

OLD FRENCH SERIES • VOLUME 16

THE FABLIAUX

Recueil général et complet des fabliaux

The Fabliaux

Twenty Comic Tales of the Thirteenth Century

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

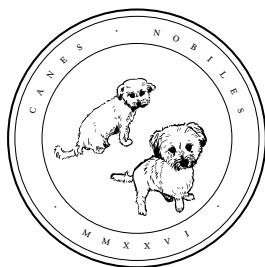


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Volume 16 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows Anatole de Montaiglon and Gaston Raynaud's texts,
Recueil général et complet des fabliaux des XIIIe et XIVe siècles,
in six volumes (Paris, 1872–1890), with their corrections

Set from page scans of that printing

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The spelling is each manuscript's as Montaiglon and Raynaud print it, with their acute on a tonic final e, the grave on à, and the tréma where two vowels do not form a diphthong; the numerals stand between points as they print them. A speech opens on «, a reply on a dash, and » closes the exchange, so a reply inside it closes nothing.

CONTENTS

IV · The Three Blind Men of Compiègne	7
V · The Divided Horse-Blanket	30
VIII · The Burgher's Wife of Orléans	59
X · Brunain, the Priest's Cow	77
XVII · The Partridges	83
XVIII · The Crucified Priest	94
XXII · Gombert and the Two Clerks	102
LXXIV · The Peasant Doctor	116
LXXXI · The Churl Who Won Paradise by Pleading	143
LXXXII · The Ass's Testament	155
LXXXIV · The Butcher of Abbeville	167
LXXXVI · Berangier of the Long Ass	207
XCIV · The Tresses	228
XCVI · Estula	258
XCVII · Barat and Haimet	268
CX · Aubérée the Old Go-Between	304
CXVII · Saint Peter and the Jongleur	350
CXIX · The Miller and the Two Clerks	379
CXXVII · The Old Woman Who Greased the Knight's Palm	402
CXXXIII · The Four Wishes of Saint Martin	407

Des trois avugles de Compiègne

IV · THE THREE BLIND MEN OF COMPIÈGNE

Three blind men on the road to Senlis beg from a clerk riding from Paris, who gives them a bezant in word only, and each thinks another holds it. They feast in Compiègne on the coin none of them has until the clerk takes their debt on himself. He tells the host the priest will pay, tells the priest the host is sick in the head, and rides off. The parishioners hold the burgher down for the Gospel, and Cortearbe says many a man is shamed wrongly.

Une matère ci dirai

A matter here I-shall-tell

d'un fabel que vous conterai.

of-a fabliau that to-you I-shall-recount

On tient le menestrel à sage

One holds the minstrel for wise

qui met en trover son usage

who puts in composing his practice

de fère biaux dis et biaux contes

of to-make fair sayings and fair tales

c'on dit devant dus, devant contes.

that-one says before dukes before counts

Fabel sont bon à escouter:

Fabliaux are good to hear

maint duel, maint mal font mesconter

many-a grief many-a ill they-make be-miscounted

et maint anui et maint meffet.

and many-a vexation and many-a misdeed

- 10 Cortebarbe a cest fablel fet;
Cortebarbe has this fabliau made
 si croi bien qu'encor l'en soviegne.
so I-believe well that-still to-him-thereof it-may-remember
 Il avint jà defors Compiègne
It happened once outside Compiègne
 trois avugle .I. chemin aloient.
three blind-men a road were-going
 Entre eus nis .I. garçon n'avoient
Among them even a boy not-they-had
- 15 qui les menast ne conduisist
who them might-lead nor might-guide
 ne le chemin lor apresist.
nor the road to-them might-teach
 Chascuns avoit son hanepel;
Each had his cup
 moult povre estoient lor drapel,
very poor were their rags
 quar vestu furent povrement.
for clothed they-were poorly
- 20 Tout le chemin si fetement
All the way in-such wise
 s'en aloient devers Senlis.
themselves-thence they-went toward Senlis
 Uns clers qui venoit de Paris,
A clerk who came from Paris
 qui bien et mal assez savoit,
who good and ill plenty knew
 escuier et sommier avoit,
squire and packhorse he-had

et bel palefroi chevauchant,

and fair palfrey riding

les avugles vint aprochant,

the blind-men he-came approaching

quar grant ambleüre venoit.

for great amble he-came

Si vit que nus ne les menoit;

And he-saw that anyone not them led

si pensse que aucuns n'en voie:

and thinks that anyone not-thereof may-see

coment alaissent-il la voie?

how might-they-go the way

Puis dist: «El cors me fière goute,

Then he-said In-the body me may-strike gout

se je ne sai s'il voient goute.»

if I not know if-they see a-drop

Li avugle venir l'oïrent,

The blind-men come him-heard

erraument d'une part se tindrent,

at-once to-one side themselves held

si s'escrient: «Fetes-nous bien,

and themselves-they-cry Do-us good

povre somes sor toute rien;

poor we-are above every thing

cil est moult povres qui ne voit.»

that-one is very poor who not sees

Li clers esraument se porvoit,

The clerk at-once himself bethinks

qui les veut aler falordant;

who them wishes to-go fooling

25

30

35

- 40 «Vez ici, fet-il, .I. besant
See here says-he a bezant
 que je vous done entre vous .III.
that I to-you give among you three
 — Diex le vous mire et sainte Croiz,
God it to-you may-reward and holy Cross
 fet chascuns, ci n'a pas don lait.»
says each here not-there-is at-all gift mean
 Chascuns cuide ses compains l'ait.
Each thinks his companion it-has
- 45 Li clers maintenant s'en départ,
The clerk at-once himself-thence departs
 puis dist qu'il veut veoir lor départ.
then says that-he wishes to-see their parting
 Esraument à pié descendi;
At-once on foot be-dismounted
 si escouta et entendì
and listened and heard
 coment les avugle disoient,
how the blind-men spoke
- 50 et coment entr'eus devisoient.
and how among-themselves they-talked
 Li plus mestres des .III. a dit:
The most master of-the three has said
 «Ne nous a or mie escondit
Not us he-has now at-all refused
 qui à nous cest besant dona;
who to us this bezant gave
 en .I. besant moult biau don a.
in a bezant very fair gift there-is

Savez, fet-il, que nous ferons?

55

Know-you says-he what we shall-do

Vers Compiègne retournerons;

Toward Compiègne we-shall-return

grant tens a ne fumes aaise;

great time it-has not we-were at-ease

or est bien droiz que chascuns s'aise.

now is well right that each himself-eases

Compiègne est de toz biens plentive.

Compiègne is of all goods plentiful

— Com ci a parole soutive!

60

How here there-is word subtle

Chascuns des autres li respont;

Each of-the others to-him answers

c'or éussons passé le pont!»

that-now we-might-have passed the bridge

Vers Compiègne sont retourné,

Toward Compiègne they-are returned

ainsi come il sont atorné;

thus as they are arrayed

moult furent lié, baut et joiant.

65

very they-were glad blithe and joyful

Li clers les va adès sivant,

The clerk them goes ever following

et dist que adès les siurra

and says that ever them he-will-follow

de si adonc que il saura

from so then that he will-know

lor fin. Dedenz la vile entrèrent;

their end Within the town they-entered

- 70 si oïrent et escoutèrent
and heard and listened
 c'on crioit parmi le chastel:
that-one cried through the castle
 «Ci a bon vin frès et novel,
Here is good wine fresh and new
 ç'a d'Auçoire, ç'a de Soissons,
here-is of-Auxerre here-is of Soissons
 pain et char, et vin et poissons;
bread and flesh and wine and fish
- 75 ceenz fet bon despendre argent;
herein it-is good to-spend money
 ostel i a à toute gent;
lodging there is for all folk
 ceenz fet moult bon herbregier.»
herein it-is very good to-lodge
 Cele part vont tout sanz dangier,
That way they-go all without demur
 si s'en entrent en la meson;
and themselves-thence enter into the house
- 80 li borgois ont mis à reson:
the burgher they-have put to speech
 «Entendez çà à nous, font-il;
Hear here to us say-they
 ne nous tenez mie por vil
not us hold at-all for vile
 se nous somes si povrement;
if we are so poorly
 estre volons privéement;
to-be we-wish privately

miex vous paierons que plus cointe,

better you we-shall-pay than more elegant

ce li ont dit, et li acointe,

this to-him they-have said and to-him makes-known

quar nous volons assez avoir.»

for we wish plenty to-have

L'ostes pensse qu'il dient voir;

The-host thinks that-they speak truth

si fête gent ont deniers granz.

so made folk have pence great

D'aus aaisier fu moult en granz;

Of-them to-ease he-was very in eagerness

en la haute loge les maine:

into the high gallery them he-leads

«Seignor, fet-il, une semaine

Lords says-be a week

porriez ci estre bien et bel;

you-could here be well and fair

en la vile n'a bon morsel

in the town not-is good morsel

que vous n'aiez, se vos volez.

that you not-may-have if you wish

— Sire, font-il, or tost alez;

Lord say-they now quick go

si nous fêtes assez venir.

so us make plenty come

— Or m'en lessiez dont convenir,»

Now me-thereof let then manage

fet li borgois; puis si s'en torne.

says the burgher then so himself-thence turns

85

90

95

- 100 De .V. mès pleniers lor atorne
Of five disbes full for-them he-prepares
 pain, et char, pastéz et chapons,
bread and flesh pasties and capons
 et vins, mès que ce fu des bons:
and wines but that this was of-the good
 puis si lor fist là sus trametre,
then so to-them he-had there up sent
 et fist du charbon el feu metre;
and had of-the charcoal in-the fire put
- 105 assis se sont à haute table.
seated themselves they-are at high table
 Li vallés au clerc en l'estable
The servant to-the clerk into the-stable
 tret ses chevaus, l'ostel a pris.
draws his horses the-lodging has taken
 Li clers, qui moult ert bien apris
The clerk who very was well taught
 et bien vestuz et cointement,
and well clothed and elegantly
- 110 avoec l'oste moult hautement
with the-host very nobly
 sist au mengier la matinée,
sat at-the meal the morning
 puis au souper à la vesprée.
then at-the supper at the evening
 Et li avugle du solier
And the blind-men of-the upper-room
 furent servi com chevalier;
were served as knights

chascuns grant paticle menoit,

each great revel kept-up

l'uns à l'autre le vin donoit;

the-one to the-other the wine gave

«Tien, je t'en doing; après m'en done;

Hold I thee-thereof give after me-thereof give

cis crut sor une vingne bone.»

this grew on a vine good

Ne cuidiez pas qu'il lor anuit.

Not think at-all that-it them may-vex

Ainsi jusqu'à la mienuit

Thus until the midnight

furent en solaz sanz dangier.

they-were in solace without restraint

Li lit sont fet, si vont couchier

The beds are made so they-go to-lie

jusqu'au demain qu'il fu bele eure;

until-the morrow that-it was fair hour

et li clers tout adès demeure,

and the clerk all ever remains

por ce qu'il veut savoir lor fin.

for this that-he wishes to-know their end

Et l'ostes fu levéz matin

And the-host was risen early

et son vallet, puis si contèrent

and his servant then so reckoned

combien char et poisson coustèrent:

how-much flesh and fish cost

dist li vallés: «En vérité,

says the servant In truth

115

120

125

- 130 li pains, li vins et li pasté
the bread the wine and the pasties
 ont bien cousté plus de .X. saus;
have well cost more than ten sous
 tant ont il bien éu entre aus.
so-much have they well had among them
 Li clers en a .V. sols pour lui.
The clerk thereof has five sous for himself
 — De lui ne puis avoir anui;
Of him not I-can have vexation
- 135 va là sus, si me fai paier.»
go there up and me make pay
 Et li vallés sanz delaier
And the servant without delaying
 vint aus avugles, si lor dist
came to-the blind-men so to-them said
 que chascuns errant se vestit,
that each quickly himself should-dress
 ses sires veut estre paiez.
his lord wishes to-be paid
- 140 Font-il: «Or ne vous esmaiez,
Say-they Now not yourselves dismay
 quar moult très bien li paierons:
for very right well him we-shall-pay
 savez, font-il, que nous devons?
know-you say-they what we owe
 — Oïl, dist-il, .X. sols devez.
Yes says-he ten sous you-owe
 — Bien le vaut.» Chascuns s'est levez;
Well it is-worth Each himself-is risen

tuit troi sont aval descendu.

145

all three are down descended

Li clers a tout ce entendu,

The clerk has all this heard

qui se chauçoit devant son lit.

who himself was-shoeing before his bed

Li trois avugle à l'oste ont dit:

The three blind-men to the-host have said

«Sire, nous avons .I. besant,

Lord we have a bezant

je croi qu'il est molt bien pesant;

150

I believe that-it is very well weighty

quar nous en rendez le sorplus,

now us thereof render the surplus

ainçois que du vostre aions plus.

before that of-the yours we-have more

— Volentiers,» li osten respont.

Willingly the host answers

Fait li uns: «Quar li baille dont

Says the one Now to-him hand-over then

liques l'a. Be! je n'en ai mie.

155

which-one it-has Well I not-thereof have at-all

— Dont l'a Robers Barbe-florie?

Then it-has Robert Flowery-beard

— Non ai, mès vous l'avez, bien sai.

Not I-have but you it-have well I-know

— Par le cuer bieu, mie n'en ai.

By the heart (of-)God at-all not-thereof I-have

— Liques l'a dont? — Tu l'as. — Mès tu.

Which-one it-has then Thou it-hast But thou

- 160 — Fêtes, ou vous serez batu,
Do or you will-be beaten
 dist li osten, seignor truant,
says the host lords beggars
 et mis en longaingne puant
and put in privy stinking
 ainçois que vous partez de ci.»
before that you part from here
 Il li crient: «Por Dieu merci,
They to-him cry For God mercy
 165 sire, moult bien vous paierons.»
lord very well you we-shall-pay
 Dont recommence lor tençons:
Then begins-again their quarrel
 «Robert, fet l'uns, quar li donez
Robert says the-one now to-him give
 le besant; devant nous menez:
the bezant before us you-lead
 vous le reçustes premerains.
you it received first
 170 — Mès vous, qui venez daarains,
But you who come last
 li bailliez, quar je n'en ai point.
to-him hand-over for I not-thereof have at-all
 — Or sui je bien venuz à point,
Now am I well come to point
 fet li osten, quant on me truffe.»
says the host when one me mocks
 L'un va donner une grant buffe,
To-the-one he-goes to-give a great cuff

puis fait apporter .II. lingnas.

then makes be-brought two cudgels

Li clers, qui fu à biau harnas,

The clerk who was in fair gear

qui le conte forment amoit,

who the tale greatly loved

de ris en aise se pasmoit.

of laughter in ease himself swooned

Quant il vit le ledengement,

When he saw the abuse

à l'oste vint isnelement,

to the-host he-came swiftly

se li demande qu'il avoit,

so him asks what-he had

quel chose ces genz demandoit.

what thing these folk asked

Fet l'ostes: «Du mien ont éu

Says the-host Of-the mine they-have had

.X. sols, c'ont mengié et béu,

ten sous that-they-have eaten and drunk

si ne m'en font fors escharnir;

and not me-thereof they-do but mock

mès de ce les vueil bien garnir:

but of this them I-wish well to-furnish

chascuns aura de son cors honte.

each will-have of his body shame

— Ainçois le metez sor mon conte,

Rather it put on my account

fet li clers: .XV. sols vous doi;

says the clerk fifteen sous to-you I-owe

175

180

185

190 mal fet povre gent fère anoi.»
ill it-does poor folk to-do harm
 L'oste respont: «Moult volentiers;
The-host answers Very willingly
 vaillanz clers estes et entiers.»
worthy clerk you-are and bonest
 Li avugle s'en vont tout cuite.
The blind-men themselves-thence go all quit
 Or oiez com fète refuite
Now hear how made ruse

195 li clers porpenssa maintenant:
the clerk devised at-once
 on aloit la messe sonant;
one went the mass ringing
 à l'oste vint, si l'arésone.
to the-host he-came so him-addresses
 «Ostes, fet-il, vostre persone
Host says-he your parson
 du moustier dont ne connissiez?
of-the minster then not know-you
 200 Ces .XV. sols bien li croiriez,
These fifteen sous well him you-would-trust
 se por moi les vos voloit rendre?
if for me them to-you he-wished to-render
 — De ce ne sui mie à aprendre,
Of this not I-am at-all to learn
 fet li borgois; par saint Silvestre,
says the burgher by saint Silvester
 que je croiroie nostre prestre,
that I would-trust our priest

s'il voloit, plus de .XXX. livres.

if-he wished more than thirty pounds

— Dont dites j'en soie delivres

Then say I-thereof may-be quit

esraument com je reviendrai;

at-once as I shall-return

au moustier paier vous ferai.»

at-the minster be-paid you I-shall-make

L'ostes le comande esraument,

The-host it commands at-once

et li clers ainsi fêtement

and the clerk thus wise

dist son garçon qu'il atornast

told his boy that-he should-array

son palefroi, et qu'il troussast,

his palfrey and that-he should-pack

que tout soit prest quant il reviegne;

that all be ready when he may-return

à l'oste a dit que il s'en viegne.

to the-host has said that he himself-thence may-come

Ambedui el moustier en vont,

Both into-the minster thence go

dedenz le chancel entré sont;

within the chancel entered they-are

li clers qui les .XV. sols doit

the clerk who the fifteen sous owes

a pris son oste par le doi,

has taken his host by the finger

si l'a fet delèz lui assir.

so him-has made beside him sit

205

210

215

- 220 Puis dist: «Je n'ai mie loisir
Then says I not-have at-all leisure
 de demorer dusqu'après messe;
of to-wait until-after mass
 avoir vos ferai vo promesse;
have you I-shall-make your promise
 je l'irai dire qu'il vous pait
I to-him-shall-go to-say that-he you may-pay
 .XV. sols trestout entresait
fifteen sous all forthwith
- 225 tantost que il aura chanté.
as-soon that he will-have sung
 — Fetes-en vostre volenté,»
Do-thereof your will
 fet li borgois, qui bien le croit.
says the burgher who well him believes
 Li prestres revestuz estoit,
The priest vested was
 qui maintenant devoit chanter.
who at-once was-to sing
- 230 Li clers vint devant lui ester,
The clerk came before him to-stand
 qui bien sot dire sa reson;
who well knew to-say his speech
 bien sanbloit estre gentiz hon;
well he-seemed to-be gentle man
 n'avoit pas la chièrse reborse.
not-he-had at-all the face surly
 .XII. deniers tret de sa borse,
Twelve pence he-draws from his purse

le prestre les met en la main:

235

(to-)the priest them he-puts in the hand

«Sire, fet-il, por saint Germain,

Lord says-he for saint Germain

entendez ça .I. poi à mi.

attend here a little to me

Tuit li clerc doivent estre ami,

All the clerks ought to-be friends

por ce vieng-je près de l'autel.

for this come-I near to the-altar

Je giuc anuit à un ostel

240

I lay last-night at a lodging

chiés à .I. borgois qui moult vaut:

at-house to a burgher who much is-worth

li douz Jhesu-Criz le consaut,

the sweet Jesus-Christ him may-counsel

quar preudom est et sanz boisdie;

for worthy-man he-is and without guile

mès une cruel maladie

but a cruel sickness

li prist ersoir dedenz sa teste,

245

him took last-evening within his head

entruès que nous demeniens feste,

while that we were-making feast

si qu'il fu trestoz marvoiez.

so that-he was all crazed

Dieu merci, or est ravoiez,

God mercy now he-is set-right

mès encore li deut li chiéz;

but still to-him aches the head

- 250 si vous pri que vous li lisiez,
so you I-pray that you to-him may-read
 après chanter, une evangille
after to-sing a gospel
 desus son chief. — Et par saint Gille,
over his head And by saint Giles
 fet li prestres, je li lirai.»
says the priest I to-him shall-read
 Au borgois dist: «Je le ferai
To-the burgher he-said I it shall-do
- 255 tantost com j'aurai messe dite,
as-soon as I-shall-have mass said
 dont en claime-je le clerc cuite.»
then thereof declare-I the clerk quit
 Fet li borgois: «Miex ne demant.
Says the burgher Better not I-ask
 — Sire prestre, à Dieu vous comant,
Lord priest to God you I-commend
 fet li clers. — Adieu, biaux douz mestre,»
says the clerk Farewell fair sweet master
- 260 li prestres à l'autel va estre,
the priest at the-altar goes to-be
 hautement grant messe comence;
loudly high mass begins
 par .I. jor fu de diemenche,
on a day it-was of Sunday
 au moustier vindrent moult de genz.
to-the minster came many of folk
 Li clers, qui fu et biaux et genz,
The clerk who was both fair and comely

vint à son oste congié prendre;

came to his host leave to-take

et li borgois, sanz plus atendre,

and the burgher without more to-wait

duqu'à son ostel le convoie.

as-far-as his lodging him escorts

Li clers monte, si va sa voie,

The clerk mounts and goes his way

et li borgois tantost après

and the burgher straightway after

vint au moustier: moult fu engrès

came to-the minster very he-was eager

de ses .XV. sols recevoir:

of his fifteen sous to-receive

avoir les cuide tout por voir.

to-have them he-thinks all for true

Enz el chancel tant atendi

Within in-the chancel so-long he-waited

que li prestres se desvesti,

that the priest himself unvested

et que la messe fu chantée.

and that the mass was sung

Et li prestres, sanz demorée,

And the priest without delay

a pris le livre et puis l'estole,

has taken the book and then the-stole

si a huchié: «Sire Nichole,

and has called Lord Nicholas

venez avant, agenoilliez.»

come forward kneel

265

270

275

- 280 De ces paroles n'est pas liéz
Of these words not-is at-all glad
 li borgois, ainz li respondi:
the burgher rather to-him answered
 «Je ne ving mie por ceci,
I not came at-all for this
 mès mes .XV. sols me paieiz.
but my fifteen sous to-me pay
 — Voirement est-il marvoiez,
Truly is-he crazed
- 285 dist li prestres; nomini Dame,
says the priest in-name (of-)Lord
 aidiez à cest preudome à l'ame;
help to this worthy-man to the-soul
 je sai de voir qu'il est dervez.
I know of truth that-he is mad
 — Oez, dist li borgois, oez
Hear says the burgher hear
 com cis prestres or m'escharnist;
how this priest now me-mocks
- 290 por poi que mes cuers du sens n'ist,
for little that my heart from-the wits goes-out
 quant son livre m'a ci tramis.
when his book to-me-he-has here sent
 — Je vous dirai, biaux douz amis,
I to-you shall-say fair sweet friend
 fet li prestres, coment qu'il praingne,
says the priest how-ever that-it may-take
 tout adès de Dieu vous souviagne,
all ever of God to-you may-it-remember

si ne poez avoir meschief.»

so not you-can have mischance

Le livre li mist sor le chief,

The book to-him he-put on the head

l'Evangille li voloit lire.

the-Gospel to-him he-wished to-read

Et li borgois commence à dire:

And the burgher begins to say

«J'ai en meson besoingne à fère;

I-have in house business to do

je n'ai cure de tel afère,

I not-have care of such business

mais paieez-moi tost ma monnoie.»

but pay-me quickly my money

Au prestre durement anoie:

To-the priest greatly it-vexes

toz ses paroschiens apele,

all his parishioners he-calls

chascuns entor lui s'atropele,

each around him himself-crowds

puis dist: «Cest home me tenez;

then says This man for-me bold

bien sai de voir qu'il est dervez.

well I-know of truth that-he is mad

— Non sui, fet-il, par saint Cornille,

Not I-am says-he by saint Cornelius

ne, par la foi que doi ma fille,

nor by the faith that I-owe my daughter

mes .XV. sols me paierez,

my fifteen sous to-me you-will-pay

295

300

305

- 310 jà ainsi ne me gaberez.
ever thus not me you-will-mock
 — Prenez-le tost,» le prestre a dit.
Take-him quickly the priest has said
 Li paroschiens sanz contredit
The parishioners without gainsaying
 le vont tantost moult fort prenant;
him go straightway very hard seizing
 les mains li vont trestuit tenant;
the hands to-him go all holding
 315 chascuns moult bel le reconforte,
each very fairly him comforts
 et li prestres le livre aporte,
and the priest the book brings
 si li a mis de seur son chief;
so to-him has put over his head
 l'Evangille de chief en chief
the-Gospel from end to end
 li lut, l'estole entor le col,
to-him read the-stole around the neck
 320 mès à tort le tenoit por fol;
but at wrong him held for fool
 puis l'esproha d'ève benoite.
then him-sprinkled of-water blessed
 Et li borgois forment covoite
And the burgher greatly covets
 qu'à son ostel fust revenuz.
that-to his lodging he-were returned
 Lessiez fu, ne fu plus tenuz;
Let-go he-was nor was more held

li prestres de sa main le saine,

325

the priest with his hand him signs

puis dist: «Avez esté en paine.»

then says You-have been in pain

Et li borgois s'est toz cois teus;

And the burgher himself-is all quiet silent

corouciéz est et moult honteus

angered he-is and very shamed

de ce qu'il fu si atrapez;

of this that-he was so trapped

liéz fu quant il fu eschapez;

330

glad he-was when he was escaped

à son ostel en vint tout droit.

to his lodging thence he-came all straight

Cortebarbe dist orendroit

Cortebarbe says now

c'on fet à tort maint home honte.

that-one does at wrong many-a man shame

A tant definerai mon conte.

At that I-shall-end my tale

La houce partie

V · THE DIVIDED HORSE-BLANKET

A rich widower of Abbeville living in Paris marries his son to the daughter of a knight of high kin, and at her kinsmen's demand gives the son all he owns. Twelve years later the son's proud wife will have the old man out, and the son turns him away, refusing even a scrap of sackcloth against the cold. Sent with a horse-blanket for his grandfather, the grandson cuts it in two and keeps half for his own father's old age; the son repents, and Bernier warns fathers not to give their children all.

De biau parler et de bien dire

Of fair speaking and of well saying

chascuns devroit à son mestire

each ought in his craft

fère connoistre et enseigner

to-make known and to-teach

et bonement enromancier

and graciously to-put-in-romance

5 les aventures qui avienent.

the adventures which happen

Ausi, comme gent vont et vienent,

Just as folk go and come

ot-on maintes choses conter

bears-one many things tell

qui bones sont à raconter.

which good are to recount

Cil qui s'en sevent entremetre

Those who themselves-thereof know to-busy

10 i doivent grant entente metre,

there ought great care to-put

en pensser, en estudier,
in thinking in studying
 si com firent nostre ancissier,
so as did our ancestors
 li bon mestre qui estre seulent;
the good masters who to-be were-wont
 et cil qui après vivre vuelent
and those who after to-live wish
 ne devroient jà estre oiseus.
not ought ever to-be idle

15

Mès il devienent pereceus
But they become lazy
 por le siècle, qui est mauvès;
for the world which is bad
 por ce si ne se vuelent mès
for this so not themselves wish more
 li bon menestrel entremetre,
the good minstrels to-busy

qar molt covient grant paine metre
for much it-bebooves great pain to-put
 en bien trover, sachiez de voir.
in well composing know of truth

20

Huimès vous faz apercevoir
Now to-you I-make perceive
 une aventure qui avint
an adventure which befell
 bien a .XVII. ans ou .XX.,
well it-is seventeen years or twenty

- 25 que uns riches hom d'Abeville
that a rich man of-Abbeville
 se departi fors de sa vile,
himself parted out of his town
 il et sa fame et uns siens fils.
he and his wife and a his son
 Riches et combles et garnis
Rich and full and furnished
 issi com preudom de sa terre,
he-went-out as worthy-man from his land
- 30 por ce que il estoit de guerre
for this that he was at war
 vers plus fors genz que il n'estoit;
against more strong folk than he was
 si se doutoit et se cremoit
so himself he-feared and himself dreaded
 de estre entre ses anemis.
of to-be among his enemies
 D'Abeville vint à Paris.
From-Abbeville he-came to Paris
- 35 Ilueques demora tout qoi,
There he-remained all still
 et si fist homage le Roi,
and so did homage (to-)the King
 et fu ses hom et ses borgois.
and was his man and his burgher
 Li preudom fu sage et cortois,
The worthy-man was wise and courteous
 et la Dame forment ert lie,
and the Lady greatly was glad

et li vallès fols n'estoit mie,

and the youth foolish not-was at-all

ne vilains, ne mal enseigniez.

nor churlish nor ill taught

Molt en furent li voisin liéz

Much thereof were the neighbors glad

de la rue où il vint manoir;

of the street where he came to-dwell

sovent le venoient véoir

often him they-came to-see

et li portoient grant honor.

and to-him bore great honor

Maintes genz sans metre du lor

Many folk without to-put of-the theirs

se porroient molt fère amer;

themselves could much make be-loved

por seulement de biau parler

for only of fair speaking

puet l'en molt grant los accueillir;

can one very great praise gather

qar qui biau dit, biau veut oïr,

for who fair says fair wishes to-hear

et qui mal dit et qui mal fait,

and who ill says and who ill does

il ne puet estre qu'il ne l'ait;

it not can be that-he not it-may-have

en tel point le voit-on et trueve;

in such point him sees-one and finds

on dit sovent: l'uevre se prueve.

one says often the-work itself proves

40

45

50

- 55 Ainsi fu li preudom mananz
 Thus was the worthy-man dwelling
 dedenz Paris plus de sept anz,
 within Paris more than seven years
 et achatoit et revendoit
 and bought and resold
 les denrées qu'il connoissoit.
 the wares that-he knew
 Tant se bareta d'un et d'el
 So-much himself he-traded of-one and of-other
- 60 que toz jors sauva son chatel,
 that all days he-saved his capital
 et ot assez de remanant.
 and had plenty of remainder
 El preudome ot bon marchéant
 In-the worthy-man there-was good merchant
 et demenoit molt bone vie,
 and led very good life
 tant qu'il perdi sa compaignie,
 until that-he lost his companion
- 65 et que Diex fist sa volenté
 and that God did his will
 de sa fame, qui ot esté
 of his wife who had been
 en sa compaignie .XXX. anz.
 in his company thirty years
 Il n'avoient de toz enfanz
 They not-had of all children
 que ce vallet que je vous di.
 but this youth that I to-you tell

Molt corouciez et molt mari

70

Very angered and very troubled

se fist li vallés lèz son père,

himself made the youth beside his father

et regretoit sovent sa mère,

and lamented often his mother

qui moult souef l'avoit norri;

who very softly him-had reared

il se pasma, pleure por li,

he himself swooned weeps for her

et li pères le reconforte:

75

and the father him comforts

«Biaus filz, fet-il, ta mère est morte;

Fair son says-he thy mother is dead

prions Dieu que pardon li face;

let-us-pray God that pardon to-her he-may-make

ters tes iex, essue ta face,

wipe thy eyes dry thy face

que li plorers ne t'i vaut rien.

for the weeping not to-thee-there avails anything

Nous morrons tuit, ce sez-tu bien;

80

We shall-die all this knowest-thou well

par là nous couvendra passer;

by there us it-will-behoove to-pass

nus ne puet la mort trespasser

anyone not can the death pass-over

que ne reviegne par la mort.

that not he-may-return by the death

Biaus filz, tu as bon reconfort,

Fair son thou hast good comfort

- 85 et si deviens biaux bachelor;
and so thou-becomest fair bachelor
 tu es en point de marier,
thou art in point of to-marry
 et je sui mès de grant aage.
and I am now of great age
 Si je trovoie .I. mariage
If I found a marriage
 de gent qui fussent de pooir,
of folk who were of power
- 90 g'i metroie de mon avoir;
I-there would-put of my wealth
 qar ti ami te sont trop loing;
for thy kin to-thee are too far
 tart les auroies au besoing;
late them thou-wouldst-have at-the need
 tu n'en as nul en ceste terre
thou not-thereof hast any in this land
 se par force nes pués conquerre;
if by force not-them thou-canst conquer
- 95 s'or trovoie fame bien née
if-now I-found wife well born
 qui fust d'amis emparentée,
who were of-kin connected
 qui éust oncles et antains,
who had uncles and aunts
 et frères et cousins germains,
and brothers and cousins german
 de bone gent et de bon leu,
of good folk and of good place

là où je verroie ton preu,
there where I would-see thy profit
 je t'i metroie volentiers,
I thee-there would-put willingly
 jà nel leroie por deniers.»
ever not-it I-would-leave for pence

100

Ce nous raconte li escriis,
This us recounts the writing
 seignor, or avoit el païs
lords now there-was in-the country

.III. chevaliers qui erent frère,
three knights who were brothers
 qui erent de père et de mère
who were of father and of mother
 moult hautement emparenté,
very highly connected

105

d'armes proisié et alosé,
of-arms prized and famed
 mès n'avoient point d'eritage
but not-they-had a-whit of-inheritance
 que tout n'eussent mis en gage,
that all not-they-had put in pledge

110

terres et bois et tenemenz,
lands and woods and holdings
 por suirre les tornoiemenz.
for to-follow the tourneys

Bien avoit sor lor tenéure
Well there-was on their holding

.III^m. livres à usure,
three-thousand pounds at usury

115 qui moult les destraint et escille.

which much them constrains and ruins

Li ainsnez avoit une fille

The eldest had a daughter

de sa fame, qui morte estoit,

by his wife who dead was

dont la damoisele tenoit

from-whom the damsel held

dedenz Paris bone meson

within Paris good house

120 devant l'ostel à cel preudon.

before the-house of that worthy-man

La meson n'estoit pas au père,

The house not-was at-all the father's

qar li ami de par sa mère

for the kin on the-side-of her mother

ne li lessierent engagier.

not him let pledge

La mesons valoit de loier

The house was-worth of rent

125 .XX. livres de pairesis l'an;

twenty pounds of Paris the-year

jà n'en éust paine n'ahan

ever not-therEOF she-might-have pain nor-toil

que de ses deniers recevoir.

but of her pence to-receive

Bien fu d'amis et de pooir

Well was of-kin and of power

la damoisele emparentée,

the damsel connected

et le preudon l'a demandée

130

and the worthy-man her-has asked-for

au père et à toz ses amis.

of-the father and of all his kin

Li chevalier li ont enquis

The knights of-him have asked

de son mueble, de son avoir,

of his movables of his wealth

combien il en pooit avoir,

how-much he thereof could have

et il lor dist moult volentiers:

135

and he to-them said very willingly

«J'ai, qu'en denrées qu'en deniers,

I-have what-in wares what-in pence

.M. et .Vc. livres vaillant;

a-thousand and five-hundred pounds worth

j'en deveroie estre mentant

I-thereof ought to-be lying

se je me vantoie de plus;

if I myself boasted of more

je l'en donroie tout le plus

140

I to-him-thereof would-give all the most

de .C. livres de paresis.

of a-hundred pounds of Paris

Je les ai loiaument aquis;

I them have loyally acquired

j'en donrai mon fil la moitié.

I-thereof shall-give my son the half

— Ce ne porroit estre otroié,

This not could be granted

- 145 biaux sire, font li chevalier;
fair lord say the knights
 se vous deveniiez templier,
if you became Templar
 ou moine blanc, ou moine noir,
or monk white or monk black
 tost lesseriiez vostre avoir
soon you-would-leave your wealth
 ou à temple ou à abéie:
either to temple or to abbey
- 150 nous ne nous i acordons mie;
we not ourselves there agree at-all
 non, Seignor, non, Sire, par foi.
no Lords no Lord by faith
 — Et comment donc, dites le moi?
And how then tell it to-me
 — Moult volentiers, biaux Sire chier.
Very willingly fair Lord dear
 Quanques vous porrez esligier,
Whatever you will-be-able to-raise
- 155 volons que donez vostre fils,
we-wish that you-may-give your son
 et que il soit du tout saisis,
and that he be of-the all vested
 et tout metez par devers lui,
and all put by toward him
 si que ne vous ni à autrui
so that nor you nor to other
 n'i puissiez noient calengier.
not-there may-be-able anything to-claim

S'ainsi le volez otroier,

If-thus it you-wish to-grant

li mariages sera fait;

the marriage will-be done

autrement ne volons qu'il ait

otherwise not we-wish that-he may-have

nostre fille ne nostre nièce.»

our daughter nor our niece

Li preudon penssa une pièce;

The worthy-man thought a while

son fil regarde; si penssa,

his son he-looks-at so thought

mès mauvesement emploia

but badly he-employed

cele penssée que il fist.

that thought that he made

Lors lor respont et si lor dist:

Then to-them he-answers and so to-them said

«Seignor, de quanques vous querez

Lords of whatever you seek

acomplirai voz volentez,

I-shall-fulfill your wishes

mès ce sera par .I. couvent:

but this will-be by a covenant

se mes filz vostre fille prent

if my son your daughter takes

je li donrai quanqu'ai vaillant,

I to-him shall-give whatever-I-have worth

160

165

170

et si vous di tout en oiant

and so to-you I-say all in hearing

175 ne vueil que me demeure rien,

not I-wish that to-me may-remain anything

mès praingne tout et tout soit sien,

but may-be-take all and all be his

que je l'en saisi et revest.»

for I him-thereof vest and invest

Ainsi le preudon se dévest.

Thus the worthy-man himself divests

Devant le pueple qui là fu

Before the people who there was

180 s'est dessaisis et desvestu

himself-be-is dispossessed and divested

de quanques il avoit el monde,

of whatever he had in-the world

si que il remest ausi monde

so that he remained as bare

com la verge qui est pelée,

as the rod which is peeled

qu'il n'ot ne denier ne denrée

that-he not-had nor penny nor ware

185 dont se péust desjeûner

whereby himself he-might breakfast

se ses filz ne li volt doner.

if his son not to-him wished to-give

Tout li dona et clama quite,

All to-him he-gave and declared quit

et, quant la parole fu dite,

and when the word was said

li chevaliers tout main à main

the knight all hand to hand

saisi sa fille par la main;

seized his daughter by the hand

si l'a au bachelier donée,

so her-has to-the bachelor given

et li vallés l'a espousée.

and the youth her-has wedded

D'iluec bien à deus anz après

From-there a-good at two years after

bonement furent et en pès

graciously they-were and in peace

li maris et la dame ensamble,

the husband and the lady together

tant que la dame, ce me sanble,

until that the lady this to-me seems

ot un biau fil du bachelier.

had a fair son by-the bachelor

Bien le fist norrir et garder,

Well him she-had reared and kept

et la dame fu bien gardée,

and the lady was well kept

sovent baignie et relevée.

often bathed and churched

Et li preudon fu en l'ostel;

And the worthy-man was in the-house

bien se dona le cop mortel

well himself he-gave the blow mortal

quant, por vivre en autrui merci,

when for to-live at other's mercy

190

195

200

de son avoir se dessesi.

of his wealth himself he-divested

205 En l'ostel fu plus de .XII. anz,

In the-house he-was more than twelve years

tant que li enfes fu jà granz

until that the child was already great

et se sot bien apercevoir.

and himself knew well to-perceive

Souvent oï ramentevoir

Often he-beard recall

que ses taions fist à son père,

what his grandfather did to his father

210 par quoi il espousa sa mère,

by which he wedded his mother

et li enfes, quant il l'oï,

and the child when he it-beard

ainc puis nel volt metre en oubli.

ever after not-it he-wished to-put in oblivion

Li preudon fu viex devenu,

The worthy-man was old become

que viellèce l'ot abatu

for old-age him-bad cast-down

215 qu'au baston l'estuet soustenir.

that-with-the stick him-behooves to-support

La toile à lui ensevelir

The cloth for him to-shroud

alast volentiers ses filz querre;

would-have-gone willingly his son to-seek

tart li estoit qu'il fust en terre,

late to-him it-was that-he were in ground

que sa vie li anuioit.

for his life him vexed

La Dame lessier ne pooit,

The Lady to-leave-off not could

qui fière estoit et orgueilleuse;

who proud was and haughty

du preudome estoit desdaigneuse,

of-the worthy-man she-was disdainful

qui moult li estoit contre cuer.

who very to-her was against heart

Or ne puet lessier à nul fuer

Now not she-can leave-off at any price

qu'ele ne déist son Seignor:

that-she — might-say to-her Lord

«Sire, je vous pri par amor,

Lord I you pray by love

donez congié à vostre père,

give leave to your father

que, foi que doi l'ame ma mère,

for faith that I-owe the-soul (of-)my mother

je ne mengerai mès des denz

I not shall-eat more with-the teeth

tant com je le saurai céenz,

so-long as I him shall-know herein

ainz vueil que li donez congié.

rather I-wish that to-him you-give leave

— Dame, fet-il, si ferai-gié.»

Lady says-he so shall-do-I

220

225

230

Cil, qui sa fame doute et crient,

He who his wife fears and dreads

maintenant à son père vient;

at-once to his father comes

235 se li a dit isnelement:

so to-him has said swiftly

«Pères, pères, alez vous ent;

Father father go you thence

je di c'on n'a céenz que fère

I say that-one not-has herein what to-do

de vous ne de vostre repere;

of you nor of your abode

alez vous aillors porchacier.

go yourself elsewhere to-fend

240 On vous a doné à mengier

One to-you has given to eat

en cest ostel .XII. anz ou plus;

in this house twelve years or more

mès fetes tost, si levez sus;

but do quick so rise up

si vous porchaciez où que soit,

so yourself fend where that it-be

que fère l'estuet orendroit.»

for to-do it-behooves now

245 Li pères l'ot; durement pleure;

The father it-bears hard weeps

sovent maudit le jor et l'eure

often he-curses the day and the-hour

qu'il a tant au siècle vescu:

that-he has so-long in-the world lived

«Ha! biaux douz filz, que me dis-tu?

Ab fair sweet son what to-me sayest-thou

Por Dieu, itant d'onor me porte

For God so-much of-honor to-me bear

que ci me lesses à ta porte.

that here me thou-mayst-leave at thy door

Je me girrai en poi de leu;

I myself shall-lie in little of place

je ne te quier nis point de feu,

I not of-thee ask even a-whit of fire

ne coute-pointe, ne tapis;

nor quilt nor carpet

mès la fors souz cel apentis

but there outside under that lean-to

me fai baillier .I. pou d'estrain.

for-me have banded a little of-straw

Onques por mengier de ton pain

Ever for eating of thy bread

de l'ostel ne me gete fors.

from the-house not me cast out

Moi ne chaut s'on me met là hors,

Me not matters if-one me puts there out

mès que ma garison me livre;

but provided-that my sustenance to-me thou-deliver

jà, por chose que j'äie à vivre

ever for thing that I-may-have to live

ne me déusses pas faillir.

not me thou-oughtest at-all to-fail

250

255

260

Jà ne puès-tu miex espenir

Ever not canst-thou better expiate

toz tes pechiez qu'en moi bien faire,

all thy sins than-in me good to-do

que se tu vestoies la haire.

than if thou wore the hair-shirt

265 — Biaus père, dist li bachelers,

Fair father said the bachelor

or n'i vaut noient sermoners;

now not-there avails anything preaching

mès fetes tost, alez vous en,

but do quick go you thence

que ma fame istroit jà du sen.

for my wife would-go-out now of-the wits

— Biaus filz, où veus-tu que je voise?

Fair son where wishest-thou that I may-go

270 Je n'ai vaillant une vendoise.

I not-have worth a dace

— Vous en irez en cele vile;

You thence will-go into that town

encore en i a-il .X. mile

still thereof there are ten thousand

qui bien i truevent lor chevance:

who well there find their living

moult sera or grant meschéance

very will-be now great mischance

275 se n'i trovez vostre peuture;

if not-there you-find your food

chascuns i atent s'aventure;

each there awaits his-luck

aucunes genz vous connistront,

some folk you will-know

qui lor ostel vous presteront.

who their lodging to-you will-lend

— Presteront, filz! Aus genz que chaut,

Will-lend son To-the folk what matters

quant tes ostels par toi me faut?

when thy lodging through thee me fails

Et, puis que tu ne me fèz bien,

And since that thou not me doest good

et cil qui ne me seront rien

and those who not to-me will-be anything

le me feront moult à envis,

it for-me will-do very with reluctance

quant tu me faus, qui es mes fils.

when thou me failest who art my son

— Pères, fet-il, je n'en puis mais

Father says-he I not-thereof can more

se je met sor moi tout le fais;

if I put on me all the burden

ne savez s'il est à mon vuel.»

not you-know if-it is at my will

Adonc ot li pères tel duel,

Then had the father such grief

por poi que li cuers ne li criève.

for little that the heart — to-him bursts

Si foibles comme il est, se liève;

So feeble as he is himself be-raises

si s'en ist de l'ostel plorant:

so himself-thence he-goes-out from the-house weeping

280

285

290

«Filz, fet-il, à Dieu te commant.

Son says-he to God thee I-commend

Puisque tu veus que je m'en aille,

Since thou wishest that I myself-thence may-go

por Dieu me done une retaille

for God to-me give a remnant

295 d'un tronçon de ta sarpeillière,

of-a piece of thy sackcloth

ce n'est mie chose moult chière,

this not-is at-all thing very dear

que je ne puis le froit souffrir.

for I not can the cold suffer

Je le te demant por couvrir,

I it of-thee ask for to-cover

que j'ai robe trop poi vestue;

for I-have robe too little worn

300 c'est la chose qui plus me tue.»

this-is the thing which most me kills

Et cil, qui de doner recule,

And he who from giving recoils

li dist: «Pères, je n'en ai nule.

to-him said Father I not-thereof have any

Li doners n'est or pas à point;

The giving not-is now at-all in point

à ceste foiz n'en aurez point,

at this time not-thereof you-will-have at-all

305 se on ne me le tolt ou emble.

if one not from-me it takes or steals

— Biaus douz filz, toz li cuers me tramble,

Fair sweet son all the heart to-me trembles

et je redout tant la froidure;

and I dread so-much the cold

done moi une couverture

give me a covering

de quoi tu cuevres ton cheval,

with which thou coverest thy horse

que li frois ne me face mal.»

that the cold not to-me may-do harm

Cil, qui s'en bée à descombrer,

He who himself-thereof aims to be-rid

voit que ne s'en puet delivrer

sees that not himself-thereof he-can deliver

s'aucune chose ne li baille;

if-some thing not to-him be-hands

por ce que il veut qu'il s'en aille,

for this that he wishes that-he himself-thence may-go

commande son fil qu'il li baut.

commands his son that-he to-him may-give

Quant on le huche, l'enfes saut:

When one him calls the-child leaps

«Que vous plest, sire, dist l'enfant?

What you pleases lord said the-child

— Biaus filz, fet-il, je te commant,

Fair son says-he I thee command

se tu trueves l'estable ouverte,

if thou findest the-stable open

done mon père la couverte

give my father the covering

qui est sus mon cheval morel.

which is on my horse black

310

315

320

S'il veut si en fera mantel,

If-he wishes so thereof he-will-make mantle

ou chapulaire, ou couvertor;

or scapular or coverlet

done li toute la meillor.»

give him all the best

325 Li enfes, qui fu de biau sens,

The child who was of fair sense

li dist: «Biaus taions, venez enz.»

to-him said Fair grandfather come in

Li preudon s'en torne avoec lui,

The worthy-man himself-thence turns with him

toz corouciez et plains d'anui.

all angered and full of-vexation

L'enfes la couverture trueve;

The-child the covering finds

330 la meillor prist et la plus nueve,

the best he-took and the most new

et la plus grant et la plus lée;

and the most great and the most broad

si l'a par le mileu doublée,

so it-he-has by the middle doubled

si le parti à son coutel

so it he-divided with his knife

au miex qu'il pot et au plus bel;

at-the best that-he could and at-the most fair

335 son taion bailla la moitié.

his grandfather he-banded the half

«Biaus filz, fet-il, que ferai-gié?

Fair son says-he what shall-do-I

Por quoi le m'as-tu recopée?

For what it from-me-hast-thou cut-short

Ton père le m'avoit donée.

Thy father it to-me-had given

Or as-tu fet grant cruauté,

Now hast-thou done great cruelty

que ton père avoit commandé

for thy father had commanded

que je l'éusse toute entière;

that I it-might-have all whole

je m'en irai à lui arrière.

I myself-thence shall-go to him back

— Alez, fet-il, où vous voudrez,

Go says-he where you will-wish

que jà par moi plus n'en aurez.»

for ever by me more not-thereof you-will-have

Li preudon issi de l'estable:

The worthy-man went-out from the-stable

«Filz, fet-il, trestout torne à fable

Son says-he all turns to fable

quanque tu commandas et fis;

whatever thou commandedst and didst

que ne chastoies-tu ton fils

why not chastisest-thou thy son

qu'il ne te doute ne ne crient?

that-he not thee fears nor not dreads

Ne vois-tu donques qu'il retient

Not seest-thou then that-he retains

la moitié de la couverture?

the half of the covering

340

345

350

— Va, Diex te doinst male aventure!

