

OLD FRENCH SERIES • VOLUME 19

THE ROMANCE OF THE ROSE

GUILLAUME DE LORRIS

Le Roman de la Rose

The Romance of the Rose

The First Part of the Romance

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

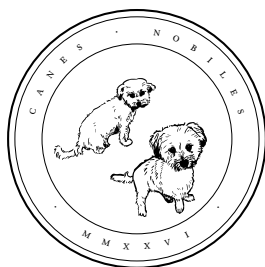


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Volume 19 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows Ernest Langlois' text,
Le Roman de la Rose par Guillaume de Lorris et Jean de Meun,
Société des anciens textes français, tome II (Paris, 1920)

Set from page scans of Langlois' second volume

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

The spelling is Langlois', and his accentuation is his own rather than the Société's rule: the acute falls only on a word-final é, so esté, verité, nés, and très; the grave on seven words only — près, après, adès, espès, engrès, dès, ciprès; the circumflex nowhere; and the tréma wherever two vowels do not make a diphthong. u and v, i and j are distinguished.

The verse number the margin carries every fifth row is Langlois' own, which he prints every fourth. The 106 verse paragraphs his page indents that do not open a section are indented as he sets them, and the god of Love's first speech is left unclosed at 1897 because the edition leaves it so.

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The Dream, and the Month of May

I

Against those who hold that dreams are only fable, the poet cites Macrobius on Scipio's vision and sets down a dream of his twentieth year. He names the book the Romance of the Rose and offers it to the lady who ought to be called Rose. In the dream it is May: the woods green again, the earth in a gown of a hundred pairs of colors, the birds singing that were mute through the cold. He dresses, threads a silver needle, and walks out of town along a river to a meadow at the water's edge.

Maintes genz dient que en songes

Many folk say that in dreams

n'a se fables non e mençonges;

not-is except fables not and lies

mais l'en puet teus songes songier

but one can such dreams to-dream

qui ne sont mie mençongier,

which not are at-all lying

ainz sont après bien aparant;

rather are afterward well apparent

si en puis bien traire a garant

and thereof I-can well to-draw as warrant

un auctor qui ot non Macrobes,

an author who had name Macrobius

qui ne tint pas songes a lobes,

who not held at-all dreams as deceits

ançois escript l'avision

rather wrote the-vision

qui avint au roi Scipion.

which befell to-the king Scipio

5

10

Quiconques cuide ne qui die

Whoever thinks or who may-say

que soit folor e musardie

that be folly and foolishness

de croire que songes aveigne,

to believe that a-dream come-true

qui ce voudra, por fol m'en teigne;

who this will-wish for a-fool me-thereat let-him-hold

15 car endroit moi ai je fiance

for as-for me have I trust

que songes est senefiance

that a-dream is a-signifying

des biens as genz e des enuiz;

of-the goods to-the folk and of-the troubles

car li plusor songent de nuiz

for the most-folk dream by night

maintes choses covertement

many things covertly

20 que l'en voit puis apertement.

which one sees afterward openly

Ou vintieme an de mon aage,

In-the twentieth year of my age

ou point qu'Amors prent le paage

at-the point that-Love takes the toll

des juenes genz, couchiez m'estoie

of-the young folk lain-down myself-I-was

une nuit, si con je soloie,

one night so as I was-wont

25 e me dormoie mout forment;

and myself I-slept very soundly

si vi un songe en mon dormant
and I-saw a dream in my sleeping
 qui mout fu biaux e mout me plot;
which very was fair and much me pleased
 mais en cel songe onques rien n'ot
but in that dream ever anything not-was
 qui trestot avenu ne soit
which wholly come-to-pass not be

si con li songes recensoit.

so as the dream recounted

30

Or vueil cel songe rimeier,

Now I-wish that dream to-put-in-rhyme

por voz cuers plus faire esgaier,

to your hearts more make rejoice

qu'Amors le me prie e comande.

for-Love it to-me begs and commands

E se nus ne nule demande

And if anyone or any-woman asks

coment je vueil que li romanz

how I wish that the romance

soit apelez que je comenz,

be called which I begin

ce est li Romanz de la Rose,

this is the Romance of the Rose

ou l'Art d'Amors est toute enclose.

wherein the-Art of-Love is wholly enclosed

La matire en est bone e nueve;

The matter thereof is good and new

35

40 or doint Deus qu'en gré le requeve

now may-grant God that-in favor it she-receive

cele por cui je l'ai empris;

she for whom I it-have undertaken

c'est cele qui tant a de pris

she-is the-one who so-much has of worth

e tant est dine d'estre amee

and so is worthy to-be loved

qu'el doit estre Rose clamee.

that-she ought to-be Rose called

45 Avis m'iere qu'il estoit mais,

Seeming to-me-was that-it was May

il a ja bien cinc anz ou mais,

it is already fully five years or more

qu'en mai estoie, ce sonjoie,

that-in May I-was this I-dreamed

ou tens amoureux, plein de joie,

in-the season amorous full of joy

ou tens ou toute rien s'esgaie,

in-the season when every thing itself-rejoices

50 que l'en ne voit boisson ne haie

when one not sees bush nor hedge

qui en mai parer ne se vueille

that in May to-deck not itself wishes

e covrir de novele fueille.

and to-cover with new leaf

Li bois recuevrent lor verdure,

The woods recover their greenness

qui sont sec tant come ivers dure;

which are dry as-long as winter lasts

la terre meïsmes s'orgueille

the earth herself herself-grows-proud

por la rosee qui la mueille,

for the dew which her wets

e oblie la povreté

and forgets the poverty

ou ele a tot l'iver esté;

wherein she has all the-winter been

lors devient la terre si gobe

then becomes the earth so proud

qu'el viaut avoir novele robe;

that-she wishes to-have new gown

si set si cointe robe faire

and knows so dainty gown to-make

que de colors i a cent paire.

that of colors there are hundred pairs

L'erbe e les flors blanches e perses,

The-grass and the flowers white and blue

e de maintes colors diverses,

and of many colors diverse

c'est la robe que je devise,

this-is the gown which I describe

por quoi la terre miauz se prise.

for which the earth better herself prizes

Li oisel, qui se sont teü

The birds which themselves have kept-silent

tant come il ont le froit eü

as-long as they have the cold had

e le tens divers e frarin,

and the weather harsh and wretched

55

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- 70 sont en mai, por le tens serin,
are in May for the weather serene
 si lié qu'il montrent en chantant
so glad that-they show in singing
 qu'en lor cuers a de joie tant
that-in their hearts there-is of joy so-much
 qu'il lor estuet chanter par force.
that-it them behooves to-sing by force
 Li rossigniaus lores s'esforce
The nightingale then himself-exerts
- 75 de chanter e de faire noise;
to sing and to make noise
 lors se deduit e lors s'envoise
then himself delights and then himself-disports
 li papegauz e la calandre;
the parrot and the lark
 lors estuet juenes genz entendre
then it-behooves young folk to-attend
 a estre gais e amoureux,
to be gay and amorous
- 80 por le tens bel e doucereus;
for the weather fair and sweet
 mout a dur cuer qui en mai n'aime,
very has hard heart who in May not-loves
 quant il ot chanter sor la raimie
when he hears sing on the bough
 as oisiaus les douz chanz piteus.
of-the birds the sweet songs plaintive
 En icelui tens deliteus,
In that season delightful

que toute rien d'amer s'esfroie,

when every creature to-love itself-stirs

sonjai une nuit que j'estoie;

I-dreamed one night that I-was

lors m'iere avis en mon dormant

then to-me-was seeming in my sleeping

qu'il estoit matins durement:

that-it was morning fully

de mon lit tantost me levai,

from my bed at-once myself I-raised

chauçai moi e mes mains lavai.

I-shod myself and my hands washed

Lors trais une aiguille d'argent

Then I-drew a needle of-silver

d'un aguillier mignot e gent,

from-a needle-case dainty and fine

si pris l'aiguille a enfiler.

and I-began the-needle to thread

Hors de vile oi talent d'aler,

Out of town I-had desire to-go

por oïr des oisiaus les sons,

to hear of-the birds the songs

qui chantoient par ces boissons

which were-singing among these bushes

en icele saison novele.

in that season new

Cousant mes manches a videle,

Sewing my sleeves with spiral-stitch

m'en vois lors toz seus esbatant,

myself-thence I-go then all alone disporting

85

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- 100 e les oiselez escoutant,
and the little-birds listening-to
 qui de chanter mout s'angoissoient,
which with singing greatly themselves-strained
 por les vergiers qui florissoient.
because-of the gardens which were-blooming
 Jolis, gais e pleins de leece,
Merry gay and full of gladness
 vers une riviere m'adrece
toward a river myself-I-direct
 105 que j'oi près d'ilueques bruire;
which I-heard near of-there to-murmur
 car ne me soi aler deduire
for not myself I-knew to-go to-delight
 plus bel que sus cele riviere.
more fairly than upon that river
 D'un tertre qui près d'iluec iere
From-a hill which near of-there was
 descendoit l'eve grant e roide.
came-down the-water great and swift
 110 Clere estoit l'eve e ausi froide
Clear was the-water and also cold
 come puiz ou come fontaine;
as a-well or as a-spring
 si estoit poi mendre de Seine,
and it-was little smaller than Seine
 mais qu'ele estoit plus expandue.
but that-it was more spread-out

Onques mais n'avoie veüe

Ever before not-had seen

cele eve qui si bien seoit;

that water which so well suited

si m'abelissoit e seoit

and me-it-pleased and suited

a regarder le leu plaisant.

to look-at the place pleasant

De l'eve clere e reluisant

With the-water clear and shining

mon vis rafreschi e lavai;

my face I-refreshed and washed

si vi tot covert e pavé

and I-saw wholly covered and paved

le fonz de l'eve de gravele.

the bottom of the-water with gravel

La praerie grant e bele

The meadow great and fair

trés au pié de l'eve battoit.

right at-the foot of the-water reached

Clere e serie e bele estoit

Clear and calm and fair was

la matinee e atempree;

the morning and temperate

lors m'en alai par mi la pree,

then myself-thence I-went through midst the meadow

contreval l'eve esbaneiant,

down-along the-water disporting

tot le rivage costeiant.

all the bank skirting

115

120

125

The Images on the Wall

II

A little further on stands a great walled garden, its outer face painted and carved with figures, and he reads them one by one. In the middle is Hate, scowling and wrapped in a cloth; beside her Felony and Villainy; then Covetousness with hooked hands, who drives men to usury, theft, and fraud; then Avarice, lean and green as a chive, in a gown ten years old, knotting shut the purse she hides in her hand; then Envy, who never laughed in her life, rejoices at nothing but another's ruin and cannot look a man in the face.

Quant j'oi un poi avant alé,

When I-had a little forward gone

130 si vi un vergier grant e lé,

and I-saw a garden great and wide

tot clos de haut mur bataillié,

all closed with high wall battlemented

portrait dehors e entaillié

painted outside and carved

a maintes riches escritures.

with many rich inscriptions

Les images e les pointures

The images and the paintings

135 dou mur volentiers remirai.

of-the wall gladly I-gazed-at

Si vos conterai e dirai

And to-you I-shall-relate and say

de ces images la semblance,

of these images the likeness

si com moi vient en remembrance.

so as to-me comes in remembrance

Enz en le mileu vi Haïne,

Right in the middle I-saw Hate

qui de corroz e d'ataïne

who of wrath and of-rancor

sembla bien estre moverresse;

seemed well to-be a-stirrer

corroceuse e tençonnerresse,

wrathful and quarrelsome

e pleine de grant cuvertage

and full of great baseness

estoit par semblant cele image;

was by seeming that image

si n'estoit pas bien atornee,

and not-was at-all well adorned

ainz sembloit fame forsenee.

rather seemed a-woman frenzied

Rechignié avoit e froncié

Scowling she-had and wrinkled

le vis, e le nés secorcié;

the face and the nose turned-up

hisdeuse estoit e roïllie;

hideous she-was and rust-stained

e si estoit entortilliee

and so she-was wrapped

hisdosement d'une toaille.

hideously in-a cloth

Une autre image d'autel taille

An other image of-such fashion

a senestre avoit delez lui;

on the-left there-was beside her

140

145

150

son non desus sa teste lui:

her name above her head I-read

155 apelee estoit Felonie.

called she-was Felony

Une image qui Vilanie

An image which Villainy

avoit non revu devers destre,

had name I-saw-in-turn toward the-right

qui estoit auques d'autel estre

which was somewhat of-such bearing

con ces deus e d'autel faiture;

as these two and of-such making

160 bien sembla male creature,

well she-seemed an-evil creature

e sembla bien estre outrageuse

and she-seemed well to-be outrageous

e mesdisant e ramponeuse;

and slandering and jeering

mout sot bien poindre e bien portraire

very knew well to-paint and well to-portray

cil qui sot tel image faire,

he who knew such an-image to-make

165 qu'el sembloit bien chose vilaine;

for-she seemed well a-thing base

bien sembloit estre d'afiz pleine

well she-seemed to-be of-taunts full

e fame qui petit seüst

and a-woman who little might-know

d'enorer ce qu'ele deüst.

of-honoring that which-she ought

Après fu pointe Covoitise;

Next was painted Covetousness

c'est cele qui les genz atise

she-is the-one who the folk incites

de prendre e de neient doner,

to take and to nothing give

e les granz avoires aüner;

and the great wealth to-heap-up

c'est cele qui fait a usure

she-is the-one who makes at usury

prester mainz por la grant ardire

lend many for the great ardor

d'avoir conquerre e assembler;

of-wealth to-win and to-gather

c'est cele qui semont d'emblor

she-is the-one who summons to-steal

les larrons e les ribaudiaus;

the thieves and the ruffians

si est granz pechiez e granz diaus,

and it-is great sin and great grief

qu'en la fin maint en covient pendre;

for-in the end many-a-one thereof it-behooves to-hang

c'est cele qui fait l'autrui prendre,

she-is the-one who makes another's-(goods) take

rober, tolir e bareter,

rob seize and cheat

e bescochier e mesconter;

and defraud and miscount

170

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c'est cele qui les tricheors

she-is the-one who the tricksters

fait toz e les faus plaideors,

makes all and the false pleaders

185 qui maintes foiz par lor faveles

who many times by their chatter

ont as vallez e as puceles

have from-the young-men and from-the maidens

lor droites eritez tolues.

their rightful heritages taken-away

Recorbelees e crochues

Hooked and crooked

avoit les mains icele image:

had the hands that image

190 si fu droiz, que toz jorz enrage

and it-was right that all days rages

Covoitise de l'autrui prendre;

Covetousness to another's take

Covoitise ne set entendre

Covetousness not knows to-attend

fors que a l'autrui acrochier;

except that to another's snatching

Covoitise a l'autrui trop chier.

Covetousness holds another's too dear

195 Une autre image i ot assise

An other image there was set

coste a coste de Covoitise,

side by side of Covetousness

Avarice estoit apelee.

Avarice she-was called

Laide estoit e sale e follee

Ugly was and foul and battered

cele image, e maigre e chaitive,

that image and lean and wretched

e ausi vert come une cive;

and as green as a chive

tant par estoit descoloree

so much she-was discolored

qu'el sembloit estre enlangoree;

that-she seemed to-be wasted

chose sembloit morte de fain,

a-thing she-seemed dead of hunger

qui vesquist solement de pain

who might-live only on bread

pestri a lessu fort e aigre.

kneaded with lye strong and sharp

E avuec ce qu'ele iere maigre,

And besides this that-she was lean

iert ele povrement vestue:

was she poorly clad

cote avoit viez e derompue,

a-gown she-had old and torn

come s'el fust as chiens remese;

as if-it had-been to-the dogs left

povre estoit la cote e esrese

poor was the gown and threadbare

e pleine de viez paletiaus.

and full of old patches

200

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210

Delez li pendoit uns mantiaus

Beside her hung a mantle

a une perchete graillete,

on a little-pole slender

e une cote de brunete;

and a gown of brown-cloth

215 ou mantel n'ot pas penne vaire,

in-the mantle not-was at-all fur miniver

mais mout vil e de povre affaire,

but very mean and of poor sort

d'aigniaus noirs, veluz e pesanz.

of-lambs black shaggy and heavy

Bien avoit sa robe dis anz,

Fully bad her gown ten years

mais Avarice dou vestir

but Avarice of-the clothing

220 se viaut mout a tart enhastir;

herself wishes very at late to-hasten

car sachiez que mout li pesast

for know that much her it-would-grieve

se cele robe point usast;

if that gown at-all wore-out

car s'el fust usee e mauvaise,

for if-it were worn and bad

Avarice eüst grant mesaise

Avarice would-have great distress

225 de robe nueve e grant disete

for gown new and great want

avant qu'ele eüst autre faite.

before that-she had another made

Avarice en sa main tenoit

Avarice in her hand held

une borse qu'el reponoit,

a purse which-she hid

e la nooit si durement

and it knotted so tightly

qu'el demorast mout longuement

that-she would-tarry very long

ançois qu'ele en peüst rien traire;

before that-she thereof could anything draw

mais el n'avoit de ce que faire:

but she not-had of this what to-do

el n'aloit pas a ce beant

she not-went at-all at this gaping

que de la borse ostast neant.

that from the purse she-take anything

Après refu portraite Envie,

Next was-in-turn portrayed Envy

qui ne rist onques en sa vie,

who not laughed ever in her life

n'onques por riens ne s'esjoï

nor-ever for anything not herself-rejoiced

s'ele ne vit ou s'el n'oï

if-she not saw or if-she not-heard

aucun grant damage retraire.

some great harm to-be-told

Nule rien ne li puet tant plaire

Any thing not her can so-much please

con fait maus e mesaventure.

as does evil and misadventure

230

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240

Quant el voit grant desconfiture

When she sees great ruin

sor aucun prodome cheoir,

upon some worthy-man fall

ice li plaist mout a veoir.

that her pleases much to see

245 Ele est trop liee en son corage

She is exceedingly glad in her heart

quant el voit aucun grant lignage

when she sees some great lineage

decheoir ou aler a honte;

fall or go to shame

e quant aucuns a enor monte

and when anyone to honor rises

par son sen e par sa proece,

by his sense and by his prowess

250 c'est la chose qui plus la blece;

that-is the thing which most her wounds

car sachiez que mout la covient

for know that much her it-behooves

estre iriee quant biens avient.

