de lui rien ne savoit,

that-she of him anything not knew

n’onques mes veü ne l’avoit;

and-never before seen not him-had

et san et corteisie fist.

and sense and courtesy she-did

Quant devant lui fu, si li dist:

When before him she-was so to-him said

“Sire chevaliers! que volez,

Lord knight what wish-you

qui a tel besoing m’apelez?”

who in such need me-call

“Ha!” fet il, “dameisele sage!

Ah says he damsel wise

Trovez me sui an cest boschage,

Found myself I-have in this thicket

je ne sai, par quel mescheance.

I not know by what mischance

3060

3065

- 3070 Por De et por vostre creance
For God and for your faith
 vos pri, que an toz guerredons
you I-pray that in all guerdons
 me prestoiz ou donoiz an dons
to-me you-lend or you-give in gift
 cest palefroi, que vos menez.”
this palfrey which you lead
 “Volantiers, sire; mes venez
Willingly lord but come
- 3075 avuec moi la, ou je m'an vois.”
with me there where I myself-thence go
 “Quel part?” fet il — “Fors de cest bois
What way says he Out of this wood
 jusqu'a un chastel ci selonc.”
as-far-as a castle here alongside
 “Dameisele! or me dites donc,
Damsel now to-me tell then
 se vos avez mestier de moi?”
if you have need of me
- 3080 “Oil”, fet ele, “mes je croi,
Yes says she but I believe
 que vos n'estes mie bien sains.
that you not-are at-all well whole
 Jusqu'a quinzainne a tot le mains
For a-fortnight at all the least
 vos covandroit a sejour estre.
to-you it-would-behoove at rest to-be
 Cest cheval, que je main an destre,
This horse which I lead in right-hand

prenez, s'ïrons jusqu'a l'ostel."

3085

take and-we-will-go as-far-as the-lodging

Et cil, qui ne demandoit el,

And he who not asked else

le prant et monte, si s'an vont,

it takes and mounts and themselves-thence go

tant que il vindrent a un pont,

until that they came to a bridge

don l'eve estoit rade et bruianz.

whereof the-water was swift and roaring

Et la dameisele rue anz

3090

And the damsel throws in

la boïste, qu'ele porte vuide.

the box which-she carries empty

Einsi vers sa dame se cuide

Thus toward her lady herself she-thinks

de son oïgnemant escuser,

for her ointment to-excuse

qu'ele dira, que au passer

for-she will-say that at-the passing

del pont einsi li meschaï,

3095

of-the bridge thus to-her it-befell

que la boïste an l'eve chaï:

that the box into the-water fell

por ce, que dessoz li çopa

for this that beneath her stumbled

ses palefroiz, li eschapa

her palfrey to-her escaped

del poing la boïste, et a bien pres,

from-the hand the box and at well nigh

- 3100 que ele ne chaï après,
that she not fell after
 mes adonc fust la perte graindre.
but then would-be the loss greater
 Ceste mançonge voldra faindre,
This lie she-will-wish to-feign
 quant devant sa dame iert venue.
when before her lady she-will-be come
 Ansanble ont lor voie tenue,
Together they-have their way held
 3105 tant que au chastel sont venu,
until that to-the castle they-are come
 si a la dame retenu
and has the lady received
 mon seignor Yvain lieemant,
my lord Yvain gladly
 et sa boiste et son oignemant
and her box and her ointment
 demanda a sa dameisele,
she-asked of her damsel
 3110 mes ce fu seul a seul; et cele
but this was alone to alone and she
 li a la mançonge retreite
to-her has the lie related
 itel, come ele l'avoit feite;
such as she it-had made
 que le voir ne l'an osa dire:
for the truth not to-her-thereof she-dared to-say

s'an ot la dame mout grant ire
so-thereof had the lady very great wrath

et dist: "Ci a mout leide perte,
and said Here is a-very ugly loss

et de ce sui seüre et certe,
and of this I-am sure and certain

qu'ele n'iert ja mes recovree.
that-it not-will-be ever more recovered

Mes des que la chose est alee,
But since that the thing is gone

il n'i a que del consirrer.
there not-there is but of-the forgoing

Tel ore cuide an desirrer
Such an-hour thinks one to-desire

son bien, qu'an desirre son mal,
his good when-one desires his ill

si con gié, qui de cest vassal
just as I who of this vassal

cuidoie bien et joie avoir,
thought good and joy to-have

si ai perdu de mon avoir
and-so I-have lost of my goods

tot le meillor et le plus chier.
all the best and the most dear

Neporquant je vos vuel proier
Nevertheless I you wish to-pray

de lui servir sor tote rien."
to him to-serve above every thing

"Ha! dame, or dites vos mout bien!
Ah lady now say you very well

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3125

Car ce seroit trop vilains jeus,
For this would-be too base a-game
 3130 qui d'un damage feroit deus."
whoever of-one damage would-make two

The Healing, and Count Alier

XVII

Bathed, shaved, and newly armed, Yvain is at ease in the castle when Count Alier fires the lands and takes plunder. The castle's men ride out and overtake the raiders, who scorn to flee and hold a pass; Yvain strikes into the press, fells a knight and horse in one heap, and spurs to clear it, while those left within cry that he goes among them like a lion among deer. He runs the count down at the foot of a steep ascent, takes his pledge, and brings him back to make peace and rebuild what he has razed. Then he rides on, refusing every gift.

Atant de la boiste se teisent
Thereupon about the box themselves keep-silent
 et mon seignor Yvain aeisent
and my lord Yvain they-make-comfortable
 de quanque eles pueent et sevent,
with whatever they can and know
 sel baingnent et son chief li levent
and-him bathe and his head to-him wash
 3135 et le font rere et reoignier;
and him make to-be-shaved and to-be-trimmed
 car l'an li poïst anpoignier
for one to-him could to-grasp
 la barbe a plain poing sor la face.
the beard at full fist upon the face

Ne viaut chose, qu'an ne li face:

Not he-wishes a-thing that-one not for-him does

s'il viaut armes, an li atorne,

if-he wishes arms one for-him prepares

s'il viaut cheval, an li sejourne

if-he wishes a-horse one for-him rests

bel et grant et fort et hardi.

fair and great and strong and bold

Tant sejourna, qu'a un mardi

So-long he-stayed that-on a Tuesday

vint au chastel li cuens Aliers

came to-the castle the count Alier

a serjanz et a chevaliers.

with men-at-arms and with knights

Et mistrent feus et pristrent proies.

And they-set fires and took spoils

Et cil del chastel totes voies

And those of-the castle all the-same

montent et d'armes se garnissent,

mount and with-arms themselves furnish

armé et desarmé s'an issent

armed and unarmed themselves-thence issue

tant que les coreors ataignent,

until that the raiders they-overtake

qui por aus foïr ne se daingnent,

who because-of them to-flee not themselves deign

ainz les atendent a un pas.

rather them await at a pass

3140

3145

3150

Et mes sire Yvains fiert el tas

And my lord Yvain strikes into-the throng

qui tant a esté sejournez,

who so-much has been rested

qu'an sa force fu retornez,

that-in his strength he-was returned

3155 si feri de si grant vertu

and struck with so great force

un chevalier parmi l'escu,

a knight through the-shield

qu'il mist an un mont, ce me sanble,

that-he put in one heap this to-me seems

cheval et chevalier ansamble,

horse and knight together

n'onques puis cil ne releva;

and-never after he not rose-again

3160 qu'el vandre li cuers li creva,

for-in-the belly the heart to-him burst

et fu parmi l'eschine frez.

and was through the-spine broken

Un petit s'est arriere trez

A little himself-is back drawn

mes sire Yvains et si recuevre,

my lord Yvain and so recovers

trestoz de son escu se cuevre

wholly with his shield himself covers

3165 et point por le pas desconbrer.

and spurs to the pass to-clear

Si tost ne poïst an nonbrer

So quickly not could one to-count

et un et deus et trois et quatre,

both one and two and three and four

que l'an ne li veïst abatre

as one not him would-see to-strike-down

plus tost et plus delivremant

more quickly and more nimbly

quatre chevaliers erraumant.

3170

four knights straightway

Et cil, qui avuec lui estoient,

And those who with him were

por lui grant hardemant prenoient;

from him great boldness took

que tes a povre cuer et lasche,

for such has a-poor heart and slack

quant il voit, qu'uns prodon antasche

when he sees that-a worthy-man undertakes

devant lui une grant besoingne,

3175

before him a great task

que maintenant honte et vergoingne

that straightway shame and abashment

li cort sus et si giete fors

him runs upon and so throws out

le povre cuer, qu'il a el cors,

the poor heart which-he has in-the body

si li done sodainnemant

and to-him gives suddenly

cuer de prodome et hardemant.

3180

the-heart of a-worthy-man and boldness

Einsi sont cil devenu preu,

Thus are these become valiant

si tient mout bien chascuns son leu

and holds very well each his place

an la meslee et an l'estor.

in the melee and in the-battle

Et la dame fu an la tor

And the lady was in the tower

3185 de son chastel montee an haut,

of her castle climbed on high

et vit la meslee et l'assaut

and saw the melee and the-assault

au pas desresnier et conquerre,

at-the pass to-win and to-conquer

et vit assez gisanz par terre

and saw many lying on ground

des afolez et des ocis

of-the maimed and of-the slain

3190 des suens et de ses anemis,

of-the bers and of her enemies

mes plus des autres, que des suens.

but more of-the others than of-the bers

Car li cortois, li preuz, li buens,

For the courteous the valiant the good

mes sire Yvains, tot autressi

my lord Yvain all likewise

les feisoit venir a merci,

them made to-come to mercy

3195 con li faucons fet les cerceles.

as the falcon does the teals

Et disoient et cil et celes,
And said both these-men and these-women

qui el chastel remés estoient
who in-the castle remained were

et des batailles esgardoient:
and of-the battles beheld

“Ahi! con vaillant sodoier!
Ab what a-valiant soldier

Con fet ses anemis ploier,
How he-makes his enemies to-bend

con roidemant il les requiert!
how sternly he them assails

Tot autressi antre aus se fiert,
All likewise among them himself strikes

con li lions antre les dains,
as the lion among the deer

quant l'angoisse et chace la fains.
when him-torments and drives the hunger

Et tuit nostre autre chevalier
And all our other knights

an sont plus hardi et plus fier;
thereof are more bold and more fierce

que ja, se par lui seul ne fust,
for ever if by him alone not it-were

lance brisiee n'i eüst,
a-lance broken not-there would-have-been

n'espee treite por ferir.
nor-a-sword drawn to strike

3200

3205

- 3210 Mout doit an amer et cherir
Much must one to-love and to-cherish
 un prodome, quant an le trueve.
a worthy-man when one him finds
 Veez or, comant cil se prueve,
See now how he himself proves
 veez, come il se tient an ranc,
see how he himself holds in rank
 veez, come il portaint de sanc
see how he deeply-stains with blood
 3215 et sa lance et s'espee nue,
both his lance and his-sword bare
 veez, comant il les remue,
see how he them stirs
 veez, comant il les antasse,
see how he them heaps
 come il lor vient, come il lor passe,
how he to-them comes how he to-them passes
 come il ganchist, come il trestorne;
how he swerves how he turns-about
 3220 mes au ganchir petit sejourne
but at-the swerving little he-lingers
 et po demore an son retor.
and little tarries in his return
 Veez, quant il vient an l'estor,
See when he comes into the-battle
 come il a po son escu chier,
how he has little his shield dear
 que tot le leisse detranchier;
for all it he-lets to-be-hewn

n'an a pitié ne tant ne quant.

3225

not-thereof has pity nor so-much nor how-much

Mes mout le veomes an grant

But much him we-see in eagerness

des cos vangier, que l'an li done.

of-the blows to-avenge which one to-him gives

Qui de trestot le bois d'Argone

Whoever of all the wood of-Argonne

li avroit fet lances, ce cuit,

for-him would-have made lances this I-think

n'an avroit il nule anquenuit;

3230

not-thereof would-have he any tonight

qu'an ne l'an puet tant metre el fautre,

for-one not to-him-thereof can so-many to-put in-the lance-rest

qu'il nes pecoit et demant autre.

that-be not-them breaks and asks another

Et veez, comant il le fet

And see how he it does

de l'espee, quant il la tret!

with the-sword when he it draws

Onques ne fist de Durandart

3235

Ever not did with Durendal

Rolanz des Turs si grant essart

Roland of-the Turks so great a-clearing

an Roncevaus ne an Espaigne!

at Roncevaux nor in Spain

Se il eüst an sa conpaingne

If he had in his company

auques de si buens conpaignons,

some of such good companions

3240 li fel, de cui nos nos pleignons,

the wretch of whom we ourselves complain

s'an alast ancui desconfiz

himself-thence would-go today discomfited

ou il remassist toz honiz."

or he would-remain all shamed

Et dient, que buer seroit nee,

And they-say that in-good-hour would-be born

cui il avroit s'amor donee,

to-whom he would-have his-love given

3245 qui si est as armes puissanz

who so is in arms mighty

et dessor toz reconoissanz,

and above all recognizable

si con cierges antre chandoiles

just as a-taper among candles

et la lune antre les estoiles

and the moon among the stars

et li solauz dessor la lune.

and the sun above the moon

3250 Et de chascun et de chascune

And of each-man and of each-woman

a si les cuers, que tuit voldroient

he-has so the hearts that all would-wish

por la proesce, qu'an lui voient,

for the prowess which-in him they-see

que il eüst la dame prise,

that he had the lady taken

si fust la terre an sa justise.

and were the land in his governance

Einsi tuit et totes prisoient

3255

Thus all-men and all-women prized

celui, don verité disoient;

him of-whom truth they-said

car çaus de la a si atainz,

for those of there he-has so stricken

que il s'an fuient qui ainz ainz.

that they themselves-thence flee who first first

Mes il les chace mout de pres

But he them chases very from near

et tuit si conpaignon après;

3260

and all his companions after

que lez lui sont aussi seür,

for beside him are as safe

con s'il fussent anclos de mur

as if-they were enclosed by a-wall

haut et espés de pierre dure.

high and thick of stone hard

La chace mout longuemant dure,

The chase very long lasts

tant que cil, qui fuient, estanchent,

3265

until that those who flee tire

et cil, qui chacent, les detranchent

and those who chase them hew-down

et lor chevaus lor esboelent;

and their horses for-them disembowel

li vif dessor les morz roelent,

the living over the dead roll

qui s'antrafolent et ocïent.

who each-other-maim and kill

3270 Leidemant s'antrecontralient:

Fouilly each-other-oppose

et li cuens tot adés s'an fuit,

and the count all always himself-thence flees

mes mes sire Yvains le conduit,

but my lord Yvain him escorts

qui de lui siure ne se faint.

who of him to-follow not himself slackens

Tant le chace, que il l'ataint

So-long him chases that he him-overtakes

3275 au pié d'une ruiste montee,

at-the foot of-a steep ascent

et ce fu mout pres de l'antree

and this was very near to the-entry

d'un fort recet, qui estoit suens.

of-a strong stronghold which was his

Iluec fu retenuz li cuens;

There was seized the count

qu'onques nus ne li pot eidier;

for-ever anyone not to-him could to-help

3280 et sanz trop longuemant pleidier

and without too long parleying

an prist la foi mes sire Yvains;

thereof took the pledge my lord Yvain

que des que il le tint as mains,

for as-soon-as that he him held in-the hands

et il furent seul per a per,

and they were alone peer to peer

n'i ot neant de l'eschaper

not-there was anything of the-escaping

ne del ganchir ne del deffandre,

nor of-the swerving nor of-the defending

ainz li plevi, qu'il s'iroit randre

rather to-him pledged that-he himself-would-go to-yield

a la dame de Noroison,

to the lady of Noroison

si se metroit an sa prison

and himself would-put in her prison

et feroit pes a sa devise.

and would-make peace at her will

Et quant il an ot la foi prise,

And when he thereof had the pledge taken

si li fist son chief desarmer

so him made his head to-unarm

et l'escu de son col oster,

and the-shield from his neck to-be-taken

et l'espee li randi nue.

and the-sword to-him yielded bare

Ceste enors li est avenue,

This honor to-him is come

qu'il an mainne le conte pris,

that-he thence leads the count captive

si le rant a ses anemis,

and him renders to his enemies

qui n'an font pas joie petite.

who not-thereof make at-all joy small

3285

3290

3295

Mes ainz fu la novele dite

But first was the news told

au chastel, que il i venissent.

at-the castle before they thither came

3300 Ancontre aus tuit et totes issent,

To-meet them all-men and all-women issue

et la dame devant toz vient.

and the lady before all comes

Mes sire Yvains par la main tient

My lord Yvain by the hand holds

son prisonier, si li presante.

his prisoner and to-her presents

Sa volanté et son creante

Her will and her bidding

3305 fist lors li cuens outreemant,

did then the count utterly

et par foi et par seiremant

both by faith and by oath

et par ploiges l'an fist seüre.

and by sureties her-thereof made sure

Ploiges li done et si li jure,

Sureties to-her be-gives and so to-her swears

que toz jorz mes pes li tandra

that all days more peace to-her be-will-keep

3310 et ses pertes restoerra,

and her losses he-will-restore

quanqu'ele an mosterra par prueves,

whatever-she thereof will-show by proofs

et refera ses meisons nueves,

and will-make-again her houses new

que il avoit par terre mises.

which he had to ground put

Quant cez choses furent assises,

When these things were settled

einsi come a la dame sist,

just as to the lady suited

mes sire Yvains congié li quist.

my lord Yvain leave of-her sought

Mes ele ne li donast mie,

But she not to-him would-give at-all

se il a fame ou a amie

if he as wife or as friend

la vossist prendre et noçoier.

her had-wished to-take and to-wed

Mes nes siure ne convoier

But not-even to-follow nor to-escort

ne se vost il leissier un pas,

not himself wished he to-let a step

ainz s'an parti eneslepas;

rather himself-thence departed straightway

qu'onques rien n'i valut proiere.

for-ever anything not-therein availed prayer

Or se mist a la voie arriere

Now himself put to the way back

et leissa mout la dame iriee,

and left very the lady grieved

que il avoit mout faite liee.

whom he had much made glad

Et con plus liee l'avoit faite,

And as more glad her-he-had made

3315

3320

3325

plus li poise et plus li desheite,
more to-her it-weighs and more her dispirits

quant il ne viaut plus demorer;
when he not wishes more to-stay

3330 qu'ele le vossist enorer,
for-she him would-wish to-honor

et sel feïst, se lui pleüst,
and and-him would-make if to-him it-pleased

seignor de quanquë ele eüst,
lord of whatever she had

ou ele li eüst donees
or she to-him would-have given

por son servise granz soudees,
for his service great wages

3335 si granz, come il les vossist prandre:
as great as he them would-wish to-take

mes il n'i vost onques antandre
but he not-therein wished ever to-attend

parole d'ome ne de fame.
word of-man nor of woman

Des chevaliers et de la dame
From-the knights and from the lady

s'est partiz, mes que bien lor poist;
himself-is parted though that well to-them it-grieve

3340 que plus retenir ne lor loist.
for more to-detain not to-them is-allowed

The Lion and the Serpent

XVIII

In a deep wood he hears a cry and finds a serpent holding a lion by the tail and burning it. He helps the lion, since a venomous thing is owed only harm, hacks the serpent apart, and must cut off a piece of the lion's tail to free it. The beast kneels and weeps, then follows him, hunts a roebuck for his supper, and watches his horse all night. A fortnight later they reach the spring, where he faints and his sword cuts his neck; the lion tries to fall on the blade, and he wakes wishing himself dead.

Mes sire Yvains pansis chemine

My lord Yvain pensive journeys

par une parfonde gaudine,

through a deep woodland

tant qu'il oï anmi le gaut

until that-be heard amid the wood

un cri mout dolereus et haut,

a cry very grievous and loud

si s'adreça lors vers le cri

and himself-directed then toward the cry

cele part, ou il l'ot oï.

that side where he it-bad heard

Et quant il parvint cele part,

And when he arrived that side

3345

vit un lion an un essart

he-saw a lion in a clearing

et un serpent, qui le tenoit

and a serpent which it held

3350 par la coe et si li ardoit

by the tail and so to-it burned

trestoz les rains de flame ardant.

all the loins with flame burning

N'ala pas longues regardant

Not-went at-all long looking

mes sire Yvains cele mervoille.

my lord Yvain that marvel

A lui meïсме se consoille,

With him himself himself takes-counsel

3355 au quel des deus il eidera.

to-the which of-the two he will-help

Lors dit, qu'au lion secorra;

Then says that-to-the lion he-will-succor

qu'a venimeus et a felon

for-to a-venomous-one and to a-cruel-one

ne doit an feire se mal non.

not must one to-do except harm not

Et li serpanz est venimeus,

And the serpent is venomous

3360 si li saut par la boche feus,

and from-it springs through the mouth fire

tant est de felenie plains.

so-much is of cruelty full

Por ce panse mes sire Yvains,

For this thinks my lord Yvain

qu'il l'ocirra premieremant.

that-be it-will-kill firstly

L'espee tret et vient avant

The-sword he-draws and comes forward

et met l'escu devant sa face,

and puts the-shield before his face

que la flame mal ne li face,

so-that the flame harm not to-him do

que il gitoit parmi la gole,

which it cast through the throat

qui plus estoit lee d'une ole.

which more was wide than-a pot

Se li lions après l'assaut,

If the lion after him-assails

la bataille pas ne li faut,

the battle at-all not to-him fails

mes que qu'il l'an avaingne après,

but whatever that-it to-him-thereof happen after

eidier li voldra il adés:

to-help it will-wish he always

que pitiez l'an semont et prie,

for pity him-thereto urges and prays

qu'il face secors et aïe

that-be make succor and help

a la beste jantil et franche.

to the beast noble and generous

A l'espee, qui soef tranche,

With the-sword which smoothly cuts

va le felon serpent requerre,

he-goes the cruel serpent to-assail

3365

3370

3375

si le tranche jusqu'an la terre

and it cuts down-into the ground

et an deus meitiez le tronçone,

and in two halves it be-backs

3380 fiert et refiert et tant l'an done,

strikes and strikes-again and so-much to-it-thereof gives

que tot le demince et depiece.

that all it be-minces and dismembers

Mes il li covint une piece

But it to-him behooved a piece

tranchier de la coe au lion

to-cut from the tail of-the lion

por la teste au serpent felon,

because-of the head of-the serpent cruel

3385 qui par la coe le tenoit.

which by the tail it held

Tant, con tranchier an covenoit,

As-much as to-cut thereof was-neededful

an trancha; qu'onques mains ne pot.

thereof he-cut for-ever less not he-could

Quant le lion delivré ot,

When the lion freed he-bad

cuida, qu'a lui li covenist

he-thought that-with him to-him it-behooved

3390 conbatre et que sor lui venist;

to-fight and that upon him it-came

mes il ne le se pansa onques.

but it not it itself thought ever

Oëz, que fist li lions donques!

Hear what did the lion then

Con fist que frans et de bon' eire,
How it-did as noble and of good breeding

que il li comança a feire
for it to-him began to to-make

sanblant, que a lui se randoit,
semblance that to him itself yielded

3395

et ses piez joinz li estandoit
and its feet joined to-him stretched

et vers terre ancline sa chiere,
and toward ground bows its face

s'estut sor les deus piez deriere;
and-stood upon the two feet hind

et puis si se ragenoilloit
and then so itself knelt-again

et tote sa face moilloit
and all its face wetted

3400

de lermes par humilité.
with tears through humility

Mes sire Yvains par verité
My lord Yvain by truth

set, que li lions l'an mercie
knows that the lion him-thereof thanks

et que devant lui s'umelie
and that before him itself-humbles

por le serpent, qu'il avoit mort,
for the serpent which-he had killed

3405

et lui delivré de la mort;
and it delivered from the death

si li plect mout ceste avanture.
and to-him pleases much this adventure

Por le venin et por l'ordure

For the venom and for the-filth

del serpent essuie s'espee,

of-the serpent he-wipes his-sword

3410 si l'a el fuerre rebotee,

and it-has into-the scabbard thrust-back

puis si se remet a la voie.

then so himself puts-again to the way

Et li lions lez lui costoie;

And the lion beside him goes-alongside

que ja mes ne s'an partira,

for ever more not itself-thence it-will-part

toz jorz mes avuec lui ira;

all days more with him it-will-go

3415 que servir et garder le viaut.

for to-serve and to-guard him it-wishes

Devant a la voie s'aquiaut,

Ahead to the way it-betakes-itself

tant qu'il santi dessoz le vant,

until that-it scented beneath the wind

si come il s'an aloit devant,

just as it itself-thence went ahead

bestes sauvages an pasture,

beasts wild in pasture

3420 si le semont fains et nature

and it urges hunger and nature

d'aler an proie et de chacier

to-go on prey and to to-hunt

por sa vitaille porchacier;

to its victual to-procure

ce viaut nature, qu'il le face.

this wishes nature that-it it do

Un petit s'est mis an la trace,

A little itself-is put on the trail

tant que son seignor a mostré,

until that to-its lord it-has shown

qu'il a santi et ancontré

that-it has scented and encountered

vant et fler de sauvage beste.

wind and scent of a-wild beast

Lors le regarde, si s'aresté:

Then him it-looks-at and stops

que il le viaut servir an gre;

for it him wishes to-serve to liking

car ancontre sa volanté

for against his will

ne voldroit aler nule part.

not it-would-wish to-go any side

Et cil parçoit a son esgart,

And he perceives by its look

qu'il li mostre, que il l'atant.

that-it to-him shows that it him-awaits

Bien l'aparçoit et bien l'antant,

Well it-be-perceives and well it-be-understands

que, s'il remaint, il remandra,

that if-be stays it will-stay

et, se il le siut, il prandra

and if he it follows it will-take

la veneison, qu'il a santie.

the venison which-it has scented

3425

3430

3435

Lors le semont et si l'escrie

Then it he-urges and so it-he-shouts-to

aussi come un brachet feïst.

just as to-a bound he-would-do

3440 Et li lions maintenant mist

And the lion straightway put

le nes au vant, qu'il ot santi,

the nose to-the wind which-it had scented

ne ne li ot de rien manti;

nor not to-him had of anything lied

qu'il n'ot pas une archiee alee,

for-it not-had at-all a bowsbot gone

quant il vit an une valee

when it saw in a valley

3445 tot seul pasturer un chevruel.

all alone grazing a roebuck

Cestui prandra il ja son vuel,

This-one will-take it now at-its wish

et il si fist au premier saut.

and it so did at-the first leap

Puis si an but le sanc tot chaut.

Then so thereof drank the blood all hot

Quant ocis l'ot, si le gita

When killed it-had so it threw

3450 sor son dos et si l'an porta,

upon its back and so it-thence carried

tant que devant son seignor vint,

until that before its lord it-came

qui puis an grant chierté le tint

who then in great esteem it held

et a lui a pris compaignie

and with him has taken company

a trestoz les jorz de sa vie

for all the days of its life

por la grant amor, qu'an lui ot.

for the great love which-in him he-had

Ja fu pres de nuit, si li plot,

Already was near of night so to-him it-pleased

qu'ilueques se herbergeroit

that-there himself he-would-lodge

et del chevruel escorcheroit,

and of-the roebuck he-would-flay

tant come il an voldroit mangier.

as-much as he thereof would-wish to-eat

Lors le comance a escorchier,

Then it he-begins to to-flay

le cuir li fant dessor la coste,

the hide to-it he-splits upon the rib

de la longe un lardé li oste

from the loin a steak from-it he-takes

et tret le feu d'un chaillo bis,

and draws the fire from-a flint gray

si l'a de seche busche espris;

and it-has with dry wood kindled

et met an une broche an rost

and puts on a spit for roasting

son lardé cuire au feu mout tost,

his steak to-cook at-the fire very quickly

3455

3460

3465

sel rosti tant, que toz fu cuiz.

and-it roasted so-long that all was cooked

Mes del mangier fu nus deduiz;

But of-the eating was no delight

qu'il n'i ot pain ne vin ne sel,

for-there not-there was bread nor wine nor salt

3470 ne nape ne coutel ne el.

nor cloth nor knife nor anything-else

Que qu'il manja, devant lui jut

While that-he ate before him lay

ses lions, qu'onques ne se mut,

his lion which-ever not itself stirred

ainz l'a tot adès regardé,

rather him-has all always watched

tant que il ot de son lardé

until that he had of his steak

3475 tant mangié, que il n'an pot plus.

so-much eaten that he not-thereof could more

Del chevruel tot le soreplus

Of-the roebuck all the remainder

manja li lions jusqu'as os.

ate the lion down-to-the bones

Et cil tint son chief a repos

And he held his head at rest

tote la nuit sor son escu,

all the night upon his shield

3480 a tel repos, come ce fu;

at such rest as this was

et li lions ot tant de sans,

and the lion had so-much of sense

qu'il veilla et fu an espans

that-it watched and was in care

del cheval garder, qui peissoit

of-the horse to-guard which grazed

l'erbe, qui petit l'angreissoit.

the-grass which little it-fattened

Au matin s'an revont ansamble

3485

At-the morning themselves-thence go-again together

et autel vie, ce me sanble,

and the-same life this to-me seems

come il orent la nuit menee,

as they had the night led

ont ansamble andui demenee

have together both led

presque trestote une quinzainne,

almost all a fortnight

tant qu'avanture a la fontainne

3490

until that-adventure to the spring

dessoz le pin les amena.

beneath the pine them brought

La par po ne se forsena

There for little — himself went-mad

mes sire Yvains autre foiiee,

my lord Yvain another time

quant la fontainne ot aprochiee

when the spring he-had approached

et le perron et la chapele,

3495

and the block and the chapel

mil foiz las et dolanz s'apele
a-thousand times wretched and woeful himself-he-calls

et chiet pasmez, tant fu dolanz:
and falls swooned so-much was woeful

et s'espee, qui fu colanz,
and his-sword which was sliding

chiet del fuerre, si li apointe
falls from-the scabbard and to-him points

3500 as mailles del hauberc la pointe
at-the meshes of-the hauberk the point

androit le col pres de la joe.
right-at the neck near to the cheek

N'i a maille, qui ne descloe,
Not-there is a-mesh which not unlinks

et l'espee del col li tranche
and the-sword of-the neck to-him cuts

la char desoz la maille blanche,
the flesh beneath the mail white

3505 tant qu'ele an fist le sanc cheoir.
so-much that-it thereof made the blood to-fall

Li lions cuide mort veoir
The lion thinks dead to-see

son compaignon et son seignor.
its companion and its lord

Ains de rien nule duel greignor
Ever of tbing any grief greater

n'oïstes conter ne retreire,
not-you-heard to-tell nor to-relate

3510 come il an comança a feire!
as it thereof began to to-make

Il se detort et grate et crie

It itself writhe and scratches and cries

et s'a talant, que il s'ocie

and so-his desire that it itself-kill

de l'espee, don li est vis,

with the-sword whereof to-it is opinion

qu'ele et son buen seignor ocis.

that-it have its good lord slain

A ses danz l'espee li oste

With its teeth the-sword from-him takes

et sor un fust gisant l'acoste

and upon a log lying it-lays

et deriere a un tronc l'apuie,

and behind against a trunk it-props

qu'ele ne ganchisse ne fuie,

that-it not swerve nor slip

quant il i hurtera del piz.

when it thereon will-strike with-the breast

Ja fust ses voloires aconpliz,

Already were its wish accomplished

quant cil de pasmeisons revint;

when he from swooning came-back

et li lions son cors retint,

and the lion its body held-back

qui a la mort toz acorsez

which to the death all launched

coroit come pors aorsez,

ran as a-boar enraged

qui ne prant garde, ou il se fiere.

which not takes heed where it itself strike

3515

3520

3525

Mes sire Yvains an tel meniere

My lord Yvain in such a-manner

dejoste le perron se pisme,

beside the block himself swoons

au revenir mout fort se blasma

at-the reviving very hard himself blames

de l'an, que trespasé avoit,

for the-year which overpassed he-had

3530 por quoi sa dame le haoit,

for which his lady him hated

et dit: "Que fet, que ne se tue

and says What does-he that not himself kills

cist las, qui joie s'est tolue?

this wretch who joy from-himself-has taken

Que faz je, las! que ne m'oci?

What do I wretch that not myself-I-kill

Comant puis je demorer ci

How can I to-stay here

3535 et veoir les choses ma dame?

and to-see the things of-my lady

An mon cors por qu'arestes l'ame?