Go God thee may-give ill adventure

dist li pères; baille li toute.

said the father give him all

— Non ferai, dist l'enfes, sanz doute;

Not I-shall-do said the-child without doubt

355 de qoi serieiez-vous païé?

with what would-be-you paid

Je vous en estui la moitié,

I for-you thereof keep the half

que jà de moi n'en aurez plus.

for ever from me not-thereof you-will-have more

Se j'en puis venir au desus,

If I-thereof can come to-the top

je vous partirai autressi

I to-you shall-share-out likewise

360 comme vous avez lui parti.

as you have to-him shared-out

Si comme il vous dona l'avoir,

So as he to-you gave the-wealth

tout ausi le vueil-je avoir,

all as it wish-I to-have

que jà de moi n'enporterez

that ever from me not-you-will-carry-off

fors que tant com vous li donrez.

except that so-much as you to-him will-give

365 Si le lessiez morir chetif,

If him you-let die wretched

si ferai-je vous, se je vif.»

so shall-do-I to-you if I live

Li pères l'ot: parfont souspire;

The father it-hears deeply sighs

il se repensse et se remire.

he himself reflects and himself looks-at

Aus paroles que l'enfes dist

At-the words that the-child said

li pères grant exemple prist;

the father great example took

vers son père torna sa chière:

toward his father he-turned his face

«Pères, fet-il, tornez arrière;

Father says-he turn back

c'estoit anemis et pechié

this-was the-enemy and sin

qui me cuide avoir aguëtié;

who me thinks to-have lain-in-wait-for

mès, se Dieu plect, ce ne puet estre.

but if God please this not can be

Or vous faz-je seignor et mestre

Now you make-I lord and master

de mon ostel à toz jors mais.

of my house for all days more

Se ma fame ne veut la pais,

If my wife not wishes the peace

s'ele ne vous veut consentir,

if-she not you wishes to-consent

ailors vous ferai bien servir;

elsewhere you I-shall-have well served

370

375

380

si vous ferai bien aaisier

so you I-shall-make well at-ease

de coute-pointe et d'oreillier.

with quilt and with-pillow

Et si vous di, par saint Martin,

And so to-you I-say by saint Martin

je ne beberai mès de vin

I not shall-drink more of wine

385 ne ne mengerai bon morsel

nor not shall-eat good morsel

que vous n'en aiez del plus bel;

that you not-thereof may-have of-the most fair

et serez en chambre celée

and you-will-be in chamber bidden

et au bon feu de cheminée;

and at-the good fire of chimney

si aurez robe comme moi.

so you-will-have robe like me

390 Vous me fustes de bone foi,

You to-me were of good faith

par quoi sui riches à pooir,

by which I-am rich in power

biaus douz père, de vostre avoir.»

fair sweet father from your wealth

Seignor, ci a bone moustrance

Lords here there-is good showing

et aperte senefiance

and open meaning

qu'ainsi geta le filz le père

that-thus cast the son the father

du mauvès penssé où il ère.

from-the bad thought where he was

Bien se doivent tuit cil mirer

Well themselves ought all those to-mirror

qui ont enfanz à marier.

who have children to marry

Ne fetes mie en tel manière,

Not do at-all in such manner

ne ne vous metez mie arrière

nor not yourselves put at-all back

de ce dont vous estes avant.

from this whereof you are forward

Ne donez tant à vostre enfant

Not give so-much to your child

que vous n'i puissiez recouvrer.

that you not-there can recover

L'en ne se doit mie fier,

One not himself ought at-all to-trust

que li enfant sont sans pitié;

for the children are without pity

des pères sont tost anoié

of-the fathers they-are soon wearied

puis qu'il ne se pueent aidier.

since that-they not themselves can help

395

400

405

Et qui vient en autrui dangier

And who comes into other's power

molt vit au siècle à grant anui.

much lives in-the world in great vexation

410 Cil qui vit en dangier d'autrui,

He who lives in power of-another

et qui du suen méismement

and who of-the his even

à autrui livroison s'atent;

on other's allowance himself-waits

bien vous en devez chastoier.

well you thereof ought to-take-warning

Icest example fist Bernier,

This example made Bernier

415 qui la matère enseigne à fère.

who the matter teaches to do

Si en fist ce qu'il en sot faire.

So thereof he-made this that-he thereof knew to-make

De la borgoise d'Orliens

VIII · THE BURGHER'S WIFE OF ORLÉANS

A clerk wins a burgher's wife of Orléans, and her husband, told by his niece, feigns a journey to come to her in the clerk's place. In the orchard she knows him, locks him in an upper room, and takes the clerk to bed. She sends her household with staves to beat the clerk who has pestered her; they beat her husband and fling him on a dunghill. He goes home glad of so loyal a wife and never doubts her again, and she keeps her lover.

Or vous dirai d'une borgoise

Now to-you I-shall-tell of-a burgher's-wife

une aventure assez cortoise.

an adventure quite courtly

Née et norrie fu d'Orliens,

Born and bred she-was of-Orléans

et ses sires fu néz d'Amiens,

and her lord was born of-Amiens

riches mananz à desmesure.

rich wealthy beyond measure

De marchéandise et d'usure

Of trade and of-usury

savoit toz les tors et les poins,

he-knew all the turns and the points

et ce que il tenoit aus poins

and this that he held in-the hands

estoit bien fermement tenu.

was well firmly held

5

- 10 En la vile furent venu
 In the town were come
- .IV. noviaus clers escoliers;
 four new clerks scholars
- lor sas portent come coliers.
 their bags they-carry like porters
- Li clerc estoient gros et gras,
 The clerks were stout and fat
- quar moult menjoient bien sans gas.
 for very they-ate well without jest
- 15 En la vile erent moult proisié
 In the town they-were much esteemed
- où il estoient herbregié:
 where they were lodged
- .I. en i ot de grant ponois,
 one of-them there was of great weight
- qui moult hantoit chiés .I. borgois;
 who much frequented at-house-of a burgher
- s'el tenoit-on moult à cortois;
 so-him held-one very for courteous
- 20 n'ert plains d'orgueil ne de bufois,
 not-be-was full of-pride nor of vaunting
- et à la dame vraiment
 and to the lady truly
- plesoit moult son acointement;
 pleased much his acquaintance
- et tant vint et tant i ala,
 and so-much he-came and so-much there went
- que li borgois se porpenssa,
 that the burgher himself bethought

fust par semblant ou par parole,

were-it by semblance or by word

que il le metroit à escole,

that he him would-put to school

s'il en pooit en leu venir

if-he thereof could to place come

que à ce le péüst tenir.

that to this him he-might hold

Léenz ot une seue nièce,

Therein was a his-own niece

qu'il ot norrie moult grant pièce;

whom-he had reared very great while

privéement à soi l'apele,

privately to himself her-he-calls

se li promet une cotele,

so to-her promises a little-gown

mès qu'el soit de cele œuvre espie,

provided that-she be of that work spy

et que la vérité l'en die.

and that the truth to-him-thereof she-may-tell

Et l'escolier a tant proié

And the-scholar has so-much begged

la borgioise par amistié,

the burgher's-wife by friendship

que sa volenté li otroie;

that his will to-him she-grants

25

30

35

et la meschine toute-voie

and the maid all-the-same

fu en escout tant qu'ele oï

was in listening until that-she heard

40 come il orent lor plet basti.

how they had their plan built

Au borgois en vient maintenant,

To-the burgher thence she-comes at-once

et li conte le couvenant;

and to-him tells the covenant

et li couvenanz tels estoit

and the covenant such was

que la dame le manderoit

that the lady him would-send-for

45 quant ses sires seroit errez;

when her lord would-be gone

lors venist aux .II. huis serrez

then he-should-come to-the two doors locked

du vergier qu'el li enseigna,

of-the orchard that-she to-him showed

et el seroit contre lui là,

and she would-be to-meet him there

quant il seroit bien anuitié.

when it would-be well night-fallen

50 Li borgois l'ot, moult fu haitié,

The burgher it-bears very he-was glad

à sa fame maintenant vient:

to his wife at-once he-comes

«Dame, fet-il, il me covient

Lady says-he it me behooves

aler en ma marchéandie;

to-go into my trading

gardez l'ostel, ma chière amie,

keep the-house my dear friend

si com preude fame doit fère;

so as worthy wife ought to-do

je ne sai rien de mon repère.

I not know anything of my return

— Sire, fet-ele, volentiers.»

Lord says-she willingly

Cil atorna les charretiers,

That-one arrayed the carters

et dist qu'il s'iroit herbregier,

and said that-he himself-would-go to-lodge

por ses journées avancier,

for his days'-journeys to-advance

jusqu'à .III. liues de la vile.

as-far-as three leagues from the town

La dame ne sot pas la guile;

The lady not knew at-all the guile

si fist au clerc l'uevre savoir.

so had to-the clerk the-work known

Cil, qui les cuida decevoir,

That-one who them thought to-deceive

fist sa gent aler herbregier,

had his folk go to-lodge

et il vint à l'uis du vergier,

and he came to the-door of-the orchard

55

60

65

quar la nuit fu au jor meslée;

for the night was with-the day mingled

et la dame tout à celée

and the lady all in secret

vint encontre, l'uis li ouvri,

came to-meet the-door to-him opened

70 entre ses braz le recueilli,

between her arms him welcomed

qu'el cuide que son ami soit;

for-she thinks that her friend be-be

mès esperance la deçoit.

but hope her deceives

«Bien soiez-vous, dist-el, venuz.»

Well be-you said-she come

Cil s'est de haut parler tenuz;

That-one himself-has from loud to-speak held

75 se li rent ses saluz en bas.

so to-her returns his greetings in low

Par le vergier s'en vont le pas,

Through the orchard themselves-thence they-go the pace

mès il tint moult la chièr encline,

but he held very the face bowed

et la borgoise .I. pou s'acline,

and the burgher's-wife a little herself-leans

par souz le chaperon l'esgarde,

from under the hood him-she-looks-at

80 de trahison se done garde;

of treason herself she-takes heed

si conut bien et aperçoit

and knew well and perceives

c'est son mari qui la deçoit.

this-is her husband who her deceives

Quant el le prist à aperçoivre,

When she him began to perceive

si repensse de lui deçoivre;

so she-thinks-in-turn of him to-deceive

fame a trestout passé Argu;

woman has all surpassed Argus

par lor engin sont decéu

by their cunning are deceived

li sage dès le tens Abel.

the wise since the time (of-)Abel

«Sire, fet-ele, moult m'est bel

Lord says-she very to-me-it-is fair

que tenir vous puis et avoir;

that to-hold you I-can and to-have

je vous donrai de mon avoir,

I to-you shall-give of my wealth

dont vous porrez vos gages trère,

whence you will-be-able your wages to-draw

se vous celez bien cest afère.

if you conceal well this business

Or alons ça tout belement,

Now let-us-go here all softly

je vous metrai privément

I you shall-put privately

en .I. solier dont j'ai la clef:

in an upper-room of-which I-have the key

85

90

95

iluec m'atendrez tout souef,

there me-you-will-await all quietly

tant que noz genz auront mengié;

until that our folk will-have eaten

et quant trestuit seront couchié,

and when all will-be lain-down

je vous menrai souz ma cortine;

I you shall-lead under my curtain

100 jà nus ne saura la couvine.

ever anyone not will-know the arrangement

— Dame, fet-il, bien avez dit.»

Lady says-be well you-have said

Diex, comme il savoit or petit

God how he knew now little

de ce qu'ele pensse et porpensse!

of this that-she thinks and plots

Li asniers une chose pensse,

The ass-driver one thing thinks

105 et li asnes pensse tout el;

and the ass thinks all else

tost aura-il mauvès ostel.

soon will-be-have bad lodging

Quar quant la dame enfermé l'ot

For when the lady shut-in him-bad

el solier dont issir ne pot,

in-the upper-room from-which to-go-out not he-could

à l'uis del vergier retorna,

to the-door of-the orchard she-returned

110 son ami prist qu'ele trova,

her friend she-took whom-she found

si l'enbrace et acole et baise;

so him-embraces and clasps and kisses

moult est, je cuit, à meillor aise

very is I think at better ease

li secons que le premerain.

the second than the first

La dame lessa le vilain

The lady left the churl

longuement ou solier jouchier;

long in-the upper-room to-roost

tost ont trespasé le vergier,

soon they-have crossed the orchard

tant qu'en la chambre sont venu,

until that-in the chamber they-are come

où li dras furent portendu.

where the cloths were hung

La dame son ami amaine,

The lady her friend brings

jusqu'en la chambre le demaine,

as-far-as-in the chamber him leads

si l'a souz le couvetoir mis,

so him-has under the coverlet put

et cil s'est tantost entremis

and that-one himself-has at-once busied

du geu que amors li comande,

with-the game that love to-him commands

qu'il ne prisast une alemande

that-he not would-prize an almond

toz les autres, se cil n'i fust,

all the others if that-one not-there were

115

120

125

ne cele gré ne l'en séust.

nor she thanks not to-him-thereof would-know

Longuement se sont envoisié;

Long themselves they-have diverted

quant ont acolé et baisié,

when they-have embraced and kissed

«Amis, fet-ele, or remaindrez

Friend says-she now you-will-remain

130 .I. petit et si m'atendrez;

a little and so me-you-will-await

quar je m'en irai là dedenz

for I myself-thence shall-go there within

por fère mangier cele gent,

for to-make eat that folk

et nous souperons, vous et moi,

and we shall-sup you and I

encore anuit tout à recoi.

still tonight all in secret

135 — Dame, à vostre commandement.»

Lady at your command

Cele s'en part moult belement,

She herself-thence parts very softly

vint en la sale à sa mesnie;

came into the hall to her household

à son pooir la fet haitie;

to her power them makes glad

quant li mengiers fu atornez,

when the meal was arrayed

140 menjuent et boivent assez.

they-eat and drink plenty

Et, quant orent mengié trestuit,

And when they-had eaten all

ainz qu'il fussent desrengié tuit,

before that-they were dispersed all

la dame apèle sa mesnie,

the lady calls her household

si parole come enseignie;

so speaks as-one taught

.II. neveux au seignor i ot,

two nephews of-the lord there were

et .I. garz qui éve aportoit,

and a lad who water brought

et chamberières i ot .III.;

and chambermaids there were three

si i fu la nièce au borgois,

so there was the niece of-the burgher

.II. pautoniers et .I. ribaut.

two knaves and a ribald

«Seignor, fet-el, se Diex vous saut,

Lords says-she so God you may-save

entendez ore ma reson:

hear now my speech

vous avez en ceste meson

you have in this house

véu céenz un clerc venir,

seen berein a clerk come

qui ne me lest en pès garir:

who not me lets in peace to-be-safe

requisite m'a d'amors lonc tens;

besought me-be-has of-love long time

145

150

155

je l'en ai fet .XXX. desfens;

I him-thereof have made thirty refusals

quant je vi que je n'i garroie,

when I saw that I not-thereby would-be-safe

je li promis que je feroie

I to-him promised that I would-do

tout son plésir et tout son gré

all his pleasure and all his liking

160 quant mon seignor seroit erré.

when my lord would-be gone

Or est errez, Diex le conduie,

Now he-is gone God him may-guide

et cil, qui chascun jor m'anuie,

and that-one who each day me-vexes

ai moult bien couvenant tenu.

I-have very well covenant kept

Or est à son terme venu,

Now he-is at his term come

165 là sus m'atent en ce perrin.

there up me-awaits in that stone-room

Je vous donrai du meillor vin

I to-you shall-give of-the best wine

qui soit céenz une galoie,

that be herein a gallon

par couvant que vengie en soie:

by covenant that avenged thereof I-be

en ce solier à lui alez,

into that upper-room to him go

170 et de bastons bien le batez,

and with staves well him beat

encontre terre et en estant,
against ground and in standing
 des orbes cops li donez tant,
of-the dull blows to-him give so-many
 que jamais jor ne li en chaille
that ever day not to-him thereof may-it-matter
 de prier fame qui rien vaille.»
of to-woo woman who anything is-worth

Quant la mesnie l'uevre entent,

175

When the household the-work bears
 tuit saillent sus, nus n'i atent,
all leap up anyone not-there waits
 l'un prent baston, l'autre tiné,
the-one takes stave the-other pole
 l'autre pestel gros et mollé:
the-other pestle great and well-turned
 la borgioise la clef lor baille.
the burgher's-wife the key to-them hands

Qui toz les cops méist en taille,
Who all the blows might-put in tally
 à bon contéor le tenisse.

180

for good reckonor him I-would-hold
 «Ne souffrez pas que il en isse;
Not suffer at-all that he thence may-go-out
 ainz l'acueilliez el solier haut.
rather him-seize in-the upper-room high

— Par Dieu, font-il, sire clercgaut,
By God say-they sir clerkling

vous serez jà desciplinez.»
you will-be now disciplined

185

Li uns l'a à terre aclinez,

The one him-has to ground bowed

et par la gorge le saisi;

and by the throat him seized

par le chaperon l'estraint si

by the hood him-squeezes so

que il ne puet nul mot soner;

that he not can any word sound

190 puis l'en accueillent à doner;

then him-thereof they-set to give

de batre ne sont mie eschars.

of to-beat not they-are at-all sparing

S'il en eüst doné .M. mars,

If-he thereof had given a-thousand marks

n'eüst miex son hauberc roulé.

not-he-would-have better his hauberk rolled

Par maintes foiz se sont mollé,

By many times themselves they-are wetted

195 por bien ferir, ses .II. nevous,

for well to-strike his two nephews

primes desus et puis desous;

first above and then below

merci crier ne li vaut rien.

mercy to-cry not to-him avails anything

Hors le traient com .I. mort chien,

Out him they-drag like a dead dog

si l'ont sor .I. fumier flati,

so him-they-have on a dunghill flung

200 en la meson sont reverti;

into the house they-are returned

de bons vins orent à foison,

of good wines they-had in plenty

toz des meillors de la meson,

all of-the best of the house

et des blans et des auvernois,

and of-the white and of-the Auvergne

autant com se il fussent rois;

as-much as if they were kings

et la dame ot gastiaus et vin,

and the lady had cakes and wine

et blanche toaille de lin,

and white cloth of linen

et grosse chandoile de cire;

and great candle of wax

si tient à son ami concile

so holds with her friend council

toute la nuit dusques au jor.

all the night until to-the day

Au departir si fist Amor

At-the parting so did Love

que vaillant .X. mars li dona,

that worth ten marks to-him she-gave

et de revenir li pria

and to return him she-prayed

toutes les foiz que il porroit.

all the times that he could

Et cil qui el fumier gisoit

And that-one who in-the dungbill lay

si se remua come il pot,

so himself stirred as he could

205

210

215

et vait là où son harnois ot.

and goes there where his gear he-had

Quant ses genz si batu le virent,

When his folk so beaten him saw

duel orent grant, si s'esbahirent;

grief they-had great so themselves-were-dismayed

enquis li ont coment ce vait.

asked him they-have how this goes

220 «Malement, ce dist, il me vait;

Badly this said it with-me goes

à mon ostel m'en reportez,

to my lodging me-thence carry

et plus rien ne me demandez.»

and more anything not me ask

Tout maintenant l'ont levé sus,

All at-once him-they-have lifted up

onques n'i atendirent plus:

ever not-there they-waited more

225 mès ce l'a moult reconforté

but this him-has much comforted

et mis hors de mauvés penssé,

and put out of bad thought

qu'il sent sa fame à si loial;

that-he feels his wife for so loyal

.I. œf ne prise tout son mal,

an egg not he-prizes all his hurt

et pense, s'il en puet garir,

and thinks if-he thereof can recover

230 moult la voudra toz jors chierir.

much her he-will-wish all days to-cherish

A son ostel est revenu,

To his lodging he-is returned

et, quant la dame l'a vëu,

and when the lady him-has seen

de bones herbes li fist baing,

of good herbs to-him she-made bath

tout le gari de son mehaing.

all him cured of his injury

Demande lui com li avint.

She-asks him how to-him it-befell

«Dame, fet-il, il me covint

Lady says-he it me behooved

par .I. destroit peril passer,

by a narrow peril to-pass

où l'en me fist des os quasser.»

where one me had of-the bones broken

Cil de la meson li contèrent

Those of the house to-him told

du clercgaut com il l'atornerent,

of-the clerkling how they him-arrayed

coment la dame lor livra.

how the lady to-them delivered(-him)

Par mon chief, el s'en delivra

By my head she herself-thereof delivered

com preude fame et come sage:

as worthy wife and as wise

onques puis en tout son eage

ever after in all his age

ne la blasma ne ne mescrut,

not her he-blamed nor not mistrusted

235

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n'onques cele ne se recrut

nor-ever she not herself gave-up

de son ami aimer toz dis,

of her friend to-love all days

tant qu'il ala à son païs.

until that-he went to his country

De Brunain la vache au prestre

X · BRUNAIN, THE PRIEST'S COW

A churl hears his priest preach that God repays twofold what is given for His sake, and gives the priest his cow Blerain, who gives little milk. The priest has her tied to his own great cow Brunain to tame her, but Blerain drags Brunain through hemp fields and meadows home to the churl's yard. The churl has two cows and the priest none, and the poet draws the moral: it is not the one who hides his goods who has them, but the one to whom God gives.

D'un vilain conte et de sa fame,

Of-a churl I-tell and of his wife

c'un jor de feste Nostre Dame

that-one day of feast (of-)Our Lady

aloient ourer à l'yglise.

they-went to-pray to the-church

Li prestres, devant le servise,

The priest before the service

vint à son proisne sermoner,

came to his homily to-preach

et dist qu'il fesoit bon doner

and said that-it was good to-give

por Dieu, qui reson entendoit;

for God who reason understood

que Diex au double li rendoit

that God at-the double to-him returned

celui qui le fesoit de cuer.

him who it did from heart

«Os, fet li vilains, bele suer,

Hear says the churl fair sister

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que noz prestres a en couvent:

what our priest has in covenant

qui por Dieu done à escient,

who for God gives with intent

que Diex li fet mouteploier;

that God for-him makes multiply

miex ne poons-nous emploier

better not can-we employ

15 no vache, se bel te doit estre,

our cow if pleasing to-thee must be

que pour Dieu le donons le prestre;

than for God her we-give (to-)the priest

ausi rent-ele petit lait.

also yields-she little milk

— Sire, je vueil bien que il l'ait,

Lord I wish well that be her-may-have

fet la dame, par tel reson.»

says the lady by such reason

20 A tant s'en viennent en meson,

At that themselves-thence they-come into house

que ne firent plus longue fable.

that not they-made more long tale

Li vilains s'en entre en l'estable,

The churl himself-thence enters into the-stable

sa vache prent par le lien,

his cow he-takes by the tether

présenter le vait au doien.

to-present her he-goes to-the dean

25 Li prestres ert sages et cointes.

The priest was wise and sbrewd

«Biaus Sire, fet-il à mains jointes,

Fair Lord says-he with hands joined

por l'amor Dieu Blerain vous doing.»

for the-love (of-)God Blerain to-you I-give

Le lien li a mis el poing,

The tether to-him he-has put in-the hand

si jure que plus n'a d'avoir.

and swears that more not-he-has of-goods

«Amis, or as-tu fet savoir,

Friend now hast-thou done wisdom

fet li provoires dans Constans,

says the priest sir Constans

qui à prendre bée toz tans.

who to take years all times

Va-t'en, bien as fet ton message,

Go-thee-hence well thou-hast done thy errand

quar fussent or tuit ausi sage

would-that were now all as wise

mi paroiscien come vous estes,

my parishioners as you are

s'averioie plenté de bestes.»

so-I-would-have plenty of beasts

Li vilains se part du provoire.

The churl himself parts from-the priest

Li prestres comanda en oirre

The priest commanded in haste

c'on face pour aprivoisier

that-one should-make for to-tame

Blerain avoec Brunain lier,

Blerain with Brunain be-tied

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la seue grant vache demaine.

the his great cow own

Li clers en lor jardin la maine,

The clerk into their garden her leads

lor vache trueve, ce me samble.

their cow he-finds this to-me seems

Andeux les acoupla ensamble;

Both them he-coupled together

45 atant s'en torne, si les lesse.

thereupon himself-thence he-turns and them leaves

La vache le prestre s'abesse,

The cow (of-)the priest herself-lowers

por ce que voloit pasturer,

for this that she-wished to-graze

mes Blere nel vout endurer,

but Blerain not-it wished to-endure

ainz sache le liens si fors,

rather pulls the tether so hard

50 du jardin la traïna fors:

from-the garden her dragged out

tant l'a menée par ostez,

so-far her-she-has led through houses

par chanevières et par prez,

through bemp-fields and through meadows

qu'elle est reperie à son estre

that-she is returned to her dwelling

avoecques la vache le prestre,

with the cow (of-)the priest

55 qui moult à mener li grevoit.

who much to lead to-her was-grievous

Li vilains garde, si le voit;

The churl looks and it sees

moult en a grant joie en son cuer.

very thereof he-has great joy in his heart

«Ha, fet li vilains, bele suer,

Ab says the churl fair sister

voirement est Diex bon doublère,

truly is God good doubler

quar li et autre revient Blère;

for she and another comes-back Blerain

une grant vache amaine brune;

a great cow she-brings brown

or en avons nous .II. por une:

now thereof have we two for one

petis sera nostre toitiaus.»

small will-be our shed

Par exemple dist cis fabliaus

By example says this fabliau

que fols est qui ne s'abandone;

that fool is who not himself-gives-over

cil a li bien cui Diex le done,

that-one has the goods to-whom God it gives

non cil qui le muce et enfuet;

not that-one who it hides and buries

nus hom mouteplier ne puet

any man multiply not can

sanz grant éur, c'est or del mains.

without great fortune this-is now of-the least

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70 Par grant éur ot li vilains

By great fortune had the churl

.II. vaches, et li prestres nule.

two cows and the priest none

Tels cuide avancier qui recule.

Such-one thinks to-advance who recedes

Le dit des perdriz
XVII • THE PARTRIDGES

A churl catches two partridges, has his wife roast them, and goes for the priest; she eats both, a little at a time, while waiting. She sends her husband out to sharpen his knife, tells the arriving priest that her husband means to cut off his testicles, and when the priest flees tells her husband that the priest has run off with the partridges. The churl chases the priest with the knife, and the moral is that woman is made to deceive.

Por ce que fabliaus dire sueil,

For this that fabliaux to-tell I-am-wont

en lieu de fable dire vueil

in place of fable to-tell I-wish

une aventure qui est vraie,

an adventure which is true

d'un vilain, qui delèz sa haie

of-a churl who beside his hedge

prist .II. pertris par aventure.

took two partridges by chance

En l'atorner mist moult sa cure;

In the-dressing he-put much his care

sa fame les fist au feu metre;

his wife them had to-the fire put

ele s'en sot bien entremetre;

she herself-thereof knew well to-busy

le feu a fet, la haste atorne,

the fire she-has made the spit prepares

et li vilains tantost s'en torne;

and the churl straightway himself-thence turns

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por le prestre s'en va corant.

for the priest himself-thence he-goes running

Mès au revenir tarda tant,

But at-the returning he-delayed so-long

que cuites furent les pertris;

that cooked were the partridges

la dame a le haste jus mis,

the lady has the spit down put

15 s'en pinça une peléure,

so-thereof she-pinched a peeling

quar moult ama la lechéure.

for much she-loved the tidbit

Quant Diex li dona à avoir,

When God to-her gave to have

ne béoit pas à grant avoir,

not she-aimed at-all at great wealth

mès à toz ses bons acomplir;

but at all her pleasures to-fulfill

20 l'une pertris cort enväir;

the-one partridge she-runs to-attack

andeus les eles en menjue;

both the wings of-it she-eats

puis est alée en mi la rue

then she-is gone into mid the street

savoir se ses sires venoit;

to-know if her lord came

quant ele venir ne le voit,

when she to-come not him sees

tantost arrière s'en retourne

at-once back herself-thence she-returns

et le remanant tel atorne,

and the remainder such arranges

mal du morsel qui ramainsist.

ill of-the morsel that might-remain

Adonc s'apenssa, et si dist

Then herself-she-bethought and so said

que l'autre encore mengera;

that the-other still she-will-eat

moult très bien set qu'ele dira

very right well she-knows what-she will-say

s'on li demande que devindrent;

if-one of-her asks what they-became

ele dira que li chat vindrent

she will-say that the cats came

quant ele les ot arrier trètes;

when she them had back drawn

tost li orent des mains retrètes,

soon from-her they-had from-the hands snatched(-them)

et chascuns la seue emporta;

and each the his carried-off

ainsi, ce dist, eschapera.

thus this she-says she-will-escape

Puis va en mi la rue ester,

Then she-goes into mid the street to-stand

por son mari abeveter;

for her husband to-watch-for

et, quant ele nel voit venir,

and when she not-him sees come

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- 40 la langue li prist à fremir
the tongue to-her began to quiver
 sus la pertris qu'ele ot lessie.
over the partridge that-she had left
 Jà ert toute vive enragie
Already she-will-be all alive maddened
 s'encor n'en a .I. petitet;
if-still not-thereof she-has a little-bit
 le col en tret tout souavet,
the neck from-it she-draws all gently
- 45 si le menja par grant douçor;
so it she-ate with great sweetness
 ses dois en lèche tout entor:
her fingers thereof she-licks all around
 «Lasse! fet-ele, que ferai?
Wretched says-she what shall-I-do
 Se tout menjue, que dirai?
If all I-eat what shall-I-say
 Et coment le porrai lessier?
And how it shall-I-be-able to-leave
- 50 J'en ai moult très grant desirrier.
I-thereof have very right great longing
 Or aviegne qu'avenir puet,
Now may-befall what-to-befall can
 quar toute mengier le m'estuet.»
for all to-eat it me-bebooves
 Tant dura cele demorée,
So-long lasted that delay
 que la Dame fu saoulée.
that the Lady was sated

Et li vilains ne tarda mie,

And the churl not delayed at-all

à l'ostel vint, en haut s'escrie;

at the-house he-came on high himself-cries

«Diva, sont cuites les pertris?

Come-now are cooked the partridges

— Sire, dist-ele, ainçois va pis,

Lord said-she rather goes worse

quar mengies les a li chas.»

for eaten them has the cat

Li vilains saut isnel le pas,

The churl leaps swift the pace

seure li cort comme enragiéz;

upon her he-runs like maddened

jà li éust les iex sachiez,

already from-her he-would-have the eyes torn

quant el crie: «C'est gas, c'est gas.

when she cries It-is jest it-is jest

Fuiez, fet-ele, Sathanas;

Flee says-she Satan

couvertes sont por tenir chaudes.

covered they-are for to-keep warm

— Jà vous chantaisse putes Laudes,

Now to-you I-would-have-sung whorish Lauds

fet-il, foi que je doi saint Ladre.

says-he faith that I owe (to-)saint Lazarus

Or ça, mon bon hanap de madre

Now here my good cup of mazer

et ma plus bele blanche nape;

and my most fair white cloth

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- 70 si l'estenderai sus ma chape,
so it-I-shall-spread on my cape
 souz cele treille en cel praiel.
under that arbor in that meadow
 — Mès, vous, prenez vostre coutel,
But you take your knife
 qui grant mestier a d'aguisier;
which great need has of-sharpening
 si le fètes .I. pou trenchier
so it make a little cut
- 75 à cele pierre en cele cort.»
at that stone in that yard
 Li vilains se despoille et cort,
The churl himself strips and runs
 le coutel tout nu en sa main.
the knife all bare in his hand
 A tant ez vos le chapelain,
At that behold you the chaplain
 qui léenz venoit por mengier:
who therein came for to-eat
- 80 à la dame vint sans targier,
to the lady he-came without delaying
 si l'acole moult doucement.
so her-embraces very sweetly
 Et cele li dist simplement:
And she to-him says simply
 «Sire, dist-el, fuiez, fuiez:
Lord said-she flee flee

jà ne serai où vous soiez

ever not I-shall-be where you may-be

honiz ne malmis de vo cors;

shamed nor harmed in your body

mes sires est alez là fors

my lord is gone there out

por son grant coutel aguasier.

for his great knife to-sharpen

Et dist qu'il vous voudra trenchier

And says that-he you will-wish to-cut

les coilles, s'il vous puet tenir.

the testicles if-he you can hold

— De Dieu te puist-il souvenir,

Of God to-thee may-it come-to-mind

dist li prestres; qu'est que tu dis?

said the priest what-is-it that thou sayest

Nous devons mengier .II. pertris

We must eat two partridges

que tes sires prist hui matin.»

that thy lord took today morning

Cele li dist: «Par saint Martin,

She to-him said By saint Martin

céenz n'a pertris ne oisel;

herein not-is partridge nor bird

de vo mengier me seroit bel,

of your eating to-me it-would-be fair

et moi peseroit de vo mal;

and me it-would-grieve of your harm

mès ore esgardez là aval,

but now look there below

85

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95

come il aguise son coutel.

how he sharpens his knife

100 — Jel voi, dist-il; par mon chapel,

I-it see said-he by my hat

je cuit bien que tu as voir dit.»

I think well that thou hast truth said

Léenz demora moult petit,

Therein he-remained very little

ainz s'en fui grant aléure,

rather himself-thence he-fled great pace

et cele crie à bone éure:

and she cries at good hour

105 «Venez-vous-en, sire Gombaut.

Come-you-thence lord Gombaut

— Qu'as-tu, dist-il, se Diex te saut?

What-hast-thou said-he so God thee may-save

— Que j'ai? Tout à tens le saurez;

What I-have All in time it you-will-know

mès, se tost corre ne poez,

but if quick to-run not you-can

perte i aurez, si com je croi;

loss there you-will-have so as I believe

110 quar, par la foi que je vous doi,

for by the faith that I to-you owe

li prestre enporte voz pertris.»

the priest carries-off your partridges

Li preudom fu toz aatis,

The worthy-man was all fired

le coutel en porte en sa main,

the knife thence he-carries in his hand

s'en cort après le chapelain;

himself-thence runs after the chaplain

quant il le vit, se li escrie:

when he him saw so to-him cries

«Ainsi nes en porterez mie.»

Thus not-them thence you-will-carry at-all

Puis s'escrie à granz alenées;

Then himself-cries with great breaths

«Bien les en portez eschaufées;

Well them thence you-carry heated

ça les lerrez, se vous ataing;

here them you-will-leave if you I-reach

vous seriez mauvès compaing

you would-be bad companion

se vous les mengiiez sanz moi.»

if you them ate without me

Li prestre esgarde derrier soi,

The priest looks bebind himself

et voit acorre le vilain;

and sees run-up the churl

quant voit le coutel en sa main,

when he-sees the knife in his hand

mors cuide estre, se il l'ataint.

dead he-thinks to-be if he him-reaches

De tost corre pas ne se faint;

Of quick running at-all not himself he-bolds-back

et le vilains penssoit de corre,

and the churl thought of running

qui les pertris cuidoit rescorre;

who the partridges thought to-rescue

115

120

125

mès li Prestres de grant randon

but the Priest with great impetus

130 s'est enfermez en sa méson.

himself-is shut in his house

A l'ostel li vilains retourne,

To the-house the churl returns

et lors sa fame en aresone:

and then his wife thereof addresses

«Diva, fet-il, et quar me dis

Come-now says-he and now to-me say

comment tu perdis les pertris.»

how thou lostest the partridges

135 Cele li dist: «Se Diex m'aït,

She to-him said So God me-may-help

tantost que li prestres me vit,

as-soon that the priest me saw

si me pria, se tant l'amaïsse,

so me he-prayed if so-much him-I-loved

que je les pertris li montraïsse,

that I the partridges to-him might-show

quar moult volentiers les verroit;

for very willingly them he-would-see

140 et je le menai là tout droit

and I him led there all straight

où je les avoie couvertes:

where I them had covered

il ot tantost les mains ouvertes,

he had at-once the hands open

si les prist, et si s'en fui;

so them took and so himself-thence fled

mès je guères ne le sivi,

but I much not him followed

ainz le vous fis moult tost savoir.»

rather it to-you I-made very soon know

Cil respont: «Bien puès dire voir;

That-one answers Well canst-thou say truth

or le lessons à itant estre.»

now it let-us-leave at so-much to-be

Ainsi fu engingniez le prestre

Thus was tricked the priest

et Gombaues, qui les pertris prist.

and Gombaut who the partridges took

Par exemple cis fabliaus dist

By example this fabliau says

fame est fète por decevoir;

woman is made for to-deceive

mençonge fet devenir voir,

lie she-makes become truth

et voir fet devenir mençonge.

and truth makes become lie

Cil n'i vout mètre plus d'alonge,

He not-there wished to-put more of-lengthening

qui fist cest fabel et ces dis.

who made this fabliau and these sayings

Ci faut li fabliaus des pertris.

Here fails the fabliau of-the partridges

145

150

155

Du prestre crucefié
XVIII • THE CRUCIFIED PRIEST

Master Roger, a carver of crucifixes, pretends to leave for a market, comes back, and sees through a hole his wife dining with a priest. The priest strips and stretches himself among the carved crucifixes, and Roger sharpens his knife, says he left a fault in this image, and cuts off the priest's parts. The priest runs, is knocked down by a lad in the street, and pays fifteen pounds of ransom, so the tale warns priests off other men's wives.

Un exemple vueil conmençier

An example I-wish to-begin

qu'apris de Monseigneur Rogier,

that-I-learned from My-lord Roger

.I. franc mestre de bon afère

a noble master of good business

qui bien savoit ymages fère

who well knew images to-make

5 et bien entaillier crucefis.

and well to-carve crucifixes

Il n'en estoit mie aprentis,

He not-thereof was at-all apprentice

ainz les fesoit et bel et bien.

rather them he-made both fair and well

Et sa fame seur toute rien

And his wife above every thing

avoit enamé un provoivre.

bad loved a priest

Son seignor li ot fet acroire

10

Her lord to-her had made believe

qu'à un marchié devoit aler

that-to a market he-was-to go

et une ymage o lui porter,

and an image with him to-carry

dont il auroit, ce dist, deniers,

whence he would-have this he-said pence

et la dame bien volentiers

and the lady very willingly

li otria, et en fu lie.

15

to-him granted-it and thereof was glad

Quand cil vit la chièr haucie,

When he saw the face raised

si se pot bien apercevoir

so himself he-could well perceive

qu'el le béoit à decevoir,

that-she him aimed to deceive

si come avoit acoustumé.

so as she-had been-accustomed

Lor a desus son col geté

20

Then he-has upon his neck thrown

.I. crucefis par achoison

a crucifix by pretext

et se parti de la méson.

and himself parted from the house

En la ville va, si demeure,

Into the town he-goes so lingers

et atent jusques à cele eure

and waits until to that hour

25 qu'il cuida qu'il fussent ensamble.

that-he thought that-they were together

De mautalent li cuers li tramble.

With ill-temper the heart to-him trembles

A son ostel en est venuz;

To his house thence he-is come

par .I. pertuis les a véuz,

through a hole them he-has seen

assis estoient au mengier.

seated they-were at-the eating

30 Il apela, mès à dangier

He called but with reluctance

i ala-l'en por l'uis ouvrir.

there went-one for the-door to-open

Li prestres n'ot par où fuir:

The priest not-had by where to-flee

«Diex, dist li prestres, que ferai?»

God said the priest what shall-I-do

Dist la dame: «Jel vous dirai:

Said the lady I-it to-you shall-tell

35 despoillez-vous, et si alez

strip-yourself and so go

leenz, et si vous estendez

therein and so yourself stretch-out

avoec ces autres crucefis.»

with these other crucifixes

Ou volentiers ou à envis

Either willingly or against will

le fist li prestres; ce sachiez,

it did the priest this know

toz s'est li prestres despoilliez;

all himself-is the priest stripped

entre les ymages de fust

among the images of wood

s'estent ausi come s'il en fust.

himself-stretches as as if-be of-them were

Quant li preudom ne l'a véu,

When the worthy-man not him-has seen

erraument s'est apercëu

at-once himself-be-is perceived

qu'aléz est entre ses ymages;

that-gone he-is among his images

mais de ce fist-il moult que sages

but in this did-he very as wise-man

qu'assez a mengié et béu

for-plenty he-has eaten and drunk

par loisir ainz qu'il soit méu.

at leisure before that-be may-be stirred

Quand il fu levez du mengier,

When he was risen from-the eating

lors comença à aguisier

then he-began to sharpen

son coutel à une grant kex.

his knife on a great whetstone

Li preudom estoit fors et preus;

The worthy-man was strong and valiant

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«Dame, dist-il, tost alumez

Lady said-be quick light

une chandoile, et si venez

a candle and so come

55 léenz o moi, où j'ai afère.»

therein with me where I-have business

La dame ne s'osa retrère;

The lady not herself-dared withdraw

une chandoile a alumée,

a candle she-has lit

et est o son seignor alée

and is with her lord gone

en l'ouvréoir isnelement;

into the-workshop swiftly

60 et li preudom tout esraument

and the worthy-man all at-once

le provoire tout estendu

the priest all stretched-out

voit, si l'a bien apercéu,

sees so him-has well perceived

voit la coille et le vit qui pent:

he-sees the testicle and the prick which hangs

«Dame, dist-il, vilainement

Lady said-be churlishly

65 ai en cest ymage mespris:

I-have in this image erred

j'estoie yvres, ce m'est avis,

I-was drunk this to-me-is seeming

quant je ceste chose i lessai;

when I this thing there left

alumez, si l'amenderai.»

light so it-I-shall-amend

Li prestres ne s'osa mouvoir;

The priest not himself-dared move

et ice vous di-je por voir

and this to-you say-I for true

que vit et coilles li trencha,

that prick and testicles from-him he-cut

que onques rien ne li lessa

that ever anything not to-him he-left

que il n'ait tout outre trenchié.

that he not-may-have all outright cut

Quant li prestres se sent blecié,

When the priest himself feels wounded

lors si s'en est tornez fuiant,

then so himself-thence he-is turned fleeing

et li preudom de maintenant

and the worthy-man from at-once

si s'est escriez à hauz criz:

so himself-is cried-out with loud cries

«Seignor, prenez mon crucefiz

Lords take my crucifix

qui or endroit m'est eschapez.»

which now right from-me-is escaped

Lors a li prestres encontrez

Then has the priest met

.II. gars qui portent une jarle;

two lads who carry a tub

lors li venit miex estre à Arle,

then to-him it-would-have-come better to-be at Arles

70

75

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quar il i ot .I. pautonier

for it there was a knave

qui en sa main tint un levier;

who in his hand held a pole

85 si le feri desus le col

so him struck upon the neck

qu'il l'abati en un tai mol.

that-he him-knocked-down into a mire soft

Quant il l'ot à terre abatu,

When he him-had to ground knocked-down

es-vos le preudome venu

behold-you the worthy-man come

qui l'enmena en sa meson;

who him-led into his house

90 .XV. livres de raençon

fifteen pounds of ransom

li fist isnelement baillier,

him he-had swiftly hand-over

c'onques n'en i failli denier.

that-ever not-thereof there lacked penny

Cest example nous monstre bien

This example us shows well

que nus prestres por nule rien

that any priest for any thing

95 ne devroit autrui fame amer,

not ought other's wife to-love

n'entor li venir ne aler,

nor-around her to-come nor to-go

quiconques fust en calengage,

whoever might-be in dispute

que il n'i lest ou coille ou gage,

that he not-there may-leave either testicle or pledge

si com fist cil prestres Constans,

so as did that priest Constans

qui i lessa les siens pendans.

who there left the his danglers

100

De Gombert et des .II. clers

XXII · GOMBERT AND THE TWO CLERKS

Two clerks lodge with the churl Gombert, one loving his wife Guile and one his daughter, whom he wins at night with a ring taken from a pan. When Gombert gets up to piss, the other clerk moves the cradle to his own bed, so Gombert lies down there and the clerk goes to the wife, who takes him for Gombert. The first, returning, boasts of the daughter to Gombert himself, and the two beat him and flee. The moral: let no man with a fair wife lodge a clerk.

En cest autre fablel parole

In this other fabliau it-speaks

de .II. clers qui viennent d'escole;

of two clerks who come from-school

despendu orent leur avoir

spent they-had their wealth

en folie plus qu'en savoir.

in folly more than-in wisdom

5 Ostel quistrent chiés un vilain;

Lodging they-sought at-house-of a churl

de sa fame, dame Guilain,

of his wife lady Guile

fu l'un des clers, lués que là vint,

was the-one of-the clerks as-soon as there he-came

si fols que amer li convint;

so foolish that to-love him behooved

mès ne set coment s'i acointe,

but not he-knows how himself-there he-may-acquaint

10 quar la dame est mingnote et cointe;

for the lady is dainty and comely

les iex ot vairs come cristal.

the eyes she-had gray like crystal

Toute jour l'esgarde à estal

All day her-be-gazes-at at standstill

li clers, si qu'à paine se cille,

the clerk so that-with pain himself blinks

et li autres ama sa fille,

and the other loved his daughter

qui adès i avoit ses iex.

who ever there had his eyes

Cil mist encor s'entente miex,

That-one put still his-intent better

quar sa fille est et cointe et bele,

for his daughter is both comely and fair

et je di qu'amor de pucele,

and I say that-love of maiden

quant fins cuers i est ententiex,

when true heart there is intent

est sor toute autre rien gentiex,

is above all other thing noble

comme li ostors au terçuel.

as the gosbawk to-the tiercel

Un petit enfant en berçuel

A little child in cradle

paissoit la bone fame en l'aistre.

fed the good wife in the-hearth

Que qu'ele entendoit à lui paistre,

While that-she was-intent to him feed

uns des clers lez li s'acosta;

one of-the clerks beside her himself-drew-near

15

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25

fors de la paelete osta

out from the little-pan he-removed

l'anelet dont ele pendoit;

the-little-ring from-which it hung

si le bouta luès en son doit

so it he-thrust at-once on his finger

si coient que nul nel sot.

so quietly that anyone not-it knew

30 Tel bien com sire Gomers ot

Such good as sir Gombert had

orent assez la nuit si oste,

had plenty the night his guests

lait boilli, matons et composte;

milk boiled curds and stew

ce fu assez si come à vile.

this was plenty so as in town

Cele nuit fu moult dame Guile

That night was much lady Guile

35 regardée de l'un des clers;

gazed-at by the-one of-the clerks

ses iex i avoit si aers

his eyes there he-had so fixed

que il nes en pooit retrère.

that he not-them thence could withdraw

Li preudom, qui ne sot l'afère

The worthy-man who not knew the-business

et n'i entendoit el que bien,

and not-there intended else than good

40 fist lor lit fère près del sien;

had their bed made near to-the his

ses coucha, et les a couvers.

so-them he-laid and them has covered

Lors se couche sire Gomers

Then himself lies-down sir Gombert

quant fu chauféz au feu d'esteule,

when he-was warmed at-the fire of-stubble

et sa fille jut toute seule.

and his daughter lay all alone

Quant la gent se fu endormie,

When the folk itself was fallen-asleep

l'uns des clers ne s'oublia mie;

the-one of-the clerks not himself-forgot at-all

molt li bat li cuers et flaele;

much to-him beats the heart and flails

à tout l'anel de la paele

with all the-ring of the pan

au lit la pucele s'en vint.

to-the bed (of-)the maiden himself-thence came

Oiez coment il li avint;

Hear how it to-him befell

lez li se couche, les dras œvre:

beside her himself lies the sheets opens

«Qui est-ce, Diex, qui me descuevre?

Who is-it God who me uncovers

dist-ele quant ele le sent.

said-she when she him feels

Sire, por Dieu omnipotent,

Lord for God omnipotent

que querez-vous ci à ceste eure?

what seek-you here at this hour

45

50

55

— Suer, dist-il, se Diex me sequeure,

Sister said-he so God me may-help

n'ai talent qu'en sus de vous voise;

not-I-have desire that-away off from you I-may-go

mès tesiez vous, ne fetes noise,

but be-silent you not make noise

que vostre père ne s'esveille,

that your father not himself-may-wake

60 quar il cuideroit jà merveille,

for he would-think now marvel

s'il savoit que o vous géüsse;

if-he knew that with you I-might-lie

il cuideroit que je éusse

he would-think that I had

de vous fêtes mes volentez;

of you done my wishes

mès, se vos mes bons consentez,

but if you my pleasures consent

65 granz biens vous en vendra encor,

great good to-you thereof will-come still

et si aurez mon anel d'or,

and so you-will-have my ring of-gold

qui miex vaut de .IIII. besanz;

which better is-worth than four bezants

or sentez comme il est pesanz;

now feel how it is heavy

trop m'est larges au doit manel.»

too to-me-is large on-the finger of-the-hand

Et cil li a bouté l'anel

70

And that-one to-her has thrust the-ring

ou doit, si qu'il passa la jointe.

on-the finger so that-it passed the joint

Et cele s'est près de lui jointe,

And she herself-is near to him joined

et jure que jà nel prendroit.

and swears that ever not-it she-would-take

Toutes eures, mi tort, mi droit,

All hours half wrong half right

l'uns vers l'autre tant s'amolie

75

the-one toward the-other so-much himself-softens

que li clers li fist la folie.

that the clerk with-her did the folly

Et, quant il plus l'acole et baise,

And when he more her-embraces and kisses

plus est ses compains à malaise,

more is his companion at unease

quar ressouvenir li fesoit;

for remember to-him it-made

ce qu'à l'un paradis estoit

80

this that-to the-one paradise was

sambloit à l'autre droiz enfers.

seemed to the-other very hell

Lors se liève sire Gomers;

Then himself rises sir Gombert

s'ala à l'uis pissier toz nuz;

himself-went to the-door to-piss all naked

l'autre clers est au lit venuz;

the-other clerk is to-the bed come

- 85 à l'esponde par de devant
at the-bedside by from before
 prist le berçuel o tout l'enfant,
took the cradle with all the-child
 au lit le porte où a géu.
to-the bed it carries where he-has lain
 Or est dant Gombert decéu;
Now is sir Gombert deceived
 quar adès à coustume avoit
for ever as custom he-had
- 90 la nuit, quant de pissier venoit,
the night when from pissing he-came
 qu'il tastoit au berçuel premier.
that-he felt at-the cradle first
 Si come il estoit coustumier,
So as he was accustomed
 lors vint tastant sire Gomers
then came groping sir Gombert
 au lit, mès n'i ert pas li bers;
to-the bed but not-there was at-all the cradle
- 95 quant il n'a le berçuel trouvé,
when he not-has the cradle found
 lors se tient à musart prové;
then himself he-holds for fool proven
 bien cuide avoir voie marie.
well he-thinks to-have way strayed
 «Li maufez, dist-il, me tarie,
The devil said-he me torments
 quar en cest lit gisent mi oste.»
for in this bed lie my guests

Il vint à l'autre lit encoste,

He came to the-other bed beside

le bers i trueve et le mailluel,

the cradle there he-finds and the swaddling

et li clers joust le pailluel

and the clerk beside the straw-pallet

se trest, que nel truist le vilain.

himself drew that not-him might-find the churl

Moult fu sire Gomers en vain,

Very was sir Gombert in vain

quant il n'a sa fame trovée;

when he not-has his wife found

cuide qu'ele soit relevée

he-thinks that-she be got-up

pissier et fère ses degres.

to-piss and to-do her needs

Li vilains senti chaus les dras,

The churl felt warm the sheets

si se couche entre .II. linceus;

so himself lies between two sheets

li sommaus li fu pris des eux;

the sleep him was taken in-the eyes

si s'endormi isnel le pas.

so himself-fell-asleep swift the pace

Et li clers ne s'oublia pas;

And the clerk not himself-forgot at-all

o la dame s'en vait couchier;

with the lady himself-thence goes to-lie

100

105

110

ainz ne li lut son nez mouchier
ever not to-her it-was-allowed her nose to-blow

115 s'ot esté .III. fois assaillie.

so-she-had been three times assailed

Or a Gomers bone mesnie;

Now has Gombert good household

moult le mainent de male pile.

much him they-lead of ill sort

«Sire Gomers, dist dame Guile,

Lord Gombert says lady Guile

si viez hom comme estes et frailes,

so old man as you-are and frail

120 moult avez anuit esté quailles;

very you-have tonight been lusty

ne sai or de qoi vous souvint;

not I-know now of what to-you it-came-to-mind

pieça mès qu'il ne vous avint;

long-ago since that-it not to-you befell

ne cuidiez-vous que il m'anuit?

not think-you that it me-may-vex

Vous avez ausi fet anuit

You have so done tonight

125 que s'il n'en fust nus recouvriers;

as if-it not-thereof were any recovery

moult avez esté bons ouvriers;

very you-have been good workmen

n'avez guères esté oiseus.»

not-you-have much been idle

Li clers, qui ne fu pas noiseus,

The clerk who not was at-all quarrelsome

en fist toutes voies ses buens,

thereof did all the-same his pleasures

et li lesse dire les suens.

and to-ber lets say the bers

Ne l'en fu pas à une bille

Not to-him-thereof it-was at-all at a marble

cil qui gisoit avoec la fille;

that-one who lay with the daughter

quant ot assez fet son delit,

when he-had plenty done his delight

penssa qu'il r'ira à son lit

thought that-he will-go-back to his bed

ainz que li jors fust escleriez.

before that the day were brightened

A son lit en est reperiez,

To his bed thence he-is returned

là où gisoit Gombers ses ostes.

there where lay Gombert his host

Cil le fiert du poing lèz les costes

That-one him strikes with-the fist beside the ribs

grant cop du poing, o tout le coute:

great blow with-the fist with all the elbow

«Chetiz, bien as gardé la coute,

Wretch well thou-hast kept the quilt

fet-il, tu ne vaus une tarte;

says-he thou not art-worth a tart

mès, ainz que de ci me departe,

but before that from here myself I-part

te dirai jà grande merveille.»

to-thee I-shall-tell now great marvel

130

135

140

A tant sire Gomers s'esveille;

At that sir Gombert himself-wakes

145 esraument s'est apercéuz

at-once himself-be-is perceived

qu'il est trahis et déceuz

that-he is betrayed and deceived

par les clers et par lor engiens.

by the clerks and by their devices

«Or, me di, dist-il, d'ont tu viens?