to-be angered when good befalls

Envie est de tel cruauté

Envy is of such cruelty

qu'ele ne porte leiauté

that-she not bears loyalty

255 a compaignon ne a compaigne,

to companion nor to companion-woman

n'ele n'a parent, tant li teigne,

nor-she not-has kin however-near to-her be-bound

a cui el ne soit anemie;

to whom she not be an-enemy

car certes el ne voudroit mie

for certainly she not would-wish at-all

que biens venist nes a son pere.

that good should-come not-even to her father

Mais sachiez bien qu'ele compere

But know well that-she pays-for

sa malice trop laidement;

her malice too foully

qu'ele est en si trés grant torment

for-she is in so very great torment

e a tel duel quant genz bien font

and has such grief when folk well do

que par un poi qu'ele n'en font.

that by a little that-she thereof melts

Ses felons cuers si la detrenche

Her cruel heart so her cuts-up

que de li Deu e la gent venche.

that on her God and the folk avenges

Envie ne fine nule eure

Envy not ceases any hour

d'aucun blasma metre as genz seure;

of-some blame to-put on-the folk upon

je cuit que s'ele conoissoit

I think that if-she knew

le trés plus prodome qui soit

the very most worthy-man who be

ne deça mer ne dela mer,

neither this-side-of sea nor beyond sea

260

265

270

si le voudroit ele blasmer;

yet him would-wish she to-blame

e s'il iere si bien appris

and if-he were so well taught

qu'el ne peüst de tot son pris

that-she not could of all his worth

275 abatre ne lui desprisier,

strike-down nor him disparage

si voudroit ele apetisier

yet would-wish she to-lessen

sa proece au moins e s'enor

his prowess at-the least and his-honor

par parole faire menor.

by word make smaller

Lors vi qu'Envie en la pointure

Then I-saw that-Envy in the painting

280 avoit trop laide esgardeüre:

bad exceedingly ugly a-look

ele ne regardast neient

she not would-look at-all

fors de travers en borgneiant;

except from the-side in squinting

si avoit un mauvais usage,

and she-bad a bad habit

car el ne peüst au visage

for she not could in-the face

285 regarder rien de plain en plain,

look-at anything from full to full

ainz clooit un uel par desdein;

rather she-closed one eye out-of disdain

qu'ele fondoit d'ire e ardoit

for-she melted with-wrath and burned

quant aucuns qu'ele regardoit

when anyone whom-she looked-at

estoit ou preuz ou biaux ou genz

was either worthy or fair or noble

ou amez ou loez de genz.

or loved or praised by folk

290

Sorrow, Old Age, Hypocrisy, and Poverty

III

Four more figures finish the wall. Sorrow has torn her own face and gown; joy and grief, the poet observes, are contraries. Old Age is shrunk a foot, toothless, and unable to walk four fathoms without a crutch, and her portrait becomes a meditation on Time, which steals from us so secretly that it seems to stand still and will age us all unless Death comes first. Then Hypocrisy, working her mischief in secret under a psalter and a hair shirt; and last Poverty, naked but for an old sack, crouched apart like a dog.

Delez Envie auques près iere

Beside Envy somewhat near was

Tristece pointe en la maisiere;

Sorrow painted on the wall

mais bien paroît a sa color

but well appeared by her color

qu'ele avoit au cuer grant dolor,

that-she had in-the heart great grief

e sembloit avoir la jaunice,

and she-seemed to-have the jaundice

295

si n'i feïst riens Avarice

and not-there would-do anything Avarice

de paleté ne de maigrece;

in pallor nor in leanness

car li esmais e la destrece

for the dismay and the distress

e la pesance e li enuiz

and the heaviness and the trouble

300 qu'el sofroit de jorz e de nuiz

which-she suffered by days and by nights

l'avoient mout faite jaunir

her-bad greatly made grow-yellow

e maigre e pale devenir.

and lean and pale become

Onques rien nee en tel martire

Ever a-thing born in such martyrdom

ne fu mais ne n'ot si grant ire

not was before nor not-had so great wrath

305 come il sembloit que ele eüst;

as it seemed that she had

je cuit que nus ne li seüst

I think that anyone not to-her would-know

faire rien qui li peüst plaire;

to-do anything which to-her could please

n'el ne se vosist pas retraire

nor-she not herself would-wish at-all to-withdraw

ne reconforter a nul fuer

nor to-be-comforted at any price

310 dou duel qu'ele avoit a son cuer.

from-the grief which-she had in her heart

Trop avoit son cuer corrocié

Too-much she-had her heart embittered

e son duel parfont comencié.

and her grief deeply begun

Mout sembloit bien estre dolente,

Greatly she-seemed indeed to-be doleful

car el n'avoit pas esté lente

for she not-had at-all been slow

d'esgratiner toute sa chiere;

in-scratching all her face

n'el n'avoit pas sa robe chiere:

nor-she not-had at-all her gown dear

en maint leu l'avoit descirree,

in many-a place it-she-had torn

con cele qui mout iert iriee.

as she who greatly was angered

Si chevel tuit destrecié furent,

Her hair all disheveled were

e espandu par son col jurent;

and spread over her neck lay

qu'el les avoit trestoz deroz

for-she them had all torn

de mautalent e de corroz.

out-of ill-will and out-of wrath

Si sachiez bien veriteument

And know well truly

qu'el ploroit mout profondement:

that-she wept very deeply

315

320

- 325 nus tant fust durs ne la veïst
anyone however were hard not her would-see
 a cui grant pitié n'en preïst;
to whom great pity not-thereat would-take
 qu'el se derompoit e batoit
for-she herself tore and beat
 e ses poinz ensemble hurtoit.
and her fists together struck
 Mout iere a duel faire ententive
Very she-was on grief making intent
 330 la dolereuse, la chaitive;
the doleful the wretched
 il ne li tenoit d'envoisier
it not to-her concerned to-make-merry
 ne d'acoler ne de baisier;
nor to-embrace nor to kiss
 car qui le cuer a bien dolent,
for who the heart has fully doleful
 sachiez de voir qu'il n'a talent
know for truth that-he not-has desire
 335 de dancier ne de queroler.
to dance nor to carol
 Nus ne se porroit amoler,
Anyone not himself could incline
 qui duel eüst, a joie faire;
who grief might-have to joy make
 car joie e diaus sont dui contraire.
for joy and grief are two contraries

Après fu Vieillece portraite,
Next was Old-Age portrayed
 qui estoit bien un pié retraite
who was fully a foot shrunken
 de tel come ele soloit estre;
from such as she was-wont to-be
 a poine qu'el se pooit paistre,
with difficulty that-she herself could feed
 tant estoit vieille e redotee.
so-much she-was aged and doting
 Mout estoit sa biauté gasteie,
Very was her beauty spoiled
 mout estoit laide devenue.
very she-was ugly become
 Toute sa teste estoit cheneue
All her head was hoary
 e blanche con s'el fust florie.
and white as if-it had-been in-flower
 Ce ne fust mie grant morie
That not would-be at-all great loss
 s'ele morist, ne granz pechiez,
if-she died nor great sin
 car toz ses cors estoit sechiez
for all her body was withered
 de vieillece e aneientiz.
with age and brought-to-nothing
 Mout estoit ja ses vis fletiz,
Very was already her face shriveled
 qui fu jadis soés e plains;
which was formerly smooth and full

340

345

350

or estoit toz de fronces pleins.

now it-was all of wrinkles full

355 Les oreilles avoit mossues,

The ears she-had mossy

e toutes les denz si perdues

and all the teeth so lost

qu'ele n'en avoit mais nes une.

that-she not-thereof had more even one

Tant par estoit de grant vieillune

So much she-was of great eld

qu'el n'alast mie la montance

that-she not-would-go at-all the distance

360 de quatre toises senz potence.

of four fathoms without a-crutch

Li Tens qui s'en vait nuit e jor,

The Time which itself-thence goes night and day

senz repos prendre e senz sejour,

without rest taking and without stay

e qui de nos se part e emble

and which from us itself parts and steals

si celeement qu'il nos semble

so secretly that-it to-us seems

365 qu'il s'arest adès en un point,

that-it itself-stays ever at one point

e il ne s'i areste point,

and it not itself-there stays at-all

ainz ne fine de trespasser,

rather not ceases from passing-on

que l'en ne puet neïs penser

so-that one not can even to-think

queus tens ce est qui est presenz,

what time this is which is present

sel demandez as clers lisanz;

if-it you-ask of-the clerks reading

car ainz que l'en l'eüst pensé

for before that one it-bad thought

seroient ja troi tens passé.

would-be already three times passed

Li Tens qui ne puet sejourner,

The Time which not can tarry

ainz vait toz jorz senz retorner,

rather goes all days without returning

con l'eve qui s'avale toute,

as the-water which itself-lowers wholly

n'il n'en retorne arriere goute;

nor-it not-thereof returns backward a-drop

li Tens vers cui neienz ne dure,

the Time against which nothing not endures

ne fers ne chose tant soit dure,

neither iron nor a-thing however be hard

car Tens gaste tot e manjue;

for Time wastes all and devours

li Tens qui toute chose mue,

the Time which every thing changes

qui tot fait croistre e tot norrist

which all makes grow and all nourishes

e qui tot use e tot porrist;

and which all wears and all rots

370

375

380

li Tens qui envieilli noz peres,

the Time which aged our fathers

qui vieillist rois e empereres

which ages kings and emperors

385 e qui toz nos envieillira,

and which all us will-age

ou Morz nos desavancira;

or Death us will-forestall

li Tens, qui tot a en baillie

the Time which all has in keeping

des genz vieillir, l'avoit vieillie

of-the folk to-age her-bad aged

si durement qu'au mien cuidier

so grievously that-to-the my thinking

390 el ne se pooit mais aidier,

she not herself could more help

ainz retornoit ja en enfance;

rather she-turned already into childhood

car certes el n'avoit poissance,

for certainly she not-had power

ce cuit je, ne force ne sen,

this think I nor force nor sense

ne plus que uns enfes d'un an.

no more than a child of-one year

395 Neporquant, au mien escientre,

Nevertheless to-the my knowledge

ele avoit esté sage e entre,

she had been wise and shrewd

quant ele iert en son droit aage;

when she was in her right age

mais je cuit qu'el n'iere mais sage,

but I think that-she not-was more wise

ainz estoit toute rassotee.

rather she-was wholly besotted

Ele ot d'une chape forree

She had with-a cloak lined

mout bien, si con je me recors,

very well so as I myself recall

abrié e vestu son cors.

sheltered and clothed her body

Bien fu vestue chaudement,

Well she-was clad warmly

car ele eüst froit autrement:

for she would-have cold otherwise

ces vieilles genz ont tost froidure;

these old folk have soon chill

bien savez que c'est lor nature.

well you-know that this-is their nature

Une image ot après escrite

An image there-was next depicted

qui sembloit bien estre ypocrite;

which seemed indeed to-be a-hypocrite

Papelardie jert apelee.

Hypocrisy she-was called

C'est celé qui en recelee,

She-is the-one who in secret

quant nus ne s'en puet prendre garde,

when anyone not himself-thereof can take heed

de nul mal faire n'est coarde;

of any evil to-do not-is afraid

400

405

410

el fait dehors le marmiteus,

she plays outwardly the sanctimonious

si a le vis simple e piteus,

and has the face simple and piteous

415 e semble sainte creature,

and seems a-holy creature

mais soz ciel n'a male aventure

but under heaven not-is an-evil deed

qu'ele ne penst en son corage.

which-she not thinks in her heart

Mout la ressembloit bien l'image,

Greatly her resembled well the-image

qui faite fu a sa semblance;

which made was in her likeness

420 qu'el fu de simple contenance,

for-she was of simple bearing

e si fu chauciee e vestue

and so she-was shod and clad

tot ausi con fame rendue.

all just as a-woman vowed

En sa main un sautier tenoit;

In her hand a psalter she-held

si sachiez que mout se penoit;

and know that much herself took-pains

425 de faire a Deu prieres feintes,

in making to God prayers feigned

e d'apeler e sainz e saintes.

and in-calling-on both saints and holy-women

El ne fu gaie ne jolive,

She not was gay nor merry

ainz fu par semblant ententive

rather she-was by seeming intent

dou tot a bones uevres faire;

of-the all to good works to-do

e si avoit vestu la haire.

and so she-had put-on the hair-shirt

Si sachiez qu'el n'iere pas grasse,

And know that-she not-was at-all fat

ainz sembloit de jeüner lasse,

rather she-seemed with fasting weary

s'avoit la color pale e morte.

and-she-had the color pale and dead

A li e as siens iert la porte

To her and to-the her-own was the gate

deveee de parevis;

forbidden of paradise

car iceste gent font lor vis

for this-same folk make their faces

amaigrir, ce dit l'Evangile,

grow-lean this says the-Gospel

por avoir los par mi la vile,

in-order-to have praise through midst the town

e por un poi de gloire vaine,

and for a little of glory vain

qui lor toudra Deu e son reïne.

which to-them will-take-away God and his kingdom

430

435

440

Portraite fu au derrenier

Portrayed was at-the last

Povreté, qui un seul denier

Poverty who a single penny

n'eüst pas, s'el se deüst pendre,

not-would-have at-all if-she herself must hang

tant seüst bien sa robe vendre,

however she-might-know well her gown to-sell

445 qu'ele estoit nue come vers.

for-she was naked as a-worm

Se li tens fust un poi divers,

If the weather were a little harsh

je cuit qu'ele acorast de froit,

I think that-she would-die of cold

qu'el n'avoit qu'un viez sac estroit,

for-she not-bad but-a old sack narrow

tot plein de mauvais paletiaus:

all full of wretched patches

450 c'estoit sa cote e ses mantiaus;

this-was her gown and her mantle

el n'avoit plus que afubler:

she not-bad more to put-on

grant loisir avoit de trembler.

great leisure she-bad for trembling

Des autres fu un poi loignet;

From-the others she-was a little apart

com povres chiens en un coignet

like a-poor dog in a corner

455 se cropoit e atapissoit;

herself she-crouched and cowered

car povre chose, ou qu'ele soit,

for a-poor thing wherever that-she be

est toz jorz honteuse e despite.

is all days shamed and despised

L'eure puisse estre la maudite

The-hour may it-be the accursed

que povres on fu conceüz!

in-which a-poor man was conceived

Qu'il ne sera ja bien peüz,

For-he not will-be ever well fed

ne bien vestuz, ne bien chauciez;

nor well clothed nor well shod

n'il n'est amez ne essauciez.

nor-he not-is loved nor exalted

460

The Little Gate, and Idleness

IV

Within the garden the birds are singing, three times as many as in all France, and he hunts the square wall for a way in. At last a small wicket of hornbeam is opened by a maiden with hair blonde as a basin, a mirror in her hand, and a garland of fresh roses over one of gold braid. She is Idleness, familiar of Mirth, who owns the garden, had its trees brought from the land of the Saracens, and had the sad images painted outside. Mirth is within, and the lover resolves to see that company tonight.

Les images bien avisai,

The images well I-observed

car, si come j'ai devisé,

for so as I-have described

- 465 furent a or e a azur
they-were with gold and with azure
 de toutes parz pointes ou mur.
on all sides painted on-the wall
 Hauz fu li murs e toz carrez;
High was the wall and all square
 si en estoit clos e barrez,
and thereby was closed and barred
 en leu de haies, uns vergiers,
in place of hedges a garden
 470 ou onc n'avoit entré bergiers.
where ever not-had entered a-shepherd
 Cil vergiers en trop bel leu sist.
That garden in exceedingly fair place stood
 Qui dedenz mener me vosist,
Whoever within to-lead me had-wished
 ou par eschiele ou par degré,
either by ladder or by step
 je l'en seüsse mout bon gré;
I to-him-thereof would-owe very good thanks
 475 car tel joie ne tel deduit
for such joy nor such delight
 ne vit mais on, si con je cuit,
not saw ever one so as I think
 come il avoit en cel vergier;
as there was in that garden
 car li leus d'oisiaus herbergier
for the place for-birds to-lodge
 n'estoit ne desdeigneus ne chiches;
not-was neither disdainful nor niggardly

onc mais ne fu nus leus si riches

480

ever before not was any place so rich

d'arbres ne d'oisillons chantanz,

in-trees nor in-little-birds singing

qu'il i avoit d'oisiaus trois tanz

for-it there was of-birds three times

qu'en tot le reiaume de France.

than-in all the realm of France

Mout estoit bele l'acordance

Very was fair the-harmony

de lor piteus chant a oïr;

485

of their plaintive song to hear

toz li monz s'en doit esjoïr.

all the world itself-thereat ought to-rejoice

Je endroit moi m'en esjoï

I as-for me myself-thereat rejoiced

si durement, quant je l'oï,

so greatly when I it-heard

que n'en preïsse pas cent livres,

that not-thereof I-would-take at-all hundred pounds

se li passages fust delivres,

490

if the passage were free

que enz n'entrasse e ne veïsse

that within not-I-should-enter and not should-see

l'assemblee, que Deus guerisse!

the-company whom God preserve

Des oisiaus qui laienz estoient,

Of-the birds which within were

qui envoisieement chantoient

which merrily sang

495 les dances d'Amors e les notes

the dances of-Love and the airs

plaisanz, cortoisies e mignotes.

pleasing courtly and dainty

Quant j'oi les oisiaus chanter,

When I-heard the birds sing

forment me pris a dementer

strongly myself I-began to puzzle

par quel art ne par quel engin

by what art nor by what device

500 je porroie entrer ou jardin.