In my body for what-stays the-soul

Que fet ame an si dolant cors?

What does a-soul in so woeful a-body

S'ele s'an iere alee fors,

If-it itself-thence were gone out

ne seroit pas an tel martire.

not it-would-be at-all in such martyrdom

Haïr et blasmer et despire

3540

To-hate and to-blame and to-despise

me doi voir mout et je si faz.

myself I-must truly much and I so do

Qui pert la joie et le solaz

Whoever loses the joy and the solace

par son mesfet et par son tort,

by his misdeed and by his wrong

mout se doit bien haïr de mort,

much himself must well to-hate to death

haïr et ocirre se doit.

3545

to-hate and to-kill himself he-must

Et gié, tant con nus ne me voit,

And I so-long as anyone not me sees

por quoi m'esparg? que ne me tu?

for what myself-I-spare that not myself I-kill

Don n'ai je cest lion veü,

Then not-have I this lion seen

qui por moi a si grant duel fet,

which for me has so great grief made

qu'il se vost m'espee antreset

3550

that-it itself wished my-sword forthwith

parmi le piz el cors boter?

through the breast into-the body to-thrust

Et je doi la mort redoter,

And I must the death to-dread

qui a duel ai joie changiee?

who to grief have joy changed

De moi s'est la joie estrangiee —

From me itself-is the joy estranged

3555 joie? La ques? N'an dirai plus;

joy The which Not-thereof I-will-say more

que ce ne porroit dire nus;

for this not could to-say anyone

s'ai demandee grant oiseuse.

so-I-have asked great foolishness

Des joies fu la plus joieuse

Of-the joys was the most joyous

cele, qui m'iere asseüree;

that which to-me-was assured

3560 mes mout m'ot petite duree.

but very to-me-bad little duration

Et qui ce pert par son mesfet,

And whoever this loses by his misdeed

n'est droiz, que buone aventure et."

not-is right that good fortune he-have

Lunete in the Chapel

XIX

A woman shut in the chapel by the spring calls out to him. She is accused of treason and will burn tomorrow unless a champion fights three men for her; the only two who would dare are Gawain, who is away seeking the queen, and Yvain, for whose sake she is condemned. He tells her who he is, promises to come, and forbids her to name him. That night a host lodges him whose six sons the giant Harpin has seized: two are already slain, and the other four die in the morning unless the daughter is handed over. Yvain will fight for them if the giant comes early enough.

Que que il einsi se demante,

While that he thus himself laments

une cheitive, une dolante

a captive a sorrowing-woman

estoit an la chapele anclose,

was in the chapel enclosed

qui vit et oï ceste chose

who saw and heard this thing

par le mur, qui estoit crevez.

through the wall which was cracked

Maintenant qu'il fu relevez

Straightway that-he was risen

de pasmeisons, si l'apela.

from swooning so him-she-called

"Des!" fet ele, "cui oi je la?"

God says she whom hear I there

Qui est, qui se demante si?"

Who is-it who himself laments so

Et cil li respont: "Et vos, qui?"

And he to-her answers And you who

3565

3570

“Je sui”, fet ele, “une cheitive,

I am says she a captive

la plus dolante riens, qui vive.”

the most sorrowing creature that lives

3575 Et il respont: “Tes, fole riens!

And he answers Be-still foolish creature

Tes diaus est joie, tes maus biens

Your grief is joy your ill good

anvers le mien, don je languis.

beside the mine whereof I languish

Tant con li hon a plus appris

So-much as the man has more learned

a delit et a joie vivre,

in delight and in joy to-live

3580 plus le desvoie et plus l'enivre

more him leads-astay and more him-intoxicates

diaus, quant il l'a, que un autre home.

grief when he it-has than an other man

Uns foibles hon porte la some

A feeble man carries the load

par us et par acostumance,

by use and by custom

qu'uns autre de greignor puissance

which-a other of greater power

3585 ne porteroit por nule rien.”

not would-carry for any thing

“Par foi!”, fet ele, “je sai bien,

By faith says she I know well

que c'est parole tote voire;

that this-is a-word all true

mes por ce ne fet mie a croire,
but for this not it-makes at-all to to-believe

que vos aiiez plus mal de moi;
that you have more ill than me

et por ce mie ne le croi,
and for this at-all not it I-believe

3590

qu'il m'est avis, que vos poez
for-it to-me-is opinion that you can

aler, quel part que vos volez,
to-go what side that you wish

et je sui ci anprisonnee,
and I am here imprisoned

si m'est tes faisons donee,
and to-me-is such a-doom given

que demain serai ceanz prise
that tomorrow I-will-be here-within taken

3595

et livree a mortel juïse."
and delivered to mortal judgment

"Ha, Des!" fet il, "por quel forfait?"
Ab God says he for what crime

"Sire chevaliers! ja Des n'et
Lord knight ever God not-have

de l'ame de mon cors merci,
of the-soul of my body mercy

se je l'ai mie desservi!
if I it-have at-all deserved

3600

Et neporquant je vos dirai
And nevertheless I to-you will-say

le voir, que ja n'an mantirai,
the truth for ever not-thereof I-will-lie

por quoi je sui ci an prison:

for what I am here in prison

l'an m'apele de traïson,

one me-accuses of treason

3605 ne je ne truis, qui m'an deffande,

and I not find who me-thereof defend

que l'an demain ne m'arde ou pande."

that one tomorrow not me-burn or hang

"Or primes", fet il, "puis je dire,

Now first says he can I to-say

que li miens diaus et la moie ire

that the my grief and the my wrath

a la vostre dolor passee;

has the your sorrow surpassed

3610 qu'estre porriiez delivree,

for-to-be you-could delivered

par cui que soit, de cest peril.

by whom that it-be from this peril

Don ne porroit ce estre?" — "Oïl;

Then not could this to-be Yes

mes je ne sai ancor, par cui.

but I not know yet by whom

Il ne sont el monde que dui,

There not are in-the world but two

3615 qui osassent, por moi deffandre,

who would-dare for me to-defend

vers trois homes bataille anprendre."

against three men battle to-undertake

"Comant? Por De! sont il donc troi?"

How For God are they then three

“Oïl, sire! a la moie foi.

Yes lord by the my faith

Troi sont, qui traïtre me claimment.”

Three are-they who traitress me call

“Et qui sont cil, qui tant vos aimment,

And who are those who so-much you love

don li uns si hardiz seroit,

whereof the one so bold would-be

qu’a trois conbatre s’oseroit,

that-with three to-fight himself-would-dare

por vos sauver et garantir?”

to you to-save and to-protect

“Je le vos dirai sanz mantir:

I it to-you will-say without lying

li uns est mes sire Gauvains,

the one is my lord Gawain

et li autre mes sire Yvains,

and the other my lord Yvain

por cui demain serai a tort

for whom tomorrow I-will-be at wrong

livree a martire de mort.”

delivered to martyrdom of death

“Por cui?” fet il, “qu’avez vos dit?”

For whom says he what-have you said

“Sire! se Damedés m’aït,

Lord so Lord-God me-help

por le fil au roi Uriien.”

for the son of-the king Urien

“Or vos ai antandue bien,

Now you I-have understood well

3620

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3630

mes vos n'i morroiz ja sanz lui.

but you not-there will-die ever without him

Gié meïsmes cil Yvains sui,

I myself that Yvain am

3635 por cui vos estes an esfroi;

for whom you are in fear

et vos estes cele, ce croi,

and you are she this I-believe

qui an la sale me gardastes,

who in the hall me guarded

ma vie et mon cors me sauvastes

my life and my body to-me saved

antre les deus portes colanz,

between the two gates sliding

3640 ou je fui pansis et dolanz

where I was pensive and woeful

et angoisseus et antrepris.

and anguished and hard-pressed

Morz i eüsse esté ou pris,

Dead there I-should-have been or taken

se ne fust vostre buene aïe.

if not were your good help

Or me dites, ma douce amie!

Now to-me tell my sweet friend

3645 Qui sont cil, qui de traïson

Who are those who of treason

vos apelent et an prison

you accuse and in prison

vos ont anclose an cest reclus?"

you have enclosed in this cell

“Sire! nel vos celeraï plus,

Lord not-it to-you I-will-hide more

des qu’il vos plest, que jel vos die.

since that-it you pleases that I-it to-you tell

Voirs est, que je ne me fains mie

True it-is that I not myself bold-back at-all

de vos eïdier an buene foi.

of you to-help in good faith

Par l’amonestemant de moi

By the-urging of me

ma dame a seignor vos reçut,

my lady as lord you received

mon los et mon consoil an crut;

my advice and my counsel therein believed

et, par la sainte Paternostre,

and by the holy Paternoster

plus por son preu, que por le vostre

more for her profit than for the yours

le cuidai feire et cuit ancore.

it I-thought to-do and think still

Itant vos an reconois ore:

So-much to-you thereof I-confess now

s’enor et vostre volanté

her-honor and your will

porquis, se Des me doint santé!

I-sought so God to-me grant health

3650

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3660

Mes, quant ç'avint, que vos eüstes

But when it-happened that you had

l'an trespasé, que vos deïstes

the-year overpassed which you said

revenir a ma dame ça,

to-return to my lady here

ma dame a moi se correça

my lady with me herself angered

3665 et mout se tint a deceüe

and much herself held for deceived

de ce, qu'ele m'avoit creüe.

for this that-she me-had believed

Et quant ce sot li seneschaus,

And when this knew the seneschal

uns fel, uns lerre, uns desleaus,

a wicked-man a thief a disloyal-man

qui grant anvie me portoit

who great envy toward-me bore

3670 por ce, que ma dame creoit

for this that my lady believed

moi plus, que lui, de maint afeire,

me more than him in many-an affair

si vit bien, que or pooit feire

and saw well that now he-could to-make

antre moi et li grant corroz.

between me and her great anger

An plainne cort et veant toz

In full court and before all

3675 m'amist, que por vos l'oi traïe.

me-charged that for you her-I-had betrayed

Et je n'oi consoil ne aïe

And I not-bad counsel nor help

fors que moi sole, qui savioie,

except that myself alone who knew

qu'onques vers ma dame n'avoie

that-ever toward my lady not-I-had

traïson faite ne pansee,

treason done nor thought

si respondi come esfreee

so I-answered as a-frightened-woman

tot maintenant sanz consoil prendre,

all straightway without counsel to-take

que je m'an feroie deffandre

that I myself-thereof would-cause to-be-defended

par un chevalier contre trois.

by one knight against three

Onques cil ne fu si cortois,

Ever he not was so courteous

que il le deignast refuser;

that he it deigned to-refuse

ne ressortir ne reüser

nor to-withdraw nor to-recoil

ne me lut por rien, qu'avenist.

not to-me was-allowed for anything that-happened

Einsi a parole me prist,

Thus at word me he-took

3680

3685

si me covint d'un chevalier

and to-me it-behooved for-one knight

3690 ancontre trois gage baillier

against three a-pledge to-give

par respit de quarante jorz.

by respite of forty days

Puis ai esté an maintes corz;

Since I-have been at many courts

a la cort le roi Artu fui,

at the court of-the king Arthur I-was

n'i trovai consoil de nelui,

not-there I-found counsel from anyone

3695 ne ne trovai, qui me deïst

nor not I-found who to-me said

de vos chose, qui me seïst;

of you a-thing which to-me suited

car il n'an savoient noveles."

for they not-thereof knew news

"Et mes sire Gauvains, chaeles,

And my lord Gawain alas

li frans, li douz, ou iere il donques?

the noble the sweet where was he then

3700 A s'aïe ne failli onques

To his-help not failed ever

dameisele desconseilliee,

a-damsel unaided

que ne li fust apareilliee."

that not to-her were made-ready

"Se je a cort trové l'eüsse,

If I at court found him-had

ja requerre ne li seüsse

ever to-ask not of-him I-could

rien nule, qui me fust veeë;

thing any which to-me were denied

mes la reïne an a menee

but the queen thence has led

uns chevaliers, ce me dist l'an,

a knight this to-me says one

don li rois fist que fors del san,

whereof the king did as out of-the sense

quant après lui l'an anvoia.

when after him her-thence he-sent

Je cuit, que Kes la convoia

I think that Kay her escorted

jusqu'au chevalier, qui l'an mainne,

as-far-as-the knight who her-thence leads

s'an est antrez an mout grant painne

and-thereof is entered into very great pain

mes sire Gauvains, qui la quiert.

my lord Gawain who her seeks

Ja mes nul jor a sejour n'iert

Ever more any day at rest not-will-be

jusqu'a tant, qu'il l'avra trovee.

until so-much that-be her-will-have found

Tote la verité provee

All the truth proved

vos ai de m'avanture dite.

to-you I-have of my-adventure told

Demain morrai de mort despite,

Tomorrow I-will-die of a-death shameful

3705

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3715

si serai arse sanz respit

and I-will-be burned without respite

3720 por mal de vos et por despit.”

for harm of you and for spite

Et il respont: “Ja De ne place,

And he answers Ever to-God not may-it-please

que l'an por moi nul mal vos face!

that one for me any harm to-you do

Tant que je vive, n'i morroiz!

So-long as I live not-there you-will-die

Demain atandre me porroiz

Tomorrow to-await me you-will-be-able

3725 apareillié lonc ma puissance,

prepared according-to my power

de metre an vostre delivrance

to put in your deliverance

mon cors, si con je le doi feire.

my body just as I it must to-do

Mes de conter ne de retreire

But of to-tell nor of to-relate

as janx, qui je sui, ne vos chaille!

to-the folk who I am not to-you let-it-matter

3730 Que qu'avaingne de la bataille,

Whatever that-happen of the battle

gardez, que l'an ne me conoisse!”

see that one not me know

“Certes, sire! por nule angoisse

Certainly lord for any anguish

vostre non ne descoverroie.

your name not I-would-disclose

La mort einçois an soferroie,

The death rather thereof I-would-suffer

des que vos le volez einси.

since that you it wish thus

Et neporquant je vos depri,

And nevertheless I you beseech

que ja por moi ne reveigniez.

that ever for me not you-come-back

Ne vuel pas, que vos anpreigniez

Not I-wish at-all that you undertake

bataille si tres felenesse.

a-battle so very cruel

Vostre merci de la promesse,

Your thanks for the promise

que volantiens la feriez,

that willingly it you-would-do

mes trestoz quites an soiez!

but wholly quit thereof be

Car miauz est, que je sole muire,

For better it-is that I alone die

que je les veïsse deduire

than I them should-see to-take-pleasure

de vostre mort, et de la moie.

in your death and in the mine

Ja por ce n'an eschaperoie,

Ever for this not-thereof I-would-escape

quant il vos avroient ocis;

when they you would-have slain

s'est miauz, que vos remeigniez vis,

so-is better that you remain alive

3735

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3745

que nos i fussiens mort andui.”

than we therein were dead both

3750 “Mout m’avez or dit grant enui”,

Much to-me-you-have now said great annoyance

fet mes sire Yvains, “douce amie!

says my lord Yvain sweet friend

Espoir ou vos ne volez mie

Perhaps either you not wish at-all

estre delivre de la mort,

to-be delivered from the death

ou vos despisiez le confort,

or you despise the comfort

3755 que je vos faz de vos eidier.

which I to-you make of you to-belp

Ne quier or plus a vos pleidier;

Not I-seek now more with you to-argue

que vos avez tant fet por moi,

for you have so-much done for me

certes, que faillir ne vos doi

certainly that to-fail not you I-must

a nul besoing, que vos aiiez.

at any need that you have

3760 Bien sai, que mout vos esmaiez,

Well I-know that much you dismay-yourself

mes, se De plest, an cui je croi,

but if to-God it-please in whom I believe

il an seront honi tuit troi.

they thereof will-be shamed all three

Or n’i a plus; que je m’an vois,

Now not-there has more for I myself-thence go

ou que soit, logier an cest bois;

wherever that it-be to-lodge in this wood

que d'ostel pres ne sai je point."

for of-a-lodging near not know I a-whit

"Sire!", fet ele, "Des vos doint

Lord says she God to-you grant

et buen ostel et buene nuit,

both good lodging and good night

et de chose, qui vos enuit,

and from a-thing which you annoy

si con je le desir, vos gart!"

just as I it desire you keep

Tantost mes sire Yvains s'an part

At-once my lord Yvain himself-thence departs

et li lions toz jorz après,

and the lion all days after

s'ont tant alé, qu'il vindrent pres

and-they-have so-far gone that-they came near

d'un fort recet a un baron,

to-a strong stronghold of a baron

qui clos estoit tot environ

which enclosed was all around

de mur espés et fort et haut.

with a-wall thick and strong and high

Li chastiaus ne cremoit assaut

The castle not feared assault

de mangonel ne de perriere;

from mangonel nor from stone-caster

qu'il estoit forz de grant meniere;

for-it was strong in great fashion

3765

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3775

mes fors des murs estoit si rese
but outside of-the walls was so razed

3780 la place, qu'il n'i ot remese
the ground that-it not-there was left

an estant borde ne meison.
in standing a-but nor a-house

Assez an savroiz la reison
Enough thereof you-will-know the reason

une autre foiz, quant leus sera.
an other time when place will-be

Tote la droite voie an va
All the straight way thence goes

3785 mes sire Yvains vers le recet,
my lord Yvain toward the stronghold

et vaslet saillent jusqu'a set,
and young-men leap-out up-to seven

qui li ont le pont avalé,
who for-him have the bridge lowered

si li sont a l'ancontre alé.
and to-him are to the-meeting gone

Mes del lion, que venir voient
But at-the lion which to-come they-see

3790 avuec lui, durement s'esfroient,
with him sorely themselves-affright

si li dient, que, se lui plect,
and to-him say that if to-him it-pleases

son lion a la porte lest,
his lion at the gate he-leave

qu'il ne les afot ou ocie.
that-it not them maim or kill

Et il respont: "N'an parlez mie!

And he answers Not-thereof speak at-all

Que ja n'i anterrai sanz lui.

For ever not-there I-will-enter without it

Ou nos avrons ostel andui,

Either we will-have lodging both

ou je remandrai ça defors;

or I will-remain here outside

qu'autretant l'aim come mon cors.

for-as-much it-I-love as my body

Et neporquant n'an dotez rien!

And nevertbeless not-thereof fear anything

Que je le garderai si bien,

For I it will-guard so well

qu'estre porroiz tot a seür."

that-to-be you-will-be-able all in safety

Cil respondent: "A buen eür!"

They answer At good fortune

A tant sont el chastel antré

At that they-are into-the castle entered

et vont tant, qu'il ont ancontré

and go so-far that-they have met

chevaliers et dames venanz

knights and ladies coming

et dameiseles avenanz,

and damsels comely

qui le salüent et desçandent

who him greet and help-down

et a lui desarmer antandent;

and to him to-disarm attend

3795

3800

3805

si li dïent: "Bien soïiez vos,
and to-him say Well be you

3810 biaux sire! venuz antre nos!

fair lord come among us

Et Des vos i doit demorer,

And God to-you therein grant to-stay

tant que vos an puissiez torner

until that you thence may to-turn

a grant joie et a grant enor!"

with great joy and with great honor

Des le plus haut jusqu'au menor

From the most high down-to-the least

3815 li font joie et formant s'an painnent,

to-him make joy and strongly themselves-thereat take-pains

a grant joie el chastel le mainnent.

with great joy into-the castle him they-lead

Et quant grant joie li ont feite,

And when great joy to-him they-have made

une dolors, qui les desheite,

a sorrow which them dispirits

lor refet la joie obliër,

them makes-again the joy to-forget

3820 si recomencent a criër

and they-begin-again to to-cry

et plorent et si s'esgratinent.

and weep and so themselves-scratch

Einsi mout longuemant ne finent

Thus very long not they-cease

de joie feire et de plorer:

of joy to-make and of to-weep

joie por lor oste enorer

joy to their guest to-honor

font sanz ce, que talant an aient;

3825

they-make without this that desire thereof they-have

car d'une aventure s'esmaient,

for at-an adventure themselves-they-dismay

qu'il atendent a l'andemain,

which-they await on the-morrow

s'an sont tuit seür et certain,

and-thereof are all sure and certain

qu'il l'avront ainz que midis soit.

that-they it-will-have before that midday be

Mes sire Yvains s'esbaïssoit

3830

My lord Yvain himself-marveled

de ce, que si sovant chanjoient

at this that so often they-changed

et duel et joie demenoient,

and grief and joy they-displayed

s'an mist le seignor a reison

so-thereof put the lord to question

de l'ostel et de la meison.

of the-lodging and of the house

"Por De!", fet il, "biaus douz chiers sire!

3835

For God says he fair sweet dear lord

Ice vos pleiroit il a dire,

This to-you would-please it to to-say

por quoi m'avez tant enoré

for what to-me-you-have so-much honored

et tant fet joie et tant ploré?"

and so-much made joy and so-much wept

“Oïl, s’il vos vient a pleisir;

Yes if-it to-you comes to pleasure

3840 mes le celer et le teisir

but the to-conceal and the to-keep-silent

devriiez miauz assez vouloir.

you-ought better by-far to-wish

Chose, qui vos face doloir,

A-thing which you make to-grieve

ne vos dirai je ja mon vuel.

not to-you will-say I ever my will

Leissiez nos feire nostre duel,

Let us to-make our grief

3845 si n’an metez ja rien au cuer!”

and not-thereof put ever anything to-the heart

“Ce ne porroit estre a nul fuer,

This not could to-be at any price

que je duel feire vos veïsse

that I grief to-make you should-see

et je a mon cuer n’an meïsse:

and I to my heart not-thereof should-put

ainz le desir mout a savoir,

rather it I-desire much to to-know

3850 quel duel que je an doie avoir.”

what grief that I thereof must to-have

“Donc”, fet il, “le vos dirai gié.

Then says he it to-you will-say I

Mout m’a uns jaianz domagié,

Much me-has a giant damaged

qui voloit, que je li donasse

who wished that I to-him gave

ma fille, qui de biauté passe

my daughter who in beauty surpasses

totes les puceles del monde.

3855

all the maidens of-the world

Li fel jaianz, cui Des confonde,

The cruel giant whom God confound

a non Harpins de la Montaingne.

has name Harpin of the Mountain

N'est nus jorz, que del mien ne praingne

Not-is any day that of-the mine not he-takes

tot, quanquë il an puet ataindre.

all whatever he thereof can to-reach

Nus miauz de moi ne se doit plaindre

3860

Anyone better than me not himself must to-complain

ne duel feire ne duel mener.

nor grief to-make nor grief to-display

De duel devroie forsener;

With grief I-ought to-go-mad

que sis fiz chevaliers avoie,

for six sons knights I-had

plus biaux el monde ne savioie;

more fair in-the world not I-knew

ses a toz sis li jaianz pris.

3865

them has all six the giant taken

Veant moi a les deus ocis,

Before me he-has the two slain

et demain ocirra les quatre,

and tomorrow he-will-kill the four

se je ne truis, qui s'ost conbatre
if I not find who himself-dare to-fight

a lui por mes fiz delivrer,
with him to my sons to-deliver

3870 ou se je ne li vuel livrer

or if I not to-him wish to-deliver

ma fille; et dit, quant il l'avra,
my daughter and says when he her-will-have

as plus vils garçons, qu'il savra
to-the most vile grooms whom-he will-know

an sa meison, et as plus orz
in his house and to-the most foul

la liverra por lor deporz;
her he-will-deliver for their sport

3875 qu'il ne la deigneroit mes prendre.

for-he not her would-deign more to-take

A demain puis cest duel atandre,
For tomorrow I-can this grief to-await

se Damedés ne me consoille.
if Lord-God not me counsels

Et por ce n'est mie mervoille,
And for this not-is at-all a-marvel

biaus sire chiers! se nos plorons;
fair lord dear if we weep

3880 mes por vos tant, con nos poons,

but for you so-much as we can

nos resforçons a la foiiee
we exert-ourselves at the time

de feire contenance liee;
to make a-countenance glad

car fos est, qui prodome atret

for a-fool is-be who a-worthy-man draws

antor lui, s'enor ne li fet:

around him if-honor not to-him he-does

et vos me ressanblez prodome.

and you to-me resemble a-worthy-man

Or vos ai trestote la some

Now to-you I-have all the sum

dite de nostre grant destresce.

told of our great distress

N'an chastel ne an forteresce

Nor-in castle nor in fortress

ne nos a leissié li jaianz

not to-us has left the giant

fors tant, con nos avons ceanz.

except so-much as we have here-within

Vos meïsmes bien le veïstes

You yourself well it saw

anuit, se garde vos preïstes,

tonight if heed you took

qu'il n'a leissié vaillant un oef

that-be not-has left worth an egg

fors de cez murs, qui tot sont nuef,

outside of these walls which all are new

ainz a trestot le borc pléné.

rather he-has all the town plundered

Quant ce, qu'il vost, an ot mené,

When that which-be wished thence he-had led

3885

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3895

si mist el remenant le feu.

so put in-the remainder the fire

Einsi m'a fet maint felon jeu."

Thus to-me-has done many-a cruel trick

Mes sire Yvains tot escouta,

My lord Yvain all listened-to

3900 quanque ses ostes li conta,

whatever his host to-him told

et quant trestot escouté ot,

and when everything listened-to he-had

si li redist ce, que lui plot.

so to-him said-back this which to-him pleased

"Sire!", fet il, "de vostre enui

Lord says he at your trouble

mout iriez et mout dolanz sui:

very grievéd and very woeful I-am

3905 mes d'une chose me mervoil,

but at-one thing myself I-marvel

se vos n'an avez quis conseil

if you not-thereof have sought counsel

a la cort le buen roi Artu.

at the court of-the good king Arthur

Nus hon n'est de si grant vertu,

Any man not-is of so great valor

qu'a sa cort ne poïst trover

that-at his court not one-could to-find

3910 tes, qui voldroient esprover

such who would-wish to-prove

lor vertu ancontre la soe."

their valor against the his

Et lors li descuevre et desnoe

And then to-him discloses and unfolds

li riches hon, que il eüst

the rich man that he would-have

buene aïe, se il seüst,

good help if he knew

ou trover mon seignor Gauvain.

where to-find my lord Gawain

“Cil ne le preüst pas an vain;

He not it would-take at-all in vain

que ma fame est sa suer germainne;

for my wife is his sister own

mes la fame le roi an mainne

but the wife of-the king thence leads

uns chevaliers d'estrangle terre,

a knight of-a-strange land

qui l'ala a la cort requerre.

who her-went at the court to-demand

Neporquant ja ne l'an eüst

Nevertheless ever not her-thence he-would-have

menee por rien, qu'il seüst,

led for anything that-he knew

ne fust Kes, qui anbricon

not were-it Kay who befooled

le roi tant, que il li bailla

the king so-much that he to-him gave

la reïne et mist an sa garde.

the queen and put in his keeping

Cil fu fos et cele musarde,

He was a-fool and she a-simpleton

3915

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qui an son conduit se fia;

who in his escort herself trusted

et je sui cil, qui ja i a

and I am he who already therein has

trop grant damage et trop grant perte;

too great damage and too great loss

3930 car ce est chose tote certe,

for this is a-thing all certain

que mes sire Gauvains, li preuz,

that my lord Gawain the valiant

por sa niece et por ses nevez

for his niece and for his nephews

fust ça venuz grant aleüre,

would-be here come at-great pace

se il seüst ceste avanture;

if he knew this adventure

3935 mes ne la set, don tant me grieve,

but not it he-knows whereof so-much me it-grieves

par po que li cuers ne m'an crieve;

for little that the heart — to-me-thereof bursts

ainz est alez après celui,

rather he-is gone after him

cui Des doint et honte et enui,

to-whom God grant both shame and trouble

quant menee an a la reïne.”

since led thence he-has the queen

3940 Mes sire Yvains onques ne fine

My lord Yvain ever not ceases

de sospirer, quant ce antant;

from sighing when this he-bears

de la pitié, que il l'an prant,

from the pity which him thereof takes

li respont: "Biaus douz sire chiers!

to-him answers Fair sweet lord dear

Je m'an metroie volantiers

I myself-thereto would-put willingly

an l'avanture et el peril,

into the-adventure and into-the peril

se li jaianz et vostre fil

if the giant and your sons

venoient demain a tel ore,

came tomorrow at such an-hour

que n'i face trop grant demore:

that not-there I-make too great a-delay

que je serai aillors que ci

for I will-be elsewhere than here

demain a ore de midi,

tomorrow at hour of midday

si con je l'ai acreanté."

just as I it-have promised

"Biaus sire! de la volanté

Fair lord for the will

vos merci je", fet li prodon,

you thank I says the worthy-man

"çant mile foiz an un randon."

a-hundred thousand times in one rush

Et totes les janz de l'ostel

And all the folk of the-house

li redisoient autretel.

to-him said-back the-same

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Harpin of the Mountain

XX

Yvain waits, torn between the pyre at noon and the giant. Harpin comes driving the four brothers, bound hand and foot in filthy shirts, on lame nags, a dwarf flogging them, and demands the daughter for his grooms. Yvain rides out; the giant's stake bends him double, the lion tears the hide from his haunch, and Yvain shears his shoulder from the trunk and drives the blade through his liver. He refuses every gift, asks only that they tell Gawain the Knight of the Lion did it, and rides for the chapel, where the damsel already stands bound at the fire.