Now to-me tell said-he whence thou comest

— D'ont? dist-il, si noma tout outre,

Whence said-he so he-named all outright

150 par le cul bieu, je vieng de foutre,

by the ass (of-)God I come from fucking

mès que ce fu la fille l'oste;

but that this was the daughter (of-)the-host

pris en ai devant et encoste;

taken thereof I-have before and beside

aforé li ai son tonnel,

broached to-her I-have her cask

et se li ai donné l'anel

and so to-her I-have given the-ring

155 de la paelete de fer.

of the little-pan of iron

— Ha! ce soit de par cels d'enfer,

Ah this may-it-be on behalf-of those of-hell

fet-il, à cens et à milliers.»

says-he by hundreds and by thousands

A tant l'aert par les illiers;

At that him-seizes by the loins

si le fiert du poing lez l'oïe,

so him strikes with-the fist beside the-ear

et cil li rent une joïe

and that-one to-him returns a slap

que tuit li œil li estincelent.

that all the eyes to-him sparkle

Si durement s'entreflaelent

So hard each-other-they-flail

entre els, qu'en diroie-je el,

between themselves what-thereof would-say-I else

c'on les péust en .I. tinel

that-one them could on a pole

porter tout contreval la vile.

carry all down-through the town

«Sire Gombert, dist dame Guile,

Lord Gombert says lady Guile

levez tost sus, quar il me samble

rise quick up for it to-me seems

que no clers sont meslé ensamble;

that our clerks are fighting together

je ne sai qu'ils ont à partir.

I not know what-they have to part

— Dame, j'es irai departir.»

Lady I-them shall-go to-part

Lors s'en vint li clers cele part;

Then himself-thence came the clerk that way

trop i dust estre venuz tart,

too there he-ought to-be come late

que ses compains ert abatuz,

that his companion was beaten-down

160

165

170

puisque cil i fu embatuz.

since that-one there was rushed-in

175 Le pior en ot dans Gombers,

The worst thereof had sir Gombert

quar il l'ont ambedui aers;

for they him-have both seized

l'uns le pile, l'autres le fautre.

the-one him pounds the-other him felts

Tant l'ont debouté l'un sor l'autre

So-much him-they-have buffeted the-one on the-other

qu'il ot, par le mien escientre,

that-he had by the my knowledge

180 le dos aussi mol que le ventre.

the back as soft as the belly

Quant ainsi l'orent atorné,

When thus him-they-had arrayed

andui sont en fuie torné,

both are into flight turned

et l'uis lessent ouvert tout ample.

and the-door they-leave open all wide

Cis fabliaus moustre par exemple

This fabliau shows by example

185 que nus hom qui bele fame ait,

that any man who fair wife may-have

por nule proière ne lait

for any prayer not may-let

clerc gesir dedenz son ostel,

clerk lie within his lodging

que il li feroit autretel;

that he to-him would-do the-same

qui plus met en aus, plus i pert.

who more puts in them more there loses

Ci faut li fabliaus de Gombert.

Here fails the fabliau of Gombert

190

Du vilain mire

LXXIV · THE PEASANT DOCTOR

A rich churl weds a knight's daughter and beats her each morning so no one will court her while he plows. She tells the king's messengers, seeking a doctor for a princess with a fishbone in her throat, that he is a great physician who works only when beaten. Beaten, he makes the princess laugh out the bone by scratching himself naked at the fire, and clears the court of the sick by threatening to burn the sickest to powder. Home rich, he never beats his wife again.

Jadis estoit uns vilains riches,

Formerly there-was a churl rich

qui mout estoit avers et chiches;

who very was greedy and stingy

une charrue adès avoit,

a plow ever he-had

tos tens par lui la maintenoit

all times by himself it he-maintained

5 d'une jument et d'un roncín;

with-a mare and with-a nag

assez ot char et pain et vin

plenty he-bad flesh and bread and wine

et quanques mestier li estoit,

and whatever need to-him was

mès por fame que pas n'avoit

but for wife that at-all not-he-had

le blasmoient mout si ami

him blamed much his friends

10 et toute la gent autressi:

and all the folk likewise

il dist volentiers en prendroit

he said willingly thereof he-would-take

une bonne, se la trovoit;

a good-one if her he-found

et cil dient qu'il li querront

and those say that-they for-him will-seek

la mellor que il troveront.

the best that they will-find

El païs ot .I. chevalier,

15

In-the country was a knight

viez hom estoit et sanz moillier,

old man he-was and without wife

s'avoit une fille mout bele

so-he-had a daughter very fair

et mout cortoise damoisele,

and very courteous damsel

mès por ce qu'avoirs li failloit,

but for this that-wealth to-him failed

li chevaliers pas ne trovoit

20

the knight at-all not found

qui sa fille li demandast,

who his daughter of-him might-ask

que volentiers la mariast

for willingly her he-would-marry

por ce que ele estoit d'aage

for this that she was of-age

et en point d'avoir mariage.

and in point of-having marriage

- 25 Li ami au vilain alerent
The friends of-the churl went
 au chevalier, et demanderent
to-the knight and asked
 sa fille por le paisant
his daughter for the peasant
 qui tant avoit or et argent,
who so-much had gold and silver
 plenté forment et planté dras.
plenty wheat and plenty cloth
- 30 Il leur dona isnel le pas
He to-them gave(-her) swift the pace
 et otroia cest mariage.
and granted this marriage
 La pucele qui mout fu sage,
The maiden who very was wise
 n'osa contredire son pere,
not-dared gainsay her father
 quar orfeline estoit de mere,
for orphaned she-was of mother
- 35 si otroia ce qui li plot,
so granted this which to-him pleased
 et li vilains plus tost qu'il pot
and the churl more soon than-he could
 fist ses noces et espousa
made his wedding and married
 celi cui forment en pesa,
her to-whom greatly thereof it-weighed
 s'ele autre chose en osast fere.
if-she other thing thereof dared do

Quant trespasé ot cel afere

When passed he-had that business

et des noces et d'autre chose,

both of-the wedding and of-other thing

ne demora mie grant pose

not he-lingered at-all great while

quant li vilains se porpenssa

when the churl himself bethought

que malement exploitié a:

that badly acted he-has

n'aferist mie à son mestier

not-it-befitted at-all to his trade

d'avoir fille de chevalier;

of-having daughter of knight

quant il ira à la charrue

when he will-go to the plow

li vassaus ira lez la rue

the vassal will-go beside the street

à cui toz les jors ot foiriez.

to whom all the days were holidays

Et quant il sera esloingniez

And when he will-be gone-far

de sa meson, li chapelain

from his house the chaplain

vendra tant et hui et demain

will-come so-much both today and tomorrow

que sa fame li foutera,

that his wife on-bim he-will-fuck

40

45

50

ne jamès jor ne l'amera
nor ever day not him-she-will-love

55 ne ne le prisera .II. pains:
nor not him will-prize two loaves

«Las! moi chetiz,» fet li vilains,
Alas me wretch says the churl

«or ne me sai je conseilher,
now not myself know I to-counsel

quar repentir n'i a mestier.»
for repenting not-there has use

Lors se commence à porpensser
Then himself he-begins to think

60 comment de ce la puist garder:
how from this her he-might keep

«Dieus!» fet il, «se je la batoie
God says he if I her beat

au matin quant je leveroie:
in-the morning when I would-rise

ele plorroit au lonc du jor,
she would-weep the length of-the day

je m'en iroie en mon labor.
I myself-thence would-go into my labor

65 Bien sai, tant con ele plorroit,
Well I-know so-long as she would-weep

que nus ne la donoieroit.
that anyone not her would-court

Au vespre quant je revendrai,
In-the evening when I shall-return

por Dieu merci la prierai,
for God mercy of-her I-shall-beg

je la ferai au soir haitie

I her shall-make in-the evening glad

mès au matin ert courroucie.

but in-the morning she-will-be angered

Je prendrai ja à li congié,

I shall-take now of her leave

se je avoie un poi mengié.»

if I had a little eaten

Li vilains demande à disner:

The churl asks for dinner

la dame li cort aporter;

the lady to-him runs to-bring

n'orent pas saumon ne pertris:

not-they-had at-all salmon nor partridges

pain et vin orent, et oes fris,

bread and wine they-had and eggs fried

et du fromage à grant plenté

and of-the cheese in great plenty

que li vilains ot amassé.

which the churl had amassed

Et quant la table fut ostée,

And when the table was removed

de la paume qu'ot grant et lée,

with the palm which-be-had great and broad

fiert si sa fame lez la face

he-strikes so his wife beside the face

que des doiz i parut la trace,

that of-the fingers there appeared the trace

70

75

80

puis l'a prise par les cheveus

then her-be-has taken by the hair

li vilains qui mout estoit feus,

the churl who very was felonious

85 si l'a batue tout ausi

so her-be-has beaten all so

con s'ele l'eüst deservi;

as if-she it-had deserved

puis vait aus chans isnelement,

then goes to-the fields swiftly

et sa fame remest plorant.

and his wife remained weeping

«Lasse,» fet ele, «que ferai?

Wretched says she what shall-I-do

90 Et comment me conseillerai?

And how myself shall-I-counsel

Or ne sai je mès que je die,

Now not know I more what I may-say

or m'a mon pere bien trahie

now me-has my father well betrayed

qui m'a donné à cel vilain.

who me-has given to that churl

Cuidoie je morir de fain?

Thought I to-die of hunger

95 Certes bien oi au cuer la rage

Certainly well I-had in-the heart the madness

quant j'otroiai tel mariage:

when I-granted such marriage

Dieus! porquoi fu ma mere mortel!»

God why was my mother dead

Si durement se desconforte,

So hard herself she-discomforts

toutes les gens qui i venoient

all the folk who there came

por li veoir s'en retornoient.

for her to-see themselves-thence returned

100

Ainsi a dolor demené

Thus she-has grief made

tant que soleil fut esconssé

until that sun was set

que li vilains est reperiez.

when the churl is returned

A sa fame cheï aus piez,

To his wife he-fell at-the feet

et li pria por Dieu merci:

and her prayed for God mercy

105

«Sachiez ce me fist Anemi

Know this to-me did the-Enemy

qui me fist fere tel desroi;

who me made do such outrage

tenez, je vous plevis ma foi

hold I to-you pledge my faith

que jamès ne vous toucheraï:

that ever not you I-shall-touch

de tant con batue vous ai

of so-much as beaten you I-have

110

sui je courouciez et dolenz.»

am I angered and grieving

Tant li dist li vilains pulens

So-much to-her said the churl stinking

que la dame lors li pardone.

that the lady then to-him pardons

Et à mengier tantost li done

And to eat at-once to-him gives

115 de ce qu'ele ot apareillié;

of this that-she had prepared

quant il orent assez mengié,

when they had plenty eaten

si alerent couchier en pais.

so they-went to-lie in peace

Au matin li vilains pusnais

In-the morning the churl stinking

ra sa fame si estordie

again-has his wife so stunned

120 por poi qu'il ne l'a mehaingnie,

for little that-he — her-has maimed

puis s'en revait aus chans arer.

then himself-thence goes-back to-the fields to-plow

La dame commence à plorer:

The lady begins to weep

«Lasse,» dist ele, «que ferai?

Wretched said she what shall-I-do

Et comment me conseillerai?

And how myself shall-I-counsel

125 Bien sai que mal m'est avenu:

Well I-know that ill to-me-is befallen

fu onques mon mari batu?

was ever my husband beaten

Nennil, il ne set que cops sont:

No-indeed he not knows what blows are

s'il le seüst, por tout le mont,

if-he it knew for all the world

il ne m'en donast pas itant.»

he not to-me-thereof would-give at-all so-much

Que qu'ainsi s'aloit dementant,

While that-thus herself-she-went lamenting

esvos .II. messagiers le roi,

behold-you two messengers (of-)the king

chascun sor un blanc palefroi;

each on a white palfrey

envers la dame esperonerent,

toward the lady they-spurred

de par le roi la saluerent,

on behalf-of the king her greeted

puis demanderent à mengier

then they-asked to eat

que il en orent bien mestier.

for they thereof had well need

Volentiers leur en a doné;

Willingly to-them thereof she-has given

et puis si leur a demandé:

and then so of-them has asked

«Dont estes vous et où alez?

Whence are you and where go-you

Et dites moi que vous querez.»

And tell me what you seek

Li uns respont: «Dame, par foi,

The one answers Lady by faith

130

135

140

nous sommes messagiers le roi;

we are messengers (of-)the king

si nous envoie .I. mire querre,

so us he-sends a physician to-see

passer devons en Engleterre.

cross we-must into England

145 — Por quoi fere? — Damoiselle Ade,

For what to-do Damsel Ada

la fille le roi, est malade;

the daughter (of-)the king is sick

il a passé .VIII. jors entiers

it has passed eight days entire

que ne pot boire ne mengier,

that not she-could drink nor eat

quar une areste de poisson

for a bone of fish

150 li aresta el gavion:

to-her stuck in-the gullet

or est li rois si corouciez;

now is the king so angered

s'il la pert ne sera mès liez.»

if-he her loses not he-will-be ever glad

Et dist la dame: «Vous n'irez

And said the lady You not-will-go

pas si loing comme vous pensez,

at-all so far as you think

155 quar mon mari est, je vous di,

for my husband is I to-you say

bons mires, je le vous afi;

good physician I it to-you pledge

certes il set plus de mecines

certainly he knows more of medicines

et de vrais jugemens d'orines

and of true judgments of-urines

que onques ne sot Ypocras.

than ever — knew Hippocrates

— Dame, dites le vous à gas?

160

Lady say it you in jest

— De gaber,» dist ele, «n'ai cure,

Of jesting said she not-I-have care

mès il est de tele nature

but he is of such nature

qu'il ne feroit por nului rien,

that-he not would-do for anyone anything

s'ainçois ne le batoit on bien.»

if-before not him beat one well

Et cil dient: «Or i parra,

165

And those say Now there it-will-appear

ja por battre ne remaindra;

ever for beating not it-will-remain

dame, où le porrons nous trover?

lady where him shall-be-able we find

— Aus chans le porrez rencontrer:

In-the fields him you-will-be-able meet

quant vous istrez de ceste cort,

when you will-go-out from this court

tout ainsi con cil ruissiaus cort

170

all thus as that brook runs

par defors cele gaste rue,

by outside that waste street

toute la premiere charrue

all the first plow

que vous troverez, c'est la nostre.

that you will-find this-is the ours

Alez; à saint Pere l'apostre,»

Go to saint Peter the-apostle

175 fet la dame, «je vous commant.»

says the lady I you commend

Et cil s'en vont esperonant,

And those themselves-thence go spurring

tant qu'il ont le vilain trouvé.

until that-they have the churl found

De par le roi l'ont salué,

On behalf-of the king him-they-have greeted

puis li dient sanz demorer:

then to-him say without delaying

180 «Venez en tost au roi parler.

Come thence quick to-the king to-speak

— A que fere?» dist li vilains.

To what to-do said the churl

— Por le sens dont vous estes plains;

For the wit of-which you are full

il n'a tel mire en ceste terre:

there not-is such physician in this land

de loing vous sommes venu querre.»

from far you we-are come to-seek

185 Quant li vilains s'ot clamer mire,

When the churl himself-heard call physician

trestoz li sans li prent à fire;

all the blood to-him takes to fry

dist qu'il n'en set ne tant ne quant.

said that-he not-thereof knows nor so-much nor how-much

«Et qu'alons nous ore atendant?»

And what-go we now awaiting

ce dist li autres; «bien sez tu

this said the other well knowest thou

qu'il veut avant estre batu

that-he wishes before to-be beaten

que il face nul bien ne die?»

than that-he may-do any good or may-say

Li uns le fiert delez l'oïe

The one him strikes beside the-ear

et li autres par mi le dos

and the other through mid the back

d'un baston qu'il ot grant et gros;

with-a stick which-he had great and thick

il li ont fet honte à plenté,

they to-him have done shame in plenty

et puis si l'ont au roi mené.

and then so him-they-have to-the king led

Si le montent à reculons

So him they-mount to backwards

la teste devers les talons.

the head toward the heels

Li rois les avoit encontré;

The king them had met

si lor dist: «Avez rien trouvé?

so to-them said Have-you anything found

— Sire, oïl,» distrent il ensamble.

Lord yes said they together

190

195

200

Et li vilains de paor tramble.

And the churl for fear trembles

Li uns d'aus li dist premerains

The one of-them to-him told first

les teches qu'avoit li vilains,

the traits that-had the churl

205 et comme ert plains de felonie,

and how he-was full of felony

quar de chose que on li prie

for of thing that one of-him asks

ne feroit il por nului rien,

not would-do he for anyone anything

s'ançois ne le batoit on bien.

if-before not him beat one well

Et dist li rois: «Mal mire a ci,

And said the king Bad physician there-is here

210 ainc mais d'itel parler n'öi.

ever before of-such speak not-I-heard

— Bien soit batus puisqu'ainsi est,»

Well be-be beaten since-that-thus it-is

dist un serjans, «je sui tout prest;

said a sergeant I am all ready

ja si tost nel commanderois,

ever so soon not-it you-would-command

que je li paierai ses drois.»

that I to-him shall-pay his dues

215 Li rois le vilain apela:

The king the churl called

«Mestre,» fet il, «entendez ça,

Master says he attend here

je ferai ma fille venir,

I shall-have my daughter come

quar grant mestier a de garir.»

for great need she-has to heal

Li vilains li cria merci:

The churl to-him cried mercy

«Sire, por Dieu qui ne menti,

Lord for God who not lied

si m'aït Dieus, je vous di bien,

so me-may-help God I to-you say well

de fisque ne sai je rien:

of physic not know I anything

onques de fisque ne soi.»

ever of physic not I-knew

Et dist li rois: «Merveilles oi:

And said the king Marvels I-bear

batez le moi.» Et cil saillirent

beat him for-me And those leapt

qui assez volentiers le firent.

who quite willingly it did

Quant li vilains senti les cops,

When the churl felt the blows

adonques se tint il por fols:

then himself beld he for fool

«Merci,» commença à crier,

Mercy he-began to cry

«je la garrai sanz delaier.»

I her shall-heal without delaying

220

225

230

La pucele fu en la sale

The maiden was in the hall

qui mout estoit et tainte et pale,

who very was both wan and pale

et li vilains se porpenssa

and the churl himself bethought

en quel maniere il la garra;

in what manner he her will-beal

235 quar il set bien que à garir

for he knows well that to heal

li covient il ou à morir.

to-him behooves it or to die

Lors se commence à porpensser,

Then himself he-begins to think

se garir la veut et sauver,

if to-heal her he-wishes and to-save

chose li covient fere et dire

thing to-him it-behooves to-do and to-say

240 par quoi la puisse fere rire

by which her he-may make laugh

tant que l'areste saille hors,

until that the-bone may-leap out

quar el n'est pas dedenz le cors.

for it not-is at-all within the body

Lors dist au roi: «Fetes .I. feu

Then he-said to-the king Make a fire

en cele chambre en privé leu;

in that chamber in private place

245 vous verrez bien que je ferai,

you will-see well what I shall-do

et se Dieu plest, je la garrai.»

and if God please I her shall-heal

Li rois a fet le feu plenier;

The king has made the fire full

vallet saillent et escuier,

servants leap and squires

si ont le feu tost alumé

so they-have the fire soon lit

là où li rois l'ot commandé.

250

there where the king it-had commanded

Et la pucele au feu s'assist

And the maiden at-the fire herself-sat

seur .I. siege que l'en li mist;

on a seat that one for-her put

et li vilains se despoilla

and the churl himself stripped

toz nuz, et ses braies osta,

all naked and his breeches removed

et s'est travers le feu couchiez,

255

and himself-he-is across the fire lain

si s'est gratez et estrilliez:

so himself-he-is scratched and curried

ongles ot grans et le cuir dur,

nails he-had great and the hide hard

il n'a homme dusqu'à Samur

there not-is man as-far-as Saumur

là on louast grateur point

there-where one might-hire scratcher at-all

que cil ne fust mout bien à point.

260

that that-one not were very well to point

Et la pucele qui ce voit,

And the maiden who this sees

à tout le mal qu'ele sentoit,

with all the ill that-she felt

vout rire, si s'en esforça

wished to-laugh so herself-thereto strove

que de la bouche li vola

that from the mouth from-her flew

265 l'aresté hors enz el brasier.

the-bone out into in-the embers

Et li vilains sanz delaier

And the churl without delaying

revest ses dras et prent l'aresté,

puts-on-again his clothes and takes the-bone

de la chambre ist fesant grant feste;

from the chamber goes-out making great feast

où voit le roi, en haut li crie:

where he-sees the king on high to-him cries

270 «Sire, vostre fille est garie,

Lord your daughter is healed

vez ci l'aresté, Dieu merci.»

see here the-bone God mercy

Et li rois mout s'en esjoï,

And the king much himself-thereat rejoiced

et dist li rois: «Or sachiez bien

and said the king Now know well

que je vous aim seur toute rien.

that I you love above every thing

275 Or aurez vous robes et dras.

Now will-have you robes and cloths

— Merci, sire, je nel vueil pas,

Mercy lord I not-it wish at-all

ne ne vueil o vous demorer:

nor not wish with you to-remain

à mon ostel m'estuet aler.»

to my lodging me-behooves to-go

Et dist li rois: «Tu non feras,

And said the king Thou not wilt-do

mon mestre et mon ami seras.

my master and my friend thou-wilt-be

— Merci, sire, por saint Germain,

Mercy lord by saint Germain

à mon ostel n'a point de pain:

at my lodging not-is a-whit of bread

quant je m'en parti ier matin,

when I myself-thence parted yesterday morning

l'en devoit carchier au molin.»

one was-to load for-the mill

Li rois .II. garçons apela:

The king two lads called

«Batez le moi, si demorra.»

Beat him for-me so he-will-remain

Et cil saillent sanz delaier.

And those leap without delaying

Et vont le vilain ledengier.

And go the churl to-abuse

Quant li vilains senti les cops

When the churl felt the blows

es braz, es jambes et ou dos,

in-the arms in-the legs and in-the back

280

285

290

merci lor commence à crier:

mercy of-them he-begins to cry

«Je demorrai, lessiez me ester.»

I shall-remain let me be

Li vilains est à cort remez,

The churl is at court remained

et si l'a on tondu et rez,

and so him-has one shorn and shaved

295 et si ot robe d'escarlate;

and so he-bad robe of-scarlet

fors cuida estre de barate

out he-thought to-be of trouble

quant les malades du päis,

when the sick of-the country

plus de .IIIIxx., ce m'est vis,

more than four-score this to-me-is seeming

vindrent au roi à cele feste.

came to-the king at that feast

300 Chascuns li a conté son estre;

Each to-him has told his state

li rois le vilain apela:

the king the churl called

«Mestre,» dist il, «entendez ça,

Master said he attend here

de ceste gent prenez conroi,

of these folk take care

fetes tost, garissiez les moi.

do quickly heal them for-me

305 — Merci, sire,» li vilains dit,

Mercy lord the churl says

«trop en i a, se Dieus m'ait,
too-many thereof there are so God me-may-help

je n'en porroie à chief venir:
I not-thereof could to end come

si nes porroie toz garir.»
so not-them I-could all heal

Li rois .II. garçons en apele,
The king two lads thereof calls

et chascuns a pris une estele,
and each has taken a stick

quar chascuns d'aus mout bien savoit
for each of-them very well knew

porquoi li rois les apeloit.
why the king them called

Quant li vilains les vit venir,
When the churl them saw come

li sans li commence à fremir:
the blood to-him begins to shudder

«Merci,» lor commence à crier,
Mercy of-them he-begins to cry

«je les garrai sanz arrester.»
I them shall-heal without stopping

Li vilains a demandé laingne,
The churl has asked-for wood

assez en ot comment qu'il praingne:
plenty thereof he-bad how-ever that-it may-take

en la sale fu fez li feus,
in the hall was made the fire

et il meïsmes en fu keus.
and he himself thereof was cook

310

315

320

Les malades i aüna,

The sick there he-gathered

et puis après au roi pria:

and then afterward to-the king he-prayed

«Sire, vous en irez à val,

Lord you thence will-go down below

et trestuit cil qui n'ont nul mal.»

and all those who not-have any ill

325 Li rois s'en part mout bonement,

The king himself-thence parts very graciously

de la sale ist, lui et sa gent.

from the hall goes-out he and his folk

Li vilains aus malades dist:

The churl to-the sick said

«Seignor, par cel Dieu qui me fist,

Lords by that God who me made

mout a grant chose à vous garir,

very there-is great thing to you heal

330 je n'en porroie à chief venir:

I not-thereof could to end come

le plus malade en eslirai,

the most sick thereof I-shall-choose

et en cel feu le metrai;

and in that fire him I-shall-put

si l'ardrai en icel feu,

so him-I-shall-burn in that fire

et tuit li autre en auront preu,

and all the others thereof will-have profit

335 quar cil qui la poudre bevront,

for those who the powder will-drink

tout maintenant gari seront.»

all at-once healed will-be

Li uns a l'autre regardé,

The one has the-other looked-at

ainz n'i ot boçu ne enflé

ever not-there was hunchback nor swollen-one

qui otriast por Normendie

who would-grant for Normandy

qu'eüst la graindre maladie.

that-be-had the greater sickness

340

Li vilains a dit au premier:

The churl has said to-the first

«Je te voi mout afebloier;

I thee see much weakening

tu es des autres li plus vains.

thou art of-the others the most feeble

— Merci, sire, je sui toz sains

Mercy lord I am all sound

plus que je ne fui onques mais:

more than I — was ever before

345

alegiez sui de mout grief fais

relieved I-am of very heavy burden

que j'ai eü mout longuement;

that I-have had very long

sachiez que de rien ne vous ment.

know that in anything not to-you I-lie

— Va donc à val; qu'as tu ci quis?»

Go then down below what-hast thou here sought

Et cil a l'uis maintenant pris.

And that-one has the-door at-once taken

350

Li rois demande: «Es tu gari?

The king asks Art thou healed

— Oïl, sire, la Dieu merci;

Yes lord the God mercy

je sui plus sain que une pomme:

I am more sound than an apple

mout a ou mestre bon preudomme.»

very there-is in-the master good worthy-man

355 Que vous iroie je contant?

What to-you would-go I telling

Onques n'i ot petit ne grant

Ever not-there was small nor great

qui por tout le mont otriast

who for all the world would-grant

que l'en en cel feu le boutast,

that one into that fire him might-thrust

ainçois s'en vont tout autressi

rather themselves-thence they-go all likewise

360 con se il fussent tuit gari.

as if they were all healed

Et quant li rois les a veüz,

And when the king them has seen

de joie fu toz esperduz,

with joy he-was all distraught

puis a dit au vilain: «Biaus mestre.

then has said to-the churl Fair master

Je me merveil que ce puet estre

I myself marvel what this can be

365 que si toz gariz les avez.

that so quickly healed them you-have

— Merci, sire, jes ai charmez:

Mercy lord I-them have charmed

je sai .I. charme qui mieus vaut

I know a charm which better is-worth

que gingembre ne citovaut.»

than ginger or zedoary

Et dist li rois: «Or en irez

And said the king Now thence you-will-go

à vostre ostel quant vous voudrez,

to your lodging when you will-wish

et si aurez de mes deniers

and so you-will-have of my pence

et palefroiz et bons destriers;

and palfreys and good chargers

et quant je vous remanderai,

and when I you shall-send-for-again

vous ferez ce que je voudrai:

you will-do this that I shall-wish

si serez mes bons amis chiers,

so you-will-be my good friend dear

et en serez tenus plus chiers

and thereof you-will-be held more dear

de toute la gent du païs.

by all the folk of-the country

Or ne soiez plus esbahis,

Now not be more dismayed

ne ne vous fetes plus ledir,

nor not yourself have more abused

quar ontes est de vous ferir.

for shame it-is of you to-strike

370

375

380

— Merci, sire,» dist le vilain;

Mercy lord said the churl

«je sui vostre hom et soir et main,

I am your man both evening and morning

et serai tant con je vivrai

and shall-be so-long as I shall-live

ne ja ne m'en repentirai.»

nor ever not me-thereof I-shall-repent

385 Du roi se parti, congié prent,

From-the king himself be-parted leave takes

à son ostel vint liement;

to his lodging be-came gladly

riches mananz ainz ne fu plus:

rich wealthy ever not was more

à son ostel en est venus,

to his lodging thence be-is come

ne plus n'ala à la charrue,

nor more not-be-went to the plow

390 ne onques plus ne fu batue

nor ever more not was beaten

sa fame, ainz l'ama et chieri.

his wife rather her-be-loved and cherished

Ainsi ala con je vous di:

Thus it-went as I to-you say

par sa fame et par sa voisdie

by his wife and by his cunning

fu bons mires et sanz clergie.

he-was good physician and without learning

Du vilain qui conquist paradis par plait

LXXXI · THE CHURL WHO WON PARADISE BY PLEADING

A churl dies unclaimed by angel or devil, and his soul follows Saint Michael into paradise. Saint Peter, Saint Thomas, and Saint Paul each try to put it out, and the soul silences each in turn with his own denial, doubt, or persecution. God comes himself to bear it, and the churl pleads that he fed and lodged the poor and died confessed, so God grants him paradise for his pleading; the proverb says cunning has falsified right.

Nos trovomes en escriture

We find in writing

une merveilleuse aventure

a marvelous adventure

qui jadis avint un vilain.

which formerly befell a churl

Mors fu par .I. venredi main;

Dead he-was on a Friday morning

tel aventure li avint

such adventure to-him befell

qu'angles ne deables n'i vint;

that-angel nor devil not-there came

à cele ore que il fu morz

at that hour that he was dead

et l'ame li parti du cors,

and the-soul from-him parted from-the body

ne troeve qui riens li demant

not it-finds who anything of-it may-ask

ne nule chose li coumant.

nor any thing to-it may-command

5

10

Sachiez que mout fu eüreuse

Know that very was fortunate

l'ame, qui mout fu pooreuse;

the-soul which very was fearful

garda à destre vers le ciel,

it-looked to right toward the sky

et vit l'archangle seint Michiel

and saw the-archangel saint Michael

15 qui portoit une ame à grant joie;

who carried a soul with great joy

enprès l'angle tint cil sa voie.

after the-angel held that-one its way

Tant sivi l'angle, ce m'est vis,

So-long it-followed the-angel this to-me-is seeming

que il entra en paradis.

that it entered into paradise

Seinz Pierres, qui gardoit la porte,

Saint Peter who kept the gate

20 reçut l'ame que l'angle porte;

received the-soul that the-angel carries

et, quant l'ame reseüe a,

and when the-soul received he-has

vers la porte s'en retorna.

toward the gate himself-thence returned

L'ame trouva qui seule estoit,

The-soul he-found which alone was

demanda qui la conduisoit:

he-asked who it led

25 «Çaienz n'a nus herbergement,

Herein not-has anyone lodging

se il ne l'a par jugement:

if be not it-has by judgment

ensorquetot, par seint Alain,

above-all by saint Alan

nos n'avons cure de vilain,

we not-have care of churl

quar vilains ne vient en cest estre.

for (a-)churl not comes into this dwelling

— Plus vilains de vos n'i puet estre,

More churlish than you not-there can be

30

çà,» dit l'ame, «beau sire Pierre;

here says the-soul fair lord Peter

toz jorz fustes plus durs que pierre.

all days you-were more hard than stone

Fous fu, par seinte paternostre,

Fool was by holy paternoster

Dieus, quant de vos fist son apostre;

God when of you be-made his apostle

que petit i aura d'onnor,

for little there will-be of-honor

35

quant renoias Nostre Seignor;

when thou-didst-deny Our Lord

mout fu petite vostre foiz,

very was little your faith

quant le renoiastes .III. foiz;

when him you-denied three times

si estes de sa compaignie,

so you-are of his company

paradis ne vos affiert mie.

paradise not to-you belongs at-all

40

Alez fors, or tost, desloiaus,

Go out now quick disloyal-one

quar ge sui preudons et loiaus;

for I am worthy-man and loyal

si doi bien estre par droit conte.»

so I-ought well to-be by right counted

Seins Pierres ot estrange honte;

Saint Peter had strange shame

45 si s'en torna isnel le pas

so himself-thence turned swift the pace

et a encontré seint Thomas;

and has met saint Thomas

puis li conta tot à droiture

then to-him told all at rightness

trestote sa mesaventure,

all his mishap

et son contraire et son anui.

and his vexation and his trouble

50 Dit seinz Thomas: «G'irai à lui,

Said saint Thomas I-shall-go to him

n'i remanra, ja Dieu ne place!»

not-there he-will-remain ever God not may-please

Au vilain s'en vient en la place:

To-the churl himself-thence he-comes in the place

«Vilains,» ce li dist li apostres,

Churl this to-him said the apostle

«cist manoirs est toz quites nostres,

this manor is all quit ours

55 et as martirs et as confès;

and of-the martyrs and of-the confessors

en quel leu as tu les biens fais

in what place hast thou the good-deeds done

que tu quides çaienz menoir?

that thou thinkest herein to-dwell

Tu n'i puez mie remanoir,

Thou not-there canst at-all remain

que c'est li osteus as loiaus.

for this-is the lodging of-the loyal

— Thomas, Thomas, trop es isneaus

Thomas Thomas too thou-art quick

60

de respondre comme legistres;

of to-answer like lawyer

donc n'estes vos cil qui deïstes

then not-are you that-one who said

as apostres, bien est seü,

to-the apostles well it-is known

quant il avoient Dieu veü

when they had God seen

enprès le resuscitement?

after the resurrection

65

Vos feïstes vo seirement

You made your oath

que vos ja ne le querriez

that you ever not it would-believe

se ses plaies ne sentiez;

if his wounds not you-felt

faus i fustes et mescreanz.»

false there you-were and misbelieving

- 70 Seinz Thomas fut lors recreanz
Saint Thomas was then defeated
 de tencier, si baissa le col;
of to-dispute so lowered the neck
 puis s'en est venuz à seint Pol,
then himself-thence be-is come to saint Paul
 si li a conté le meschief.
so to-him has told the mischance
 Dit seinz Pols: «G'irai, par mon chief,
Said saint Paul I-shall-go by my head
- 75 savoir se il vorra respondre.»
to-know if he will-wish to-answer
 L'ame n'ot pas poor de fondre,
The-soul not-had at-all fear of to-founder
 aval paradis se deduit:
down paradise itself it-disports
 «Ame,» fait il, «qui te conduit?»
Soul says he who thee leads
 Où as tu faite la deserte
Where hast thou done the desert
- 80 por quoi la porte fu ouverte?
for which the gate was opened
 Vuide paradis, vilains faus!
Empty paradise churl false
 — Qu'est ce?» dit il, «danz Pols li chaus,
What-is this said it sir Paul the bald
 estes vos or si acoranz
are you now so running
 qui fustes orribles tiranz?
who were horrible tyrant

Jamais si cruels ne sera;

Ever so cruel not will-be

seinz Etienes le compara,

saint Stephen it paid-for

que vos feïstes lapider.

whom you had stoned

Bien sai vo vie raconter;

Well I-know your life to-recount

par vos furent mort maint preudome.

by you were dead many-a worthy-man

Dieus vos dona en son le some

God to-you gave on top-of the crown

une buffe de main enflée.

a buffet of hand swollen

Du marchié ne de la paumée

Of-the bargain nor of the handsbake

n'avon nos pas beü le vin?

not-have we at-all drunk the wine

Haï, quel seint et quel devin!

Hey what saint and what divine

Cuidiez que ge ne vos connoisse?»

Think-you that I not you may-know

Seinz Pols en ot mout grant angoisse.

Saint Paul thereof had very great anguish

Tornez s'en est isnel le pas,

Turned himself-thence he-is swift the pace

si a encontré seint Thomas

and has met saint Thomas

qui à seint Pierre se conseille;

who with saint Peter himself counsels

85

90

95

- 100 si li a conté en l'oreille
so to-him has told in the-ear
 du vilain qui si l'a masté:
of-the churl who so him-has subdued
 «En droit moi a il conquesté
In right-of me has he conquered
 paradis, et ge li otroi.»
paradise and I to-him grant
 A Dieu s'en vont clamer tuit troi.
To God themselves-thence they-go to-complain all three
- 105 Seinz Pierres bonement li conte
Saint Peter plainly to-him tells
 du vilein qui li a dit honte:
of-the churl who to-him has said shame
 «Par parole nos a conclus;
By speech us he-has confounded
 ge meïsmes sui si confus
I myself am so confused
 que jamais jor n'en parlerai.»
that ever day not-thereof I-shall-speak
- 110 Dit Nostre Sire: «Ge irai,
Said Our Lord I shall-go
 quar oïr vueil ceste novele.»
for to-hear I-wish this news
 A l'ame vient et si l'apele,
To the-soul he-comes and so it-calls
 et li demande con avint
and to-it asks how it-befell
 que là dedenz sanz congié vint:
that there within without leave it-came

«Çaiens n'entra oncques mès ame

115

Herein not-entered ever before soul

sanz congié, ou d'ome ou de feme;

without leave either of-man or of woman

mes apostres as blastengiez

my apostles thou-hast blamed

et avilliez et ledengiez,

and vilified and abused

et tu quides ci remanoir!

and thou thinkest here to-remain

— Sire, ainsi bien i doi menoir

120

Lord thus well there I-ought to-dwell

con il font, se jugement ai,

as they do if judgment I-have

qui onques ne vos renoiai,

who ever not you denied

ne ne mescreï vostre cors,

nor not misbelieved your body

ne par moi ne fu onques mors;

nor by me not was ever dead-man

mais tout ce firent il jadis,

125

but all this did they formerly

et si sont or en paradis.

and so they-are now in paradise

Tant con mes cors vesqui el monde,

So-long as my body lived in-the world

neste vie mena et monde;

clean life it-led and pure

as povres donai de mon pain;

to-the poor I-gave of my bread

- 130 ses herbergai et soir et main,
so-them I-lodged both evening and morning
 ses ai à mon feu eschaufez;
so-them I-have at my fire warmed
 dusqu'à la mort les ai gardez,
until the death them I-have kept
 et les portai à seinte yglise;
and them I-carried to holy church
 ne de braie ne de chemise
nor of breeches nor of shirt
 135 ne lor laissai soffrete avoir;
not to-them I-let want to-have
 ne sai or se ge fis savoir;
not I-know now if I did wisdom
 et si fui confès vraiment,
and so I-was confessed truly
 et reçui ton cors dignement:
and received thy body worthily
 qui ainsi muert, l'en nos sermone
who thus dies one us preaches
 140 que Dieus ses pechiez li pardone.
that God his sins to-him pardons
 Vos savez bien se g'ai voir dit:
You know well if I-have truth said
 çaienz entrai sanz contredit;
herein I-entered without gainsaying
 quant g'i sui, por quoi m'en iroie?
when I-there am for what myself-thence would-I-go
 Vostre parole desdiroie,
Your word I-would-unsay

quar otroié avez sanz faille

for granted you-have without fail

qui çaienz entre ne s'en aille;

who herein enters not himself-thence may-go

quar vos ne mentirez por moi.

for you not will-lie for me

— Vilein,» dist Dieus, «et ge l'otroi;

Churl said God and I it-grant

paradis a si desresnié

paradise he-has so pleaded-for

que par pledier l'as gaaingnié;

that by pleading it-thou-hast won

tu as esté à bone escole,

thou hast been at good school

tu sez bien conter ta parole;

thou knowest well to-tell thy speech

bien sez avant metre ton verbe.»

well thou-knowest forward to-put thy word

Li vileins dit en son proverbe

The churl says in his proverb

que mains hom a le tort requis

that many-a man has the wrong asked

qui par plaidier aura conquis;

who by pleading will-have conquered

engiens a fauxée droiture,

cunning has falsified right

fauxers a veincue nature;

falsehood has vanquished nature

145

150

155

torz vait avant et droiz à orce:

wrong goes forward and right to leeward

160 mielz valt engiens que ne fait force.

better is-worth cunning than — does force

Le testament de l'asne
LXXXII · THE ASS'S TESTAMENT

A rich and grasping priest buries his ass of twenty years in the churchyard, and one of the bishop's company, currying favor, tells the bishop. Summoned, the priest asks for a day's counsel and returns with twenty pounds in his belt. He whispers that the ass earned twenty sous a year, saved twenty pounds, and left them to the bishop to be delivered from hell. The bishop prays for its pardon, and the ass stays a Christian: who brings pennies to his need, says Rutebeuf, fears no bonds.

Qui vuet au siecle à honeur vivre

Who wishes in-the world with honor to-live

et la vie de seux ensuyvre

and the life of those to-follow

qui béent à avoir chevance,

who aspire to have substance

mout trueve au siecle de nuisance

much finds in-the world of harm

qu'il at mesdizans davantage,

for-he has slanderers besides

qui de ligier li font damage,

who with ease to-him do damage

et si est touz plains d'envieux.

and so he-is all full of-envious-ones

Ja n'iert tant biaux ne gracieux,

Ever not-he-will-be so fair nor gracious

se dix en sunt chiez lui assis,

if ten of-them are at-house-of him seated

5

10 des mesdizans i aura sis
of-the slanderers there will-be six
 et d'envieux i aura nuef;
and of-envious-ones there will-be nine
 par derrier nel prisent .I. oef
from behind not-him they-prize an egg
 et par devant li font teil feste
and from before to-him they-make such feast
 chacuns l'encline de la teste.
each him-bows with the head

15 Coument n'auront de lui envie
How not-will-have of him envy
 cil qui n'amendent de sa vie,
those who not-profit of his life
 quant cil l'ont qui sont de sa table
when those it-have who are of his table
 qui ne li sont ferm ne estable?
who not to-him are firm nor steadfast
 Ce ne puet estre, c'est la voire.
This not can be this-is the truth

20 Je le vos di por .I. prouvoire
I it to-you say for a priest
 qui avoit une bone esglise;
who bad a good church
 si ot toute s'entente mise
so had all his-intent put
 à lui chevir et faire avoir;
to himself to-provide and to-make wealth
 à ce ot tornei son savoir.
to this bad turned his wit

Asseiz ot robes et deniers,

25

Plenty he-had robes and pence

et de bleif toz plains ces greniers,

and of wheat all full his granaries

que li prestres savoit bien vendre

that the priest knew well to-sell

et pour bien la vendue atendre

and for well the sale to-await

de Paques à la saint Remi,

from Easter to the saint Remy

et si n'eüst si boen ami

30

and so not-would-have so good friend

qui en peüst riens née traire,

who thereof could anything born draw

s'om ne li fait à force faire.

if-one not him makes by force do

Un asne avait en sa maison,

An ass he-had in his bouse

mais teil asne ne vit mais hom,

but such ass not saw ever man

qui vint ans entiers le servi;

35

who twenty years entire him served

mais ne sai s'onques teil serf vi.

but not I-know if-ever such serf I-saw

Li asnes morut de viellesce,

The ass died of old-age

qui mout aida à la richesce.

who much helped to the wealth

Tant tint li prestres son cors chier

So-much held the priest its body dear

40 c'onques nou laissat acorchier,

that-ever not-it he-let be-flayed

et l'enfoi ou semetiere;

and it-buried in-the cemetery

ici lairai ceste matiere.

here I-shall-leave this matter

L'evesques ert d'autre maniere,

The-bishop was of-other manner

que covoiteux ne eschars n'iere,

for covetous nor mean not-he-was

45 mais cortois et bien afaitiez,

but courteous and well bred

que, c'il fust jai bien deshaitiez

for if-he were ever well ill-at-ease

et veïst preudome venir,

and saw worthy-man come

nuns nel peüst el lit tenir;

anyone not-him could in-the bed hold

compeignie de boens crestiens

company of good Christians

50 estoit ces droiz fisiciens;

was his true physician

touz jors estoit plainne sa sale.

all days was full his hall

Sa maignie n'estoit pas male,

His household not-was at-all bad

mais, quanque li sires voloit,

but whatever the lord wished

nuns de ces sers ne s'en doloit.

anyone of his servants not himself-thereof grieved

C'il ot mueble, ce fut de dete,

If-he had goods this was of debt

car qui trop despent, il s'endete.

for who too-much spends he himself-indebts

Un jour grant compaignie avoit

One day great company had

li preudons, qui toz biens savoit;

the worthy-man who all good knew

si parla l'en de ces clers riches,

so spoke one of these clerks rich

et des prestres avers et chiches,

and of-the priests greedy and stingy

qui ne font bonteï ne honour

who not do kindness nor honor

à evesque ne à seignour.

to bishop nor to lord

Cil prestres i fut emputeiz,

That priest there was accused

qui tant fut riches et monteiz;

who so was rich and risen

ausi bien fut sa vie dite

as well was his life told

con c'il la veïssent escrite,

as if-they it might-see written

et li dona l'en plus d'avoir

and to-him gave one more of-wealth

que troi n'em peüssent avoir,

than three thereof could have

55

60

65

- car hom dit trop plus de la choze
for man says far more of the thing
- 70 que on n'i trueve à la parcloze:
than one there finds at the close
- «Ancor at il teil choze faite,
Still has he such thing done
- dont granz monoie seroit traite,
whence great money would-be drawn
- s'estoit qui la meist avant,»
if-it-were who it might-put forward
- fait cil qui vuet servir devant,
says that-one who wishes to-serve in-front
- 75 «et c'en devroit grant guerredon.
and one-thereof ought great reward
- Et qu'a il fait,» dit li preudom?
And what-has he done said the worthy-man
- Il at pis fait c'un Beduyn,
He has worse done than-a Bedouin
- qu'il at son asne Bauduyn
for-he has his ass Baldwin
- mis en la terre beneoite.
put in the ground blessed
- 80 — Sa vie soit la maleoite!»
His life be the accursed
- fait l'esvesque; «se ce est voirs,
says the-bishop if this is true
- honiz soit il et ces avoirs.
shamed be he and his goods
- Gautier, faites le nos semondre,
Walter have him for-us summoned

si orrons le prestre respondre

so we-shall-hear the priest answer

à ce que Robers li mest seure;

to this that Robert on-him lays upon

et je di, se Deus me secueure,

and I say so God me may-help

se c'est voirs, j'en aurai l'amende.

if this-is true I-thereof shall-have the-amends

— Je vos otroi que l'en me pande

I to-you grant that one me may-bang

se ce n'est voirs que j'ai contei,

if this not-is true that I-have told

si ne vos fist onques bonteï.»

so not to-you he-did ever kindness

Il fut semons, li prestres vient,

He was summoned the priest comes

venuz est, respondre couvient

come he-is to-answer it-behooves

à son evesque de cest quas

to his bishop of this case

dont li prestres doit estre quas:

for-which the priest ought to-be broken

«Faux, desleaux, Deu anemis,

False disloyal (of-)God enemy

où aveiz vos vostre asne mis?»

where have you your ass put

dist l'esvesques. «Mout aveiz fait

said the-bishop Much you-have done

à sainte Esglise grant meffait;

to holy Church great misdeed

85

90

95

onques mais nuns si grant n'oy,
ever before anyone so great not-heard

100 qui aveiz vostre asne enfoy
who have your ass buried
 là où on met gent crestienne.
there where one puts folk Christian

Par Marie l'Egyptienne,
By Mary the-Egyptian

c'il puet estre choze provée
if-it can be thing proved

ne par la bone gent trovée,
or by the good folk found

105 je vos ferai metre en prison,
I you shall-have put in prison

c'onques n'oy teil mesprison.»
for-ever not-I-heard such misdeed

Dit li prestres: «Biaus très dolz sire,
Said the priest Fair very sweet lord

toute parole se lait dire;
every word itself lets be-said

mais je demant jor de conseil,
but I ask day of counsel

110 qu'il est droiz que je me conseil
for-it is right that I myself may-counsel

de ceste choze, c'il vos plait,
of this thing if-it you pleases

non pas que je i bée en plait.
not at-all that I there aim in lawsuit

— Je vuel bien le conseil aiez,
I wish well the counsel you-may-have

mais ne me tieng paz apaiez

but not myself I-hold at-all appeased

de ceste choze, c'ele est voire.

of this thing if-it is true

— Sire, ce ne fait pas à croire.»