I could to-enter in-the garden

Mais je ne poi onc enconter

But I not could ever find

leu par ou j'i peüsse entrer;

a-place by which I-there could enter

si sachiez que je ne savoie

and know that I not knew

s'il i avoit pertuis ne voie

whether-it there was a-gap nor way

505 ne leu par ou l'en i entrast;

nor place by which one there might-enter

ne nus on qui le me montrast

nor any man who it to-me might-show

n'iert iluec, car j'estoie seus.

not-was there for I-was alone

Destroiz fui mout e angoisseus,

Distressed I-was very and anguished

tant qu'au derrenier me sovint

until that-at-the last to-me came-to-mind

qu'onques en nul sen ce n'avint

that-ever in any wise this not-befell

qu'en si bel vergier n'eüst uis,

that-in so fair a-garden not-were a-door

ou eschiele ou quelque pertuis.

either ladder or some gap

Lors m'en alai grant aleüre,

Then myself-thence I-went at-great pace

aceignant la compasseüre

circling the circuit

e la cloison dou mur carré,

and the enclosure of-the wall square

tant que un uisset bien serré

until that a little-door well shut

trovai, petitet e estroit;

I-found very-small and narrow

par autre leu nus n'i entroit.

by other place anyone not-there entered

A l'uis començai a ferir,

At the-door I-began to strike

qu'autre entree n'i soi querir.

for-other entry not-there I-knew to-seek

Assez i feri e boutai,

Much there I-struck and pushed

e par maintes foiz escoutai

and for many times I-listened

se j'orroie venir nule arme.

whether I-should-bear come any soul

510

515

520

Le guichet, qui estoit de charme,

The wicket which was of hornbeam

525 adonc m'ovri une pucele,

then to-me-opened a maiden

qui assez estoit gente e bele.

who quite was comely and fair

Cheveus ot blonz come uns bacins,

Hair she-had blond as a basin

la char plus tendre qu'uns poucins,

the flesh more tender than-a chick

front reluisant, sorciz voutiz.

forehead shining eyebrows arched

530 Li entriauz ne fu pas petiz,

The space-between-the-eyes not was at-all small

ainz iert assez granz par mesure;

rather it-was quite wide in measure

le nés ot bien fait a droiture,

the nose she-had well made in straightness

e les iauz vairs come uns faucons,

and the eyes bright-gray as a falcon

por faire envie a ces bricons.

to make envy in these fools

535 Douce aleine ot e savoree,

Sweet breath she-had and fragrant

e face blanche e coloree,

and face white and ruddy

la bouche petite e grossete;

the mouth small and full

s'ot ou menton une fossete.

and-she-had in-the chin a dimple

Li cos fu de bone moison,

The neck was of good measure

gros assez e lons par raison,

thick enough and long in proportion

si n'i ot bube ne malan:

and not-there was pimple nor sore

n'avoit jusqu'en Jerusalem

not-there-was as-far-as-in Jerusalem

fame qui plus bel col portast;

woman who more fair neck bore

poliz iert e soés au tast.

smooth it-was and soft to-the touch

La gorge avoit autresi blanche

The throat she-had likewise white

come est la nois desus la branche,

as is the snow upon the branch

quant il a freschement negié.

when it has freshly snowed

Le cors ot bien fait e dougié;

The body she-had well made and slender

il n'esteüst en nule terre

it not-would-be-needful in any land

nul plus bel cors de fame querre.

any more fair body of woman to-see

D'orfrois ot un chapel mignot;

Of-gold-braid she-had a garland dainty

onques nule pucele n'ot

ever any maiden not-had

plus cointe ne plus desguisié:

more dainty nor more elaborate

540

545

550

ne l'avroie droit devisié.

not it-I-should-have rightly described

555 Un chapel de roses tot frois

A garland of roses all fresh

ot desus le chapel d'orfrois.

she-had above the garland of-gold-braid

En sa main tint un miroer;

In her hand she-held a mirror

si ot d'un riche treçoer

and she-had with-a rich hair-band

son chief trecié mout richement.

her head braided very richly

560 Bien e bel e estroitement

Well and fairly and tightly

ot andeus cousues ses manches;

she-had both sewn her sleeves

e, por garder que ses mains blanches

and to keep that her hands white

ne halassent, ot uns blans ganz.

not should-tan she-had a-pair-of white gloves

Cote ot d'un riche vert de Ganz,

A-gown she-had of-a rich green of Ghent

565 cousue a lignuel tot entor.

sewn with a-cord all around

Il paroît bien a son ator

It appeared well by her array

qu'ele estoit poi embesoignee.

that-she was little busied

Quant ele s'estoit bien pigniee,

When she herself-had well combed

e bien paree e atornee,

and well adorned and arrayed

ele avoit faite sa jornee.

she had made her day's-work

Mout avoit bon tens e bon mai,

Very she-had good time and good May

qu'el n'avoit soussi ne esmai

for-she not-had care nor dismay

de nule rien, fors solement

for any thing except only

de soi atorner noblement.

for herself to-array nobly

Quant ensi m'ot l'uis desfermé

When thus to-me-had the-door unbarred

la pucele au cors acesmé,

the maiden with-the body trim

je l'en merciai bonement,

I her-thereof thanked kindly

e si li demandai coment

and so her I-asked how

ele avoit non e qui ele iere.

she had name and who she was

Ele ne fu pas vers moi fiere

She not was at-all toward me haughty

ne de respondre desdeigneuse:

nor of answering disdainful

«Je me faz», ce dist ele, «Oiseuse

I myself make that said she Idleness

apeler a mes conoissanz.

to-call by my acquaintances

570

575

580

Riche fame sui e poissanz.

Rich woman I-am and powerful

585 S'ai d'une chose mout bon tens,

And-I-have of-one thing very good time

car a nule rien je n'entens

for to any thing I not-attend

qu'a moi joer e solacier,

but-to myself play and solace

e a moi pignier e trecier.

and to myself comb and braid

Privee sui mout e acointe

Familiar I-am very and intimate

590 de Deduit le mignot, le cointe,

with Mirth the dainty the elegant

ce est cil cui est cist Jardins,

this is he whose is this Garden

qui de la terre as Sarradins

who from the land of-the Saracens

fist ça les arbres apporter

had hither the trees brought

qu'il fist par le vergier planter.

which-he had through the garden planted

595 Quant li arbre furent creü,

When the trees were grown

le mur que vos avez veü

the wall which you have seen

fist Deduiz lors tot entor faire;

had Mirth then all around made

e si fist au dehors portraire

and so he-had on-the outside portrayed

les images qui i sont pointes,

the images which there are painted

qui ne sont mignotes ne cointes,

which not are dainty nor elegant

ainz sont dolereuses e tristes,

rather are doleful and sad

si con vos orendroit veïstes.

so as you just-now saw

Maintes foiz por esbaneier

Many times to disport

se vient en cest leu ombreier

himself comes in this place to-take-shade

Deduiz e les genz qui le sivent,

Mirth and the folk who him follow

qui en joie e en solaz vivent.

who in joy and in solace live

Encore orendroit est senz doute

Even just-now is without doubt

Deduiz laienz, ou il escoute

Mirth within where he listens

a chanter les rossignolez,

to sing the nightingales

mauviz e autres oiselez.

thrushes and other little-birds

600

605

610

Il se jue iluec e solace

He himself sports there and solaces

o ses genz, que plus bele place

with his folk for more fair place

ne plus bel leu por soi joer

nor more fair spot for himself to-play

ne porroit il mie troer.

not could he at-all find

615 Les plus beles genz, ce sachiez,

The most fair folk this know

que vos jamais nul leu truissiez,

that you ever any place may-find

si sont li compaignon Deduit,

so are the companions (of-)Mirth

qu'il moine avuec soi e conduit.»

whom-he leads with him and guides

Quant Oiseuse m'ot ce conté,

When Idleness to-me-had this told

620 e j'oi mout bien tot escouté,

and I-had very well all listened

je li dis lores: «Dame Oiseuse,

I to-her said then Lady Idleness

ja de ce ne seiez douteuse,

ever of this not be doubtful

puis que Deduiz, li biaux, li genz,

since that Mirth the fair the noble

est orendroit avuec ses genz
is just-now with his folk
 en cest vergier, ceste assemblee
in this garden this company
 ne m'iert pas, se je puis, emblee
not to-me-will-be at-all if I can stolen
 que ne la voie encore enuit.
that not it I-see yet tonight
 Veoir la m'estuet, car je cuit
To-see it me-bebooves for I think
 que bele est cele compaignie
that fair is that company
 e cortoise e bien enseignie.»
and courteous and well bred

625

630

The Garden and Its Birds

V

He goes in and thinks himself in an earthly paradise. Nightingales, jays, starlings, larks, blackbirds, and parrots fill the garden, and their song is like angels' and no mortal ever heard the like. He walks to the right along a path of fennel and mint and finds Mirth in a bower with folk so fair he takes them for winged angels. They are dancing a carol to the singing of Gladness; flute-players, jugglers, and timbrel-girls attend. Courtesy calls him over, and he takes his place in the dance.

Lors entrai, senz plus dire mot,
Then I-entered without more saying word
 par l'uis que Oiseuse overt m'ot,
by the-door which Idleness opened to-me-had
 ou vergier, e quant je fui enz,
into-the garden and when I was within

je fui liez e bauz e joianz;

I was glad and blithe and joyous

635 e sachiez que je cuidai estre

and know that I thought to-be

por voir en parevis terrestre;

for truth in paradise earthly

tant estoit li leus delitables

so-much was the place delightful

qu'il sembloit estre esperitables;

that-it seemed to-be spiritual

car, si come lors m'iert avis,

for so as then to-me-was seeming

640 il ne fait en nul parevis

it not is in any paradise

si bon estre come il faisoit

so good to-be as it was

ou vergier qui tant me plaisoit.

in-the garden which so-much me pleased

D'oisiaus chantanz avoit assez

Of-birds singing there-was plenty

par tot le vergier amassez.

through all the garden gathered

645 En un leu avoit rossigniaus,

In one place there-were nightingales

d'autre part jais e estorniaus;

on-other side jays and starlings

si ravoit aillors granz escoles

and there-were-in-turn elsewhere great schools

de roietiaus e de tortoles,

of wrens and of turtledoves

de chardoneriaus, d'arondeles,

of goldfinches of-swallows

d'aloës e de lardereles;

of-larks and of tit-larks

calandres ravoit amassees

calandra-larks there-were-in-turn gathered

en un autre leu, qui lassees

in an other place which wearied

de chanter fussent a enviz;

of singing were with reluctance

melles i avoit e mauviz,

blackbirds there were and thrushes

qui beoient a sormonter

which sought to outdo

ces autres oisiaus par chanter;

these other birds in singing

il ravoit aillors papegauz,

it there-were-again elsewhere parrots

e mainz oisiaus qui par ces gauz

and many birds which through these thickets

e par ces bois ou il abitent

and through these woods where they dwell

en lor bel chanter se delitent.

in their fair singing themselves delight

Trop par faisoient bel service

Exceedingly much made fair service

cil oisel que je vos devise.

those birds which I to-you describe

650

655

660

Il chantoient un chant itel

They sang a song such

con fussent ange esperitel;

as were angels spiritual

665 e bien sachiez, quant je l'oï,

and well know when I it-heard

mout durement m'en esjoï;

very greatly myself-thereat I-rejoiced

qu'onc mais si douce melodie

for-ever before so sweet a-melody

ne fu d'ome mortel oïe.

not was by-man mortal heard

Tant estoit cil chanz douz e biaux

So-much was that song sweet and fair

670 qu'il ne sembloit pas chant d'oisiaus,

that-it not seemed at-all song of-birds

ainz le peüst l'en aesmer

rather it might one liken

a chant de sereines de mer,

to song of sirens of sea

qui, por lor voiz qu'eles ont saines

who for their voices which-they have sound

e series, ont non sereines.

and clear have name sirens

675 A chanter furent ententif

To sing were intent

li oiselet, qui aprentif

the little-birds which apprentices

ne furent pas ne non sachant;

not were at-all nor not knowing

si sachiez, quant j'oï le chant

and know when I-heard the song

e je vi le leu verdeier,

and I saw the place grow-green

je me pris mout a esgaier;

I myself began much to rejoice

si n'avoie esté encore onques

and not-I-had been yet ever

si gais con je devin adonques.

so gay as I became then

Por la grant delitableté,

For the great delightfulness

fui pleins de grant joliveté;

I-was full of great merriment

e lores soi je bien e vi

and then knew I well and saw

qu'Oiseuse m'avoit bien servi,

that-Idleness me-had well served

qui m'avoit en ce deduit mis;

who me-had into this delight put

bien deüsse estre ses amis,

well I-ought to-be her friend

quant ele m'avoit desfermé

since she me-had unbarred

le guichet dou vergier ramé.

the wicket of-the garden leafy

Dès ore, si con je savrai,

From now so as I shall-know-how

vos conterai coment j'ovrai:

to-you I-shall-relate how I-acted

680

685

690

primes de quoi Deduiz servoit,
first of what Mirth busied-himself

e quel compaignie il avoit,
and what company he had

695 senz longue fable vos vueil dire;
without long fable to-you I-wish to-say

e dou vergier trestot a tire
and of-the garden wholly in order

la façon vos redirai puis.
the fashion to-you I-shall-tell after

Tot ensemble dire ne puis,
All together to-say not I-can

mais tot vos conterai en ordre,
but all to-you I-shall-relate in order

700 que nus n'i sache que remordre.
so-that anyone not-thereat know what to-carp-at

Grant servise douz e plaisant
Great service sweet and pleasing

aloient li oisel faisant;
went the birds making

lais d'amors e sonez cortois
lays of-love and songs courtly

chantoient en lor serventois,
they-sang in their serventois

705 li un en haut, li autre en bas.
the one in high the other in low

De lor chant, n'estoit mie gas,
Of their song not-was at-all a-jest

la douçor e la melodie

the sweetness and the melody

me mist ou cuer grant reverdie;

me put in-the heart great renewal

mais quant j'oi escouté un poi

but when I-had listened a little

les oisiaus, tenir ne me poi

to-the birds hold not myself I-could

qu'adonc Deduit veoir n'alasse;

that-then Mirth to-see I-should-go

car a veoir mout desirasse

for to see much I-desired

son contement e son estre.

his bearing and his estate

Lors m'en alai tot droit a destre,

Then myself-thence I-went all straight to right

par une petitete sente,

by a very-little path

pleine de fenoil e de mente;

full of fennel and of mint

mais auques près trovai Deduit;

but somewhat near I-found Mirth

car maintenant en un reduit

for at-once into a retreat

m'en entrai ou Deduiz estoit.

myself-thence I-entered where Mirth was

Deduiz ilueques s'esbatoit;

Mirth there himself-disported

710

715

720

s'avoit si beles genz o soi

and-be-had so fair folk with him

que, quant je les vi, je ne soi

that when I them saw I not knew

don si très beles genz pooient

whence so very fair folk could

estre venu, car il sembloient

be come for they seemed

725 tot por voir anges empenez.

all for truth angels winged

Si beles genz ne vit on nez.

So fair folk not saw one born

Ceste gent don je vos parole

This folk of-whom I to-you speak

s'estoient pris a la querole,

themselves-had taken to the carol

e une dame lor chantoit,

and a lady to-them sang

730 qui Leece apelee estoit.

who Gladness called was

Bien sot chanter e plaisamment,

Well she-knew to-sing and pleasingly

ne nule plus avenamment

nor any more becomingly

ne plus bel ses refraiz n'assist.

nor more fairly her refrains not-set

A chanter merveilles li sist,

To sing marvelously her suited

735 qu'ele avoit la voiz clere e saine.

for-she had the voice clear and sound

E si n'estoit mie vilaine,

And so not-she-was at-all churlish

ainz se savoit bien debrasier,

rather herself she-knew well to-sway

ferir dou pié e envoisier;

to-strike with-the foot and to-make-merry

ele estoit adès costumiere

she was ever accustomed

de chanter en toz leus premiere,

to sing in all places first

car chanters estoit li mestiers

for singing was the trade

qu'ele faisoit plus volentiers.

whiche-she did most willingly

Lors veïssiez querole aler

Then you-would-see carol go

e genz mignotement baler

and folk daintily dance

e faire mainte bele tresche

and make many-a fair round

e maint bel tor sor l'erbe fresche.

and many-a fair turn on the-grass fresh

La veïssiez fleüteors,

There you-would-see flute-players

e menestreus e jogleors;

and minstrels and jugglers

si chantoit li uns rotruenges,

and sang the one rotruenges

li autres notes loherenges,

the other airs Lorraine

740

745

750

por ce qu'en fait en Lohereine

because this that-one makes in Lorraine

plus beles notes qu'en nul reine.

more fair airs than-in any realm

Assez i ot tableterresses

Plenty there were castanet-women

iluec entor e timberresses,

there about and timbrel-women

755 qui mout savoient bien joer,

who much knew well to-play

qui ne finoient de ruer

who not ceased from tossing

le timbre en haut, sel recuilloient

the timbrel on high and-it they-caught-again

sor un doi, qu'onques n'i failloient.

on one finger that-ever not-there they-failed

Deus damoiseles mout mignotes,

Two damsels very dainty

760 qui estoient en pures cotes

who were in bare gowns

e treciees a une trece,

and braided into one braid

faisoit Deduiz par grant noblece

made Mirth in great nobleness

en mi la querole baler;

in midst the carol dance

mais de ce ne fait a parler

but of this not is-fit to speak

765 come eus baloient cointement:

how they danced daintily

l'une venoit tot belement

the-one came all gracefully

contre l'autre, e quant eus estoient

toward the-other and when they were

près a près, si s'entrejetoient

near to near so each-other-they-threw

les bouches, qu'il vos fust avis

the mouths so-that to-you it-were seeming

qu'eus s'entrebaisassent ou vis.

that-they each-other-kissed on-the face

Bien se savoient debrasier.

Well themselves they-knew to-sway

Ne vos en sai que devisier,

Not to-you thereof I-know what to-relate

mais nul jor mais ne me queïsse

but any day ever not myself I-should-wish

remuer tant con je veïsse

to-move so-long as I might-see

ceste gent ensi esforcier

this folk thus exert-themselves

de queroler e de dancier.

in caroling and in dancing

La querole tot en estant

The carol all on standing

regardai iluec jusqu'a tant

I-watched there until such-time

qu'une dame mout envoisie

that-a lady very merry

me tresvit, ce fu Cortoisie,

me perceived this was Courtesy

770

775

780

la vaillant e la debonaire,

the worthy and the gracious

que Deus defende de contraire!

whom God defend from harm

Cortoisie lors m'apela:

Courtesy then me-called

«Biaus amis, que faites vos la?»

Fair friend what do you there

785 Fait Cortoisie, «ça venez,

Says Courtesy hither come

e avueques nos vos prenez

and with us yourself take

a la querole, s'il vos plaist.»

to the carol if-it to-you please

Senz demorance e senz arest

Without delay and without stay

a la querole me sui pris,

to the carol myself I-am taken

790 si ne fui pas trop entrepris;

and not I-was at-all too abashed

mais sachiez que mout m'agrea

but know that much me-pleased

don Cortoisie me preia

that Courtesy me begged

e me dist que je querolasse;

and me said that I should-carol

car de queroler, se j'osasse,

for of caroling if I-dared

795 estoie envieus e surpris.