Atant vint d'une chanbre fors

Thereupon came from-a chamber out

la pucele, jante de cors

the maiden comely of body

et de face bele et pleisanz.

and of face fair and pleasing

3960 Mout vint simple, mate et teisanz;

Very came meek dejected and silent

qu'onques ses diaus ne prenoit fin;

for-ever her grief not took end

vers terre tint le chief anclin.

toward ground held the head bowed

Et sa mere revint de coste:

And her mother came-again along side

que mostrer lor voloit son oste

for to-show to-them wished his guest

3965 li sire, qui les ot mandees.

the lord who them had summoned

An lor mantiaus anvelopees

In their mantles wrapped

vindrent por lor lermes covrir;

they-came to their tears to-cover

et il lor comande a ovrir

and he to-them commands to to-open

les mantiaus et les chiés lever

the mantles and the heads to-raise

et dit: "Ne vos doit pas grever

and says Not to-you must at-all to-grieve

ce, que je vos comant a feire;

this which I to-you command to to-do

qu'un prodome mout de bon' eire

for-a worthy-man very of good breeding

nos a Des et buene avanture

to-us has God and good fortune

ceanz doné, qui m'asseüre,

here-within given who me-assures

qu'il se conbatra au jaiant.

that-be himself will-fight with-the giant

Or n'an alez plus delaiant,

Now not-thereof go more delaying

qu'au pié ne l'an ailliez cheoir!"

but-to-the foot not to-him-thereof you-go to-fall

"Ce ne me lest ja Des veoir!",

This not me let ever God to-see

fet mes sire Yvains maintenant;

says my lord Yvain straightway

"Voir, ne seroit mie avenant,

Truly not it-would-be at-all seemly

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que au pié me venist la suer

that to-the foot to-me came the sister

mon seignor Gauvain a nul fuer

of-my lord Gawain at any price

ne sa niece. Des m'an deffande,

nor his niece God me-thereof defend

qu'orguiauz an moi tant ne s'estande,

that-pride in me so-much not itself-spread

3985 que a mon pié venir les les!

that to my foot to-come them I-let

Voir, ja n'obliëroie mes

Truly ever not-I-would-forget more

la honte, que je an avroie;

the shame which I thereof would-have

mes de ce buen gre lor savroie,

but for this good will to-them I-would-know

se eles se reconfortoient

if they themselves comforted

3990 jusqu'a demain, que eles voient,

until tomorrow when they see

se Des les voldra conseilier.

if God them will-wish to-counsel

Moi n'an covient il plus proier,

Me not-thereof behooves it more to-pray

mes que li jaianz si tost vaingne,

provided that the giant so soon come

qu'aillors mantir ne me covaingne;

that-elsewhere to-lie not to-me it-behoove

3995 que por rien je ne leisseroie,

for for anything I not would-omit

que demain a midi ne soie

that tomorrow at midday not I-be

au plus grant afeire por voir,

at-the most great affair for truth

que je onques poïsse avoir.”

which I ever could to-have

Einsi ne les viaut pas del tot

Thus not them he-wishes at-all of-the all

asseürer; car an redot

to-assure for in doubt

est, que li jaianz ne venist

he-is that the giant not came

a tel ore, que il poïst

at such an-hour that he could

venir a tans a la pucele,

to-come in time to the maiden

qui est anclose an la chapele.

who is enclosed in the chapel

Et neporquant tant lor promet,

And nevertheless so-much to-them he-promises

qu'an buene esperance les met.

that-in good hope them he-puts

Et tuit et totes l'an mercient;

And all-men and all-women him-thereof thank

qu'an sa proesce mout se fient

for-in his prowess much themselves trust

et mout cuident, qu'il soit prodon,

and much they-think that-be be a-worthy-man

por la conpaignie au lion,

because-of the company of-the lion

4000

4005

4010

qui aussi doucemant se gist

which as gently itself lies

lez lui, come uns aigniaus feïst.

beside him as a lamb would-do

Por l'esperance, qu'an lui ont,

For the-hope which-in him they-have

se confortent et joie font,

themselves they-comfort and joy make

4015 n'onques puis duel ne demenerent.

and-never after grief not they-displayed

Quant ore fu, si l'an menerent

When hour it-was so him-thence they-led

couchier an une chanbre clere,

to-lie in a chamber bright

et la dameisele et sa mere

and the damsel and her mother

furent andeus a son couchier;

were both at his lying-down

4020 qu'eles l'avoient ja mout chier,

for-they him-had already very dear

et çant mile tanz plus l'eüssent,

and a-hundred thousand times more him-they-would-have

se la corteisie seüssent

if the courtesy they-had-known

et la grant proesce de lui.

and the great prowess of him

Il et li lions anbedui

He and the lion both

4025 leanz jurent et reposerent;

there-within lay and rested

qu'autres janz gesir n'i oserent;

for-other folk to-lie not-there dared

ainz lor fermerent si bien l'uis,

rather on-them shut so well the-door

que il n'an porent issir puis

that they not-thence could to-go-out after

jusqu'au demain a l'ajornee.

until-the morrow at the-daybreak

Quant la chanbre fu desfermee,

When the chamber was unlocked

si se leva et oï messe

so himself he-raised and heard mass

et atandi por la promesse,

and waited for the promise

qu'il lor ot feite, jusqu'a prime.

which-he to-them had made until prime

Le seignor del chastel meïme

The lord of-the castle himself

apele oïant toz, si li dit:

he-calls bearing all and to-him says

"Sire! je n'ai plus de respit,

Lord I not-have more of respite

ainz m'an irai, si ne vos poist;

rather myself-thence I-will-go so not you it-grieve

que plus demorer ne me loist.

for more to-stay not to-me is-allowed

Mes sachiez bien veraïement,

But know well truly

que volantiers et buenemant,

that willingly and gladly

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se trop n'eüsse grant besoing

if too-much not-I-had great need

et mes afeires ne fust loing,

and my affair not were far

demorasse encore une piece

I-would-stay still a while

por les nevez et por la niece

for the nephews and for the niece

4045 mon seignor Gauvain, que j'aim mout!"

of-my lord Gawain whom I-love much

Trestoz li sans fremist et bout

All the blood shudders and boils

a la pucele de peor

in the maiden from fear

et a la dame et au seignor;

and in the lady and in-the lord

tel peor ont, qu'il ne s'an aut,

such fear they-have that-he — himself-thence go

4050 que il li vostrent de si haut,

that they to-him wished from so high

come il furent, au pié venir,

as they were to-the foot to-come

quant il lor prist a sovenir,

when it to-them took to to-remember

que lui ne fust ne bel ne buen.

that to-him not it-were nor fair nor good

Lors li ofre a doner del suen

Then to-him offers to to-give of-the his

4055 li sire, s'il an viaut avoir,

the lord if-he thereof wishes to-have

ou soit de terre ou soit d'avoir,

whether it-be of land or it-be of-goods

mes que encore un po atande.

provided that still a little be-wait

Et il respont: "Des m'an deffande,

And he answers God me-thereof forbid

que je ja nule rien an aie!"

that I ever any thing thereof have

Et la pucele, qui s'esmaie,

And the maiden who herself-dismays

comance mout fort a plorer,

begins very hard to to-weep

si li prie de demorer.

and him prays to to-stay

Come destroite et angoisseuse

As distressed and anguished

por la reïne glorieuse

for the queen glorious

del ciel et des anges li prie

of-the heaven and of-the angels him she-prays

et por De, qu'il ne s'an aut mie,

and for God that-be not himself-thence go at-all

ainz atande encore un petit,

rather wait still a little

et por son oncle, dont il dit,

and for her uncle of-whom he says

que il conoist et aime et prise.

that he knows and loves and prizes

Lors l'an est mout granz pitiez prise,

Then him-thereof is very great pity taken

4060

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quant il ot, qu'ele se reclaimme

when he hears that-she herself appeals

de par l'ome, que il plus aime,

by by the-man whom he most loves

et de par la dame des ciaux,

and by by the lady of-the heavens

et de par De, qui est li miaus

and by by God who is the best

4075 et la douçors de piété.

and the sweetness of pity

D'angoisse a un sospir gité;

From-anguish he-has a sigh cast

que por le reaume de Tarse

for for the realm of Tarsus

ne voldroit, que cele fust arse,

not he-would-wish that she were burned

que il avoit asseüree.

whom he had assured

4080 Sa vie avroit corte duree,

His life would-have short duration

ou il istroit toz vis del sans,

or he would-go-out all alive from-the sense

s'il n'i pooit venir a tans;

if-he not-there could to-come in time

et d'autre part an grant destresce

and on-another side in great distress

le retient la granz jantillesce

him holds-back the great nobility

4085 mon seignor Gauvain, son ami;

of-my lord Gawain his friend

que por po ne li fant par mi
so-that for little not to-him splits through middle

li cuers, quant demorer ne puet.
the heart when to-stay not he-can

Neporquant ancor ne se muet,
Nevertheless yet not himself stirs

einçois demore et si atant,
rather stays and so waits

tant que li jaianz vint batant,
until that the giant came apace

qui les chevaliers amenoit;
who the knights brought

et a son col un pel tenoit
and at his neck a stake held

grant et quarré, agu devant,
great and square sharp in-front

dont il les botoit mout sovant.
wherewith he them goaded very often

Et il n'avoient pas vestu
And they not-had at-all worn

de robe vaillant un festu
of clothing worth a straw

fors chemises sales et ordes,
except shirts dirty and foul

s'avoient bien liez de cordes
and-they-had well bound with cords

les piez et les mains, si seoient
the feet and the hands and they-sat

sor quatre roncins, qui clochoient,
on four nags which limped

4090

4095

4100

foibles et megres et redois.

feeble and lean and stiff

Chevauchant vindrent lez un bois,

Riding they-came beside a wood

et uns nains come boz anflez

and a dwarf as a-toad swollen

les ot coe a coe noez,

them had tail to tail knotted

4105 ses aloit costioiant toz quatre,

and-them he-went flanking all four

n'onques ne les finoit de batre

and-never not them he-ceased from beating

d'une corgiee a quatre neuz,

with-a scourge with four knots

don mout cuidoit feire que preuz;

whereof much he-thought to-do as a-brave-man

si les batoit si qu'il seignoient.

and them beat so that-they bled

4110 Einsil vilmant les amenoient

Thus vilely them they-brought

antre le jaiaint et le nain.

between the giant and the dwarf

Devant la porte anmi un plain

Before the gate amid a plain

s'aresta li jaianz et crie

stops the giant and cries

au prodome, que il desfie

to-the worthy-man that he defies

ses fiz de mort, s'il ne li baille

his sons with death if-he not to-him gives

sa fille, et a sa garçonaille

his daughter and to his rabble-of-grooms

la liverra a jaelise;

her he-will-deliver to shame

car il ne l'aimme tant ne prise,

for he not her-loves so-much nor prizes

qu'an li se deignast avillier.

that-with her himself he-would-deign to-debase

De garçons avra un millier

Of grooms she-will-have a thousand

avuec li sovant et menu,

with her often and constantly

qui seront poeilleus et nu,

who will-be lousy and naked

tel con ribaut et torchepot,

such as rascals and scullions

qui tuit i metront lor escot.

who all therein will-put their share

Par po que li prodon n'esrage,

For little that the worthy-man goes-mad

4115

4120

4125

quant ot celui, qui a putage

when he-hears him who to whoredom

dit, que sa fille liverra,

says that his daughter he-will-deliver

ou, tantost si qu'il le verra,

or at-once so that-he it will-see

seront ocis si quatre fil;

will-be slain his four sons

4130 s'a tel destresce come cil,

and-has such distress as he

qui miauz s'amerait morz que vis.

who better himself-would-love dead than alive

Sovant se claimme las cheitis

Often himself he-calls wretched miserable

et plore formant et sospire.

and weeps sorely and sighs

Et lors li ancomance a dire

And then to-him begins to to-say

4135 mes sire Yvains, li frans, li douz:

my lord Yvain the noble the sweet

"Sire! mout est fel et estouz

Lord very is cruel and insolent

cil jaianz, qui la fors s'orguelle;

this giant who there outside himself-boasts

mes ja Des ce sofrir ne vuelle,

but ever God this to-suffer not may-wish

qu'il et pooir an vostre fille!

that-he have power over your daughter

4140 Mout la despit et mout l'aville.

Much her he-despises and much her-debases

Trop seroit granz mesaventure,

Too would-be a-great misfortune

se si tres bele creature

if so very fair a-creature

et de si haut parage nee

and of so high lineage born

iere a garçons abandonnee.

were to grooms abandoned

Ça mes armes et mon cheval!

Here my arms and my horse

Et faites le pont treire aval,

And have the bridge to-be-drawn down

si m'an leissiez outre passer!

and me-thence let across to-pass

L'un an covandra ja verser,

The-one thereof will-behoove now to-fall

ou moi ou lui, ne sai le quel.

either me or him not I-know the which

Se je le felon, le cruël,

If I the felon the cruel-one

qui si vos va contraliant,

who so you goes thwarting

pooie feire humeliant,

could to-make humble

tant que voz fiz vos randist quites,

so-much that your sons to-you be-rendered free

et les hontes, qu'il vos a dites,

and the shames which-be to-you has said

vos venist ceanz amander,

to-you be-came here-within to-amend

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puis vos voldroie comander

then you I-would-wish to-commend

a De, s'iroie a mon afeire."

to God and-I-would-go to my affair

Lors li vont son cheval fors treire

Then for-him they-go his horse out to-draw

et totes ses armes li baillent,

and all his arms to-him they-give

4160 de lui armer mout se travaillent

to him to-arm much themselves they-labor

et bien et tost l'ont atorné.

and well and soon him-they-have arrayed

A lui armer n'ont sejourné

In him to-arm not-they-have lingered

se tot le mains non que il porent.

except all the least not that they could

Quant bien et bel atorné l'orent,

When well and fairly arrayed him-they-had

4165 si n'i ot que de l'avalier

so not-there was but of the-lowering

le pont et del leissier aler.

the bridge and of-the letting to-go

L'an li avale et il s'an ist;

One for-him lowers and he himself-thence issues

mes après lui ne remassist

but after him not would-remain

li lions an nule meniere.

the lion in any manner

4170 Et cil, qui sont remés arriere,

And those who are left behind

le comandent au sauveor;

him commend to-the savior

car de lui ont mout grant peor,

for for him they-have very great fear

que li maufez, li anemis,

that the fiend the enemy

qui maint prodome avoit ocis

who many-a worthy-man had slain

veant lor iauz anmi la place,

before their eyes amid the place

autretel de lui ne reface;

the-same of him — do-again

si prient De, qu'il le deffande

so they-pray God that-he him defend

de mort, et vif et sain lor rande,

from death and alive and whole to-them render

et le jaiant li doint ocirre.

and the giant to-him grant to-kill

Chascuns si come il le desirre,

Each just as he it desires

an prie De mout doucemant.

thereof prays God very sweetly

Et li jaianz mout fieremant

And the giant very fiercely

vint vers lui, si le menaça

came toward him and him threatened

et dist: "Cil, qui t'anvea ça,

and said He who you-sent here

ne t'amoit mie, par mes iauz!

not you-loved at-all by my eyes

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Certes, il ne se pooit miauz

Certainly he not himself could better

de toi vangier an nule guise.

on you to-avenge in any wise

Mout a bien sa vanjance prise

Much has well his vengeance taken

de quanque tu li as mesfet.”

for whatever you to-him have done-amiss

4190 “De neant ies antrez an plet!”,

Of nothing you-are entered into plea

fet cil, qui ne le dote rien,

says he who not him fears at-all

“Or fai ton miauz, et gié le mien;

Now do your best and I the mine

que parole oiseuse me lasse.”

for speech idle me wearies

Tantost mes sire Yvains li passe,

At-once my lord Yvain to-him passes

4195 cui tarde, qu’il s’an soit partiz.

to-whom it-seems-long that-he himself-thence be departed

Ferir le va anmi le piz,

To-strike him he-goes amid the breast

qu’il ot armé d’une pel d’ors.

which-he had armed with-a hide of-bear

Et li jaianz li vient le cors

And the giant to-him comes the course

de l’autre part atot son pel.

from the-other side with his stake

Anmi le piz li dona tel

4200

Amid the breast to-him gave such

mes sire Yvains, que la pel fausse,

my lord Yvain that the hide he-breaches

el sanc del cors an leu de sausse

in-the blood of-the body in place of sauce

le fer de la lance li moille:

the iron of the lance to-him he-wets

et li jaianz del pel le roille

and the giant with-the stake him drubs

si que trestot ploïier le fet.

4205

so that all to-bend him makes

Mes sire Yvains l'espee tret,

My lord Yvain the-sword draws

dont il savoit ferir granz cos.

wherewith he knew to-strike great blows

Le jaiant a trové desclos,

The giant he-has found unguarded

qui an sa force se fioit,

who in his strength himself trusted

tant que armer ne se deignoit.

4210

so-much that to-arm not himself he-deigned

Et cil, qui tint l'espee treite,

And he who held the-sword drawn

li a une anvaïe faite.

on-him has an assault made

Del tranchant, non mie del plat,

With-the edge not at-all with-the flat

le fiert si, que il li abat
him strikes so that he from-him strikes-off

4215 de la joe une charbonee.

from the cheek a collop

Et cil l'an ra une donee

And he to-him-thereof has-in-turn one given

si que trestot le fet brunchier

so that all him makes to-stoop

jusque sor le col del destrier.

even upon the neck of-the charger

A cest cop li lions se creste,

At this blow the lion himself bristles

4220 de son seignor eidier s'apreste,

to his lord to-help himself-prepares

si saut par ire et par grant force,

and springs through wrath and through great force

s'aert et fant come une escorce

and-seizes and splits as a bark

sor le jaiant la pel velue,

upon the giant the hide shaggy

dessoz la pel li a tolue

beneath the hide from-him has taken

4225 une grant piece de la hanche,

a great piece of the haunch

les ners et les braons li tranche.

the sinews and the muscles from-him cuts

Et li jaianz li est estors,

And the giant from-it is wrenched

si bret et crie come tors;

and bellows and cries as a-bull

que mout l'a li lions grevé.

for much him-has the lion hurt

A deus mains a le pel levé

With two hands he-has the stake raised

et cuide ferir, mes il faut,

and thinks to-strike but he misses

et li lions arriere saut,

and the lion backward springs

si pert son cop et chiet an vain

so he-loses his blow and it-falls in vain

par delez mon seignor Yvain,

by beside my lord Yvain

que l'un ne l'autre n'adesa.

for the-one nor the-other not-it-touched

Et mes sire Yvains antesa,

And my lord Yvain took-aim

s'i a deus cos antrelardez.

and-therein has two blows interlarded

Einçois qu'il se fust regardez,

Before that-he himself had looked-about

li ot au tranchant de l'espee

from-him had with-the edge of the-sword

l'espaule del bu dessevree.

the-shoulder from-the trunk severed

A l'autre cop soz la memele

At the-other blow beneath the breast

li bota tote l'alemele

into-him thrust all the-blade

de s'espee parmi le foie.

of his-sword through the liver

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Li jaianz chiet, la morz l'asproie;

The giant falls the death him-presses

4245 et se uns granz chasnes cheïst,

and if a great oak fell

ne cuit greignor esfrois feïst,

not I-think a-greater crash it-would-make

que li jaianz fist au cheoir.

than the giant made at-the falling

Cest cop vostrent mout tuit veoir

This blow wished much all to-see

cil, qui estoient as creniaus.

those who were at-the battlements

4250 Lors i parut li plus isniaus;

Then therein appeared the most nimble

car tuit corent a la cuiriee

for all run to the quarry

si con li chien, qui ont chaciee

just as the dogs which have hunted

la beste tant que il l'ont prise.

the beast so-long that they it-have taken

Einsi corurent sanz feintise

Thus they-ran without feigning

4255 tuit et totes par anhatine

all-men and all-women in eagerness

la, ou cil gist gole sovine.

there where he lies throat upward

Li sire meïsmes i cort,

The lord himself thither runs

et totes les janz de sa cort,

and all the folk of his court

cort i la fille, cort la mere.

runs thither the daughter runs the mother

Ore ont joie li quatre frere,

Now have joy the four brothers

qui mout avoient mal sofert.

who much had ill suffered

De mon seignor Yvain sont cert,

Of my lord Yvain they-are certain

qu'il nel porroient retenir

that-they not-him could to-detain

por rien, qui poïst avenir,

for anything that could to-happen

si li prient de retourner

so him they-pray to to-return

por deduire et por sejourner

to take-pleasure and to sojourn

tot maintenant, que fet avra

all straightway when done he-will-have

son afeire la, ou il va.

his affair there where he goes

Et il respont, qu'il ne les ose

And he answers that-he not them dares

asseürer de nule chose;

to-assure of any thing

qu'il ne set mie deviner,

for-he not knows at-all to-divine

s'il li doit bien ou mal finer;

if-it for-him must well or ill to-end

mes au seignor itant dist il,

but to-the lord this-much said he

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qu'il voloit, que si quatre fil

that-he wished that his four sons

4275 et sa fille praignent le nain,

and his daughter take the dwarf

s'aillent a mon seignor Gauvain,

and-go to my lord Gawain

quant il savront, qu'il iert venuz,

when they will-know that-he will-be come

et comant il s'est contenuz

and how he himself-has borne

viaut, que li soit dit et conté.

he-wishes that to-him it-be said and told

4280 Car por neant fet la bonté,

For for nothing does the kindness

qui ne viaut qu'ele soit seüe.

whoever not wishes that-it be known

Et il dient: "Ja n'iert teüe

And they say Ever not-will-be kept-silent

ceste bontez; car n'est pas droiz.

this kindness for not-is at-all right

Bien férons quanque vos voldroiz;

Well we-will-do whatever you will-wish

4285 mes dites nos, que nos porrons

but tell us what we shall-be-able

dire, quant devant lui vandrions.

to-say when before him we-shall-come

De cui nos porrons nos loer,

Of whom we shall-be-able ourselves to-praise

quant nos ne vos savons nomer?"

when we not you know to-name

Et il respont: "Tant li porroiz
And he answers So-much to-him you-will-be-able

dire, quant devant lui vandroiz,
to-say when before him you-will-come 4290

que li Chevaliers au Lion
that the Knight of-the Lion

vos dis, que je avoie non.
to-you I-said that I had name

Et avuec ce priier vos doi,
And with this to-pray you I-must

que vos li dites de par moi,
that you to-him say by by me

qu'il me conoist bien et je lui,
that-be me knows well and I him 4295

et si ne set, qui je me sui.
and yet not knows who I myself am

De rien nule plus ne vos pri.
Of thing any more not you I-pray

Or m'an estuet aler de ci,
Now to-me-thence it-behooves to-go from here

et c'est la riens, qui plus m'esmaie,
and this-is the thing which most me-dismays

que je ci trop demoré n'aie;
that I here too-much stayed have 4300

car ainz que midis soit passez,
for before that midday be passed

avrai aillors a feire assez,
I-shall-have elsewhere to to-do enough

se je i puis venir a ore."
if I thither can to-come in time

Lors s'an part; que plus n'i demore.

Then himself-thence departs for more not-there stays

4305 Mes einçois mout priié li ot

But before much prayed him had

li sire au plus bel que il pot,

the lord at-the most fair that he could

que ses quatre fiz an menast.

that his four sons thence he-led

N'i ot nul, qui ne se penast

Not-there was any who not himself took-pains

de lui servir, se il vossist;

of him to-serve if he wished

4310 mes ne li plot ne ne li sist,

but not to-him pleased nor not to-him suited

que nus li feïst compaignie:

that anyone to-him make company

seus lor a la place guerpie.

alone to-them has the place quitted

Et maintenant que il s'esmuet,

And straightway that he himself-stirs

tant con chevaus porter l'an puet,

as-fast as a-horse to-carry him-thence can

4315 s'an retorne vers la chapele.

himself-thence returns toward the chapel

La voie fu et droite et bele,

The way was both straight and fair

et il la sot mout bien tenir.

and he it knew very well to-hold

Mes, ainz que il poïst venir

But before that he could to-come

a la chapele, an fu fors treite

to the chapel thence was out drawn

la dameisele et la rez feite,

the damsel and the pyre made

ou ele devoit estre mise.

where she must to-be put

Trestote nue an sa chemise

All naked in her shift

au feu liiee la tenoient

at-the fire bound her they-held

cil, qui a tort sus li metoient

those who at wrong upon her laid

ce, qu'ele onques pansé n'avoit.

that which-she ever thought not-had

Mes sire Yvains vient, si la voit

My lord Yvain comes and her sees

au feu, ou an la viaut ruiier,

at-the fire where one her wishes to-cast

et ce li dut mout enuiier.

and this to-him must much to-grieve

Cortois ne sages ne seroit,

Courteous nor wise not would-be

qui de rien nule an doteroit.

whoever in thing any thereof would-doubt

Voirs est, que mout li enuia,

True it-is that much to-him it-grieved

mes buene fiance an lui a,

but good trust in him he-has

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que Des et droiz li eideront,

that God and right to-him will-help

qui a sa partie seront:

who on his side will-be

4335 an cez conpaignons mout se fie

in these companions much himself be-trusts

et son lion ne rehet mie.

and his lion not he-hates at-all

Vers la presse toz esleissiez

Toward the crowd all at-full-gallop

s'an va criant: "Leissiez, leissiez

himself-thence goes crying Leave leave

la dameisele, janz mauveise!

the damsel folk wicked

4340 N'est droiz, qu'an re ne an forneise

Not-is right that-in a-pyre nor in a-furnace

soit mise; que forfet ne l'a."

she-be put for a-crime not she-has

Et cil tantost que ça que la

And they at-once now here now there

se departent, si li font voie.

themselves part and to-him make way

Et lui est mout tart, que il voie

And to-him it-is very long that he see

4345 des iauz celi, que del cuer voit,

with-the eyes her whom with-the heart he-sees

an quel leu que ele onques soit;

in what place that she ever be

as iauz la quiert tant qu'il la trueve,

with-the eyes her he-seeks so-long that-he her finds

et met son cuer an tel esprueve,

and puts his heart to such a-proof

qu'il le retient et si l'afraïne,

that-be it holds-back and so it-curbs

si con l'an retient a grant painne

just as one holds-back with great pain

au fort frain le cheval tirant.

with-the strong bridle the horse pulling

Et neporquant an sospirant

And nevertheless in sighing

la regarde mout volantiers,

her he-beholds very willingly

mes ne fet mie si antiers

but not makes at-all so entire

ses sospirs, que l'an les conoisse,

his sighs that one them perceive

ainz les retranche a grant angoisse.

rather them he-cuts-short with great anguish

Et de ce granz pitiez li prant,

And at this great pity him takes

qu'il ot et voit et si antant

that-be bears and sees and so understands

les povres dames, qui feisoient

the poor ladies who made

mout tres grant duel et si disoient:

very very great grief and so said

“Ha! Des, con nos as obliées!

Ab God how us you-have forgotten

Con remandrons ore esgarees,

How we-shall-remain now bewildered

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qui perdomes si buene amie

who lose so good a-friend

et tel consoil et tel aïe,

and such counsel and such help

4365 qui a la cort por nos estoit!

who at the court for us was

Par son consoil nos revestoit

By her counsel us clothed

ma dame de ses robes veires.

my lady with her robes of-miniver

Mout changera or li afeires;

Much will-change now the affair

qu'il n'iert mes, qui por nos parot.

for-there not-will-be more who for us speaks

4370 Mal et de De, qui la nos tot!

Ill have from God whoever her from-us takes

Mal et, par cui nos la perdrons!

Ill have by whom we her shall-lose

Que trop grant damage i avrons.

For too great damage therein we-shall-have

N'iert mes, qui die ne qui lot:

Not-will-be more who say nor who counsel

'Cest mantel ver et cest sorcot

This mantle of-miniver and this surcoat

4375 et ceste cote, chiere dame!

and this tunic dear lady

Donez a cele franche fame!

Give to that noble woman

Que voir, se vos li anvoïiez,

For truly if you to-her send

mout i sera bien anploiiiez;

much therein will-be well employed

que ele an a mout grant sofreate.’

for she thereof has very great want

Ja de ce n’iert parole treite;

Ever of this not-will-be a-word drawn

car nus n’est mes frans ne cortois,

for anyone not-is more noble nor courteous

ainz demande chascuns einçois

rather asks each first

por lui, que por autrui ne fet,

for himself than for another not he-does

sanz ce, que nul mestier an et.”

without this that any need thereof be-have

4380

The Fire and the Ordeal

XXI

He has heard the ladies' laments, and finds Lunete kneeling in her shift, already shriven. The seneschal and his two brothers will not fight while the lion stands by, so Yvain orders it to draw back and lie still, and takes all three alone. He bears the seneschal down with his lance and holds off the other two until they overbear him; then the lion tears open the seneschal's side. The three burn on the pyre kindled for Lunete. Her lady begs the wounded knight to stay; he will not, and gives his name only as the Knight of the Lion.

Einsi se demantoient celes,

Thus themselves lamented these-women

et mes sire Yvains iere antre eles,

and my lord Yvain was among them

4385

s'ot bien oïes les complaintes,

and-bad well heard the complaints

qui n'estoient fausses ne faintes,

which not-were false nor feigned

et vit Lunete agenoilliee

and saw Lunete kneeling

4390 an sa chemise despoilliee,

in her shift stripped

qui sa confesse avoit ja prise,

who her confession had already taken

et De de ses pechiez requise

and God for her sins besought

merci, et sa coupe clamee.

mercy and her fault confessed

Et cil, qui mout l'avoit amee,

And he who much her-bad loved

4395 vient vers li, si l'an lieve amont

comes toward her and her-thence raises up

et dit: "Ma dameisele! ou sont

and says My damsel where are

cil, qui vos blasment et ancusent?

those who you blame and accuse

Tot maintenant, s'il nel refusent,

All straightway if-they not-it refuse

lor iert la bataille aramie."

to-them will-be the battle appointed

4400 Et cele, qui ne l'avoit mie

And she who not him-bad at-all

ancor veü ne esgardé,

yet seen nor beheld

li dit: "Sire! de la part De
to-him says Lord from the part of-God
 veigniez vos a mon grant besoing!
come you at my great need
 Cil, qui portent le faus tesmoing,
Those who bear the false witness
 sont ci vers moi tuit apresté;
are here against me all made-ready
 s'un po eüssiez plus esté,
if-a little you-had more been
 par tans fusse charbons et çandre.
in a-short-while I-should-have-been coals and ashes
 Venuz estes por moi deffandre,
Come you-are to me to-defend
 et Des le pooir vos an doint,
and God the power to-you thereof grant
 ainsi con gié de tort n'ai point
just as I of wrong not-have a-whit
 del blasme, don je sui reteel!"
of-the blame whereof I am accused
 Ceste parole ont escoutee
This speech they-have listened-to
 li seneschaus et si dui frere.
the seneschal and his two brothers
 "Ha!", font il, "fame, chose avere
Ah say they woman a-thing niggardly
 de voir dire et de mantir large!
of truth to-tell and of to-lie lavish

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Mout est ore fos, qui ancharge

Very is now foolish who takes-on

por ta parole si grant fes.

for your word so great a-burden

Mout est li chevaliers niës,

Very is the knight foolish

qui est venuz morir por toi;

who is come to-die for you

4420 qu'il est seus et nos somes troi.

for-he is alone and we are three

Mes je li lo, qu'il s'an retort,

But I to-him counsel that-he himself-thence turn-back

einçois que a noauz li tort."

before that to worse for-him it-turn

Et cil respont, cui mout enuie:

And he answers to-whom much it-annoys

"Qui peor avra, si s'an fuie!

Whoever fear will-have so himself-thence let-him-flee

4425 Ne criem pas tant voz trois escuz,

Not I-fear at-all so-much your three shields

que sanz cop m'an aille veincuz.

that without a-blow myself-thence I-go vanquished

Mout seroie or mal afeitiez,

Very I-should-be now ill mannered

se je toz sains et toz heitiez

if I all whole and all hale

la place et le chanp vos leissoie.

the place and the field to-you left

4430 Ja tant, con je sains et vis soie,

Ever so-long as I whole and alive be

ne m'an fuirai por tes menaces.

not myself-thence I-will-flee for your threats

Mes je te consoil, que tu faces

But I to-you counsel that you make

la dameisele clamer quite,

the damsel to-be-declared quit

que tu as a grant tort sordite;

whom you have at great wrong slandered

qu'ele le dit et je l'an croi,

for-she it says and I her-thereof believe

si m'an a plevie sa foi

and to-me-thereof has pledged her faith

et dit sor le peril de s'ame,

and says upon the peril of her-soul

qu'onques traïson vers sa dame

that-ever treason toward her lady

ne fist ne dist ne ne pansa.

not she-did nor said nor not thought

Bien croi ce, qu'ele dit m'an a,

Well I-believe this which-she said to-me-thereof has

si la deffandrai, se je puis;

and her I-will-defend if I can

que son droit an m'aïe truis.

for her right as my-help I-find

Et qui le voir dire an voldroit,

And whoever the truth to-say thereof would-wish

Des se retient devers le droit,

God himself holds toward the right

et Des et droiz a un se tienent;

and God and right at one themselves bold

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et quant il devers moi s'an vient,
and when they toward me themselves-thence come

donc ai je meilleur compaignie,
then have I better company

que tu n'as, et meilleur aïe."
than you not-have and better help

Et cil respont mout folemant,
And he answers very foolishly

4450 que il mete an son nuisemant
that he put to his harming

trestot, quanque lui plest et siet,
all whatever to-him pleases and suits

mes que ses lions ne li griet.
provided that his lion not to-him harm

Et cil dit, qu'onques son lion
And he says that-ever his lion

n'i amena por champion,
not-there he-brought as a-champion

4455 n'autrui que lui mesler ne quiert;
nor-another than himself to-engage not he-seeks

mes se ses lions le requiert,
but if his lion him assails

si se deffande vers lui bien;
so himself let-him-defend against it well

qu'il ne l'an afie de rien.
for-he not him-thereof assures of anything

Et cil respont: "Que que tu dies,
And he answers Whatever that you say

se tu ton lion ne chasties

4460

if you your lion not rebuke

et tu nel fes an pes ester,

and you not-it make in peace to-stand

donc n'as tu ci que demorer,

then not-have you here reason to-stay

mes reva t'an! si feras san;

but go-back yourself-thence so you-will-show sense

que par tot cest païs set l'an,

for through all this land knows one

comant ceste traï sa dame,

4465

how this-woman betrayed her lady

s'est droiz, que an feu et an flame

and-is right that in fire and in flame

l'an soit randue la merite."

to-her-thereof be rendered the reward

"Ne place le saint Esperite!",

Not may-it-please the Holy Spirit

fet cil, qui bien an set le voir,

says he who well thereof knows the truth

"Ja Des ne m'an lest remouvoir,

4470

Ever God not me-thence let to-move

tant que je delivree l'aie!"

until that I delivered her-have

Lors dit au lion, qu'il se traie

Then says to-the lion that-it itself draw

arriere et trestoz coiz se gise,

back and all quiet itself lie

et il le fet a sa devise.

and it it does at his will

- 4475 Li lions s'est arriere trez.
 The lion itself-is back drawn
- Tantost la parole et li plez
At-once the speech and the plea
- remest d'aus deus, si s'antresloingnent.
ceased of-them two and each-other-draw-from
- Li troi ansanble vers lui poingnent,
The three together toward him spur
- et il vint ancontre aus le pas;
and he came against them at-the walk
- 4480 que desreer ne se vost pas
for to-rush-out not himself he-wished at-all
- as premiers cos ne angoissier.
at-the first blows nor to-strain
- Lor lances lor leisse froissier,
Their lances to-them he-lets to-shatter
- et si retient la soe saine,
and so keeps the his whole
- de son escu lor fet quintainne,
of his shield to-them makes a-quintain
- 4485 s'i a chascuns sa lance freite.
and-therein has each his lance broken
- Et il a une pointe feite,
And he has a charge made
- tant que d'aus un arpant s'esloingne;
so-much that from-them an acre's-length himself-removes
- mes tost revint a la besoingne;
but soon came-back to the business
- qu'il n'a cure de lonc sejour.
for-he not-has care of long delay

Le seneschal an son retor

4490

The seneschal in his return

devant ses deus freres ataint,

before his two brothers he-overtakes

sa lance sor le cors li fraint,

his lance upon the body to-him breaks

sel porte a terre maugré suen;

and-him carries to ground against-will his

et cop li a doné si buen,

and a-blow to-him has given so good

qu'une grant piece estordiz jut

that-a great while stunned he-lay

4495

ne de rien nule ne li nut.

nor in thing any not to-him he-barmed

Et li autre dui sus li viennent,

And the other two upon him come

as espees, que nues tienent,

with-the swords which bare they-bold

li donent granz cos anbedui,

to-him give great blows both

mes plus granz reçoivent de lui;

but more great they-receive from him

4500

que de ses cos vaut li uns seus

for of his blows is-worth the one alone

des lor tot a mesure deus:

of-the theirs all at measure two

si se deffant vers aus si bien,

so himself he-defends against them so well

que de son droit n'an portent rien,

that of his right not-thereof they-carry anything

- 4505 tant que li seneschaus relieve,
until that the seneschal rises-again
 qui de tot son pooir li grieve,
who with all his power to-him harms
 et li autre avuec lui se painnent,
and the others with him themselves labor
 tant qu'il le grievent et sormainnent.
so-much that-they him harm and overbear
 Et li lions, qui ce esgarde,
And the lion which this beholds
 4510 de lui eidier plus ne se tarde;
of him to-help more not itself delays
 que mestiers li est, ce li sanble.
for need to-him it-is this to-it seems
 Et les dames totes ansamble,
And the ladies all together
 qui la dameisele mout aiment,
who the damsel much love
 Damedé sovant an reclaimment
Lord-God often thereof invoke
 4515 et si li priënt de buen cuer,
and so to-him pray with good heart
 que sofrir ne vuelle a nul fuer,
that to-suffer not he-wish at any price
 que cil i soit morz ne conquis,
that he therein be dead nor conquered
 qui por li s'est el chaple mis.
who for her himself-is into-the fray put

De priere aïe li font

With prayer help to-him they-make

les dames; qu'autres bastons n'ont.