Lord this not makes at-all to believe

Lors se part li vesques dou prestre,

Then himself parts the bishop from-the priest

qui ne tient pas le fait à feste;

who not holds at-all the deed for feast

li prestres ne s'esmaie mie,

the priest not himself-dismays at-all

qu'il seit bien qu'il at bone amie,

for-he knows well that-he has good friend

c'est sa borce, qui ne li faut,

this-is his purse which not him fails

por amende ne por default.

for amends nor for default

Queque foz dort et termes vient,

While fool sleeps and term comes

li termes vint, et cil revient.

the term came and that-one comes-back

.XX. livres en une corroie,

Twenty pounds in a belt

touz sès et de bone monoie,

all dry and of good money

aporta li prestres o soi;

brought the priest with himself

n'a garde qu'il ait fain ne soi.

not-has fear that-he may-have hunger nor thirst

115

120

125

Quant l'esvesque le voit venir,

When the-bishop him sees come

130 de parler ne se pot tenir:

of to-speak not himself could bold

«Prestres, consoil aveiz eü:

Priest counsel you-have had

qu'i aveiz votre senz beü?

where you-have your wits drunk

— Sires, consoil oi ge cens faille,

Lord counsel had I without fail

mais à consoil n'afiert bataille,

but to counsel not-belongs battle

135 ne vos en devez mervillier

not you thereat ought to-marvel

qu'à consoil doit on concillier;

for-at counsel ought one to-counsel

dire vos vueul ma conscience,

to-tell you I-wish my conscience

et, c'il i afiert penitance,

and if-it there belongs penance

ou soit d'avoir, ou soit de cors,

either be-it of-wealth or be-it of body

140 adons si me corrigiez lors.»

then so me correct then

L'esvesques si de li s'aprouche

The-bishop so to him himself-draws-near

que parler i pout bouche à bouche,

that to-speak there be-could mouth to mouth

et li prestres lieve la chiere,

and the priest lifts the face

qui lors n'out pas monoie chiere;

who then not-held at-all money dear

desoz sa chape tint l'argent,

under his cope he-held the-silver

ne l'ozat monstreir pour la gent;

not it-he-dared to-show for the folk

en concillant conta son conte:

in counseling he-told his tale

«Sire, ci n'afiert plus lonc conte,

Lord here not-belongs more long tale

mes asnes at lonc tans vescu,

my ass has long time lived

mout avoie en li boen escu;

very I-had in him good shield

il m'at servi et volentiers

he me-has served and willingly

mout loiaument .XX. ans entiers;

very loyally twenty years entire

se je soie de Dieu assoux,

so I may-be by God absolved

chacun an gaiaingnoit .XX. soux

each year he-earned twenty sous

tant qu'il ot espaingnié .XX. livres.

until that-he had spared twenty pounds

Pour ce qu'il soit d'enfer delivres

For this that-he may-be from-hell delivered

les vos laisse en son testament.»

them to-you he-leaves in his testament

Et dist l'esvesques: «Dieus l'ament,

And said the-bishop God him-may-amend

145

150

155

et si li pardoint ces meffais

and so to-him may-pardon his misdeeds

160 et toz les pechiez qu'il a fais.»

and all the sins that-he has done

Ensi con vos aveiz oy,

Thus as you have heard

dou riche prestre s'esjoy

of-the rich priest himself-rejoiced

l'evesques; por ce qu'il mesprit

the-bishop for this that-he erred

à bonteï faire li aprist.

to kindness do him he-taught

165 Rutebues nos dist et enseigne,

Rutebeuf us tells and teaches

qui denier porte à sa besoingne

who penny carries to his need

ne doit douteir mauvais lyens;

not ought to-fear bad bonds

li asnes remest crestiens.

the ass remained Christian

Atant la rime vos en lais

Thereupon the rhyme to-you thereof I-leave

170 qu'il paiat bien et bel son lais.

for-he paid well and fair his legacy

Du bouchier d'Abeville

LXXXIV · THE BUTCHER OF ABBEVILLE

A butcher benighted at Bailleul is refused lodging by the proud priest there, steals a sheep from the priest's own flock, and is welcomed when he offers to share it. He wins the priest's maid and then the priest's mistress, each with the promise of the sheep's skin, and sells the skin to the priest himself. The three quarrel over it, the shepherd names the stolen ram, and Eustache d'Amiens asks his hearers to judge who should have the skin.

Seignor, oiez une merveille,

Lords hear a marvel

c'onques n'oïstes sa pareille,

that-ever not-you-heard its like

que je vous vueil dire et conter;

which I to-you wish to-say and to-tell

or metez cuer à l'escouter.

now put heart to the-listening

Parole qui n'est entendue,

Word which not-is heard

sachiez de voir, ele est perdue.

know of truth it is lost

A Abeville ot .I. bouchier,

At Abbeville there-was a butcher

que si voisin orent mout chier;

whom his neighbors held very dear

n'estoit pas fel ne mesdisanz,

not-he-was at-all felonious nor slanderer

5

- 10 mès sages, cortois et vaillanz
but wise courteous and worthy
 et loiaus hom de son mestier,
and loyal man of his trade
 et s'avoit sovent grant mestier
and so-bad often great need
 ses povres voisins soufraiteus;
his poor neighbors needy
 n'estoit avers ne covoteus.
not-he-was greedy nor covetous
- 15 Entor feste Toz Sains avint
Around feast (of-)All Saints it-befell
 qu'à Oisemont au marchié vint
that-to Oisemont to-the market came
 li bouchiers bestes achater,
the butcher beasts to-buy
 mès ne fist fors voie gaster;
but not he-did but way to-waste
 trop i trova chieres les bestes,
too there he-found dear the beasts
- 20 les cochons felons et rubestes,
the pigs felonious and rough
 vilains et de mauvès afere;
churlish and of bad kind
 ne pot à els nul marchié fere;
not he-could with them any bargain make
 povrement sa voie emploia,
poorly his way he-employed
 onques denier n'i emploia;
ever penny not-there he-employed

- après espars marchié s'en torne, 25
after scattered market himself-thence he-turns
- de tost aler mout bien s'atorne;
of quickly to-go very well himself-arrays
- son sorcot porte sor s'espée,
his surcoat he-carries over his-sword
- quar près estoit de la vesprée.
for near it-was of the evening
- Oiez comment il exploita:
Hear how he acted
- droit à Bailluel li anuita; 30
right at Bailluel on-him night-fell
- en mi voie de son manoir,
in mid way of his manor
- quar tart estoit, si fist mout noir,
for late it-was so it-was very dark
- penssa c'ui mais avant n'ira,
he-thought that-today more forward not-he-will-go
- en la vile herbregera;
in the town he-will-lodge
- forment doute la male gent 35
greatly he-fears the bad folk
- que ne li toillent son argent,
that — from-him they-may-take his money
- dont il avoit à grant foison.
of-which he had in great plenty
- A l'entrée d'une meson
At the-entry of-a house
- trueve une povre fame estant.
he-finds a poor woman standing

40 Il la salue et dist itant:

He her greets and says so-much

«A il en ceste vile à vendre

Is there in this town for sale

riens nule où l'en peüst despendre

thing any where one could spend

le sien, por son cors aaisier,

the his for his body to-ease

c'onques n'amai autrui dangier?»

for-ever not-I-loved other's power

45 La bone fame li respont:

The good woman to-him answers

«Sire, par Dieu qui fit le mont,

Lord by God who made the world

ce dist mes barons, sire Mile,

this says my husband sir Milo

de vin n'a point en ceste vile,

of wine not-is a-whit in this town

fors noz prestres sire Gautiers;

except our priest sir Walter

50 a .II. toniaus sor ses chantiers

has two casks on his gantries

qui li vindrent de Nojentel;

which to-him came from Nojentel

toz jors a il vin en tonel;

all days has he wine in cask

alez à lui por ostel prendre.

go to him for lodging to-take

— Dame, g'i vois sanz plus atendre,»

Lady I-there go without more to-wait

dist li bouchiers, «et Dieus vous saut.

55

said the butcher and God you may-save

— A foi, sire, Dieus vous consaut!»

In faith lord God you may-counsel

Atant s'en part, n'i vout plus estre;

Thereupon himself-thence he-parts not-there he-wished more to-be

venuz est au manoir le prestre;

come he-is to-the manor (of-)the priest

li doiens seoit sor son sueil,

the dean sat on his threshold

qui mout fu plains de grant orgueil.

60

who very was full of great pride

Cil le salue, et puis li dist:

That-one him greets and then to-him said

«Biaus sire, que Dieus vous aït!

Fair lord so God you may-help

Herbregiez moi par charité,

Lodge me for charity

si ferez honor et bonté.

so you-will-do honor and kindness

— Preudom,» fet il, «Dieus vous herbert!

65

Worthy-man says he God you may-lodge

Quar, foi que doi à saint Herbert,

For faith that I-owe to saint Herbert

lais hom ceenz nuit ne girra.

lay man herein night not will-lie

Bien ert qui vos herbregera

Well there-will-be who you will-lodge

en cele vile là aval;

in that town there below

- 70 querez tant à mont et à val
seek so-much to hill and to valley
 que vous puissiez ostel avoir,
that you may lodging have
 quar je vous faz bien asavoir
for I you make well to-know
 ja ne girrez en cest porpris.
ever not you-will-lie in this enclosure
 Autre gent i ont ostel pris,
Other folk there have lodging taken
- 75 ne ce n'est pas coustume à prestre
nor this not-is at-all custom for priest
 que vilains hom gise en son estre.
that churlish man may-lie in his dwelling
 — Vilains! sire, qu'avez vous dit?
Churlish lord what-have you said
 Tenez vous lai homme en despit?
Hold you lay man in contempt
 — Oil,» dist il, «si ai reson.
Yes said he so I-have reason
- 80 Alez en sus de ma meson;
Go thence away from my house
 il m'est avis ce soit ramposne.
it to-me-is seeming this be mockery
 — Non est, sire, ainz seroit aumosne,
Not it-is lord rather it-would-be alms
 s'anuit mès me prestiez l'ostel,
if-tonight more to-me you-lent the-lodging
 que je n'en puis trover nul tel.
for I not-thereof can find any such

Je sai mout bien le mien despendre;

I know very well the mine to-spend

se rien nule me volez vendre,

if thing any to-me you-wish to-sell

mout volontiers l'achaterai,

very willingly it-I-shall-buy

et mout bon gré vous en saurai,

and very good thanks to-you thereof I-shall-know

quar je ne vous vueil rien couster.

for I not you wish anything to-cost

— Ausi bien te vendroit hurter

As well to-thee it-would-come to-knock

ta teste à cele dure pierre,»

thy head against that hard stone

ce dist li doiens; «par saint Piere,

this said the dean by saint Peter

ja ne girras en mon manoir.

ever not thou-wilt-lie in my manor

— Deable i puissent remanoir,»

Devils there may remain

dist li bouchiers, «fols chapelains;

said the butcher foolish chaplain

pautoniers estes et vilains.»

knave you-are and churlish

Atant s'en part, ne volt plus dire;

Thereupon himself-thence he-parts not he-wished more to-say

plains fu de grant courouz et d'ire.

full he-was of great wrath and of-anger

85

90

95

Oiez comment il li avint:

Hear how it to-him befell

100 quant il fors de la vile vint

when he out of the town came

devant une gaste meson

before a waste house

dont cheü furent li chevron,

of-which fallen were the rafters

encontre .I. grant tropé d'oeilles.

toward a great flock of-sheep

Por Dieu, or escoutez merveilles.

For God now listen marvels

105 Il demanda au pastorel,

He asked of-the shepherd

qui mainte vache et maint torel

who many-a cow and many-a bullock

avoit gardé en sa jonece:

had kept in his youth

«Paistres, que Dieus te doint leece!

Shepherd so God thee may-grant gladness

Cui cist avoirs? — Sire le prestre.

Whose this property Lord the priest's

110 — De par Dieu,» fet il, «puist ce estre?»

On behalf-of God says he may this be

Or oiez que li bouchiers fist:

Now hear what the butcher did

si coient .I. mouton prist

so quietly a sheep he-took

que li paistres ne s'en perçut;

that the shepherd not himself-thereof perceived

bien l'a engingnié et deçut.

well him-be-has tricked and deceived

Maintenant à son col le rue;

At-once on his neck it he-throws

par mi une foraine rue

through mid an outlying street

revient à l'uis le prestre arriere,

he-comes-back to the-door (of-)the priest back

qui mout fu fel de grant maniere,

who very was felonious of great manner

si comme il dut clorre la porte,

so as he was-to close the gate

et cil, qui le mouton aporte,

and that-one who the sheep brings

li dist: «Sire, cil Dieus vous saut,

to-him said Lord that God you may-save

qui sor toz hommes puet et vaut!»

who above all men can and is-worth

Li doiens son salu li rent;

The dean his greeting to-him returns

puis li demande isnelement:

then of-him asks swiftly

«Dont es tu? — D'Abeville sui;

Whence art thou Of-Abbeville I-am

à Oisemont au marchié fui;

at Oisemont to-the market I-was

n'i achetai que cest mouton,

not-there I-bought but this sheep

mès il a mout cras le crepon;

but it has very fat the rump

115

120

125

se anuit mès me herbregiez,

if tonight more me you-lodge

130 que bien en estes aaisiez,

for well thereof you-are provided

je ne sui avers ne eschars;

I not am greedy nor stingy

anuit ert mengie la chars

tonight will-be eaten the flesh

de cest mouton, por qu'il vous plaise,

of this sheep provided that-it you may-please

quar aporté l'ai à malaise.»

for brought it-I-have with discomfort

135 Li doiens pensse qu'il dit voir,

The dean thinks that-he says truth

qui mout goulouse autrui avoir;

who much covets other's goods

mieus aime .I. mort que .IIII. vis;

better he-loves one dead than four alive

dist ainsi, comme il m'est avis:

he-said thus as it to-me-is seeming

«Oïl certes, mout volentiers;

Yes certainly very willingly

140 se vous estiez ore vous tiers,

if you were now you third

s'auriez vous ostel à talent;

so-would-have you lodging at will

ainz nus hom ne me trova lent

ever any man not me found slow

de cortoisie et d'onor fere.

of courtesy and of-honor to-do

Vous me samblez mout debonere;

You to-me seem very debonair

dites moi comment avez non?

tell me how you-have name

— Sire, par Dieu et par son non,

Lord by God and by his name

j'ai non David en droit baptesme,

I-have name David in right baptism

quant je reçui et huile et cresseme.

when I received both oil and chrism

Traveilliez sui en ceste voie;

Wearied I-am on this way

ja Dame Dieus celui ne voie,

ever Lord God him not may-see

à foi, cui ceste beste fu;

in faith whose this beast was

tans est huimès d'aler au fu.»

time it-is now to-go to-the fire

Atant s'en vont en la meson

Thereupon themselves-thence they-go into the house

où le feu estoit de seson.

where the fire was in season

Lors a sa beste mise jus,

Then he-has his beast put down

puis a regardé sus et jus;

then he-has looked up and down

une coingnie a demandée,

an ax he-has asked-for

et on li a tost aportée.

and one to-him has quickly brought

145

150

155

Sa beste tue et puis l'escorce;

His beast he-kills and then it-flays

160 sor .I. banc en geta l'escorce,

on a bench thereof he-threw the-hide

puis le pendi, lor ieus voiant:

then it he-hung their eyes seeing

«Sire, por Dieu, venez avant;

Lord for God come forward

por amor Dieu, or esgardez

for love (of-)God now look

com cis moutons est amendez;

how this sheep is improved

165 veez comme est cras et refais,

see how it-is fat and plump

mès mout m'en a pesé li fais,

but much me-thereof has weighed the burden

que de mout loing l'ai aporté.

for from very far it-I-have brought

Or en fetes vo volonté;

Now thereof do your will

cuisiez les espauls en rost;

cook the shoulders in roast

170 s'en fetes metre plain un pot

so-thereof have put full a pot

en essau avoec la mesnie,

to boil with the household

je ne di mie vilonie,

I not say at-all churlishness

ainz mès plus bele char ne fu,

ever before more fair flesh not was

metez le cuire sor le fu;

put it to-cook on the fire

veez comme est tendre et refete:

see how it-is tender and plump

ainçois que la saveur soit fete

before that the sauce be made

ert ele cuite voirement.

will-be it cooked truly

— Biaux ostes, fetes vo talent;

Fair host do your pleasure

sor vous ne m'en sai entremetre.

over you not myself-thereof I-know to-meddle

— Fetes donques la table metre.

Have then the table set

— C'est prest; n'i a fors de laver

It-is ready not-there is but of to-wash

et des chandoiles alumer.»

and of-the candles to-light

Seignor, ne vous mentirai mie;

Lords not to-you I-shall-lie at-all

li doiens avoit une amie

the dean had a friend

dont il si fort jalous estoit,

of-whom he so strongly jealous was

toutes les nuiz qu'ostes avoit,

all the nights that-guests be-had

la fesoit en sa chambre entrer.

her he-made into his chamber enter

175

180

185

Mès cele nuit la fist souper

But that night her he-made sup

avoec son oste liement.

with his guest gladly

190 Servi furent mout richement

Served they-were very richly

de bone char et de bon vin.

with good flesh and with good wine

De blans dras, qui erent de lin,

Of white sheets which were of linen

fist on fere au bouchier .I. lit;

had one made for-the butcher a bed

mout ot leenz de son delit.

much he-had therein of his delight

195 Li doiens sa meschine apele:

The dean his maid calls

«Je te commant,» fet il, «suer bele,

I thee command says he sister fair

que noz osten soit bien et aise,

that our guest be well and at-ease

si qu'il n'ait rien qui li desplaise.»

so that-he not-may-have anything which him may-displease

Atant se vont couchier ensamble

Thereupon themselves they-go to-lie together

200 il et la dame, ce me samble,

he and the lady this to-me seems

et li bouchiers remest au fu.

and the butcher remained at-the fire

Ainz mès si aaisiez ne fu;

Ever before so at-ease not he-was

bon ostel ot et biau samblant:

good lodging be-had and fair semblance

«Bele suer,» fet il, «vien avant;

Fair sister says he come forward

traï te en ça, si parole à moi,

draw thyself over here so speak to me

et si fai ton ami de moi:

and so make thy friend of me

bien i porras avoir grant preu.

well there thou-wilt-be-able to-have great profit

— Ostes, tesiez, ne dites preu;

Host be-silent not say profit

ja n'apris onques tel afere.

ever not-I-learned ever such business

— Par Dieu, or le te covient fere

By God now it thee behooves to-do

par tel couvent que je dirai.

by such covenant as I shall-say

— Dites le donc, et je l'orrai.

Say it then and I it-shall-bear

— Se tu veus fere mon plesir

If thou wishest to-do my pleasure

et tout mon bon et mon desir,

and all my liking and my desire

par Dieu, que de vrai cuer apel,

by God whom from true heart I-call

de mon mouton auras la pel.

of my sheep thou-wilt-have the skin

— Biaux ostes, jamès ce ne dites;

Fair host ever this not say

205

210

215

vous n'estes mie droiz hermites,

you not-are at-all true hermit

qui tel chose me requerez.

who such thing of-me ask

220 Mout estes de mal apenssez;

Very you-are of ill minded

Dieu merci, com vous estes sos;

God mercy how you are foolish

vo bon fëisse, mès je n'os;

your pleasure I-would-do but I not-dare

vous le diriez demain ma dame.

you it would-tell tomorrow (to-)my lady

— Suer, se ja Dieus ait part en m'ame,

Sister so ever God may-have part in my-soul

225 en ma vie ne le dirai

in my life not it I-shall-tell

ne ja ne t'en encuserai.»

nor ever not thee-thereof I-shall-accuse

Dont li a cele creanté

Then to-him has she promised

qu'ele fera sa volenté

that-she will-do his will

toute la nuit, tant que jors fu.

all the night until that day was

230 Dont se leva et fist son fu,

Then herself she-rose and made her fire

son harnois, et puis trest ses bestes.

her gear and then drew-out her beasts

Lors primes s'est levez li prestres;

Then first himself-is risen the priest

il et son clerc vont au moustier

he and his clerk go to-the minster

chanter et fere lor mestier,

to-sing and to-do their office

et la dame remest dormant.

and the lady remained sleeping

Et ses osten tout maintenant

And her guest all at-once

se vest et chauce sanz demeure,

himself dresses and shoes without delay

quar bien en fu et tans et eure.

for well thereof it-was both time and hour

En la chambre, sanz plus atendre,

Into the chamber without more to-wait

vint à la dame congié prendre;

he-came to the lady leave to-take

la clique sache, l'uis ouvri;

the latch he-pulls the-door he-opened

et la dame si s'esperi,

and the lady so herself-woke

ses ieus ouvri, son oste voit

her eyes she-opened her guest she-sees

devant s'esponde trestout droit.

before her-bedside all straight

Lors li demande dont il vient

Then of-him she-asks whence he comes

et de quel chose il li sovient:

and of what thing it to-him comes-to-mind

235

240

245

«Dame,» fet il, «graces vous rent;

Lady says he thanks to-you I-render

herbregié m'avez à talent

lodged me-you-have at will

et mout m'avez biau samblant fait.»

and very me-you-have fair semblance made

250 Atant vers le chevès se trait;

Thereupon toward the bed-head himself he-draws

sa main mist sor le chavequel

his hand he-put on the pillow

et tret arriere le linquel;

and draws back the sheet

si voit la gorge blanche et bele,

so he-sees the throat white and fair

et la poitrine et la mamele:

and the breast and the bosom

255 «E! Dieus,» dist il, «je voi miracles;

Eh God said he I see miracles

sainte Marie, sainz Romacles,

holy Mary saint Remacle

comme est li doiens bien venuz

how is the dean well come

qui o tel dame gist toz nuz!

who with such lady lies all naked

Que si m'aït sainz Onorez,

For so me-may-help saint Honoré

260 uns rois en fust toz honorez.

a king thereof would-be all honored

Se j'avoie tant de loisir

If I-had so-much of leisure

que g'i peüsse .I. poi gesir,

that I-there could a little lie

refez seroie et respassez.

restored I-would-be and healed

— Biaux ostes, ce n'est mie assez

Fair host this not-is at-all enough

que vous dites; par saint Germain,

that you say by saint Germain

alez en sus, ostez vo main.

go thence away remove your hand

Mesires aura ja chanté;

My-lord will-have soon sung

trop se tendroit à engané

too-much himself he-would-hold for deceived

se en sa chambre vous trovoit;

if in his chamber you be-found

jamès nul jor ne m'ameroit;

ever any day not me-he-would-love

si m'auriez mal baillie et morte.»

so me-you-would-have ill treated and dead

Et cil mout bel la reconforte:

And that-one very fairly her comforts

«Dame,» fet il, «por Dieu merci,

Lady says he for God mercy

jamès ne mouverai de ci

ever not I-shall-move from here

por nul homme vivant qui soit.

for any man living who be

265

270

275

Nès se li doiens i venoit,

Even if the dean there came

por qu'il deïst une parole

provided that-he might-say a word

qui fust outrageuse ne fole,

which were outrageous or foolish

je l'ocirroie maintenant.

I him-would-kill at-once

280 Mès or otroiez mon commant

But now grant my command

et fetes ce que je voudrai,

and do this that I shall-wish

ma piau lanue vous donrai

my skin woolly to-you I-shall-give

et grant plenté de mon argent.

and great plenty of my money

— Sire, je n'en ferai noient,

Lord I not-thereof shall-do anything

285 que je vous sent si à estout

for I you feel so for rash

que demain le diriez partout.

that tomorrow it you-would-tell everywhere

— Dame,» dist il, «ma foi tenez

Lady said he my faith hold

tant com je soie vis ne nez,

so-long as I may-be alive or born

ne le dirai fame ne homme,

not it I-shall-tell woman nor man

290 par toz les sainz qui sont à Romme.»

by all the saints who are at Rome

Tant li dist et tant li promet

So-much to-her he-said and so-much to-her promises

la dame en sa merci se met,

the lady in his mercy herself puts

et li bouchiers bien s'en refet.

and the butcher well himself-thereof restores

Et, quant il en ot son bon fet,

And when he thereof had his pleasure done

d'iluec se part, n'i volt plus estre,

from-there himself he-parts not-there he-wished more to-be

ainz vint au moustier où li prestre

rather came to-the minster where the priest

ot commencié une leçon

had begun a lesson

entre lui et .I. sien clerçon;

between him and a his little-clerk

si com il dist: Jube, Domne,

so as he said Bid Lord

ez le vous el moustier entré:

behold him you in-the minster entered

«Sire,» fet il, «graces vous rent;

Lord says he thanks to-you I-render

ostel ai eü à talent,

lodging I-have had at will

mout me lo de vo beau samblant,

much myself I-praise of your fair semblance

mès une chose vous demant

but one thing of-you I-ask

et vous pri que vous le faciez,

and you I-pray that you it may-do

295

300

305

que vous ma pel achatissiez;

that you my skin might-buy

si m'auriez delivré de paine;

so me-you-would-have delivered from pain

bien il a .III. livres de laine;

well there are three pounds of wool

mout est bone, si m'aït Dieus;

very it-is good so me-may-help God

310 .III. sols vaut; vous l'aurez por deus,

three sous it-is-worth you it-will-have for two

et mout bon gré vous en saurai.

and very good thanks to-you thereof I-shall-know

— Biaus osten, et je le ferai

Fair host and I it shall-do

por l'amor de vous volentiers;

for the-love of you willingly

bons compains estes et entiers;

good companion you-are and honest

315 revenez moi veoir sovent.»

come-back me to-see often

Sa pel meïsme cil li vent;

His skin own that-one to-him sells

congié demande, si s'en va.

leave he-asks so himself-thence goes

Et la dame lors se leva,

And the lady then herself rose

qui mout ert jolie et mingnote;

who very was pretty and dainty

si se vest d'une verde cote

320

so herself dresses in-a green gown

mout bien faudée à plois rampanz.

very well pleated with folds falling

La dame ot escorcié ses panz

The lady had tucked-up her skirts

à sa çainture par orgueil:

at her girdle by pride

cler et riant furent si oeil;

bright and laughing were her eyes

bele, plaisans ert à devise,

325

fair pleasing she-was to wish

en le caiere s'est assise.

in the chair herself-she-is seated

Et la baissele, sanz atendre,

And the maid without waiting

vint à la pel; si la vout prendre,

came to the skin so it wished to-take

quant la dame li desfendi:

when the lady to-her forbade

«Di va,» fet ele, «et quar me di;

330

Say go says she and now to-me say

qu'as tu de cele pel à fere?

what-hast thou with that skin to do

— Dame, j'en ferai mon afere;

Lady I-with-it shall-do my business

je la vueil au soleil porter

I it wish to-the sun to-carry

por le cuirien fere essuer.

for the leather to-make dry

- 335 — Non feras; lai le toute coie,
Not thou-wilt-do leave it all still
 ele pendroit trop sor la voie,
it would-hang too-much on the way
 mès fai ce que tu as à fere.
but do this that thou hast to do
 — Dame,» dist el, «je n'ai que fere;
Lady said she I not-have what to-do
 je levai plus matin de vous,
I rose more early than you
- 340 à foi, maugré en aiez vous,
in faith ill-will thereof may-have you
 vous en deüssiez bien parler.
you thereof ought well to-speak
 — Trai te en sus; lai la pel ester;
Draw thyself thence away let the skin be
 garde que plus la main n'i metes
take-heed that more the hand not-there thou-put
 ne que plus ne t'en entremetes.
nor that more not thyself-thereof thou-meddle
- 345 — En non Dieu, dame, si ferai;
In name (of-)God lady so I-shall-do
 toute m'en entremeterai;
all myself-thereof I-shall-meddle
 j'en ferai comme de la moie.
I-thereof shall-do as of the mine
 — Dis tu donques que ele est toie?
Sayest thou then that it is thine
 — Oïl, je le di voirement.
Yes I it say truly

— Met jus la pel, va, si te pent,

350

Put down the skin go so thyself hang

ou tu ailles en la longaingne.

or thou may-go into the privy

Mout me torne ore à grant engaingne

Much to-me turns now to great vexation

quant tu deviens si orgueilleuse;

when thou becomest so proud

pute, ribaude, pooilleuse,

whore ribald lousy

va tost, si vuide ma meson.

355

go quick so empty my house

— Dame, vous dites desreson,

Lady you say unreason

qui por le mien me ledengiez:

who for the mine me abuse

se vous seur sainz juré l'aviez,

if you on saints sworn it-bad

s'est ele moie. — Toutevoie

so-is it mine All-the-same

vuide l'ostel, va, si te noie;

360

empty the-house go so thyself drown

je n'ai cure de ton service,

I not-have care of thy service

que trop es pautoniere et nice:

for too-much thou-art knavish and silly

se mesires juré l'avoit,

if my-lord sworn it-bad

ceenz ne te garantiroit;

herein not thee he-would-warrant

- 365 si t'ai je ore cueilli en hé.
so thee-have I now taken in hate
- Par mi le col ait mal dehé
Through mid the neck may-be-have ill curse
- qui jamès jor vous servira.
who ever day you will-serve
- J'atendrai tant que il vendra,
I-shall-wait until that he will-come
- et puis après si m'en irai;
and then after so myself-thence I-shall-go
- 370 de vous à lui me clamerai.
of you to him myself I-shall-complain
- Clameras, pute, vieus buinarde,
Thou-wilt-complain whore old hag
- pullente, ribaude, bastarde!
stinking ribald bastard
- Bastarde! dame, or dites mal;
Bastard lady now you-say ill
- li vostre enfant sont mout loial,
the your children are very legitimate
- 375 que vous avez du prestre eüs?
that you have of-the priest had
- Par la passion Dieu, met jus
By the passion (of-)God put down
- la pel, ou tu le comparras.
the skin or thou it wilt-pay-for
- Mieus vous vendroit estre à Arras,
Better to-you it-would-come to-be at Arras
- par les sainz Dieu, voire à Coloingne.»
by the saints (of-)God truly at Cologne

Et la dame prent sa queloingne;

And the lady takes her distaff

.I. cop l'en done, et ele crie:

a blow to-her-with-it she-gives and she cries

«Par la vertu sainte Marie,

By the virtue (of-)holy Mary

mar m'i avez à tort batue;

in-an-ill-hour me-there you-have at wrong beaten

la pel vous ert mout chier vendue

the skin to-you will-be very dear sold

ainçois que je muire de mort.»

before that I may-die of death

Lors pleure et fet .I. duel si fort.

Then she-weepes and makes a grief so strong

A la noise et à la tençon

At the noise and at the quarrel

entra li prestres en meson:

entered the priest into house

«Qu'est ce?» dist il, «Qui t'a ce fet?

What-is this said he Who to-thee-has this done

— Ma dame, sire, sanz mesfet.

My lady lord without misdeed

— Sans mesfet, voir, ne fu ce mie

Without misdeed truly not was this at-all

qu'ele t'a fet tel vilonie.

that-she to-thee-has done such churlishness

— Par Dieu, sire, por la pel fu

By God lord for the skin it-was

qui là pent encoste ce fu;

whicb there hangs beside this fire

380

385

390

395 biaux sire, vous me commandastes

fair lord you me commanded

ersoir, quant vous couchier alastes,

last-night when you to-lie went

que nos osten sire Davis

that our guest sir David

fust aaisiez à son devis;

might-be at-ease to his wish

et je fis vo commandement,

and I did your command

400 et il me dona vraiment

and he to-me gave truly

la pel; sor sainz le juerrai,

the skin on saints it I-shall-swear

que mout bien deservie l'ai.»

for very well deserved it-I-have

Li doiens ot et aperçoit,

The dean hears and perceives

aus paroles qu'ele disoit,

by-the words that-she said

405 l'avoit ses osten culonée;

her-bad his guest screwed

por ce li ot sa pel donée;

for this to-her he-bad his skin given

s'en fu corouciez et plains d'ire,

so-thereat he-was angered and full of-anger

mès son pensser n'en osa dire.

but his thought not-thereof he-dared say

«Dame,» fet il, «se Dieus me saut,

Lady says he so God me may-save

vous avez fet trop vilain saut;

you have made too churlish leap

petit me prisiez et doutez,

little me you-prize and fear

qui ma mesnie me batez.

who my household for-me beat

— Ba! qu'ele veut ma pel avoir.

Bah for-she wisbes my skin to-have

Sire, se vos saviez le voir

Lord if you knew the truth

de la honte qu'ele m'a dite,

of the shame that-she to-me-has said

vous l'en renderiez la merite,

you to-her-thereof would-render the desert

qui voz enfanz m'a reprovez.

who your children to-me-has reproached

Mauvesement vous en provez,

Badly yourself thereof you-prove

qui souffrez qu'ele me ledange

who suffer that-she me abuses

et honist toute par sa jangle.

and shames all by her chatter

Je ne sai qu'il en avendra,

I not know what-it thereof will-come

ja ma pel ne li remaindra:

ever my skin not to-her will-remain

je di qu'ele n'est mie soie.

I say that-she not-is at-all hers

— Qui est ce donques? — Par foi, moie.

Whose is it then By faith mine

410

415

420

425 — Vostre, voire! par quel reson?

Yours truly by what reason

— Nostre osten jut en no meson

Our guest lay in our house

sor ma coute, sor mes linceus;

on my quilt on my sheets

que mau gré en ait sainz Aceus

that ill will thereof may-have saint Aceul

si volez ore tout savoir.

if you-wish now all to-know

430 — Bele dame, or me dites voir;

Fair lady now me tell truth

par cele foi que me plevistes,

by that faith that to-me you-pledged

quant vous primes ceenz venistes,

when you first herein came

cele pel doit ele estre vostre?

that skin ought it to-be yours

— Oil, par sainte patrenostre.»

Yes by holy paternoster

435 Et la baissele dist adonques:

And the maid said then

«Biaus sire, ne le creez onques;

Fair lord not it believe ever

ele me fu ainçois donée.

it to-me was before given

— Ha! pute, mal fusses tu née!

Ah whore ill wert thou born

On vous dona la passion.

One to-you gave the passion

Alez tost hors de ma meson;

Go quick out of my house

que male honte vous aviegne!

that ill shame to-you may-befall

— Par le saint Signe de Compiègne,

By the holy Shroud of Compiègne

dame,» fet il, «vous avez tort.

lady says he you have wrong

— Non ai, quar je la haz de mort,

Not I-have for I her hate to death

por ce qu'ele est si menterresse,

for this that-she is so liar

cele ribaude larronnesse.

that ribald thief

— Dame, que vous ai je emblé?

Lady what from-you have I stolen

— Ribaude, mon orge et mon blé,

Ribald my barley and my wheat

mes pois, mon lart, mon pain fetiz;

my peas my lard my bread fine

certes, vous estes trop chetiz

certainly you are too wretched

qui ceenz l'avez tant soufferte;

who herein her-have so-long suffered

sire, paieiz li sa deserte;

lord pay to-her her desert

por Dieu, si vous en delivrez.

for God so yourself thereof deliver

— Dame,» fet il, «or m'entendez;

Lady says he now me-hear

440

445

450

- 455 par saint Denis je veuil savoir
by saint Denis I wish to-know
 laquelle doit la pel avoir.
which-one ought the skin to-have
 Cele pel, qui la vous dona?
That skin who it to-you gave
 — Nostre osten, quant il s'en ala.
Our guest when he himself-thence went
 — Voir, por les costez saint Martin,
Truly by the sides (of-)saint Martin
 460 il s'en ala dès hui matin
he himself-thence went since today morning
 ainz que fust levez li solaus.
before that were risen the sun
 Dieus! com vous estes desloiaus
God how you are disloyal
 qui jurez si estoutement.
who swear so boldly
 — Ainz prist congié mout bonement
Rather he-took leave very graciously
 465 avant qu'il en deüst aler.
before that-he thence was-to go
 — Fu il donques à vo lever?
Was he then at your rising
 — Nenil; adonc je me gisoie;
No-indeed then I myself lay
 de lui garde ne me donoie;
of him heed not myself I-took
 quant je le vi devant m'esponde...
when I him saw before my-bedside

Il estuet que je vous desponde...

470

It behooves that I to-you expound

— Et que dist il au congié prendre?

And what said he at-the leave to-take

— Sire, trop me volez sorprendre...

Lord too-much me you-wish to-catch-out

Il dist: «A Jhesu vous commant.»

He said To Jesus you I-commend

Adonc s'en parti à itant;

Then himself-thence he-parted at that

ainz plus ne parla ne ne dist,

475

ever more not he-spoke nor not said

ne nule rien ne me requist

nor any thing not of-me asked

qui vous tornast à vilonie,

which you might-turn to churlishness

mès vous i chaciez boiserie;

but you there hunt deceit

onques ne fui de vous creüe,

ever not I-was by you believed

et si n'avez en moi veüe,

480

and so not-you-have in me seen

grace Dieu, se mout grant bien non,

thanks (of-)God except very great good not

mès vos i chaciez trahison.

but you there hunt treason

Si m'avez en tel prison mise

So me-you-have in such prison put

dont ma char est tainte et remise;

whence my flesh is pale and wasted

485 de vostre ostel ne me remue;

from your house not myself I-stir

mise m'avez muer en mue;

put me-you-have to-molt in mew

trop ai esté en vo dangier

too-long I-have been in your power

por vo boire, por vo mengier.

for your drink for your food

— Ahi!» fet il, «fole mauvaise;

Ah says he fool bad

490 je t'ai norrie trop aaise;

I thee-have reared too at-ease

près va que ne te bat et tue.

near it-goes that — thee I-beat and kill

Je sai de voir qu'il t'a foutue;

I know of truth that-he thee-has fucked

di moi por quoi ne crias tu?

tell me for what not criedst thou

Il t'estuet rompre le festu;

It thee-behooves to-break the straw

495 va, si vuide tost mon ostel,

go so empty quick my house

et je irai à mon autel;

and I shall-go to my altar

maintenant deseur jurerai

at-once thereon I-shall-swear

jamès en ton lit ne girrai.»

ever in thy bed not I-shall-lie

Par mout grant ire s'est assis,

In very great anger himself-he-is seated

corouciez, tristes et penssis.

angered sad and pensive

Quant la dame aïré le voit,

When the lady angered him sees

forment li poise qu'ele avoit

greatly to-her it-weighs that-she had

tencié ne estrivé à lui;

quarreled or striven with him

mout crient que ne li face anui;

much she-fears that — to-her he-may-do harm

en sa chambre s'en va atant,

into her chamber herself-thence she-goes thereupon

et li paistres vient acourant,

and the shepherd comes running

qui ses moutons avoit contez.

who his sheep had counted

Ersoir l'en fu li uns emblez;

Last-night from-him was the one stolen

il ne set qu'il est devenuz.

he not knows what-it is become

Grant aleüre en est venuz,

Great pace thence he-is come

frotant ses hines, en meson.

rubbing his hands into house

Li prestres ert sor sa leson

The priest was over his lesson

mout corouciez et eschaufez:

very angered and heated

500

505

510

«Qu'est ce? mal soies tu trovez,

What-is this ill be thou found

515 mauvès ribaus; dont reviens tu?

bad ribald whence comest-back thou

Qu'est ce c'on fet? Samblant fez tu,

What-is this that-one does Semblance makest thou

filz à putain, vilain rubestes;

son of whore churl rough

or deüsses garder tes bestes;

now thou-oughtest to-keep thy beasts

près va ne te fier d'un baston.

near it-goes — thee I-strike with-a stick

520 — Sire, n'ai mie d'un mouton,

Lord not-I-have at-all of-a sheep

tout le meillor de no tropé;

all the best of our flock

je ne sai qui le m'a emblé.

I not know who it from-me-has stolen

— As tu donques mouton perdu?

Hast thou then sheep lost

On te deüst avoir pendu;

One thee ought to-have hanged

525 mauvesement les as gardez.

badly them thou-hast kept

— Sire,» fet il, «or m'entendez:

Lord says he now me-bear

ersoir, quant en la vile entrai,

last-night when into the town I-entered

.I. estrange homme i encontrei

a strange man there I-met

que onques mès veü n'avoie

whom ever before seen not-I-had

en champ, n'en vile, ne en voie,

in field nor-in town nor on way

qui mout mes bestes esgarda,

who much my beasts looked-at

et mout m'enquist et demanda

and much of-me-inquired and asked

qui cis biaux avoirs pooit estre,

whose this fair property could be

et je li dis: «Sire no prestre;»

and I to-him said Lord our priest's

cil le m'embla, ce m'est avis.

that-one it from-me-stole this to-me-is seeming

— Par les sainz Dieu, ce fu Davis,

By the saints (of-)God this was David

noz ostes, qui ceenz a jut;

our guest who herein has lain

bien m'a engingnié et deçut

well me-be-has tricked and deceived

qui ma mesnie m'a foutue;

who my household for-me-has fucked

ma pel meïsme m'a vendue;

my skin own to-me-be-has sold

de ma mance m'a ters mon nés;

with my sleeve for-me-be-has wiped my nose

en mal eure fuisse jou nés.

in ill hour were I born

530

535

540

Quant je ne m'en seuch garde prendre!

When I not myself-thereof knew heed to-take

On puet cascun jor mout aprendre:

One can each day much to-learn

545 de ma paste m'a fet tortel.

of my dough for-me-he-has made cake

En connoistroies tu la pel?

Of-it wouldst-know thou the skin

— Oil, sire, foi que vous doi,

Yes lord faith that you I-owe

bien la connoistras, se la voi;

well it I-shall-know if it I-see

je l'ai eü .VII. anz en garde.»

I it-have had seven years in keeping

550 Cil prent la pel; si la regarde;

That-one takes the skin so it looks-at

aus oreilles et à la teste

by-the ears and by the head

connut bien la pel de sa beste:

he-knew well the skin of his beast

«Harou! las,» dist li pasturiaus;

Help alas said the shepherd

«par Dieu, sire, c'est Cornuiaus,

by God lord this-is Horny

555 la beste que je plus amoie;

the beast that I most loved

en mon tropé n'avoit si coie;

in my flock not-there-was so tame

foi que je doi à saint Vincent,

faith that I owe to saint Vincent

n'avoit si cras mouton en cent;

not-there-was so fat sheep in a-hundred

mieudres de lui ne pooit estre.

better than him not could be

— Venez ça, dame,» dist le prestre,

560

Come here lady said the priest

«et tu, baissle, vien avant;

and thou maid come forward

parole à moi, je te commant;

speak to me I thee command

respont à moi quant je t'apel,

answer to me when I thee-call

que claires tu en ceste pel?

what claimest thou in this skin

— Sire, trestoute la pel cleim,»

565

Lord all the skin I-claim

dist la meschine au chapelain.

said the maid to-the chaplain

— Et vous, que dites, bele dame?

And you what say fair lady

— Sire, se Dieus ait part en m'ame,

Lord so God may-have part in my-soul

ele doit estre par droit moie.

it ought to-be by right mine

— Ele n'ert ne vostre, ne soie.

570

It not-will-be nor yours nor hers

Je l'acatai de mon avoir;

I it-bought with my wealth

ele me doit bien remanoir.

it to-me ought well to-remain

Il m'en vint prier au moustier,

He of-me-thereof came to-beg at-the minster

là ù ge lisoie men sautier.

there where I was-reading my psalter

575 Par saint Pierre, le vrai apostre,

By saint Peter the true apostle

ele n'iert ne soie ne vostre,

it not-will-be nor hers nor yours

se par jugement ne l'avés.»

if by judgment not it-you-have

Seignor, vous qui les biens savez,

Lords you who the good-things know

Huistaces d'Amiens vous demande,

Eustache of-Amiens you asks

580 et prie par amors, et mande

and prays by love and bids

que vous faciez cest jugement.

that you may-make this judgment

Bien et à droit et leaument,

Well and at right and loyally

chascuns en die son voloir

each thereof may-say his will

liques doit mieus la pel avoir,

which-one ought better the skin to-have

585 ou li prestres, ou la prestresse,

either the priest or the priestess

ou la meschine piprenesse.

or the maid saucy

De Berangier au lonc cul

LXXXVI · BERANGIER OF THE LONG ASS

A usurer's son, knighted and married to a castellan's daughter for a debt, loves his ease and fakes his fights, backing his own shield in a wood. His wife follows him in armor and makes him joust or kiss her backside; he kisses it, and she names herself Berangier of the Long Ass. She then takes a lover, and when her husband protests she threatens to complain to Berangier, so he never gainsays her again: on a soft shepherd the wolf shits wool.