I-was eager and seized

A regarder lores me pris
To watch then myself I-took
 les cors, les façons e les chieres,
the bodies the figures and the fâces
 les semblances e les manieres
the semblances and the manners
 des genz qui iluec queroloient;
of-the folk who there caroled
 si vos dirai quel il estoient.
and to-you I-shall-say what they were

800

Mirth, Gladness, and the God of Love

VI

Mirth is tall and straight in samite figured with birds, and Gladness beside him, whose love he has had since she was seven. On the other side stands the god of Love, who rules lovers and makes lords into servants, in a flowered gown alive with birds. His bachelor Sweet Looks carries two bows and ten arrows: five of gold, named Beauty, Simplicity, Franchise, Company, and Fair Seeming, and five ugly ones, shafts and heads blacker than the devils of hell, named Pride, Villainy, Shame, Despair, and New Thought, whose meaning the poet will give before the end.

Deduiz fu biaux e lons e droiz:
Mirth was fair and tall and straight
 jamais entre gent ne vendroiz
ever among folk not you-will-come
 ou vos veiez nul plus bel ome.
where you may-see any more fair man
 La face avoit, come une pome,
The face he-had as an apple

- 805 **vermeille e blanche tot entor;**
red and white all around
cointes fu e de bel ator.
elegant he-was and of fair array
Les iauz ot vairs, la bouche gente,
The eyes he-had bright-gray the mouth comely
e le nés fait par grant entente.
and the nose made with great care
Cheveus ot blonz, recercelez;
Hair he-had blond curled
 810 **par espaules fu auques lez,**
across shoulders he-was somewhat broad
e grailles par mi la ceinture.
and slender through midst the waist
Il resembloit une pointure,
He resembled a painting
tant estoit biaux e acesmez,
so-much he-was fair and trim
e de toz membres bien formez.
and in all limbs well formed
 815 **Remuanz fu e preuz e vistes:**
Lively he-was and worthy and nimble
plus legier ome ne veïstes.
more agile a-man not you-saw
Si n'avoit barbe ne grenon,
And not-be-had beard nor mustache
se petiz peus folages non;
except little hairs downy not
car il iert juenes damoisiaus.
for he was a-young squire

D'un samit portrait a oisiaus,

Of-a samite figured with birds

qui estoit toz a or batuz,

which was all with gold beaten

fu ses cors richement vestuz.

was his body richly clad

Mout fu la robe desguisee;

Very was the gown elaborate

si iert en maint leu encisiee

and it-was in many-a place slashed

e decopee par cointise.

and cut-away for elegance

Chauciez refu par grant maistrise

Shod he-was-in-turn with great mastery

d'uns solers decopez a laz.

with-some shoes cut-away in lacing

Par druerie e par solaz

Out-of love and out-of delight

li ot s'amie fait chapel

to-him had his-friend made a-garland

de roses, qui mout li sist bel.

of roses which very to-him suited well

E savez vos qui iert s'amie?

And know you who was his-friend

Leece, qui nou haoit mie,

Gladness who not-him bated at-all

l'envoisee, la bien chantanz,

the-merry the well singing

qui, des qu'el n'avoit que set anz,

who since that-she not-bad but seven years

820

825

830

- 835 de s'amor li dona l'otroi.
of her-love to-him gave the-grant
 Deduiz la tint par mi le doi
Mirth her held by midst the finger
 a la querole, e ele lui;
at the carol and she him
 bien s'entravenoient andui,
well each-other-they-suited both
 qu'il estoit biaux e ele bele.
for-he was fair and she fair
- 840 El resembloit rose novele
She resembled a-rose new
 de la color sor la char tendre,
of the color on the flesh tender
 que l'en li peüst toute fendre
that one to-her could wholly split
 a une petitete ronce.
with a very-little briar
 Le front ot blanc, poli, senz fronce,
The forehead she-had white smooth without wrinkle
- 845 les sorciz bruns e enarchiez,
the eyebrows brown and arched
 les iauz gais e si envoisiez
the eyes gay and so merry
 qu'il rioient toz jorz avant
that-they laughed all days before
 que la bouchete par covent.
that the little-mouth by agreement
 Je ne vos sai dou nés que dire:
I not to-you know of-the nose what to-say

l'en nou feïst pas miauz de cire.

850

one not-it would-make at-all better of wax

Ele ot la bouche petitete,

She had the mouth very-small

e por baisier son ami prete;

and for kissing her friend ready

s'ot le chief blont e reluisant.

and-she-had the head blond and shining

Que vos iroie je disant?

What to-you should-go I saying

Bele fu e bien atornee.

855

Fair she-was and well arrayed

D'un fil d'or estoit galonee;

With-a thread of-gold she-was braided

s'ot un chapel d'orfrois tot neuf.

and-she-had a garland of-gold-braid all new

Je, qu'en ai veü vint e neuf,

I who-thereof have seen twenty and nine

a nul jor mais veü n'avoie

on any day ever seen not-had

chapel si bien ovré de soie.

860

a-garland so well wrought of silk

D'un samit qui iert toz dorez

Of-a samite which was all gilded

fu ses cors vestuz e parez,

was her body clad and adorned

de quoi ses amis avoit robe,

of which her friend had a-gown

si en estoit assez plus gobe.

and thereby she-was much more proud

865 A li se tint de l'autre part

By her himself held on the-other side

li deus d'Amors, cil qui depart

the god of-Love he who deals-out

amorettes a sa devise.

little-loves at his pleasure

C'est cil qui les amanz jostise,

This-is he who the lovers rules

e qui abat l'orgueil des genz,

and who beats-down the-pride of-the folk

870 e si fait des seignors sergenz,

and so makes of-the lords servants

e des dames refait baesses,

and of-the ladies makes-in-turn handmaids

quant il les trueve trop engresses.

when he them finds too haughty

Li deus d'Amors de la façon

The god of-Love in the fashion

ne ressembla mie garçon;

not resembled at-all a-lackey

875 de biauté fist mout a prisier.

in beauty he-was much to prize

Mais de sa robe devisier

But of his gown to-describe

crien durement qu'encombrez soie;

I-fear greatly that-burdened I-may-be

qu'il n'avoit pas robe de soie,

for-he not-had at-all a-gown of silk

ainz avoit robe de floretes,

rather he-had a-gown of little-flowers

faite par fines amoretes.

880

made by fine little-loves

A losenges, a escuciaus,

With lozenges with escutcheons

a oiselez, a lionciaus,

with little-birds with lion-cubs

e a bestes e a leparz

and with beasts and with leopards

fu la robe de toutes parz

was the gown on all sides

portraite, e ovree de flors

885

figured and wrought with flowers

par diverseté de colors.

by diversity of colors

Flors i avoit de maintes guises,

Flowers there were of many kinds

qui furent par grant sen assises.

which were by great skill arranged

Nule flor en esté ne naist

Any flower in summer not is-born

qui n'i fust, nes flor de genest,

890

which not-there were not-even flower of broom

ne violete ne parvenche,

nor violet nor periwinkle

ne flor jaune n'inde ne blanche.

nor flower yellow nor-blue nor white

S'i ot par leus entremellees

And-there were in places intermingled

fueilles de roses granz e lees.

leaves of roses great and wide

- 895 Il ot ou chief un chapelet
He had on-the head a little-garland
 de roses; mais rossignolet,
of roses but little-nightingales
 qui entor son chief voletoient,
which about his head fluttered
 les fueilles jus en abatoient;
the leaves down thereof beat
 qu'il estoit toz coverz d'oisiaus,
for-he was all covered with-birds
- 900 de papegauz, de rossigniaus,
with parrots with nightingales
 de calandres e de mesenges.
with larks and with titmice
 Il sembloit que ce fust uns anges
It seemed that this were an angel
 qui fust tot droit venuz dou ciel.
who were all straight come from-the sky
 Amors avoit un jovenciel
Love had a young-man
- 905 qu'il faisoit estre iluec delez;
whom-he made to-be there beside
 Douz Regarz estoit apelez.
Sweet Looks he-was called
 Icil bachelers regardoit
That bachelor watched
 les queroles, e si gardoit
the carols and so kept
 au deu d'Amors deus ars turcois.
for-the god of-Love two bows Turkish

Li uns des ars si fu d'un bois

910

The one of-the bows so was of-a wood

don li fruiz est mal savorez.

of-which the fruit is ill savored

Toz pleins de neuz e bocerez

All full of knots and gnarled

fu cil ars desoz e deseure,

was that bow below and above

e si estoit plus noirs que meure.

and so it-was more black than a-mulberry

Li autres ars fu d'un plançon

915

The other bow was of-a sapling

longuet e de gente façon;

longish and of comely fashion

si fu bien faiz e bien dolez,

and it-was well made and well smoothed

e si fu mout bien pipolez.

and so it-was very well painted

Dames i ot de toz sens pointes,

Ladies there were on all sides painted

e vallez envoisiez e cointes.

920

and young-men merry and elegant

O ces deus ars tint Douz Regarz,

With these two bows held Sweet Looks

qui ne sembla pas estre garz,

who not seemed at-all to-be a-knave

jusqu'a dis des floiches son maistre.

up-to ten of-the arrows his master's

Il en tint cinc en sa main destre;

He thereof held five in his hand right

- 925 mais mout orent ices cinc floiches
but much had these five arrows
 les penons bien faiz e les coiches,
the feathers well made and the notches
 si furent toutes a or pointes;
and they-were all with gold painted
 forz e trenchanz orent les pointes
strong and cutting had the points
 e agües por bien percier;
and sharp for well piercing
 930 mais il n'i ot fer ne acier:
but there not-there was iron nor steel
 onc n'i ot rien qui d'or ne fust,
ever not-there was anything which of-gold not were
 fors que les penons e le fust,
except that the feathers and the shaft
 car eus furent encarrelees
for they were tipped
 de saietes d'or barbeles.
with arrow-points of-gold barbed
 935 La meillor e la plus isnele
The best and the most swift
 de ces floiches, e la plus bele,
of these arrows and the most fair
 e cele ou li meillor penon
and that where the best feathers
 furent enté, Biautez ot non.
were grafted Beauty had name

Une de celes qui plus blece

One of those which most wounds

rot non, ce m'est avis, Simplece.

had-in-turn name this to-me-is seeming Simplicity

940

Une autre en i ot, apelee

An other thereof there was called

Franchise; cele iert empenee

Franchise that was feathered

de valor e de cortoisie.

with worth and with courtesy

La quarte avoit non Compaignie;

The fourth had name Company

en cele ot mout pesant saiete;

in that was very heavy an-arrow

945

el n'estoit pas d'aler loing prete;

it not-was at-all for-going far ready

mais qui de près en vosist traire,

but who from near thereof would-wish to-draw

il en peüst assez mal faire.

he thereby could much harm do

La cinquieme ot non Biaus Semblanz:

The fifth had name Fair Seeming

ce fu toute la moins grevanz;

that was wholly the least grievous

950

neporquant el fait mout grant plaie;

nevertheless it makes very great a-wound

mais cil atent bone menaie

but he awaits good mercy

qui de cele floiche est plaiez;

who by that arrow is wounded

ses maus si est bien empleiez,

his ill so is well bestowed

955 car il puet tost santé atendre,

for he can soon health await

s'en doit estre sa dolor mendre.

and-thereby ought to-be his grief less

Cinc floiches i ot d'autre guise,

Five arrows there were of-other kind

qui furent laides a devise;

which were ugly beyond measure

li fust estoient e li fer

the shafts were and the irons

960 plus noir que deables d'enfer.

more black than devils of-bell

La premiere avoit non Orguiauz;

The first had name Pride

l'autre, qui ne valoit pas miauz,

the-other which not was-worth at-all better

fu apelee Vilanie:

was called Villainy

cele si fu de felonie

that-one so was with felony

965 toute teinte e envenimee.

wholly stained and envenomed

La tierce fu Honte clamee,

The third was Shame called

e la quarte Desesperance;

and the fourth Despair

noviaus Pensers fu senz doutance

new Thought was without doubt

apelee la derreniere.

called the last

Ces cinc floiches d'une maniere

These five arrows of-one fashion

furent e toutes resemblables.

were and all alike

Mout par lor estoit convenables

Very much to-them was suited

li uns des ars, qui fu hisdeus

the one of-the bows which was hideous

e pleins de neuz e bocereus;

and full of knots and gnarled

il devoit bien teus floiches traire.

it ought well such arrows to-shoot

Ces cinc floiches force contraire

These five arrows force contrary

as autres cinc orent senz doute;

to-the other five had without doubt

mais ne dirai ore pas toute

but not I-shall-say now at-all all

lor force ne lor poesté;

their force nor their power

bien vos en iert la verité

well to-you thereof will-be the truth

contee e la senefiance,

told and the meaning

nou metrai pas en oblance,

not-it I-shall-put at-all in oblivion

970

975

980

ainz vos dirai que tot ce monte,

rather to-you I-shall-say what all this amounts-to

ançois que je fine mon conte.

before that I end my tale

Beauty, Wealth, and Largesse

VII

The dancers are named in turn. Beauty, clear as the moon among stars, stands with the god of Love; Wealth beside her, whom all fear and serve, her purple embroidered with the histories of dukes and kings and her circlet set with a carbuncle that lights a league of road. Then Largesse of Alexander's lineage, who knows no joy like giving, her neck bare because she has just given her brooch away; she holds a knight of Arthur's line. A miser, the poet says, wins neither lordship nor land, for gifts draw hearts as the lodestone draws iron.

985 Or revendrai a ma parole:

Now I-shall-return to my word

des nobles genz de la querole

of-the noble folk of the carol

m'estuet dire les contenances

me-behooves to-say the bearings

e les façons e les semblances.

and the fashions and the semblances

Li deus d'Amors se fu bien pris;

The god of-Love himself was well placed

990 a une dame de haut pris

to a lady of high worth

se fu de mout près ajostez.

himself was of very near joined

Icele dame ot non Biautez,

That-same lady had name Beauty

ausi come une des cinc floiches.

just as one of-the five arrows

En li ot mout de bones toiches:

In her there-were many of good qualities

el ne fu obscure ne brune,

she not was dark nor brown

ainz fu clere come la lune,

rather was clear as the moon

envers cui les autres estoiles

compared-to which the other stars

resemblent petites chandoiles.

resemble little candles

Tendre ot la char come rosee;

Tender she-had the flesh as dew

simple fu come une esposee,

simple she-was as a bride

e blanche come flor de lis.

and white as flower of lily

Ele ot le vis cler e alis,

She had the face bright and smooth

s'estoit graillete e aligniee.

and-she-was slender and shapely

Ne fu fardee ne guigniee,

Not she-was painted nor penciled

car el n'avoit mie mestier

for she not-had at-all need

de soi tifer ne afaitier.

of herself to-trick-out nor to-dress

995

1000

1005

Les cheveus ot blonz e lons,

The hair she-had blond and long

qui li batoient as talons.

which to-her beat at-the heels

Nés ot bien fait e iauz e bouche.

Nose she-had well made and eyes and mouth

1010 Mout grant douçor au cuer me touche,

Very great sweetness at-the heart me touches

si m'aïst Deus, quant il me membre

so me-help God when it to-me recalls

de la façon de chascun membre,

of the fashion of each limb

qu'il n'ot si bele fame ou monde.

for-there not-was so fair a-woman in-the world

Briement el fu jonete e blonde,

Briefly she was youthful and blond

1015 sade, plaisant, aperte e cointe,

sweet pleasing open and elegant

grasse, graillete, gente e jointe.

plump slender comely and shapely

Delez Biauté se tint Richece,

Beside Beauty herself stood Wealth

une dame de grant hautece,

a lady of great loftiness

de grant pris e de grant afaire.

of great worth and of great estate

1020 Qui a li ne as siens mesfaire

Who to her nor to-the her-own to-harm

osast rien par faiz ne par diz,

should-dare anything by deeds nor by words

il fust mout fiers e mout hardiz;

he were very bold and very hardy

qu'ele puet mout nuire e aidier.

for-she can much harm and help

Ce n'est mie ne d'ui ne d'ier

This not-is at-all neither of-today nor of-yesterday

que riches genz ont grant poissance

that rich folk have great power

de faire e äide e grevance.

of doing both help and hurt

Tuit li gaignor e li menor

All the greater and the lesser

portoient a Richece enor;

bore to Wealth honor

tuit beoient a li servir

all sought to her serve

por l'amor de li deservir;

for the-love of her to-deserve

chascuns sa dame la clamoit,

each his lady her called

car toz li mondes la cremoit;

for all the world her feared

toz li monz iert en son dangier.

all the world was in her power

A sa cort ot maint losengier,

At her court there-was many-a flatterer

maint traïtor, maint envieux:

many-a traitor many-an envious

1025

1030

1035

ce sont cil qui sont curieus

these are they who are eager

de desprisier e de blasmer

to disparage and to blame

toz ceus qui miauz font a amer.

all those who best are to be-loved

Par devant, por aus losengier,

By before to them flatter

1040 loent les genz li losengier,

praise the folk the flatterers

e tot le mont par parole oignent;

and all the world by word anoint

mais lor losenges les genz poignent

but their flatteries the folk prick

par derriere jusques a l'os;

by behind even to the-bone

qu'il abaissent des bons les los

for-they lower of-the good the praises

1045 e desloent les alosez.

and dispraise the renowned

Mainz prodomes ont encusez

Many worthy-men have accused

li losengier par lor losenges,

the flatterers by their flatteries

car il font ceus de cort estranges

for they make those from court estranged

qui deüssent estre privé.

who ought to-be intimate

1050 Mal puissent il estre arivé,

Ill may they be come-to-land

icil losengier plein d'envie!

those flatterers full of-envy

Car nus prodon n'aime lor vie.