4520

the ladies for-other weapons not-they-have

Et li lions li fet aïe

And the lion to-him makes help

tel, qu'a la premiere anväie

such that-at the first onset

a de si grant aïr feru

it-has with so great fury struck

le seneschal, qui a pié fu,

the seneschal who on foot was

que aussi, con ce fussent pailles,

4525

that just as if they-were straws

fet del hauberc voler les mailles,

it-makes of-the hauberk to-fly the meshes

et contreval si fort le sache,

and downward so hard him it-pulls

que de l'espaule li esrache

that from the-shoulder from-him it-tears

le tandron atot le costé.

the gristle with the side

Quantqu'il ataint, l'an a osté

4530

Whatever-it reaches from-him-thence it-has taken

si que les antrailles li perent.

so that the entrails from-him appear

Cest cop li autre dui conperent.

This blow the other two pay-for

Or sont el chanp tot per a per.

Now they-are in-the field all peer to peer

De la mort ne puet eschaper

From the death not can to-escape

4535 li seneschaus, qui se tooille

the seneschal who himself wallows

et devolte an l'onde vermoille

and rolls in the-wave crimson

del sanc chaut, qui del cors li saut.

of-the blood hot which from-the body from-him springs

Li lions les autres assaut;

The lion the others assails

qu'arriere ne le puet chacier

for-back not it can to-drive

4540 por ferir ne por menacier

by striking nor by threatening

mes sire Yvains an nule guise,

my lord Yvain in any wise

s'i a il mout grant painne mise;

and-therein has he very great pains put

mes li lions sanz dote set,

but the lion without doubt knows

que ses sire mie ne het

that its lord at-all not hates

4545 s'aïe, einçois l'an aime plus,

its-help rather him-thereof loves more

si lor passe fieremant sus,

so on-them presses fiercely upon

tant que cil de ses cos se plaingnent

so-much that they of its blows themselves complain

et lui reblescent et mehaingnent.

and it wound-again and maim

Quant mes sire Yvains voit blecié

When my lord Yvain sees wounded

son lion, mout a correcié

his lion much has grieved

le cuer del vandre et n'a pas tort;

the heart of-the belly and not-has at-all wrong

mes del vangier se painne fort,

but of-the avenging himself he-labors hard

si les va si estoutoiant,

and them goes so buffeting

qu'il les mainne jusqu'a neant,

that-be them brings down-to nothing

si que vers lui ne se deffandent

so that against him not themselves they-defend

et que an sa merci se randent

and that to his mercy themselves they-yield

por l'aïe, que li a faite

because-of the-help which to-him has made

li lions, qui mout se desheite;

the lion which much itself distresses

car an tanz leus estoit plaïiez,

for in so-many places it-was wounded

que bien pooit estre esmaïiez.

that well it-could to-be dismayed

4550

4555

4560

Et d'autre part mes sire Yvains

And on-another side my lord Yvain

ne restoit mie trestoz sains,

not was-also at-all all whole

ainz avoit el cors mainte plaie;

rather had in-the body many-a wound

mes de tot ce tant ne s'esmaie

but at all this so-much not himself-dismays

4565 con de son lion, qui se diaut.

as at his lion which itself grieves

Ore a tot ainsi come il viaut

Now has all thus as he wishes

la dameisele delivree,

the damsel delivered

et s'ire li a pardonee

and her-wrath to-her has pardoned

la dame trestot de son gre.

the lady wholly of her will

4570 Et cil furent ars an la re,

And they were burned on the pyre

qui por li ardoir fu esprise;

which for her to-burn was kindled

car ce est reisons de justise,

for this is reason of justice

que cil, qui autrui juge a tort,

that he who another judges at wrong

doit de cele meïsme mort

must with that same death

4575 morir, que il li a jugiee.

to-die which he for-him has judged

Ore est Lunete baude et liee,

Now is Lunete merry and glad

quant a sa dame est acordee,

when with her lady she-is reconciled

si ont tel joie demenee,

and they-have such joy displayed

que nule janz si grant ne firent;

that any folk so great not made

et tuit a lor seignor ofrurent

and all to their lord offered

lor servise si come il durent,

their service just as they ought

sanz ce, que il ne le conurent;

without this that they — him knew

neïs la dame, qui avoit

even the lady who had

son cuer et si ne le savoit,

his heart and yet not it knew

li pria mout, qu'il li pleüst

to-him prayed much that-it to-him might-please

a sejourner tant qu'il eüst

to to-stay until that-he had

respasé son lion et lui.

healed his lion and himself

Et il dit: "Dame! ce n'iert hui,

And he says Lady this not-will-be today

que je me remaingne an cest point,

that I myself remain in this state

4580

4585

- 4590 tant que ma dame me pardoint
until that my lady me pardon
 son mautalant et son corroz.
her displeasure and her anger
 Lors finera mes travauxz toz.”
Then will-end my labors all
 “Certes”, fet ele, “ce me poise.
Certainly says she this me grieves
 Ne taing mie por tres cortoise
Not I-hold at-all for very courteous
 4595 la dame, qui mal cuer vos porte.
the lady who an-ill heart to-you bears
 Ne deüst pas veer sa porte
Not she-should at-all to-forbid her door
 a chevalier de vostre pris,
to a-knight of your worth
 se trop n’eüst vers li mespris.”
if too-much not-be-had toward her offended
 “Dame!”, fet il, “que qu’il me griet,
Lady says he whatever that-it me grieve
 4600 trestot me plest, quanque li siet.
all to-me pleases whatever to-her suits
 Mes ne m’an metez plus an plet!
But not me-thereof put more in plea
 Que l’acheison ne le forfet
For the-cause nor the crime
 ne diroie por nule rien,
not I-would-say for any thing
 se çaus non, qui le sevent bien.”
except those not who it know well

“Set le donc nus, se vos dui non?”

Knows it then anyone except you two not

“Oïl, voir, dame!” — “Et vostre non

Yes truly lady And your name

seviaus, biaux sire! car nos dites!

at-least fair lord pray to-us tell

Puis si vos an iroiz toz quites.”

Then so you thence will-go all quit

“Toz quites, dame? Non feroie.

All quit lady Not I-would-do

Plus doi, que randre ne porroie.

More I-owe than to-render — I-could

Neporquant ne vus doi celer,

Nevertheless not to-you I-must to-hide

comant je me faz apeler.

how I myself make to-be-called

Ja del Chevalier au Lion

Ever of-the Knight of-the Lion

n’orroiz parler se de moi non.

not-you-will-hear to-speak except of me not

Par cest non vuel, que l’an m’apiaut.”

By this name I-wish that one me-call

“Por De, biaux sire! ce qu’espiaut,

For God fair lord this what-means-it

que onques mes ne vos veïmes

that ever before not you we-saw

ne vostre non nomer n’oïmes?”

nor your name to-name not-we-heard

“Dame! par ce savoir poez,

Lady by this to-know you-can

4605

4610

4615

4620 que ne sui gueires renomez.”

that not I-am much renowned

Lors dit la dame de rechief:

Then says the lady — again

“Ancor, s’il ne vos estoit grief,

Still if-it not to-you were grievous

de remenoir vos priëroie.”

to to-remain you I-would-pray

“Certes, dame! je n’oseroie,

Certainly lady I not-would-dare

4625 tant que certainement seüsse,

until that certainly I-knew

que le buen gre ma dame eüsse.”

that the good will of-my lady I-had

“Ore alez donc a De, biaux sire!

Now go then to God fair lord

Qui vostre pesance et vostre ire

Who your sorrow and your wrath

vos atort, se lui plest, a joie!”

for-you turn if to-him it-please to joy

4630 “Dame!”, fet il, “Des vos an oie!”

Lady says he God you thereof hear

Puis dist antre ses danz soef:

Then said between his teeth softly

“Dame! vos an portez la clef,

Lady you thence carry the key

et la serre et l’escrin avez,

and the lock and the-casket you-have

ou ma joie est, si nel savez.”

where my joy is and not-it you-know

- Atant s'an part a grant angoisse, 4635
Thereupon himself-thence departs with great anguish
- si n'i a nul, qui le conoisse
and not-there has any who him knows
- fors que Lunete solemant,
except that Lunete only
- qui le convea longuemant.
who him escorted long
- Lunete sole le convoie,
Lunete alone him escorts
- et il li prie tote voie, 4640
and he to-her prays all the-same
- que ja par li ne soit seü,
that ever by her not be known
- quel champion ele a eü.
what champion she has had
- “Sire!”, fet ele, “non iert il.”
Lord says she not will-be it
- Aprés ce li repria cil,
After this to-her prayed-again he
- que de lui li ressovenist, 4645
that of him to-her it-remember
- et vers sa dame li tenist
and toward her lady for-him she-bold
- buen leu, s'ele an venoit an eise.
a-good place if-she thereto came at ease
- Cele li dit, que il s'an teise;
She to-him says that he himself-thereof keep-silent

qu'ele n'an iert ja oblieuse

for-she not-thereof will-be ever forgetful

4650 ne recreanz ne pereceuse.

nor slack nor slothful

Et cil l'an mercie çant foiz,

And he her-thereof thanks a-hundred times

si s'an va pansis et destroiz

and himself-thence goes pensive and distressed

por son lion, que li estuet

because-of his lion which to-him it-bebooves

porter; que siure ne le puet.

to-carry for to-follow not him it-can

4655 An son escu li fet litiere

In his shield for-it he-makes a-litter

de la mosse et de la fouchiere.

of the moss and of the fern

Quant il li a faite sa couche,

When he for-it has made its bed

au plus soef qu'il puet le couche,

at-the most softly that-he can it he-lays

si l'an porte tot estandu

and it-thence carries all stretched-out

4660 dedanz l'anvers de son escu.

within the-inside of his shield

Einsi sor son cheval l'an porte,

Thus upon his horse it-thence carries

tant que il vint devant la porte

until that he came before the gate

d'une meison et fort et bele.

of-a house both strong and fair

Ferme la trueve, si apele,

Shut it he-finds and calls

et li portiers overte l'a

and the porter opened it-has

si tost, qu'onques n'i apela

so soon that-ever not-therein he-called

un mot après le premerain.

a word after the first

A la resne li tant sa main,

To the rein to-him stretches his hand

si li dit: "Biaus sire, ore avant!

and to-him says Fair lord now forward

L'ostel mon seignor vos present,

The-lodging of-my lord to-you I-offer

se il vos i plest a desçandre."

if it to-you therein pleases to to-dismount

"Cest present", fet il, "vuel je prandre;

This offer says he wish I to-take

car je an ai mout grant mestier,

for I thereof have very great need

et si est tans de herbergier."

and so it-is time of to-lodge

4665

4670

The Sisters of the Black Thorn

XXII

Yvain is lodged and healed at a lord's house, his lion beside him, by the lord's two daughters, skilled in surgery. Meanwhile the lord of the Black Thorn dies and his elder daughter claims the whole land. The younger sets out for Arthur's court to seek help to defend her right at law, but the elder rides ahead and secures Gawain, on the covenant that she tell no one. He refuses the younger, who finds no other counsel at court, and the king grants her forty days to seek a champion. She rides off resolved never to cease seeking the Knight of the Lion, who devotes himself to helping women.

- 4675 **Atant a la porte passee**
Thereupon he-has the gate passed
et vit la mesniee amasee,
and saw the household gathered
qui tuit a l'ancontre li vont.
who all to the-meeting of-him go
Salüé et desçandu l'ont,
Greeted and dismounted him-they-have
si li metent sor un perron
and to-him put upon a block
4680 **son escu atot le lion.**
his shield with the lion
Et li autre ont son cheval pris,
And the others have his horse taken
si l'ont an une estable mis,
and it-have in a stable put

et li autre si come il doivent

and the others just as they must

ses armes pranent et reçoivent.

his arms take and receive

Et li sire la novele ot:

And the lord the news heard

tot maintenant que il le sot,

all straightway when he it knew

vient an la cort, si le salue:

comes into the court and him greets

et la dame est après venue

and the lady is after come

et si fil et ses filles totes,

and her sons and her daughters all

et d'autres janz i ot granz rotes,

and of-other folk therein were great throngs

sel herbergierent a grant joie.

and-bim they-lodged with great joy

Mis l'ont an une chanbre coie

Put him-they-have in a chamber quiet

por ce, que malade le truevent,

for this that sick him they-find

et de ce mout bien se reprovevent,

and of this very well themselves they-behave

que son lion avuec lui metent.

that his lion with him they-put

4685

4690

4695

Et de lui garir s'antremetent

And of him to-beal themselves-busy

deus puceles, qui mout savoient

two maidens who much knew

de chirurgie et si estoient

of surgery and so they-were

filles au seignor de leanz.

daughters of-the lord of there-within

4700 Jorz i sejourna ne sai quanz,

Days therein he-stayed not I-know how-many

tant que il et ses lions furent

until that he and his lion were

gari et que raler s'an durent.

bealed and that to-go-back themselves-thence had-to

Mes dedanz ce fu avenu,

But within this it-was happened

que a la Mort ot plet tenu

that with the Death had plea held

4705 li sire de la Noire Espine,

the lord of the Black Thorn

si prist a lui tel anhatine

and took with him such contention

la Morz, que morir le covint.

the Death that to-die him it-behooved

Aprés sa mort einsi avint

After his death thus it-happened

de deus filles, que il avoit,

of two daughters that he had

que l'ainznee dist, qu'ele avroit
that the-elder said that-she would-have

4710

trestote la terre a delivre
all the land at liberty

toz les jorz, qu'ele avroit a vivre,
all the days that-she would-have to to-live

que ja sa suer n'i partiroit.
that ever her sister not-therein would-share

Et l'autre dist, que ele iroit
And the-other said that she would-go

a la cort le roi Artu querre
to the court of-the king Arthur to-seek

4715

aïe a desresnier sa terre.
help to to-defend-at-law her land

Et quant l'autre vit, que sa suer
And when the-other saw that her sister

ne li soferroit a nul fuer
not to-her would-suffer at any price

tote la terre sanz tançon,
all the land without dispute

s'an fu an mout grant cusançon
so-thereof was in very great anxiety

4720

et pansa, que, s'ele pooit,
and thought that if-she could

einçois de li a cort vandroit.
sooner than her at court she-would-come

A tant s'aparoille et atorne,
At that herself-prepares and arrays

ne demore ne ne sejourne,
not tarries nor not lingers

4725 ainz erra tant qu'a la cort vint.
rather journeyed so-far that-to the court she-came

Et l'autre après sa voie tint

And the-other after her way held

et quanqu'ele pot, se hasta,

and whatever-she could herself hastened

mes sa voie et ses pas gasta;

but her way and her steps she-wasted

que la premiere avoit ja fet

for the first had already made

4730 a mon seignor Gauvain son plet,

to my lord Gawain her plea

et il li avoit otroiié

and he to-her had granted

ce, qu'ele li avoit proiié;

this which-she to-him had prayed

mes tel covant antre aus avoit,

but such a-covenant between them was

que, se nus par li le savoit,

that if anyone by her it knew

4735 ja puis ne s'armeroit por li,

ever after not himself-would-arm for her

et ele l'otroia ainsi.

and she it-granted thus

Atant vint l'autre suer a cort,

Thereupon came the-other sister to court

afublee d'un mantel cort

cloaked in-a mantle short

d'escarlata et de fres ermine,

of-scarlet and of fresh ermine

s'avoit tierz jor, que la reïne

4740

and-it-was third day that the queen

estoit de la prison venue,

was from the prison come

ou Meleaganz l'ot tenue,

where Meleagant her-had held

et trestuit li autre prison;

and all the other prisoners

et Lanceloz par traïson

and Lancelot by treason

estoit remés dedanz la tor.

4745

was left within the tower

Et an celui meïsme jor,

And on that same day

que a la cort vint la pucele,

that to the court came the maiden

i fu venue la novele

therein was come the news

del jaiant cruël et felon,

of-the giant cruel and wicked

que li Chevaliers au Lion

4750

whom the Knight of-the Lion

avoit an bataille tüé.

had in battle slain

De par lui orent salüé

On behalf-of him had greeted

mon seignor Gauvain si neveu.

my lord Gawain his nephews

Le grant servise et le grant preu,

The great service and the great benefit

4755 que il lor avoit por lui fet,
which he for-them had for him done
 li a sa niece tot retret
to-him has his niece all related
 et dist, que bien le conoissoit,
and said that well him she-knew
 si ne savoit, qui il estoit.
yet not she-knew who he was

Ceste parole a antandue
This speech has heard

4760 cele, qui mout iere esperdue
she who very was distraught
 et trespensee et esbaïe;
and troubled and dismayed
 que nul consoil ne nule aïe
for any counsel nor any help
 a la cort trover ne cuidoit,
at the court to-find not she-thought
 quant toz li miaudre li failloit;
when all the best to-her failed

4765 qu'ele avoit an mainte meniere
for-she had in many-a manner
 et par amor et par proiere
both by love and by prayer
 essaiié mon seignor Gauvain.
tried my lord Gawain
 Et il li dist: "Amie! an vain
And he to-her said Friend in vain
 m'an priez; car je nel puis feire;
me-thereof you-pray for I not-it can to-do

que j'ai anpris un autre afeire,

for I-have undertaken an other affair

que je ne leisseroie pas."

which I not would-leave at-all

Et la pucele eneslepas

And the maiden straightway

s'an part et vient devant le roi.

herself-thence departs and comes before the king

"Rois!", fet ele, "je ving a toi

King says she I came to you

et a ta cort querre consoil.

and to your court to-seek counsel

N'an i truis point; mout m'an mervoil,

Not-thereof therein I-find a-whit much me-thereat I-marvel

quant je consoil n'i puis avoir.

when I counsel not-therein can to-have

Mes ne feroie pas savoir,

But not I-would-do at-all wisely

se je sanz congié m'an aloie.

if I without leave myself-thence went

Et sache ma suer tote voie,

And let-know my sister all the-same

qu'avoir porroit ele del mien

that-to-have could she of-the mine

par amor, s'ele an voloit rien;

by friendship if-she thereof wished anything

que ja par force, que je puisse,

that ever by force that I may

por qu'aïe ne consoil truisse,

provided that-help or counsel I-find

4770

4775

4780

4785 ne li leirai mon heritage!"

not to-her I-will-leave my heritage

"Vos dites", fet li rois, "que sage.

You say says the king as a-wise-one

Andemantres que ele est ci,

Meanwhile while she is here

je li consoil et lo et pri,

I to-her counsel and advise and pray

qu'ele vos lest vostre droiture."

that-she to-you leave your right

4790 Et cele, qui estoit seüre

And she who was sure

del meillor chevalier del monde,

of-the best knight of-the world

respont: "Sire! Des me confonde,

answers Lord God me confound

se ja de ma terre li part

if ever of my land to-her I-share

chastel ne vile ne essart

castle nor town nor clearing

4795 ne bois ne terre n'autre chose!

nor wood nor land nor-other thing

Mes se nus chevaliers s'an ose

But if any knight himself-thereof dares

por li armer, qui que il soit,

for her to-arm whoever that he be

qui vuelle desresnier son droit,

who wishes to-defend-at-law her right

si vaingne trestot maintenant!"

so let-him-come all straightway

“Ne li ofrez mie avenant,”

4800

Not to-her you-offer at-all seemly

fet li rois, “que plus i estuet.

says the king for more therein it-bebooves

S'ele viaut, porchacier se puet

If-she wishes to-seek-out herself may

au mains jusqu'a quarante jorz

at least until forty days

au jugement de totes corz.”

at-the judgment of all courts

Et cele dit: “Biaus sire rois!

4805

And she says Fair lord king

Vos poez establir voz lois

You can to-establish your laws

tes, con vos plest, et buen vos iert,

such as to-you pleases and good to-you will-be

n'a moi n'apant n'a moi n'afiert,

nor-to me not-it-belongs nor-to me not-it-pertains

que je desdire vos an doive;

that I to-gainsay you thereof should

si me covient, que je reçoive

4810

so to-me it-bebooves that I receive

le respit, s'ele le requiaut.”

the respite if-she it asks

Et cele dit, qu'ele le viaut

And she says that-she it wishes

et mout le desirre et demande.

and much it desires and demands

Tantost le roi a De comande,

At-once the king to God commends

4815 *si s'est de la cort departie*
and herself-is from the court departed
et panse, qu'an tote sa vie
and thinks that-in all her life
ne finera par tote terre
not she-will-cease through every land
del Chevalier au Lion querre,
of-the Knight of-the Lion to-seek
qui met sa painne a conseillier
who puts his pains in helping
 4820 *celes, qui d'aïe ont mestier.*
those-women who of-help have need

The Search for the Knight of the Lion

XXIII

Sickness stops her at the house of an acquaintance, and another maiden takes up the quest in her place. Lost in a night of rain and mud, she follows a horn to a castle whose lord tells her the Knight of the Lion avenged him on a mortal enemy and left a giant's body outside his gate. He sets her on the road; at the spring town Lunete comes out of the minster and guides her to where she had parted from him; at the house where he was healed she is told he left that very moment. She gallops until she overtakes him, and he agrees to follow her.

Einsi est an la queste antree
Thus she-is into the quest entered
et trespasse mainte contree;
and crosses many-a land
qu'onques noveles n'an aprist,
that-ever news not-thereof she-learned

don tel duel ot, que maus l'an prist.

whereof such grief she-had that sickness her-thereof took

Mes de ce mout bien li avint,

But of this very well to-her it-happened

que chiés un suen acointe vint,

that to-the-house-of a of-hers acquaintance she-came

ou ele estoit amee mout;

where she was loved much

s'aparut mout bien a son vout,

and-appeared very well in her face

qu'ele n'estoit mie bien saine.

that-she not-was at-all well whole

A li retenir mistrent painne,

In her to-detain they-put pains

tant que son afeire lor dist.

until that her affair to-them she-told

Et une autre pucele anprist

And an other maiden undertook

la voie, qu'ele avoit anprise,

the way which-she had undertaken

por li s'est an la queste mise.

for her herself-is into the quest put

Einsi remest cele a sejour,

Thus remained she at rest

et cele erra au lonc del jor

and she journeyed at-the length of-the day

tote sole grant anbleüre,

all alone at-great amble

tant que vint a la nuit obscure,

until that came to the night dark

4825

4830

4835

si li enuia mout la nuiz.

and to-her vexed much the night

4840 Et de ce dobla li enuiz,

And by this doubled the vexation

qu'il plovoit a si grant desroi,

for-it rained with so great violence

con Damedés avoit de quoi,

as Lord-God had — wherewithal

et fu el bois mout an parfont.

and she-was in-the wood very in deep

Et la nuiz et li bois li font

And the night and the wood to-her make

4845 grant enui, mes plus li enuie,

great vexation but more to-her vexes

que li bois ne la nuiz, la pluie.

than the wood nor the night the rain

Et li chemins estoit si maus,

And the road was so bad

que sovant estoit ses chevaus

that often was her horse

jusque pres des çangles an tai,

even near to-the girths in mire

si pooit estre an grant esmai

4850

so could to-be in great dismay

pucele an bois et sanz conduit

a-maiden in a-wood and without escort

par mal tans et par male nuit

through bad weather and through a-bad night

si noire, qu'ele ne veoit

so black that-she not saw

le cheval, sor qu'ele seoit.

the horse upon which-she sat

Et por ce reclamoit adés

4855

And for this she-invoked always

De avant et sa mere après

God first and his mother after

et puis toz sainz et totes saintes

and then all saints and all female-saints

et fist la nuit oreisons maintes,

and made the night prayers many

que Des a ostel la menast

that God to a-lodging her lead

et fors de cel bois la gitast;

4860

and out of that wood her cast

si pria tant que ele oï

and she-prayed so-long that she heard

un cor, don mout se resjoï;

a horn whereat much herself she-rejoiced

qu'ele cuide, que ele truisse

for-she thinks that she may-find

ostel, mes que venir i puisse;

a-lodging provided that to-come thither she-may

4865 si s'est vers la voiz adreciee,
and herself-is toward the voice directed
 tant qu'ele antre an une chauciee,
until that-she enters on a causeway
 et la chauciee droit la mainne
and the causeway straight her leads
 vers le cor, dont ele ot l'alainne;
toward the horn whereof she heard the-breath
 que par trois foiz mout longuemant
for by three times very long

4870 sona li corz mout hautemant.
sounded the horn very loudly
 Et ele erra droit vers la voiz,
And she journeyed straight toward the voice
 tant qu'ele vint a une croiz,
until that-she came to a cross
 qui sor la chauciee iere a destre.
which upon the causeway was at right
 Iluec pansa, que pooit estre
There she-thought what could to-be

4875 li corz et cil, qui l'ot soné.
the horn and he who it-had sounded
 Cele part a esperoné,
That way she-has spurred
 tant qu'ele aprocha vers un pont
until that-she approached toward a bridge
 et vit d'un chastelet reont
and saw of-a little-castle round
 les murs blans et la barbacane.
the walls white and the barbican

Einsi par aventure assane

Thus by adventure she-bits

au chastel, si s'i adreça

on-the castle and herself-thither directed

par la voiz, qui l'i amena.

by the voice which her-thither brought

La voiz del cor l'i a atreite,

The voice of-the horn her-thither has drawn

que soné avoit une gueite,

which sounded had a watchman

qui sor les murs montee estoit.

who upon the walls climbed was

Tantost con la gueite la voit,

As-soon as the watchman her sees

si la salue et puis desçant

so her greets and then descends

et la clef de la porte prant,

and the key of the gate takes

si li oevre et dit: "Bien veigniez,

and for-her opens and says Well come

pucele, qui que vos soiez!

maiden whoever that you be

Anquenuit avroiz buen ostel."

Tonight you-will-have good lodging

"Je ne demant anuit mes el,"

I not ask tonight more else

fet la pucele, et il l'an mainne.

says the maiden and he her-thence leads

Aprés le travail et la painne,

After the toil and the pain

4880

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- 4895 que ele avoit le jor eü,
which she had the day had
 li est de l'ostel bien cheü;
to-her it-is of the-lodging well fallen
 car mout i est bien aiesiee.
for much therein she-is well eased
 Après mangier l'a aresniee
After eating her-has addressed
 ses ostes et si li anquiert,
her host and so of-her inquires
 4900 ou ele va et qu'ele quiert.
where she goes and what-she seeks
 Et cele li respont adonques:
And she to-him answers then
 "Je quier ce, que je ne vi onques,
I seek this which I not saw ever
 mien esciant, ne ne conui;
to-my knowledge nor not knew
 mes un lion a avuec lui,
but a lion he-has with him
 4905 et l'an me dit, se je le truis,
and one to-me says if I him find
 que an lui mout fiër me puis."
that in him much to-trust myself I-can
 "Gié", fet cil, "l'an report tesmoing;
I says he thereof bear witness
 que a un mien mout grant besoiing
for at a of-mine very great need
 le m'anvea Des avant ier.
him to-me-sent God before yesterday

Beneoit soient li santier,

Blessed be the paths

par ou il vint a mon ostel!

by where he came to my lodging

Car d'un mien anemi mortel

For of-a of-mine enemy mortal

me vanja, don si lié me fist,

me he-avenged whereof so glad me he-made

que tot veant mes iauz l'ocist.

that all before my eyes him-he-slew

A cele porte la defors

At that gate there outside

demain porroiz veoir le cors

tomorrow you-will-be-able to-see the body

d'un grant jaiant, que il tua

of-a great giant whom he killed

si tost que gueires n'i sua."

so quickly that much not-therein he-sweated

"Por De, sire!" fet la pucele,

For God lord says the maiden

"car m'an dites voire novele,

pray to-me-thereof tell true news

se vos savez, ou il torna

if you know where he turned

et s'il an nul leu sejorna!"

and if-he in any place stayed

"Je non," fet il, "se Des me voie!

I not says he so God me see

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Mes bien vos metrai a la voie

But well you I-will-put on the way

4925 **demain, par ou il s'an ala."**

tomorrow by where he himself-thence went

"Et Des," fet ele, "me maint la,

And God says she me lead there

ou je voire novele an oie!

where I true news thereof hear

Car se jel truis, mout avrai joie."