Tant ai dit contes et fableaus

So-many I-have told tales and fabliaux

que j'ai trouvé, viez et nouveaux,

that I-have composed old and new

ne finai passez sont dui an,

not I-stopped past are two years

foi que ge doi à seint Johan,

faith that I owe to saint John

ne cuit que g'en face mais nul

not I-think that I-thereof may-make more any

fors de Berengier au lonc cul;

except of Berangier with-the long ass

n'avez vos mie oï encore,

not-have you at-all heard yet

mais, par mon chief, g'en dirai ore;

but by my head I-thereof shall-tell now

ne cuit que ge targe mais gaire.

not I-think that I may-delay more much

5

- 10 Oiez que Guerins velt retraire
Hear what Guerin wishes to-relate
 que il avint en Lonbardie,
that it befell in Lombardy
 où la gent n'est gaires hardie,
where the folk not-is much bold
 d'un chevalier qui ot pris fame,
of-a knight who had taken wife
 ce m'est vis, une gentil dame,
this to-me-is seeming a gentle lady
- 15 fille d'un riche chastelain,
daughter of-a rich castellan
 et cil estoit filz d'un vilein,
and that-one was son of-a churl
 d'un usurier riche et conblé,
of-a usurer rich and stuffed
 et assez avoit vin et blé;
and plenty he-had wine and wheat
 brebis et vaches, et deniers
ewes and cows and pence
- 20 ot à mines et à setiers,
he-had by bushels and by measures
 et li chastelains li devoit
and the castellan to-him owed
 tant que paier ne le pooit,
so-much that to-pay not it he-could
 ainz dona à son filz sa fille.
rather he-gave to his son his daughter
 Ainsi bons lignaiges aville,
Thus good lineage degenerates

et li chastelain et li conte

25

and the castellans and the counts

declinent tuit et vont à honte;

decline all and go to shame

se marient bas por avoir,

themselves they-marry low for wealth

si en doivent grant honte avoir,

so thereof they-ought great shame to-have

et grant domaige si ont il;

and great damage so have they

li chevalier mauvais et vill

30

the knights bad and vile

et coart issent de tel gent,

and cowardly issue from such folk

qui covoient or et argent

who covet gold and silver

plus qu'il ne font chevalerie;

more than-they — do chivalry

ainsi est noblece perie.

thus is nobility perished

Mais, à ce que ge ai appris,

35

But to this that I have learned

de chief en chief con l'ai conquis,

from end to end as it-I-have gained

li chevaliers sanz demorer

the knight without delaying

fist sa fille bien atorner;

had his daughter well arrayed

si la maria à vilain;

so her married to churl

40 sil fist chevalier de sa mein,

so-him be-made knight with his hand

si l'enmena, si con moi sanble:

so her-be-led-away so as to-me seems

plus de .X. ans furent ensanble.

more than ten years they-were together

Li chevaliers amoit repos;

The knight loved rest

il ne prisoit ne pris ne los,

he not prized nor prize nor praise

45 ne chevalerie .II. auz;

nor chivalry two garbics

tartes amoit et flaons chاوز,

tarts be-loved and flans hot

et mout despisoit gent menue.

and much despised folk little

Quant la dame s'est parçeüe

When the lady herself-is perceived

que ses sires fu si mauvais,

that her lord was so bad

50 ainz pire de li ne fu mais

ever worse than him not was before

por armes prendre ne baillier,

for arms to-take nor to-wield

mielz amast estrain enpaillier

better he-would-have-loved straw to-stuff

que manoir escu ne lance,

than to-handle shield or lance

dont set ele bien sanz doutance

whence knows she well without doubt

à ce qu'il estoit si parliers

by this that-be was so talkative

qu'il n'estoit mie chevaliers

that-be not-was at-all knight

atrais ne de gentil lignaige;

descended nor of gentle lineage

donc li ramentoit son paraige

then to-him recalls her kindred

où tant a vaillanz chevaliers:

where so-many there-are valiant knights

as armes sont hardiz et fiers,

at-the arms they-are bold and fierce

à sejourner n'amoient rien.

to linger not-they-loved anything

Li chevalier entendî bien

The knight understood well

qu'ele nel dit se pour lui non:

that-she not-it says except for him not

«Dame,» fait il, «g'ai bon renon;

Lady says he I-have good renown

n'avez nul si hardi parent

not-you-have any so bold kinsman

que ge n'aie plus hardement

that I not-may-have more hardihood

et plus valor et plus proëce.

and more worth and more prowess

Ge sui chevalier sanz perece,

I am knight without sloth

55

60

65

le meillor trestot par ma mein;

the best all by my hand

70 dame, vos le verroiz demain.

lady you it will-see tomorrow

Se mes ennemis puis trouver,

If my enemies I-can find

demain me vorrai esprouver;

tomorrow myself I-shall-wish to-prove

qui m'ont deffié par envie,

who me-have defied by envy

ja nul n'en portera la vie;

ever any not-thereof will-carry the life

75 ge les metrai à tel meschief

I them shall-put to such mischief

qu'à chascun copperai le chief;

that-to each I-shall-cut-off the head

tuit seront mort, que qu'il ennuit.»

all will-be dead whatever that-it may-vex

Ainsi le laisserent la nuit,

Thus it they-left the night

et l'endemain à l'enjornant

and the-morrow at the-dawning

80 li chevaliers leva avant;

the knight rose first

si fist ses armes apoter

so he-had his arms brought

et son cors richement armer,

and his body richly armed

quar armes avoit il mout beles,

for arms had he very fair

trestotes fresches et noveles.

all fresh and new

Quant li chevaliers fu armez

When the knight was armed

et desus son cheval montez,

and upon his horse mounted

si se porpense qu'il fera,

so himself bethinks what-he will-do

comment sa feme engignera

how his wife he-will-beguile

qu'el le tiegne à bon chevalier.

that-she him may-bold for good knight

En .I. bos mout grant et plenier

In a wood very great and full

qu'il voit mout près de sa maison

that-he sees very near to his bouse

le chevalier à esperon,

the knight at spur

s'en vait tot droit en la forest

himself-thence goes all straight into the forest

que onques n'i fist nul arrest.

that ever not-there he-made any stop

Quant en mi le bois fu entrez,

When in mid the wood he-was entered

desoz .I. arbre est arreztez,

beneath a tree he-is stopped

son cheval aresne et ataiche,

his horse he-reins and ties

son escu pant à .I. estaiche,

his shield he-hangs on a stake

85

90

95

à .I. chaine dedenz le bos.

on an oak within the wood

100 Or escoutez que fist li sos;

Now listen what did the fool

adonc a l'espée sachie

then has the-sword drawn

qui estoit bien clere et forbie;

which was well bright and furbished

si fiert en l'escu comme fous,

so strikes on the-shield like fool

mien escient, plus de .C. cous,

my knowledge more than a-hundred blows

105 que tot l'a tranchié et malmis,

that all it-has cut and damaged

puis avoit son fort espié pris;

then had his strong spear taken

sel brisa en .IIII. tronçons;

so-it he-broke into four pieces

enprès est montez es arçons

after he-is mounted in-the saddle-bows

de la sele de son cheval;

of the saddle of his horse

110 poignant s'en vait par mi .I. val

spurring himself-thence he-goes through mid a valley

tot droitement à sa maison.

all straight to his house

De sa lance prent .I. tronçon,

Of his lance he-takes a piece

et de l'escu n'ot c'un quartier

and of the-shield not-he-had but-a quarter

qu'il avoit porté tot entier;

that-he had carried all whole

le cheval par la resne tint,

the horse by the rein he-held

et sa feme contre lui vint;

and his wife to-meet him came

au descendre li tint l'estrier.

at-the dismounting to-him held the-stirrup

Li chevaliers la boute au pié,

The knight her pushes with-the foot

qui ert mout forz de grant maniere:

which was very strong of great manner

«Traiez vos tost,» fait il, «arriere;

Draw yourself quick says he back

or ce sachiez, n'est mie droiz

now this know not-is at-all right

qu'à si bon chevalier touchoiz

that-to so good knight you-may-touch

con ge sui, ne si alosé;

as I am nor so famed

il n'a si preuz ne si osé

there not-is so valiant nor so daring

en tot vostre lignaige au meins;

in all your lineage at-the least

ne sui mie matez ne veins,

not I-am at-all checkmated nor vanquished

ainz ai los de chevalerie.»

rather I-have praise of chivalry

115

120

125

La dame fu tote esbahie,

The lady was all amazed

quant el vit l'escu despecié,

when she saw the-shield shattered

130 et frait le fust de son espié;

and broken the shaft of his spear

selonc ce qu'il li fait acroire,

according-to this that-he to-her makes believe

ne set que dire ne que croire;

not she-knows what to-say nor what to-believe

que paor a qu'il ne l'abace,

for fear she-has that-he — her-may-strike-down

quar li chevaliers la menace

for the knight her threatens

135 que vers lui n'aut ne que le touche.

that toward him not-she-may-go nor that him she-may-touch

La dame tint close sa bouche;

The lady held shut her mouth

onques puis mot ne respondi.

ever after word not she-answered

Que vos diroie? Ainsi servi

What to-you would-I-say Thus served

le chevalier de ceste guille

the knight of this guile

140 et tenoit la dame pour vile,

and held the lady for vile

et despisoit tot son lignaige,

and despised all her lineage

dont el nel tenoit pas à saige.

whence she not-him held at-all for wise

.I. jor refu du bois venuz

One day again-was from-the wood come

li chevaliers, et ses escuz

the knight and his shield

refu troez et despeciez,

again-was boled and shattered

mais il n'est navrez ne plaiez,

but he not-is wounded nor hurt

ne ses heaumes n'a point de mal,

nor his helm not-has a-whit of harm

ainz est tot sain du chief à val;

rather he-is all whole from-the head to down

il n'est pas las ne recreüz.

he not-is at-all weary nor exhausted

De la dame n'est pas creüz

By the lady not-he-is at-all believed

à ceste fois li chevaliers,

at this time the knight

qui dit qu'il a morz ses guerriers

who says that-he has killed his warriors

et ses enemis confonduz

and his enemies confounded

et à force pris et penduz.

and by force taken and hanged

Bien set la dame et aperçoit

Well knows the lady and perceives

que par sa borde la deçoit,

that by his fib her he-deceives

et panse, s'il i va jamais,

and thinks if-he there goes ever

145

150

155

el bois que ele ira après

to-the wood that she will-go after

et si verra quanqu'il fera

and so will-see whatever-he will-do

160 et comment il se contendra.

and how he himself will-conduct

Ainsinc la dame est pourpensée,

Thus the lady is resolved

et, quant ce vint la matinée,

and when this came the morning

li chevaliers se fist armer

the knight himself had armed

et dit que il ira tuer

and says that he will-go to-kill

165 .III. chevaliers qui le menacent

three knights who him threaten

et qui grant ennui li porchacent;

and who great vexation for-him pursue

gaitant le vont, dont il se plaint.

lying-in-wait for-him they-go whence he himself complains

La dame li dit qu'il i maint

The lady to-him says that-he there may-take

de ses serjanz ou .III. ou quatre;

of his sergeants either three or four

170 si porra plus seür conbatre:

so he-will-be-able more safe to-fight

«Dame, ge n'i merrai nului;

Lady I not-there shall-lead anyone

par moi lor mourai tel ennui

by myself to-them I-shall-stir such vexation

que ja nus n'en estordra vis.»

that ever anyone not-thereof will-escape alive

Atant s'est à la voie mis,

Thereupon himself-be-is to the way put

par grant aïr el bois se fiert,

with great fury into-the wood himself be-thrusts

et la dame unes armes quiert;

and the lady some arms seeks

con un chevalier s'est armée,

as a knight herself-is armed

et puis sor .I. cheval montée.

and then on a horse mounted

Cele qui n'a point de sejour

She who not-has a-whit of rest

s'en vait tot après son seignor,

herself-thence goes all after her lord

qui ja ert el bois enbatuz,

who already was in-the wood rushed

et ses escuz ert ja penduz

and his shield was already hung

à .I. chaine, et si le feroit,

on an oak and so it be-struck

à s'espée le detranchoit.

with his-sword it be-backed

175

180

- 185 Si fait tel noise et tel martire
So he-makes such noise and such torment
 qui l'oïst, il pooist bien dire
who it-might-bear he could well say
 ce sont .C. et mile deable;
these are a-hundred and a-thousand devils
 ne le tenez vos pas à fable,
not it hold you at-all for fable
 grant noise meine et grant tempeste,
great noise he-makes and great tempest
- 190 et la dame .I. petit s'areste;
and the lady a little herself-stops
 et, quant a la chose veüe,
and when she-has the thing seen
 esbahie est et esperdue,
amazed she-is and distraught
 et, quant ot assez escouté,
and when she-had enough listened
 atant a le cheval hurté
thereupon she-has the horse spurred
- 195 vers son mari, si li escrie:
toward her husband so to-him cries
 «Vassal, vassal, est ce folie
Vassal vassal is this folly
 que vos mon bois me decoupez?
that you my wood from-me cut-up
 Malvais sui, se vos m'eschapez,
Bad I-am if you me-escape
 que ne soiez toz detranchiez;
that not you-may-be all backed

vostre escu pourquoi laidangiez

your shield why do-you-abuse

qui ne vos avoit riens meffait?

which not you had anything misdone

Mout avez hui meü fol plait,

Much you-have today stirred foolish plea

mal dahait ore qui vos prise,

ill befall now who you prizes

quant à lui avez guerre prise.»

when with it you-have war taken

Quant cil a le mot entendu,

When that-one has the word heard

esbahiz fu et esperdu;

amazed he-was and distraught

la dame n'a pas conneüe,

the lady not-be-has at-all known

au poing li chiet l'espée nue,

from-the hand to-him falls the-sword naked

et trestoz li sans li foï:

and all the blood from-him fled

«Sire,» fait il, «por Dieu merci,

Lord says he for God mercy

se ge vos ai de riens meffait,

if I you have in anything misdone

gel vos amenderai sanz plait;

I-it to-you shall-amend without plea

à vostre gré mout volentiers

at your liking very willingly

vos donrai avoir et deniers.»

to-you I-shall-give wealth and pence

200

205

210

- 215 La dame dit: «Se Dieu me gart,
The lady says So God me may-keep
 vos parleroiz d'autre Bernart
you will-speak of-another Bernard
 ainz que vos partoiz de cest leu,
before that you may-part from this place
 quar ge vos partirai .I. geu:
for I to-you shall-offer a game
 comment que vos jostez à moi
either that you may-joust with me
- 220 et ge vos creant et octroi,
and I to-you promise and grant
 se vos cheez, ja n'i faudrez,
if you fall ever not-there you-will-fail
 maintenant la teste perdrez
at-once the head you-will-lose
 que ja de vos n'aurai pitié;
for ever of you not-I-shall-have pity
 ou ge descendrai jus à pié,
or I shall-dismount down to foot
- 225 si me prenrai à abaissier;
so myself I-shall-set to stoop
 vos me venroiz el cul baisier,
you me will-come on-the ass to-kiss
 trés el milieu se vos volez.
right in-the middle if you wish
 Prenez ce que mielz amerez;
Take this that better you-will-like
 de ce gieu ice vos commant.»
of this game this to-you I-command

Et cil qui doute mout forment

230

And that-one who fears very greatly

et qui plains est de coardie,

and who full is of cowardice

dit que il ne jostera mie:

says that he not will-joust at-all

«Sire,» fait il, «ge l'ai voé,

Lord says he I it-have vowed

ne josterai à home né,

not I-shall-joust with man born

mais descendez, si ne vos griet,

235

but dismount so not you may-it-grieve

et ge ferai ce qu'il vos siet.»

and I shall-do this that-it you suits

La dame ne volt respit querre,

The lady not wished respite to-seek

tot maintenant mist pié à terre,

all at-once she-put foot to ground

sa robe prist à sozlever,

her robe she-began to raise

devant lui prist à estuper:

240

before him she-began to stoop

«Sire, metez ça vostre face,»

Lord put here your face

et cil regarde la crevace;

and that-one looks-at the crack

du cul et du con, li resanble

of-the ass and of-the cunt to-him it-seems

que trestot li tenist ensamble.

that all to-him it-beld together

- 245 A lui meïsme pense et dit
To him self he-thinks and says
 que onques si lonc cul ne vit;
that ever so long ass not he-saw
 dont l'a baisié de lorde pais
then it-he-has kissed with foul peace
 à loi de coart hom mauvais
in manner of coward man bad
 mout près du trou iluec endroit;
very near to-the hole there right
- 250 bien l'a or mené à son droit.
well him-she-has now led to her right
 Atant la dame est retournée;
Thereupon the lady is turned-back
 li chevaliers l'a apelée:
the knight her-has called
 «Beaus sire, vo non quar me dites,
Fair lord your name now me tell
 et puis vos en alez toz quites.
and then yourself thence go all quit
- 255 — Vassaus, mes nons n'ert ja celez,
Vassal my name not-will-be ever hidden
 onc mais tel non ne fu trovez;
ever before such name not was found
 de mes paraus n'en est il nul;
of my peers not-thereof is there any
 j'ai non Berengier au lonc cul,
I-have name Berangier with-the long ass
 qui à toz les coarz fait honte.»
who to all the cowards does shame

Atant a afiné son conte;

260

Thereupon she-has finished her tale

si s'en est en maison alée;

so herself-thence she-is to house gone

au mieus qu'el pot s'est desarmée,

at-the best that-she could herself-is disarmed

puis a mandé .I. chevalier

then she-has sent-for a knight

que ele amoit et tenoit chier;

whom she loved and held dear

dedenz sa chambre tot aese

265

within her chamber all at-ease

l'enmaine, si l'acole et baise.

him-she-leads so him-embraces and kisses

Atant ez le seignor qui vient

Thereupon behold the lord who comes

du bois; cele qui poi le crient

from-the wood she who little him fears

ne se daigna por lui movoir;

not herself deigned for him to-move

son ami fait lez lui soir.

270

her friend she-makes beside her sit

Li chevaliers toz abosmez

The knight all dismayed

s'en est dedens la chambre entrez;

himself-thence is within the chamber entered

quant vit la dame et son ami,

when he-saw the lady and her friend

sachiez point ne li abeli:

know at-all not to-him it-pleased

275 «Dame,» fait il isnelement,

Lady says he swiftly

«vos me servez vileinement

you me serve churlishly

qui amenez home çaienz;

who bring man herein

vos le conparrez par mes denz.

you it will-pay-for by my teeth

— Taisiez vos en,» fait el, «mauvais!

Be-silent yourself thereof says she bad-one

280 Or gardez que n'en parlez mais,

Now take-heed that not-thereof you-speak more

quar, se vos m'aviez desdite,

for if you me-had gainsaid

foi que ge doi seint Esperite,

faith that I owe (to-)Holy Spirit

tantost de vos me clamerioie

at-once of you myself I-would-complain

por le despit que g'en auroie;

for the spite that I-thereof would-have

285 si serez vos cous et jalous.

so will-be you cuckold and jealous

— A qui vos clameriez vous

To whom yourself would-complain you

de moi, par la vostre proiere?

of me by the your prayer

— A qui? A vostre chier compere,

To whom To your dear gossip

qui vos tint ja en son dangier,

who you held once in his power

et c'est mesire Berangier

290

and this-is my-lord Berangier

au long cul, qui vos fera honte.»

with-the long ass who you will-do shame

Quant il oit que cele li conte,

When he hears what she to-him tells

mout en ot grant honte et grant ire;

very thereof he-had great shame and great anger

onques puis ne l'osa desdire,

ever after not her-he-dared gainsay

desconfit se sent et maté;

295

discomfited himself he-feels and checkmated

et cele fait sa volenté,

and she does her will

qui ne fu sote ne vilaine:

who not was foolish nor churlish

à mol pastor chie lous laine.

on soft shepherd shits wolf wool

Des tresces
XCIV · THE TRESSES

A lady's lover, coming by night, seizes her husband by mistake. Left holding the "thief" while he fetches a light, she frees the lover, puts the husband's mule in his place, and is turned out. She lies with her lover and sends a burgher's wife to weep by the bed, where the husband beats her with his spurs and cuts off her tresses. The lady puts a horse's tail in their place, shows her unmarked body, and convinces him he dreamed it, so he vows to go to the Holy Tear at Vendôme for his eyes.

Jadis avint c'uns chevaliers,

Formerly it-befell that-a knight

preuz et cortois et beaus parliers,

valiant and courteous and fair speaker

ert saiges et bien entechiez:

was wise and well endowed

s'ert si en proesce affichiez

so-he-was so in prowess fixed

5 c'onques de riens ne se volt faindre

that-ever in anything not himself be-wished to-hold-back

en place où il pooist ateindre;

in place where he could reach

et par tot si bien le faisoit,

and in all so well it be-did

et à toz sis erres plaisoit,

and to all his deeds pleased

tant qu'il fu de si grant renom,

so-much that-he was of so great renown

10 qu'en ne parloit se de lui non.

that-one not spoke except of him not

Et s'en li ot sen et proesce:

And if-in him there-was sense and prowess

il ert de si haute largece,

he was of so high largesse

quant il avoit le heaume osté,

when he had the helm removed

preuz ert au champ et à l'osté.

valiant he-was in-the field and at the-house

Il ot feme de grant paraige,

He had wife of great kindred

qui avoit mis tot son coraige

who had put all her heart

à .I. chevalier du païs;

on a knight of-the country

n'ert pas de la vile naïs,

not-he-was at-all of the town native

ainz avoit .I. autre recet

rather he-had an other dwelling

près de .VI. liues ou de set.

near of six leagues or of seven

Il n'i osoit venir souvent

He not-there dared come often

qu'en ne s'alast apercevant.

that-one not himself-should-go perceiving

Bien ot parler de son affaire,

Well he-bears speak of his business

ne il n'en ose noise faire

nor he not-thereof dares noise to-make

à nului qui soit de sa vile,

to anyone who be of his town

15

20

25

et di que chevaliers s'aville
and I-say that knight himself-debases
 et de ses amors ne li chaut,
and of his loves not to-him matters
 qui se fie et croit en Richaut:
who himself trusts and believes in Richaut
 por ce n'en volt faire mesaige.
for this not-thereof he-wished to-make message

- 30 Mais une suer qu'il ot molt saige
But a sister that-he had very wise
 fait tant c'un vallet l'ot à feme;
does so-much that-a young-man her-had for wife
 cousin estoit à cele dame
cousin he-was to that lady
 qui en la vile ot son estaige,
who in the town had her dwelling
 et cil baa à l'aventaige
and that-one aimed at the-advantage

- 35 de son couvent, se il puet estre,
of his arrangement if it can be
 que ja nus ne saiche lor estre,
that ever anyone not may-know their state
 qui puist tesmoigner ne savoir,
who could bear-witness or know
 que molt mielz valt sanz blasma avoir
for very better is-worth without blame to-have
 chiés sa seror venir, aler,
at-house-of his sister to-come to-go
 40 et à s'amie iluec parler.
and to his-friend there to-speak

Un jor ot mandée s'amie

One day he-had sent-for his-friend

chies sa suer: ne demora mie

at-house-of his sister not it-tarried at-all

que il oïrent teus noveles

before they heard such news

qui ne li furent gaires beles,

which not to-her were much fair

quar l'en dit que li sires vient.

for one says that the lord comes

La dame voit qu'il l'en covient

The lady sees that-it to-her-thereof behooves

aler, si le commande à Dé.

to-go so him she-commends to God

Tantost li a cil demandé

At-once of-her has that-one asked

.I. don, mais ne set quel i fu,

a gift but not she-knows what there was

qu'ele ne l'en fist onc refu.

for-she not him-thereof made ever refusal

La dame, qui molt l'avoit chier,

The lady who very him-held dear

lors dit qu'el se voloit couchier

then says that-she herself wished to-lie

o son seignor et ovuec lui:

with her lord and with him

«Ja ne remaindra por nului,»

Ever not it-will-remain for anyone

fist cil que fin amor mestroie,

said he whom true love masters

45

50

55

et la dame le li ostroie,

and the lady it to-him grants

quar tant ne se set entremetre,

for so-much not herself she-knows to-meddle

qu'el i puisse autre conseil metre.

that-she there may other counsel put

Lors s'en est à l'ostel venue,

Then herself-thence she-is to the-house come

60 et fait semblant de la venue

and makes semblance of the coming

son seigneur et que bel l'en soit,

(of-)her lord and that fair to-her-thereof it-be

mais à autre chose penssoit

but on other thing thought

li cuers qui molt estoit plains d'ire.

the heart which very was full of-anger

Ne vueil des autres choses dire,

Not I-wish of-the other things to-tell

65 mais assez mengerent et burent,

but plenty they-ate and drank

et se couchierent quand il durent.

and themselves lay-down when they ought

Mais d'une chose me remembre,

But of-a thing myself-I remember

que li sires ot lez sa chanbre

that the lord had beside his chamber

fait faire une petite estable

had made a little stable

70 qui ert à son cheval metable,

which was for his horse fit

qui estoit à son chevauchier.

which was for his riding

Il avoit son cheval molt chier,

He held his horse very dear

quar .XL. livres valoit,

for forty pounds it-was-worth

mais des autres ne li chaloit

but of-the others not to-him it-mattered

s'il fussent bien ou malement,

if-they were well or badly

fors d'une mule seulement.

except of-a mule only

Et quant ce vint en droit prinsome,

And when this came in right first-sleep

que tuit couchié erent si home,

that all lain-down were his men

que reposer la gent covint,

that to-rest the folk behooved

li amis à la dame vint

the friend to the lady came

par devers la chambre à senestre,

by toward the chamber at left

et entre par une fenestre;

and enters by a window

et vint leanz, mais ne set mie

and came therein but not he-knows at-all

de quel part se gisoit s'amie.

of what side herself lay his-friend

Belement oreille et escoute,

Softly he-listens and hearkens

75

80

85

lor taste et prent par mi le coute

then gropes and takes by mid the elbow

le seignor qui ne dormoit pas,

the lord who not slept at-all

et li sires esnel le pas,

and the lord swift the pace

si le ra saisi par le poing.

so him in-turn-has seized by the hand

90 En une autre maison bien loing

In an other building well far

se gisoient li escuier:

themselves lay the squires

molt pooist li sires huschier

much could the lord shout

ainz que d'aus eüst nule aïe.

before that of-them he-had any help

Lors i a fait une enväie

Then there he-has made an assault

95 à celui que par le poing tient;

on him whom by the hand he-holds

et cil qui bien se recontient,

and that-one who well himself holds

se deffient de sa force tote:

himself defends with his strength all

li uns tire, li autres bout,

the one pulls the other pushes

tant qu'il se sont bien esprové.

until that-they themselves are well proved

Lors se tint cil por fol prouvé

Then himself held that-one for fool proven

qui la folie ot commenciée;

who the folly had begun

à l'uis de la mareschaucée

at the-door of the stable

se sont ambedui aresté.

themselves are both stopped

Près d'iluec ont lonc tens esté

Near of-there have long time been

une cuve trestote enverse,

a tub all upturned

et li sires dedenz enverse

and the lord inside upturns

celui qu'il tient por robeor.

him whom-he holds for robber

Molt ot la dame grant poor

Very had the lady great fear

de son ami plus que de lui,

for her friend more than for him

que li sires tint bien celui,

for the lord held well him

et tant l'a batu comme toile.

and so-much him-has beaten like linen

Lors a dit: «Alumez chandoile,»

Then he-has said Light candle

à la dame, et qu'ele tost queure.

to the lady and that-she quickly may-run

— Beaus sire, se Dieus me sequeure,

Fair lord so God me may-help

100

105

110

- 115 onques ne soi aler de nuiz:
ever not I-knew to-go by night
 trop me seroit ja granz enuiz
too to-me would-be now great vexation
 à trouver l'uis de la cuisine;
to find the-door of the kitchen
 mais or me faites la saisine
but now to-me make the seisin
 du larron, gel tenrai molt bien.
of-the thief I-him shall-hold very well
- 120 — Ne vorroie por nule rien,
Not I-would-wish for any thing
 se m'aïst Dieus, qu'il eschapast:
so me-may-help God that-he might-escape
 jamais ne prenra .I. repast
ever not he-will-take a meal
 quant il eschapera de ci.
when he will-escape from here
 — Sire,» fait ele, «ja merci
Lord says she ever mercy
- 125 n'en aiez quant il est repris.»
not-thereof have since he is recaptured
 Lors l'a la dame aus cheveux pris,
Then him-has the lady by-the hair taken
 et fait semblant que bien le tiegne;
and makes semblance that well him she-may-hold
 mais li sires comment qu'el preigne,
but the lord how-ever that-it may-take
 por du feu se met à la voie.
for of-the fire himself puts on the way

Et maintenant la dame envoie

130

And at-once the lady sends-off

son ami à grant aleüre,

her friend at great pace

puis saut et deslie la mure:

then leaps and unties the mule

si l'a par les oreilles prise,

so her-she-has by the ears taken

et por estre mielz entreprise,

and for to-be better beld

li boute en li cuve la teste;

135

to-her thrusts into the tub the head

et li sires gaire n'arreste;

and the lord much not-stops

ainz prant du fu et prant s'espée,

rather takes of-the fire and takes his-sword

et dit que ja avra coupée

and says that now he-will-have cut-off

la teste cil que pris avoit.

the head (of-)him whom taken he-had

Mais quant la mule tenir voit

140

But when the mule to-hold be-sees

à la dame, si s'esbahist,

to the lady so himself-be-amazes

et dist: «Dame, se Dieus m'aïst,

and said Lady so God me-may-help

bien estoie musarz et fous

well I-was idler and fool

quant ge crui onques vostre lous.

when I believed ever your counsel

- 145 Assez ai plus que vos mespris,
Much I-have more than you misdane
 quant ge vostre lecheor pris;
when I your lecher took
 gel deüsse tenir de près:
I-him ought to-hold from near
 or vos covient aler après.
now you behooves to-go after
 Bien sai qu'il vos en est à pou,
Well I-know that-it to-you thereof is at little
 150 mais par la foi que doi saint Pou,
but by the faith that I-owe (to-)saint Paul
 ne gerroiz mais lez mon costé.»
not you-will-lie more beside my side
 Lors l'a mise hors de l'osté.
Then her-he-has put out of the-house
 Ainsi cil sa feme en envoie;
Thus that-one his wife thence sends
 et cele trespasse la voie,
and she crosses the way
 155 si s'en entre chiés son cousin,
so herself-thence enters at-house-of her cousin
 que el avoit près à voisin,
whom she had near as neighbor
 le vallet qui ot pris à feme
the young-man who had taken for wife
 la suer son ami, et sa dame
the sister (of-)her friend and his lady
 a leanz son ami trouvé.
has therein her friend found

.I. tel enging avoit trové,

A such device she-had found

jamès n'orroiz parler de tel,

ever not-you-will-hear speak of such

quar el s'en voit à .I. ostel

for she herself-thence goes to a house

où une borgoise menoit,

where a burgher's-wife dwelt

qui en beauté la resanbloit;

who in beauty her resembled

fait la lever, tant la pria,

she-makes her rise so-much her she-begged

que la dame li ostroia

that the lady to-her granted

à faire quanqu'ele vorroit:

to do whatever-she would-wish

«Alez donc,» fait ele, «orendroit

Go then says she at-once

en ma chambre sanz demorer,

into my chamber without delaying

et faites senblant de plorer

and make semblance of to-weep

androit le chavez mon seignor:

at the bed-head (of-)my lord

ne poez moi faire gaignor

not you-can to-me do greater

servise qui cestui vausist.»

service which this might-be-worth

160

165

170

Cele s'en vait et puis s'assist

She herself-thence goes and then herself-sat

175 dedenz la chambre en droit la couche.

within the chamber in line-with the couch

La dame o son ami se couche

The lady with her friend herself lies

qui longuement i fist son vueil.

who long there did his will

Et cele commence son duel,

And she begins her grief

et se claime lasse chaitive,

and herself calls weary wretched

180 et dit que ja longues ne vive,

and says that ever long not she-may-live

ne ja ne past ceste semaine

nor ever not she-may-pass this week

«qui à tel honte me demaine.»

who to such shame me treats

Li sires s'i torne et retourne,

The lord himself-there turns and returns

et fait pesante chiere et morne,

and makes heavy face and gloomy

185 mais il ne set tant retorner

but he not knows so-much to-turn

que à dormir puisse assener.

that to sleep he-may attain

Lors est levez par mal talent,

Then he-is risen with ill temper

onques mais n'ot si grant talent

ever before not-be-had so great desire

de feme laidir et debatre

of woman to-abuse and to-beat

con il avoit de cele batre.

as he had of that-one to-beat

Demanois ses esperons chauce,

At-once his spurs he-puts-on

mais n'i chauça soler ne chauce,

but not-there put-on shoe nor hose

ne ne vest riens fors sa chemise.

nor not puts-on anything except his shirt

Lors vient à cele, si l'a mise

Then he-comes to that-one so her-has put

contre terre par les cheveux:

against ground by the hair

el chief li a ses doiz envous,

in-the head to-her has his fingers wound

lors tire et fiert et boute et saiche,

then pulls and strikes and pushes and drags

qu'à paine ses mains en arrache,

that-with pain his hands thence he-tears-away

et fiert des esperons granz cous,

and strikes with-the spurs great blows

qu'il en fait en plus de .C. leus

that-be thereof makes in more than a-hundred places

le sanc saillir par mi la cengle.

the blood leap through mid the girth

190

195

200

Molt pot ore la dame atendre

Much could now the lady await

de son ami graignor soulaz

from her friend greater solace

que cele qui est prise as laz.

than she who is caught in-the snares

205 Ainsi la damoisele bat

Thus the damsel beats

le chevalier et se debat,

the knight and himself struggles

et de parole la laidist;

and with word her abuses

et quant s'ire li refroidist,

and when his-anger to-him cools

si s'en vait couchier en son lit.

so himself-thence goes to-lie in his bed

210 Mais molt i ot poi de delit,

But very there was little of delight

qu'el commence grant duel à faire:

for-she begins great grief to make

molt se repent de cest affaire,

much herself repents of this business

et si fait chiere mate et morne;

and so makes face checkmated and gloomy

quar il l'avoit batue à orne.

for he her-had beaten in a-row

215 Ce ne torne à jeu ne à ris,

This not turns to game nor to laughter

por ce que el avoit empris;

for this that she had undertaken

si crie plus haut que ne sielt,

so cries more loud than — she-is-wont

quar de ses plaies molt se dielt,

for of her wounds much herself she-grieves

mais li sires pas ne s'en rit,

but the lord at-all not himself-thereof laughs

ainz est corrouciez et marriz

rather he-is angered and troubled

de cele qui ainsi l'assaut:

by her who thus him-assails

maintenant de son lit s'en salt

at-once from his bed himself-thence he-leaps

con celui qui estoit espris.

as he who was inflamed

Maintenant a son coutel pris,

At-once he-has his knife taken

si est saillis en mi la rue,

so he-is leapt into mid the street

son cors tot d'angoisse tressue,

her body all with-anguish sweats

si li a coupée les treces

so to-her he-has cut-off the tresses

dont el a au cuer grant destrece,

whence she has at-the heart great distress

si que ses plors entroublia.

so that her weeping she-forgot

Tant a ploré qu'afebloia

So-much she-has wept that-she-weakened

le cuer que par poi ne li part.

the heart that by little — to-her splits

220

225

230

Li chevaliers d'iluec s'en part

The knight from-there himself-thence parts

qui les treces o soi enporte:

who the tresses with himself carries-off

et cele, qui se desconforte,

and she who herself discomforts

235 vient à la dame, si li conte

comes to the lady so to-her tells

si con oï avez el conte,

so as heard you-have in-the tale

mais la dame jure et afiche

but the lady swears and affirms

qu'à toz jors mais la fera riche;

that-for all days more her she-will-make rich

ne ja douter ne li estuet

nor ever to-fear not her behooves

240 des tresces, se trouver les puet,

of-the tresses if to-find them she-can

que si bien ne li mete el chief

that so well not to-her she-may-put on-the head

que ja n'en savra le meschief

that ever not-thereof will-know the mischief

n'ome ne feme qui la voie.

nor-man nor woman who her may-see

La dame s'est mise à la voie,

The lady herself-is put on the way

245 q'onques nului n'i encontra:

that-ever anyone not-there she-met

tant fist que en la chambre entra.

so-much she-did that into the chamber she-entered

Si trouva son seignor dormant

So she-found her lord sleeping

qui travaillez estoit forment

who wearied was greatly

et du corroz et du veillier:

both by-the anger and by-the waking

la dame nel volt esveillier.

the lady not-him wished to-wake

Mais soëf lez le lit s'assist,

But softly beside the bed herself-sat

quar des treces bien li souvint

for of-the tresses well to-her it-came-to-mind

que la dame ot eü tranchiées,

that the lady had had cut-off

qui bien seront encor vengîées,

which well will-be still avenged

se la dame en vient au desus.

if the lady thereof comes to-the top

Lors les queroit et sus et jus:

Then them she-sought both up and down

bien s'est du cerchier entremise.

well herself-she-is to-the searching set

Lors a sa mein au chavez mise,

Then she-has her hand at-the bed-head put

les treces trueve, ses en trait.

the tresses she-finds so-them thence she-draws

Ne vos avroie droit retrait

Not to-you I-would-have rightly recounted

la grant joie que la dame ot:

the great joy that the lady had

250

255

260

d'iluec s'en vet sanz dire mot,

from-there herself-thence she-goes without saying word

et s'en vient à la chanbre aval.

and herself-thence comes to the chamber below

Si a coupé à .I. cheval

So she-has cut from a horse

265 la queue, au meillor de l'estable.

the tail from-the best of the-stable

Or oiez .I. proverbe estable

Now hear a proverb steadfast

qui en mainz leus, ce m'est vis, cort,

which in many places this to-me-is seeming runs

que tel ne pesche qui encort.

that such-one not sins who incurs

Ainsi la dame a escorté,

Thus the lady has docked

270 le cheval, si l'a aporté

the horse so it-she-has brought

la queue au chevez son seignor:

the tail to-the bed-head (of-)her lord

onques mais n'ot joe graignor

ever before not-she-had joy greater

qui à ceste s'apareillast.

which to this itself-might-compare

Soëf que cil ne s'esveillast,

Softly that that-one not himself-might-wake

275 si coient s'est contenue

so quietly herself-she-is held

et couchée trestoute nue,

and lain-down all naked

qu'à soi ne trest ne pié ne main.

that-to herself not she-drew nor foot nor hand

Issi fu jusqu'au lendemain,

Thus she-was until-the morrow

et dormirent grant matinée.

and they-slept great morning

Quant vit que prime fu sonée,

When he-saw that prime was rung

li sires s'estoit resveilliez,

the lord himself-was wakened

mais de la dame est merveilliez

but at the lady he-is amazed

qu'il vit gesir lez son costé:

whom-he saw lie beside his side

«Et qui vos a ci amené,»

And who you has here brought

fait cil, «et qui vos coucha ci?

says that-one and who you laid here

— Sire, la vostre grant merci,

Lord the your great mercy

où devroie donc couchier,

where ought-I then to-lie

se lez vos non, vostre moillier?

except beside you not your wife

— Comment,» fait il, «donc ne vos membre,

How says he then not to-you it-comes-to-mind

que ge her soir en ceste chambre

that I last-night in this chamber

pris prouvé vostre lecheor?

took proven your lecher

280

285

290

Par celui cui li pecheor

By him to-whom the sinners

prient de cuer parfondement,

pray from heart deeply

trop avez fait grant hardement

too-much you-have done great boldness

295 quant vos estes çaienz entrée;

when you are herein entered

deffendue vos ert l'entrée

forbidden to-you will-be the-entry

à toz les jors que j'ai à vivre:

for all the days that I-have to live

ne me tenroiz pas si por ivre,

not me you-will-hold at-all so for drunk

quant vos cuidiez, se Dieus me salt.

as you think so God me may-save

300 — Beaus sire, se Dieus me consalt,»

Fair lord so God me may-counsel

fait ele, «mielz poïssiez dire:

says she better you-could say

de ce me puis bien escondire

of this myself I-can well clear

c'onques ne fis autrui servise,

that-ever not I-did other's service

par toz les sainz de seinte yglise,

by all the saints of holy church

305 ne qui vos tornast à hontaige:

nor what you might-turn to shame

trop par avez dit grant outrage,

too much you-have said great outrage

qui si solez estre ensaigniez,

who so are-wont to-be taught

reclamez Dieu, si vos seigniez.

call-on God so yourself cross

Ge crieng que en vos se soit mis

I fear that in you itself be put

ou fantosmes ou enemis

either phantom or devil

qui ainsi vos ait desvoié.

who thus you may-have led-astray

— Or m'avez vos bien avoïé,»

Now me-have you well set-right

fait il; «se vos voloie croire,

says he if you I-wished to-believe

volez me vos faire mescroire

wish me you to-make misbelieve

ce que ge tieng à mes .II. mains;

this that I hold in my two hands

à vostre char pert il al mains

on your flesh appears it at-the least

qu'as esperons vos fis merveille:

for-with-the spurs to-you I-did marvel

de nule riens n'ai tel merveille

of any thing not-I-have such marvel

con de ce que vos estes vive.

as of this that you are alive

— Ja Dieu ne place que ge vive,»

Ever God not may-please that I may-live

fait cele qui par guile pleure,

says she who by guile weeps

310

315

320

«s'onques her soir de nès une eure

if-ever last-night for even one hour

me donastes cop ne colée.»

to-me you-gave blow or buffet

Tantost a la robe levée,

At-once she-has the robe raised

325 si li mostre costez et hanches,

so to-him shows sides and hips

et les braz et les cuisses blanches,

and the arms and the thighs white

et le vis qu'el n'ot pas fardé.

and the face which-she not-had at-all painted

Par tot a li sires gardé,

Through all has the lord looked

mais n'i voit nès une bubete:

but not-there he-sees even a pimple

330 bien guile la dame et abete

well beguiles the lady and deceives

son seignor qui tant s'en espert:

her lord who so-much himself-thereof is-amazed

«Dame,» fait il, «itant se pert

Lady says he so-much himself loses

qui feme bat s'il ne la tue;

who wife beats if-he not her kills

ge vos avoie tant batue,

I you had so-much beaten

335 que ge de fi savoir cuidoie

that I for certain to-know thought

que jamais n'alissoiz par voie:

that ever not-you-would-go by way

certes se vos bone fussiez,

certainly if you good were

jamais par voie n'alissiez.

ever by way not-you-would-go

Or vos ont Malfé respassée,

Now you have Devils healed

mais n'iert pas si tost trespasée

but not-will-be at-all so soon passed

la grant honte que vos avroiz;

the great shame that you will-have

ja si garder ne vos savroiz

ever so to-guard not yourself you-will-know

de voz treces qu'avez perdues:

for your tresses that-you-have lost

.II. ans les avroiz atendues,

two years them you-will-have awaited

ainz que soient en lor bon point.

before that they-be in their good point

— Sire,» fait el, «I. tot seul point

Lord says she a all single point

n'i a de ce que vos me dites:

not-there is of this that you to-me say

grant tort avez qui me mesdites.

great wrong you-have who me slander

Onques her soir por nul corroz

Ever last-night for any anger

ne fu de mon chief cheveus roz,

not was from my head hair broken

se Dieus me giet de ceste place.»

so God me may-cast from this place

340

345

350

Maintenant le coissin deslace,

At-once the cushion she-unlaces

si a les trecas avant traites

so she-has the tresses forward drawn

qu'il i cuidoit avoir fors traites:

which-he there thought to-have out drawn

355 «Sire,» fait la dame, «veez;

Lord says the lady see

ge cuit qu'il fu jor deveez

I think that-it was day forbidden

quant du destre braz vos seignastes,

when from-the right arm yourself you-bleed

ou mauvairement vos seignastes

or badly yourself you-bleed

hersoir au couchier, ce m'est vis,

last-night at-the lying-down this to-me-is seeming

360 vos avez si trouble le vis

you have so troubled the face

et les elz que ne veez goute.

and the eyes that not you-see a-drop

Espoir il vos avint par goute,

Perhaps it to-you befell by gout

ou par avertin, se Dé vient,

or by vertigo if from-God it-comes

ou ce est fantosme qui vient

or this is phantom which comes

365 as genz por aus faire muser,

to-the folk for them to-make gape

et por aus folement user,

and for them foolishly to-use

et por faire foler la gent:

and for to-make go-mad the folk

au chief du tot devient nient,

at-the end of-the all it-becomes nothing

quant il a fait foler le siecle,

when it has made go-mad the world

tot quanqu'il a fait si despiece;

all whatever-it has made so it-undoes

beaus sire, dites moi por Dieu

fair lord tell me for God

me dites vos tout ce par jeu?»

me tell you all this in game

Son seignor de ce se merveille,

Her lord at this himself marvels

et si s'esbahist et merveille,

and so himself-amazes and marvels

lors lieve sa mein, si se saigne,

then lifts his hand so himself crosses

mais la dame pas ne s'en saigne

but the lady at-all not herself-thereof crosses

de riens que la nuit fet eüst,

of anything that the night done she-had

mais encor pas ne se teüst

but still at-all not herself would-have-kept-silent

qui li donast tote Prouvence;

who to-her might-give all Provence

monstrer en cuide la provence,

to-show thereof he-thinks the proof

370

375

380

quar il cuide qu'il ait apostes

for he thinks that-he may-have placed

les tresces qu'il avroit repostes.

the tresses that-he had hidden

Maintenant le coissin sozlieve,

At-once the cushion he-raises

mais a poi li cuers ne li crieve

but by little the heart — to-him bursts

385 quant il a trovée la quoue:

when he has found the tail

«Or voit il tot à male voe,»

Now goes it all to ill way

fait il, «se Dame Dieus n'en pense;

says he if Lord God not-thereof thinks

j'ai hui fait une tel despensse

I-have today made a such expense

qui m'a cousté .L. livres:

which me-has cost fifty pounds

390 bien ai esté desvez et yvres

well I-have been mad and drunk

quant j'ai escorté mon cheval.»

when I-have docked my horse

Lors li veïssiez contreval

Then from-him you-might-have-seen downward

les lermes couler sor la face,

the tears flow on the face

mais il ne set mais que il face,

but he not knows more what he may-do

tant est dolenz et abosmez

so-much he-is grieving and dismayed

que il cuide estre enfantosmez.

that he thinks to-be bewitched

Et si est il, n'en doutez mie.

And so is he not-thereof doubt at-all

Lors apele la dame aïe

Then calls the lady help

sainte Marie mon seignor,

holy Mary my lord

si se demaine à deshenor.

so himself conducts to dishonor

Li sires li respont ainsi:

The lord to-her answers thus

«Dame,» fait il, «dolenz en sui;»

Lady says he grieving thereof I-am

si li a dit isnel le pas:

so to-her he-has said swift the pace

«Dame,» fait il, «ne prenez pas

Lady says he not take at-all

à mon forfait ne à mes diz:

to my misdeed nor to my words

ge vos en cri par Dieu merciz.»

I to-you thereof cry for God mercies

Et la dame li respondi:

And the lady to-him answered

«Beau doz sire, devant Dieu ci,

Fair sweet lord before God here

le vos pardoning molt bonement:

it to-you I-pardon very freely

395

400

405

410 Dieus gart vostre cors de torment

God keep your body from torment

et d'ennemi et de fantosme!

and from-devil and from phantom

Sire, voés vos à Vendosme,

Lord vow yourself to Vendôme

que li oeil vos sont ennubli;

for the eyes to-you are clouded

ne le metez mie en oubli,

not it put at-all in oblivion

415 ne requerez respit ne terme,

nor seek respite nor term

mais alez à la seinte Lerne:

but go to the holy Tear

bien sai, quant vos l'avroiz veüe,

well I-know when you it-will-have seen

que Dieus vos rendra la veüe.»

that God to-you will-restore the sight

— Dist il: «Dame, vos dites voir:

Said he Lady you say truth

420 ge vorrai le matin movoir,

I shall-wish the morning to-set-out

quar du veoir ai grant envie.»

for of-the seeing I-have great desire

Et au matin pas ne s'oublie;

And to-the morning at-all not himself-forgets

le chevaliers chose ne dist,

the knight thing not said

se la dame le contredist,

if the lady it contradicted

qu'il ne cuisdat ce fust mençoinge

that-be not might-think this were lie

ou qu'il l'eüst trouvé en songe.

or that-be it-had found in dream

Par cest fableau poez savoir

By this fabliau you-can know

que cil ne fait mie savoir

that that-one not does at-all wisdom

qui de nuiz met sa feme hors:

who by night puts his wife out

s'el fait folie de son cors,

if-she does folly of her body

quant el est hors de sa maison,

when she is out of her house

lors a ele droite achoison

then has she right occasion

qu'ele face son mari honte.

that-she may-do her husband shame

Ici vueil definir mon conte.

Here I-wish to-end my tale

425

430

Estula

XCVI

Two poor brothers go by night to steal a rich man's cabbages and sheep. When the rich man's son calls the dog, named Art-thou-there, the brother in the sheepfold answers that he is, and the household, marveling that the dog has spoken, send for the priest. The son carries him to the garden on his back, where the other brother takes him for his brother with a sheep and promises it a cut throat. The priest flees, leaving his surplice on a stake.

Il estoient jadis dui frere

There were formerly two brothers

sanz conseil de pere et de mere,

without counsel of father and of mother

et tout sanz autre compaignie;

and all without other company

povretez fu bien lor amie,

poverty was well their friend

5 quar sovent fu en lor compaignie,

for often she-was in their company

et c'est la riens qui plus mehaingne

and this-is the thing which more maims

cels entor qui ele se tient:

those around whom she herself holds

nus si granz malages ne vient.

any so great sickness not comes

Ensamble manoiient andoi

Together dwelt both

10 li frere, dont dire vous doi.

the brothers of-whom to-tell to-you I-must

Une nuit furent mout destroit

One night they-were very distressed

de soif et de fain et de froit;

of thirst and of hunger and of cold

chascuns de ces maus sovent tient

each of these ills often holds

à cels qui povretez maintient.

to those whom poverty maintains

.I. jor se pristrent à pensser

One day themselves they-set to think

comment se porroient tensser

how themselves they-could defend

vers povreté qui les apresse;

against poverty which them presses

sovent lor fet sentir mesese.

often to-them she-makes feel distress

Uns mout renommez riches hon

A very renowned rich man

manoit mout près de lor meson:

dwelt very near to their house

cil sont povre, li riches fols

those are poor the rich-man foolish

en son cortil avoit des chols,

in his garden he-had of-the cabbages

et en l'estable des brebis:

and in the-stable of-the ewes

andui se sont cele part mis.

both themselves are that way set

Povretez fet maint homme fol:

Poverty makes many-a man fool

15

20

25

li uns prent .I. sac à son col,

the one takes a sack on his neck

l'autres .I. coutel en sa main,

the-other a knife in his hand

ambedui se sont mis au plain.

both themselves are set to-the open

L'uns entre el cortil maintenant,

The-one enters in-the garden at-once

30 puis ne vait gueres atardant,

then not goes much lingering

des chols trencha par le cortil.

of-the cabbages he-cut through the garden

L'autres se trest vers le bercil

The-other himself draws toward the sheepfold

por l'uis ouvrir: tant fet qu'il l'uevre,

for the-door to-open so-much does that-he it-opens

avis li est que bien vait l'uevre,

seeming to-him it-is that well goes the-work

35 tastant vait le plus cras mouton.

groping he-goes the most fat sheep

Mais adonc encor seoit on

But then still sat one

en l'ostel, si c'on tresoï

in the-house so that-one overheard

l'uis du bercil, quant il l'ouvri.

the-door of-the sheepfold when he it-opened

Li preudom apela son fil:

The worthy-man called his son

40 «Va veoir,» dist il, «el cortil,

Go see said he in-the garden

que il n'i ait rien se bien non:

that it not-there be anything except good not

apele le chien de meson.»

call the dog of house

Estula avoit non li chiens;

Art-thou-there had name the dog

mès de tant lor avint il biens

but of so-much to-them befell it good

que la nuit n'ert mie en la cort.

that the night not-he-was at-all in the yard

Et li vallès prenoit escout:

And the young-man was-taking listening

l'uis devers la cort ouvert a,

the-door toward the yard open he-has

et crie: «Estula, Estula!»

and cries Art-thou-there Art-thou-there

Et cil du bercuel respondi:

And that-one from-the sheepfold answered

«Oïl voirement, sui je ci.»

Yes truly am I here

Il fesoit mout obscur et noir,

It was very dark and black

si qu'il nel pot apercevoir

so that-he not-him could perceive

celui qui si respondu a.

him who so answered has

En son cuer bien por voir cuida

In his heart well for true he-thought

que li chiens eüst respondu.

that the dog had answered

45

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55

N'i a puis gueres atendu;

Not-there he-has then much waited

en la meson droit s'en revint,

into the house straight himself-thence he-came-back

grant paor ot quant il i vint:

great fear he-had when he there came

«Qu'as tu, biau filz?» ce dist li pere.

What-hast thou fair son this said the father

60 « — Sire, foi que je doi ma mere,

Lord faith that I owe my mother

Estula parla or à moi.

Art-thou-there spoke now to me

— Qui, nostre chien? — Voire, par foi,

Who our dog Truly by faith

et se croire ne m'en volez,

and if to-believe not me-thereof you-wish

huchiez le errant, parler l'orrez.»

call him quickly speak him-you-will-hear

65 Li preudom maintenant s'en cort

The worthy-man at-once himself-thence runs

por la merveille, entre en la cort,

for the marvel he-enters into the yard

et hucha Estula, son chien.

and called Art-thou-there his dog

Et cil qui ne s'en gardoit rien,

And that-one who not himself-thereof guarded anything

li dist: «Voirement sui je ça.»

to-him said Truly am I here

70 Li preudom grant merveille en a:

The worthy-man great marvel thereof has

«Par toz sains et par toutes saintes,

By all saints and by all she-saints

filz, j'ai oï merveilles maintes,

son I-have heard marvels many

onques mès n'oï lor pareilles:

ever before not-I-heard their like

va tost, si conte ces merveilles

go quick so tell these marvels

au prestre; si l'amaine o toi,

to-the priest so him-bring with thee

et li di qu'il aport o soi

and to-him say that-be may-bring with himself

l'estole et l'ève beneoite.»

the-stole and the-water blessed

Cil, au plus tot qu'il puet, s'exploite

That-one at-the most soon that-be can himself-exerts

tant qu'il vint en l'ostel au prestre.

until that-be came into the-house of-the priest

Ne demora gueres en l'estre,

Not he-lingered much in the-dwelling

vint au provoire isnelement:

he-came to-the priest swiftly

«Sire,» dist il, «venez vous ent

Lord said he come you thence

en meson oïr granz merveilles:

into house to-hear great marvels

onques n'oïstes lor pareilles.

ever not-you-heard their like

Prenez l'estole à vostre col.»

Take the-stole on your neck

75

80

85

Dist le prestre: «Tu es tout fol,

Said the priest Thou art all mad

qui or me veus là fors mener;

who now me wishest there out to-lead

nus piez sui, n'i porroie aler.»

bare feet I-am not-there I-could go

Et cil li respont sanz delai:

And that-one to-him answers without delay

90 «Si ferez, je vous porterai.»

So you-will-do I you shall-carry

Li prestres a prise l'estole,

The priest has taken the-stole

si monte sanz plus de parole

so mounts without more of word

au col celui, et il s'en va

on-the neck (of-)him and he himself-thence goes

la voie: si comme il vint là,

the way so as he came there

95 qu'il voloit aler plus briefment,

for-he wished to-go more shortly

par le sentier tout droit descent,

by the path all straight he-descends

là où cil descendu estoient,

there where those descended were

qui lor viande porchaçoient.

who their victuals were-hunting

Cil, qui les chols aloit coillant,

That-one who the cabbages went gathering

100 le provoie vit blanchioiant,

the priest saw showing-white

cuida que ce fust son compaing

he-thought that this were his companion

qui aportast aucun gaaing;

who might-bring some gain

se li demanda par grant joie:

so to-him asked with great joy

«Aportes tu riens? — Par foi, oie,»

Bringest thou anything By faith yes

fait cil qui cuida que ce fust

says that-one who thought that this were

son pere qui parlé eüst.

his father who spoken had

«Or tost,» dist il, «gete le jus:

Now quick said he throw it down

mes coutiaus est bien esmolus,

my knife is well sharpened

je le fis ier moudre à la forge,

I it had yesterday ground at the forge

ja avra copée la gorge.»

at-once he-will-have cut the throat

Et quant li prestres l'entendi,

And when the priest it-heard

bien cuida c'on l'eüst trahi:

well he-thought that-one him-had betrayed

du col celui est jus saillis,

from-the neck (of-)him he-is down leapt

si s'en fuit trestoz esmaris;

so himself-thence flees all dismayed

105

110

- 115 mès son soupeliz ahocha
but his surplice he-caught
 à .I. pel, si qu'il remest là,
on a stake so that-it remained there
 qu'il n'i osa pas tant ester
for-he not-there dared at-all so-long to-stand
 qu'il le peüst du pel oster.
that-he it could from-the stake remove
 Et cil qui les chols ot coillis,
And that-one who the cabbages had gathered
- 120 ne fu mie mains esbahis
not was at-all less amazed
 que cil qui por lui s'en fuioit:
than that-one who for him himself-thence fled
 si ne savoit que il avoit;
so not he-knew what he had
 et neporquant si va il prendre
and nevertheless so goes he to-take
 le blanc que il vit au pel pendre;
the white that he saw on-the stake hang
- 125 si sent que c'est uns soupelis.
so he-feels that this-is a surplice
 Atant ses freres est saillis
Thereupon his brother is leapt-out
 du bercil atout .I. mouton.
from-the sheepfold with a sheep
 Si apela son compaignon
So he-called his companion
 qui son sac avoit plain de chols;
who his sack had full of cabbages

bien ont andui carchié les cols.