For any worthy-man not-loves their life

Richece ot d'une porpre robe,

Wealth had of-a purple gown

nou tenez ore pas a lobe;

not-it hold now at-all for a-jest

que je vos di bien e affiche

for I to-you say well and affirm

qu'il n'ot si bele ne si riche

that-there not-was so fair nor so rich

ou monde ne si envoisee.

in-the world nor so splendid

La porpre fu toute orfroisee;

The purple was all gold-embroidered

s'i ot portraites a orfrois

and-there there-were figured in gold-braid

estoires de dus e de rois.

histories of dukes and of kings

D'une bande d'or neelee

Of-a band of-gold niello-worked

a esmaus fu au col orlee

with enamels was at-the neck edged

mout richement la cheveçaille.

very richly the neck-band

E s'i ot, ce sachiez senz faille,

And so-there there-was this know without fail

de riches pierres grant plenté,

of rich stones great plenty

1055

1060

1065

qui mout rendoient grant clarté.

which much gave-out great brightness

Richece ot un mout riche ceint

Wealth had a very rich girdle

par desus cele porpre ceint;

by above that purple girt

la bocle d'une pierre fu

the buckle of-a stone was

1070 qui ot grant force e grant vertu;

which had great force and great virtue

car cil qui sor soi la portoit

for he who upon himself it bore

de nul venin rien ne doutoit:

of any venom anything not feared

nus nou pooit envenimer.

anyone not-him could envenom

Bien faisoit tel pierre a amer:

Well made such a-stone to be-loved

1075 ele vausist a un riche ome

it would-be-worth to a rich man

miauz que trestoz li ors de Rome.

better than wholly-all the gold of Rome

D'une autre pierre iert li mordanz,

Of-an other stone was the tongue

qui guerissoit dou mal des denz,

which bealed of-the ache of-the teeth

e si avoit un tel eür

and so it-had a such fortune

que cil pooit estre asseür

that he could be assured

trestot le jor de sa veüe

wholly-all the day of his sight

qui a jeün l'avoit veüe.

who at fasting it-had seen

Li clou furent d'or esmeré

The studs were of-gold refined

qui furent ou tessu doré;

which were on-the tissue gilded

si estoient gros e pesant:

and they-were thick and heavy

en chascun ot bien un besant.

in each there-was fully a bezant

Richece ot sus ses treces sores

Wealth had upon her tresses golden

un cercle d'or; onques encores

a circlet of-gold ever yet

ne fu veüz si biaux, ce cuit.

not was seen so fair this I-think

Li cercles fu d'or fin recuit;

The circlet was of-gold fine refined

mais cil seroit bons devisierres

but he would-be a-good describer

qui vos savroit toutes les pierres

who to-you would-know all the stones

qui i estoient devisier;

which there were to-describe

1080

1085

1090

car l'en ne porroit pas prisier

for one not could at-all appraise

1095 l'avoir que les pierres valoient

the-wealth which the stones were-worth

qui en l'or assises estoient:

which in the-gold set were

rubiz i ot, saphirs, jagonces,

rubies there were sapphires jacinths

esmeraudes plus de deus onces.

emeralds more than two ounces

Mais devant ot par grant maistrise

But in-front there-was by great mastery

1100 une escarbocle ou cercle assise;

a carbuncle in-the circlet set

e la pierre si clere estoit

and the stone so bright was

que, maintenant qu'il anuitoit,

that the-moment that-it grew-dark

l'en s'en veoit bien au besoing

one and-thereby saw well at need

conduire d'une live loing.

to-guide-oneself of-a league far

1105 Tel clarté des pierres issoit

Such brightness from-the stones came

que Richece en resplendissoit

that Wealth thereby shone

durement li vis e la face,

greatly the countenance and the face

e entor li toute la place.

and about her all the place

Richece tint par mi la main

Wealth held by midst the hand

un vallet de grant biauté plein,

a young-man of great beauty full

qui fu ses amis veriteus.

who was her friend true

C'est uns on qui en biaux osteus

This-is a man who in fair houses

maintenir mout se delitoit.

to-keep much himself delighted

Il se chauçoit bien e vestoit;

He himself shod well and clad

si avoit les chevaus de pris.

and he-had the horses of worth

Il cuidast bien estre repris

He would-think well to-be blamed

ou de murtre ou de larrecin

either of murder or of theft

se en s'estable eüst roncín.

if in his-stable he-had a-nag

Por ce amoit mout l'acointance

For this he-loved much the-acquaintance

de Richece e la bienvoillance

of Wealth and the good-will

qu'il avoit toz jorz son espens

for-he had all days his intent

a demener les granz despens,

on carrying-on the great expenses

e el les pooit bien fornir,

and she them could well furnish

1110

1115

1120

e ses despenses maintenir;

and his expenditures maintain

1125 qu'el li donoit autant deniers

for-she to-him gave as-many pence

con s'el les puisast en greniers.

as if-she them drew in granaries

Après se fu Largece prise,

Next herself was Largesse placed

qui bien fu duite e bien aprise

who well was trained and well taught

de faire enor e de despendre.

in doing honor and in spending

1130 El fu dou lignage Alixandre,

She was of-the lineage of-Alexander

si n'avoit tel joie de rien

and not-she-had such joy of anything

con quant el pooit dire: «tien».

as when she could say take

Nes Avarice la chaitive

Not-even Avarice the wretched

n'iert pas si a prendre ententive

not-was at-all so at taking intent

1135 con Largece estoit de doner;

as Largesse was at giving

e Deus li faisoit foisoner

and God to-her made increase

toz ses biens, qu'ele ne savoit

all her goods that-she not knew

tant doner come el plus avoit.

so-much to-give as she more had

Mout ot Largece pris e los;

Much had Largesse worth and praise

ele ot les sages e les fos

she had the wise and the foolish

oultreement a son bandon,

utterly at her bidding

tant avoit fait par son bel don.

so-much she-had done by her fair gift

S'ensi fust qu'aucuns la haïst,

If-so were that-anyone her hated

si cuit je que ele en feïst

so think I that she thereof would-make

son ami par son grant service;

her friend by her great service

e por ce ot ele a devise

and for this had she at pleasure

l'amor des povres e des riches.

the-love of-the poor and of-the rich

Mout est fos hauz on qui est chiches.

Very is foolish a-high man who is niggardly

Hauz on ne puet avoir nul vice

A-high man not can have any vice

qui tant li griet come avarice;

which so-much him grieve as avarice

car avers on ne puet conquerre

for a-covetous man not can win

ne seignorie ne grant terre,

neither lordship nor great land

1140

1145

1150

car il n'a pas d'amis plenté

for he not-has at-all of-friends plenty

don il face sa volenté.

of-whom he do his will

1155 Mais qui amis voudra avoir,

But who friends will-wish to-have

si n'ait mie chier son avoir;

so not-let-him-hold at-all dear his wealth

mais par biaux dons amis aquiere;

but by fair gifts friends let-him-win

car trestot en autel maniere

for wholly in such fashion

con la pierre de l'aimant

as the stone of the-magnet

1160 trait a soi le fer soutilment,

draws to itself the iron subtly

ausi atrait le cuer des genz

so draws the heart of-the folk

li ors qu'en done e li argenz.

the gold which-one gives and the silver

Largece ot robe toute fresche

Largesse had a-gown all fresh

d'une porpre sarradinesche.

of-a purple Saracen

1165 S'ot le vis bel e bien formé;

And-she-had the face fair and well formed

mais ele ot son col desfermé;

but she had her neck unfastened

qu'ele avoit iluec en present

for-she had there at present

a une dame fait present,

to a lady made a-gift

n'avoit guieres, de son fermal;

not-it-had much of her brooch

mais ce ne li seoit pas mal

but this not to-her sat at-all ill

que la cheveçaille iert overte,

that the neck-band was open

e la gorge estoit descoverte

and the throat was uncovered

si que par outre la chemise

so that through beyond the shift

li blancheioit la char alise.

to-her shone-white the flesh smooth

Largece la vaillant, la sage,

Largesse the worthy the wise

tint un chevalier dou lignage

beld a knight of-the lineage

le bon roi Artu de Bretaigne;

of-the good king Arthur of Britain

ce fu cil qui porta l'enseigne

this was he who bore the-ensign

de valor e le gonfanon.

of worth and the gonfanon

1170

1175

- 1180 **Encore est il de tel renon**
Yet is he of such renown
que l'en conte de lui les contes
that one tells of him the tales
e devant rois e devant contes.
both before kings and before counts
Cil chevaliers novelement
That knight newly
fu venuz d'un tornoiement,
was come from-a tournament
- 1185 **ou il ot faite por s'amie**
where he had made for his-friend
mainte joste e mainte envaïe;
many-a joust and many-an onset
maint vert hiaume i ot descercle
many-a green helm there had unbanded
e percié maint escu boclé,
and pierced many-a shield bossed
e maint chevalier abatu
and many-a knight beaten-down
- 1190 **e pris par force e par vertu.**
and taken by force and by valor

Franchise, Courtesy, and Youth

VIII

Franchise is white as snow and so tender that she fears to wound anyone; Courtesy, a bright brunette worthy to be empress or queen, is the one who called the lover into the dance; and Youth, barely twelve years old, is kissed by her beloved before the whole carol without shame. When the dancing breaks up and the couples go off under the trees, the lover leaves to walk the garden, square and planted with fruit trees, spices, and great timber. Sweet Looks bends the bow, and the god of Love follows the lover with it.

Après toz ceus se tint Franchise,

After all those herself held Franchise

qui n'estoit pas brune ne bise,

who not-was at-all brown nor swarthy

ainz estoit blanche come nois;

rather was white as snow

e si n'ot pas nés orlenois,

and so not-she-had at-all nose Orleans

ançois ot nés lonc e traitiz,

rather she-had nose long and well-drawn

iauz vairs, rianz, sorciz voutiz;

eyes bright-gray laughing eyebrows arched

s'ot les cheveus blondez e lons;

and-she-had the hair golden and long

e fu simple come uns colons.

and was simple as a dove

Le cuer ot douz e debonaire:

The heart she-had sweet and gracious

1195

- 1200 ele n'osast dire ne faire
she not-would-dare to-say nor to-do
 a nului rien qu'el ne deüst;
to anyone anything which-she not ought
 e s'ele un ome coneüst
and if-she a man knew
 qui fust destroiz por s'amitié,
who were distressed for her-love
 tost en eüst, ce cuit, pitié;
soon thereof would-have this I-think pity
- 1205 qu'ele ot le cuer si piteable
for-she had the heart so compassionate
 e si douz e si amiable
and so sweet and so friendly
 que, se nus por li mal traisist,
that if anyone for her ill suffered
 s'el ne li aidast, el crainsist
if-she not to-him helped she would-fear
 qu'el feüst mout grant vilanie.
that-she should-do very great villainy
- 1210 El fu en une sorquenie
She was in a surcoat
 qui ne fu mie de borraz:
which not was at-all of coarse-cloth
 n'ot si riche jusqu'a Arraz;
not-there-was so rich as-far-as Arras

e si fu si cuillie e jointe

and so it-was so gathered and fitted

qu'il n'i ot une seule pointe

that-it not-there was a single stitch

qui a son droit ne fust assise.

which at its due not were set

1215

Mout fu bien vestue Franchise,

Very was well clad Franchise

car nule robe n'est si bele

for any gown not-is so fair

con sorquenie a damoisele;

as a-surcoat on a-damsel

fame est plus cointe e plus mignote

a-woman is more elegant and more dainty

en sorquenie que en cote.

in a-surcoat than in a-tunic

1220

La sorquenie, qui fu blanche,

The surcoat which was white

senefioit que douce e franche

signified that sweet and free

estoit cele qui la vestoit.

was she who it wore

Uns bachelers juenes s'estoit

A bachelor young himself-had

pris a Franchise lez a lez.

taken to Franchise side to side

1225

Ne sai coment iert apelez;

Not I-know how he-was called

mais biaux iert e genz s'il fust ores
but fair he-was and noble as-if-he were now

fiz au seignor de Guindesores.
son of-the lord of Windsor

Après se tenoit Cortoisie,
After herself held Courtesy

1230 qui mout estoit de toz proisie,
who greatly was by all prized

qu'el n'iere orgueilleuse ne fole.
for-she not-was proud nor foolish

C'est cele qui a la querole,
This-is she who at the carol

la seue merci, m'apela
the her grace me-called

ainz que nule, quant je vin la.
before than any when I came there

1235 El ne fu ne nice n'ombrage,
She not was neither silly nor-skittish

mais sage e entre, senz outrage,
but wise and shrewd without excess

de biaux respons e de biaux diz;
of fair answers and of fair sayings

onc ne fu nus par li laidiz,
ever not was anyone by her insulted

ne ne porta autrui rancune.
nor not bore to-another rancor

1240 Ele fu une clere brune;
She was a bright brunette

le vis avoit cler e luisant:
the face she-had bright and shining

je ne sai fame plus plaisant.

I not know a-woman more pleasing

Ele iere en toutes corz bien dine

She was in all courts well worthy

d'estre empereriz ou reïne.

to-be an-empress or a-queen

A li se tint uns chevaliers

By her himself held a knight

acointables e biaux parliers,

affable and a-fair speaker

qui bien sot faire enor as genz.

who well knew to-do honor to-the folk

Li chevaliers fu biaux e genz,

The knight was fair and noble

e as armes bien acesmez,

and at arms well equipped

e de s'amie bien amez.

and by his-friend well loved

La bele Oiseuse vint après,

The fair Idleness came after

qui se tint de moi assez près.

who herself held from me quite near

De cele vos ai je senz faille

Of that-one to-you have I without fail

dite la façon e la taille;

told the fashion and the figure

ja plus ne vos en iert conté,

ever more not to-you thereof will-be told

1245

1250

1255

car ce fu cele qui bonté

for this was she who kindness

me fist si grant qu'ele m'ovri

me did so great that-she to-me-opened

le guichet dou vergier flori.

the wicket of-the garden flowering

Après se tint, mien escient,

After herself held to-my knowledge

1260 Jonece au vis cler e riant,

Youth with-the face bright and laughing

qui n'avoit encore passez,

who not-had yet passed

si con je cuit, doze anz d'assez.

so as I think twelve years by-much

Nicete fu, si ne pensoit

Naive she-was and-so not thought

nul mal ne nul engin qui soit;

any evil nor any guile that be

1265 mais mout iert envoisiee e gaie,

but much she-was merry and gay

car juene chose ne s'esmaie

for a-young thing not itself-troubles

fors de joer, bien le savez.

except about playing well it you-know

Ses amis fu de li privez

Her friend was with her intimate

en tel guise qu'il la baisoit

in such wise that-he her kissed

1270 toutes les foiz qu'il li plaisoit,

all the times that-it to-him pleased

veianz toz ceus de la querole;
seeing all those of the carol
 car qui tenist d'aus deus parole,
for who should-bold of-them two talk
 il n'en fussent ja vergondeus;
they not-thereof were ever ashamed
 ainz les veïssiez entr'aus deus
rather them you-would-see between-them two
 baisier come deus colombiaus.

1275

kiss as two doves
 Li vallez fu juenes e biaux,
The young-man was young and fair
 si estoit bien d'autel aage
and he-was fully of-such age
 con s'amie e d'autel corage.
as his-friend and of-such heart

Ensi queroloient ilueques,

Thus caroled there

cestes genz, e autres avueques,
these folk and others with-them
 qui estoient de lor maisnies;
who were of their households
 franchises genz e bien enseignies
free folk and well taught
 e genz de bel afaitement
and folk of fair breeding
 estoient tuit comunement.
were all alike

1280

- 1285 Quant j'oi veües les semblances
When I-had seen the appearances
 de ceus qui menoient les dances,
of those who led the dances
 j'oi lors talent que le vergier
I-had then desire that the garden
 alasse veoir e cerchier,
I-should-go to-see and to-search
 e remirer ces biaux loriers,
and to-gaze-on those fair laurels
- 1290 ces pins, ces cedres, ces moriers.
those pines those cedars those mulberries
 Les queroles ja remanoient,
The carols already broke-up
 car tuit li plusor s'en aloient
for all the greater-part themselves-thence went
 o lor amies ombreier
with their friends to-take-shade
 soz ces arbres, por doneier.
under those trees for courting
- 1295 Deus! com menoient bone vie!
God how they-led good life
 Fos est qui n'a de tel envie.
Foolish is who not-has of such desire
 Qui autel vie avoir porroit
Who such-a life to-have could
 de meillor bien se soferroit,
of better good himself would-do-without

qu'il n'est nus graindres parevis

for-there not-is any greater paradise

d'avoir amie a son devis.

1300

than-to-have a-friend at his pleasure

D'ilueques me parti atant,

From-there myself I-parted thereupon

si m'en alai seus esbatant

and myself-thence I-went alone disporting

par le vergier de ça en là;

through the garden from here to there

e li deus d'Amors apela

and the god of-Love called

trestot maintenant Douz Regart.

1305

wholly at-once Sweet Looks

N'a or plus cure qu'il li gart

Not-has now more care that-be to-him keep

son arc doré; senz plus atendre

his bow gilded without more waiting

li a comandé l'arc a tendre,

to-him has commanded the-bow to bend

e cil guieres n'i atendi:

and he much not-there delayed

tot maintenant l'arc li tendi,

1310

all at-once the-bow to-him bent

si li bailla, e cinc saietes,

and to-him gave and five arrows

forz e luisanz, de traire pretes.

strong and shining for shooting ready

Li deus d'Amors tantost de loing

The god of-Love forthwith from afar

me prist a sivre, l'arc ou poing.

me began to follow the-bow in-the hand

1315 Or me gart Deus de mortel plaie,

Now me keep God from mortal wound

se il fait tant que a moi traie!

if he does so-much that at me be-shoot

Je, qui de ce ne soi neient,

I who of this not knew anything

m'alai adès esbanciant

myself-went ever disporting

par le vergier tot a delivre;

through the garden all at liberty

1320 e cil pensa bien de moi sivre,

and he took-care well of me to-follow

mais en nul leu ne m'arestai

but in any place not myself-I-stopped

tant que j'oi par trestot esté.

until that I-had through all-of-it been

Li vergiers par compasseüre

The garden by compass

fu toz de droite carreüre,

was all of straight squareness

1325 s'ot autant de lonc con de large.

and-it-had as-much of length as of breadth

Il n'est nus arbres qui fruit charge,

There not-is any tree which fruit bears

se n'est aucuns arbres hisdeus,

unless it-is some tree hideous

don il n'i ait ou un ou deus

of-which there not-there be either one or two

ou vergier, ou plus, se devient.

in-the garden or more if it-happens

Pomiers i ot, bien m'en sovient,

Apple-trees there were well to-me-thereof remembers

qui charjoient pomes grenades:

which bore apples pomegranates

c'est uns mangiers bons a malades.

this-is a food good for sick-folk

De noiers i ot grant foison

Of nut-trees there was great abundance

qui charjoient en la saison

which bore in the season

tel fruit come sont noiz musgades,

such fruit as are nuts nutmegs

qui ne sont ameres ne fades.

which not are bitter nor insipid

D'alemandiers i ot plenté;

Of-almond-trees there was plenty

e si ot ou vergier planté

and so there-was in-the garden planted

maint fier e maint biau datier;

many-a fig-tree and many-a fair date-tree

si trovast, qu'en eüst mestier,

and-one would-find who-thereof had need

ou vergier mainte bone espice:

in-the garden many-a good spice

clos de girofle e ricalice,

nails of clove and licorice

1330

1335

1340

graine de parevis novele,

grain of paradise new

citoal, anis e canele,

zedoary anise and cinnamon

1345 e mainte espice delitable

and many-a spice delightful

que bon mangier fait après table.

which good eating makes after table

Ou vergier ot arbres domesches

In-the garden there-were trees domestic

qui charjoient e coinz e pesches,

which bore both quinces and peaches

chastaignes, noiz, pomes e poires,

chestnuts nuts apples and pears

1350 nesfles, prunes blanches e noires,

medlars plums white and black

cerises fresches vermeilletes,

cherries fresh ruddy

cormes, alies e noisetes.

sorbs service-berries and hazelnuts

De granz loriers e de hauz pins

With great laurels and with tall pines

refu pueplez toz li jardins,

was-in-turn peopled all the garden

1355 e d'oliviers e de ciprès,

and with-olive-trees and with cypresses

don il n'a guieres ici près.

of-which there not-is much here near

Ormes i ot branchuz e gros,

Elms there were branching and thick

e avuec ce charmes e fos,

and besides this hornbeams and beeches

coudres droites, trembles e fresnes,

hazels straight aspens and ashes

esrables, hanz sapins e chesnes.

maples tall firs and oaks

1360

Qu'iroie je ci arestant?