For if I-him find much I-shall-have joy

Einsi mout longuemant parlerent,

Thus very long they-spoke

4930 **tant qu'an la fin couchier alerent.**

until that-in the end to-lie they-went

Quant vint, que l'aube fu crevee,

When it-came that the-dawn was broken

la dameisele fu levee,

the damsel was risen

qui an mout grant porpans estoit

who in very great concern was

de trover ce, qu'ele queroit.

of to-find that which-she sought

4935 **Et li sire de la meison**

And the lord of the house

se lieve et tuit si compaignon,

himself rises and all his companions

si la metent el droit chemin

and her put on-the straight road

vers la fontainne soz le pin.

toward the spring beneath the pine

Et ele de l'errer s'exploite

And she of the-journeying herself-hastens

vers le chastel la voie droite,

toward the castle the way straight

tant qu'ele i vint et demanda

until that-she thither came and asked

as premerains, qu'ele trova,

of-the first-ones whom-she found

s'il li savoient enseignier

if-they to-her knew to-point-out

le lion et le chevalier,

the lion and the knight

qui antraconpaignié s'estoient.

who joined-each-other themselves-had

Et cil d'ient, qu'il li avoient

And they say that-they to-her had

veü trois chevaliers conquerre

seen three knights to-conquer

droit an cele piece de terre.

right in that piece of ground

Et cele dit eneslepas:

And she says straightway

“Por De! ne me celez vos pas,

For God not to-me conceal you at-all

des que vos tant dit m'an avez,

since that you so-much said to-me-thereof have

se vos plus dire m'an savez!”

if you more to-say to-me-thereof know

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“Nenil,” font il, “nos n’an savons

No say they we not-thereof know

fors tant con dit vos an avons.

except so-much as said to-you thereof we-have

4955 Nos ne savons, que il devint.

We not know what he became

Se cele, por cui il ça vint,

If she for whom he here came

noveles ne vos an ansaingne,

news not to-you thereof gives

n’iert ci, qui plus vos an apraingne.

not-will-be here who more to-you thereof teach

Et se a li volez parler,

And if with her you-wish to-speak

4960 ne vos estuet pas loing aler;

not to-you it-behooves at-all far to-go

qu’ele est alee De proier

for-she is gone God to-pray

et messe oïr an cel mostier,

and mass to-bear in that minster

et s’i a ja tant demoré,

and therein has already so-much stayed

qu’assez i puet avoir oré.”

that-enough therein she-can to-have prayed

4965 Que que il parloient einsì,

While that they spoke thus

Lunete del mostier issi,

Lunete from-the minster issued

si li dient: “Veez la la!”

and to-her they-say See her there

Et cele ancontre li ala,

And she toward her went

si se sont antresalüees.

and themselves have greeted-each-other

Tantost a cele demandeas

At-once has she asked

les noveles, qu'ele queroit.

the news which-she sought

Et cele dit, qu'ele feroit

And she says that-she would-have

un suen palefroï anseler;

a of-bers palfrey to-be-saddled

car avuec li voldroit aler,

for with her she-would-wish to-go

si la manroit vers un pleissié

and her would-lead toward an enclosure

la, ou ele l'avoit leissié;

there where she him-had left

et cele de cuer l'an mercie.

and she from heart her-thereof thanks

Li palefroiz ne tarda mie:

The palfrey not tarried at-all

an li amainne et ele monte.

one to-her brings and she mounts

Lunete an chevauchant li conte,

Lunete in riding to-her relates

comant ele fu ancusee

how she was accused

et de traïson apelee,

and of treason charged

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et comant la rez fu esprise,

and how the pyre was kindled

ou ele devoit estre mise,

where she was-to be put

4985 et comant il li vint eidier,

and how he to-her came to-help

quant ele an ot plus grant mestier.

when she thereof had most great need

Einsi parlant la convea,

Thus speaking her she-escorted

tant qu'au droit chemin l'avea,

until that-to-the straight road her-she-guided

ou mes sire Yvains l'ot leissiee.

where my lord Yvain her-had left

4990 Quant jusque la l'ot convoiee,

When even there her-she-had escorted

si li dist: "Cest chemin tandroiz,

so to-her said This road you-will-bold

tant que an aucun leu vandroiz,

until that to some place you-will-come

ou novele vos an iert dite,

where news to-you thereof will-be told

se De plect et saint Esperite,

if to-God it-please and Holy Spirit

4995 plus voire, que je ne la sai.

more true than I — it know

Bien me sovient, que jel leissai

Well to-me it-remembers that I-bim left

ou pres de ci ou ci meïmes,

either near of here or here itself

ne puis ne nos antreveïmes,

nor since not ourselves we-saw-each-other

ne je ne sai, qu'il a puis fet;

nor I not know what-he has since done

que grant mestier eüst d'antret,

for great need he-had of-salve

quant il se departi de moi.

when he himself parted from me

Par ci après lui vos anvoi,

By here after him you I-send

et Des le vos doint trover sain,

and God him to-you grant to-find whole

se lui plest, ainz hui que demain!

if to-him it-please rather today than tomorrow

Ore alez! A De vos comant:

Now go To God you I-commend

que je ne vos siurai avant,

for I not you will-follow further

que ma dame a moi ne s'ireisse."

lest my lady with me — herself-anger

Maintenant l'une l'autre leisse:

Straightway the-one the-other leaves

cele retorne, et cele an va

she returns and she thence goes

sole, tant que ele trova

alone until that she found

la meison, ou mes sire Yvains

the house where my lord Yvain

ot esté tant que toz fu sains,

had been until that all was whole

5000

5005

5010

et vit devant la porte janz,

and saw before the gate folk

chevaliers, dames et serjanz

knights ladies and sergeants

5015 et le seignor de la meison,

and the lord of the house

ses salue et met a reison,

them greets and puts to question

s'il sevent, que il li apraingnent

if-they know that they to-her teach

noveles et qu'il li ansaingnent

news and that-they to-her point-out

un chevalier, que ele quiert.

a knight whom she seeks

5020 "Qui est?," font il — "Cil qui ja n'iert

Who is-he say they He who ever not-will-be

sanz un lion, ç'ai oï dire."

without a lion this-I-have heard to-say

"Par foi, pucele!," fet li sire,

By faith maiden says the lord

"il parti ore androit de nos.

he parted just now from us

Ancore ancui l'ateindroiz vos,

Still today him-will-overtake you

5025 se les esclos savez garder,

if the tracks you-know to-keep

mes gardez vos de trop tarder!"

but guard yourself from too-much to-delay

"Sire!," fet ele, "Des m'an gart!

Lord says she God me-thereof keep

Mes or me dites, de quel part

But now to-me tell of what side

je le siurai!" Et il li diënt:

I him shall-follow And they to-her say

"Par ci tot droit", et si li priënt,

5030

By here all straight and so to-her pray

qu'ele de par aus le salut.

that-she from by them him greet

Mes ce gueires ne lor valut;

But this much not to-them availed

qu'ele onques ne s'an antremist,

for-she ever not herself-theroof busied

mes lués es granz galos se mist:

but at-once into-the great gallops herself put

que l'anbleüre li sanbloit

5035

for the-amble to-her seemed

trop petite estre, et si anbloit

too little to-be and yet ambled

ses palefroiz de grant eslés.

her palfrey at great speed

Einsi galope par les tes

Thus she-gallops through the mires

con par la voie igal et plainne,

as through the way even and level

tant qu'ele voit celui, qui mainne

5040

until that-she sees him who leads

le lion an sa compaignie.

the lion in his company

Lors a joie et dit: "Des, aïe!

Then she-has joy and says God help

Or voi ce, que tant ai chacié,

Now I-see this which so-much I-have chased

mout l'ai bien seü et tracié.

much him-I-have well followed and tracked

5045 Mes se je chaz et rien ne praing,

But if I chase and anything not take

que me vaudra, se je l'ataing?

what to-me will-avail if I him-overtake

Po ou neant, voire, par foi!

Little or nothing truly by faith

Se je ne l'an main avuec moi,

If I not him-thence lead with me

donc ai je ma painne gastee."

then have I my pains wasted

5050 Einsi parlant s'est tant hastee,

Thus speaking herself-has so-much hastened

que toz ses palefroiz tressue,

that all her palfrey sweats-through

si l'ataint et si le salue.

and him-overtakes and so him greets

Et cil li respont aussi tost:

And he to-her answers just as-soon

"Des vos gart, bele! et si vos ost

God you keep fair-one and so from-you take

5055 de cusançon et de pesance!"

of anxiety and of sorrow

"Et vos, sire! ou j'ai esperance,

And you lord in-whom I-have hope

que bien m'an porriiez oster!"

that well me-thereof you-could to-take

Lors se va lez lui acoster

Then herself goes beside him to-draw

et dit: "Sire! mout vos ai quis.

and says Lord much you I-have sought

Li granz renons de vostre pris

The great renown of your worth

m'a mout fet après vos lasser

me-has much made after you to-weary

et mainte contree passer.

and many-a land to-cross

Tant vos ai quis, la De merci,

So-much you I-have sought the God's thanks

qu'a vos sui assanblee ci.

that-with you I-am joined here

Et se je nul mal i ai tret,

And if I any ill therein have endured

de rien nule ne m'an deshet

in thing any not me-thereof it-distresses

ne ne m'an plaing ne ne m'an manbre.

nor not me-thereof I-complain nor not to-me-thereof it-remembers

Tuit me sont alegié li manbre;

All to-me are lightened the limbs

que la dolors me fu anblee,

for the sorrow from-me was stolen

tantost qu'a vos fui assanblee;

as-soon that-with you I-was joined

si n'est pas la besaingne moie:

and not-is at-all the business mine

miaudre de moi a vos m'anvoie,

a-better than me to you me-sends

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plus jantils fame et plus vaillanz.

a-more noble woman and more valiant

Mes se ele est a vos faillanz,

But if she is in you failing

5075 donc l'a vostre renons traïe:

then her-has your renown betrayed

qu'ele n'atant d'aillors aïe.

for-she not-awaits from-elsewhere help

Par vos cuide ma dameisele

Through you thinks my damsel

tote desresnier sa querele,

wholly to-defend-at-law her quarrel

qu'une soe suer deserete;

that-a of-bers sister disinherits

5080 ne viaut, qu'autre s'an antremete.

not she-wishes that-another himself-thereof busy

Nus ne li puet feire cuidier,

Anyone not to-her can to-make to-think

que autre li poïst eidier.

that another to-her could to-help

L'amor a la deseritee

The-love of the disinherited-woman

avroiz conquise et achete

you-will-have won and purchased

5085 et creü vostre vasselage

and increased your valor

par desresnier son heritage!

by to-defend-at-law her heritage

Ele meïsme vos queroit

She herself you sought

por le bien, qu'an vos eseroit,

for the good which-in you she-hoped

ne ja autre n'i fust venue,

nor ever another not-there would-be come

se maus ne l'eüst detenue

if sickness not her-had detained

tes, que par force au lit la trest.

such that by force to-the bed her drew

Or me respondez, s'il vos plest,

Now to-me answer if-it you pleases

se vos venir i oseroiz

if you to-come thither will-dare

ou se vos an reposeroiz!"

or if you thereof will-rest

"Nenil", fet il; "de reposer

No says he of to-rest

ne se puet nus hon aloser,

not himself can any man to-win-praise

ne je ne reposeraï mie,

nor I not will-rest at-all

ainz vos siurai, ma douce amie!

rather you I-will-follow my sweet friend

Volantiers la, ou vos pleira.

Willingly there where to-you it-will-please

Et se de moi grant afeire a

And if of me great need has

cele, por cui vos me querez,

she for whom you me seek

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ja ne vos an desesperez,

ever not yourself thereof despair

que je tot mon pooir n'an face.

that I all my power not-thereof do

Or me doint Des eür et grace,

Now to-me grant God fortune and grace

5105 que je par sa buene aventure

that I through her good fortune

puisse desresnier sa droiture!"

may to-defend-at-law her right

The Castle of Ill Adventure

XXIV

The townsfolk shout at him not to lodge at the Castle of Ill Adventure, and a lady somewhat advanced in years explains that the custom forbids them to take in any worthy man from outside. He goes up anyway. Behind a paling of sharp stakes he finds as many as three hundred maidens weaving gold thread and silk in torn gowns, starved, and pale. They tell him their king bought his release from two devil's sons with a tribute of thirty maidens a year, and that tomorrow he must fight the two and lose his name.

Einsi antre aus deus chevauchierent

Thus between them two they-rode

parlant tant que il aprochierent

speaking until that they approached

le chastel de Pesme Avanture.

the castle of Worst Adventure

5110 De passer outre n'orent cure;

Of to-pass beyond not-they-bad care

que li jorz aloit declinant.

for the day went declining

Au chastel viennent cheminant,

To-the castle they-come journeying

et les janz, qui venir les voient,

and the folk who to-come them see

trestuit au chevalier disoient:

all to-the knight said

“Mal veigniez, sire, mal veigniez!

5115

Ill come lord ill come

Cist ostés vos fu anseigniez

This lodging to-you was pointed-out

por mal et por honte andurer.

for ill and for shame to-endure

Ce porroit uns abes jurer.”

This could an abbot to-swear

“Ha!” fet il, “janz fole et vilainne,

Ab says he folk foolish and base

janz de tote mauvestié plainne

5120

folk with all wickedness full

et qui a toz biens as failli,

and who in all good-things have failed

por quoi m’avez si assailli?”

for what me-you-have so assailed

“Por quoi? Vos le savroiz assez,

For what You it will-know enough

s’ancore un po avant passez!

if-still a little forward you-pass

- 5125 Mes ja nule rien n'an savroiz
But ever any thing not-thereof you-will-know
 jusque tant que esté avroiz
until so-much that been you-will-have
 lassus an cele forterescé.”
up-there in that fortress
 Tantost mes sire Yvains s'adresce
At-once my lord Yvain himself-directs
 vers la tor, et les janz s'escrient,
toward the tower and the folk cry-out
 5130 trestuit a haute voiz li dïent:
all with loud voice to-him say
 “Hu! hu! maleüreus, ou vas?
Hoo boo wretched-man where go-you
 S'onques an ta vie trovas,
If-ever in your life you-found
 qui te feïst honte ne let,
who to-you did shame nor injury
 la, ou tu vas, t'an iert tant fet,
there where you go to-you-thereof will-be so-much done
 5135 que ja par toi n'iert reconté.”
that ever by you not-will-be recounted
 “Janz sanz enor et sanz bonté,”
Folk without honor and without goodness
 fet mes sire Yvains, qui escoute,
says my lord Yvain who listens
 “Janz maleüreuse et estoute,
Folk wretched and insolent
 por quoi m'assaus, por quoi m'aquiaus?
for what me-you-assail for what me-you-attack

Que me demandes, que me viaus,
What from-me do-you-ask what from-me do-you-wish

5140

qui si après moi te degroces?"
who so after me yourself you-growl

"Amis! de neant te corroces,"
Friend at nothing yourself you-anger

fist une dame auques d'aage,
said a lady somewhat of-age

qui mout estoit cortoise et sage,
who very was courteous and wise

"Que, certes, por mal ne te dïent
For certainly for ill not to-you they-say

5145

nule chose, einçois te chastïent,
any thing rather you they-warn

se tu le savoies antandre,
if you it knew to-understand

que lassus n'ailles ostel prandre,
that up-there not-you-go lodging to-take

ne le porquoi dire ne t'osent;
nor the wherefore to-say not to-you-they-dare

mes il te chastïent et chosent
but they you warn and chide

5150

por ce, que esmaïier te vuelent.
for this that to-dismay you they-wish

Et par costume feïre suelent
And by custom to-do they-are-wont

autel a toz les sorvenanz
the-same to all the newcomers

por ce, que il n'ailent leanz.
for this that they not-go there-within

- 5155 Et la costume si est tes,
And the custom so is such
 que nos n'osons an noz ostés
that we not-dare in our lodgings
 herbergier por rien, qui avaingne,
to-lodge for anything that happen
 nul prodome, qui de fors vaingne.
any worthy-man who from outside come
 Ore est sor toi del soreplus:
Now it-is upon you of-the remainder
- 5160 la voie ne te deffant nus.
the way not to-you forbids anyone
 Se tu viaus, lassus monteras,
If you wish up-there you-will-climb
 mes par mon los retourneras.”
but by my counsel you-will-turn-back
 “Dame!”, fet il, “se je creioie
Lady says he if I believed
 vostre consoil, je cuideroie,
your counsel I should-think
- 5165 que j'i eüsse enor et preu;
that I-therein had honor and profit
 mes je ne savroie, an quel leu
but I not should-know in what place
 je trovasse ostel anuit mes.”
I might-find lodging tonight more
 “Par foi!”, fet ele, “et je m'an tes:
By faith says she and I myself-thereof keep-silent
 qu'a moi riens nule n'an afert.
for-to me thing any not-thereof belongs

Alez, quel part que buen vos iert!

5170

Go what way that good to-you will-be

Et neporquant grant joie avroie,

And nevertheless great joy I-should-have

se je de leanz vos veoie

if I from there-within you saw

sanz trop grant honte revenir;

without too great shame to-come-back

mes ce ne porroit avenir.”

but this not could to-happen

“Dame!”, fet il, “Des le vos mire!

5175

Lady says he God it to-you requite

Mes mes fos cuers leanz me tire,

But my mad heart there-within me draws

si ferai ce, que mes cuers viaut.”

so I-will-do this which my heart wishes

Tantost vers la porte s'aquiaut

At-once toward the gate himself-betakes

et ses lions et sa pucele.

and his lion and his maiden

Et li portiers a lui l'apele,

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And the porter to him him-calls

si li dist: “Venez tost, venez!

and to-him said Come quickly come

An tel leu estes arivez,

In such a-place you-are arrived

ou vos seroiz bien retenuz,

where you will-be well detained

et mal i soiez vos venuz!”

and ill therein be you come

- 5185 Einsî li portiers le semont
 Thus the porter him summons
 et haste de venir amont,
 and hastens to to-come up
 mes mout li fet leide semonse.
 but very to-him makes an-ugly summons
 Et mes sire Yvains sanz response
 And my lord Yvain without answer
 par devant lui s'an passe et trueve
 by before him himself-thence passes and finds
 5190 une grant sale haute et nueve,
 a great hall high and new
 s'avoit devant un prael clos
 and-had before a meadow enclosed
 de pes aguz, reonz et gros,
 with stakes sharp round and thick
 et par antre les pes leanz
 and by between the stakes there-within
 vit puceles jusqu'a trois çanz,
 be-saw maidens up-to three hundred
 5195 qui diverses oeuvres feisoient.
 who diverse works made
 De fil d'or et de soie ovroient
 With thread of-gold and of silk they-worked
 chascune au miauz qu'ele savoit.
 each at-the best that-she knew
 Mes tel povreté i avoit,
 But such poverty therein was

que desliiees et desçaintes

that unbound and ungirt

an i ot de povreté maintes,

thereof therein were from poverty many

et as memeles et as cotes

both at-the breasts and at-the elbows

estoient lor cotes derotes

were their tunics torn

et les chemises as cos sales.

and the shifts at-the necks dirty

Les cos gresles et les vis pales

The necks thin and the faces pale

de fain et de meseise avoient.

from hunger and from want they-bad

Il les voit, et eles le voient,

He them sees and they him see

si s'anbrunchent totes et plorent

and themselves-bow all and weep

et une grant piece demorent,

and a great while they-remain

qu'eles n'antandent a rien feire,

that-they not-attend to anything to-do

ne lor iauz ne pueent retereire

nor their eyes not can to-draw-back

de terre, tant sont acorees.

from ground so-much they-are heartsick

Quant un po les ot regardees

When a little them be-had beheld

mes sire Yvains, si se trestorne,

my lord Yvain so himself turns-about

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droit vers la porte s'an retorne,

straight toward the gate himself-thence returns

5215 et li portiers contre lui saut,

and the porter against him leaps

si li escrie; "Ne vos vaut;

and to-him cries Not to-you it-avails

que vos n'an istroiz or, biaux mestre!

for you not-thence will-go-out now fair master

Vos voldriez or la fors estre,

You would-wish now there outside to-be

mes, par mon chief! riens ne vos monte;

but by my head anything not to-you avails

5220 ainz avroiz eü tant de honte,

rather you-will-have had so-much of shame

que plus n'an porriiez avoir;

that more not-thereof you-could to-have

si n'avez mie fet savoir,

and not-you-have at-all done wisely

quant vos estes venuz ceanz;

when you are come here-within

que del rissir est il neanz."

for of-the going-out is it nothing

5225 "Ne je ne quier", fet il, "biaus frere!

Nor I not seek says he fair brother

Mes di moi, par l'ame ton pere!

But tell me by the-soul of-your father

Dameiseles, que j'ai veües

The-damsels whom I-have seen

an cest prael, don sont venues,

in this meadow whence are-they come

qui dras de soie et orfrois tissent?

who cloths of silk and gold-embroidery weave

Oevres font, qui mout m'abelissent;

Works they-make which much me-please

mes ce me desabelist mout,

but this me displeases much

qu'eles sont de cors et de vout

that-they are of body and of face

megres et pales et dolantes;

lean and pale and sorrowing

si m'est avis, beles et jantes

and to-me-is opinion fair and comely

fussent mout, se eles eüssent

they-would-be much if they had

ités choses, qui lor pleüssent."

such things which to-them pleased

"Gié", fet il, "nel vos dirai mie.

I says he not-it to-you will-say at-all

Querez autrui, qui le vos die!"

Seek another who it to-you tell

"Si ferai je, quant miauz ne puis."

So will-do I since better not I-can

Lors quiert tant que il trueve l'uis

Then he-seeks so-long that he finds the-door

del prael, ou les dameiseles

of-the meadow where the damsels

ovroient, et vint devant eles,

worked and came before them

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si les salue ansamble totes

and them greets together all

et si lor voit cheoir les gotes

and so from-them sees to-fall the drops

5245 des lermes, qui lor decoroient

of-the tears which from-them ran-down

des iauz, si come eles ploroient.

from-the eyes just as they wept

Et il lor dit: "Des, s'il li plest,

And he to-them says God if-it to-him pleases

cest duel, qui ne sai don vos nest,

this grief which not I-know whence to-you is-born

vos ost del cuer et tort a joie!"

from-you take from-the heart and turn to joy

5250 L'une respont: "Des vos an oie,

The-one answers God you thereof hear

que vos an avez apelé!

whom you thereof have called

Il ne vos iert mie celé,

It not to-you will-be at-all concealed

qui nos somes et de quel terre.

who we are and of what land

Espoir ce volez vos anquerre."

Perhaps this wish you to-inquire

5255 "Por el", fet il, "ne ving je ça."

For else says he not came I here

"Sire! il avint mout grant pieç'a,

Lord it happened very great a-while-ago

que li rois de l'Isle as Puceles

that the king of the-Isle of-the Maidens

aloit por aprendre noveles

went to to-learn news

par les corz et par les païs,

through the courts and through the lands

s'ala tant come fos naïs,

and-went so-far as a-fool born

qu'il s'anbati an cest peril.

that-he himself-thrust into this peril

An mal eür i venist il!

In ill fortune thither came he

Que nos cheitives, qui ci somes,

For we captives who here are

la honte et le mal an avomes,

the shame and the ill thereof we-have

qui onques ne le desservimes.

who ever not it deserved

Et sachiez bien, que vos meïmes

And know well that you yourself

i poez mout grant honte atandre,

therein can very great shame to-await

se reançon n'an viaut an prendre!

if a-ransom not-thereof wishes one to-take

Mes tote voie ainsi avint,

But all the-same thus it-happened

que mes sire an cest chastel vint,

that my lord into this castle came

ou il a deus fiz de deable,

where there are two sons of a-devil

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si nel tenez vos mie a fable!

and not-it bold you at-all for a-fable

Que de fame et de netun furent.

For of a-woman and of a-demon they-were

Icil dui conbatre se durent

These two to-fight themselves had-to

5275 au roi, don dolors fu mout granz;

with-the king whereof the-grief was very great

qu'il n'avoit pas dis et huit anz;

for-he not-had at-all ten and eight years

si le poïssent tot porfandre

and him they-could all to-cleave

aussi come un aignelet tandre.

just as a little-lamb tender

Et li rois, qui grant peor ot,

And the king who great fear had

5280 s'an delivra au miauz qu'il pot,

himself-thereof freed at-the best that-he could

si jura, qu'il anvoieroit

and swore that-he would-send

chascun an, tant con droiz seroit,

each year so-long as right would-be

ceanz de ses puceles trante,

here-within of his maidens thirty

si fu quites par ceste rante.

and was quit by this rent

5285 Et devisé fu au jurer,

And appointed it-was at-the swearing

que cist treüz devoit durer,

that this tribute had-to to-last

tant con li dui maufé durroient.

so-long as the two fiends should-last

Et a cel jor, que il seroient

And on that day when they should-be

conquis et veincu an bataille,

conquered and vanquished in battle

quites seroit de ceste taille,

quit he-would-be of this tax

et nos seriens delivrees,

and we should-be delivered

qui a honte somes livrees

who to shame are delivered

et a dolor et a meseise.

and to sorrow and to want

Ja mes n'avrons rien, qui nos pleise.

Ever more not-we-shall-have anything which us please

Mes mout dis ore grant anface,

But very I-said now great childishness

qui parlai de la delivrance;

who spoke of the deliverance

que ja mes de ceanz n'istrans.

for ever more from here-within not-we-shall-go-out

Toz jorz mes de soie overrons,

All days more of silk we-shall-work

ne ja n'an serons miauz vestues.

nor ever not-thereof we-shall-be better clothed

Toz jorz serons povres et nues

All days we-shall-be poor and naked

et toz jorz fain et soif avrons:

and all days hunger and thirst we-shall-have

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ja tant gaeignier ne savrons,
ever so-much to-earn not we-shall-know-how

que miauz an aïens a mangier.
that better thereof we-have to eat

Del pain avons a grant dangier,
Of-the bread we-have at great stint

5305 petit au main et au soir mains;
little at-the morning and at-the evening less

que ja de l'uevre de noz mains
for ever from the-work of our hands

n'avra chascune por son vivre
not-will-have each for her living

que quatre deniers de la livre.
but four deniers of the pound

Et de ce ne poons nos pas
And with this not can we at-all

5310 assez avoir viande et dras:
enough to-have food and clothes

car, qui gaaigne la semaine
for whoever earns the week

vint souz, n'est mie fors de painne.
twenty sous not-is at-all out of trouble

Et bien sachiez vos a estros,
And well know you for certain

que il n'i a celi de nos,
that there not-there is one of us

5315 qui ne gaaint vint souz ou plus.
who not earns twenty sous or more

De ce seroit riches uns dus!
Of this would-be rich a duke

Et nos somes an grant poverte,

And we are in great poverty

s'est riches de nostre desserte

and-is rich from our earning

cil, por cui nos nos travaillons.

he for whom we ourselves labor

Des nuiz grant partie veillons

Of-the nights a-great part we-watch

et toz les jorz por gaeignier;

and all the days to to-earn

qu'an nos menace a maheignier

for-one us threatens to to-maim

des manbres, quant nos reposons,

of-the limbs when we rest

et por ce reposer n'osons.

and for this to-rest not-we-dare

Mes que vos iroie contant?

But what to-you should-I-go telling

De mal et de honte avons tant,

Of ill and of shame we-have so-much

que le quint ne vos an sai dire.

that the fifth not to-you thereof I-know-how to-say

Mes ce nos fet esragier d'ire,

But this us makes to-go-mad with-wrath

que mout sovant morir veomes

that very often to-die we-see

chevaliers riches et prodomes,

knight rich and worthy-men

qui as deus maufez se combatent.

who with-the two fiends themselves fight

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L'ostel mout chieremant achatent,

The-lodging very dearly they-buy

aussi con vos feroiz demain;

just as you will-do tomorrow

que trestot seul de vostre main

for all alone with your hand

5335 vos covandra, voilliez ou non,

to-you it-will-behoove wish-you or not

conbatre et perdre vostre non

to-fight and to-lose your name

ancontre les deus vis deables.”

against the two living devils

“Et Des, li voirs esperitables,”

And God the true spiritual-one

fet mes sire Yvains, “m'an deffande

says my lord Yvain me-thereof defend

5340 et vos enor et joie rande,

and to-you honor and joy render

se il a volanté li vient!

if it to will to-him comes

Des or mes aler m'an covient

From now more to-go to-me-thence it-behooves

veoir les janz, qui leanz sont,

to-see the folk who there-within are

savoir, quel chiere il me feront.”

to-know what countenance they to-me will-make

5345 “Ore alez, sire! Cil vos gart,

Now go lord He you keep

qui toz les biens done et depart!”

who all the good-things gives and distributes

The Host and His Daughter

XXV

Past the hall he comes into a garden where a worthy man lies on silk while his daughter reads him a romance, her mother leaning near. She is not yet seventeen, and the poet says the God of Love, if he saw her, would leave his godhead and become a man to serve her. Everyone in the garden leaps up to welcome Yvain — sincerely or not, the poet does not know — and the girl herself unarms him, washes his neck and face, and sews the sleeves of a fresh shirt on him. So many dishes are served that the carrying could weary the serving-men.

Lors va tant qu'il vient an la sale,

Then he-goes so-far that-he comes into the hall

n'i trueve jant buene ne male,

not-there finds folk good nor bad

qui de rien le mete a reison.

who about anything him put to speech

Tant trespasent de la meison,

So-much they-pass-through of the house

que il vindrent an un vergier.

that they came into a garden

Ains de lor chevaus herbergier

Ever of their horses to-stable

ne tindrent plet ne ne parlerent.

not they-held talk nor not spoke

Cui chaut? que bien les establerent

Who cares for well them stabled

cil, qui les cuidierent avoir.

those who them thought to-have

Ne sai, s'il cuidoient savoir;

Not I-know if-they thought to-know

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qu'ancore ont il seignor tot sain.

that-still have they lord all whole

Li cheval ont avainne et fain

The horses have oats and hay

et la litiere jusqu'au vantre.

and the litter up-to-the belly

5360 Mes sire Yvains el vergier antre

My lord Yvain into-the garden enters

et après lui tote sa rote.

and after him all his company

Apoiïé voit dessor son cote

Leaning he-sees upon his elbow

un prodome, qui se gisoit

a worthy-man who himself lay

sor un drap de soie, et lisoit

on a cloth of silk and read

5365 une pucele devant lui

a maiden before him

an un romanz, ne sai de cui.

in a romance not I-know of whom

Et por le romanz escouter

And for the romance to-listen-to

s'i estoit venue acoter

herself-therein was come to-lean

une dame, et c'estoit sa mere,

a lady and this-was her mother

5370 et li prodon estoit ses pere,

and the worthy-man was her father

si se pooient esjoïr

and themselves could to-rejoice

mout de li veoir et oïr;

much of her to-see and to-hear

car il n'avoient plus d'anfanz;

for they not-had more of-children

ne n'avoit pas dis et set anz,

nor not-she-had at-all ten and seven years

et s'estoit si bele et si jante,

and and-was so fair and so comely

qu'an li servir meist s'antante

that-in her to-serve would-put his-attention

li Des d'Amors, s'il la veïst,

the God of-Love if-he her saw

ne ja amer ne la feïst

nor ever to-love not her would-make

autrui se lui meïsme non.

another except him himself not

Por li servir devenist hon,

For her to-serve he-would-become a-man

s'issist de sa deïté fors

and-would-issue from his godhead out

et ferist lui meïsme el cors

and would-strike him himself in-the body

del dart, don la plaie ne sainne,

with-the dart whereof the wound not heals

se desleaus mires n'i painne.

if a-disloyal physician not-therein labors

N'est droiz, que nus garir an puisse,

Not-is right that anyone to-heal thereof may

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tant que desleauté i truisse.

until that disloyalty therein be-find

Et qui an garist autrement,

And whoever thereof heals otherwise

il n'aimme mie leaumant.

he not-loves at-all loyally

De ceste plaie vos deïsse,

Of this wound to-you I-would-say

5390 tant que hui mes fin ne preïsse,

so-much that today more an-end not I-should-take

se li escouters vos pleüst;

if the listening to-you it-pleased

mes tost deïst tel i eüst,

but soon would-say such-a-one there would-be

que je vos parlasse d'oiseuse;

that I to-you spoke of-idleness

car la janz n'est mes amoreuse,

for the folk not-is more amorous

5395 ne n'aimment mes, si come il suelent;

nor not-they-love more so as they are-wont

que nes oïr parler n'an vuelent.

for not-even to-hear to-speak not-thereof they-wish

Mes ore oëz, an quel meniere,

But now hear in what manner

a quel sanblant et a quel chiere

with what semblance and with what countenance

mes sire Yvains fu herbergiez!

my lord Yvain was lodged

Contre lui saillirent an piez

5400

Toward him leaped to feet

tuit cil, qui el vergier estoient.

all those who in-the garden were

Tot maintenant que il le voient,

All straightway that they him see

si li dient: "Or ça, biaux sire!

and to-him say Now here fair lord

De quanque Des puet feire et dire,

Of whatever God can to-do and to-say

soïiez vos beneoiz clamez

5405

be you blessed called

et vos et quanque vos amez!"

both you and whatever you love

Je ne sai, se il le deçoivent,

I not know if they him deceive

mes a grant joie le reçoivent

but with great joy him they-receive

et font sanblant, que il lor pleise,

and make semblance that it to-them please

que herbergiez soit a grant eise.