130

well have both loaded the necks

Ne voudrent plus lonc conte fere,

Not they-wished more long tale to-make

andui se sont mis el repere

both themselves are set on-the return

vers lor ostel qui lor fu prest.

toward their lodging which to-them was ready

Lors a cil moustré son conquest,

Then has that-one shown his conquest

qu'ot gaaignié le soupelis;

135

who-had gained the surplice

si ont assez gabé et ris,

so they-have plenty joked and laughed

que li rires lor fu renduz,

for the laughing to-them was rendered

qui devant lor fu desfenduz.

which before to-them was forbidden

En petit d'eure Dieus labeure,

In little of-hour God labors

tels rit au main qui au soir pleure,

140

such laughs in-the morning who in-the evening weeps

et tels est au soir corouciez

and such is in-the evening angered

qui au main est joianz et liez.

who in-the morning is joyful and glad

De Barat et de Haimet ou des trois larrons

XCVII • BARAT AND HAIMET

Haimet steals a magpie's eggs from under her, and as he climbs to put them back Barat steals his breeches, so Travers quits thieving and goes home to his wife. The brothers come for his flitch, and it changes hands all night, Barat posing as Travers in bed and then as his wife, Travers hanging from an oak like their hanged father. When Haimet spears it from the pot through the roof, they share it in three heaps, and the moral is that a thief is bad company.

Cis fabliaus dist, seigneur baron,

This fabliau says lords barons

que jadis furent troi larron

that formerly there-were three thieves

d'une compaignie assamblé:

of-a company assembled

maint avoir avoient emblé

many-a goods they-had stolen

5 à gent de siecle et à convers.

from folk of world and from lay-brothers

Li uns avoit à non Travers;

The one had for name Travers

as autres .II. n'apartenoit,

to-the others two not-be-belonged

mès lor compaignie tenoit.

but their company he-kept

Li autre estoient germain frere,

The others were own brothers

10 s'avoit esté penduz lor pere;

so-had been hanged their father

c'est à larron daarrain mès.

this-is for thief last dish

Li uns avoit à non Haimès,

The one bad for name Haimet

et Baras ses freres germaines,

and Barat his brother own

qui ne resavoit mie mains

who not knew-in-turn at-all less

du mestier con li autre doi.

of-the trade than the other two

.I. jor s'en alerent tuit troi

One day themselves-thence went all three

par mi .I. bois haut et creü.

through mid a wood high and grown

Haimès garde, si a veü

Haimet looks so has seen

desus .I. chesne .I. ni de pie;

upon an oak a nest of magpie

desouz vait, si gaite et espie

beneath he-goes so watches and spies

tant que bien aperçoit et voit

until that well he-perceives and sees

que la pie ses oes covoit.

that the magpie her eggs broods

Travers le moustre et puis son frere:

(to-)Travers it he-shows and then (to-)his brother

«Seignor, ne seroit il bons lere,»

Lords not would-be he good thief

fet il, «qui ces oes porroit prendre,

says he who these eggs could take

15

20

25

et si souëf atout descendre,

and so softly with-all come-down

que la pie mot n'en seüst?

that the magpie word not-thereof might-know

— N'est hom qui fere le peüst

Not-is man who do it could

en cest monde,» ce dist Baras.

in this world this said Baras

30 — Certes, si est, ja le verras,»

Certainly so there-is now it thou-wilt-see

fet il, «se me veus esgarder;

says he if me thou-wishest to-watch

ne s'i savra si bien garder

not herself-there she-will-know so well to-guard

que ja ne li coviegne perdre.»

that ever not to-her it-may-behoove to-lose

Atant se vait au chesne aerdre:

Thereupon himself he-goes to-the oak to-grip

35 plus souëf que ne monte lampe,

more softly than — climbs lamp

contremont le grant chesne rampe,

upward the great oak he-creeps

con cil qui bien se sot repondre;

as he who well himself knew to-bide

au ni vient, par desouz l'esfondre,

to-the nest he-comes by beneath it-he-breaks-through

tout coient les oes en trait,

all quietly the eggs thence he-draws

40 tout belement et tout atrait,

all softly and all carefully

puis descendi jus trestoz liez.

then he-descended down all glad

Aus compaignons s'est adreciez,

To-the companions himself-be-is directed

ce qu'il aporte moustre lues:

this that-he brings he-shows at-once

«Seignor,» dist il, «vez ci les oes;

Lords said he see here the eggs

cuire les poez en .I. fu.

cook them you-can on a fire

— Certes ainz telz lerres ne fu,»

Certainly ever such thief not was

fet Barras, «con tu es, Haimet;

says Barat as thou art Haimet

mès or va, si les i remet,

but now go so them there put-back

puis dirai toz nous as passez.

then I-shall-say all us thou-hast surpassed

— Certes ja n'en ert oes quaszez,»

Certainly ever not-thereof will-be egg broken

fet cil, «et si seront remis.»

says that-one and so they-will-be put-back

Atant s'est au chesne repris,

Thereupon himself-be-is to-the oak gripped-again

et s'en va contremont rampant;

and himself-thence goes upward creeping

mès n'ot gueres alé avant,

but not-be-had much gone forward

quant Baras s'est aers au fust,

when Barat himself-is gripped to-the trunk

45

50

55

qui plus ert que Haimès ne fust

who more was than Haimet — were

del mestier engingneus et sages.

of-the trade cunning and wise

Plus coïement que ras evages

More quietly than rat wild

le siut après de branche en branche,

him he-follows after from branch to branch

60 c'onques cil n'en ot remembrance,

that-ever that-one not-thereof had remembrance

des compaignons ne cremoit nul.

of-the companions not he-feared any

Et puis li emble de son cul

And then from-him steals from his ass

ses braies, si l'a escharni;

his breeches so him-he-has mocked

et cil remet les oes ou ni.

and that-one puts-back the eggs in-the nest

65 Baras, qui son frere deçut,

Barat who his brother deceived

sus le chesne plus n'arestut,

upon the oak more not-he-stopped

ainz descendi isnelement.

rather he-descended swiftly

Qui donc veïst Travers dolent,

Who then might-have-seen Travers grieving

tel duel a por poi qu'il ne font,

such grief he-has for little that-he — melts

70 quant ne puet fere ce qu'il font,

when not he-can do this that-they do

et si ot toz jors entendu.

and so he-had all days intended

Atant ez Haimet descendu:

Thereupon behold Haimet descended

«Seignor,» dist il, «que vous en samble?

Lords said he what to-you thereof seems

Doit bien vivre qui si bien emble.

Ought well to-live who so well steals

— Je ne sai qu'il m'en puist sambler,»

75

I not know what-it to-me-thereof may seem

dist Baras, «trop sez tu d'embler,

said Baras too-much knowest thou of-stealing

mès je pris mout poi ton savoir,

but I prize very little thy skill

quant tu braies ne pues avoir:

when thou breeches not canst have

vers toi mauvesement te prueves.

toward thyself badly thyself thou-provest

— Si ai,» fet il, «trestoutes nueves,

80

So I-have says he all new

dont j'emblai l'autre jor la toile;

of-which I-stole the-other day the cloth

et m'en viennent jusqu'à l'ortoile.

and to-me-thereof they-come as-far-as the-toe

— Li tijuel issi sont il lonc,

The legs so are they long

sire? quar les nous moustrez donc,»

lord now them to-us show then

fet Baras, «et si les verrons.»

85

says Baras and so them we-shall-see

Haimès soulieue ses gironz:

Haimet lifts his skirts

de ses braies nules ne vit,

of his breeches any not he-saw

ainz vit ses coilles et son vit

rather he-saw his testicles and his prick

trestout desouvert nu à nu:

all uncovered naked to naked

90 «Dieus,» fet il, «que m'est avenu?

God says he what to-me-is befallen

Por le cul Dieu où sont mes braies?

By the ass (of-)God where are my breeches

— Je ne cuït pas que tu les aies,

I not think at-all that thou them hast

biaus compains,» ce li dist Travers;

fair companion this to-him said Travers

«n'a tel larron jusqu'à Nevers

not-is such thief as-far-as Nevers

95 comme est Baras, si con moi samble.

as is Baras so as to-me seems

Bien est lerres qui larron emble;

Well is thief who thief steals-from

mès je n'ai avoec vous mestier,

but I not-have with you use

quar je n'ai de vostre mestier

for I not-have of your trade

vaillant .IIII. deniers apris;

worth four pence learned

100 teus .C. foiz seroie je pris,

such a-hundred times would-be I taken

que vous eschaperiez par guile.

that you would-escape by guile

Je m'ent irai à nostre vile,

I myself-thence shall-go to our town

là où j'ai ma fame espousée.

there where I-have my wife wedded

Folie avoie ore en penssée,

Folly I-had now in thought

qui voloie devenir lerres;

who wished to-become thief

je ne sui fols ne tremelerres,

I not am fool nor dicer

ainz me sai mout bien ahaner,

rather myself I-know very well to-toil

et bien soier et bien vaner,

and well to-reap and well to-winnow

et tant fort me sent et delivre

and so strong myself I-feel and nimble

que bien gaaignerai mon vivre,

that well I-shall-earn my living

se Damedieu vient à talant;

if to-Lord-God it-comes to liking

je m'en vois, à Dieu vous commant.»

I myself-thence go to God you I-commend

Atant s'en departi Travers,

Thereupon himself-thence departed Travers

tant va de tort et de travers,

so-much he-goes of crooked and of across

qu'il est venuz en son païs,

that-he is come into his country

105

110

115

ou il n'estoit mie haïs

where he not-was at-all hated

de sa fame dame Marie,

by his wife lady Mary

qui mout belement s'ert garie.

who very fairly herself-had kept

A mout grant joie le reçut,

With very great joy him she-received

120 si con son seignor fere dut.

so as her lord to-do she-ought

Or est Travers entre les suens,

Now is Travers among the his

mout par fu saiges hom et buens,

very much he-was wise man and good

et mout volentiers gaaingna;

and very willingly he-earned

tant aquist et tant conquesta,

so-much he-acquired and so-much he-gained

125 qu'il ot assez et .I. et el.

that-he had plenty both one and other

.I. bacon fist contre Noel

A flitch he-made against Christmas

d'un porc qu'il ot en sa meson

of-a pig that-he had in his house

norri trestoute la seson:

fed all the season

bien ot plaine paume de lart.

well it-had full palm of lard

Travers l'avoit à une hart

130

Travers it-had by a rope

au baus de sa meson pendu.

to-the beam of his house hanged

Mieus li venist avoir vendu,

Better to-him it-would-have-come to-have sold(-it)

si fust de grant paine delivres,

so he-would-be from great pain delivered

quar ce nous raconte li livres,

for this us recounts the book

c'un jor estoit Travers alez

135

that-one day was Travers gone

à .I. boschet iluec delez

to a copse there beside

por fere amener des garas;

for to-make be-brought of-the faggots

ez vous que Haimès et Baras

behold you that Haimet and Baras

aloient querre garison:

went to-seek provisions

s'asenerent à sa meson.

140

themselves-they-directed to his house

Sa fame ont trovée filant

His wife they-have found spinning

cil qui vont le siecle guilant;

those who go the world tricking

dient: «Dame, où est voz barons?»

say Lady where is your husband

Cele ne connut les larrons:

She not knew the thieves

- 145 «Seignor,» dist ele, «il est au bos
Lords said she he is at-the wood
 por fere amener des fagos.
for to-make be-brought of-the faggots
 — De par Dieu,» font il, «puist ce estre!»
On behalf-of God say they may this be
 Lors s'assiéent, s'esgardent l'estre,
Then themselves-they-sit themselves-they-look-at the-house
 les angles et les repostailles:
the corners and the hiding-places
- 150 n'i remest celier ne cenailles;
not-there remained cellar nor nook
 tout regardent de chief en chief.
all they-look-at from end to end
 Baras dreça amont son chief,
Barat raised upward his bead
 s'a veü entre .II. bracons,
so-he-has seen between two beams
 penduz i estoit li bacons.
hanged there was the fitch
- 155 Tantost l'a moustré à Haimet,
At-once it-he-has shown to Haimet
 puis dist: «En grant peine se met
then he-said In great pain himself puts
 Travers d'avoir amonceler:
Travers of-wealth to-heap-up
 mout se set bien por nous celer
very himself he-knows well because-of us to-hide
 en sa chambre et en sa despensse,
in his chamber and in his larder

c'est por espargnier sa despense.

160

this-is for to-spare his spending

Ne veut que nous riens li coustons,

Not he-wishes that we anything to-him may-cost

ne que nous anquenuit goustons

nor that we tonight may-taste

de cel bacon ne de cel lart:

of that fitch nor of that lard

si ferons voir, se feus ne l'art.»

so we-shall-do truly if fire not it-burns

Lors s'en vont, quant pris ont congié;

165

Then themselves-thence they-go when taken they-have leave

lez une haie sont mucié,

beside a hedge they-are hidden

chascuns a aguisié .I. pel.

each has sharpened a stake

Travers revint à son ostel,

Travers came-back to his lodging

qui gueres n'a le jor conquis:

who much not-has the day gained

«Sire, .II. hommes vous ont quis,»

170

Lord two men you have sought

fet sa fame dame Marie,

says his wife lady Mary

«qui toute m'ont fete esmarie,

who all me-have made dismayed

quar j'estoie seule en meson:

for I-was alone in house

ne me distrent ne o ne non,

not to-me they-said nor yes nor no

- 175 s'avoient mout laide veüe;
so-they-had very ugly look
 n'avons chose n'aient veüe
not-we-have thing not-they-may-have seen
 qui fors de chambre soit desclose,
which out of chamber be disclosed
 ne no bacon, ne autre chose,
nor our flitch nor other thing
 coutel, ne sarpe, ne congnée;
knife nor billhook nor ax
- 180 la meson ont bien enlignée,
the house they-have well eyed
 que lor oill totes parz voloient,
for their eyes all parts flew
 ainz ne me distrent qu'il voloient,
ever not to-me they-said what-they wished
 ne je de rien ne lor enquis.
nor I of anything not of-them asked
 — Bien sai que sont et qu'il ont quis,»
Well I-know what they-are and what-they have sought
- 185 dist Travers, «veü m'ont sovent;
said Travers seen me-they-have often
 noz bacons a fet son covent:
our flitch has made its covenant
 perdu l'avons, jel vous pramet,
lost it-we-have I-it to-you promise
 quar entre Barat et Haimet
for between Barat and Haimet
 le vendront anquenuit poruec;
it will-come tonight for-it

por noient l'avons mis iluec,

for nothing it-we-have put there

de ce sui je trestoz seürs.

of this am I all sure

Bien m'avoit ore maus eürs

Well me-bad now ill luck

fet bacon si tempre tuer:

made flitch so early kill

certes l'en me devoit huer,

certainly one me ought to-boot

quant samedi ne l'alai vendre.

when Saturday not it-I-went to-sell

— Sire, quar l'alomes despendre,»

Lord now it-let-us-go to-take-down

fait sa feme, «por esprover

says his wife for to-try

se nos le porrions tenses;

if we it could protect

se li bacons est mis à terre,

if the flitch is put to ground

il ne le savront mès où querre,

they not it will-know more where to-see

quant ne le troveront pendant.»

when not it they-will-find hanging

Tant li fait sa feme entendant,

So-much to-him makes his wife understanding

que Travers monte cele part:

that Travers climbs that way

maintenant a copé la hart,

at-once he-has cut the rope

190

195

200

205 et li bacons chaï en l'aire.

and the flitch fell on the-floor

Or n'en sevent il mais que faire,

Now not-thereof know they more what to-do

mais que sor son siege le lait,

but that on its seat it be-may-leave

si le covrirent d'une met:

so it they-covered with-a trough

à grant paine s'en vont gesir.

with great pain themselves-thence they-go to-lie

210 Cil qui du bacon ont desir,

Those who of-the flitch have desire

vindrent quant il fu anuitié;

came when it was nightfall

à la paroit ont tant luitié,

at the wall they-have so-much struggled

que .I. treu firent souz la suele,

that a hole they-made under the sill

par où entrast bien une muele.

by which might-enter well a millstone

215 Ne sejoignent pas longuement;

Not they-linger at-all long

ainz entrent enz communement,

rather they-enter in together

puis vont tastant par la meson.

then they-go groping through the house

Baras, où point n'ot de reson,

Barat in-whom a-while not-there-was of reason

lerres fu angoisseus et fel:

thief he-was anxious and felonious

tant oïrre de baus en estel,

so-much he-travels from beam to post

qu'il est venuz au hardeillon

that-be is come to-the rope-ring

où il vit pendre le bacon.

where he saw hang the flitch

Tant senti de chascune part,

So-much he-felt of each part

qu'il trova copée la hart

that-be found cut the rope

où li bacons estoit penduz.

where the flitch was hanged

Puis est à terre descenduz,

Then he-is to ground descended

et s'en revint droit à son frere;

and himself-thence came-back straight to his brother

en l'oreille li dist li lere

in the-ear to-him said the thief

qu'il n'a pas le bacon trouvé:

that-be not-has at-all the flitch found

«Vois,» fet il, «du larron prové!

See says he of-the thief proven

Le cuide il vers nous tensser?

It thinks he against us to-guard

Folie li feroit pensser.»

Folly to-him would-make think

Lors commencent à oreillier,

Then they-begin to listen

tant qu'il oïrent sommeillier.

until that-they heard sleep

220

225

230

- 235 Travers qui n'osoit reposer,
Travers who not-dared rest
à sa fame prist à parler
to his wife be-began to speak
qui .I. poi estoit esclignie:
who a little was dozing
«Dame,» fait il, «ne dormez mie;
Lady says he not sleep at-all
dormir n'est or pas de seson,
to-sleep not-is now at-all in season
- 240 aler vueil aval la meson,
to-go I-wish down the house
quar savoir vueil s'il i a ame.
for to-know I-wish if-it there has soul
— De par Dieu, sire,» dist la dame.
On behalf-of God lord said the lady
Travers qui estoit sages hom,
Travers who was wise man
se lieve et va par la meson,
himself rises and goes through the house
- 245 qui ainc n'i ot braie chaucie;
who ever not-there had breeches put-on
.I. poi a la met soushaucie:
a little he-has the trough lifted
s'a desouz le bacon senti,
so-he-has beneath the flitch felt
de ce fu il puis escharni.
of this was he afterward mocked
En l'estable vint à sa vache,
Into the-stable he-came to his cow

en sa main tint une grant hache:

250

in his hand he-held a great ax

mout fu liez quant il la trova,

very he-was glad when he her found

et Baras vers le lit s'en va

and Baras toward the bed himself-thence goes

tout coïement devers l'esponde.

all quietly toward the-bedside

Or est droiz que je vous desponde

Now it-is right that I to-you expound

con cil lerres fu de grant cuer:

255

how that thief was of great heart

«Marie,» dist il, «bele suer,

Mary said he fair sister

je vous deïsse une grant chose,

I to-you would-tell a great thing

mès mon cuer dire ne vous ose,

but my heart to-tell not to-you dares

que vous m'en tendriez por fol.

for you me-thereof would-bold for fool

— Non ferai, sire, par saint Pol,

260

Not I-shall-do lord by saint Paul

ainçois vous en conseillearai.

rather you thereof I-shall-counsel

— Et je donques le vous dirai,»

And I then it to-you shall-tell

fet cil qui au lit s'est toz mis:

says he who in-the bed himself-is all put

«Orains quant je fui endormis,

Just-now when I was fallen-asleep

265 une si grant paor me vint,
a so great fear to-me came
 que onques puis ne me sovint
that ever afterward not to-me it-came-to-mind
 où ersoir no bacon meïsmes;
where last-night our flitch we-put
 je ne sai que nous en feïsmes,
I not know what we with-it did
 tant par fu mes songes divers.
so much was my dream strange

270 — Dieus aïe, sire Travers,»
God help lord Travers
 fet ele, «con ci a mal plet,
says she how here there-is bad business
 dont n'est il desouz cele met,
then not-is it beneath that trough
 sor ce lesson acouvetez?
over this tub covered
 — En non Dieu, suer, c'est veritez,»
In name (of-)God sister this-is truth

275 fait cil, «et ge irai sentir.»
says that-one and I shall-go to-feel
 Onques ne l'en daigna mentir,
Ever not to-her-thereof he-deigned to-lie
 la met hauce, le bacon prent,
the trough he-lifts the flitch takes
 puis vient là où Haimès l'atent,
then comes there where Haimet him-awaits
 qui iluec li estoit bien près.
who there to-him was well near

Bien ont or cunchié Travers.

280

Well they-have now befoiled Travers

Lez le boschet sont avoié,

Beside the copse they-are gone

bien a l'uns l'autre convoié,

well has the-one the-other escorted

que l'uns avoit l'autre mout chier.

for the-one had the-other very dear

Atant revint Travers couchier,

Thereupon came-back Travers to-lie

s'a mout bien les huis refermez:

285

so-he-has very well the doors shut-again

«Certes, bien estes enyvrez,»

Certainly well you-are drunk

dist sa fame, «et chetis à droit,

said his wife and wretched at right

qui demandastes orendroit

who asked just-now

que nos bacons ert devenuz.»

what our flitch was become

Ainc mès hom si desconneüz

290

Ever before man so bewildered

ne fu mès en si petit d'eure:

not was more in so little of-hour

«Quant,» fet il, «se Dieus te sequeure?

When says he so God thee may-belp

— Orainz, sire, se Dieus me saut.

Just-now lord so God me may-save

— Suer, noz bacons a fet .I. saut:

Sister our flitch has made a leap

- 295 jamès,» dist il, «ne le verrons,
ever said he not it we-shall-see
 se je ne l'emble à ces larrons:
if I not it-steal from these thieves
 n'a teus larrons en nule terre.»
not-there-are such thieves in any land
 Travers saut sus, si va requerre
Travers leaps up so goes to-seek
 les larrons qui l'ont enchanté,
the thieves who him-have enchanted
 300 et son bacon en ont porté.
and his flitch thence have carried
 Mout ot cele nuit de torment.
Much he-had that night of torment
 Il s'adreça par .I. forment,
He himself-directed through a wheat-field
 si les sivi les grans galos;
so them followed the great gallops
 il se mist entr'eus et le bos.
he himself put between-them and the wood
 305 Haimès s'en va toute une orgiere,
Haimet himself-thence goes all a rut
 mès Baras ert auques arriere,
but Barat was somewhat behind
 que le bacon nel lessoit corre.
for the flitch not-him let run
 Travers qui le voudra rescorre,
Travers who it will-wish to-rescue
 vint vers lui le grandisme pas:
came toward him the greatest pace

«Done ça,» dist il, «trop es las;

310

Give here said he too-much thou-art weary

tu l'as ore porté grant pose,

thou it-bast now carried great while

mès or te sié, si te repose.»

but now thyself sit so thyself rest

Cil cuide avoir trové Haimet,

That-one thinks to-have found Haimet

le bacon sor le col li met;

the flitch on the neck to-him puts

Travers lesse de maintenant,

315

Travers he-leaves from at-once

grant aleüre va devant,

great pace he-goes ahead

et Travers s'en retourne arrier

and Travers himself-thence returns back

vers sa maison le droit sentier.

toward his house the straight path

Baras cuide bien qu'il le sive,

Barat thinks well that-he him may-follow

mès Travers fera ja la sive,

320

but Travers will-make soon the following

se il puet, et il le set fere.

if he can and he it knows to-do

Atout le bacon s'en repere,

With the flitch himself-thence he-returns

qu'il a vaillaument secoru,

which-he has valiantly rescued

tant a après Barat coru.

so-much he-has after Barat run

- 325 Mès Baras n'ot gueres alé,
But Baras not-had much gone
quant il a Haimet encontré;
when he has Haimet met
et quant il l'a aconseü,
and when he him-has overtaken
si a si grant paor eü,
so has so great fear had
por ce qu'il le cuidoit derriere,
for this that-he him thought behind
330 qu'il cheï en mi la charriere.
that-he fell in mid the cart-track
Et, quant cil le vit trebuchier,
And when that-one him saw stumble
se li commença à huchier:
so to-him began to shout
«Lai le moi porter une piece,
Let it me to-carry a while
je ne cuit pas que il me chiece
I not think at-all that it from-me may-fall
335 icil bacons si con tu fais;
that fitch so as thou dost
mout en as ore eü grant fais:
very thereof thou-hast now had great burden
avoir carchié le me deüsses.
to-have loaded it on-me thou-oughtest
— Je cuidois que tu l'eüsses,»
I thought that thou it-hadst
fet cil, «se Dieus me doinst santé.
says that-one so God me may-grant health

Mès Travers nous a enchanté,

340

But Travers us has enchanted

c'est cil qui le bacon en porte;

this-is he who the flitch thence carries

mès je li ferai une estorte,

but I to-him shall-do a trick

se je puis, avant qu'il ajorne.»

if I can before that-it may-dawn

Grant aleüre s'en retourne,

Great pace himself-thence he-returns

c'onques n'i quist plus longue atente.

345

that-ever not-there he-sought more long waiting

Travers aloit une autre sente,

Travers went an other path

tout belement et tout en pès,

all softly and all in peace

si con cil qui ne cuidoit mès

so as he who not thought more

avoir garde de nule chose.

to-have heed of any thing

Baras li vint à la parclose,

350

Barat to-him came at the end

qui de corre ot la pel moillie;

who from running had the skin wet

sa chemise avoit despoillie,

his shirt he-had stripped-off

sor son chief la mist toute blanche,

on his head it he-put all white

trestout en autretel samblance

all in such-same semblance

355 con s'il fust fame, se deporté:

as if-he were woman himself he-behaves

«Lasse,» dist il, «comme or sui morte,

Wretched said he how now I-am dead

que me tient Dieus quant je n'enrage,

what me holds God when I not-go-mad

quant si grant paine et tel damage

when so great pain and such damage

ai eü par ces .II. larrons!

I-have had by these two thieves

360 Dieus! où est alez mes barons,

God where is gone my husband

qui tant a grant duel orendroit?»

who so-much has great grief now

Travers cuide sa fame soit,

Travers thinks his wife it-be

le bacon de sor son col tient:

the flitch from on his neck he-holds

«Suer,» dist il, «droit à droit revient,

Sister said he right to right returns

365 quar je raport nostre bacon;

for I bring-back our flitch

touche le .III. foiz à ton con:

touch it thre times to thy cunt

si ne le porrons jamès perdre!»

so not it we-shall-be-able ever to-lose

Et cil cort le bacon aerdre,

And that-one runs the flitch to-grip

qui jamès nel cuidoit tenir:

who ever not-it thought to-hold

«Lessiez m'en,» dist il, «couvenir;

370

Let me-thereof said he manage

ralez vous en, sire Travers,

go-back you thence lord Travers

que g'i voudrai tout à envers,

for I-there shall-wish all to backwards

et cul et con .III. foiz touchier;

both ass and cunt three times to-touch

bien vous poez aler couchier,

well you can go to-lie

que je ne l'os fere de honte.»

375

for I not it-dare do for shame

Travers par .I. sentier s'en monte,

Travers by a path himself-thence climbs

et cil le prent par le hardel,

and that-one it takes by the rope

si l'en porte comme .I. fardel,

so it-thence carries like a bundle

et Travers s'en va maintenant:

and Travers himself-thence goes at-once

sa fame a trovée plorant

380

his wife he-has found weeping

si tost comme à son ostel vint:

so soon as to his lodging he-came

«Certes, Marie, mès n'avint,»

Certainly Mary more not-befell

fet il, «se ne fu par pechié:

says he if not was by sin

je te cuidoie avoir carchié

I thee thought to-have loaded

385 le bacon deseur cel cortil;

the flitch above that garden

or sai je bien que ce sont cil

now know I well that these are those

qui le me sont venu embler.

who it from-me are come to-steal

Dieus! comment pot il resambler

God how could he resemble

si bien fame en fet n'en parole?

so well woman in deed or-in word

390 Entrez sui en male carole,

Entered I-am into bad carol

et mal fust il onques bacons,

and ill were it ever flitch

qu'ainçois ne remaindroit tacons

for-before not would-remain heel

ne semele desouz ma plante,

nor sole beneath my foot

qu'encore anuit ne lor sousplante,

that-still tonight not them I-trip

395 se Dieus le mes lesse trover.

if God it to-me may-let find

Encor m'i voudrai esprover,

Still myself-there I-shall-wish to-prove

puisque tant m'en sui entremis.»

since so-much myself-thereof I-am meddled

Dont se rest à la voie mis,

Then himself again-he-is on the way set

et quant il fu ou bois entrez,

and when he was in-the wood entered

si a veü de feu clartez

so he-has seen of fire brightness

que cil alumé i avoient,

which those lit there had

qui mout bien fere le savoient.

who very well to-do it knew

Travers s'en vint delez .I. chesne

Travers himself-thence came beside an oak

et ot con chascuns se deresne.

and bears how each himself argues

Baras et ses freres Haimès

Barat and his brother Haimet

dient que du premerain mès

say that of-the first course

voudront de cel bacon mengier,

they-will-wish of that fitch to-eat

ainz c'on lor puist les dez changier.

before that-one for-them might the dice change

Lors vont concueillir des sechons;

Then they-go to-gather of-the dry-sticks

et Travers vint à demuchons

and Travers came in hiding

au chesne où le feu alumoit;

to-the oak where the fire was-lighting

mès la busche ert vert, si fumoit,

but the log was green so smoked

si qu'issir n'en pooit la flambe,

so that-to-go-out not-thence could the flame

400

405

410

et dans Travers le chesne enjambe.

and sir Travers the oak straddles

415 Tant vint par branches et par rains

So-far he-came by branches and by boughs

qu'il vint desus as daarrains.

that-he came above at-the last

Le bacon embler ne lor daingne,

The flitch to-steal not from-them he-deigns

et cil aportent de la laingne

and those bring of the wood

et getent ou fu à manées:

and throw on-the fire by handfuls

420 dient qu'il feront charbonées

they-say that-they will-make grills

du bacon, et Travers l'entent.

of-the flitch and Travers it-hears

Par le braz au chesne se pent;

By the arm on-the oak himself he-hangs

si a deslié ses tigeus.

so has untied his bosc

Haimès geta amont ses ieus,

Haimet threw up his eyes

425 et voit celui sor eus pendu,

and sees him over them hanged

grant et hideus et malostru,

great and hideous and ill-shaped

et fu toz nus en sa chemise.

and he-was all naked in his shirt

«Barat, noz pere nous ravise,»

Barat our father us regards

fet il, «en mout laide samblance:

says he in very ugly semblance

vois comme il pent à cele branche;

see how he hangs on that branch

c'est il, nel mescreez vous pas?

this-is he not-it misbelieve you at-all

— Dieus aïde,» ce dist Baras,

God help this said Baras

«il samble qu'il doie avaler.»

it seems that-he must come-down

Le geu gaaingnent par aler;

The game they-win by going

andui sont en fuie torné,

both are into flight turned

qu'il n'ont le bacon adésé,

for-they not-have the flitch touched

c'onques n'orent tant de loisir.

for-ever not-they-had so-much of leisure

Et quant cil ne les pot choisir,

And when that-one not them could see

sor le chesne plus ne sejourne;

on the oak more not he-lingers

le bacon prent et si s'en torne

the flitch he-takes and so himself-thence turns

vers son ostel le droit sentier;

toward his lodging the straight path

tost l'en a reporté arrier

soon it-thence he-has carried back

que onques riens n'en fu à dire.

that ever anything not-thereof was to say

430

435

440

Sa fame li commence à dire:

His wife to-him begins to say

445 «Sire, bien soiez vous trovez,

Lord well be you found

mout par vous estes bien provez,

very much you are well proved

ainc mès hom si hardiz ne fu.

ever before man so bold not was

— Suer,» dist il, «alume le fu,

Sister said he light the fire

et pren de la busche en l'estuire:

and take of the wood in the-store

450 il nous covient no bacon cuire,

it us behooves our fitch to-cook

se nous volons qu'il nous remaingne.»

if we wish that-it to-us may-remain

Cele alume le fu de laingne,

She lights the fire of wood

si met de l'ève en la chaudiere,

so puts of the-water in the cauldron

puis le pendi à la hardiere;

then it she-hung on the pot-hook

455 et Travers trenche le bacon

and Travers cuts the fitch

tout belement et sanz tençon,

all softly and without quarrel

qui mout li avoit fet de paine.

which much to-him had made of pain

S'en fu près la chaudiere plaine,

So-thereof was near the cauldron full

quant toz li bacons fu tailliez:

when all the fitch was cut

«Bele suer,» dist il, «or veilliez

Fair sister said he now watch

lez cel fu, si ne vous anuit;

beside that fire so not you may-it-vex

et je, qui ne dormi anuit,

and I who not slept last-night

me reposerai .I. petit

myself shall-rest a little

trestoz vestuz dedenz mon lit:

all dressed within my bed

ne sui pas encor bien seürs.

not I-am at-all yet well sure

— Sire» dist ele, «maus eürs

Lord said she ill luck

les aportera ça huimès:

them will-bring here now

dormez vous en bien et en pès,

sleep you thereof well and in peace

ja ne vous en feront mès tort.»

ever not to-you thereof they-will-do more wrong

Cele veille et Travers se dort,

She watches and Travers himself sleeps

qui mout desirroit le repos.

who much desired the rest

Et Baras se demente el bos,

And Barat himself laments in-the wood

bien set Travers l'a escharni,

well he-knows Travers him-has mocked

460

465

470

quant du bacon l'a desgarni.

when of-the flitch him-he-has stripped

475 «Certes,» dist il, «par povre cuer

Certainly said he by poor heart

avons no bacon rué puer;

we-have our flitch thrown away

et Travers l'a par son barnage:

and Travers it-has by his valor

bien en puet fere son carnaige,

well thereof he-can make his feast

ne cuit que il jamès le perde.

not I-think that he ever it may-lose

480 Bien nous doit or tenir por merde,

Well us he-ought now to-hold for shit

se ainsi li lessons avoir.

if thus to-him we-let have-it

Alons à son ostel savoir

Let-us-go to his lodging to-know

comment il en a exploitié.»

how he thereof has acted

Tant se sont de l'aler coitié

So-much themselves they-are of the-going hastened

485 qu'il sont revenu à son huis.

that-they are come-back to his door

Baras garde par .I. pertuis,

Barat looks through a hole

et voit que la chaudiere bout.

and sees that the cauldron boils

Sachiez qu'il li anuie mout.

Know that-it to-him vexes much

«Haimet,» fet il, «li bacons cuit;

Haimet says he the flitch cooks

mout me grieve forment et nuit

much me it-grieves greatly and harms

que nous ne li poons tolir.

that we not (it)-from-him can take

— Or le lai,» dist Haimès, «boillir,

Now it let said Haimet boil

et la char tant qu'ele soit cuite,

and the flesh until that-it be cooked

que je ne li claim mie cuite;

for I not him declare at-all quit

ma paine li covendra soudre.»

my pain to-him it-will-beboove to-pay

Une longue verge de coudre

A long rod of hazel

prent, si l'aguise d'un coutel;

he-takes so it-he-sharpens with-a knife

puis est montez sor le bordel,

then he-is mounted on the but

si le descuevre iluec endroit

so it he-uncovers there right

là où la chaudiere boilloit.

there where the cauldron boiled

Tant osta de la couverture,

So-much he-removed of the covering

que il vit par mi l'ouverture

that he saw through mid the-opening

la fame Travers sommeillier,

the wife (of-)Travers dozing

490

495

500

qui lassée estoit de veillier:

who wearied was of watching

505 la teste aloit jus embronchant.

the head was-going down nodding

Et cil avale le perchant,

And that-one lowers the pole

qui plus estoit aguz d'un dart;

which more was sharp than-a dart

par mi une piece de lart

through mid a piece of lard

le fiert si droit comme à souhait;

it strikes so right as at wish

510 hors de la chaudiere l'atrait.

out of the cauldron it-he-draws

Ainsi qu'il amont la levoit,

Just as-he up it lifted

s'esveille Travers, et le voit,

himself-wakes Travers and it sees

qui fors lerres ert et rubestes:

who strong thief was and rough

«Seignor,» dist il, «qui lasus estes,

Lords said he who up-there are

515 vous ne me fetes pas reson,

you not to-me do at-all right

qui me descouvrez ma meson;

who from-me uncover my bouse

ainsi n'avrons nous jamès fait.

thus not-shall-have we ever done

Partez si que chascuns en ait,

Divide so that each thereof may-have

du bacon, et si descendez:

of-the flich and so come-down

prenez en, et si m'en donez,

take thereof and so to-me-thereof give

que chascuns en ait sa partie.»

that each thereof may-have his share

Cil descent et si ont partie

That-one descends and so they-have divided

la char Travers, voiant ses ieus,

the flesh (of-)Travers in-sight-of his eyes

et si en firent .III. moncieus;

and so thereof they-made three heaps

n'i lesserent que sozpeser

not-there they-left but to-weigh-them

sa fame font les loz giter,

his wife they-make the lots cast

dont li dui frere les .II. orent,

whereby the two brothers the two had

mès onques Travers, se il porent,

but ever Travers if they could

n'en porta le meillor moncel;

not-thereof carried the best heap

et si ot norri le porcel.

and yet he-had fed the piglet

Por ce vous di, seignor baron:

For this to-you I-say lords barons

male est compaignie à larron.

bad is company with thief

520

525

530

D'Auberée la vieille maquerelle

CX • AUBERÉE THE OLD GO-BETWEEN

A burgher's son of Compiègne loses his love to a rich widower and promises the seamstress Auberée fifty pounds to win her. She slips the youth's surcoat under the husband's quilt, he turns his wife out, and Auberée brings the lover to her. She lays the wife before an altar, leads the husband there with a dream, and wails that she lost a surcoat with her needle in it. Finding it, he is cured. A woman seldom strays, says the poet, unless a woman leads her.

Qui près de moi se vorroit traire,

Who near to me himself would-wish to-draw

.I. beau conte m'orroit retraire

a fair tale me-would-bear relate

dont ge me sui mult entremis,

with-which I myself am much busied

qu'autresi l'ai en rime mis,

for-likewise it-I-have in rhyme put

5 com il avint trestot à ligne

as it befell all in line

dedenz la vile de Compigne.

within the town of Compiègne

En la vile avoit .I. borjois

In the town there-was a burgher

qui mult ert sages et cortois

who very was wise and courteous

et riches et de grant affaire;

and rich and of great business

ententis ert à honor faire

intent he-was on honor to-do

ausi au povre com au riche,

as to-the poor as to-the rich

et cil qui n'ert avers ne chiche,

and that-one who not-was greedy nor stingy

il avoit .I. vallet à fill,

he had a youth for son

qui maint denier mist à essill

who many-a penny put to waste

tant com il fu en sa joenece.

so-long as he was in his youth

De sa valor, de sa largesce

Of his worth of his largesse

palloit l'en jusqu'en Beauvoisin.

spoke one as-far-as-in Beauvaisis

Cil avoit .I. povre voisin

That-one had a poor neighbor

qui une fille avoit mult cointe;

who a daughter had very comely

et li vallez de lui s'acointe:

and the youth with her himself-acquaints

si la proia mult longuement.

so her he-wooed very long

Cele li dist apertement

She to-him said openly

que mieulz le venroit reposer

that better to-him it-would-come to-rest

s'il ne la voloit espouser:

if-he not her wished to-wed

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- 25 mais se lui plaisoit qu'il l'eüst
but if to-him it-pleased that-he her-might-have
 à feme, si com il deüst,
for wife so as he ought
 el en avroit au cuer grant joie,
she thereof would-have at-the heart great joy
 et mult volentiers le vorroie.
and very willingly it I-would-wish
 Fait li vallez: «Ice me plaist.»
Says the youth This me pleases
- 30 Ce li pramist, atant se test,
This to-her he-promised thereupon himself he-silences
 et cil revint à sa maison.
and that-one came-back to his house
 Son pere en a mis à raison,
His father thereof he-has put to speech
 si li a son affaire dit;
so to-him has his business told
 mais li peres li contredit,
but the father to-him gainsays
- 35 et mult l'en blasme, et mult l'en chose.
and much him-thereof blames and much him-thereof scolds
 «Beaus filz,» fait il, «de ceste chose
Fair son says he of this thing
 te deüsses tu mult bien taire;
thyself oughtest thou very well to-silence
 cele n'est pas de ton affaire
she not-is at-all of thy business
 ne digne de toi deschaucier.
nor worthy of thee to-unshoe

Ge te vorrai plus sozhaucier,

I thee shall-wish more to-raise

que que il me doive couster,

what ever it me may cost

que ge te vorrai ajoster

for I thee shall-wish to-join

as meillors genz de cest païs.

to-the best folk of this country

De ta folie m'esbahis

At thy folly myself-I-am-amazed

qui tel garce vels espouser:

who such wench wishest to-wed

certes on te devroit tuer

certainly one thee ought to-kill

se jamais jor m'en aparoles.»

if ever day me-thereof thou-speak-to

Li vallez voit que cez paroles

The youth sees that these words

li met li peres au noient;

to-him puts the father at nothing

si nel vait de riens otroiant,

so not-it he-goes in anything granting

quar Amors, qui les siens justise,

for Love who the his rules

le vallet esprant et atise;

the youth kindles and stirs

el cuer li met une estincele

in-the heart to-him puts a spark

qu'il ne pense qu'à la pucele.

that-he not thinks but-of the maiden

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- 55 Trois jors enprès issi avint
 Three days after thus it-befell
 qu'an la vile morir covint
 that-in the town to-die behooved
 la feme à .I. riche borjois;
 the wife of a rich burgher
 mais encor que passast .I. mois
 but still that might-pass a month
 puis que la dame ot esté morte,
 since that the lady had been dead
- 60 li borgois, qui bien s'en deporte,
 the burgher who well himself-thereof consoles
 par le conseil à ses amis
 by the counsel of his friends
 en a son pere à raison mis
 thereof has her father to speech put
 de la pucele bele et gente
 of the maiden fair and noble
 où cil avoit mise s'entente
 where that-one had put his-intent
- 65 que ge amentui en mon conte.
 whom I mentioned in my tale
 Et li borgois dont ge vos conte
 And the burgher of-whom I to-you tell
 a tant la besoigne avancie
 has so-much the business advanced
 la pucele a en sa baillie.
 the maiden he-has in his keeping
 A l'endemain l'a espousée;
 On the-morrow her-he-has wedded

et au vallet nient n'agrée

and to-the youth at-all not-pleases

qui i penssoit et jor et nuit.

who there thought both day and night

Ne voit riens qui ne li enuit;

Not he-sees anything which not him may-vex

mult het le solaz de la gent,

much he-bates the solace of the folk

mult het son or et son argent

much he-bates his gold and his silver

et la grant richece qu'il a,

and the great riches that-he has

et jure que mult s'avilla

and swears that much himself-he-debased

de ce que onques crust son pere.

by this that ever he-believed his father

Sa grant richece tost compere:

His great riches soon he-pays-for

longuement fu en tel pensser

long he-was in such thought

qu'il ne savoit ailleurs pensser

that-he not knew elsewhere to-think

de quoi il eüst nul confort.

of what he might-have any comfort

Il avoit robe d'estanford,

He had robe of-Stamford

taint en graine, de vert partie,

dyed in grain of green parti-colored

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si a fait chascune partie

so he-has had each part

85 à longues queues coerçil.

with long tails trimmed

Li surcoz fu toz à porfil

The surcoat was all at edging

forrez de menuz escureaus.

furred with small squirrels

Mult soloit estre genz et beaus

Very he-was-wont to-be comely and fair

qui ore a le vis taint et pale.

who now has the face wan and pale

90 .I. jor de son ostel avale;

One day from his house he-goes-down

son chief afuble d'un mantel,

his head he-wraps with-a mantle

deduisant va lés le chastel,

amusing-himself he-goes beside the castle

tant qu'il vint devant la maison

until that-he came before the house

s'amie; et fu en la saison

(of-)his-friend and it-was in the season

95 qu'il fait chalt tens com en aost.

that-it makes hot weather as in August

Que que li griet, que que li cost,

What ever to-him it-may-grieve what ever to-him it-may-cost

enging li covient porpensser

device him it-behooves to-think-out

qu'à s'amie puisse paller.

that-to his-friend he-may speak

Mult s'i entent, mult s'i prant garde.

Much himself-there he-strives much himself-there he-takes heed

Atant une maison esgarde

Thereupon a house he-looks-at

à une vielle costuriere.

of an old seamstress

Maintenant passe la charriere,

At-once he-crosses the street

si est assis sor la fenestre;

so he-is seated on the window

cele li enquist de son estre,

she of-him inquired of his state

qui de maint barat mult savoit;

who of many-a trick much knew

si li demande qu'il avoit,

so of-him asks what-he had

qui si soloit estre envoisiez,

who so was-wont to-be merry

et des autres li plus proisiez.

and of-the others the most prized

La vielle avoit non Auberée:

The old-woman had name Auberée

ja ne si fust feme anserrée

ever not so were woman locked-up

qu'à sa corde ne la traisist.

that-to her cord not her she-might-draw

Et li vallez lez lui s'asist;

And the youth beside her himself-sat

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si li conte tot mot à mot

so to-her tells all word by word

comment cele borgoise amot

how that burgher's-wife be-loved

115 qui mult estoit près sa voisine.

who very was near her neighbor

S'ele l'en puet faire saisine,

If-she him-thereof can make possession

.L. livres en avra.

fifty pounds thereof she-will-have

Cele li dit: «Ja n'i faudra;

She to-him says Ever not-there it-will-fail

ja ne la savra si garder

ever not her he-will-know so to-guard

120 que ne vos face lui paller

that not you I-may-make to-her speak

par tens entre l'uis et la terre:

in time between the-door and the ground

alez moi tost les deniers querre,

go for-me quickly the pence to-seek

et ge pensserai de cest huevre.»

and I shall-think of this work

Cil cort à une huche et oevre,

That-one runs to a chest and opens

125 où il avoit deniers assez

where he had pence plenty

que ses peres ot amassez.

which his father had amassed

Les deniers prant et si s'entorne:

The pence he-takes and so himself-thence-turns

chiés Auberée tantost torne.

at-house-of Auberée at-once he-turns

Si li monstre .L. livres;

So to-her he-shows fifty pounds

mais il n'est mie tost delivres

but he not-is at-all soon quit

encor i metra son escot.

still there he-will-put his share

«Or me donez votre surcot,»

Now to-me give your surcoat

fait la vielle, «delivrement.»

says the old-woman briskly

Et cil, qui son commandement

And that-one who her command

volt faire, sanz nul contredit

wished to-do without any gainsaying

fist ce que la vielle li dit,

did this that the old-woman to-him says

tant l'a Amors en son destroit.

so-much him-has Love in its constraint

Et ele ploie mult estroit

And she folds very tight

le surcot, et met soz s'aissele,

the surcoat and puts under her-arpit

et puis se lieve de sa sele

and then herself raises from her seat

et si afuble .I. mantel cort.

and so wraps-on a mantle short

Ainsi vers la maison s'en cort;

Thus toward the house herself-thence she-runs

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et fu a .I. jor de marchié

and it-was on a day of market

que la vielle ot bien agaitié

that the old-woman had well watched

145 que li sires n'ert pas laienz:

that the lord not-was at-all therein

«Et Dieus,» fait ele, «soit caienz!

And God says she be herein

Dieus soit a vos, ma douce dame!

God be with you my sweet lady

Ausi ait Dieus merci de l'ame

So may-have God mercy of the-soul

de l'autre dame qui est morte,

of the-other lady who is dead

150 dont mult mes cuers se desconforte;

whereby much my heart itself discomferts

maint jor m'a çaienz honorée!

many-a day me-she-has herein honored

— Bien vignoiz vos, dame Auberée,»

Well come you lady Auberée

fet la dame, «venez seoir.

says the lady come to-sit

— Ma dame, ge vos vieng veoir,

My lady I you come to-see

155 quar de vos acointier me vueill;

for with you to-acquaint myself I-wish

ge ne passai ainc puis ce sueil

I not passed ever since this threshold

que l'autre dame morte fu,

that the-other lady dead was

qui onques ne me fist refu

who ever not to-me made refusal

de riens que ge li demandasse.

of anything that I of-her might-ask

Certes, se ge li commandasse

Certainly if I her had-commanded

à faire une chose mult grief,

to do a thing very grievous

ele en feïst ençois meschief,

she thereof would-have-done rather harm

tant ert raemplie de biens.

so-much she-was filled with good-things

— Dame Auberée, faut vos riens?

Lady Auberée lacks to-you anything

Se riens vos faut, dites le nos.

If anything to-you lacks tell it to-us

— Dame,» fist el, «ge vieg à vos,

Lady said she I come to you

c'une goutte a ma fille el flanc.

for-a gout has my daughter in-the side

Si voloit de vostre vin blanc

So she-wished of your wine white

et .I. seul de voz pains faitiz;

and one single of your loaves fine

mais que ce soit des plus petiz.

but that this be of-the most little

Dieus merci, ge sui si honteuse,

God mercy I am so ashamed

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mais ainsi m'engosse la teuse

but thus me-oppresses the need

que le me covient demander.

that it me behooves to-ask

Ge ne soi onques truander,

I not knew ever to-beg

175 ainc ne m'en soi aidier, par m'ame.

ever not myself-thereof I-knew to-help by my-soul

— Et vos en avrez,» dit la dame,

And you thereof will-have said the lady

«quant g'iere à privée maignie.»

when I-shall-be at private household

Cele, qui ert bien enseignie,

She who was well taught

delez la borgoise s'assiet:

beside the burgher's-wife herself-sits

180 «Certes,» fait ele, «mult me siet

Certainly says she much to-me it-suits

que j'oi de vos si grant bien dire.

that I-hear of you so great good say

Comment se contient vostre sire?

How himself conducts your lord

Vos fait il point de bele chiere?

To-you makes he a-whit of fair face

Ha! com il avoit l'autre chiere!