Why-should-go I here lingering

De divers arbres i ot tant

Of divers trees there were so-many

que mout en seroie encombrez

that much thereby I-should-be encumbered

ainz que les eüsse nombrez.

before that them I-had numbered

Mais li arbre, ce sachiez, furent

But the trees this know were

1365

si loing a loing come estre durent:

so far to far as be they-ought

li uns fu loing de l'autre assis

the one was far from the-other set

plus de cinc toises ou de sis;

more than five fathoms or than six

mais li rain furent lonc e haut,

but the boughs were long and high

e, por le leu garder de chaut,

and for the place to-keep from heat

1370

furent si espès par deseure

they-were so thick by above

que li solauz en nes une eure

that the sun in not-even one hour

ne pooit a terre descendre,

not could to earth come-down

ne faire mal a l'erbe tendre.

nor do harm to the-grass tender

The Fountain of Narcissus

IX

Deer, rabbits, and squirrels are in the garden, and Mirth's conduits carry the water off in little brooks. Going right and left, the lover comes on a spring beneath the tallest pine, set in marble, with an inscription saying that the fair Narcissus died there. Echo loved him and he refused her out of pride; she died of it, praying first that he might one day love where he could have no joy. Narcissus, thirsty from hunting, took his reflection for a child's face and lost his reason and his life; ladies are bidden to take warning.

1375 Ou vergier ot dains e chevriaus;

In-the garden there-were fallow-deer and roe-deer

s'i ot grant plenté d'escuriaus,

and-there there-was great plenty of-squirrels

qui par ces arbres gravissoient;

whicb through those trees climbed

conins i avoit, qui issoient

rabbits there were whicb came-out

toute jor hors de lor tesnieres,

all day out of their burrows

e en plus de trente manieres

1380

and in more than thirty fashions

aloient entr'aus torneiant

went among-themselves turning

sor l'erbe fresche verdeiant.

on the-grass fresh growing-green

Il ot par leus cleres fontaines,

There were in places clear springs

senz barbelotes e senz raines,

without water-flies and without frogs

cui li arbre faisoient ombre,

1385

to-which the trees made shade

mais n'en sai pas dire le nombre.

but not-thereof I-know at-all to-say the number

Par petiz ruissiaus, que Deduiz

By little brooks which Mirth

i ot fait faire par conduiz,

there had had made through conduits

s'en aloit l'eve aval, faisant

itself-thence went the-water down making

une noise douce e plaisant.

1390

a noise sweet and pleasing

Entor les ruissiaus e les rives

About the brooks and the banks

des fontaines cleres e vives

of-the springs clear and living

poignoit l'erbe bassete e drue:

sprang the-grass low and thick

ausi i peüst l'en sa drue

likewise there could one his mistress

1395 couchier come sor une coite,

lay as upon a quilt

car la terre estoit douce e moiste

for the earth was soft and moist

por les fontaines, s'i venoit

because-of the springs and-there came

tant d'erbe come il convenoit.

as-much of-grass as it was-needful

Mais mout embelissoit l'afaire

But much embellished the-matter

1400 li leus, qui estoit de tel aire

the place which was of such nature

qu'il i avoit de flors plenté

that-there there was of flowers plenty

toz jorz e iver e esté.

all days both winter and summer

Violete i avoit trop bele

Violet there was exceedingly fair

e parvenche fresche e novele,

and periwinkle fresh and new

1405 s'i ot flors blanches e vermeilles,

and-there were flowers white and red

de jaunes en i ot merveilles:

of yellow thereof there were marvels

trop par estoit la terre cointe,

exceedingly much was the earth elegant

qu'ele estoit pipolee e pointe

for-it was speckled and painted

de flors de diverses colors,

with flowers of divers colors

don mout estoit bone l'olors.

of-which much was good the-fragrance

1410

Ne vos tendrai pas longue fable

Not to-you I-shall-hold at-all long fable

dou leu plaisant e delitable;

of-the place pleasing and delightful

orendroit m'en covendra taire,

just-now to-me-thereof it-will-behoove to-be-silent

car je ne porroie retraire

for I not could relate

dou vergier toute la biauté

of-the garden all the beauty

1415

ne la grant delitableté;

nor the great delightfulness

mais j'alai tant destre e senestre

but I-went so-much right and left

que j'oi tot l'afaire e tot l'estre

that I-had all the-matter and all the-state

dou vergier cerchié e veü.

of-the garden searched and seen

E li deus d'Amors m'a seü,

And the god of-Love me-has followed

1420

endementieres agaitant,

meanwhile lying-in-wait

con li venierres qui atent

as the hunter who waits

que la beste en bon leu se mete

that the beast in good place itself put

por laisser aler la saiete.

to let go the arrow

1425 En un trop bel leu arivai

In an exceedingly fair place I-arrived

au derrenier, ou je trovai

at-the last where I found

une fontaine soz un pin;

a spring under a pine

mais puis Charle ne puis Pepin

but since Charlemagne nor since Pepin

ne fu ausi biaux pins veüz;

not was so fair a-pine seen

1430 e si estoit si hanz creüz

and so it-was so high grown

qu'ou vergier n'ot nul plus haut arbre.

that-in-the garden not-was any more tall tree

Dedenz une pierre de marbre

Within a stone of marble

ot Nature par grant maistrise

had Nature by great mastery

soz le pin la fontaine assise;

under the pine the spring set

1435 si ot dedenz la pierre escrites,

and there-were within the stone written

ou bort amont, letres petites,

on-the rim above letters little

qui disoient qu'iluec desus

which said that-there above

se mori li biaux Narcisus.

himself died the fair Narcissus

Narcisus fu uns damoisiaus

Narcissus was a young-man

cui Amors tint en ses roisiaus,

whom Love held in his nets

e tant le sot Amors destreindre,

and so-much him knew Love to-press

e tant le fist plorer e plaindre,

and so-much him made weep and lament

qu'il li covint a rendre l'ame;

that-it to-him behooved to yield the-soul

car Echo, une haute dame,

for Echo a high lady

l'avoit amé plus que rien nee,

him-had loved more than anything born

e fu por lui si mal menee

and was for him so ill used

qu'ele li dist qu'il li donroit

that-she to-him said that-he to-her would-give

s'amor, ou ele se morroit.

his-love or she herself would-die

Mais cil fu, por sa grant biauté,

But he was for his great beauty

pleins de desdein e de fierté,

full of disdain and of haughtiness

si ne la li vost otreier,

and-so not it to-her wished to-grant

1440

1445

1450

ne por plorer ne por preier.

neither for weeping nor for praying

Quant ele s'oï escondire,

When she herself-beard refused

si en ot tel duel e tel ire

and-so thereof had such grief and such wrath

1455 e le tint a si grant despit

and it held at so great scorn

qu'ele fu morte senz respit.

that-she was dead without respite

Mais, tot avant qu'ele morist,

But all before that-she should-die

ele pria Deu e requist

she prayed God and besought

que Narcisus au cuer farasche,

that Narcissus with-the heart fierce

1460 qu'ele ot trové d'amor si lasche,

whom-she had found of-love so slack

fust aspreiez encore un jor,

were tormented yet one day

e eschaufez de tel amor

and heated with such love

don il ne peüst joie atendre;

of-which he not could joy await

si porroit savoir e entendre

so-he would-be-able to-know and to-understand

1465 quel duel ont li leial amant

what grief have the loyal lovers

que l'en refuse si vilment.

whom one refuses so basely

Cele priere fu raisnable,

That prayer was reasonable

e por ce la fist Deus estable;

and for this it made God fixed

que Narcisus par aventure

that Narcissus by chance

a la fontaine clere e pure

to the spring clear and pure

se vint soz le pin ombreier,

himself came under the pine to-take-shade

un jor qu'il venoit de chacier,

one day when-he came from hunting

qu'il avoit sofert grant travail

for-he had suffered great labor

de corre e amont e aval,

in running both up and down

tant qu'il ot soif, por l'aspreté

so-much that-he had thirst for the-harshness

dou chaut, e por la lasseté,

of-the heat and for the weariness

qui li ot tolue l'aleine.

which to-him had taken-away the-breath

E quant il vint a la fontaine,

And when he came to the spring

que li pins de ses rains covroit,

which the pine with its boughs covered

iluec pensa que il bevroit:

there he-thought that he would-drink

1470

1475

1480

sor la fontaine toz adenz

over the spring all prone

se mist lors por boivre dedenz,

himself he-put then for to-drink within

si vit en l'ève clere e nete

and-so he-saw in the-water clear and pure

son vis, son nés e sa bouchete,

his face his nose and his little-mouth

1485 e cil maintenant s'esbaï,

and he at-once himself-marveled

car ses ombres si le traï

for his shadow so him betrayed

qu'il cuida veoir la figure

that-he thought to-see the figure

d'un enfant bel a desmesure.

of-a child fair beyond measure

Lors se sot bien Amors vengier

Then himself knew well Love to-avenge

1490 dou grant orgueil e dou dangier

of-the great pride and of-the disdain

que Narcisus li ot mené.

which Narcissus to-him had shown

Bien li fu lors guerredoné;

Well to-him was then requited

qu'il musa tant a la fontaine

for-he mused so-long at the spring

qu'il ama son ombre demaine,

that-he loved his shadow own

1495 si en fu morz a la parclose:

and-so thereof was dead at the close

ce fu la some de la chose,

this was the sum of the matter

car, quant il vit qu'il ne porroit

for when he saw that-be not could

acomplir ce qu'il desiroit,

to-accomplish that which-be desired

e qu'il estoit si pris par fort

and that-be was so taken by force

qu'il n'en pooit avoir confort

that-be not-thereof could have comfort

1500

en nule fin ne en nul sen,

in any end nor in any way

il perdi d'ire tot le sen,

he lost from-wrath all the sense

e fu morz en poi de termine.

and was dead in little of time

Ensi si ot de la meschine,

Thus and-so had of the maiden

qu'il avoit devant escondite,

whom-be had before refused

1505

son guerredon e sa merite.

his requital and his desert

Dames, cest essemple aprenez,

Ladies this example learn

qui vers voz amis mesprenez;

who toward your friends transgress

car, se vos les laissez morir,

for if you them let die

Deus le vos savra bien merir.

God it to-you will-know well to-require

1510

The Mirror Perilous, and the Rosebush

X

Frightened by the inscription, the lover looks in all the same. Two crystals at the bottom, struck by the sun, show half the garden at a time and everything in it, however hidden. This is the Mirror Perilous, where Narcissus saw his face and eyes; Cupid sowed Love's seed about it and set his snares there. In the crystals he sees rosebushes shut in by a little hedge and goes to them, their scent reaching him only once he is near. Fear of the garden's lord keeps him from picking one; the closed buds please him most.

Quant li escriz m'ot fait savoir

When the writing to-me-had made to-know

que ce estoit trestot por voir

that this was wholly for truth

la fontaine au bel Narcisus,

the spring of-the fair Narcissus

je me trais lors un poi en sus;

I myself drew then a little in aside

1515 que dedenz n'osai regarder,

so-that within not-I-dared to-look

ainz començai a coarder,

rather I-began to be-a-coward

quant de Narcisus me sovint,

when of Narcissus to-me came-to-mind

cui malement en mesavint;

to-whom evilly thereof it-befell

mais je me pensai qu'asseür,

but I myself thought that-securely

1520 senz peor de mauvais eür,

without fear of ill fortune

a la fontaine aler pooie;

to the spring to-go I-could

por folie m'en esmaioie.

for folly myself-thereof I-dismayed

De la fontaine m'apressai;

To the spring myself-I-approached

quant je fui près, si m'abaissai,

when I was near and-so myself-I-stooped

por veoir l'ève qui coroit,

to see the-water which ran

e la gravele qui paroît

and the gravel which appeared

au fonz, plus clere qu'argenz fins.

at-the bottom more bright than-silver fine

De la fontaine c'est la fins:

Of the spring this-is the end

en tot le monde n'ot si bele.

in all the world not-was so fair

L'ève est toz jorz fresche e novele,

The-water is all days fresh and new

qui nuit e jor sort a granz ondes

which night and day springs in great waves

par deus doiz crueses e parfondes.

through two channels hollow and deep

Tot entor croist l'erbe menue,

All around grows the-grass fine

qui vient, por l'ève, espesse e drue;

which comes because-of the-water thick and dense

1525

1530

1535 e en iver ne puet morir
and in winter not can die
 ne que l'ève ne puet tarir.
no-more than the-water — can dry-up

Ou fonz de la fontaine aval

In-the bottom of the spring below
 avoit deus pierres de cristal,
there-were two stones of crystal
 qu'a grant entente remirai;
which-at great attention I-gazed

1540 mais une chose vos dirai,
but one thing to-you I-shall-say
 qu'a merveille, ce cuit, tendroiz
which-at marvel this I-think you-will-hold
 maintenant que vos l'entendroiz:
at-once that you it-will-bear

quant li solauz, qui tot aguiete,
when the sun which all spies
 ses rais en la fontaine giete
his rays into the spring casts

1545 e la clarté aval descent,
and the brightness below descends
 lors perent colors plus de cent
then appear colors more than a-hundred
 es cristaus, qui, por le soleil,
in-the crystals which because-of the sun
 deviennent jaune, inde, vermeil.
become yellow indigo vermilion

Si sont li cristal merveilleus

So are the crystals marvelous

e tel force ont que toz li leus,

1550

and such force they-have that all the place

arbre e flors, e quanque aorne

tree and flowers and whatever adorns

le vergier, i pert tot a orne.

the garden there appears all in order

E por faire la chose entendre,

And to make the thing understood

un essemple vos vueil aprendre:

an example to-you I-wish to-teach

ausi con li miroers montre

1555

just as the mirror shows

les choses qui sont a l'encontre,

the things which are at the-opposite

e i voit l'en senz couverture

and there sees one without covering

e lor color e lor figure,

both their color and their figure

trestot ausi vos di de voir

wholly likewise to-you I-say for truth

que li cristal, senz decevoir,

1560

that the crystals without deceiving

tot l'estre dou vergier encusent

all the-state of-the garden disclose

a ceus qui dedenz l'eve musent,

to those who within the-water muse

car toz jorz, quelque part qu'il soient,

for all days whatever part that-they be

l'une moitié dou vergier voient,

the-one half of-the garden they-see

1565 e s'il se tornent, maintenant

and if-they themselves turn at-once

pueent veoir le remenant;

they-can see the remainder

si n'i a si petite chose,

and-so not-there is so little a-thing

tant soit reposte ne enclose,

however be hidden nor enclosed

don demontrance n'i soit faite,

of-which a-showing not-there be made

1570 con s'ele iert es cristaus portraite.

as if-it were in-the crystals portrayed

C'est li miroers perilleus,

This-is the mirror perilous

ou Narcisus li orgueilleus

where Narcissus the proud

mira sa face e ses iauz vairs,

beheld his face and his eyes bright-gray

don il jut puis morz toz envers.

of-which he lay afterward dead all on-his-back

1575 Qui en cel miroer se mire

Who in that mirror himself beholds

ne puet avoir garant ne mire

not can have warrant nor physician

que tel chose a ses iauz ne voie

that such a-thing with his eyes not he-see

qui d'amer l'a tost mis en voie.

which of-loving him-has soon put on way

Maint vaillant ome a mis a glaive

Many-a worthy man has put to slaughter

cil miroers, car li plus saive,

that mirror for the most wise

li plus preu, li miauz afaitié

the most worthy the best bred

i sont tost pris e agaitié.

there are soon taken and ensnared

Ci sort as genz novele rage,

Here springs for-the folk a-new madness

ici se changent li corage,

here themselves change the hearts

ci n'a mestier sens ne mesure,

here not-has use sense nor measure

ci est d'amer volenté pure,

here is of-loving a-will pure

ci ne se set conseilher nus;

here not himself knows to-counsel anyone

car Cupido, li fiz Venus,

for Cupid the son of-Venus

sema ici d'Amors la graine,

sowed here of-Love the seed

qui toute a teinte la fontaine,

which wholly has stained the spring

e fist ses laz environ tendre,

and made his snares around stretch

e ses engins i mist, por prendre

and his traps there put for taking

damoiseles e damoisiaus,

damsels and young-men

1580

1585

1590

qu'Amors ne viaut autres oisiaus.

for-Love not wishes other birds

1595 Por la graine qui fu semee

Because-of the seed which was sown

fu cele fontaine clamee

was that spring called

la Fontaine d'Amors par droit,

the Spring of-Love by right

don plusor ont en maint endroit

of-which many have in many-a place

parlé en romanz e en livre;

spoken in romance and in book

1600 mais jamais n'orroiz miauz descrivre

but ever not-you-will-bear better describe

la verité de la matere

the truth of the matter

quant j'avrai espons le mistere.

when I-shall-have expounded the mystery

Adès me plot a demorer

Ever me it-pleased to linger

a la fontaine remirer,

at the spring to-gaze

1605 e as cristaus, qui me montroient

and at-the crystals which to-me showed

cent mile choses qui paroient;

a-hundred thousand things which appeared

mais de fort eure m'i mirai.

but at an-ill hour myself-there I-beheld

Las! tant en ai puis sospiré!

Alas so-much thereof I-have since sighed

Cil miroers m'a deceü.