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that lodged he-be with great ease

Meïsmes la fille au seignor

Even the daughter of-the lord

le sert et porte grant enor,

him serves and bears great honor

con l'an doit feire son buen oste:

as one must to-do to-one's good guest

trestotes ses armes li oste,

all his arms from-him takes

- 5415 et ce ne fu mie del mains,
and this not was at-all of-the least
 qu'ele meïsmes de ses mains
that-she herself with her hands
 li leve le col et la face.
for-him washes the neck and the face
 Tote enor viaut, que l'an li face
All honor wishes that one to-him do
 li sire, si come ele fet.
the lord just as she does
- 5420 Chemise ridee li tret
A-shift pleated for-him draws
 fors de son cofre et braies blanches
out of her coffer and breeches white
 et fil et aiguille a ses manches,
and thread and needle for his sleeves
 si li vest et ses braz li cost.
and-so on-him puts and on-his arms to-him sews
 Or doint Des, que trop ne li cost
Now grant God that too-much not to-him cost
- 5425 ceste losange et cist servise!
this flattery and this service
 A vestir dessor sa chemise
To wear over his shift
 li a baillié un buen sorcot,
to-him has given a good surcoat
 et un mantel sanz harigot,
and a mantle without a-tatter
 ver, d'escarlade, au col li met.
of-miniver of-scarlet at-the neck to-him puts

De lui servir tant s'antremet,

5430

Of him to-serve so-much herself-busies

qu'il an a honte et si l'an poise;

that-he thereof has shame and so him-thereof it-weighs

mes la pucele est tant cortoise

but the maiden is so courteous

et tant franche et tant de bon' eire,

and so generous and so of good breeding

qu'ancore an cuide ele po feire.

that-still thereof thinks she little to-do

Et bien set, qu'a sa mere plect,

5435

And well knows that-to her mother it-pleases

que rien a feire ne li lest,

that anything to do not to-him she-leave

dont ele le cuit losangier.

whereby she him thinks to-flatter

La nuit fu serviz au mangier

The night he-was served at-the eating

de tanz mes, que trop an i ot.

with so-many disbes that too-many thereof there were

Li aporters enuier pot

5440

The bringing to-weary could

as serjanz, qui des mes servirent.

to-the servants who of-the disbes served

La nuit totes enors li firent

The night all honors to-him they-did

et mout a eise le couchierent,

and much at ease him they-put-to-bed

n'onques puis a lui n'aprochierent,

and-never after to him not-they-approached

- 5445 que il fu an son lit couchiez;
when he was in his bed laid
 et ses lions jut a ses piez
and his lion lay at his feet
 si come il ot acostumé.
just as he had been-accustomed
 Au main, quant Des ot alumé
At-the morning when God had lighted
 par le monde son lumineire,
through the world his luminary
 5450 si matin, come il le pot feire,
as early as he it could to-do
 qui tot fet par devisement,
who all does by ordinance
 se leva mout isnelemant
himself rose very swiftly
 mes sire Yvains et sa pucele,
my lord Yvain and his maiden
 s'oïrent a une chapele
and-they-heard at a chapel
 5455 messe, qui mout tost lor fu dite
mass which very quickly for-them was said
 an l'enor del saint Esperite.
in the-honor of-the Holy Spirit

The Two Sons of the Netun

XXVI

After mass the lord tells him he may not go. The castle's custom is a battle against two, and whoever conquers them wins the daughter, the castle, and all the land. Yvain refuses the marriage and takes the battle. The champions make him pen the lion; their horned clubs dent his helm and shatter his shield like ice, until the lion scratches through the rotten threshold and drags one down. Yvain shears the head from the other, then takes the surrender of the one the lion holds. He asks only the captives' freedom, and the lord angrily releases him from every covenant.

Mes sire Yvains après la messe

My lord Yvain after the mass

oï novele felenesse,

heard news cruel

quant il cuida, qu'il s'an deüst

when he thought that-he himself-thence must

aler, que riens ne li neüst;

to-go that anything not to-him should-harm

mes ne pot mie estre a son chois.

but not it-could at-all to-be at his choice

Quant il dist: "Sire! je m'an vois,

When he said Lord I myself-thence go

s'il vos plect, a vostre congié",

if-it you pleases by your leave

"amis! ancor nel vos doing gié",

friend yet not-it to-you give I

fet li sire de la meison;

says the lord of the house

"Je nel puis feire par reison;

I not-it can to-do by reason

5460

5465

qu'an cest chastel a estableie

for-in this castle is established

une mout fiere deableie,

a very fierce devilry

que il me covient maintenir.

which it to-me behooves to-maintain

5470 Je vos ferai ja ci venir

I to-you will-make now here to-come

deus miens serjanz mout granz et forz:

two of-mine sergeants very great and strong

ancontre aus deus, soit droiz ou torz,

against them two be-it right or wrong

vos covandra voz armes prandre.

to-you it-will-behoove your arms to-take

S'ancontre aus vos poez deffandre

If-against them yourself you-can to-defend

5475 et aus andeus vaintre et ocirre,

and them both to-vanquish and to-kill

ma fille a seignor vos desirre

my daughter as lord you desires

et de cest chastel vos atant

and of this castle you awaits

l'enors et quanqu'il i apant".

the-honor and whatever-there therein belongs

"Sire!" fet il, "je n'an quier point.

Lord says he I not-thereof seek a-while

5480 Ja Des ainsi ne la me doint,

Ever God thus not her to-me grant

et vostre fille vos remaingne,

and your daughter to-you remain

ou l'anperere d'Alemaingne

in-whom the-emperor of-Germany

seroit bien saus, s'il l'avoit prise,

would-be well blessed if-be her-bad taken

qui mout est bele et bien aprise!"

who very is fair and well taught

"Teisiez, biaux osten!" dit li sire,

Be-silent fair guest says the lord

"de neant vos oi escondire;

of nothing you I-hear to-refuse

que vos n'an poez eschaper.

for you not-thereof can to-escape

Mon chastel et ma fille a per

My castle and my daughter as mate

doit avoir et tote ma terre,

must to-have and all my land

qui les porra andeus conquerre,

whoever them will-be-able both to-conquer

qui ja vos vandront assaillir.

who now you will-come to-assail

La bataille ne puet faillir

The battle not can to-fail

ne remenoir an nule guise.

nor to-be-left-off in any wise

Mes je sai bien, que coardise

But I know well that cowardice

vos fet ma fille refuser;

you makes my daughter to-refuse

5485

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5495

qu'einsi vos cuidiez reüser

that-thus yourself you-think to-shirk

outreemant de la bataille.

utterly from the battle

Mes ce sachiez vos bien sanz faille,

But this know you well without fail

que conbatre vos i estuet!

that to-fight you therein it-behooves

5500 Por rien eschaper ne s'an puet

For anything to-escape not himself-thence can

nus chevaliers, qui ceanz gise.

any knight who here-within lies

Ce est costume et rante assise,

This is custom and rent settled

qui trop avra longue duree:

which too will-have long duration

que ma fille n'iert mariee,

for my daughter not-will-be married

5505 tant que morz ou conquis les voie."

until that dead or conquered them I-see

"Donc m'i covient il tote voie

Then to-me-therein behooves it all the-same

conbatre maleoit gre mien;

to-fight cursed will mine

mes je m'an sofrisse mout bien

but I myself-thereof would-forbear very well

et volantiers, ce vos otroi.

and willingly this to-you I-grant

5510 La bataille, ce poise moi,

The battle this grieves me

ferai, quant ne puet remenoir.”

I-will-do when not it-can to-be-left-off

A tant vienent hideus et noir

At that come hideous and black

anbedui li fil au netun,

both the sons of-the demon

et n'an i a nul, qui n'et un

and not-thereof therein is any who not-has a

baston cornu de corneillier,

club horned of cornel-wood

qu'il orent fet apareillier

whicb-they had had prepared

de cuivre et puis liier d'archal.

with copper and then bound with-brass

Des les espaules contre val

From the shoudlers toward below

furent armé jusqu'as genouz,

they-were armed down-to-the knees

mes les chiés orent et les vouz

but the heads they-had and the faces

desarmez et les james nues,

unarmed and the legs bare

qui n'estoient mie menues.

whicb not-were at-all slender

Et einsi armé, come il vindrent,

And thus armed as they came

escuz reonz sor lor chiés tindrent,

shields round over their heads they-held

forz et legiers por escremir.

strong and light for to-fence

5515

5520

5525

Li lions comance a fremir

The lion begins to to-tremble

tot maintenant, que il les voit;

all straightway that it them sees

qu'il set mout bien et aparçoit,

for-it knows very well and perceives

que a cez armes, que il tiennent,

that with these arms which they hold

5530 combatre a son signor se viennent;

to-fight with its lord themselves they-come

si se herice et creste ansamble,

and itself bristles and crests together

de hardemant et d'ire tranble

with boldness and with-wrath trembles

et bat la terre de sa coe

and beats the earth with its tail

et s'a talant, que il rescoe

and so-has desire that it rescue

5535 son signor, ainz que il l'ocient.

its lord before that they him-kill

Et quant cil le voient, si d'ient:

And when they it see so say

"Vassaus! ostez de ceste place

Vassal remove from this place

vostre lion, qui nos menace!

your lion which us threatens

Ou vos vos clamez recreant,

Either you yourself declare recreant

5540 ou autremant, ce vos creant,

or otherwise this to-you I-warrant

le vos covient an tel leu metre,

it to-you behooves in such a-place to-put

que il ne se puisse antremetre

that it not itself may to-busy

de vos eidier ne de nos nuire.

with you to-help nor with us to-harm

Seus vos venez o nos deduire!

Alone you come with us to-sport

Que li lions vos eideroit

5545

For the lion you would-help

mout volantiers, se il pooit.”

very willingly if it could

“Vos meïсме, qui le dotez,”

You yourselves who it fear

fet mes sire Yvains, “l’an ostez!

says my lord Yvain it-thence remove

Que mout me plect et mout me siet,

For much to-me it-pleases and much to-me it-suits

s’il onques puet, que il vos griet,

5550

if-it ever can that it you harm

et mout m’iert bel, se il m’aïe.”

and much to-me-will-be fair if it me-help

“Par foi!” font il, “ce n’i a mie;

By faith say they this not-therein is at-all

que ja aïe n’i avroiz.

for ever help not-therein you-will-have

Feites au miauz que vos porroiz

Do at-the best that you will-be-able

toz seus sanz aïe d’autrui!

5555

all alone without help of-another

Seus i devez estre et nos dui.

Alone therein you-must to-be and we two

Se li lions iere avuec vos,

If the lion were with you

por ce, qu'il se meslast a nos,

for this that-it itself engaged with us

donc ne seriiez vos pas seus,

then not would-be you at-all alone

5560 dui seriiez contre nos deus;

two you-would-be against us two

si vos covient, ce vos afi,

so to-you it-behooves this to-you I-affirm

vostre lion oster de ci,

your lion to-remove from here

mes que bien vos poist, ore androit."

though that much to-you it-grieve now at-this-moment

"Ou volez vos", fet il, "qu'il soit?

Where wish you says he that-it be

5565 Ou volez vos, que je le mete?"

Where wish you that I it put

Lors li mostrent une chanbrete,

Then to-him they-show a little-chamber

si dient: "Leanz l'ancloez!"

and say There-within it-enclose

"Fet iert, des que vos le volez."

Done it-will-be since that you it wish

Lors l'i mainne et si l'i anserre.

Then it-thither he-leads and so it-therein shuts

Et an li va maintenant querre

5570

And one for-him goes straightway to-fetch

ses armes por armer son cors,

his arms to to-arm his body

et son cheval li ont tret fors,

and his horse for-him they-have drawn out

si li baillent, et il i monte.

and to-him they-give and he thereon mounts

Por lui leidir et feire honte

To him to-injure and to-do shame

li passent li dui champion;

5575

at-him charge the two champions

qu'asseüre sont del lion,

for-assured they-are of-the lion

qui est dedanz la chanbre anclos.

which is within the chamber shut

Des maces li donent granz cos,

With-the maces to-him they-give great blows

que petit d'aïe li fet

so-that little of-help to-him makes

escuz ne hiaumes, que il et;

5580

shield nor helmet which he has

car, quant sor le hiaume l'ataignent,

for when upon the helmet him-they-reach

trestot li anbuignent et fraingnent,

all to-him they-dent and break

et li escuz pecçoie et font

and the shield splinters and melts

come glace; tes tros i font,

as ice such holes therein they-make

5585 que ses poinz i puet an boter.

that his fist therein can one to-thrust

Mout font andui a redoter.

Much are they-both to to-be-feared

Et il, que fet des deus maufez?

And he what does with-the two fiends

De honte et de crieme eschaufez

With shame and with dread heated

se deffant de tote sa force.

himself he-defends with all his strength

5590 Mout s'esvertue et mout s'esforce

Much himself-exerts and much himself-strains

de doner granz cos et pesanz.

to to-give great blows and heavy

Ne faillent pas a ses presanz;

Not they-fail at-all of his gifts

qu'il lor rant lor bonté a doble.

for-he to-them renders their kindness at double

Ore a le cuer dolant et troble

Now has the heart sorrowing and troubled

5595 li lions, qui est an la chanbre;

the lion which is in the chamber

que de la grant bonté li manbre,

for of the great kindness to-it it-remembers

que cil li fist par sa franchise,

which he to-it did through his generosity

qui ja avroit de son servise

who now would-have of its service

et de s'aïe grant mestier.

and of its-help great need

Ja li randroit au grant sestier

5600

Surely to-him it-would-render at-the great measure

et au grant mui ceste bonté,

and at-the great busbel this kindness

ja n'i avroit rien mesconté,

ever not-therein would-be anything miscounted

s'il pooit issir de leanz.

if-it could to-go-out from there-within

Mout va regardant de toz sanz,

Much it-goes looking on all sides

ne ne voit, par ou il s'an aille.

5605

nor not sees by where it itself-thence go

Bien ot les cos de la bataille,

Well it-bears the blows of the battle

qui perilleuse est et vilainne,

which perilous is and foul

et por ce si grant duel demainne,

and for this so great grief it-displays

qu'il esrage vis et forsane.

that-it rages alive and goes-mad

Tant va reverchant, qu'il assane

5610

So-much it-goes searching that-it bits

au suel, qui porrissoit pres terre,

on-the threshold which rotted near ground

s'i grate tant qu'il s'i anserre

and-therein scratches so-long that-it therein squeezes

et fiche jusque pres des rains.

and thrusts up-to near to-the loins

Et ja estoit mes sire Yvains

And already was my lord Yvain

5615 mout traveilliez et mout suanz;

much wearied and much sweating

que mout trovoit les deus truanz

for very he-found the two rogues

forz et felons et adurez.

strong and cruel and hardened

Mout i avoit cos andurez

Many therein he-had blows endured

et randuz tant come il plus pot,

and returned as-much as he most could

5620 ne de rien grevez ne les ot;

nor in anything harmed not them he-had

que trop savoient d'escremie,

for too-much they-knew of-fencing

et lor escu n'estoient mie

and their shields not-were at-all

tel, que rien an ostast espee,

such that anything thereof took-off a-sword

tant fust tranchanz et aceree.

however-much it-were sharp and steeled

5625 Et por ce se pooit mout fort

And for this himself could very strongly

mes sire Yvains doter de mort;

my lord Yvain to-fear of death

mes adés tant se contretint,

but always so-much himself he-held-out

que li lions outre s'an vint,

that the lion through itself-thence came

tant ot dessoz le suel graté.

so-much it-had beneath the threshold scratched

S'or ne sont li felon maté,

If-now not are the wretches beaten

donc ne le seront il ja mes;

then not it will-be they ever more

car au lion triues ne pes

for from-the lion truce nor peace

n'avront il tant con vis les sache.

not-will-have they so-long as alive them it-know

L'un an aert et si le sache

The-one thereof it-seizes and so it drags

par terre aussi come un ploton.

along ground just as a ball-of-thread

Or sont esfreé li gloton,

Now are affrighted the scoundrels

si n'a home an tote la place,

and not-there-is a-man in all the place

qui an son cuer joie n'an face:

who in his heart joy not-thereof makes

que cil ne relevera ja,

for he not will-rise-again ever

que li lions aterré a,

whom the lion felled has

se li autre ne l'i secort.

if the other not him-therein succors

Por lui eidier cele part cort

To him to-help that way he-runs

et por lui meïsme deffandre;

and to him himself to-defend

5630

5635

5640

qu'a lui s'alast li lions prandre,

lest-at him himself-went the lion to-take

5645 lués qu'il avroit celui ocis,

as-soon-as that-it would-have him slain

que il avoit par terre mis;

whom it had on ground put

et si ravoit plus grant peor

and so he-had-also more great fear

del lion, que de son seignor.

of-the lion than of his lord

Mes ore iert mes sire Yvains fos,

But now will-be my lord Yvain a-fool

5650 des qu'il li a torné le dos,

since that-he to-him has turned the back

et voit le col nu a delivre,

and sees the neck bare at liberty

se longuemant le leisse vivre;

if long him he-lets to-live

car mout l'an est bien avenu.

for much to-him-thereof is well happened

La teste nue et le col nu

The head bare and the neck bare

5655 li a li gloz abandoné,

to-him has the scoundrel abandoned

et il li a tel cop doné,

and he to-him has such a-blow given

que la teste del bu li ret

that the head from-the trunk from-him shears

si soavet, que mot n'an set.

so softly that a-word not-thereof he-knows

Et maintenant a terre vient

And straightway to ground comes

por l'autre, que li lions tient,

for the-other whom the lion holds

que rescorre et tolir li viaut.

whom to-rescue and to-take from-it he-wishes

Mes por neant; que tant se diaut,

But for nothing for so-much himself he-suffers

que mire a tans ja n'i avra;

that a-physician in time ever not-therein will-be

qu'an son venir si le navra

for-in its coming so him wounded

li lions, qui mout vint iriez,

the lion which very came enraged

que leidemant fu anpiriez.

for cruelly he-was worsened

Et tote voie arriers le bote,

And all the-same back it thrusts

si voit que il li avoit rote

and sees that it to-him had broken

l'espaule tote et del bu treite.

the-shoulder all and from-the trunk drawn

Por lui de rien ne se desheite;

For him in anything not himself he-distresses

que ses bastons li est cheüz.

for his club from-him is fallen

Et cil gist pres come feüz,

And he lies almost as dead

qu'il ne se crolle ne ne muet;

for-he not himself shakes nor not stirs

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5670

mes tant i a, que parler puet,
but so-much therein is that to-speak he-can

5675 et dist si come il le puet dire:
and said just as he it can to-say

“Ostez vostre lion, biaux sire!
Remove your lion fair lord

Se vos plest, que plus ne m’adoist!
If to-you it-pleases that more not me-it-touch

Que des or mes feire vos loist
For from now more to-do to-you is-allowed
 de moi tot, quanque buen vos iert.
with me all whatever good to-you will-be

5680 Et qui merci prie et requiert,
And whoever mercy prays and asks
 n’i doit faillir, quant il la rueve,
not-therein must to-fail when he it begs

se home sanz pitié ne trueve.
if a-man without pity not he-finds

Et je ne me deffandrai plus
And I not myself will-defend more
 ne ja ne me leverai sus
nor ever not myself will-raise up

5685 de ci por ce, que merci aie,
from here for this that mercy I-have
 si me met an vostre menaie.”
and myself I-put in your power

“Di donc”, fet il, “que tu otroies,
Say then says he that you grant
 que veincuz et recreanz soies!”
that vanquished and recreant you-are

“Sire!”, fet il, “il i pert bien;

Lord says he it therein appears well

veincuz sui maleoit gre mien

vanquished I-am cursed will mine

et recreanz, ce vos otroi.”

and recreant this to-you I-grant

“Donc n’as tu mes garde de moi,

Then not-have you more fear of me

et mes lions te rasseüre.”

and my lion you reassures

Tantost viennent grant aleüre

At-once come at-great pace

totes les janz anviron lui

all the folk around him

et li sire et la dame andui,

and the lord and the lady both

si li font joie et si l’acolent

and to-him make joy and so him-embrace

et de lor fille l’aparent,

and of their daughter him-they-address

si li dient: “Or seroiz vos

and to-him say Now will-be you

dameisiaus et sire de nos,

young-lord and lord of us

et nostre fille iert vostre dame;

and our daughter will-be your lady

car nos la vos donons a fame.”

for we her to-you give as wife

“Et gié”, fet il, “la vos redoing.

And I says he her to-you give-back

5690

5695

5700

Qui l'a, si l'et! Je n'an ai soing;

Whoever her-has so her-have I not-thereof have care

5705 si nel di je pas por desdaing.

and not-it say I at-all for disdain

Ne vos poist, se je ne la praing;

Not to-you let-it-grieve if I not her take

que je ne puis ne je ne doi.

for I not can nor I not must

Mes, s'il vos plest, delivrez moi

But if-it you pleases release to-me

les cheitives, que vos avez!

the captives whom you have

5710 Li termes est, bien le savez,

The term is well it you-know

qu'èles s'an doivent aler quites."

that-they themselves-thence must to-go quit

"Vours est", fet il, "ce que vos dites,

True it-is says he this which you say

et je les vos rant et aquit;

and I them to-you render and acquit

qu'il n'i a mes nul contredit.

for-there not-therein is more any gainsaying

5715 Mes prenez, si feroiz savoir,

But take and you-will-do wisely

ma fille a trestot mon avoir,

my daughter with all my wealth

qui est mout bele et jante et sage!

who is very fair and comely and wise

Ja mes si riche mariage

Ever more so rich a-marriage

n'avroiz, se vos cestui n'avez."

not-you-will-have if you this-one not-have

"Sire!", fet il, "vos ne savez

Lord says he you not know

mon essoine ne mon afeire,

my hindrance nor my affair

ne je ne le vos os retreire.

nor I not it to-you dare to-relate

Mes ce sachiez, quant je refus

But this know when I refuse

ce, que ne refuseroit nus,

this which not would-refuse anyone

qui deüst son cuer et s'antante

who should his heart and his-attention

mettre an pucele bele et jante,

to-put on a-maiden fair and comely

que volantiers la receüsse,

that willingly her I-should-receive

se je pöisse ne deüsse

if I could or should

cesti ne autre recevoir.

this-one or another to-receive

Mes je ne puis, sachiez de voir,

But I not can know for truth

si m'an leissiez an pes a tant!

so me-thereof leave in peace at that

Que la dameisele m'atant,

For the damsel me-awaits

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5730

qui avuec moi est ça venue.

who with me is here come

Compaignie m'i a tenue,

Company to-me-therein has kept

5735 et je la revuel li tenir,

and I it wish-also to-her to-keep

que que il m'an doie avenir."

whatever that it to-me-thereof must to-happen

"Volez, biaux sire? Et vos comant?

You-wish fair lord And you how

Ja mes, se je ne le comant

Ever more if I not it command

et mes consauz ne le m'apporte,

and my counsel not it to-me-bring

5740 ne vos iert overte ma porte;

not to-you will-be opened my gate

ainz remandroiz an ma prison.

rather you-will-remain in my prison

Orguel faites et mesprison,

Pride you-do and offense

quant je vos pri, que vos preigniez

when I you pray that you take

ma fille, et vos la desdeigniez."

my daughter and you her disdain

5745 "Desdaing, sire? Non faz, par m'ame!

Disdain lord Not I-do by my-soul

Mes je ne puis esposer fame

But I not can to-wed a-wife

ne remenoir por nule painne.

nor to-remain for any pain

La dameisele, qui m'an mainne,

The damsel who me-thence leads

siurai; qu'autremant ne puet estre.

I-will-follow for-otherwise not it-can to-be

Mes, s'il vos plest, de ma main destre

5750

But if-it you pleases with my hand right

vos plevirai, si m'an creez,

to-you I-will-pledge if me-thereof you-believe

qu'einsi, con vos or me veez,

that-thus as you now me see

revandrai, se je onques puis,

I-will-come-back if I ever can

et prandrai vostre fille puis,

and I-will-take your daughter then

quel ore que il buen vos iert."

5755

what hour that it good to-you will-be

"Dahet", fet il, "qui vos an quiert

A-curse says he whoever of-you thereof asks

ne foi ne ploige ne creante!

nor faith nor surety nor pledge

Se ma fille vos atalante,

If my daughter you pleases

vos revandroiz hastivemant.

you will-come-back speedily

Ja por foi ne por seiremant,

5760

Ever for faith nor for oath

ce cuit, ne revandroiz plus tost.

this I-think not you-will-come-back more soon

Ore alez! Que je vos an ost

Now go For I to-you thereof remove

toz creantes et toz covanz.

all pledges and all covenants

Se vos retaingne pluie ou vanz

If you detain rain or wind

5765 ou fins neanz, ne me chaut il.

or sheer nothing not to-me matters it

Je n'ai pas ma fille si vil,

I not-have at-all my daughter so cheap

que je par force la vos doingne.

that I by force her to-you give

Ore alez an vostre besoingne!

Now go on your business

Que tot autant, se vos alez,

For all as-much if you go

5770 m'an est, con se vos remenez."

to-me-thereof it-is as if you remain

The Freed Maidens Go Home

XXVII

He rides out at once with the freed captives before him, two by two, and they make him more joy than they would make their maker if he came down from heaven. The folk who had shamed him beg mercy; he answers that he knows nothing of it and remembers no word he took amiss. The maidens take their leave, praying God grant him joy and health, and go home. He and the maiden ride all the week to the disinherited sister, newly risen from a long sickness, then on toward Arthur's town, where one day of the forty is still to run.

Tantost mes sire Yvains s'an torne;

At-once my lord Yvain himself-thence turns

que el chastel plus ne sejourne,

for in-the castle more not he-stays

et s'an a devant lui menees

and so-thence has before him led

les cheitives desprisonnees,

the captives set-free

que li sire li a bailliees

whom the lord to-him has given

povres et mal apareilliees;

poor and ill arrayed

mes or sont riches, ce lor sanble.

but now they-are rich this to-them seems

Fors del chastel totes ansanble

Out of-the castle all together

devant lui deus et deus s'an issent.

before him two and two themselves-thence issue

5775

- 5780 Je ne cuit pas, qu'eles feïssent
I not think at-all that-they would-make
 tel joie, come eles li font,
such joy as they to-him make
 de celui, qui fist tot le mont,
of him who made all the world
 s'il fust venuz de ciel an terre.
if-he were come from heaven to earth
 Merci et pes li vont requerre
Mercy and peace to-him go to-ask
- 5785 totes les janz, qui dit li orent
all the folk who said to-him had
 tant de honte, come il plus porent,
so-much of shame as they most could
 si le vont einsi conveant;
and him go thus escorting
 et il dit, qu'il n'an set neant.
and he says that-he not-thereof knows anything
 "Je ne sai," fet il, "que vos dites,
I not know says he what you say
- 5790 et si vos an claim trestoz quites;
and so you thereof I-declare all quit
 qu'onques chose, que a mal taigne,
for-ever a-thing which at ill I-bold
 ne deïstes, don moi sovaingne."
not you-said whereof to-me it-remember
 Cil sont mout lié de ce, qu'il öent,
They are very glad at this which-they hear
 et sa corteisie mout loent,
and his courtesy much they-praise

si le comandent a De tuit,

5795

and him commend to God all

quant grant piece l'orent conduit.

when a-great while him-they-had escorted

Et les dameiseles li ront

And the damsels to-him have-also

congié demandé, si s'an vont.

leave asked so themselves-thence go

Au partir totes li anclinent

At-the parting all to-him bow

et si li orent et destinent,

5800

and so to-him pray and wish

que Des li doint joie et santé

that God to-him grant joy and health

et venir a sa volaté,

and to-come to his will

an quel leu que il onques aut.

in what place that he ever go

Et cil respont, que Des les saut,

And he answers that God them save

cui la demore mout enuie.

5805

to-whom the delay much annoys

“Alez!” fet il; “Des vos conduie

Go says he God you conduct

an voz païs saines et liees!”

into your lands sound and glad

Maintenant se sont avoiiées,

Straightway themselves have set-on-the-way

si s'an vont grant joie menant. —

and themselves-thence go great joy making

- 5810 Et mes sire Yvains maintenant
And my lord Yvain straightway
 de l'autre part se rachemine.
on the-other side himself sets-again-on-the-road
 D'errer a grant exploit ne fine
Of-journeying at great speed not ceases
 trestoz les jorz de la semaine,
all the days of the week
 si con la pucele l'an mainne,
just as the maiden him-thence leads
- 5815 qui la voie mout bien savoit
who the way very well knew
 et le recet, ou ele avoit
and the stronghold where she had
 leissiee la desheritée
left the disinherited-woman
 desheitiee et desconfortee.
dispirited and discomforted
 Mes quant ele oï la novele
But when she heard the news
- 5820 de la venue a la pucele
of the coming of the maiden
 et del Chevalier au Lion,
and of-the Knight of-the Lion
 ne fu joie se cele non,
not was joy except that not
 que ele an ot dedanz son cuer;
which she thereof had within her heart

car or cuide ele, que sa suer

for now thinks she that her sister

de son heritage li lest

of her heritage to-her leave

une partie, se li plest.

a part if to-her it-please

Malade ot geü longuemant

Sick she-had lain long

la pucele et novelemant

the maiden and newly

estoit de son mal relevee,

was from her sickness risen

qui duremant l'avoit grevee,

which sorely her-had afflicted

si que bien paroît a sa chiere.

so that well it-appeared in her face

A l'ancontre tote premiere

To the-meeting very first

lor est alee sanz demore,

to-them is gone without delay

si les salue et les enore

and them greets and them honors

de quanquë ele set et puet.

with whatever she knows and can

De la joie parler n'estuet,

Of the joy to-speak not-it-behooves

qui fu la nuit a l'ostel faite.

which was the night at the-lodging made

Ja parole n'an iert reitreite;

Ever a-word not-thereof will-be related

5825

5830

5835

que trop i avroit a conter.

for too-much therein would-be to to-tell

5840 Tot vos trespas jusqu'au monter

All to-you I-pass-over until-the mounting

de l'andemain, qu'il s'an partirent.

of the-morrow when-they themselves-thence departed

Puis errerent tant, que il virent

Then they-journeyed so-far that they saw

le chastel, ou li rois Artus

the castle where the king Arthur

ot sejorné quinzainne ou plus.

had stayed a-fortnight or more

5845 Et la dameisele i estoit,

And the damsel therein was

qui sa seror deseritoit;

who her sister disinherited

qu'ele avoit puis mout pres tenue

for-she had since very close kept

la cort, s'atandoit la venue

the court and-awaited the coming

sa seror, qui vient et aproche.

of-her sister who comes and approaches

5850 Mes mout petit au cuer li toche;

But very little at-the heart to-her touches

qu'ele ne cuide, qu'ele truisse

for-she not thinks that-she may-find

nul chevalier, qui sofrir puisse

any knight who to-endure may

mon seignor Gauvain an estor,

my lord Gawain in combat

ne il n'i avoit mes qu'un jor

nor it not-there had more but-a day

de la quarantaine a venir.

of the forty-days to to-come

L'eritage sole a tenir

The-heritage alone to to-bold

eüst desresnié quitemant

she-would-have defended-at-law outright

par reison et par jugement,

by reason and by judgment

se cil seus jorz fust trespassez.

if that single day were passed

Mes plus i a a feire assez,

But more therein is to to-do by-far

qu'ele ne cuide ne ne croit. —

than-she — thinks nor not believes

An un ostel bas et estroit

In a lodging low and narrow

fors del chastel cele nuit jurent,

outside of-the castle that night they-lay

ou nules janz ne les conurent:

where any folk not them knew

car se il el chastel jeüssent,

for if they in-the castle had-lain

totes les janz les coneüssent,

all the folk them would-have-known

et de ce n'avoient il soing.

and of this not-had they care

5855

5860

5865

L'andemain a mout grant besoing

The-morrow at very great need

a l'aube aparissant s'an issent,

at the-dawn appearing themselves-thence issue

5870 si se reponent et tapissent,

and themselves hide and lurk

tant que li jorz fu clers et granz.

until that the day was clear and great

Yvain and Gawain Take the Field

XXVIII

Gawain has come back to court in strange arms so that no one knows him. The elder sister demands judgment; the king answers that a royal court waits out its term. Then Yvain comes in with the younger sister, and the two friends take the field without a word between them. Here the poet asks how Love and Hatred can lodge in one house, and answers that perhaps Love has shut herself in a hidden chamber while Hatred has gone out to the galleries over the road, wanting to be seen.