Ah how he beld the-other dear

185 El avoit mult de son delit!

She had much of his delight

Bien vorroie veoir vo lit:

Well I-would-wish to-see your bed

si verroie certainement

so I-would-see certainly

se gisiez ausi richement

if you-lay as richly

com faisoit la premiere feme.»

as did the first wife

Maintenant se lieve la dame,

At-once herself rises the lady

et puis dame Auberée après,

and then lady Auberée after

qu'en une chambre ilueques près

that-in a chamber there near

enmedeus ensamble en entrèrent.

both together thence entered

De plusors choses iluec erent:

Of several things there were

assez i ot et vair et gris,

plenty there was both vair and gray

et dras de soie et de samis.

and cloths of silk and of samite

Enprès li monstre une grant cosche;

After to-her she-shows a great couch

puis dist la dame: «Ci se couche

then said the lady Here himself lies

misires, et ge lez ses flancs.

my-lord and I beside his sides

Li liz si est de fuerre blans;

The bed so is of straw white

s'ot desoz une coute pointe.»

so-it-had beneath a quilt stitched

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La vielle ot une aguille pointe

The old-woman had a needle pointed

en .I. deel en son sercot,

in a thimble in his surcoat

que ele desoz s'aissele ot.

which she beneath her-armspit had

205 Mult le tint près de son costé

Much it she-held near to her side

que que la dame de l'osté

while that the lady of the-house

li monstroit sa besoigne tote,

to-her showed her business all

et la vielle maintenant boute

and the old-woman at-once thrusts

le sercot par desoz la coute:

the surcoat by beneath the quilt

210 «Certes,» fait el, «dès Pentecoste

Certainly says she since Pentecost

ne vi ge mais si riche lit.

not saw I more so rich bed

Plus as assez de ton delit

More thou-hast much of thy delight

c'onques n'ot l'autre, ce me sanble.»

than-ever had the-other this to-me seems

Atant issirent de la chambre,

Thereupon they-went-out from the chamber

215 et la vielle toz dis sarmone.

and the old-woman all days preaches

Maintenant la dame li done

At-once the lady to-her gives

plain pot de vin et une miche,

full pot of wine and a loaf

et une piece d'une fliche,

and a piece of-a flitch

et de pois une grant potée.

and of peas a great potful

Bien est la borgoise gabée

Well is the burgher's-wife mocked

par Auberée, nel set pas,

by Auberée not-it she-knows at-all

ne sa guile, ne ses baraz.

nor her guile nor her tricks

Vers son ostel tost s'en revient.

Toward her lodging soon herself-thence she-comes-back

Du borgois dire me covient,

Of-the burgher to-tell me it-behooves

qui seus de la vile repaire,

who alone from the town returns

si s'en venoit de son affaire.

so himself-thence came from his business

.I. petit dormir se voloit:

A little to-sleep himself he-wished

desoz la coute en cel endrot

beneath the quilt in that place

senti le surcot boçoier.

he-felt the surcoat bulge

Lors se commence à sozpeser,

Then himself he-begins to wonder

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quar ne set que c'est qui li grieve;

for not he-knows what this-is that him grieves

maintenant la coute sozlieve,

at-once the quilt he-lifts

si en a tret le sorcot fors.

so thence he-has drawn the surcoat out

Qui li boutast dedenz le cors

Whoever to-him might-thrust within the body

235 .I. coutel trës par mi le flanc,

a knife right through mid the side

n'en traisist il goutte de sanc,

not-thereof would-draw he drop of blood

tant durement fu esbahis:

so greatly he-was amazed

«Halas!» fait il, «ge sui trahiz,

Alas says he I am betrayed

par cele qui ainz ne m'enma!»

by her who ever not me-loved

240 Lors cort à l'uis, si le ferma,

Then he-runs to the-door so it he-closed

maintenant a le sercot pris;

at-once he-has the surcoat taken

quar jalousie l'a espris,

for jealousy him-has inflamed

qui est pire de mal de denz.

which is worse than ill of teeth

Dehors le remire et dedenz,

Outside it he-looks-over-again and inside

245 qu'il sanble qu'achater le vueille;

so-that-it seems that-to-buy it he-may-wish

mais il n'a membre ne li dueille,

but he not-has limb not to-him may-acbe

tant plains est de corroz et d'ire:

so full he-is of anger and of-wrath

«Et las!» fait il, «que porrai dire

And alas says he what I-shall-be-able to-say

de ce surcot?» Et dit par s'ame

of this surcoat And says by his-soul

que il fu à l'ami sa feme,

that it was to-the friend (of-)his wife

qui son solaz ainz consanti

who his solace sooner consented

que ele son costé senti.

than she his side felt

Lors le prist et si l'estoia,

Then it he-took and so it-put-away

et puis sor le lit s'apoia,

and then on the bed himself-leaned

et pense que il porra faire.

and thinks what he will-be-able to-do

Mais com plus pensse à tel affaire,

But the more he-thinks on such business

et plus li double ses ennuiz.

and more to-him doubles his vexations

Ainsi fu tant que il fu nuiz

Thus it-was until that it was night

qu'il vit les huis clos de la rue.

that-he saw the doors shut of the street

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- 260 Si prist sa femme et si la rue
So he-took his wife and so her throws
 par .I. huis fors de la maison.
by a door out of the house
 Cele, qui ne sait l'achaison,
She who not knows the-cause
 à poi n'est de duel acorée.
by little she-is with grief heart-broken
 Atant ez vos dame Auberée,
Thereupon behold you lady Auberée
- 265 qui de lui se donoit regart:
who of him herself was-giving watch
 «Ma bele fille, Dieus te gart!»
My fair daughter God thee may-keep
 fait la vielle; «que fais tu ci?
says the old-woman what dost thou here
 — Ha! dame Auberée, merci!
Ah lady Auberée mercy
 Mes sires est mellez à moi,
My lord is quarreled with me
- 270 mais ge ne sai dire por quoi;
but I not know to-say for what
 ne sai que l'en li a conté.
not I-know what one to-him has told
 Quar me faites tant de bonté
Now to-me do so-much of kindness
 qu'avuec moi venez chiés mon pere.
that-with me you-may-come at-house-of my father
 — Avoi,» fait ele, «par saint Pere,
Fie says she by saint Peter

ge nel feroie por grant chose!

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I not-it would-do for great thing

Vels tu que tes peres te chose?

Wishest thou that thy father thee may-scold

Si cuideroit aucun mesfait

So he-would-think some misdeed

qu'eüsses à ton mari fait,

that-thou-hadst to thy husband done

ou vilenie de ton cors,

or churlishness of thy body

ou qu'il t'eüst gitée fors

280

or that-be thee-had thrown out

ou qu'il t'eüst prise prouvée

or that-be thee-had taken proven

et o ton lecheor trovée.

and with thy lecher found

Or est, espoir, li vilains yvres,

Now is perhaps the churl drunk

il en sera demain delivres;

he thereof will-be tomorrow quit

mais ge te lou en bone foi

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but I thee advise in good faith

que tu t'en viegnes avuec moi,

that thou thyself-thence may-come with me

quar de genz sont les rues vuides.

for of folk are the streets empty

Mielz enploias que tu ne cuides

Better thou-employedst than thou — thinkest

le pain, le vin, la char, les pois:

the bread the wine the flesh the peas

- 290 ge te vueil rendre tot à pois
I thee wish to-render all by weight
 le guerredon et le servise,
the reward and the service
 que tot ert fait à ta devise
for all will-be done at thy wish
 quanque tu savras demander;
whatever thou wilt-know to-ask
 et ne te faut que commander,
and not thee lacks but to-command
- 295 que tu seras mult à celée
for thou wilt-be very in secret
 en une chanbre destornée,
in a chamber out-of-the-way
 où ja ame ne te savra,
where ever soul not thee will-know
 jusqu'à tant que tes sire avra
until so-much that thy lord will-have
 trespassee tote l'ivresce.»
passed all the-drunkenness
- 300 Maintenant la dame s'adrece,
At-once the lady herself-directs
 et la vielle à l'ostel l'enmaine.
and the old-woman to the-lodging her-leads
 «Bele,» fait ele, «une semaine
Fair says she a week
 porras si seürement estre,
thou-wilt-be-able so safely to-be
 que ja nus ne savra ton estre.»
that ever anyone not will-know thy state

Adonc s'asistrent au mengier;

Then themselves-they-sat to-the eating

et la borgoise en fist dangier,

and the burgher's-wife thereof made difficulty

et dit que ja Dieu ne pleüst

and says that ever God not might-please

qu'ele menjast, dès que seüst

that-she might-eat until that she-knew

por quoi a ceste honte eüe.

for what she-has this shame had

Dame Auberée s'est teüe

Lady Auberée herself-is silenced

à cest mot de lui preeschier.

at this word of her to-preach

Lors l'a menée por couchier

Then her-she-has led for to-lie

en une chanbre iluec de joste;

into a chamber there from beside

sor blans dras et sor bone coste,

on white sheets and on good quilt

mult l'a bien la vielle coverte.

very her-has well the old-woman covered

Ne laisse pas la chanbre ouverte,

Not she-leaves at-all the chamber open

ainz ferme bien l'uis à la clef.

rather she-shuts well the-door with the key

De son ostel s'en ist soëf,

From her lodging herself-thence she-goes-out softly

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et s'en vait plus tost que le pas
and herself-thence goes more quickly than the pace

320 au vallet qui ne dormoit pas,
to-the youth who not slept at-all
 ainz torne et retourne en son lit.
rather turns and returns in his bed

Mult crient que la vielle n'oublit
Much he-fears that the old-woman may-forget
 ce qu'ele li ot en couvent.
this that-she to-him had in covenant

Au cuer soupire durement,
At-the heart he-sighs hard

325 et s'assiet en son lit toz nus;
and himself-sits in his bed all naked
 puis est levez, et est venuz
then he-is risen and is come
 à une fenestre apoier.
to a window to-lean

Et la viele, qui son loier
And the old-woman who her reward
 volt de chief en chief deservir
wished from end to end to-earn

330 et le vallet à gré servir,
and the youth at will to-serve
 ne guenchist destre ne senestre.
not turns right nor left

Le vallet trueve à sa fenestre,
The youth she-finds at his window
 qui li demande qués noveles:
who of-her asks what news

«G'en dirai ja bones et beles,

I-thereof shall-tell now good and fair

quar j'ai si t'amie en mes laz

for I-have so thy-friend in my snares

qu'avoir en porras tes solaz

that-to-have thereof thou-wilt-be-able thy solaces

jusqu'à demain enprès ceste eure.»

until tomorrow after this hour

Et li vallez plus n'i demeure,

And the youth more not-there lingers

que la vielle ot servi à gré:

for the old-woman had served at will

soëf avale le degré,

softly he-descends the stair

et puis s'en vont andui ensamble.

and then themselves-thence they-go both together

N'avoit gaires, si com moi sanble,

Not-there-was much so as to-me seems

que la borgoise ert endormie;

that the burgher's-wife was fallen-asleep

et cil, qui desirre s'amie,

and that-one who desires his-friend

se deschauce et si se despoille:

himself unshoes and so himself strips

«Dame,» fait il, «et s'el s'orgueille,

Lady says he and if-she herself-prides

et s'el crie, que dirai gié?

and if-she cries what shall-say I

Ouvrer vueil par vostre congié,

To-work I-wish by your leave

335

340

345

quar bien m'avez rendu mon droit.

for well me-you-have rendered my right

350 — Ge te conseilleraï à droit,»

I thee shall-counsel at right

fait la vielle: «Va, si te couche;

says the old-woman Go so thyself lie-down

et se el est vers toi reborse,

and if she is toward thee contrary

que ele crie, et tu, .II. tanz

that she cries and thou two times

lieve les dras, si te bout enz:

lift the sheets so thyself thrust in

355 tantost com el te sentira,

as-soon as she thee will-feel

la borgoise autrement ira:

the burgher's-wife otherwise will-go

maintenant la verras taisir,

at-once her thou-wilt-see be-silent

s'en porras faire ton plaisir.»

so-thereof thou-wilt-be-able to-do thy pleasure

Li vallez est au lit alez,

The youth is to-the bed gone

360 si s'est lez la dame coulez,

so himself-is beside the lady slipped

et mult soëf à lui adoise.

and very softly to her he-touches

Atant s'esveille la borgoise,

Thereupon herself-wakes the burgher's-wife

qui durement est travaillie.

who greatly is wearied

Quant el le sent, si est saillie

When she him feels so she-is leapt

fors du lit; et cil l'enbraça,

out of-the bed and that-one her-embraced

et dist: «Bele, traiez vos ça,

and said Fair draw yourself here

quar ge sui vostre doz amis

for I am your sweet friend

que vos avez en dolor mis.

whom you have into grief put

Mais tant ai fet, la Dieu merci,

But so-much I-have done the God mercy

que tote seule vos ai ci

that all alone you I-have here

dedenz ceste chanbre enserrée:

within this chamber shut-in

mult vos avoie desirrée.

much you I-had desired

— Par foi!» fet ele, «rien ne valt,

By faith says she anything not it-avails

que ge crierai ja si haut

for I shall-cry now so loud

que tost sera ci acorue

that soon will-be here run-up

tote la gent de ceste rue.

all the folk of this street

— Certes,» fait il, «rien ne vos monte;

Certainly says he anything not to-you it-amounts

quar ne seroit fors vostre honte,

for not it-would-be but your shame

365

370

375

quant la grant gent et la menue

when the great folk and the small

380 vos verroit lez moi tote nue.

you would-see beside me all naked

Si est ja près de mienuit:

So it-is already near to midnight

n'en i a .I. seul qui ne cuit

not-thereof there is one single who not may-think

que j'aie fait ma volonté

that I-may-have done my will

de vostre cors et tot mon gré;

of your body and all my liking

385 mult vient or mielz que soit anblée

much it-comes now better that it-be stolen

à ceus defors nostre assanblée,

from those outside our meeting

que nus fors que nos trois le saiche.»

that no-one but only we three it may-know

Atant devers lui la resaiche;

Thereupon toward him her he-pulls-back

si l'enbraça par mi les flans

so her-embraced through mid the sides

390 qu'el avoit deliez et blans;

which-she had slender and white

la bouche li baise et la face.

the mouth of-her he-kisses and the face

La borgoise ne set qu'el face:

The burgher's-wife not knows what-she may-do

mielz li vient il estre en repos,

better to-her comes it to-be in rest

qu'ele puet acueillir tel los

than-she can gather such repute

par les voisins et tel renom

by the neighbors and such renown

qu'el n'i avroit se honte non.

that-she not-there would-have except shame not

Mult asoage, mult apaise,

Much she-softens much she-calms

et li vallez l'acole et baise.

and the youth her-embraces and kisses

Or sont ensamble et si i font

Now they-are together and so there they-do

ce por quoi assanblé i sont.

this for which assembled there they-are

Au matin, quant l'aube est crevée,

In-the morning when the-dawn is broken

s'est mult tost levée Auberée;

herself-is very soon risen Auberée

si atorne au mielz qu'ele pot

so she-prepares at-the best that-she could

char de porc et chapons en rost.

flesh of pork and capons in roast

Atant sont assis au mengier,

Thereupon they-are seated to-the eating

n'i a nul qui face dangier:

not-there is any who may-make demur

ainz menguent assez et burent;

rather they-eat plenty and drank

395

400

405

et anbedui en gré reçurent

and both in liking received

le servise dame Auberée.

the service (of-)lady Auberée

410 Et quant ce vint à l'enserée,

And when this came to the-evening

que li solaus à son droit torne,

that the sun to its right turns

dame Auberée lor atorne

lady Auberée for-them prepares

ce qu'ele sot que lor est bon,

this that-she knew that to-them is good

qui tot n'estoit mie du son.

which all not-was at-all of-the bers

415 Cele nuit ont assez soulaz:

That night they-have plenty solace

ambedui jurent braz à braz,

both lay arm in arm

onques de veillier ne finerent,

ever of waking not they-ceased

tant que les matines sonnerent

until that the matins rang

à Saint Cornil en l'abaïe.

at Saint Corneille in the-abbey

420 Tantost com ot la cloche oïe

As-soon as she-had the bell heard

dame Auberée, si s'esveille,

lady Auberée so herself-wakes

puis si se vest et apareille,

then so herself dresses and makes-ready

et vint au lit où cil se gisent,

and came to-the bed where those themselves lie

qui lor amor entredevisent:

who their love discuss-between-themselves

«Or sus,» fait ele, «bele fille,

Now up says she fair daughter

si en irons à Seint Cornille,

so thence we-shall-go to Saint Corneille

entre moi et toi au mostier:

between me and thee to-the minster

dès or avroies tu mestier

from now wouldst-have thou need

que tes sire à toi s'acordast.»

that thy lord with thee himself-might-reconcile

Li vallez mult l'en destornast,

The youth much her-thence would-have-turned-away

mais il ne l'ose contredire,

but he not it-dares gainsay

et la vielle li prant à dire:

and the old-woman to-him begins to say

«Lai moi à mon talent ovrer:

Let me at my will work

encor i porras recouvrer

still there thou-wilt-be-able to-recover

à t'amie et à ton deduit.»

to thy-friend and to thy delight

Auberée ot chandoiles uit,

Auberée had candles eight

dont chascune out plus d'une toise:

of-which each had more than-a fathom

425

430

435

entre Auberée et la borgoise

between Auberée and the burgher's-wife

se sont issues de l'ostel.

themselves are gone-out from the-lodging

440 Au mostier vont devant l'autel

To-the minster they-go before the-altar

Nostre Dame et devant l'ymage.

(of-)Our Lady and before the-image

Auberée, qui mult fu sage,

Auberée who very was wise

fait la dame couchier à terre,

makes the lady lie to ground

et li desfent que de sa guerre

and to-her forbids that of her war

445 ne li soit à vaillant .III. noiz.

— to-her it-may-be to worth thre nits

La vielle ot faites .IIII. croiz;

The old-woman had made four crosses

en une lanpe où feu ardoit

in a lamp where fire burned

les chandoiles que el avoit

the candles that she had

a alumé de chief en chief.

she-has lit from end to end

450 L'une des croiz li met au chief,

The-one of-the crosses to-her she-puts at-the head

et l'autre as piez, et l'autre à destre,

and the-other at-the feet and the-other at right

et la quarte mist à senestre;

and the fourth she-put at left

puis vient à lui, si l'aseüre:

then comes to her so her-reassures

«N'aiez de paor nule cure,

Not-have of fear any care

et gardez comment qu'il aviegne,

and take-heed how-ever that-it may-befall

ne vos movez tant que reviegne,

not yourself move until that I-may-return

ainz gisez ci endementiers.

rather lie here meanwhile

— Dame,» dit ele, «volentiers.»

Lady says she willingly

Ainsi la dame iluec s'atorne,

Thus the lady there herself-arranges

et la vielle sa voie torne

and the old-woman her way turns

à l'ostel au borgois tot droit,

to the-lodging of-the burgher all straight

qui dolenz por sa feme estoit,

who grieving for his wife was

si qu'il ne se set conseillier.

so that-he not himself knows to-counsel

Et cele, por lui esveillier,

And she for him to-wake

vint cele part et hurte et boutte;

came that way and knocks and pushes

et cil, qui oreille et escoute,

and that-one who listens and hearkens

455

460

465

qui mult vosist tel chose oïr
who much would-wish such thing to-hear

dont il se poïst esjoïr,
whereby he himself could gladden

tantost son huis ovrir commande.
at-once his door to-open he-commands

470 Et dame Auberée demande

And lady Auberée asks

maintenant qu'ele entra laienz:
at-once as-she entered therein

«Où est,» dist ele, «li noienz,
Where is said she the good-for-nothing

li failliz, li mal ensaigniez?
the failure the ill taught

— Dame Auberée, bien vieignoiz,»
Lady Auberée well come

475 fait il; «que volez à ceste eure?»
says he what wish-you at this hour

Cele a respondu: «Ne demeure:
She has answered Not delay

ge te dirai, lasse, mon songe.
I thee shall-tell wretched my dream

Anuit songai .I. mult grief songe,
Last-night I-dreamed a very grievous dream

que de peor m'en esveillai;
that from fear myself-thereof I-woke

480 vesti moi et aparellai,

I-dressed myself and made-ready

que du songe fui esbaïe.
for by-the dream I-was dismayed

Au mostier, dedenz l'abeïe,

At-the minster within the-abbey

trés devant l'autel Nostre Dame,

right before the-altar (of-)Our Lady

ilueques vi gesir ta feme

there I-saw lie thy wife

devant l'autel tote estandue.

before the-altar all stretched-out

Tote en ai esté esperdue,

All thereof I-have been distraught

quar ge ne sai que ce puet estre.

for I not know what this can be

Au chief, au pié destre, au senestre,

At-the head at-the foot right at-the left

vi chandoiles iluec ardent;

I-saw candles there burning

iluec vit ta fame gisant

there I-saw thy wife lying

devant l'autel à oroison.

before the-altar at prayer

Trop en as fait grant mesprison;

Too-much thereof thou-hast done great misdeed

si en batras encor ta goule:

so thereof thou-wilt-beat still thy throat

i deüst ele estre si seule

there ought she to-be so alone

feme qui si bele forme a?

wife who so fair form has

485

490

495

De la mein Dieu qui te forma

By the hand (of-)God who thee formed

soies tu seignie, Auberée!

be thou crossed Auberée

G'en sui tote desespérée.

I-thereof am all despairing

Si le tieng à mult grant merveille

So it I-hold for very great marvel

500 de cest affaire qu'ainsinc veille

of this business that-thus she-wakes

de ce tendrun qui hier fu née,

of this tender-one who yesterday was born

qui deüst la grant matinée

who ought the great morning

çaienz dormir soz sa cortine;

herein to-sleep under her curtain

et tu l'envoies as matines!

and thou her-sendest to-the matins

505 As matines! lasse pechable!

To-the matins wretched sinful

De la mein Dieu esperitable

By the hand (of-)God spiritual

soie ge,» dit ele, «saignie

be I said she crossed

et beneoite et porseignie!

and blessed and crossed-all-over

Vielz la tu faire papelarde?

Wishest her thou to-make hypocrite

510 Mal feu et male flamme l'arde,

Ill fire and ill flame him-may-burn

qui juesne feme ainsi envoie!»

who young wife thus sends

Ainsi la vielle le desvoie

Thus the old-woman him turns-away

du mal pensser que ses cuers ot;

from-the ill thought that his heart had

se ne fust ce por le sercot,

if not were this for the surcoat

ja n'i penssast mais se bien non,

ever not-there he-would-think more except good not

mais toz jors ert en soupeçon.

but all days he-will-be in suspicion

Fait le borgois: «Dites vos voir?

Says the burgber Say you truth

— Levez sus, si porrez veoir,»

Rise up so you-will-be-able to-see

fait li vielle, «se ge vos ment.»

says the old-woman if I to-you lie

Cil se lieve delivrement,

That-one himself rises briskly

que n'a cure que plus i gise.

for not-he-has care that more there he-may-lie

Andoi s'en viennent à l'yglise;

Both themselves-thence come to the-church

iluec a sa fame trouvée,

there he-has his wife found

si comme l'ot dit Auberée,

so as it-had said Auberée

et li borgois vers lui se trait,

and the burgber toward her himself draws

515

520

525

que la vielle li ot retrait.

as the old-woman to-him had related

Par la mein contremont la drece,

By the hand upward her he-raises

puis li a dit que par yvrece

then to-her he-has said that by drunkenness

a il fait tele mesprison.

has he done such misdeed

530 Endui en viennent en maison;

Both thence come into house

si se couchierent de rechief.

so themselves they-lay-down of again

La borgoise cuevre son chief,

The burgher's-wife covers her head

qui de dormir avoit talent.

who of sleeping had desire

Mult li est poi du maltalent

Very to-her it-is little of-the ill-temper

535 que ses sires avoit eü,

that her lord bad bad

quant il n'en a riens plus seü;

when he not-thereof has anything more known

et li mariz d'autre part cuide

and the husband on-other part thinks

que sa feme ait la teste vuide

that his wife may-have the head empty

et de veillier et de plourer,

both from waking and from weeping

et que puis ne fina d'ourer

540

and that since not she-ceased from-praying

devant l'autel et nuit et jor,

before the-altar both night and day

et depria por son seignor.

and prayed for her lord

Ainsi lez sa feme se jut

Thus beside his wife himself lay

li borgois tant que jor parust.

the burgher until that day appeared

Quant li soulaus en haut se hauce,

545

When the sun on high itself raises

li borgois se vest et se chauce,

the burgher himself dresses and himself shoes

et laist sa feme qui se gist.

and leaves his wife who herself lies

Maintenant de son ostel ist

At-once from his lodging he-goes-out

et saigne son vis et son cors,

and crosses his face and his body

et dame Auberée saut fors,

550

and lady Auberée leaps out

et si s'escrie à haute voiz:

and so herself-cries with loud voice

«Xxx. sols! la veraie croiz!

Thirty sous the true cross

Or ne me chalt que ge plus vive!

Now not to-me matters that I more may-live

.Xxx. sols! dolente chaitive!

Thirty sous grieving wretch

555 .Xxx. sols, lasse! que ferai?

Thirty sous wretched what shall-I-do

.Xxx. sols! et où les prandrai?

Thirty sous and where them shall-I-take

Dieus! ge sui trop maleüreuse!

God I am too unlucky

.Xxx. sols, lasse doleruse!

Thirty sous wretched grieving

Or m'est il trop mesavenu!»

Now to-me-is it too ill-befallen

560 Estes vos le borgois venu.

Behold you the burgher come

Dame Auberée veü l'a;

Lady Auberée seen him-has

si crie encor et ça et là:

so she-cries still both here and there

.xxx. sols, lasse! .xxx. sols!

thirty sous wretched thirty sous

Or venra çaienz li prevoz,

Now will-come herein the provost

565 si prandera ce pou que g'ai:

so will-take this little that I-have

c'est le songe que je songai.

this-is the dream that I dreamed

— Dites moi, se Dieu vous aïst,»

Tell me so God you may-help

faist li borgois qui s'esbahist,

says the burgher who himself-amazes

«por quoi vos faites si grant duel.

for what you make so great grief

— Par mon chief,» fait ele, «mon vuel,»

570

By my head says she my will

fait ele, «ge le vos dirai;

says she I it to-you shall-tell

ja de mot ne vos mentirai.

ever of word not to-you I-shall-lie

.I. vallet vint ci avant hier;

A youth came here day-before yesterday

por recoudre et por affaitier

for to-resew and for to-mend

si me bailla .I. sien sercot,

575

so to-me handed a his surcoat

que rompu ot à un escot

which torn he-had at a feast

ne sai .III. escureus ou quatre.

not I-know three squirrels or four

Ge le pris, si m'alai esbatre

I it took so myself-I-went to-disport

à tot le sercot recousant,

with all the surcoat resewing

c'un poi me sentoie pesant.

580

for-a little myself I-felt heavy

Ainsi à tote ma couture

Thus with all my sewing

m'en issi par mesaventure

myself-thence I-went-out by misadventure

celui jor fors de mon ostel;

that day out of my lodging

mais cheü m'est de mon chetel,

but fallen to-me-is from my goods

- 585 quant ge ai mon surcot perdu,
when I have my surcoat lost
 dont j'ai si mon cuer esperdu
whereby I-have so my heart distraught
 que ge ne sai où ge me sui.
that I not know where I myself am
 Que ferai se ge ne m'enfui,
What shall-I-do if I not myself-flee
 que ge n'en sai nul autre ensaigne
for I not-thereof know any other sign
 590 ne ge ne truis qui le m'ensaigne?
nor I not find who it to-me-may-show
 S'en le me velt ainsi noier,
If-one it to-me wishes thus to-deny
 g'en ferai escommenier
I-thereof shall-have excommunicated
 diemanche à toz les mostiers.
Sunday at all the minsters
 Il ne m'estoit or nus mestiers
It not to-me-was now any need
 595 de recevoir si laide perte.
of to-receive so ugly loss
 Beaus sire, or oez chose aperte:
Fair lord now bear thing open
 se Dieus me doint veoir Noël,
so God me may-grant to-see Christmas

g'ai laissié pendre mon deel

I-have left hang my thimble

avuec l'aguille en cel surcot

with the-needle in that surcoat

dont ge sui, lasse! à tel escot,

whereby I am wretched at such reckoning

s'ainsi rendre le me covient.

if-thus to-render it me it-behooves

Et li vassaus chascun jor vient,

And the vassal each day comes

si m'angoisse et si me demande

so me-distresses and so of-me asks

.xxx. sols et le surcot rende;

thirty sous and the surcoat I-may-render

mais de rendre sui esgarée.

but of rendering I-am at-a-loss

— Or me dites, dame Auberée:

Now to-me tell lady Auberée

fustes vos pieça en maison?

were you a-while-ago in house

— Oïl, sire, par achoison

Yes lord by occasion

d'avoir .I. petit de relief,

of-having a little of leftovers

que ma fille avoit mal el chief

for my daughter bad ill in-the head

ce fut avant hier, or me membre:

this was day-before yesterday now to-me it-comes-to-mind

la dame trouvai en sa chanbre,

the lady I-found in her chamber

600

605

610

qui ilueques pignoit son chief.

who there combed her head

En .I. lit vi de chief en chief

On a bed I-saw from end to end

615 estandue une coute pointe;

stretched-out a quilt stitched

onc de mes elz ne vi si cointe.

ever with my eyes not I-saw so pretty

Tant i musai iluec de joste

So-long there I-idled there from beside

que m'endormi sor cele coste,

that myself-I-fell-asleep on that quilt

et que la dame se leva,

and that the lady herself rose

620 qui volentiers m'apareilla

who willingly for-me-prepared

ce que demandé li avoie;

this that asked of-her I-had

et lors si me mis à la voie.

and then so myself I-put on the way

Ainsi icelui jor avint;

Thus that day it-befell

mais ne sai, lasse! que devint

but not I-know wretched what became

625 le sercot, fors tant que je fuse

the surcoat except so-much that I may-know

que ge l'oubliai sur la cousche.»

that I it-forgot on the couch

Quant li borgois ot les noveles,

When the burgher had the news

mult li furent plaisanz et beles;

much to-him they-were pleasing and fair

mais se il trueve le deel

but if he finds the thimble

onc n'ot tel joie en son aé

ever not-he-had such joy in his age

com il avoit se il le trueve.

as he would-have if he it finds

Tart li est qu'il voie la prueve.

Late to-him it-is that-he may-see the proof

Atant à son ostel s'en vait;

Thereupon to his lodging himself-thence he-goes

une huche oevre, fors l'en trait

a chest he-opens out it-thence he-draws

le surcot que il ot charchié;

the surcoat that he had stowed

et quant il trova atachié

and when he found attached

le deel à tote l'aguille,

the thimble with all the-needle

qui li donast trestote Puille

who to-him might-give all Apulia

n'eüst il pas joie graignor:

not-would-have he at-all joy greater

«Por Dieu,» fait il, «le mien Seignor,

By God says he the my Lord

630

635

640

or sai ge bien certainement

now know I well certainly

que la vielle de riens ne ment,

that the old-woman in anything not lies

que j'ai trouvée la costure.»

for I-have found the sewing

Ainsi fu liez de s'aventure

Thus was glad of his-adventure

645 li borgois, et bel s'en deporte;

the burgher and fairly himself-thereof comforts

et dame Auberée raporte

and lady Auberée carries-back

son surcot, si s'en delivra.

her surcoat so herself-thereof delivered

Ainsi la vielle delivra

Thus the old-woman delivered

le borgois de mauvais pensser,

the burgher from bad thought

650 que puis ne se pot apensser.

that since not himself could betink

Quant il du surcot fu delivres,

When he of-the surcoat was delivered

et cele ot les .L. livres,

and she had the fifty pounds

bien ot son loier deservi:

well she-had her reward deserved

tot .III. furent en gré servi.

all three were in liking served

Par cest flabel vos vueil monstrier

655

By this fabliau to-you I-wish to-show

por poi puet on feme trouver

for little can one woman find

qui de son cors face mesfait,

who with her body may-do misdeed

se par autre feme nel fait.

if by other woman not-it she-does

Tele est bien en sa droite voie,

Such-one is well in her right way

se feme velt qui la desvoie,

660

if woman wishes who her may-lead-astray

qu'el seroit nete, pure et fine.

that-she would-be clean pure and fine

Ainsi nostre flabeaus define.

Thus our fabliau ends

De saint Piere et du jongleur

CXVII · SAINT PETER AND THE JONGLEUR

A jongleur of Sens, a gambler and tavern-goer, dies in sin and is carried to hell, where Lucifer sets him to tend the fire under the cauldron. When the devils go hunting souls and leave him on guard, Saint Peter comes with dice and silver and wins every soul. The devils beat the one who brought him, and Lucifer turns the jongleur out, vowing to take no more. Saint Peter lets him into paradise, and jongleurs may rejoice, safe from hell forever.

Qui de biau dire s'entremet,

Who with fair speaking himself-busies

n'est pas merveille s'il i met

not-is at-all marvel if-he there puts

aucun biau mot selonc son sens.

some fair word according-to his sense

Il ot un jongleur à Sens

There was a jongleur at Sens

5 qui mout ert de povre riviere,

who very was of poor state

n'avoit pas sovent robe entiere.

not-be-had at-all often robe whole

Ne sai comment on l'apela,

Not I-know how one him-called

mais sovent as dez se pela;

but often at-the dice himself be-skinned

sovent estoit sanz sa viele,

often he-was without his viol

10 et sanz chaues et sanz cotele,

and without hose and without tunic

si que au vent et à la bise
so that in-the wind and in the north-wind

estoit sovent en sa chemise.

he-was often in his shirt

Ne cuidiez pas que ge vos mente,

Not think at-all that I to-you may-lie

n'avoit pas sovent chaucement;

not-he-had at-all often footwear

ses chaues avoit forment chieres,

his hose he-held very dear

de son cors naissent les lasnieres,

from his body grow the strips

et quant à la foiz avenoit

and when at the time it-befell

que il uns sollerès avoit

that he a pair-of-shoes had

pertuisiez et deforetez,

holed and unlined

mout i ert grande la clartez,

very there was great the light

et mout ert povres ses ators.

and very was poor his array

En la taverne ert ses retors,

In the tavern was his resort

et de la taverne au bordel;

and from the tavern to-the brothel

à ces .II. portoit le cembel.

to these two he-carried the banner

Mais ne sai plus que vos en die:

But not I-know more what to-you thereof I-may-say

15

20

25

taverne amoit et puterie,

tavern he-loved and whoring

les dez et la taverne amoit,

the dice and the tavern he-loved

tout son gaaing i despendoit,

all his gain there he-spent

toz jors voloit estre en la boule,

all days he-wished to-be in the trickery

30 en la taverne ou en la houle.

in the tavern or in the brothel

.I. vert chapelet en sa teste,

A green garland on his head

toz jors vousist que il fust feste;

all days he-would-wish that it were feast

mout desirroir le diemenche,

much he-desired the Sunday

onques n'ama noise ne tence,

ever not-be-loved noise nor quarrel

35 en fole vie se maintint.

in foolish life himself he-maintained

Or orrez ja con li avint.

Now you-will-hear soon how to-him it-befell

En fols peschiez mist son usage;

In foolish sins he-put his practice

quant ot vescu tout son eage,

when he-had lived all his age

morir l'estut et trespasser.

to-die him-behooved and to-pass

Deables, qui ne puet cesser

40

Devil who not can cease

des genz engingnier et sousprendre,

of-the folk to-trick and to-catch

s'en vint au cors por l'ame prendre;

himself-thence came to-the body for the-soul to-take

.I. mois ot fors d'enfer esté,

a month he-had outside of-hell been

ainz n'avoit ame conquesté.

ever not-he-had soul won

Quant vit le jougleor morir,

45

When he-saw the jongleur die

si en corut l'ame sesir;

so thence he-ran the-soul to-seize

por ce que morut en pechié,

for this that he-died in sin

ne li a on pas chalengié.

not to-him has one at-all disputed(-it)

A son col le geta errant,

On his neck him he-threw straightway

vers enfer s'en vint acorant.

50

toward hell himself-thence he-came running

Si compaignon par le païs

His companions through the country

avoient mout de gent conquis;

had much of folk won

li uns aporte champions,

the one brings champions

l'autre prestres, l'autre larrons,

the-other priests the-other thieves

- 55 moines, evesques et abez,
monks bishops and abbots
 et chevaliers et genz assez,
and knights and folk plenty
 qui en pechié mortel estoient,
who in sin mortal were
 et en la fin pris i estoient;
and at the end taken there were
 puis s'en reperent à enfer;
then themselves-thence they-return to hell
- 60 lor mestre truevent Lucifer.
their master they-find Lucifer
 Quant les voit venir si chargeiez:
When them he-sees come so laden
 «Par ma foi», fet il, «bien veigniez!
By my faith says he well come
 Vous n'avez pas toz jors festé.
You not-have at-all all days feasted
 Cist seront ja mal ostelé.»
These will-be now badly lodged
- 65 En la chaudiere furent mis.
Into the cauldron they-were put
 «Seignor,» fet il, «il m'est avis,
Lords says he it to-me-is seeming
 à ce que je en ai veü,
by this that I thereof have seen
 que vous n'estes pas tuit venu.
that you not-are at-all all come
 — Si sommes, sire, fors uns seus,
So we-are lord except one alone

uns chetiz, uns maleüreus,

a wretch an unlucky-one

qui ne set ames gaaignier,

who not knows souls to-win

ne ne set les genz engignier.»

nor not knows the folk to-trick

Atant voient celui venir

Thereupon they-see that-one come

qui aportoit tout par loisir

who brought all at leisure

de sor son col le jougleor,

from upon his neck the jongleur

qui mout estoit de povre ator.

who very was of poor array

En enfer est entrez toz nus;

Into hell he-is entered all naked

le jougleor a geté jus.

the jongleur he-has thrown down

Li mestres si l'aresona:

The master so him-addressed

«Vassal,» dist il «entendez ça,

Vassal said he attend here

fus tu ribaus, trahitre ou lere?

wast thou ribald traitor or thief

— Nenil,» fet il, «ainz fui jouglere;

No-indeed says he rather I-was jongleur

avoec moi ai trestout l'avoir

with me I-have all the-wealth

que li cors seut au siecle avoir.

that the body was-wont in-the world to-have

70

75

80

- 85 Li cors soffri mainte froidure,
The body suffered many-a cold
 s'oi mainte parole dure;
so-it-heard many-a word hard
 or sui ça dedenz ostelez:
now I-am here within lodged
 si chanterai se vous volez.
so I-shall-sing if you wish
 — De chanter n'avons nous que fere,
Of singing not-have we what to-do
- 90 d'autre mestier vous covient trere;
of-other trade you it-behooves to-draw
 mès, por ce que tu es si nus
but for this that thou art so naked
 et si très povrement vestus,
and so very poorly clothed
 feras le feu souz la chaudiere.
thou-wilt-make the fire under the cauldron
 — Volentiers,» fet il, «par saint Piere,
Willingly says he by saint Peter
- 95 quar de chauffer ai grant mestier.»
for of warming I-have great need
 Atant s'assist lez le fouier,
Thereupon himself-sat beside the hearth
 si fet le feu delivrement,
so makes the fire briskly
 et chauffe tout à son talent.
and warms all at his will

Un jor avint que li maufé

One day it-befell that the devils

furent leenz tuit assamblé;

were therein all assembled

d'enfer issirent por conquerre

from-hell they-went-out for to-conquer

les ames par toute la terre.

the souls through all the earth

Li mestres vint au jougleor,

The master came to-the jongleur

qui le feu fist et nuit et jor:

who the fire made both night and day

«Joglere,» fet il, «or escoute.

Jongleur says he now listen

Je te commant ma gent trestoute,

I to-thee commend my folk all

garde ces ames sor tes ieus,

guard these souls on thy eyes

quar je tes creveroie andeus,

for I thine would-put-out both

s'une en perdoies toute seule:

if-one of-them thou-didst-lose all single

je te pendroie par la gueule.

I thee would-hang by the throat

— Sire,» dist il, «alez vous ent!

Lord said he go you thence

Je les garderai leument:

I them shall-guard loyally

trestout au mieus com je porrai,

all at-the best as I shall-be-able

100

105

110

toutes voz ames vous rendrai.

all your souls to-you I-shall-render

115 — Et je sor tant le te recroi;

And I on so-much it to-thee entrust

mès ce saches tu bien en foi,

but this know thou well in faith

se une seule en desmanoies,

if one single of-them thou-lose

que trestoz vis mengiez seroies.

that all alive eaten thou-wouldst-be

Mais ce saiches tu sanz mentir,

But this know thou without lying

120 quant nos revenron à loisir,

when we shall-return at leisure

ge te ferai mout bien servir

I thee shall-have very well served

d'un gras moine sor .I. rotir,

with-a fat monk on a gridiron

à la sauxe d'un userier

with the sauce of-a usurer

ou à la sauxe d'un hoilier.»

or with the sauce of-a pimp

125 Atant s'en vont, et cil remaint

Thereupon themselves-thence they-go and that-one remains

qui du feu fere ne se faint.

who from-the fire to-make not himself holds-back

Or vous dirai comme il avint

Now to-you I-shall-tell how it befell

au jougleor que enfer tint,

to-the jongleur whom hell held

et con sainz Pieres exploita.

and how saint Peter acted

Droitement en enfer entra,

Straight into hell he-entered

mout estoit bien appareilliez:

very he-was well arrayed

barbe ot noire, grenons trechiez.

beard he-had black mustaches braided

En enfer est toz seus entrez,

Into hell he-is all alone entered

.I. berlenc aporte et .III. dez;

a gaming-board he-brings and three dice

delez le jougleor s'assist

beside the jongleur himself-sat

tout coiemement, et se li dist:

all quietly and so to-him said

«Amis,» fet il, «veus tu jouer?

Friend says he wishest thou to-play

Vois quel berlenc por haseter!

See what board for to-gamble

Et s'ai .III. dez qui sont plenier,

And so-I-have three dice which are full

tu pues bien à moi gaaingnier

thou canst well from me win

bons esterlins privéement.»

good sterlings privately

Lors li moustre delivrement

Then to-him he-shows briskly

la borse où li esterlin sont.

the purse where the sterlings are

130

135

140

«Sire,» li jouleres respont,

Lord the jongleur answers

145 «je vous jur Dieu, tout sanz faintise,

I to-you swear God all without feigning

que n'ai el mont fors ma chemise.

that not-I-have in-the world but my shirt

Sire, por Dieu, alez vous ent,

Lord for God go you thence

certes, je n'ai goute d'argent.»

certainly I not-have a-drop of-silver

Dist saint Pieres: «Biauz dous amis,

Said saint Peter Fair sweet friend

150 met de ces ames .V. ou sis.

put of these souls five or six

— Sire,» fet il, «je n'oseroie,

Lord says he I not-would-dare

quar se une seule en perdoie,

for if one single of-them I-lost

mon mestre me ledengeroit

my master me would-abuse

et trestout vif me mengeroit.»

and all alive me would-eat

155 Dist saint Pieres: «Qui li dira?

Said saint Peter Who to-him will-tell

Ja por .XX. ames n'i parra;

Ever for twenty souls not-there it-will-appear

voiz ci l'argent qui toz est fins:

see here the-silver which all is fine

gaaigne à moi ces esterlins

win from me these sterlings

qui tuit sont forgié de novel.

which all are forged of new

Je te doins .XX. sous de fardel:

I to-thee give twenty sous in bundle

160

si met des ames au vaillant.»

so put of-the souls to-the value

Quant cil vit qu'il i en ot tant,

When that-one saw that-it there thereof was so-much

les esterlins mout couvoita,

the sterlings much be-coveted

les dez prist, si les manioia;

the dice he-took so them handled

à saint Piere dist à droiture:

to saint Peter he-said in straight-course

165

«Juons or, soit en aventure

Let-us-play now be-it at chance

une ame au cop tout à eschars.

a soul at-the throw all at sparing

— Mès .II.,» dist il, «trop est coars,

But two said he too-much is cowardly

et qui bon l'a, si l'envit d'une,

and who good it-has so it-may-raise by-one

ne m'en chaut quele, ou blanche ou brune!»

not to-me-thereof matters which either white or brown

170

Dist le jougeres: «Je l'otri.»

Said the jongleur I it-grant

Et dist saint Pieres, «Je l'envi.

And said saint Peter I it-raise

— Devant le cop,» fet il, «deable!

Before the throw says he devil

Metez donc l'argent sus la table.

Put then the-silver on the table

175 — Volentiers,» fet il, «en non Dieu.»

Willingly says he in name (of-)God

Lors met les esterlins au gieu;

Then he-puts the sterlings at-the game

assis se sont au tremerel

seated themselves they-are at-the tremerel

lui et saint Pieres au fornol.

he and saint Peter at-the furnace

«Gete, jougleres,» dist saint Pieres,

Throw jongleur said saint Peter

180 «quar tu as mout les mains manieres.»

for thou hast very the bands skilled

Cil gete aval. «Si con je cuit,

That-one throws down So as I think

par foi,» dist saint Pieres, «j'ai huit;

by faith said saint Peter I-have eight

se tu getes après hasart,

if thou throwest after hazard

j'avrai .III. ames à ma part.»

I-shall-have three souls to my part

185 Cil gete .III. et .II. et as,

That-one throws three and two and ace

et dist saint Pieres: «Perdu l'as.

and said saint Peter Lost it-thou-hast

— Voire,» dist il, «par saint Denis,

Truly said he by saint Denis

ces .III. avant si vailent sis.»

these three before so may-be-worth six

Et dist saint Pieres: «Jel creant.»

And said saint Peter I-it grant

Lors a geté de maintenant

Then he-has thrown from at-once

190

.XII. poins à icele voie:

twelve points at that time

«Tu me dois .IX., or croist ma joie.

Thou me owest nine now grows my joy

— Droiz est,» dist il, «je l'ai perdu,

Right it-is said he I it-have lost

se je l'envi, tendras le tu?

if I it-raise wilt-hold it thou

— Oil,» dist sainz Pieres, «par foi.

Yes said saint Peter by faith

— Ces .IX. avant que je te doi,

These nine before that I to-tee owe

et .XII. vaille qui qui l'ait.

and twelve may-be-worth who ever it-may-have

— Dehait,» fet saint Pieres, «qui l'ait.»

Curse says saint Peter who it-may-have

Dist li jongleres: «Or getez.

Said the jongleur Now throw

— Volentiers,» fet il, «esgardez,

Willingly says he look

je voi hasart, si con je cuit:

I see hazard so as I think

tu me dois .III. et .X. et huit.

thou me owest three and ten and eight

195

200

— Vois,» dist il, «por la teste Dieu,

See said he by the head (of-)God

ce n'avint onques mès à gieu.

this not-happened ever before at game

205 Par la foi que vous me devez,

By the faith that you to-me owe

jouez me vous de .IIII. dez?

play me you with four dice

Ou vous me jouez de mespains.

Or you me play with false-points

Or vueil je jouer à plus pions.

Now wish I to-play at more points

— Amis, de par le saint Espir,

Friend on behalf-of the Holy Spirit

210 toz tes voloires vueil accomplir:

all thy wishes I-wish to-fulfill

or, soit ainsi comme tu veus!

now be-it thus as thou wishest

Veus tu à .I. cop ou à deus?

Wishest thou at one throw or at two

— A .I. cop, soit,» fet il, «adès

At one throw be-it says he at-once

ces .XX. avant et .XX. après.»

these twenty before and twenty after

215 Et dist sains Pieres: «Dieus m'ait!»

And said saint Peter God me-may-help

Lors a geté sanz contredit,

Then he-has thrown without gainsaying

.XVII. poins, et si se vante

seventeen points and so himself boasts

qu'il le fera valoir quarante.

that-be it will-make be-worth forty

Dist li jougeres: «C'est à droit,

Said the jongleur It-is at right

je get après vous orendroit.»

I throw after you now

Lors gete deseur le berlenc:

Then he-throws upon the board

«Cis cops ne vaut pas .I. mellenc.»

This throw not is-worth at-all a whitening

Dist saint Pieres: «Perdu l'avez,

Said saint Peter Lost it-you-have

quar je voi quisnes en .III. dez;

for I see fives on three dice

huimès n'ere je trop destrois,

now not-shall-be I too pressed

vous me devez quarante et trois.

you me owe forty and three

— Voire,» fet il, «par le cuer bieu,

Truly says he by the heart (of-)God

je ne vi onques mès tel gieu;

I not saw ever before such game

par toz les sainz qui sont à Romme,

by all the saints who are at Rome

je ne croiroie vous ne homme,

I not would-believe you nor man

que ne m'asseïssiez toz cops.

that not me-you-might-fix all throws

220

225

230

— Getez aval, estes vous fols?