That mirror me-has deceived

Se j'eüsse avant coneü

If I-had before known

queus sa force iert e sa vertuz,

what its force was and its virtue

ne m'i fusse ja embatuz,

not myself-there I-should-have ever cast

car maintenant ou laz chaî

for at-once into-the snare I-fell

qui maint ome a pris e traï.

which many-a man has taken and betrayed

Ou miroer, entre mil choses,

In-the mirror among a-thousand things

choisi rosiers chargiez de roses,

I-espied rosebushes laden with roses

qui estoient en un destor,

which were in a corner

d'une haiete clos entor;

by-a little-hedge closed around

e lors m'en prist si grant envie

and then me-thereof took so great a-desire

que ne laissasse por Pavie

that not I-should-forbear for Pavia

ne por Paris que je n'alasse

nor for Paris that I not-should-go

la ou je vi la gaignor tasse.

there where I saw the greatest heap

Quant cele rage m'ot sorpris,

When that madness me-had seized

1610

1615

1620

don maint autre ome ont esté pris,

by-which many-an other man has been taken

1625 vers les rosiers tantost me trais;

toward the rosebushes at-once myself I-drew

e sachiez bien, quant je fui près,

and know well when I was near

l'odor des roses savoree

the-odor of-the roses fragrant

m'entra jusques en la coree,

me-entered even into the heart

que por neient fusse embasmez.

so-that for nothing I-were embalmed

1630 Se assailliz ou mesamez

If assailed or ill-loved

ne cremisse estre, j'en cuillisse

not I-feared to-be I-thereof should-gather

au moins une, que je tenisse

at least one which I might-hold

en ma main, por l'odor sentir;

in my hand for the-odor to-smell

mais peor oi dou repentir,

but fear I-had of-the repenting

1635 car il en peüst de legier

for it thereof could with ease

peser au seignor dou vergier.

displease to-the lord of-the garden

Des roses i ot granz monciaus,

Of-the roses there were great heaps

ausi beles n'avoit soz ciaux;

so fair not-there-were under heaven

s'i ot boutons petiz e clos,

and-there were buds little and closed

e teus qui sont un poi plus gros;

and such as are a little more big

si en i a d'autre moison,

and-so thereof there are of-other measure

qui se traient a lor saison

which themselves draw at their season

e s'aprestent d'espaneïr.

and themselves-make-ready to-open

Icil ne font pas a haïr:

Those not are at-all to be-hated

les roses overtes e lees

the roses open and wide

sont en un jor toutes alees,

are in one day all gone

mais li bouton durent tuit frois

but the buds last all fresh

a tot le moins deus jorz ou trois.

at all the least two days or three

Icil bouton mout m'abelurent:

Those buds much me-pleased

onques si bel nul leu ne crurent;

ever so fair in-any place not grew

qui en porroit un acrochier,

who thereof could one pluck-off

il le devroit avoir mout chier;

he it ought to-have very dear

1640

1645

1650

se chapel en peüsse avoir,
if a-garland thereof I-could have
 je n'amasse tant nul avoir.
I not-should-love so-much any wealth

The God of Love Shoots

XI

The chosen bud stands on a straight stem with four pairs of leaves, but thistles, nettles, and brambles keep the lover from it. The god of Love, watching from beside a fig tree, draws his bow to the ear and sends Beauty through the lover's eye into his heart; he swoons, and the wound draws no blood. He pulls out the shaft but the head stays in. Four more follow, Simplicity, Courtesy, Company, and Fair Seeming, the last anointed so that it heals as much as it hurts. He must keep beside the thorn hedge, wounded five times.

1655 Entre ces boutons en eslui
Among these buds thereof I-chose
 un si très bel qu'envers celui
one so very fair that-beside that-one
 nul des autres rien ne prisai,
any of-the others anything not I-prized
 puis que je l'oi bien avisé,
since that I it-bad well observed
 car une color l'enlumine
for a color it-illuminates
 1660 qui est si vermeille e si fine
which is so red and so fine
 con Nature la pot plus faire.
as Nature it could most make

De fueilles i ot quatre paire,

Of leaves there were four pairs

que Nature par grant maistire

which Nature by great mastery

i ot assises tire a tire;

there had set row by row

la queue est droite come jons,

the stem is straight as a-rush

e par desus siet li boutons

and by above sits the bud

si qu'il ne cline ne ne pent.

so that-it not bends nor not hangs

L'odor de lui entor s'espant:

The-odor of it around itself-spreads

la soatume qui en ist

the sweetness which thereof issues

toute la place replenist.

all the place fills

E quant jou senti si flairier,

And when I-it smelled so give-scent

je n'oi talent de repairier,

I not-bad desire to return

ainz m'aprochasse por le prendre,

rather I-should-approach for it to-take

se j'i osasse la main tendre;

if I-there dared the hand stretch

mais chardon agu e poignant

but thistles sharp and pricking

m'en aloient mout esloignant;

me-thereof went much distancing

1665

1670

1675

espines trenchanz e agües,

thorns cutting and sharp

orties e ronces crochues

nettles and brambles hooked

ne me laissoient avant traire,

not me let forward draw

1680 car je me cremoie mal faire.

for I myself feared harm to-do

Li deus d'Amors, qui, l'arc tendu,

The god of-Love who the-bow bent

avoit toz jorz mout entendu

had all days much been-intent

a moi porsivre e espier,

on me to-pursue and to-spy

s'iert arestez lez un fier;

and-he-was stopped beside a fig-tree

1685 e quant il ot aperceü

and when he had perceived

que j'avoie ensi esleü

that I-had thus chosen

ce bouton, qui plus me plaisoit

that bud which most me pleased

que nus des autres ne faisoit,

than any of-the others — did

il a tantost pris une floiche,

he has forthwith taken an arrow

1690 e quant la corde fu en coiche,

and when the cord was in notch

il entesa jusqu'a l'oreille

he drew-back even-to the-ear

l'arc, qui estoit forz a merveille,

the-bow which was strong to a-marvel

e traist a moi par tel devise

and shot at me with such aim

que par mi l'ueil m'a ou cuer mise

that through midst the-eye me-has in-the heart put

la saiete par grant roidor.

the arrow with great violence

E lors me prist une froidor,

And then me took a chill

don j'ai desoz chaut peliçon

of-which I-have beneath a-warm fur-coat

sentie puis mainte frïçon.

felt since many-a shudder

Quant j'oi ensi esté bersez,

When I-had thus been shot

a terre fui tantost versez;

to earth I-was forthwith overturned

li cuers me faut, li cuers me ment:

the heart me fails the heart me lies

pasmez jui iluec longuement;

swooning I-lay there long

e quant je vin de pasmoison

and when I came from swooning

e j'oi mon sen e ma raison,

and I-had my sense and my reason

1695

1700

1705 je fui mout vains e si cuidiai
I was very faint and so I-thought
 grant fais de sanc avoir vuidié;
a-great mass of blood to-have voided
 mais la saiete qui m'ot point
but the arrow which me-had pricked
 ne traist onques sanc de moi point,
not drew ever blood from me at-all
 ainz fu la plaie toute soiche.
rather was the wound wholly dry

1710 Je pris lors a deus mains la floiche
I took then with two hands the arrow
 e començai fort a tirer
and I-began strongly to pull
 e en tirant a sospirer;
and in pulling to sigh
 e tant tirai que j'amenai
and so-much I-pulled that I-brought
 le fust a moi tot empené.
the shaft to me all feathered

1715 Mais la saiete barbelee,
But the arrow barbed
 qui Biauté estoit apelee,
which Beauty was called
 fu si dedenz mon cuer fichiee
was so within my heart fixed
 qu'el n'en pot estre hors sachiee,
that-it not-thereof could be out drawn
 ainz remest enz, encor l'i sens,
rather it-remained within still it-there I-feel

e si n'en issi onques sans.

1720

and so not-thereof issued ever blood

Angoisseus fui mout e troblez

Anguished I-was very and troubled

por le perill qui fu doblez:

because-of the peril which was doubled

ne soi que faire ne que dire

not I-knew what to-do nor what to-say

ne de ma plaie ou trover mire,

nor of my wound where to-find a-physician

que par erbe ne par racine

1725

for by herb nor by root

n'en atendoie medecine;

not-thereof I-awaited medicine

mais vers le bouton me traioit

but toward the bud me drew

mes cuers, qui aillors ne beoit:

my heart which elsewhere not aimed

se je l'eüsse en ma baillie,

if I it-had in my keeping

il m'eüst rendue la vie.

1730

it me-would-have given-back the life

Li veoirs senz plus e l'olors

The seeing without more and the-odor

m'alejoit mout de mes dolors.

me-lightened much of my griefs

Je me començai lors a traire

I myself began then to draw

vers le bouton, qui soef flaire.

toward the bud which sweetly gives-scent

- 1735 E Amors ot ja recovree
And Love had already procured
 une autre floiche a or ovree;
an other arrow with gold wrought
 Simplece ot non, c'est la segonde,
Simplicity had name this-is the second
 qui maint ome par mi le monde
which many-a man through midst the world
 e mainte fame a fait amer.
and many-a woman has made to-love
- 1740 Quant Amors me vit aprimer,
When Love me saw approach
 il traist a moi, senz menacier,
he shot at me without threatening
 la floiche, ou n'ot fer ne acier,
the arrow where not-was iron nor steel
 si que par l'ueil ou cuer m'entra
so that through the-eye in-the heart me-entered
 la saiete, qui n'en istra
the arrow which not-thereof will-issue
- 1745 jamais, ce cuit, par ome né,
ever this I-think by man born
 car au tirer en amenai
for at-the pulling thereof I-brought
 le fust a moi senz grant contenz,
the shaft to me without great struggle
 mais la saiete remest enz.
but the arrow remained within

Or sachiez bien de verité

Now know well for truth

que, se j'avoie avant esté

that if I-had before been

dou bouton bien entalentez,

of-the bud well desirous

or fu graindre la volentez;

now was greater the desire

e quant li maus plus m'angoissoit,

and when the ill most me-anguished

e la volentez me croissoit

and the desire to-me grew

toz jorz d'aler vers la rosete,

all days of-going toward the little-rose

qui oloit miauz que violete;

which smelled better than a-violet

si m'en venist miauz reüser,

and-so to-me-thereof it-would-come better to-draw-back

mais ne pooie refuser

but not I-could refuse

ce que mes cuers me comandoit:

that which my heart me commanded

tot adès la ou il tendoit

all ever there where it tended

me covenoit aler par force.

me it-behooved to-go by force

Mais li archiers, qui mout s'esforce

But the archer who much himself-exerts

de moi grever e mout se poine,

of me to-grieve and much himself pains

1750

1755

1760

ne m'i lait pas aler senz poine;

not me-there lets at-all to-go without pain

1765 ainz m'a fait, por miauz afoier,

rather me-bas made for better to-madden

la tierce floiche au cuer voler,

the third arrow to-the heart fly

qui Cortoisie iert apelee.

which Courtesy was called

La plaie fu parfonde e lee,

The wound was deep and wide

si me covint cheoir pasmé,

and-so me it-behooved to-fall swooning

1770 desoz un olivier ramé.

under an olive-tree leafy

Grant piece i jui senz remuer.

Great while there I-lay without stirring

Quant je me poi esvertuer,

When I myself could exert

je pris la floiche e si ostai

I took the arrow and so I-drew-out

tantost le fust de mon costé,

forthwith the shaft from my side

1775 mais la saiete n'en poi traire

but the arrow not-thereof I-could draw

por rien que je peüsse faire.

for anything that I could do

En mon seant lores m'assis,

On my sitting-posture then myself-I-sat

mout angoisseus e mout pensis.

very anguished and very pensive

Mout me destreint icele plaie

Much me torments that-same wound

e me semont que je me traie

and me summons that I myself draw

vers le bouton qui m'atalente.

toward the bud which me-attracts

Mais li archiers me respoente,

But the archer me frightens

e me doit bien espoenter,

and me ought well to-frighten

qu'eschaudez doit eve doter.

for-a-scalded-man ought water to-fear

Mais grant chose a en estovoir:

But a-great thing there-is in necessity

se je veïsse iluec plovoir

if I should-see there rain

carriaus e pierres pelle melle,

bolts and stones pell mell

ausi espès come la grelle,

as thick as the hail

s'esteüst il que j'i alasse;

and-so-would-behoove it that I-there should-go

qu'Amors, qui toutes choses passe,

for-Love who all things surpasses

me donoit cuer e hardement

me gave heart and boldness

de faire son comandement.

of doing his commandment

Je me sui lors en piez dreciez,

I myself am then on feet raised

1780

1785

1790

foibles e vains come on bleciez,

feeble and faint as a-man wounded

1795 e m'esforçai mout de marchier,

and myself-I-forced much to walk

nou laissai onques por l'archier,

not-it I-left ever for the-archer

vers le rosier ou mes cuers tent;

toward the rosebush where my heart tends

mais espines i avoit tant,

but thorns there were so-many

chardons e ronces, qu'onques n'oi

thistles and brambles that-ever not-I-had

1800 pooir de passer l'espinoi,

power of passing the-thorn-brake

si qu'au bouton peüsse ataindre.

so that-at-the bud I-might reach

Lez la haie m'estut remaindre

Beside the hedge me-it-behooved to-remain

qui estoit as rosiers joignanz,

which was to-the rosebushes adjoining

faite d'espines mout poignanz.

made of-thorns very pricking

1805 Mais bel me fu que je estoie

But fair to-me it-was that I was

si près que dou bouton sentoie

so near that of-the bud I-felt

la douce olor qui en issoit,

the sweet odor which thereof issued

e durement m'abelissoit

and greatly me-pleased

ce que jou veoie a bandon;

this that I-it saw at liberty

s'en avoie tel guerredon

and-thereof I-had such recompense

que mes maus en entrobloie,

that my ills thereof I-half-forgot

por le delit e por la joie.

for the delight and for the joy

Mout fui gueriz, mout fui aaise,

Much I-was healed much I-was at-ease

jamais n'iert rien qui tant me plaise

ever not-will-be anything which so-much me please

come estre ilueques a sejour:

as being there at sojourn

n'en queïsse partir nul jor.

not-thereof I-should-wish to-part any day

Mais quant j'i oi esté grant piece,

But when I-there had been great while

li deus d'Amors, qui tot despiece

the god of-Love who all shatters

mon cuer, don il a fait bersaut,

my heart of-which he has made a-target

me redone un novel assaut,

me gives-again a new assault

e trait, por moi metre a meschief,

and shoots to me to-put to mischief

une autre floiche de rechief,

an other arrow once again

1810

1815

1820

si que ou cuer soz la mamele

so that in-the heart under the breast

me fait une plaie novele.

me makes a wound new

1825 Compaignie ot non la saiete;

Company had name the arrow

il n'est nule qui plus tost mete

there not-is any which more soon puts

a merci dame ou damoisele.

to mercy lady or damsel

La grant dolor me renovele

The great grief me renews

de mes plaies tot maintenant;

of my wounds all at-once

1830 trois foiz me pasme en un tenant.

three times myself I-swoon in one stretch

Au revenir plaing e sospire,

At-the reviving I-lament and sigh

car ma dolor croist e empire

for my grief grows and worsens

si que je n'ai mais esperance

so that I not-have more hope

de guerison ne d'alejance.

of healing nor of-easing

1835 Miauz voudroie estre morz que vis,

Better I-should-wish to-be dead than alive

car en la fin, ce m'est avis,

for in the end this to-me-is seeming

fera Amors de moi martir.

will-make Love of me a-martyr

Je ne m'en puis par el partir.

I not myself-thereof can by anything-else part

Il a endementieres prise

He has meanwhile taken

une autre floiche, que mout prise

an other arrow which much he-prizes

e que je tieng a mout poissant,

and which I hold for very powerful

c'est Biaus Semblanz, qui ne consent

this-is Fair Seeming which not consents

a nul amant qu'il se repente

to any lover that-be himself repent

d'Amors servir, por mal qu'il sente.

of-Love to-serve for any-ill that-be feel

Ele est agüe por percier,

It is sharp for piercing

e trenchant con rasoirs d'acier;

and cutting as razors of-steel

mais Amors a mout bien la pointe

but Love has very well the point

d'un oignement precieus ointe,

with-an ointment precious anointed

por ce qu'el ne peüst trop nuire;

for this that-it not could too-much harm

car il ne viaut pas que je muire,

for he not wishes at-all that I die

ainz viaut que j'aie alegement

rather he-wishes that I-have easing

par l'ointure de l'oignement,

by the-anointing of the-ointment

1840

1845

1850

qui estoit toz de confort pleins.

which was all of comfort full

Amors l'avoit fait a ses mains,

Love it-had made with his hands

1855 por les fins amanz conforter,

for the fine lovers to-comfort

e por lor maus miauz deporter.

and for their ills better to-bear

Il a cele floiche a moi traite,

He has that arrow at me shot

si m'a ou cuer grant plaie faite;

and-so me-has in-the heart a-great wound made

mais li oignemenz s'espandi

but the ointment itself-spread

1860 par les plaies, si me rendi

through the wounds and-so me gave-back

le cuer qui m'estoit toz failliz.

the heart which to-me-was wholly failed

Je fusse morz e mal bailliz

I should-have-been dead and ill handled

se li douz oignemenz ne fust.

if the sweet ointment not were

Lors ai a moi tiré le fust,

Then I-have to me pulled the shaft

1865 mais la saiete est enz remese,

but the arrow is within remained

qui ot esté de novel rese.

which had been of new shorn

S'en i ot cinc bien encrotees,

And-thereof there were five well embedded

qui jamais n'en seront ostees.

which ever not-thereof will-be taken-out

Li oignemenz mout me valut;

The ointment much me availed

mais toutesvoies me dolut

1870

but nevertheless me pained

la plaie si que la dolor

the wound so that the grief

me faisoit muer la color.

me made to-change the color

Ceste floiche a fiere costume:

This arrow has a-fierce custom

douçor i a e amertume.

sweetness there is and bitterness

J'ai bien senti e coneü

1875

I-have well felt and known

qu'el m'a aidié e m'a neü.

that-it me-has helped and me-has harmed

Il a angoisse en la pointure,

There is anguish in the piercing

si me rassoage l'ointure;

and-so me eases the-anointing

d'une part m'oint, d'autre me cuit,

of-one part me-anoints of-other me burns

ensi m'aïde, ensi me nuit.

1880

thus me-helps thus me harms

The Lover's Homage

XII

Love comes up at a run and bids the lover yield, since resistance is folly; he yields at once, offering heart and body, and Love takes his homage and kisses him on the mouth. Asked for pledges, the lover answers that Love holds his heart already under garrison, and offers a key instead; Love draws a little gold key from his pouch and locks the heart so softly it is scarcely felt. He promises a medicine for the wounds, and warns that a disciple who does not set his heart on remembering wastes his master's labor.