Jorz avoit passez, ne sai quanz,

Days had passed not I-know how-many

que mes sire Gauvains s'estoit

since my lord Gawain himself-had

destornez, si qu'an ne savoit

withdrawn so that-one not knew

5875 a cort de lui nule novele

at court of him any news

fors que solemant la pucele,

except that only the maiden

por cui il se devoit conbatre.

for whom he himself had-to to-fight

Pres a trois liues ou a quatre

Near at three leagues or at four

s'estoit de la cort trestornez

himself-had from the court turned-away

et vint a cort si atornez,

and came to court so arrayed

que reconoistre ne le porent

that to-recognize not him could

cil, qui a toz jorz veü l'orent,

those who at all days seen him-had

as armes, que il aporta.

by-the arms which he brought

La dameisele, qui tort a

The damsel who wrong has

vers sa seror trop an apert,

toward her sister too in open

veant toz l'a a cort ofert,

in-sight-of all him-has at court offered

que par lui desresnier voldroit

that by him to-defend-at-law she-would-wish

la querele, ou ele n'a droit,

the quarrel wherein she not-has right

et dit au roi: "Sire! ore passe.

and says to-the king Lord the-bour passes

Jusqu'a po sera none basse

Within a-little will-be nones low

et li derriens jorz est hui,

and the last day is today

5880

5885

5890

si veez bien, comant je sui

and you-see well how I am

garnie a mon droit maintenir.

furnished to my right to-maintain

Se ma suer deüst revenir,

If my sister should to-come-back

5895 n'i eüst mes que demorer.

not-therein would-be more but to-wait

De an puisse je aorer,

God thereof may I to-adore

quant ele ne vient ne repeire.

since she not comes nor returns

Bien i pert, que miauz ne puet feire,

Well therein appears that better not she-can to-do

si s'est por neant traveilliee.

and herself-has for nothing labored

5900 Et j'ai esté apareilliee

And I-have been prepared

toz les jorz jusqu'au derriien

all the days until-the last

a desresnier ce, qui est mien.

to to-defend-at-law this which is mine

Tot ai desresnié sanz bataille,

All I-have defended-at-law without battle

s'est or mes droiz, que je m'an aille

and-is now more right that I myself-thence go

5905 tenir mon heritage an pes;

to-hold my heritage in peace

que je n'an respondroie mes

for I not-thereof would-answer more

a ma seror tant, con je vive,

to my sister so-long as I live

si vivra dolante et cheitive.”

and she-will-live sorrowing and wretched

Et li rois, qui mout bien savoit,

And the king who very well knew

que la pucele tort avoit

that the maiden wrong had

vers sa seror trop desleal,

toward her sister too disloyal

li dit: “Amie! an cort real

to-her says Friend in a-court royal

doit an atandre, par ma foi,

must one to-wait by my faith

tant con la justise le roi

so-long as the justice of-the king

siet et atant por droiturier.

sits and waits to give-judgment

N'i a rien del corjon ploier;

Not-there has anything of-the thong to-bend

qu'ancor vandra trestot a tans

for-still will-come all in time

vostre suer, si come je pans.”

your sister just as I think

Ainz que li rois eüst ce dit,

Before that the king had this said

5910

5915

5920 le Chevalier au Lion vit
the Knight of-the Lion he-saw
 et la pucele delez lui.
and the maiden beside him
 Seul a seul venoient andui;
Alone to alone came both
 car del lion anblé se furent;
for from-the lion stolen-away themselves they-had
 si fu remés la, ou il jurent.
and he-had remained there where they lay

5925 Li rois la pucele a veüe,
The king the maiden has seen
 si ne l'a pas desconeüe,
and not her-has at-all failed-to-know
 et mout li plot et abeli,
and much to-him it-pleased and delighted
 quant il la voit; car devers li
when he her sees for toward her
 de la querele se tenoit
of the quarrel himself he-held
 5930 por ce, que au droit antandoit.
for this that to-the right he-attended

De la joie, que il an ot,
Of the joy which he thereof had
 li dist au plus tost que il pot:
to-her said at-the most soon that he could
 “Ore avant, bele! Des vos saut!”
Now forward fair-one God you save
 Quant l'autre l'ot, tote tressaut,
When the-other it-hears all she-starts

si se trestorne, si la voit

5935

and herself turns-about and her sees

et le chevalier, qu'ele avoit

and the knight whom-she had

amené por son droit conquerre,

brought to her right to-win

si devint plus noire que terre.

and became more black than earth

Mout fu bel de toz apelee

Much was graciously by all greeted

la pucele, et ele est alee

5940

the maiden and she is gone

devant le roi la, ou il sist.

before the king there where he sat

Quant devant lui fu, si li dist:

When before him she-was so to-him said

“Des saut le roi et sa mesniee!

God save the king and his household

Rois! s'or puet estre desresniee

King if-now can to-be defended-at-law

ma droiture ne ma querele

5945

my right and my quarrel

par un chevalier, donc l'iert ele

by one knight then so-will-be it

par cestui, la soe merci,

by this-one the his thanks

qui m'a seüe an jusque ci;

who me-has followed thence as-far-as here

s'eüst il mout aillors a feire,

and-had he much elsewhere to do

- 5950 li frans chevaliers de bon' eire;
the noble knight of good breeding
 mes de moi li prist tes pitiez,
but of me him took such pity
 qu'il a arriere dos gitiez
that-he has behind back cast
 toz ses afeires por le mien.
all his affairs for the mine
 Or feroit cortisie et bien
Now would-do courtesy and well
 5955 ma dame, ma tres chiere suer,
my lady my very dear sister
 que j'aim autant come mon cuer,
whom I-love as-much as my heart
 s'ele de mon droit me leissoit,
if-she of my right to-me left
 tant qu'antre moi et li pes soit;
so-much that-between me and her peace be
 que je ne demant rien del suen."
for I not ask anything of-the hers
 5960 "Ne gié", fet ele, "rien del tuen;
Nor I says she anything of-the yours
 que tu n'as rien ne ja n'avras.
for you not-have anything nor ever not-will-have
 Ja tant preechier ne savras,
Ever so-much to-preach not you-will-know
 que rien an porz por preechier.
that anything thereof you-carry by preaching
 Tote an porras de duel sechier."
All thereof you-will-be-able of grief to-wither

Et l'autre respont maintenant,

5965

And the-other answers straightway

qui assez savoit d'avenant

who enough knew of-seemliness

et mout estoit sage et cortoise.

and very was wise and courteous

“Certes”, fet ele, “mout me poise,

Certainly says she much me grieves

que por nos deus se combatront

that for us two themselves will-fight

dui si prodome con cist sont,

5970

two so worthy-men as these are

s'est la querele mout petite.

and-is the quarrel very small

Mes je ne la puis clamer quite;

But I not it can to-declare quit

que trop grant mestier an avroie.

for too great need thereof I-should-have

Por ce plus buen gre vos savroie,

For this more good thanks to-you I-should-know

se vos me randiiez mon droit.”

5975

if you to-me rendered my right

“Certes, qui or te respondroit”,

Certainly whoever now to-you would-answer

fet l'autre, “mout seroit musarde.

says the-other much would-be a-simpleton

Maus feus et male flame m'arde,

Evil fire and evil flame me-burn

se je te doing, don miauz te vives!

if I to-you give whereby better you live

- 5980 Einçois assanbleront les rives
Sooner will-join the banks
 de Sainne et sera prime none,
of Seine and will-be prime nones
 se la bataille nel te done.”
if the battle not-it to-you gives
 “Des et li droiz, que je i ai,
God and the right which I therein have
 an cui je me fi et fai
in whom I myself trust and trusted
- 5985 toz tans jusqu’au jor, qui est hui,
all times until-the day which is today
 an soit an aïe a celui,
thereof be in help to him
 qui par aumosne et par franchise
who through charity and through generosity
 se porofre de mon servise,
himself offers for my service
 si ne set il, qui je me sui,
and not knows he who I myself am
- 5990 ne ne me conoist ne je lui.”
nor not me knows nor I him
 Tant ont parlé qu’a tant remainnent
So-much they-have spoken that-at that cease
 les paroles, et si amainnent
the words and so they-bring
 les chevaliers anmi la cort.
the knights amid the court
 Et toz li pueples i acort,
And all the people thither runs

si come a tel afeire suelent

5995

just as at such an-affair are-wont

corre les janz, qui veoir vuelent

to-run the folk who to-see wish

cos de bataille et d'escremie.

blows of battle and of-fencing

Mes ne s'antreconoissent mie

But not each-other-know at-all

cil, qui conbatre se voloient,

those who to-fight themselves wished

qui mout antramer se soloient.

6000

who much to-love-each-other themselves were-wont

Et or don ne s'antraiment il?

And now then not each-other-love they

“Oil” vos respong et “nenil.”

Yes to-you I-answer and no

Et l'un et l'autre proverai,

Both the-one and the-other I-will-prove

si que reison i troverai.

so that reason therein I-will-find

Por voir, mes sire Gauvains aime

6005

For truth my lord Gawain loves

Yvain et compaignon le claimme,

Yvain and companion him calls

et Yvains lui, ou que il soit.

and Yvain him wherever that he be

Neïs ci, s'il le conoissoit,

Even here if-he him knew

feroit il ja de lui grant feste
would-make he now of him great feast

6010 et si metroit por lui sa teste,
and so would-put for him his head

et cil la soe aussi por lui,
and he the his also for him

einçois qu'an li feïst enui.
before that-one to-him did harm

N'est ce amors antiere et fine?
Not-is this love entire and pure

Oïl, certes. Et la haïne,
Yes certainly And the hatred

6015 don ne rest ele tote aperte?
then not is-also it all open

Oïl; que ce est chose certe,
Yes for this is a-thing certain

que li uns a l'autre sanz dote
that the one to the-other without doubt

voldroit avoir la teste rote,
would-wish to-have the head broken

ou tant avoir fet li voldroit
or so-much to-have done to-him would-wish

6020 de honte, que pis an vaudroit.
of shame that worse thereof he-would-be

Par foi! c'est mervoille provee,
By faith this-is a-marvel proved

qu'an a an un veïssel trovee
that-one has in one vessel found

amor et Haïne mortel.
love and Hatred mortal

Des! meïsmes an un ostel

God even in one lodging

comant puet estre li repeires

how can to-be the dwelling

a deus choses, qui sont contreires?

for two things which are contrary

An un ostel, si con moi sanble,

In one lodging just as to-me it-seems

ne pueent eles estre ansanble;

not can they to-be together

que ne porroit pas remenoir

for not could at-all to-remain

l'une avuec l'autre an un menoir,

the-one with the-other in one dwelling

que noise et tançon n'i eüst,

but noise and strife therein would-be

puis que l'une l'autre i seüst.

since that the-one the-other therein knew

Mes an un chas a plusors manbres;

But in one house are several rooms

que il i a loges et chanbres.

for there therein are galleries and chambers

Einsi puet bien estre la chose:

Thus can well to-be the thing

espoir Amors s'estoit anclose

perhaps Love herself-had enclosed

an aucune chanbre celee,

in some chamber hidden

6025

6030

6035

et Haïne s'an iere alee

and Hatred herself-thence was gone

es loges par devers la voie,

into-the galleries by toward the road

6040 por ce que viaut, que l'an la voie.

for this that she-wishes that one her see

Ore est Haïne mout an coche;

Now is Hatred much in saddle

qu'ele esperone et point et broche

for-she spurs and pricks and goads

sor Amor, quanquë ele puet,

upon Love whatever she can

et Amors onques ne se muet.

and Love ever not herself stirs

6045 Ha! Amors, ou es tu reposte?

Ab Love where are you bidden

Car t'an is! si verras, quel oste

Pray yourself-thence issue and you-will-see what guest

ont sor toi amené et mis

have upon you brought and set

li anemi a tes amis.

the enemies of your friends

Li anemi sont cil meïsme,

The enemies are those same

6050 qui s'antraiment d'Amor saintisme;

who each-other-love with-Love most-holy

qu'Amors, qui n'est fausse ne fainte,

for-Love which not-is false nor feigned

est precieuse chose et sainte.

is a-precious thing and holy

Ci est Amors avugle tote,

Here is Love blind wholly

et Haïne ne revoit gote;

and Hatred not sees-also a-whit

qu'Amors deffandre lor deüst,

for-Love to-forbid to-them should

se ele les reconeüst,

if she them recognized

que li uns l'autre n'adesast

that the one the-other not-touched

ne feïst rien, qui li pesast.

nor did anything which to-him grieved

Por ce est Amors avuglee

For this is Love blinded

et desconfite et desjulee,

and disconfited and befooled

que çaus, qui tot sont suen a droit,

for those who all are hers by right

ne reconoist, et si les voit.

not she-recognizes and yet them sees

Et Haïne dire ne set,

And Hatred to-say not knows

por quoi li uns d'aus l'autre het,

for what the one of-them the-other hates

ses viaut feire mesler a tort,

and-them she-wishes to-make to-engage at wrong

si het li uns l'autre de mort.

and hates the one the-other to death

N'aimme pas, ce poez savoir,

Not-loves at-all this you-can to-know

6055

6060

6065

l'ome, qui le voldroit avoir

the-man who him would-wish to-have

honi et qui sa mort desirre.

shamed and who his death desires

6070 Comant? Viaut donc Yvains ocirre

How Wishes then Yvain to-kill

mon seignor Gauvain, son ami?

my lord Gawain his friend

Oïl, et il lui autressi.

Yes and he him likewise

Si voldroit mes sire Gauvains

So would-wish my lord Gawain

Yvain ocirre de ses mains

Yvain to-kill with his hands

6075 ou feire pis, que je ne di?

or to-do worse than I — say

Nenil, ce vos jur et afi,

No this to-you I-swear and affirm

li uns ne voldroit avoir fet

the one not would-wish to-have done

a l'autre ne honte ne let

to the-other nor shame nor injury

por quanque Des a fet por home

for whatever God has made for man

6080 ne por tot l'anpire de Rome.

nor for all the-empire of Rome

Ore ai je manti leidemant;

Now have I lied foully

que l'an voit bien apertemant,

for one sees well openly

que li uns viaut anvaïr l'autre

that the one wishes to-assail the-other

lance levee sor le fautre,

lance raised upon the rest

et li uns l'autre viaut blecier

and the one the-other wishes to-wound

por lui leidir et anpirier,

to him to-injure and to-worsen

que ja de rien ne s'an feindra.

for ever in anything not himself-thereof be-will-spare

Or dites: De cui se pleindra

Now say Of whom himself will-be-complain

cil, qui des cos avra le pis,

he who of-the blows will-have the worse

quant li uns l'autre avra conquis?

when the one the-other will-have conquered

Car, s'il font tant, qu'il s'antrevaingnent,

For if-they do so-much that-they each-other-meet

grant peor ai, qu'il ne maintaingnent

great fear I-have that-they — maintain

tant la bataille et la meslee,

so-long the battle and the melee

qu'ele iert de l'une part outree.

that-it will-be on the-one side carried

Porra Yvains par reison dire,

Will-be-able Yvain by reason to-say

se la soe partie est pire,

if the his side is worse

que cil li et fet let ne honte,

that he to-him has done injury nor shame

6085

6090

6095

qui antre ses amis le conte,

who among his friends him counts

n'ains ne l'apela par son non

nor-ever not him-called by his name

6100 se ami et conpaignon non?

except friend and companion not

Ou, s'il avient par aventure,

Or if-it happens by adventure

que cil li reface leidure,

that he to-him do-also injury

ou de que que soit le sormaint,

or in whatever that it-be him overbear

avra il droit, se il se plaint?

will-have he right if he himself complains

6105 Nenil; qu'il ne savra de cui. —

No for-he not will-know of whom

Antresloignié se sont andui,

Drawn-from-each-other themselves have both

por ce qu'il ne s'antreconoissent.

for this that-they not each-other-know

A l'assanbler lor lances froissent,

At the-joining their lances shatter

qui grosses ierent et de fresne.

which thick were and of ash

6110 Li uns l'autre de rien n'aresne;

The one the-other in anything not-addresses

car s'il antraresnié se fussent,

for if-they addressed-each-other themselves had

autre assanblee faite eüssent.

another joining made they-would-have

Ja n'eüst a lor assanblee

Ever not-would-have at their joining

feru de lance ne d'espee:

struck with lance nor with-sword

antrebeisier et acoler

to-kiss-each-other and to-embrace

s'alassent ainz que afoier;

they-would-go rather than to-maim

qu'il s'antrafolent et mehaingnent.

for-they each-other-maim and mangle

Les espees rien n'i gaaingnent

The swords anything not-therein gain

ne li hiaume ne li escu,

nor the helmets nor the shields

qui anbuignié sont et fandu,

which dented are and split

et des espees li tranchant

and of-the swords the edges

esgrunent et vont rebochant;

chip and go blunting

car il se donent mout granz flaz

for they themselves give very great strokes

des tranchanz, non mie des plaz,

with-the edges not at-all with-the flats

et des pons redonent tes cos

and with-the pommels they-give-also such blows

sor les nasés et sor les cos

upon the nose-guards and upon the necks

et sor les fronz et sor les joes,

and upon the foreheads and upon the cheeks

6115

6120

6125

que totes sont perses et bloes

that all are livid and blue

la, ou li sans quace dessoz.

there where the blood clots beneath

6130 Et les haubers ont si deroz

And the hauberts they-have so broken

et les escuz si depeciez,

and the shields so shattered

n'i a celui, ne soit bleciez.

not-there has one-of-them not be wounded

Et tant se painnent et travaillent,

And so-much themselves they-strain and labor

a po qu'alainnes ne lor faillent;

for little that-breaths — to-them fail

6135 si se combatent une chaude,

and themselves they-fight one bout

que jagonce ne esmeraude

that a-jacinth nor an-emerald

n'ot sor les hiaumes atachiee,

not-was upon the helmets fastened

ne soit molue et esquachiee;

not be ground and crushed

car des pons si granz cos se donent

for with-the pommels so great blows themselves they-give

6140 sor les hiaumes, que tuit s'estonent

upon the helmets that all themselves-stun

et par po qu'il ne s'escervellent.

and for little that-they — themselves-brain

Li oel des chiés lor estancelent;

The eyes of-the heads to-them sparkle

qu'il ont les poinz quarrez et gros

for-they have the fists square and big

et forz les ners et durs les os,

and strong the sinews and hard the bones

si se donent males groigniees

and themselves give evil batterings

a ce qu'il tiennent anpoigniees

at this that-they hold gripped

les espees, qui grant aïe

the swords which great help

lor font, quant il fierent a hie.

to-them make when they strike with force

6145

The Combat Renewed

XXIX

Their helms are battered and their hauberks unmailed; they draw apart to breathe and run at each other harder than before. Everyone says two braver knights were never seen, and no one can tell which has the better of it, nor can the two themselves, who marvel at finding an equal. All the court sides with the younger sister, but the elder will hear nothing, and the king will not force the peace. At dusk the two rest again, each thinking he has found his match.

Quant grant piece se sont lassé,

When a-great while themselves have wearied

tant que li hiaume sont quassé

so-much that the helmets are battered

et li hauberc tot desmaillié,

and the hauberks all unmailed

(tant ont des espees maillié,

so-much they-have with-the swords hammered

6150

et li escu fandu et fret,

and the shields split and broken

un po se sont arriere tret;

a little themselves have back drawn

6155 si leissent reposer lor vainnes

and let to-rest their veins

et si repranent lor alainnes.

and so take-again their breaths

Mes n'i font mie grant demore,

But not-therein they-make at-all great delay

ainz cort li uns a l'autre sore

rather runs the one at the-other upon

plus fieremant qu'ains mes ne firent.

more fiercely than-ever before — they-did

6160 Et tuit dient, que mes ne virent

And all say that ever not they-saw

deus chevaliers plus corageus.

two knights more courageous

“Ne se combatent mie a jeus,

Not themselves they-fight at-all in jest

einçois le font trestot a certes.

rather it they-do entirely in earnest

Les merites ne les dessertes

The rewards nor the deserts

6165 ne lor an seront ja randues.”

not to-them thereof will-be ever rendered

Cez paroles ont antandues

These words have heard

li dui ami, qui s'antrafolent,

the two friends who each-other-maim

s'antandent, que les janz parolent

and-bear that the folk speak

des deus serors antracorder;

of-the two sisters to-reconcile

mes la pes ne pueent trover

but the peace not they-can to-find

devers l'ainznee an nule guise.

on-the-side-of the-elder in any wise

Et la mainsnee s'estoit mise

And the younger herself-had put

sor ce, que li rois an diroit;

upon this that the king thereof would-say

que ja rien n'an contrediroit.

that ever anything not-thereof she-would-gainsay

Mes l'ainznee estoit si anrieve,

But the-elder was so obstinate

que nes la reïne Guenievre

that even the queen Guinevere

et li chevalier et li rois

and the knights and the king

et les dames et li borjois

and the ladies and the burghers

devers la mainsnee se tienent,

on-the-side-of the younger themselves bold

et tuit le roi proier an vient,

and all the king to-pray thereof come

6170

6175

6180

que maugré l'ainznee seror

that against-will the-elder sister

doint de la terre a la menor

be-give of the land to the lesser

la tierce partie ou la quarte,

the third part or the fourth

et les deus chevaliers departe,

and the two knights be-part

6185 qui trop sont de grant vasselage.

who too are of great valor

Et trop i avroit grant damage,

And too therein would-be great damage

se li uns d'aus l'autre afoloit

if the one of-them the-other maimed

et point de s'enor li toloit.

and a-while of his-honor from-him took

Et li rois dit, que de la pes

And the king says that of the peace

6190 ne s'antremetroit il ja mes;

not himself-would-busy be ever more

que l'ainznee suer n'an a cure,

for the-elder sister not-thereof has care

tant par est male creature.

so much is an-evil creature

Totes cez paroles oïrent

All these words heard

li dui, qui des cos s'antranpirent,

the two who with-the blows each-other-worsen

6195 si qu'a toz est a grant mervoille,

so that-to all it-is a great marvel

que la bataille est si paroille,

that the battle is so equal

que l'an ne set par nul avis,

that one not knows by any judgment

qui a le miauz ne qui le pis.

who has the better nor who the worse

Et nes li dui, qui se combatent,

And even the two who themselves fight

qui par martire enor achatent,

who through torment honor purchase

s'esmervoillent et esbaïssent;

themselves-marvel and are-amazed

que si par igal s'anvaïssent,

that so in equal themselves-they-assail

qu'a grant mervolle chascun vient,

that-to great marvel to-each comes

qui est cil, qui se contretient

who is he who himself holds-out

ancontre lui si fieremant.

against him so fiercely

Tant se combatent longuemant,

So-much themselves they-fight long

que li jorz vers la nuit se tret,

that the day toward the night itself draws

et si n'i a celui, qui n'et

and so not-there has one who not-have

les braz las et le cors doillant,

the arms weary and the body aching

6200

6205

- 6210 et li sanc tot chaut et boillant
and the blood all hot and boiling
 par mainz leus fors des cors lor boient
in many places out of-the bodies to-them boils
 et par dessoz les haubers colent,
and by beneath the hauberks runs
 ne n'est mervoille, s'il se vuelent
nor not-is a-marvel if-they themselves wish
 reposer; car formant se duelent.
to-rest for sorely themselves they-ache
- 6215 Lors se reposent anbedui,
Then themselves rest both
 et si panse chascuns par lui,
and so thinks each by himself
 qu'ore a il son paroil trové,
that-now has he his equal found
 combien que il et demoré.
however-long that it have lasted
 Longuemant ainsi se reposent;
Long thus themselves they-rest
- 6220 que rassanbler as armes n'osent.
for to-join-again at-the arms not-they-dare
 N'ont plus de la bataille cure,
Not-they-have more of the battle care
 que por la nuit, qui vient oscure,
both for the night which comes dark
 que por ce, que mout s'antredotent.
and for this that much each-other-fear

Cez deus choses an sus les botent

These two things — aside them thrust

et semonent, qu'an pes s'estoient;

and admonish that-in peace themselves-they-stand

mes einçois que del chanp s'an voient,

but before that from-the field themselves-thence go

se seront bien antracointié,

themselves will-be well acquainted-each-other

s'avra antre aus joie et pitié.

and-there-will-be between them joy and pity

6225

Recognition, and the King's Judgment

XXX

Yvain speaks first, in a voice too hoarse to know, and asks his adversary's name. Gawain names himself; Yvain flings down his sword and cries out at the ugly mistake, and each declares himself the beaten one. The king breaks up the quarrel and takes the case in hand: he threatens to declare Gawain conquered, and the elder sister yields her sister's share. The lion comes running in and the court scatters, until Yvain tells them whose companion it is. Arthur has a surgeon heal them both, and Yvain, who must die of love unless his lady pities him, resolves to besiege the spring.

Mes sire Yvains parla einçois,

My lord Yvain spoke first

qui mout estoit preuz et cortois.

who very was valiant and courteous

Mes au parler nel reconut

But at-the speaking not-him recognized

ses buens amis; car ce li nut,

his good friend for this to-him bindered

6230

qu'il avoit la parole basse

that-he had the speech low

et la voiz roe et foible et quasse;

and the voice hoarse and feeble and cracked

6235 que toz li sans li fu meüz

for all the blood to-him was stirred

des cos, qu'il avoit receüz.

from-the blows which-he had received

"Sire!", fet il, "la nuiz aproche.

Lord says he the night approaches

Ja ne cuit, blasme ne reproche

Ever not I-think blame nor reproach

i aiiens, se nuiz nos depart.

therein we-have if night us parts

6240 Mes tant di de la moie part,

But so-much I-say on the mine part

que mout vos dot et mout vos pris,

that much you I-fear and much you I-prize

n'onques an ma vie n'anpris

and-never in my life not-I-undertook

bataille, don tant me dossisse,

a-battle whereof so-much myself I-should-ache

ne chevalier, cui tant vossisse

nor a-knight whom so-much I-should-wish

6245 conoistre, ne cuidai veoir.

to-know nor I-thought to-see

Bien savez voz cos asseoir

Well you-know your blows to-plant

et bien les savez anploier.

and well them you-know to-employ

Ains ne sot tant de cos païier

Ever not knew so-much of blows to-pay

chevaliers, que je coneüsse.

a-knight whom I knew

Ja mon vuel tant n'an receüsse,

6250

Ever my will so-much not-thereof I-should-receive

con vos m'an avez hui presté;

as you to-me-thereof have today lent

tot m'ont vostre cop antesté."

all me-have your blows stunned

"Par foi!", fet mes sire Gauvains,

By faith says my lord Gawain

"n'estes si estonez ne vains,

not-you-are so stunned nor faint

que je autant ou plus ne soie.

6255

that I as-much or more — be

Et se je vos reconoissoie,

And if I you recognized

espoir ne vos greveroit rien.

perhaps not to-you it-would-grieve anything

Se je vos ai presté del mien,

If I to-you have lent of-the mine

bien m'an avez randu le conte

well to-me-thereof you-have rendered the reckoning

et del chatel et de la monte;

6260

both of-the capital and of the interest

que larges estiiez del randre

for lavish you-were of-the giving

plus, que je n'estoie del prandre.

more than I not-was of-the taking

Mes, comant que la chose praingne,

But however that the thing turn

quant vos plest, que je vos apraingne,

since to-you it-pleases that I to-you teach

6265 par quel non je sui apelez,

by what name I am called

ja mes nons ne vos iert celez:

ever my name not to-you will-be hidden

Gauvains ai non, fiz le roi Lot.”

Gawain I-have name son of-the king Lot

Tantost con mes sire Yvains l’ot,

As-soon as my lord Yvain it-hears

si s’esbaïst et espert toz,

and himself-astounds and loses-himself wholly

6270 par mautalant et par corroz

through vexation and through anger

flatist a la terre s’espee,

he-flings to the ground his-sword

qui tote estoit ansanglantee,

which all was bloodied

et son escu tot depecié,

and his shield all shattered

si desçant del cheval a pié

and dismounts from-the horse on foot

6275 et dit: “Ha, las! Quel mescheance!

and says Ah alas What mischance

Par trop leide mesconoissance

Through too ugly a-misrecognition

ceste bataille faite avomes,

this battle made we-have

qu'antreconeü ne nos somes:

for-known-each-other not ourselves we-have

que ja, se je vos coneüsse,

for ever if I you had-known

a vos conbatuz ne me fusse,

with you fought not myself I-should-have

6280

ainz me clamasse recreant

rather myself I-should-declare recreant

devant le cop, ce vos creant.”

before the blow this to-you I-warrant

“Comant?” fet mes sire Gauvains,

How says my lord Gawain

“qui estes vos?” — “Je sui Yvains,

who are you I am Yvain

qui plus vos aim qu'ome del monde,

who more you love than-any-man of-the world

6285

tant come il dure a la reonde:

so-far as it stretches round the circuit

que vos m'avez amé toz jorz

for you me-have loved all days

et enoré an totes corz.

and honored in all courts

Mes je vos vuel de cest afeire

But I to-you wish for this affair

tel amande et tel enor feire,

such amends and such honor to-do

6290

qu'outreemant outrez m'otroi.”

that-utterly overcome myself-I-grant

“Ice feriez vos por moi?”

This would-do you for me

Fet mes sire Gauvains, li douz;

Says my lord Gawain the sweet

“Certes, trop seroie ore estouz,

Certainly too I-should-be now presumptuous

6295 se je ceste amande an prenoie.

if I this amends thereof took

Ja certes ceste enors n’iert moie,

Ever certainly this honor not-will-be mine

ainz iert vostre, je la vos les.”

rather it-will-be yours I it to-you leave

“Ha! biaux sire, nel dites mes!

Ah fair lord not-it say more

Que ce ne porroit avenir.

For this not could to-happen

6300 Je ne me puis mes sostenir,

I not myself can more to-hold-up

si sui atainz et sormenez.”

so I-am stricken and overborne

“Certes, de neant vos penez!”

Certainly for nothing yourself you-trouble

Fet ses amis et ses conpainz;

Says his friend and his companion

“Mes je sui conquis et atainz,

But I am conquered and stricken

6305 ne je n’an di rien por losange;

nor I not-thereof say anything for flattery

qu’il n’a el monde si estrange,

for-there not-is in-the world one-so hostile

cui je autretant n’an deïsse,

to-whom I the-same not-thereof would-say

einçois que plus des cos sofrisse.”

sooner than more of-the blows I-should-suffer

Einsi parlant est desçanduz,

Thus speaking he-is dismounted

s'a li uns a l'autre tanduz

and-has the one to the-other stretched

les braz au col, si s'antrebeisent,

the arms to-the neck and each-other-kiss

ne de ce mie ne se teisent,

nor of this at-all not themselves keep-silent

que chascuns outrez ne se claint.

but each overcome — himself declares

La tançons onques ne remaint,

The dispute ever not ceases

tant que li rois et li baron

until that the king and the barons

vienent corant tot anviron,

come running all around

ses voient antreconjoïr;

and-them see to-rejoice-each-other

et mout desirrent a oïr,

and much they-desire to to-bear

que ce puet estre, et qui cil sont,

what this can to-be and who these are

qui si grant joie s'antrefont.

who so great joy each-other-make

“Seignor!”, fet li rois, “dites nos,

Lords says the king tell us

6310

6315

6320

qui si tost a mis antre vos

who so soon has put between you

ceste amistié et ceste acorde?

this friendship and this accord

Que tel haïne et tel descorde

When such hatred and such discord

6325 i a hui tote jor eüe!"

therein has today all day been

"Sire! ne vos iert pas teüe",

Lord not to-you will-be at-all kept-silent

fet mes sire Gauvains, ses niés,

says my lord Gawain his nephew

"La mescheance et li meschiés,

The mischance and the mishap

don ceste bataille a esté.

whereof this battle has been

6330 Des que ci estes aresté

Since that here you-are stopped

por l'oïr et por le savoir,

to it-to-hear and to it to-know

bien iert, qui vos an dira voir.

well will-be who to-you thereof will-say truth

Gié Gauvains, qui vostre niés sui,

I Gawain who your nephew am

mon compaignon ne reconui,

my companion not recognized

6335 mon seignor Yvain, qui est ci,

my lord Yvain who is here

tant que il, la soe merci,

until that he the his thanks

si con De plot, mon non anquist.

just as to-God it-pleased my name asked

Li uns a l'autre son non dist,

The one to the-other his name said

lors si nos antreconeümes,

then so ourselves we-knew-each-other

quant bien antrebatu nos fumes.

when well beaten-each-other ourselves we-had

Bien nos somes antrebatu:

Well ourselves we-have beaten-each-other

se nos nos fussiens conbatu

if we ourselves had fought

ancore un po plus longuemant,

still a little more long

il m'an alast trop malemant.

it to-me-thereof would-go too ill

Car, par mon chief, il m'eüst mort

For by my head he me-would-have killed

par sa proesce et par le tort

through his prowess and through the wrong

celi, qui m'avoit an chanp mis.

of-her who me-had into a-field put

Mes or vuel miauz, que mes amis

But now I-wish rather that my friend

m'et outré d'armes que tüé."

me-have overcome with-arms than killed

Lors a trestot le sanc müe

Then has all the blood changed

mes sire Yvains et si li dit:

my lord Yvain and so to-him says

6340

6345

6350

“Biaus sire chiers! se Des m’äit,

Fair lord dear so God me-help

trop avez grant tort de ce dire.

too you-have great wrong of this to-say

Mes bien sache li rois, mes sire,

But well let-know the king my lord

6355 que je sui de ceste bataille

that I am of this battle

outrez et recreanz sanz faille!”

overcome and recreant without fail

“Mes gié.” — “Mes gié”, fet cil et cil.