Throw down are you mad

— Je cuit vous fustes uns fors lerres,

I think you were a strong thief

quant encore estes si guillerres,

when still you-are so trickster

235 qu'encor ne vous poez tenir

that-still not yourself you-can hold

des dez chengier et asseïr.»

from-the dice to-change and to-fix

Saint Pieres l'ot, si en ot ire,

Saint Peter it-bears so thereof he-had anger

par mautalent li prist à dire:

by ill-temper to-him he-began to say

«Vous i mentez, se Dieus me saut;

You there lie so God me may-save

240 mès c'est coustume de ribaut,

but this-is custom of ribald

quant on ne fet sa volenté,

when one not does his will

si dist c'on li change le dé;

so he-says that-one to-him changes the die

mal dahaiz qui sus le me mist,

ill curse who upon it on-me put

et mal dahez qui les assist!

and ill curse who them fixed

245 Mout a en toi mauvès bricon,

Very there-is in thee bad rogue

quant tu me tenis por larron;

when thou me heldest for thief

mout s'en faut poi, par saint Marcel,

very itself-thence lacks little by saint Marcel

que je ne vous oing le musel.

that I — you anoint the snout

— Certes,» fet cil, qui de duel art,

Certainly says that-one who with grief burns

«lerres estes, sire vieillard,

thief you-are lord old-man

qui mon geu me volez noier;

who my game from-me wish to-deny

ja voir n'en porterez denier,

ever truly not-thereof you-will-carry penny

ba! non, quar vous me les toudrez,

bah no for you from-me them will-take

venez avant, si les prenez.»

come forward so them take

Cil saut sus por les deniers prendre,

That-one leaps up for the pence to-take

et sains Pieres, sanz plus atendre,

and saint Peter without more to-wait

le vous aert par les illiers,

him you seizes by the loins

et cil lest cheoir les deniers,

and that-one lets fall the pence

qui mout avoit le cuer mari;

who very had the heart troubled

si l'a par la barbe saisi,

so him-he-has by the beard seized

mout forment à lui le tira,

very greatly to him him he-pulled

250

255

260

et sains Pieres li deschira

and saint Peter to-him tore

toz ses dras jusques el braiel.

all his clothes as-far-as in-the belt

Or n'ot il onques mès tel duel

Now not-had he ever before such grief

265 qu'il ot quant il vit sa char nue

as-he had when he saw his flesh naked

paroir jusques à la çainture;

appear as-far-as to the girdle

mout se sont entrechapingnié,

much themselves they-are pulled-each-other's-hair

batu et feru et sachié.

beaten and struck and dragged

Or voit le jogleure mout bien

Now sees the jongleur very well

270 que sa force ne li vaut rien,

that his strength not to-him avails anything

qu'il n'est ne si fors ne si granz

for-he not-is nor so strong nor so great

con saint Pieres, ne si poissanz;

as saint Peter nor so mighty

et s'il maintient plus la meslée

and if-he keeps-up more the fray

sa robe ert ja si deschirée

his robe will-be soon so torn

275 qu'il n'en porra joïr jamès:

that-he not-thereof will-be-able to-enjoy ever

«Sire,» dist il, «or feson pès,

Lord said he now let-us-make peace

bien nous sommes entressaïé,

well ourselves we-are tested-each-other

or rejuons par amistié,

now let-us-play-again by friendship

se il vous plest et atalente.»

if it you pleases and suits

Dist sains Pieres: «Mout m'est à ente

280

Said saint Peter Very to-me-it-is at vexation

que vous de mon geu me blasmastes,

that you of my game me blamed

ne que vous larron m'apelastes.

or that you thief me-called

— Sire,» fet il, «je dis folie,

Lord says he I said folly

or m'en repent, n'en doutez mie;

now me-thereof I-repent not-thereof doubt at-all

mès vous m'avez fet pis assez

285

but you me-have done worse much

qui mes dras m'avez deschirez,

who my clothes from-me-have torn

dont je serai mout soufretous,

whereby I shall-be very needy

or me clamez cuite, et je vous.»

now me declare quit and I you

Et dist sains Pieres: «Je l'otroi.»

And said saint Peter I it-grant

Atant se besierent en foi.

290

Thereupon themselves they-kissed in faith

«Amis,» dist sains Piere, «entendez,

Friend said saint Peter attend

.XLIII. ames devez.

forty-three souls you-owe

— Voire,» fet il, «par saint Germain,

Truly says he by saint Germain

je commençai le jeu trop main.

I began the game too early

295 Or rejouons, si biau vous vient,

Now let-us-play-again if fair to-you it-comes

si soient ou .III. tans ou nient,

so may-they-be either three times or nothing

se no jeu revient en tel mès.

if our game returns into such state

— Par Dieu,» fet cil, «j'en sui toz près;

By God says that-one I-thereof am all ready

mès escoutez, biaux amis chiers,

but listen fair friend dear

300 paieriez me vous volentiers?

will-pay me you willingly

— Oil,» dist cil, «mout bonement,

Yes said that-one very graciously

trestout à vo comandement:

all at your command

chevaliers, dames et chanoines,

knights ladies and canons

larrons ou champions ou moines,

thieves or champions or monks

305 volez frans hommes ou vilains,

wish-you free men or churls

volez prestres ou chapelains?

wish-you priests or chaplains

— Amis,» fet il, «tu dis reson:

Friend says he thou sayest reason

or gete aval sanz trahison.»

now throw down without treason

Sains Pieres n'ot à cele voie

Saint Peter not-had at that time

fors .V. et .IIII. et .I. seul troie.

but five and four and one single trey

Dist li jouleres: «XII. i voi.

Said the jongleur Twelve there I-see

— Avoi,» dist sains Pieres, «avoi,

Fie said saint Peter fie

se Jhesus n'a de moi merci,

if Jesus not-has on me mercy

cis daarains cops m'a honi.»

this last throw me-has shamed

Cil gete aval mout durement

That-one throws down very hard

quisnes et .I. deus seulement.

fives and a two only

«Dieus,» dist sains Pieres, «bon encontre

God said saint Peter good luck

encor vendra à cest rencontre.

still it-will-come at this meeting

— Or soit .XXII., fiere ou faille,»

Now be-it twenty-two strike or fail

dist li jouleres, «bien les vaille,

said the jongleur well them may-it-be-worth

getez, .XXII. i ait bien,

throw twenty-two there may-be well

310

315

320

je get, de par saint Julien.»

I throw on behalf-of saint Julian

Sains Pieres gete isnel le pas

Saint Peter throws swift the pace

sisnes et puis .I. tout seul as.

sixes and then one all single ace

325 Dist sains Pieres: «J'ai bien geté,

Said saint Peter I-have well thrown

quar je vous ai d'un point passé.

for I you have by-a point passed

— Vois,» fet cil, «comme il m'a près point,

See says that-one how be me-has close pricked

qu'il m'a passé d'un tout seul point;

for-be me-has passed by-a all single point

je ne fui ainc aventureus,

I not was ever lucky

330 mès toz jors un maleüreus,

but all days an unlucky-one

uns chetis, et uns mescheans,

a wretch and an ill-starred-one

et ci et au siecle toz tans.»

both here and in-the world all times

Quant les ames qui sont el fu

When the souls who are in-the fire

ont ce oï et entendu

have this heard and understood

335 que sains Pieres a gaaignié,

that saint Peter has won

de toutes pars li ont huchié:

from all parts to-him they-have shouted

«Sire, por Dieu le glorious,

Lord for God the glorious

nous atendons du tout à vous.»

we wait of-the all on you

Et dist sains Pieres: «Je l'otroi,

And said saint Peter I it-grant

et je à tous et vous à moi.

and I to all and you to me

Por vos giter de cest torment,

For you to-cast from this torment

mis ge au gieu tot mon argent,

put I at-the game all my silver

mès, se j'eüsse tout perdu,

but if I-had all lost

n'i eüssiez pas atendu;

not-there you-would-have at-all waited

se Dieu plest, ainz la nuit serie,

if God please before the night calm

serez tuit en ma compaignie.»

you-will-be all in my company

Adonc fu li joglerres mus:

Then was the jongleur mute

«Sire,» fait il, «or n'i a plus,

Lord says he now not-there is more

ou ge du tot m'aquiterai,

either I of-the all myself-shall-acquit

ou ge trestot par perderai,

or I all completely shall-lose

et les ames et ma chemise.»

both the souls and my shirt

340

345

350

Ne sai que plus vous en devise:

Not I-know what more to-you thereof I-may-describe

tant a sains Pieres tremelé,

so-much has saint Peter diced

et tant le jougleor mené,

and so-much the jongleur led

355 que les ames gaaigna toutes;

that the souls he-won all

d'enfer les en maine à granz routes,

from-hell them thence he-leads in great troops

si les mena en paradis.

so them he-led into paradise

Et cil remest toz esbahis,

And that-one remained all amazed

qui est dolenz et irascuz.

who is grieving and angered

360 Ez vous les maufez revenuz:

Behold you the devils returned

quant li mestres fu en meson,

when the master was in house

garda entor et environ,

he-looked around and about

ne vit ame n'avant, n'arriere,

not he-saw soul nor-before nor-behind

ne en fornel, ne en chaudiere;

nor in furnace nor in cauldron

365 le jougleor a appelé:

the jongleur he-has called

«Di va,» fet il, «où sont alé

Say go says he where are gone

les ames que je te lessai?

the souls that I to-thee left

— Sire,» fet il, «je vous dirai.

Lord says he I to-you shall-tell

Por Dieu, aiez de moi merci!

For God have on me mercy

Uns viellars vint orains à mi,

An old-man came just-now to me

si m'aporta mout grant avoir;

so to-me-brought very great wealth

bien le cuidai trestout avoir,

well it I-thought all to-have

si jouasmes et moi et lui,

so we-played both I and he

mout me torna à grant anui.

much to-me it-turned to great vexation

Si me gita d'uns dez toz faus

So me he-threw with-some dice all false

li traïstres, li desloiaus:

the traitor the disloyal-one

ainc n'en ting dez, foi que doi vous,

ever not-thereof I-held dice faith that I-owe you

si ai perdu voz genz trestoz.»

so I-have lost your folk all

Quant li maïstres l'a entendu,

When the master it-has heard

par poi ne l'a gité el fu:

by little — him-he-has thrown in-the fire

370

375

380

«Filz à putain,» fet il, «lechiere,

Son of whore says he rascal

vo jonglerie m'est trop chiere;

your jonglery to-me-is too dear

dehait qui vous i aporta!

curse who you there brought

Par mon chief il le comparra!»

By my head he it will-pay-for

385 A celui sont venu tout droit,

To him they-are come all straight

qui leenz aporté l'avoit;

who therein brought him-bad

tant le batent, froissent et fierent,

so-much him they-beat bruise and strike

et tant forment le lesdengierent,

and so-much greatly him they-abused

et si li ont fait fiancer

and so to-him they-have made pledge

390 que jamais ribaut ne holier

that ever ribald nor pimp

ne jogleor n'apporteront,

nor jongleur not-they-will-bring

n'ome qui à dez joeront;

nor-man who at dice will-play

tant l'ont batu, tant l'ont bouté,

so-much him-they-have beaten so-much him-they-have pushed

que cil lor a acréanté

that that-one to-them has promised

que il jamès à nis .I. jor

that he ever on even one day

n'i aportera jougleor.

not-there will-bring jongleur

Dist li mestres au menestrel:

Said the master to-the minstrel

«Biaus amis, vuidiez mon ostel!

Fair friend empty my house

Mal dehez ait vo jouglerie,

Ill curse may-have your jonglery

quant j'ai perdue ma mesnie!

when I-have lost my household

Vuidiez l'ostel, gel vos commant,

Empty the-house I-it to-you command

ge n'ai cure de tel sergant;

I not-have care of such servant

jamais jogleor ne querrai,

ever jongleur not I-shall-see

ne lor ligniée ne tenrai,

nor their lineage not I-shall-keep

ge n'en vueil nul, voient lor voie,

I not-thereof wish any may-they-go their way

mais Dieu les ait qui aime joie!

but God them may-have who loves joy

Alez à Dieu, je n'en ai cure.»

Go to God I not-thereof have care

Et cil s'en va grant aleüre,

And that-one himself-thence goes great pace

395

400

405

que d'enfer chacent li tirant:

for from-hell chase(-him) the tyrants

410 vers paradiz s'en vint errant.

toward paradise himself-thence he-came straightway

Quant sains Pieres le vit venir,

When saint Peter him saw come

se li corut la porte ouvrir;

so to-him he-ran the gate to-open

richement le fist osteler.

richly him he-bad lodged

Or facent joie li jougler,

Now may-make joy the jongleurs

415 feste et solaz à lor talent,

feast and solace at their will

quar ja d'enfer n'avront torment:

for ever from-hell not-they-will-have torment

cil les en a treztoz getez,

that-one them thence has all cast

qui les ames perdi aus dez.

who the souls lost at-the dice

Le meunier et les .II. clers

CXIX · THE MILLER AND THE TWO CLERKS

Two poor clerks take a measure of wheat to a mill, and the miller steals their sack and their mare while they look for him. Lodging there, one clerk wins the daughter, shut in a chest, with an andiron's ring he calls magic, and the other moves the cradle so the wife lies down beside him. The first, misled by it, boasts to the miller himself. Caught, the wife reveals where the wheat and mare are, and the clerks beat the miller.

Dui povre clerc furent jadis

Two poor clerks were formerly

né d'une vile et d'un païs;

born of-a town and of-a country

conpeignon et diacre estoient

companions and deacons they-were

en un boschage, o il menoient,

in a woodland where they dwelt

o il orent esté norri,

where they had been reared

tant c'uns chiers tans lor i sailli,

until that-a dear time on-them there sprang

con il fait mout tost et sovant:

as it does very soon and often

c'est damage à la povre gent.

this-is damage to the poor folk

Li clerc virent la mesestance;

The clerks saw the distress

si en orent au cuer pesance,

so thereof they-had at-the heart heaviness

5

10

ne il ne sevent conseilher,

nor they not know to-counsel

car il ne sevent rien gaaigner

for they not know anything to-earn

n'en lor pais, n'en autre terre;

nor-in their country nor-in other land

honte avroient de lor pain querre,

shame they-would-have of their bread to-seek

15 tant por lor hordre, et tant por el.

so-much for their order and so-much for else

Il n'avoient point de chatel

They not-had a-whit of goods

don se poïssent sostenir,

whereby themselves they-could sustain

ne il ne sevent où ganchir.

nor they not know where to-turn

.I. diemanche, après mangier,

One Sunday after eating

20 sont alé devant lo mostier;

they-are gone before the minster

illuec se sont entretrové,

there themselves they-are met-each-other

puis s'an sont de la vile alé,

then themselves-thence they-are from the town gone

por dire .I. po de lor secrei.

for to-say a little of their secret

Li uns dist à l'autre: «Antan moi;

The one said to the-other Hear me

25 nos ne nos savon conseilher,

we not ourselves know to-counsel

car ne savon rien gaaignier,

for not we-know anything to-earn

et voiz là fain qui nos destraint,

and see there hunger which us constrains

c'est une chose qui tot vaint;

this-is a thing which all vanquishes

nus ne se puet de li deffandre,

anyone not himself can from it defend

ne nos n'avon rien nule o prandre.

nor we not-have thing any where to-take

As tu nule rien porveü

Hast thou any thing provided

par quoi nos soions maintenu?»

by which we may-be maintained

L'autre respont: «Par saint Denise,

The-other answers By saint Denis

je ne te sai faire devise,

I not thee know to-make proposal

mais que jo ai un mien ami,

except that I have a my friend

je lo que nos aillon vers li,

I advise that we may-go toward him

por prandre .I. setier de fromant,

for to-take a measure of wheat

à la vante que l'an lo vant;

at the price that one it sells

30

35

et il m'an querra les deniers

and he me-thereof will-trust the pence

40 mout longuemant et volantiers

very long and willingly

jusq'à la feste saint Johan,

until the feast (of-)saint John

por nos giter de cest mal an.»

for us to-cast from this ill year

Li autres a lors respondu:

The other has then answered

«Il nos est très bien avenu;

It to-us is very well befallen

45 car j'ai un mien frere ensemant,

for I-have a my brother likewise

qui a une grasse jumant;

who has a fat mare

je la prandrai, pran lo setier,

I her shall-take take the measure

et si devandron bolangier.

and so we-shall-become bakers

L'an doit toute honte endosser

One ought all shame to-shoulder

50 por soi de cest mal an giter.»

for oneself from this ill year to-cast

Ensi lo font, plus n'i atant:

Thus it they-do more not-there they-wait

au molin portent lor fromant.

to-the mill they-carry their wheat

Li molins si loin lor estoit,

The mill so far to-them was

plus de .II. liues i avoit.

more than two leagues there was

C'estoit lo molin à choisel,

It-was the mill on weir

si seoit juste un bocheel:

so it-sat beside a copse

il n'ot ilueques environ

there not-was there around

borde, ne vile, ne maison,

cottage nor town nor house

fors sol la maison au munier,

except only the house of-the miller

qui trop savoit de son mestier.

who too-much knew of his trade

Li clerc ont tost l'uis desfermé,

The clerks have soon the-door unfastened

si ont lo sac dedanz gité:

so they-have the sack inside thrown

après ont mis en un prael

after they-have put in a meadow

la jumant, joste lo choisel.

the mare beside the weir

Li uns remest por tot garder,

The one remained for all to-keep

l'autre ala lo munier haster,

the-other went the miller to-hurry

que il les venist avancier.

that he them might-come to-serve-first

Mais il s'an fu alé mucier:

But he himself-thence was gone to-hide

55

60

65

bien ot les clers veü venir,

well he-had the clerks seen come

70 je cuit à aus voldra partir.

I think with them he-will-wish to-share

Chiés lo munier en vient corant,

At-house-of the miller thence he-comes running

la dame a trovée filant:

the lady he-has found spinning

«Dame,» fait il, «por saint Martin,

Lady says he for saint Martin

o est li sires do molin?

where is the lord of-the mill

75 Bien fust que il nos avançast.

Well it-were that he us might-serve-first

— Sire clers, point ne m'an pesast;

Lord clerk at-all not me-thereof it-would-grieve

en ce bois lo porroiz trover,

in this wood him you-will-be-able to-find

se il vos i plaist à aler,

if it you there pleases to go

qui ci est joste ce molin.»

which here is beside this mill

80 Et li clers se mest au chemin,

And the clerk himself puts on-the road

querre lo vait mout vistement.

to-seek him he-goes very quickly

A son conpeignon qui l'atant

To his companion who him-awaits

poise mout qu'il demore tant;

it-weighs much that-he lingers so-long

en la maison en vient corant:

into the house thence he-comes running

«Dame,» fait il, «por amor Dé,

Lady says he for love (of-)God

o est mon conpeignon alé?

where is my companion gone

— Sire, si aie je hanor,

Lord so may-have I honor

il en vait querre mon seignor

he thence goes to-seek my lord

qui orandroit issi là hors.»

who just-now went-out there out

Ele ot bien ce mestier amors:

She had well this trade taken-to

l'un des clers après l'autre envoie,

the-one of-the clerks after the-other she-sends

et li muniers aquiaut sa voie;

and the miller takes his way

si vient au molin auramant,

so comes to-the mill at-once

lo sac lieve sor la jumant

the sack he-lifts on the mare

o sa fame qui li aida,

with his wife who him helped

en sa maison tot enporta.

into his house all he-carried-off

Tant a en sa maison mucié,

So-much he-has into his house bidden

puis est au molin repairez;

then he-is to-the mill returned

85

90

95

et li clerc ont tant cheminé

and the clerks have so-much walked

100 que il sont au molin torné.

that they are to-the mill turned

«Munier,» font il, «Deus soit o vos!

Miller say they God be with you

Por amor Deu, avanciez nos.

For love (of-)God serve-first us

— Seignor,» fait il, «et je de quoi?

Lords says he and I with what

— De nostre blé qu'est ci, par foi.»

With our wheat that-is here by faith

105 Qant durent prandre lo fromant,

When they-were-to take the wheat

ne trovent ne sac ne jument.

not they-find nor sack nor mare

L'uns d'aus a l'autre regardé:

The-one of-them has the-other looked-at

«Qu'est ice? somes nos robé?

What-is this are we robbed

— Oïl,» fait ce l'uns, «ce m'est vis!

Yes says this the-one this to-me-is seeming

110 Pechiez nos a à essil mis.»

Sin us has to ruin put

Chascuns escrie: «Halas! halas!

Each cries Alas alas

Secorez nos, saint Nicolas!»

Succor us saint Nicholas

Fait li muniers: «Qu'est ce c'avez?

Says the miller What-is this that-you-have

Por quoi si durement criez?

For what so hard do-you-cry

— Munier, ja avon tot perdu;

Miller now we-have all lost

malemant nos est avenü,

badly to-us it-is befallen

car n'avons ne jumant ne el:

for not-we-have nor mare nor else

tot i estoit notre chatel.

all there was our goods

— Seignor,» fait il, «n'en sai noiant.

Lords says he not-thereof I-know anything

— Sire,» font il, «ne vos apant

Lord say they not to-you it-belongs

fors tant que de nos asener

except so-much as of us to-direct

quel part nos poïssiens aler

what way we might go

querre et tracier nostre damage.

to-seek and to-track our damage

— Seignor,» fait il, «en cest bochage:

Lords says he in this woodland

ne vos sai je pas conseilïier,

not you know I at-all to-counsel

mais en cel bois alez cerchier,

but in that wood go to-search

qui ci est joste cest molin.»

which here is beside this mill

Li clerc se mestent au chemin.

The clerks themselves put on-the road

115

120

125

Maintenant sont el bois entré,

At-once they-are in-the wood entered

130 et li muniers s'an est alé.

and the miller himself-thence is gone

Li uns clers à l'autre parla:

The one clerk to the-other spoke

«Certes,» font il, «voir dit i a,

Certainly say they true saying there is

fous est qui en vain se travaille;

fool is who in vain himself toils

avoir vient et va comme paille,

wealth comes and goes like straw

135 alons nos huimais herbergier.

let-us-go ourselves now to-lodge

— Nos? en quel leu? — Chiés lo munier,

We in what place At-house-of the miller

o no alon en cel molin,

or (if-)not let-us-go into that mill

Deus nos doint l'ostel saint Martin!»

God us may-grant the-lodging (of-)saint Martin

Errant vindrent chiés lo munier.

Straightway they-came at-house-of the miller

140 Lor venir n'avoit il point chier,

Their coming not-held be at-all dear

ainz lor demande aneslopas:

rather of-them he-asks straightway

«Que vos a fait saint Nicolas?

What to-you has done saint Nicholas

— Munier,» font il, «ne .I. ne el.

Miller say they nor one nor else

— Or gaaigniez autre chatel,

Now earn other goods

car de cest estes vos trop loing;

for from this are you too far

ne l'avroiz pas à cest besoing.

not it-you-will-have at-all at this need

— Munier,» font il, «ce puet bien estre:

Miller say they this can well be

herbergiez nos, por saint Servestre,

lodge us for saint Silvester

ne savon maishui o aler.»

not we-know now where to-go

Et li muniers prant à panser,

And the miller begins to think

or seroit il pire que chiens,

now would-be he worse than dogs

s'il ne lor faisoit aucun bien

if-he not to-them did some good

del lor, car il lo puet bien faire.

of-the theirs for he it can well do

«Seignor,» fait il, «nient fors l'aire

Lords says he nothing except the-floor

ice avroiz, se plus n'en avez.

this you-will-have if more not-thereof you-have

— Munier,» font il, «ce est assez.»

Miller say they this is enough

Li vilains n'ot pas grant cointie:

The churl not-had at-all great comfort

il n'ot que soi, cart de maisnie,

he not-had but himself fourth of household

145

150

155

sa fille q'an doit metre avant,

his daughter whom-one ought to-put forward

160 sa fame, et un petit enfant.

his wife and a little child

La fille estoit et bele et cointe,

The daughter was both fair and comely

et li muniers, qu'el ne fust pointe,

and the miller that-she not might-be pricked

en une huche la metoit

in a chest her put

chascune nuit, o el gisoit,

each night where she lay

165 et l'anfermoit par de desus,

and her-shut-in by from above

et li bailloit par un pertuis

and to-her banded through a hole

la clef, et puis s'aloit cochier.

the key and then himself-went to-lie

A noz clers devons repairier.

To our clerks we-must return

La nuit, qant ce vint au soper,

The night when this came to-the supper

170 li muniers lor fait apporter

the miller for-them makes be-brought

pain et lait, et eues, et fromage,

bread and milk and eggs and cheese

c'est la viande del bochage;

this-is the food of-the woodland

aus .II. clers assez en dona.

to-the two clerks plenty thereof he-gave

L'un o la pucele manja,

The-one with the maiden ate

l'autre o la dame et lo munier.

the-other with the lady and the miller

En l'aitre ot un petit andier,

In the-heart there-was a little andiron

o il avoit un anelet,

where it had a little-ring

que l'an oste sovant et met.

which one removes often and puts

Cil q'o la pucele manja

That-one who-with the maiden ate

de l'andier l'anelet osta,

from the-andiron the-little-ring removed

bien l'a et repost et mucié.

well it-be-has both put-away and bidden

La nuit quant il furent cochié,

The night when they were lain-down

li clers de li grant garde prist:

the clerk of her great heed took

bien vit que li muniers li fist;

well he-saw what the miller to-her did

con en la huche la bouta,

how into the chest her he-thrust

et par de desus l'anferma;

and by from above her-shut-in

con il li a la clef bailliée,

how he to-her has the key handed

par un pertuis li a lanciaée.

through a hole to-her he-has thrown-it

175

180

185

Qant il furent aseüré,

When they were settled

190 il a son conpainon bouté:

he has his companion nudged

«Conpainz,» fait il, «je voil aler

Companion says he I wish to-go

à la fille au munier parler,

to the daughter of-the miller to-speak

qui est en la huche enfermée.

who is in the chest shut-in

— Viaus tu,» fait cil «faire mellée,

Wishest thou says that-one to-make fray

195 et estormir ceste maison?

and to-stir-up this bouse

Verité est, tu ies bricon,

Truth it-is thou art rogue

tost nos en porroit mal venir.

soon to-us thereof could ill come

— Je ne voldroie por morir,

I not would-wish for to-die

que ne m'en aille à li savoir

that not myself-thence I-may-go to her to-know

200 s'el me porroit de rien valoir.»

if-she me could in anything avail

A la huche vient erraument,

To the chest he-comes at-once

.I. petit grate, et el l'antant:

a little he-scratches and she it-bears

«Q'est ce,» fait ele, «là defors?

What-is this says she there outside

— C'est celui qui por vostre cors

This-is he who for your body

est si destroiz et mal bailli,

is so distressed and ill treated

se vos n'avez de lui merci,

if you not-have on him mercy

jamais nul jor joie n'avra.

ever any day joy not-he-will-have

C'est celui qui o vos manja,

This-is he who with you ate

qui vos aporte un enel d'or,

who to-you brings a ring of-gold

onques n'aüstes tel tresor;

ever not-you-had such treasure

bien est esprové et saü

well it-is proved and known

que la pierre en a tel vertu

that the stone thereof has such virtue

que ja fame, tant soit legiere,

that ever woman so-much may-she-be light

ne tant par ait esté corsiere,

nor so much may-she-have been wanton

qui chaste et pucele ne soit,

who chaste and maiden not may-be

s'au matin en son doi l'avoit.

if-in-the morning on her finger it-she-had

Tenez, gel vos en faz present.»

Take I-it to-you thereof make present

Errant cele la clef li tant,

Straightway she the key to-him holds-out

205

210

215

- et il desferme errant la huche,
and he unfastens straightway the chest
- 220 dedanz se met, ele s'acluche.
inside himself he-puts she herself-crouches
- Or puent faire lor deduit,
Now they-can do their delight
- car ne trovent qui lor anuit.
for not they-find who them may-vex
- La fame o munier, ainz lo jor,
The wife of-the miller before the day
- se leva d'enprès son seignor;
herself rose from-beside her lord
- 225 tote nue vait en la cort.
all naked she-goes into the yard
- Par de devant lo lit trescort
By from before the bed she-runs-past
- au clerc, qui en l'aire gisoit.
of-the clerk who on the-floor lay
- Li clerc au trespasser la voit;
The clerk at-the passing her sees
- qant il la vit, si l'esgarda,
when he her saw so her-he-looked-at
- 230 de son conpaignon li manbra,
of his companion to-him it-came-to-mind
- qui en la huche fait ses buens;
who in the chest does his pleasures
- mout convoite faire les suens.
much he-covets to-do the his

Pansa que il la decevroit

He-thought that he her would-deceive

au revenir, se il pooit:

at-the returning if he could

puis repansoit no feroit mie,

then he-thought-again not-it he-would-do at-all

tost en porroit sordre folie.

soon thereof could spring folly

.I. autre angin li est creüz:

An other device to-him is grown

sanpres est de son lit chaüz,

at-once he-is from his bed fallen

à l'autre lit s'an va tot droit,

to the-other bed himself-thence he-goes all straight

là o li muniers se gisoit;

there where the miller himself lay

l'anfant à tot lo briez aporte,

the-child with all the cradle he-brings

et qant la dame entre en la porte,

and when the lady enters into the door

li clers tire à l'anfant l'oroille,

the clerk pulls to the-child the-ear

et l'anfes crie, si s'esvoille.

and the-child cries so himself-wakes

Cele ala à son lit tot droit,

She went to her bed all straight

qant ele oït o cil estoit;

when she heard where that-one was

puis est erraument retournée,

then she-is at-once returned

235

240

245

au cri de l'anfant est alée:

to-the cry of the-child she-is gone

lo briez trove, don s'aseüre,

the cradle she-finds whereby herself-she-assures

250 puis solieve la couverture,

then she-lifts the covering

dejoste lo clerc s'est cochiée

beside the clerk herself-she-is lain

et cil l'a estroit enbraciée.

and that-one her-has tight embraced

Vers soi l'atrait, formant l'acole,

Toward himself her-be-draws greatly her-clasps

à son deduit tote l'afole;

at his delight all her-maddens

255 si sofre tot, si se mervoille.

so she-suffers all so herself marvels

Et l'autres clers si s'aparoille,

And the-other clerk so himself-makes-ready

qant il oït le coc chanter,

when he heard the cock crow

car il cuidoit trop demorer.

for he thought too-long to-linger

De la huche s'an est issuz,

From the chest himself-thence he-is gone-out

260 puis est droit à son lit venuz:

then he-is straight to his bed come

lo briez trove, si s'esbaïst;

the cradle he-finds so himself-amazes

n'est pas mervoille s'il lo fist.

not-is at-all marvel if-be it did

Il ot peor, et neporqant

He had fear and nevertheless

.I. petit est alez avant;

a little he-is gone forward

et qant .II. testes a trovées,

and when two heads he-has found

errauquant les a refusées.

at-once them he-has avoided

A l'autre lit o se gisoit

To the-other bed where himself lay

li muniers, s'an va cil tot droit.

the miller himself-thence goes that-one all straight

Dejoste li s'estoit cochiez,

Beside him himself-be-was lain

ne s'est pas encore esveilliez,

not himself-is at-all yet wakened

ne ne s'est mie aparceüz.

nor not himself-is at-all perceived

«Compainz,» fait li clers, «que fais tu?

Companion says the clerk what dost thou

Qui toz jorz se tait rien ne valt,

Who all days himself silences anything not is-worth

or sai je bien, se Deus me salt,

now know I well so God me may-save

que j'ai aü boene nuitiée:

that I-have had good night

mout est la pucele envoisiée,

very is the maiden merry

la fille à cest nostre munier;

the daughter of this our miller

265

270

275

mout par si fait mal anvoisier

very much so it-is ill to-sport

et si fait trop bon foutre en huche.

and so it-is exceedingly good to-fuck in chest

280 Conpeignon, car va, si t'i muce,

Companion now go so thyself-there hide

et si pran do bacon ta part;

and so take of-the flitch thy share

assez en a jusq'à la hart;

plenty thereof there-is as-far-as the rope

par .VII. foiz l'ai anuit corbée,

by seven times her-I-have tonight bent

dès or sera boene l'asnée,

from now will-be good the-ass-load

285 el n'a fors l'anel de l'andier;

she not-has but the-ring of the-andiron

si ai je bien fait mon mestier.»

so have I well done my trade

Qant li muniers entant la bole,

When the miller bears the trick

tantost prant lo clerc par la gole

at-once he-takes the clerk by the throat

et li clers lui, qui s'aparçoit

and the clerk him who himself-perceives

290 tantost lo met en si mal ploït

at-once him puts in so bad plight

à po li fait lo cuer crever;

by little to-him he-makes the heart burst

et la dame aquialt à boter

and the lady begins to push

l'autre cler, qui o lui gisoit:

the-other clerk who with her lay

«Sire,» fait ele, «ce que doit?

Lord says she this what means

Se viaus, car nos lewon tost sus,

If thou-wishest now ourselves let-us-rise quick up

ja s'estranglent cil cler laissus.

already strangle-each-other those clerks up-there

— Ne te chaut,» fait il, «lai ester,

Not to-thee matters says he let be

lai les musarz entretuer.»

let the fools kill-each-other

Il savoit bien, si n'ot pas tort,

He knew well so not-be-had at-all wrong

que ses compainz ere plus fors.

that his companion was more strong

Qant li muniers pot eschaper,

When the miller could escape

tantost cort lo feu alumer;

at-once he-runs the fire to-light

et qant il sa fame aparçoit,

and when he his wife perceives

qui avoc lo cler se gisoit:

who with the clerk herself lay

«Or sus,» fait il, «pute provée,

Now up says he whore proven

qui vos a ici amenée?

who you has here brought

295

300

305

Certes, il est de vos tot fait.

Certainly it is with you all done

— Sire,» fait ele, «autrement vait,

Lord says she otherwise it-goes

car se je sui pute provée,

for if I am whore proven

310 par engin i fui atornée;

by trickery there I-was arrayed

mais vos estes larron prové,

but you are thief proven

qui en cez clers avez emblé

who from these clerks have stolen

lor sac de blé et lor jumant,

their sack of wheat and their mare

dont vos seroiz levez au vant:

whereby you will-be raised to-the wind

315 tot est en vostre granche mis.»

all is in your barn put

Li dui clerc ont lo vilain pris;

The two clerks have the churl taken

tant l'ont folé et debatu

so-much him-they-have trampled and beaten

par po qu'il ne l'ont tot molu,

by little that-they — him-have all ground

puis vont modre à autre molin.

then they-go to-grind at other mill

320 Il orent l'ostel saint Martin,

They had the-lodging (of-)saint Martin

et ont tant lor mestier mené

and have so-much their trade plied

q'il se sont do mal an gité.

that-they themselves are from-the ill year cast

De la vielle qui oint la palme au chevalier

CXXVII · THE OLD WOMAN WHO GREASED THE KNIGHT'S PALM

A provost seizes an old woman's two cows and will not return them. Her neighbor Hersent tells her to grease a knight's palm, and she takes it literally and rubs lard across his palm from behind. The knight tells her that her neighbor meant something else, and gives her the cows back all the same, with the meadow and its grass. The poet draws the moral against rich men who sell their judgment, so that the poor man has no right unless he gives.

D'une vielle vos voil conter

Of-an old-woman to-you I-wish to-tell

une fable por deliter:

a fable for to-delight

.II. vaches ot, se truis o livre.

two cows she-had if I-find in-the book

Là o ele prenoit son vivre

There where she took her living

5 .I. jor furent ensamble alées.

one day they-were together gone

Si les a li prevos trovées;

So them has the provost found

mener les fait en sa maison.

be-led them be-makes into his house

Qant la fame sot la raison,

When the woman knew the matter

alée i est sans plus atandre;

gone there she-is without more to-wait

10 proie li que li fasse randre.

she-begs him that to-her he-may-make be-retained

Assez proie, mais ne li vaut

Plenty she-begs but not to-her it-avails

que au felon prevost ne chaut

for to-the felonious provost not matters

de qanqu'ele dit ne li veille:

of whatever-she says or to-him may-wish

«Par ma foi,» dist il, «bele vielle,

By my faith said he fair old-woman

ainz avroiz païé cest escot

first you-will-have paid this reckoning

des granz deniers muisiz el pot!»

of-the great pence bidden in-the pot

La boene fame atant s'en torne,

The good woman thereupon herself-thence turns

tristre et marrie, à chiere morne.

sad and troubled with face gloomy

Hersan encontre, sa voisine,

Hersent she-meets her neighbor

si li a conté sa convine.

so to-her has told her plight

Ersant .I. chevalier li nome,

Hersent a knight to-her names

q'ele voist parler à aut home;

that-she may-go to-speak to high man

biau parolt, si soit saje et cointe,

fair she-may-speak so she-may-be wise and elegant

se la paume li avoit ointe,

if the palm to-him she-had anointed

15

20

25 ses vaches li feroit avoir

her cows to-her he-would-make have

trestotes quites sanz avoir.

all quit without payment

La bone fame a quis del lart

The good woman has sought of-the lard

qui n'i antant barat ne art:

who not-there understands trickery nor art

au chevalier en vint tot droit,

to-the knight thence she-came all straight

30 qui devant sa maison estoit.

who before his house was

Li chevaliers ot mis ses mains

The knight had put his bands

par aventure sor ses rains;

by chance on his loins

la fame par darriere vait:

the woman by behind goes

lo lart par la paume li trait.

the lard across the palm to-him draws

35 Qant cil sant sa paume lardée,

When that-one feels his palm larded

si a la vieille resgardée:

so he-has the old-woman looked-at

«Bone fame, que fais tu ci?

Good woman what dost thou here

— Sire, por amor, Deu merci,

Lord for love (of-)God mercy

si me fu dit c'à vos venisse
so to-me it-was said that-to you I-should-come

et que la paume vos oinssisse, 40
and that the palm to-you I-should-anoint

et se je ce faire pooie,
and if I this to-do could

mes vaches tout quites ravroie.
my cows all quit I-would-have-back

— Cele co t'anseigna à faire
She this thee-taught to do

entandi tot à autre afaire;
meant all to other business

mais ja por ce riens n'i perdras: 45
but ever for this anything not-there thou-wilt-lose

tes vaches quites raveras.
thy cows quit thou-wilt-have-back

Si t'abandon lo pré et l'erbe.»
So to-thee-I-give the meadow and the-grass

L'avanture de cest proverbe
The-adventure of this proverb

retrai por riches homes hautz
I-relate for rich men high

qui plus sont desloiaus et faus; 50
who more are disloyal and false

lor san et lor parole vandent,
their sense and their word they-sell

à nule droiture n'entendent,
to any right not-they-attend

chacuns à prandre s'abandone:

each to taking himself-gives-over

povres n'a droit, se il ne done.

poor-man not-has right if he not gives

Les .IIII. souhaits saint Martin

CXXXIII · THE FOUR WISHES OF SAINT MARTIN

Saint Martin grants a Norman churl four wishes for his devotion. His wife, who wears the breeches, begs one of them, swearing she will never change his shape, and he gives it, though he fears she will waste it. She wishes him covered with pricks, he wishes her as many cunts, and the third and fourth wishes are spent undoing the damage, so that they end as they began. The moral: he is unwise who trusts his wife more than himself.

Un vilain ot en Normendie

A churl there-was in Normandy

dont bien est droiz que je vous die

of-whom well it-is right that I to-you may-tell

.I. fablel merueilleus et cointe.

a fabliau marvelous and pretty

Toz jors avoit il à acointe

All days had he as acquaintance

saint Martin, que toz jors nommoit

saint Martin whom all days he-named

à ses oeuvres que il fesoit;

at his works that he did

ja si liez ne dolenz ne fust

ever so glad nor grieving not he-was

que saint Martin n'amenteüst;

that saint Martin not-be-mentioned

toz jors nommoit il saint Martin.

all days named he saint Martin

5

- 10 Li vilains aloit .I. matin
The churl went one morning
 en son labor, si comme il seut;
into his labor so as he was-wont
 saint Martin oublier ne veut:
saint Martin to-forget not he-wishes
 «Saint Martin,» dit il, «or avant!»
Saint Martin says he now forward
 Et sains Martins li vint devant:
And saint Martin to-him came before
- 15 «Vilains,» fist il, «tu m'as mout chier;
Churl said he thou me-holdest very dear
 ja ne voudras riens commencer
ever not thou-wilt-wish anything to-begin
 que toz jors au commencement
that all days at-the beginning
 ne me nommes premierement:
not me thou-mayst-name first
 je t'en rendrai ja la deserte.
I to-thee-thereof shall-render now the desert
- 20 Lesse ton travail et ta herce,
Leave thy toil and thy harrow
 si t'en reva tout liement;
so thyself-thence go-back all gladly
 je te di bien tout vraiment,
I to-thee say well all truly
 ce qu'a .IIII. souhais diras
this that-at four wishes thou-wilt-say
 saches tu bien que tu l'avras;
know thou well that thou it-wilt-have

mès garde toi au souhaidier,

but guard thyself at-the wishing

tu n'i avras ja recouvrer!»

thou not-there wilt-have ever recovery

Li vilains l'en a encliné,

The churl to-him-thereof has bowed

puis s'en est arriere torné;

then himself-thence he-is back turned

en sa maison s'en va toz liez,

into his house himself-thence he-goes all glad

il sera ja bien aresniez.

he will-be soon well addressed

Sa fame, qui chauce les braies,

His wife who wears the breeches

li a dit: «Vilain, mal jor aies!

to-him has said Churl ill day mayst-thou-have

Por quoi as tu ja lessie oevre

For what hast thou already left work

por le tens qui .I. poi se cuevre;

for the weather which a little itself covers

il n'ert vespres jusqu'à .II. liues.

it not-will-be evening until two leagues

Est ce por encressier tes giues?

Is this for to-fatten thy jowls

Paor avez n'aiez forage;

Fear you-have (that-)you-may-have overwork

onques n'amastes laborage.

ever not-you-loved laboring

Vous fetes mout volentiers feste!

You make very willingly feast

25

30

35

- 40 A mal eür aiez vous beste,
In ill luck may-have you beast
 quant vous n'en fetes vostre exploit!
when you not-thereof make your use
 Vous en alastes orendroit:
You thence went just-now
 tost avez or journée faite!
soon you-have now day's-work done
 — Tais toi, ma suer, ne te deshaite!»
Be-silent thou my sister not thyself grieve

- 45 dist li vilains, «quar riches sommes;
said the churl for rich we-are
 dès or nous sont remez noz sommes
from now to-us are removed our burdens
 et no travail, je le devin.
and our toil I it foretell
 Je ai rencontré saint Martin:
I have met saint Martin

.IIII. souhaie me dona ore;
four wishes to-me be-gave now

- 50 nes ai pas souhaidiez encore
not-them I-have at-all wished yet
 tant que j'eüsse à toi parlé.
until that I-might-have to thee spoken
 Selonc ce que m'avras loé,
According-to this that me-thou-wilt-have advised
 souhaiderai tout maintenant
I-shall-wish all at-once
 terre, richece, or et argent.»
land riches gold and silver

Quant cele l'oï, si l'acole,

When she it-heard so him-embraces

si s'umelie de parole:

so herself-humbles in word

«Sire,» dist ele, «dis tu voir?

Lord said she sayest thou truth

— Oïl bien, le porras savoir.

Yes well it thou-wilt-be-able to-know

— Ahi,» fet ele, «douz amis,

Ab says she sweet friend

ja ai je en vous tout mon cuer mis

already have I in you all my heart put

de vous amer, de vous servir.

of you to-love of you to-serve

Or le me devez bien merir:

Now it to-me you-ought well to-reward

je vous demant, se il vous plaist,

I of-you ask if it you pleases

que vous me donez .I. souhait;

that you to-me may-give a wish

vostre seront li autre troi,

yours will-be the other three

et si serez lors bien de moi.

and so you-will-be then well with me

— Tais toi,» dist il, «ma bele suer,

Be-silent thou said he my fair sister

je ne le feroie à nul fuer,

I not it would-do at any price

que fames ont foles penssées:

for women have foolish thoughts

55

60

65

70 tost demanderiez .III. fusées
soon you-would-ask three spindlefuls
 de chanvre, de laine ou de lin.
of hemp of wool or of flax
 Bien me sovient de saint Martin
Well to-me it-comes-to-mind of saint Martin
 qui me dist que bien me gardaïsse,
who to-me said that well myself I-should-guard
 et que tel chose souhaïdaisse
and that such thing I-should-wish

75 qui nous peüst avoir mestier.
which to-us might have use
 Je les voudrai toz souhaïdier,
I them shall-wish all to-wish
 et sachiez bien que je criembroie,
and know well that I would-fear
 se le souhait vous otrioie,
if the wish to-you I-granted
 que tel chose souhaïdissiez
that such thing you-might-wish

80 dont moi et vous empirissiez.
by-which I and you might-worsen
 Ne connois pas bien voz amors:
Not I-know at-all well your loves
 se deïssiez que fusse uns ours,
if you-said that I-were a bear
 ou asnes, ou chievre, ou jument,
or ass or goat or mare
 jel seroie tout esraument.
I-it would-be all at-once

Por ce si redout vostre otroi.

85

For this so I-fear your grant

— Sire,» dist ele, «en moie foi,

Lord said she in my faith

je vous afi de mes .II. mains

I to-you pledge by my two hands

que toz jors serez vous vilains.

that all days will-be you churl

Ja par moi n'avrez autre forme;

Ever by me not-you-will-have other shape

ja vous aim je plus que nul homme.

90

already you love I more than any man

— Bele suer,» dist il, «or l'aiez:

Fair sister said he now it-have

por Dieu tel chose souhaidiez

for God such thing wish

où moi et vous aiommes preu.

in-which I and you may-have profit

— Je demant,» dist ele, «en non Dieu,

I ask said she in name (of-)God

que vous soiez chargez de vis,

95

that you may-be loaded with pricks

ne vous remaingnent oeil ne vis,

not to-you may-remain eye nor face

teste, ne braz, piez ne costé

head nor arm feet nor side

où partout ne soit vit planté.

where everywhere not may-be prick planted

Si ne soient ne mol ne doille,

So not may-they-be nor soft nor limp

100 ainz ait à chascun vit sa coille;
rather may-there-be to each prick its testicle

toz dis soient li vit tendu,
all days may-be the pricks stiff

si samblerez vilain cornu.»
so you-will-seem churl horned

Quant ele ot souhaidié et dit,
When she had wished and said

au vilain saillirent li vit;
on-the churl leapt the pricks

105 li vit li saillent par le nez
the pricks to-him leap by the nose

et par la bouche de delez;
and by the mouth from beside

si ot vit lonc et vit quarré,
so he-had prick long and prick square

vit gros, vit cort, vit reboulé,
prick thick prick short prick swollen

vit corbe, vit agu, vit gros;
prick bent prick sharp prick thick

110 sor le vilain n'ot si dur os
on the churl not-there-was so hard bone

dont vit ne saillent merveillous.
whence pricks not may-leap wondrous

Li vit li saillent des genous;
The pricks to-him leap from-the knees

por Dieu or entendez merveilles,
for God now hear marvels

li vit li saillent des oreilles,
the pricks to-him leap from-the ears

et par devant en contremont

and by before in upward

li sailli uns grans vis du front,

to-him leapt a great prick from-the forehead

et par aval dusques aus piez

and by down as-far-as to-the feet

fu li vilains de vis chargez;

was the churl with pricks loaded

mout par fu bien de vis vestuz,

very much he-was well with pricks clothed

de toutes pars fu bien cornuz.

from all parts he-was well horned

Quant li vilains se vit si fait:

When the churl himself saw so made

«Suer,» dist il, «ci a lait souhait:

Sister said he here there-is ugly wish

por quoi m'as tu si atorné?

for what me-hast thou so arrayed

J'amaïsse mieus estre mort né

I-would-have-loved better to-be dead born

que seur moi eüsse tant vit:

than on me I-might-have so-many pricks

onques mès nus hon tant n'en vit.

ever before any man so-many not-thereof saw

— Sire,» dist el, «je vous di bien

Lord said she I to-you say well

c'un seul vit ne me valoit rien:

that-a single prick not to-me was-worth anything

sempres ert mol comme pelice.

at-once it-was soft like fur-cloak

115

120

125

130 Mès or sui je de vis mout riche,

But now am I in pricks very rich

et savez encore autre preu,

and you-know still other profit

que jamès ne serez en leu

that ever not you-will-be in place

où vous doiez point de païage.

where you may-owe a-whit of toll

J'ai esté au souhaidier sage,

I-have been at-the wishing wise

135 vous ne devez pas estre irous;

you not ought at-all to-be angry

il a mout bele beste en vous.»

there is very fair beast in you

Dist li preudon: «Ce poise moi;

Said the worthy-man This weighs-on me

je souhaiderai après toi.

I shall-wish after thee

Je souhaide,» dist li preudon,

I wish said the worthy-man

140 «que tu aies autrestant con

that thou mayst-have as-many cunts

con j'ai de vis par deseur moi,

as I-have of pricks over upon me

autrestant con aies seur toi!»

as-many cunts thou-mayst-have on thee

Adonc fu ele bien connue

Then was she well known

qu'ele ot .II. cons en la veüe;

for-she had two cunts in the sight

.IIII. en ot ou front coste à coste,

145

four thereof she-had in-the forehead side by side

et con devant et con d'encoste;

and cunt before and cunt from-beside

si ot con de mainte maniere

so she-had cunt of many-a manner

et con devant et con derriere,

and cunt before and cunt behind

con tort, con droit et con chenu,

cunt crooked cunt straight and cunt boary

et con sanz poil et con velu,

150

and cunt without hair and cunt hairy

et con pucel, et con estrait,

and cunt maiden and cunt narrow

et con estroit, et con bien fait,

and cunt tight and cunt well made

et con petit, et con à orce,

and cunt little and cunt to askew

et con parfont et con seur boce,

and cunt deep and cunt on bump

et con au chief, et con aus piez.

155

and cunt at-the head and cunt at-the feet

Adonques fu li vilains liez:

Then was the churl glad

«Sire,» dist ele, «qu'as tu fait?

Lord said she what-hast thou done

Por quoi m'as doné tel souhait?

For what me-hast-thou given such wish

— Je te dirai,» dist li bons hom:

I to-thee shall-tell said the good man

- 160 «Je n'avoie preu en .I. con
I not-had profit in one cunt
 puis que tant vit me doniez.
since that so-many pricks to-me you-gave
 Bele suer, ne vous esmaiez
Fair sister not yourself dismay
 que jamès ne vendroiz par rue
for ever not you-will-come through street
 que vous ne soiez bien connue.
that you not may-be well known
- 165 — Sire,» dist el, «or n'i a plus;
Lord said she now not-there is more
 nous avons .II. souhaies perdus:
we have two wishes lost
 souhaidiez que vous vit n'aiez
wish that you pricks not-may-have
 ne je con; ainsi le laiez.
nor I cunt thus it leave
 S'en avrez .I. de remanant,
So-thereof you-will-have one of remainder
- 170 et si serommes riche gent.»
and so we-shall-be rich folk
 Et li vilains souhaide et dist
And the churl wishes and said
 qu'ele n'ait con ne il n'ait vit.
that-she not-may-have cunt nor he not-may-have prick
 Donques fu ele mout marie
Then was she very troubled
 quant de son con ne trova mie,
when of her cunt not she-found at-all

et li preudon, quant il revit

175

and the worthy-man when he saw-in-turn

que il n'ot mie de son vit,

that he not-had at-all of his prick

refu de l'autre part iriez:

was-in-turn on the-other side angered

«Sire,» dist ele, «souhaidiez

Lord said she wish

le quart souhait qu'encore avon,

the fourth wish that-still we-have

qu'aiez .I. vit et je .I. con;

180

that-you-may-have a prick and I a cunt

si ert ausi comme devant,

so it-will-be just as before

et si n'avrons perdu noiant.»

and so not-we-shall-have lost anything

Et li preudom resouhaida,

And the worthy-man wished-again

que ne perdi ne gaaingna,

so-that not he-lost nor gained

que son vit li est revenuz,

185

for his prick to-him is returned

et ses souhaits a il perduz.

and his wishes has he lost

Par cest fablel poez savoir

By this fabliau you-can know

que cil ne fet mie savoir

that that-one not does at-all wisdom

qui mieus croit sa fame que lui:

who more believes his wife than himself

190 sovent l'en vient honte et anui.

often to-him-thence comes shame and vexation