But I But I says this-one and this-one

Tant sont andui franc et jantil,

So-much are both generous and noble

que la victoire et la corone

that the victory and the crown

6360 li uns a l’autre otroie et done,

the one to the-other grants and gives

ne cil ne cil ne la viaut prendre;

nor this-one nor this-one not it wishes to-take

ainz fet chascuns par force antandre

rather makes each by force to-understand

au roi et a totes les janz,

to-the king and to all the folk

qu’il est outrez et recreanz.

that-he is overcome and recreant

6365 Mes li rois la tançon depiece,

But the king the dispute breaks-up

quant oïz les ot une piece:

when heard them he-bad a while

car li oïrs mout li seoit

for the bearing much to-him suited

et ce avuec, que il veoit,

and this besides that he saw

qu'il s'estoient antracolé,

that-they themselves-had embraced-each-other

s'avoit li uns l'autre afolé

and-had the one the-other maimed

et anpirié an plusors leus.

and injured in several places

"Seignor!", fet il, "antre vos deus

Lords says he between you two

a grant amor. Bien le mostrez,

is great love Well it you-show

quant chascuns dit, qu'il est outrez.

when each says that-he is overcome

Mes or vos an metez sor moi!

But now yourselves thereof put upon me

Et je l'atornerai, ce croi,

And I it-will-arrange this I-believe

si bien, qu'a enor vos sera,

so well that-to honor to-you it-will-be

et toz siecles m'an loera."

and all the-world me-thereof will-praise

Lors ont andui acreanté,

Then have both promised

que il feront sa volanté

that they will-do his will

tot ainsi come il le dira.

all thus as he it will-say

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Et li rois dit, qu'il partira

And the king says that-he will-settle

a bien et a foi la querele.

in good and in faith the quarrel

"Ou est", fet il, "la dameisele,

Where is says he the damsel

6385 qui sa seror a fors botee

who her sister has out thrust

de sa terre et deseritee

from her land and disinherited

par force et par male merci?"

by force and by evil mercy

"Sire!", fet ele, "je sui ci."

Lord says she I am here

"La estes vos? Venez donc ça!

There are you Come then here

6390 Bien le savoie grant pieç'a,

Well it I-knew long while-ago

que vos la deseritiiez.

that you her disinherited

Ses droiz ne sera mes noiiez;

Her right not will-be more denied

que coneü m'avez le voir.

for confessed to-me-you-have the truth

Sa partie par estovoir

Her portion by necessity

6395 vos covient tote clamer quite."

to-you it-behooves all to-declare quit

“Sire!”, fet ele, “se j’ai dite

Lord says she if I-have said

une response nice et fole,

an answer silly and foolish

ne me devez prandre a parole.

not me you-must to-take at word

Por De! sire, ne me grevez!

For God lord not me grieve

Vos estes rois, si vos devez

You are king and you must

de tort garder et de mesprandre.”

from wrong to-keep and from to-err

“Por ce”, fet li rois, “vuel je randre

For this says the king wish I to-render

a vostre seror sa droiture;

to your sister her right

que je n’oi onques de tort cure.

for I not-had ever of wrong care

Et vos avez bien antandu,

And you have well understood

qu’an ma merci se sont randu

that-to my mercy themselves have yielded

vostre chevaliers et li suens.

your knight and the hers

Je ne dirai pas toz voz buens;

I not will-say at-all all your pleasures

car vostre torz est coneüz.

for your wrong is confessed

Chascuns dit, qu’il est chanpcheüz,

Each says that-he is beaten-in-the-field

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tant viaut li uns l'autre enorer.

so-much wishes the one the-other to-honor

A ce n'ai je que demorer:

At this not-have I what to-delay

des que la chose est sor moi mise,

since that the thing is upon me put

ou vos feroiz a ma devise

either you will-do at my direction

6415 tot, quanque je deviserai

all whatever I shall-direct

sanz feire tort, ou je dirai,

without doing wrong or I will-say

que mes niés est d'armes conquis.

that my nephew is with-arms conquered

Lors si vaudroit a vostre oés pis;

Then so it-would-be-worth to your use worse

mes jel dirai contre mon cuer.”

but I-it will-say against my heart

6420 Si nel deïst il a nul fuer;

And not-it would-say he at any price

mes il le dist por essaïier,

but he it said to to-try

s'il la porroit tant esmaïier,

if-be her could so-much to-dismay

qu'ele randist a sa seror

that-she rendered to her sister

son heritage par peor;

her heritage through fear

6425 qu'il s'est aparceüz mout bien,

for-be himself-has perceived very well

que ele ne l'an randist rien
that she not it-thereof would-render anything

por quanque dire li seüst,
for whatever to-say to-her he-could

se force ou crieme n'i eüst.
if force or dread not-therein were

Por ce qu'ele le dote et crient,
For this that-she him fears and dreads

li dit: "Biaus sire! or me covient
to-him says Fair lord now to-me it-behooves

que je face vostre talant,
that I do your desire

mes mout an ai le cuer dolant.
but much thereof I-have the heart sorrowing

Et jel ferai, que qu'il me griet,
And I-it will-do whatever that-it me grieve

s'avra ma suer ce, qui li siet.
and-will-have my sister this which to-her suits

De sa part de mon heritage
Of her share of my heritage

li doing vos meïsme an ostage
to-her I-give you yourself in pledge

por ce, que plus seüre an soit."
for this that more sure thereof she-be

"Revestez l'an tot ore androit!"
Invest her-therewith all now at-this-moment

Fet li rois, "et ele an devaingne
Says the king and she thereof become

vostre fame et de vos la taingne!
your vassal and from you it bold

6430

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Si l'amez come vostre fame,

So her-love as your vassal

et ele vos come sa dame

and she you as her lady

et come sa seror germainne!"

and as her sister own

Einsi li rois la chose mainne

Thus the king the thing conducts

6445 tant que de sa terre est seisie

until that of her land is seized

la pucele, si l'an mercie.

the maiden and him-thereof thanks

Et li rois dit a son neveu,

And the king says to his nephew

au chevalier vaillant et preu,

to-the knight valiant and worthy

que ses armes oster se lest,

that his arms to-remove himself let

6450 et mes sire Yvains, se lui plect,

and my lord Yvain if to-him it-please

se relest les soes tolor;

himself let-also the his to-be-taken

car bien s'an pueent mes sofrir.

for well themselves-thereof can now to-forbear

Lors se desarment li vassal,

Then themselves disarm the vassals

si se departent par igal;

and themselves part on equal-terms

6455 et que que il se desarmoient,

and while that they themselves disarmed

le lion corant venir voient,

the lion running to-come they-see

qui son seignor querant aloit.

which its lord seeking went

Tot maintenant que il le voit,

All straightway that it him sees

si comance grant joie a feire.

and begins great joy to to-make

Lors veïssiez janz arriers treire:

Then you-would-see folk backward to-draw

trestoz li plus hardiz s'an fuit.

even the most bold himself-thence flees

"Estez", fet mes sire Yvains, "tuit!

Stand says my lord Yvain all

Por quoi fuiiez? Nus ne vos chace.

For what flee-you Anyone not you chases

Ne dotez ja, que mal vos face

Not fear ever that harm to-you it-do

li lions, que venir veez!

the lion which to-come you-see

De ce, s'il vos plest, me creez,

Of this if-it to-you pleases me believe

qu'il est a moi et je a lui,

for-it is to me and I to it

si somes conpaignon andui."

and we-are companions both

Lors sorent trestuit cil de voir,

Then knew all those for truth

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6470 qui orent oï mantevoir
who had heard to-be-mentioned
 les aventures au lion,
the adventures of-the lion
 de lui et de son compaignon,
of it and of its companion
 qu'onques ne fu autre que cist,
that-ever not was another than this-one
 qui le felon jaïant ocist.
who the cruel giant slew

6475 Et mes sire Gauvains li dit:
And my lord Gawain to-him says
 “Sire compainz! se Des m'äit,
Lord companion so God me-help
 mout m'avez hui avileni!
much me-you-have today shamed
 Mauveisement vos ai meri
Ill you I-have requited
 le servise, que me feïstes
the service which to-me you-did

6480 del jaïant, que vos oceïstes
of-the giant whom you slew
 por mes neveuz et por ma niece.
for my nephews and for my niece
 A vos ai je pansé grant piece,
Of you have I thought a-great while
 et por ce estoie angoisseus,
and for this I-was anguished

que l'an disoit, qu'antre nos deus

for one said that-between us two

avoit amor et acointance.

there-was love and acquaintance

Mout i ai pansé sanz dotance;

Much thereon I-have thought without doubt

mes apanser ne me savoie,

but to-bethink not myself I-knew

n'onques oï parler n'avoie

and-never heard to-speak not-I-had

de chevalier, que je seüsse,

of a-knight whom I knew

an terre, ou je esté eüsse.

in a-land where I been had

Que li Chevaliers au Lion

That the Knight of-the Lion

fust nus apelez par son non."

were anyone called by his name

Desarmé sont einsi parlant,

Disarmed they-are thus speaking

et li lions ne vint pas lant

and the lion not came at-all slow

vers son seignor la, ou il sist.

toward its lord there where he sat

Quant devant lui fu, si li fist

When before him it-was so to-him made

grant joie come beste mue.

great joy as a-beast dumb

6485

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An anfermerie et an mue

Into an-infirmiry and into seclusion

les an covient andeus mener;

them thence it-behooves both to-lead

6500 car a lor plaies ressener

for to their wounds to-heal

ont mestier de mire et d'antret.

they-have need of a-physician and of-salve

Devant lui mener les an fet

Before him to-lead them thence makes

li rois, qui mout chiers les avoit.

the king who very dear them held

Un cirurgiien, qui savoit

A surgeon who knew

6505 de plaies garir plus que nus,

of wounds to-heal more than anyone

lor fet mander li rois Artus.

for-them makes to-be-summoned the king Arthur

Et cil del garir se pena

And he of-the healing himself took-pains

tant que lor plaies ressena

until that their wounds he-healed

au miauz et au plus tost qu'il pot, —

at-the best and at-the most soon that-he could

6510 quant anbedeus gariz les ot,

when both healed them he-had

mes sire Yvains, qui sanz retor

my lord Yvain who without return

avoit son cuer mis an amor,

had his heart put into love

vit bien, que durer ne porroit,

saw well that to-endure not be-could

mes por amor an fin morroit,

but for love in the-end be-would-die

se sa dame n'avoit merci

if his lady not-had mercy

de lui; qu'il se moroit por li.

on him for-he himself was-dying for her

Et pansa, qu'il se partiroit

And thought that-he himself would-depart

toz seus de cort et si iroit

all alone from court and so would-go

a sa fontaine guerroiier,

to his spring to-make-war

et s'i feroit tant foudroiier

and therein would-make so-much to-thunder

et tant vanter et tant plovoir,

and so-much to-blow and so-much to-rain

que par force et par estovoir

that by force and by necessity

li covandroit feire a lui pes,

to-her it-would-behoove to-make with him peace

ou il ne fineroit ja mes

or he not would-cease ever more

de la fontaine tormanter

from the spring to-torment

et de plovoir et de vanter.

and from raining and from blowing

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The Storm at the Spring

XXXI

Healed and unremarked, Yvain leaves court with the lion and raises such a tempest at the spring that the walls shake and the tower comes within a little of toppling. The household curse the men who first built there, and Lunete tells her lady she will find no one to defend the spring unless someone is sought far off. She proposes the knight who killed the giant, who will follow nobody until someone swears to reconcile him with his lady; the lady kneels and swears on a reliquary to labor for the Knight of the Lion, in an oath Lunete frames to her own advantage.

Maintenant que mes sire Yvains

Straightway that my lord Yvain

santi, qu'il fu gariz et sains,

felt that-he was healed and whole

si s'an parti, que nus nel sot;

so himself-thence departed that anyone not-it knew

6530 mes avuec lui son lion ot,

but with him his lion he-had

qui onques an tote sa vie

which ever in all its life

ne vost leissier sa compaignie.

not wished to-leave his company

Puis errerent tant que il virent

Then they-journeyed so-far that they saw

la fontaine et plovoir i firent.

the spring and to-rain therein made

6535 Ne cuidiez pas, que je vos mante,

Not think at-all that I to-you lie

que si fu fiere la tormante,

that so was fierce the tempest

que nus n'an conteroit le disme;

that anyone not-thereof would-tell the tenth

qu'il sanbloit, que jusqu'an abisme

for-it seemed that even-into the-abyss

deüst fondre la forez tote.

should to-sink the forest all

La dame de son chastel dote,

The lady for her castle fears

que il ne fonde toz ansamble:

that it — sink all together

li mur crollent et la torz tranble

the walls shake and the tower trembles

si que par po qu'ele ne verse.

so that for little that-it — topples

Miauz vossist estre pris an Perse

Better would-wish to-be taken in Persia

li plus hardiz antre les Turs,

the most bold among the Turks

qu'il fust leanz antre les murs.

than-he were there-within among the walls

Tel peor ont, que il maudient

Such fear they-have that they curse

trestoz lor ancessors, et dient:

all their ancestors and say

“Maleoiz soit li premiers hon,

Cursed be the first man

qui fist an cest païs meison,

who made in this land a-house

et cil, qui cest chastel fonderent!

and those who this castle founded

6540

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Qu'an tot le monde ne troverent

For-in all the world not they-found

leu, que l'an deüst tant haïr;

a-place which one should so-much to-hate

qu'uns seus hon nos puet anvair

for-a single man us can to-assail

6555 et tormanter et traveillier.”

and to-torment and to-barass

“De ceste chose conseilher

Of this thing to-take-counsel

vos covient, dame!”, fet Lunete;

to-you it-behooves lady says Lunete

“ne troveroiz, qui s'antremete

not you-will-find who himself-busy

de vos eidier a cest besoiing,

with you to-help at this need

6560 se l'an nel va querre mout loing.

if one not-him goes to-seek very far

Ja mes voir ne reposerons

Ever more truly not we-shall-rest

an cest chastel, ne n'oserons

in this castle nor not-we-shall-dare

les murs ne la porte passer.

the walls nor the gate to-pass

Qui avroit toz fet amasser

Whoever would-have all made to-assemble

6565 voz chevaliers por cest afeire,

your knights for this affair

ne s'an oseroit avant treire
not himself-thereof would-dare forward to-draw

toz li miaudres, bien le savez;
quite the best well it you-know

s'est ore ainsi, que vos n'avez,
and-is now thus that you not-have

qui deffande vostre fontaine,
who defend your spring

si sanblerioiz fole et vilainne.
so you-will-seem foolish and base

6570

Mout bele enor i avroiz ja,
Very fair honor therein you-will-have now

quant sanz bataille s'an ira
when without battle himself-thence will-go

cil, qui si vos a assaillie.
he who so you has assailed

Certes, vos estes mal baillie,
Certainly you are ill placed

s'autremant de vos ne pansez."
if-otherwise for yourself not you-think

6575

"Tu", fet la dame, "qui tant sez,
You says the lady who so-much know

me di, comant j'an panserai,
to-me tell how I-thereof shall-think

et je a ton los an ferai."
and I at your counsel thereof will-do

"Dame! certes, se je savoie.
Lady certainly if I knew

Volantiers vos conseileroie;
Willingly you I-would-counsel

6580

mes vos avriiez grant mestier

but you would-have great need

de plus resnable conseilher.

of a-more reasonable counselor

Por ce si ne m'an os mesler,

For this so not myself-thereof I-dare to-meddle

et le plovoir et le vanter

and the raining and the blowing

6585 avuec les autres sofrerai,

with the others I-shall-suffer

tant, se De plest, que je verrai

until if to-God it-please that I shall-see

an vostre cort aucun prodome,

in your court some worthy-man

qui prandra le fes et la some

who will-take the burden and the load

de ceste bataille sor lui:

of this battle upon him

6590 mes je ne cuit, que ce soit hui,

but I not think that this be today

si vaudra mout pis a vostre oés.”

so it-will-be-worth much worse to your use

Et la dame li respont lués:

And the lady to-her answers at-once

“Dameisele! car parlez d'el!

Damsel pray speak of-something-else

Leissiez la jant de mon ostel;

Leave the folk of my household

6595 qu'an aus n'ai je nule atandue,

for-in them not-have I any expectation

que ja par aus soit deffandue

that ever by them be defended

la fontainne ne li perrons.

the spring nor the block

Mes, se De plest, ore i verrons

But if to-God it-please now therein we-shall-see

vostre consoil et vostre san;

your counsel and your sense

qu'au besoing, toz jorz le dit an,

for-at-the need all days it says one

doit an son ami esprover.”

must one his friend to-prove

“Dame! qui cuideroit trover

Lady whoever would-think to-find

celui, qui le jaiant ocist

him who the giant slew

et les trois chevaliers conquist,

and the three knights conquered

il le feroit buen aler querre;

it it would-be good to-go to-seek

mes tant come il avra la guerre

but so-long as he will-have the enmity

et l'ire et le mal cuer sa dame,

and the-wrath and the ill heart of-bis lady

n'a il soz ciel home ne fame,

not-is there under heaven man nor woman

cui il siuist, mien esciant,

whom he would-follow to-my knowledge

jusquë il li jurt et fiant,

until he to-him swear and pledge

6600

6605

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qu'il fera tote sa puissance

that-he will-do all his power

de racorder la mesestance,

to to-reconcile the estrangement

que sa dame a si grant a lui,

which his lady has so great toward him

qu'il an muert de duel et d'enui."

that-he thereof dies of grief and of-trouble

6615 Et la dame dit: "Je sui preste,

And the lady says I am ready

ainz que vos antroiz an la queste,

before that you enter upon the quest

que je vos plevisse ma foi,

that I to-you pledge my faith

et jurerai, s'il vient a moi,

and I-will-swear if-he comes to me

que je sanz guile et sanz feintise

that I without guile and without feigning

6620 li ferai tot a sa devise

to-him will-make all at his direction

sa pes, se je feire la puis."

his peace if I to-make it can

Et Lunete li respont puis:

And Lunete to-her answers then

"Dame! de ce ne dotez rien,

Lady of this not fear anything

que vos ne li puissiez mout bien

that you — to-him may very well

6625 sa pes feire, se il vos siet;

his peace to-make if it you suits

mes del seiremant ne vos griet,
but of-the oath not to-you let-it-grieve

que je le prandrai tote voie,
for I it will-take all the-same

ainz que je me mete a la voie.”
before that I myself put on the way

“Ce”, fet la dame, “ne me poise.”
This says the lady not me grieves

Lunete, qui mout fu cortoise,
Lunete who very was courteous

6630

li fist tot maintenant fors treire
for-her made all straightway out to-be-drawn

un mout precieus santüaire,
a very precious reliquary

et la dame a genouz s'est mise.
and the lady on knees herself-is put

Au jeu de verité l'a prise
At-the game of truth her-has taken

Lunete mout cortoisement.
Lunete very courteously

6635

A l'eschevir del seiremant
At the-framing of-the oath

rien de son preu n'i oblia
anything of her profit not-therein forgot

cele, qui eschevi li a.
she who framed for-her has

“Dame!”, fet el, “hauciez la main!
Lady says she raise the hand

6640 Je ne vuel pas, qu'après demain

I not wish at-all that-after tomorrow

m'an metoiz sus ne ce ne quoi;

to-me-thereof you-put upon nor this nor that

que vos n'an faites rien por moi:

that you not-thereof do anything for me

por vos meïsme le feroiz.

for you yourself it you-will-do

Se il vos plect, si jureroiz

If it you pleases so you-will-swear

6645 por le Chevalier au Lion,

for the Knight of-the Lion

que vos an buene antencion

that you in good intention

vos peneroiz tant qu'il savra,

yourself will-labor until that-he will-know

que l'amor de sa dame avra

that the-love of his lady he-will-have

tot aussi bien, come il l'ot onques."

all as well as he it-bad ever

6650 La main destre leva adonques

The hand right raised then

la dame et dist: "Trestot einsi,

the lady and said All thus

con tu l'as dit, et je le di,

as you it-have said and I it say

einsi m'aït Des et li sainz,

so me-help God and the saints

que ja mes cuers ne sera fainz,

that ever my heart not will-be feigning

que je tot mon pooir n'an face.

that I all my power not-thereof do

L'amor li randrai et la grace,

The-love to-him I-will-render and the grace

que il siaut a sa dame avoir,

which he was-wont with his lady to-have

se j'an ai force ne pooir."

if I-thereof have force or power

6655

The Reconciliation

XXXII

Lunete rides out and finds him under the pine far sooner than she had expected. He kisses her eyes and her face and says he can never repay her; she answers that she is only returning what she borrowed. At the castle he falls armed at the lady's feet, and Lunete names him her husband. The lady says she is fairly trapped and would rather have endured wind and storm all her life, but she will not be forsworn; Yvain confesses his folly, she grants him peace, and Chrétien ends his romance here.

Ore a bien Lunete exploitié;

Now has well Lunete achieved

de rien n'avoit tel coveitié,

of anything not-she-had such longing

con de ce, que ele avoit fet.

as of this which she had done

Et l'an li avoit ja fors tret

And one to-her had already out drawn

un palefroi soef anblant.

a palfrey softly ambling

6660

A bele chiere, a lié sanblant

With fair countenance with glad semblance

6665 monte Lunete, si s'an va,

mounts Lunete and herself-thence goes

tant que dessoz le pin trova

until that beneath the pine she-found

celui, qu'ele ne cuidoit pas

him whom-she not thought at-all

trover a si petit de pas;

to-find at so little of distance

ainz cuidoit, qu'il li covenist

rather she-thought that-it to-her would-behoove

6670 mout querre, ainz qu'a lui parvenist.

much to-seek before that-to him she-should-come

Par le lion l'a coneü,

By the lion him-she-has recognized

tantost come ele l'a veü,

as-soon as she him-she-has seen

si vient vers lui grant aleüre

and comes toward him at-great pace

et desçant a la terre dure.

and dismounts on the ground hard

6675 Et mes sire Yvains la conut

And my lord Yvain her recognized

de si loing come il l'aparçut,

from so far as he her-perceived

si la salue, et ele lui

and her greets and she him

et dit: "Sire! mout liee sui,

and says Lord very glad I-am

quant je vos ai trové si pres.”

that I you have found so near

Et mes sire Yvains dit après:

And my lord Yvain says after

“Comant? Me querriez vos donques?”

How Me sought you then

“Oïl, sire! et si ne fui onques

Yes lord and so not I-was ever

si liee, des que je fui nee;

so glad since that I was born

que j’ai ma dame a ce menee,

for I-have my lady to this brought

s’ele parjurer ne se viaut,

if-she to-forswear not herself wishes

que tot aussi come ele siaut,

that all just as she is-wont

iert vostre dame et vos ses sire;

she-will-be your lady and you her lord

par verité le vos os dire.”

in truth it to-you I-dare to-say

Mes sire Yvains formant s’esjot

My lord Yvain greatly himself-rejoiced

de la novele, que il ot,

at the news which he heard

qu’il ne cuidoit ja mes oïr.

which-he not thought ever more to-hear

Ne pot mie assez conjoïr

Not he-could at-all enough to-welcome

celi, qui ce li a porquis.

her who this for-him has obtained

6680

6685

6690

Les iauz li beise et puis le vis,

The eyes to-her be-kisses and then the face

6695 et dit: "Certes, ma douce amie!

and says Certainly my sweet friend

Ce ne vos porroie je mie

This not to-you could I at-all

guerredoner an nule guise.

to-require in any wise

A vos feire enor et servise

To you to-do honor and service

criem, que pooirs et tans me faille."

I-fear that power and time me fail

6700 "Sire!", fet ele, "ne vos chaille,

Lord says she not to-you let-it-matter

ne ja n'an soïiez an espans!

nor ever not-thereof be in anxiety

Qu'assez avroiz pooir et tans

For-enough you-will-have power and time

a bien feire moi et autrui.

to well to-do to-me and to-another

Se je ai fet ce, que je dui,

If I have done this which I ought

6705 si m'an doit an tel gre savoir,

so to-me-thereof must one such thanks to-know

con celui, qui autrui avoir

as to-him who another's goods

anprunte et puis si le repaie.

borrow and then so it repays

Ancor ne cuit, que je vos aie

Still not I-think that I to-you have

randu ce, que je vos devoie.”

rendered this which I to-you owed

“Si avez fet, se Des me voie,

Yes you-have done so God me see

a plus de cinc çanz mile droiz.

by more than five hundred thousand rights

Ore an irons, quant vos voldroiz.

Now thence we-will-go when you will-wish

Mes avez li vos dit de moi,

But have to-her you said of me

qui je sui?” — “Naie, par ma foi!

who I am No by my faith

Ne ne set, comant avez non

Nor not she-knows how you-have name

se Chevaliers au Lion non.”

except Knight of-the Lion not

Einsi parlant s’an vont adés,

Thus speaking themselves-thence go continually

et li lions toz jorz après,

and the lion all days after

tant qu’au chastel vindrent tuit troi.

until that-to-the castle came all three

Ains ne distrent ne ce ne quoi

Ever not they-said nor this nor what

el chastel n’a home n’a fame,

in-the castle nor-to man nor-to woman

tant qu’il vindrent devant la dame.

until that-they came before the lady

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Et la dame mout s'esjoï

And the lady much herself-rejoiced

tantost con la novele oï

as-soon as the news she-heard

6725 de la pucele, qui venoit,

of the maiden who came

et de ce, que ele amenoit

and of this that she brought

le lion et le chevalier,

the lion and the knight

qu'ele voloit mout acointier

whom-she wished much to-meet

et mout conoistre et mout veoir.

and much to-know and much to-see

6730 A ses piez s'est leissiez cheoir

At her feet himself-is let to-fall

mes sire Yvains trestoz armez,

my lord Yvain all armed

et Lunete, qui fu delez,

and Lunete who was beside

li dit: "Dame! relevez l'an

to-her says Lady raise him-thence

et metez painne et force et san

and put pains and force and sense

6735 a la pes querre et au pardon,

to the peace to-seek and to-the pardon

que nus ne li puet se vos non

for anyone not to-him can except you not

an tot le monde porchacier!"

in all the world to-obtain

Lors le fet la dame drecier

Then him makes the lady to-rise

et dit: "Mes pooirs est toz suens!

and says My power is all his

Ses volantez feire et ses buens

His wishes to-do and his pleasures

voldroie mout, que je poïsse."

I-would-wish much that I could

"Certes, dame! ja nel deïsse",

Certainly lady ever not-it I-would-say

fet Lunete, "se ne fust voirs.

says Lunete if not it-were true

Toz an est vostre li pooirs

All thereof is yours the power

assez plus, que dit ne vos ai;

by-far more than said — to-you I-have

mes des or mes vos an dirai

but from now more to-you thereof I-will-say

la verité, si la savroiz:

the truth so it you-will-know

ains n'eüstes ne ja n'avroiz

ever not-you-had nor ever not-you-will-have

si buen ami come cestui.

so good a-friend as this-one

Des, qui viaut, qu'antre vos et lui

God who wishes that-between you and him

et buone pes et buone amor,

both good peace and good love

tel, qui ja ne faille a nul jor,

such that ever not fail on any day

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le m'a hui fet si pres trover.

him to-me-has today made so near to-find

Ja a la verité prover

Ever to the truth to-prove

6755 ne covient autre reison dire:

not it-behooves other reason to-say

dame! pardonez li vostre ire!

lady pardon to-him your wrath

Que il n'a dame autre que vos.

For he not-has a-lady other than you

C'est mes sire Yvains, vostre espos."

This-is my lord Yvain your husband

A cest mot la dame tressaut

At this word the lady starts

6760 et dit: "Se Damedés me saut,

and says So Lord-God me save

bien m'avez au hoquerel prise!

well me-you-have at-the trap taken

Celui, qui ne m'aimme ne prise,

Him who not me-loves nor prizes

me feras amer maugré mien.

me you-will-make to-love against-will mine

Ore as tu exploitié mout bien,

Now have you achieved very well

6765 or m'as tu mout a gre servie!

now me-have you much to pleasure served

Miauz vossisse tote ma vie

Better I-would-wish all my life

vanz et orages andurer!

winds and storms to-endure

Et se ne fust de parjurer

And if not it-were of to-forswear

trop leide chose et trop vilainne,

too ugly a-thing and too base

ja mes a moi por nule painne

ever more with me for any pain

pes ne acorde ne trovast.

peace nor accord not he-would-find

Toz jorz mes el cors me covast,

All days more in-the body me would-brood

si con li feus cove an la çandre,

just as the fire broods in the ash

ce, don je ne vuel or reprandre,

this whereof I not wish now to-take-up-again

ne ne me chaut del recorder,

nor not to-me it-matters of-the recalling

puis qu'a lui m'estuet acorder."

since that-with him to-me-it-behooves to-be-reconciled

Mes sire Yvains ot et antant,

My lord Yvain bears and understands

que ses afeires bien li prant,

that his affair well for-him turns

qu'il avra sa pes et s'acorde,

that-he will-have his peace and his-accord

et dit: "Dame! misericorde

and says Lady mercy

doit an de pecheor avoir.

must one for a-sinner to-have

Comparé ai mon fol savoir,

Paid-for I-have my foolish wisdom

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et je le dui bien conparer.

and I it ought well to-pay-for

Folie me fist demorer,

Folly me made to-tarry

6785 si m'an rant coupable et forfet.

so myself-thereof I-render guilty and in-the-wrong

Et mout grant hardemant ai fet,

And very great boldness I-have done

quant devant vos osai venir;

when before you I-dared to-come

mes s'or me volez retenir,

but if-now me you-wish to-keep

ja mes ne vos mesferai rien."

ever more not to-you I-will-do-wrong anything

6790 "Certes", fet ele, "je vuel bien,

Certainly says she I am-willing indeed

por ce, que parjure seroie,

for this that forsworn I-should-be

se tot mon pooir n'an feisoie

if all my power not-thereof I-did

de pes feire antre vos et moi.

of peace to-make between you and me

S'il vos plest, je la vos otroi."

If-it you pleases I it to-you grant

6795 "Dame!", fet il, "cinc çanz merciz!

Lady says he five hundred thanks

Einsi m'ait sainz Esperiz,

So me-help holy Spirit

que Des an cest siecle mortel

that God in this world mortal

ne me porroit lié feire d'el!"

not me could glad to-make with-anything-else

Ore a mes sire Yvains sa pes,

Now has my lord Yvain his peace

si poez croire, qu'onques mes

so you-can to-believe that-ever before

ne fu de rien nule si liez,

not he-was for thing any so glad

comant qu'il et esté iriez.

however that-he have been grieved

Mout an est a buen chief venuz;

Much thereof is to a-good end come

qu'il est amez et chier tenuz

for-he is loved and dear held

de sa dame, et ele de lui.

by his lady and she by him

Ne li sovient de nul enui;

Not to-him it-remembers of any trouble

que par la joie les oblie,

for through the joy them he-forgets

qu'il a de sa tres chiere amie.

which-he has of his very dear friend

Et Lunete rest mout a eise:

And Lunete is-also very at ease

ne li faut chose, qui li pleise,

not to-her fails a-thing which to-her please

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des qu'ele a faite pes sanz fin

since that-she has made peace without end

de mon seignor Yvain, le fin,

of my lord Yvain the true

et de s'amie chiere et fine.

and of his-friend dear and true

Del Chevalier au Lion fine

Of-the Knight of-the Lion ends

6815 Crestiens son romanz einsi;

Chrétien his romance thus

qu'onques plus conter n'an oï,

for-ever more to-tell not-thereof I-heard

ne ja plus n'an orroiz conter,

nor ever more not-thereof you-will-bear to-tell

s'an n'i viaut mançonge ajoster.

if-one not-therein wishes a-lie to-add