Lors est tot maintenant venuz

Then is all at-once come

Amors vers moi les sauz menuz.

Love toward me with-the leaps short

En ce qu'il vint si m'escria:

In that that-he came and-so me-cried-out

«Vassaus, pris es, neient n'i a

Vassal taken thou-art nothing not-there is

1885 dou destorner ne dou defendre;

of-the turning-aside nor of-the defending

ne fai pas dangier de toi rendre:

not make at-all resistance of thyself to-yeild

quant plus volentiers te rendras,

when more willingly thyself thou-wilt-yeild

e plus tost a merci vendras;

and the-more soon to mercy thou-wilt-come

il est fos qui moine dangier

he is foolish who makes resistance

vers celui qu'il doit losengier

toward him whom-he ought to-flatter

e qu'il covient a soupleier:

and whom-it behooves to entreat

tu ne puez vers moi forceier;

thou not canst against me use-force

e si te vueil bien enseigner

and so to-thee I-wish well to-teach

que tu ne puez rien gaaignier

that thou not canst anything gain

en la folie n'en orgueil;

in the folly nor-in pride

mais rent toi pris, que je le vueil,

but yield thyself taken since I it wish

en pais e debonairement.

in peace and graciously

E je respondi simplement:

And I answered simply

«Sire, volentiers me rendrai,

Lord willingly myself I-shall-yield

ja vers vos ne me defendrai;

ever against you not myself I-shall-defend

ja Deu ne plaise que je pense

ever to-God not may-it-please that I think

que j'aie ja vers vos defense,

that I-have ever against you defense

car il n'est pas raison ne droiz;

for it not-is at-all reason nor right

1890

1895

1900

vos poez ce que vos voudroiz

you can this which you will-wish

1905 faire de moi, pendre ou tuer;

to-do with me to-hang or to-kill

bien sai que je nou puis muer,

well I-know that I not-it can alter

car ma vie est en vostre main:

for my life is in your hand

ne puis vivre jusqu'a demain

not I-can live even-to tomorrow

se n'est par vostre volenté.

if not-is by your will

1910 J'atent par vos joie e santé,

I-await from you joy and health

que ja par autre ne l'avrai;

for ever by another not it-I-shall-have

se vostre main, qui m'a navré,

if your hand which me-has wounded

ne me done la guerison,

not me gives the healing

e se de moi vostre prison

and if of me your prisoner

1915 volez faire ne ne deigniez,

you-wish to-make nor not deign

ne m'en tieng pas a engigniez;

not myself-thereof I-hold at-all for cheated

e sachiez que n'en ai point d'ire.

and know that not-thereof I-have at-all of-wrath

Tant ai oï de vos bien dire

So-much I-have heard of you well to-say

que metre vueil tot a devise

that to-put I-wish wholly at pleasure

cuer e cors en vostre servise,

heart and body in your service

car, se je faz vostre vouloir,

for if I do your will

je ne m'en puis de rien doloir;

I not myself-thereof can in anything grieve

encor, ce cuit, en aucun tens

still this I-think in some time

avrai la merci que j'atens;

I-shall-have the mercy which I-await

e par tel covent me rent gié.»

and by such covenant myself yield I

A cest mot vos baisier son pié,

At this word I-wished to-kiss his foot

mais il m'a par mi la main pris,

but he me-bas by midst the hand taken

e me dist: «Je t'ain mout e pris

and to-me said I thee-love much and prize

don tu as respondu issi.

since thou hast answered thus

Onques tel response n'issi

Ever such answer not-issued

d'ome vilain mal enseignié;

from-a-man churlish ill bred

1920

1925

1930

e si i as tant gaaigné

and so thereat thou-hast so-much gained

que je vueil, por ton avantage,

that I wish for thy advantage

qu'orendroit me faces omage;

that-just-now to-me thou-do homage

1935 si me baiseras en la bouche,

and-so me thou-wilt-kiss on the mouth

a cui nus vilains on ne touche.

to which any churlish man not touches

Je n'i laisse mie touchier

I not-there let at-all to-touch

chascun vilain, chascun bouchier,

every churl every butcher

ainz doit estre cortois e frans

rather ought to-be courteous and noble

1940 cil que j'ensi a ome prens.

he whom I-thus as man take

Senz faille il i a poine e fais

Without fail there there is toil and burden

en moi servir, mais je te fais

in me to-serve but I to-thee do

enor mout grant, e si doiz estre

honor very great and so thou-oughtest to-be

mout liez don tu as si bon maistre

very glad since thou hast so good a-master

1945 e seignor de si haut renon,

and lord of so high renown

qu'Amors porte le gonfanon

for-Love bears the gonfalon

de Cortoisie e la baniere;

of Courtesy and the banner

si est de si bone maniere,

and-so is of so good a-manner

si douz, si frans e si gentis

so sweet so noble and so gentle

que, quiconques est ententis

that whoever is intent

a li servir e enorer,

on him to-serve and to-honor

dedenz lui ne puet demorer

within him not can dwell

Vilanie ne mesprison

Villainy nor wrongdoing

ne nule mauvaise aprison.»

nor any evil teaching

Atant devin ses on mains jointes.

Thereupon I-became his man with-hands joined

E sachiez que mout me fis cointes

And know that very myself I-made proud

don sa bouche baisa la moie:

since his mouth kissed the mine

ce fu ce don j'oi graignor joie.

this was that of-which I-had greater joy

Il m'a lores requis ostages:

He me-has then asked pledges

1950

1955

- 1960 «Amis», fait il, «j'ai mainz omages
Friend says he I-have many homages
 e d'uns e d'autres receüz,
both of-some and of-others received
 don j'ai puis esté deceüz;
of-which I-have since been deceived
 li felon, plein de fausseté,
the felons full of falsehood
 m'ont par maintes foiz bareté.
me-have by many times cheated
- 1965 D'aus ai oïe mainte noise;
Of-them I-have heard many-an outcry
 mais il savront come il m'en poise:
but they will-know how it to-me-thereof grieves
 se je les puis a mon droit prendre,
if I them can at my right take
 je lor voudrai chierement vendre.
I to-them shall-wish dearly to-sell
 Or vueil je, por ce que je t'ains,
Now wish I for this that I thee-love
- 1970 de toi estre si bien certains,
of thee to-be so well certain
 e te vueil si a moi lier
and thee I-wish so to me to-bind
 que tu ne me puisses nier
that thou not me canst deny
 ne promesse ne covenant,
neither promise nor covenant
 ne faire nul desavenant:
nor do any unseemliness

pechiez seroit se tu trichoies,

a-sin it-would-be if thou didst-cheat

qu'il me semble que leiaus soies.

for-it to-me seems that loyal thou-art

— Sire», fis je, «or m'entendez:

Lord said I now me-bear

ne sai por quoi vos demandez

not I-know for what you ask

pleges de moi ne seürté:

pledges of me nor surety

ja savez vos de verité

already know you for truth

que mon cuer m'avez si toloit

that my heart me-you-have so taken-away

e si pris que, s'il bien voloit,

and so taken that if-it well wished

ne puet il rien faire por moi,

not can it anything do for me

se ce n'estoit par vostre otroi.

if this not-were by your grant

Li cuers est vestres, non pas miens,

The heart is yours not at-all mine

car il covient, soit maus ou biens,

for it behooves be-it ill or good

que il face vostre plaisir:

that it do your pleasure

nus ne vos en puet dessaisir;

anyone not you thereof can dispossess

1975

1980

1985

tel garnison i avez mise

such a-garrison there you-have put

1990 qui le garde bien e jostise;

which it guards well and rules

e sor tot ce, se rien dotez,

and over all this if anything you-doubt

faites i clef, si l'emportez,

make there a-key and-so it-carry-away

e la clef soit en leu d'ostages.

and the key be in place of-pledges

— Par mon chief, ce n'est mie outrages»,

By my head this not-is at-all an-outrage

1995 respont Amors, «je m'i acors:

answers Love I myself-there agree

il est assez sires dou cors

he is quite lord of-the body

qui a le cuer en sa comande.

who has the heart in his command

Outrageus est qui plus demande.»

Outrageous is who more asks

Lors a de s'aumosniere traite

Then he-has from his-pouch drawn

2000 une petite clef bien faite,

a little key well made

qui fu de fin or esmeré:

which was of fine gold refined

«A ceste», dist il, «fermerai

With this says he I-shall-lock

ton cuer, n'en quier autre apoial;

thy heart not-thereof I-seek other prop

soz ceste clef sont mi joial.

under this key are my jewels

Ele est mendre de ton doi mame,

It is smaller than thy finger little

mais ele est de mon eserin dame,

but it is of my casket mistress

e si a mout grant poesté.»

and so has very great power

Lors la me toucha au costé,

Then it to-me he-touched at-the side

e ferma mon cuer si soef

and locked my heart so softly

qu'a grant poine senti la clef.

that-with great trouble I-felt the key

Ensi fis sa volenté toute;

Thus I-did his will wholly

e quant je l'oi mis hors de doute:

and when I him-had put out of doubt

«Sire», fis je, «grant talent ai

Lord said I great desire I-have

de faire vostre volenté;

of doing your will

mais mon servise recevez

but my service receive

en gré, foi que vos me devez.

in favor by-the-faith that you to-me owe

Nou di pas por recreantise,

Not-it I-say at-all out-of faintheartedness

car point ne dot vostre servise,

for at-all not I-fear your service

2005

2010

2015

- mais sergenz en vain se travaille
but a-servant in vain himself labors
- 2020 de faire servise qui vaille,
in doing service which avails
- se li servises n'atalente
if the service not-pleases
- au seignor cui l'en le presente.»
to-the lord to-whom one it presents
- Amors respont: «Or ne t'esmaie;
Love answers Now not thyself-trouble
- puis que mis t'es en ma menaie,
since that put thyself-art in my power
- 2025 ton servise prendrai en gré
thy service I-shall-take in favor
- e te metrai en haut degré,
and thee I-shall-put in high degree
- se mauvaistié ne le te tost;
if wickedness not it to-thee take-away
- mais espoir ce n'iert mie tost:
but perhaps this not-will-be at-all soon
- granz biens ne vient pas en poi d'eure;
great good not comes at-all in little of-time
- 2030 il i covient poine e demeure.
there there behooves toil and delay
- Atent e suefre la destrece
Await and suffer the distress
- qui orendroit te cuit e blece,
which just-now thee burns and wounds

car je sai bien par quel poison

for I know well by what draft

tu seras traiz a guerison.

thou wilt-be drawn to healing

Se tu te tiens en leiauté,

If thou thyself holdest in loyalty

je te donrai tel deauté

I to-thee shall-give such an-electuary

qui de tes plaies te garra;

which of thy wounds thee will-heal

mais, par mon chief, or i parra

but by my head now there will-appear

se tu de bon cuer serviras,

if thou with good heart wilt-serve

e coment tu acompliras

and how thou wilt-fulfill

nuit e jor les comandemenz

night and day the commandments

que je comant as fins amanz.

which I command to-the fine lovers

— Sire», fis je, «por Deu merci,

Lord said I for God's mercy

avant que vos movez de ci,

before that you move from here

voz comandemenz m'enchargiez;

your commandments to-me-charge

je sui dou faire encoragiez,

I am of-the doing emboldened

mais espoir, se je nes savoie,

but perhaps if I not-them knew

2035

2040

2045

tost porroie issir hors de voie;

soon I-could issue out of way

por ce sui en grant de l'aprendre

for this I-am in eagerness of the-learning

2050 que je n'i vueil de rien mesprendre.»

for I not-there wish in anything to-transgress

Amors respont: «Tu dis mout bien.

Love answers Thou sayest very well

Or les entent e les retien.

Now them hear and them retain

Li maistres pert sa poine toute

The master loses his toil wholly

quant li deciples qui escoute

when the disciple who listens

2055 ne met son cuer au retenir

not puts his heart at-the retaining

si qu'il l'en puisse sovenir.»

so that-he thereof may remember

Li deus d'Amors lors m'encharja,

The god of-Love then to-me-charged

tot ensi con vos orroiz ja,

all thus as you will-bear presently

mot a mot ses comandemenz:

word by word his commandments

2060 bien les devise cist romanz.

well them describes this romance

Qui amer viaut or i entende,

Who to-love wishes now there let-him-attend

que li romanz des or amende;

for the romance from now improves

des or le fait bon escouter,

from now it makes good to-listen

s'il est qui le sache conter,

if-there is who it know to-tell

car la fin dou songe est mout bele

for the end of-the dream is very fair

e la matire en est novele;

and the matter thereof is new

qui dou songe la fin orra,

who of-the dream the end will-bear

je vos di bien que il porra

I to-you say well that he will-be-able

des jeux d'Amors assez aprendre,

of-the games of-Love enough to-learn

por quoi il vueille tant atendre

provided that he wish so-long to-wait

que j'espoigne e que j'enromance

until I-expound and until I-put-in-romance

dou songe la senefiance:

of-the dream the meaning

la verité, qui est coverte,

the truth which is covered

vos sera lores toute aperte

to-you will-be then wholly open

quant espondre m'orroiz le songe,

when to-expound me-you-will-hear the dream

car il n'i a mot de mençonge.

for there not-there is a-word of falsehood

2065

2070

2075

The Commandments of Love

XIII

Love's rule, given at length. Forsake villainy, which makes churls; speak no foul word; greet people first; serve and honor all women and rebuke anyone who slanders them; avoid pride, but keep yourself elegant according to your income, in a well-cut gown, fresh shoes, clean nails, and combed hair. Be merry, since Love has no use for a gloomy man; use whatever skill you have in riding, singing, or dancing; and be open-handed, never miserly. Set your whole heart in one place, and give it outright rather than lend it.

«Vilanie premierement»,

Villainy *firstly*

ce dist Amors, «vueil e comant

this *says* *Love* *I-wish* *and* *command*

que tu guerpisses senz reprendre,

that *thou* *forsake* *without* *taking-back*

2080 se tu ne viaus vers moi mesprendre.

if *thou* *not* *wishest* *against* *me* *to-offend*

Si maudi e escomenie

And-so *I-curse* *and* *excommunicate*

toz ceus qui aiment vilanie:

all *those* *who* *love* *villainy*

Vilanie fait les vilains,

Villainy *makes* *the* *churls*

por ce n'est pas droiz que je l'ains.

for *this* *not-is* *at-all* *right* *that* *I* *it-love*

2085 Vilains est fel e senz pitié,

A-cburl *is* *felon* *and* *without* *pity*

senz servise e senz amitié.

without *service* *and* *without* *friendship*

Or te garde bien de retraire

Now thyself keep well from repeating

chose des genz qui face a taire:

a-thing of-the folk which ought to be-bushed

n'est pas proece de mesdire.

not-is at-all prowess of slandering

A Keu le seneschal te mire,

2090

At Kay the seneschal thyself mirror

qui jadis par son moqueiz

who formerly by his mockery

fu mal renomez e haiz.

was ill renowned and bated

Tant con Gauvains, li bien apris,

As-much as Gawain the well bred

par sa cortoisie ot de pris,

by his courtesy had of worth

autretant ot de blasme Keus

2095

just-as-much had of blame Kay

por ce qu'il fu fel e crueus,

for this that-he was felon and cruel

ramponierres e mal parliers

a-jeerer and an-ill speaker

desus touz autres chevaliers.

above all other knights

Soies entres e acointables,

Be shrewd and affable

de paroles douz e raisnables

2100

of words sweet and reasonable

e as granz genz e as menues;

both to-the great folk and to-the little

e quant tu iras par les rues,

and when thou wilt-go through the streets

gar que tu soies costumiers

see that thou be accustomed

de saluer les genz premiers;

to greeting the folk first

2105 e s'aucuns avant te salue,

and if-anyone before thee greets

si n'aies pas ta bouche mue,

so not-have at-all thy mouth dumb

ainz te garnis dou salu rendre

rather thyself provide of-the greeting to-return

senz demorer e senz atendre.

without delaying and without waiting

Après garde que tu ne dies

After take-heed that thou not say

2110 ces orz moz ne ces ribaudies:

those foul words nor those ribaldries

ja por nomer vilaine chose

ever for naming a-base thing

ne doit ta bouche estre desclose:

not ought thy mouth to-be opened

je ne tieng pas a cortois ome

I not bold at-all for a-courteous man

qui orde chose e laide nome.

who a-foul thing and ugly names

2115 Toutes fames serf e eneure,

All women serve and honor

en eus servir poine e labeure;

in them serving toil and labor

e se tu oz nul mesdisant

and if thou hearest any slanderer

qui aille fames despisant,

who go women despising

blasme le e di qu'il se taise.

blame him and say that-he himself be-silent

Fai, se tu puez, chose qui plaise

Do if thou canst a-thing which please

as dames e as damoiseles,

to-the ladies and to-the damsels

si qu'eus oient bones noveles

so that-they hear good tidings

de toi e dire e raconter:

of thee both to-say and to-recount

par ce porras en pris monter.

by this thou-wilt-be-able in worth to-rise

Après tot ce d'orgueil te garde,

After all this from-pride thyself keep

car, qui entent bien e esgarde,

for who understands well and considers

Orguiauz est folie e pechiez;

Pride is folly and sin

e qui d'orgueil est entechiez,

and who of-pride is stained

il ne puet son cuer apleier

he not can his heart to-bend

a servir ne a soupleier:

to serve nor to submit

2120

2125

2130

orgueilleus fait tot le contraire

a-proud-man does all the contrary

de ce que fins amanz doit faire.

of this that a-fine lover ought to-do

Mais qui d'amors se viaut pener,

But who of-love himself wishes to-take-pains

il se doit cointement mener:

he himself ought elegantly to-carry

2135 on qui porchace druerie

a-man who pursues courtship

ne vaut neient senz cointerie.

not is-worth anything without elegance

Cointerie n'est pas orguiauz:

Elegance not-is at-all pride

qui est cointes il en vaut miauz,

who is elegant he thereby is-worth better

por quoi il soit d'orgueil vuidiez,

provided that he be of-pride emptied

2140 qu'il ne soit fos n'outrecuidiez.

that-he not be foolish nor-presumptuous

Moine toi bel, selonc ta rente,

Carry thyself fairly according-to thy income

e de robe e de chaucement:

both in gown and in footwear

bele robe e bel garnement

a-fair gown and fair garment

amendent ome durement;

improve a-man greatly

e si doiz ta robe baillier

2145

and so thou-oughtest thy gown to-entrust

a tel qui sache bien taillier,

to such-a-one who know well to-cut

qui face bien seanz les pointes

who make well fitting the stitches

e les manches vestanz e cointes.

and the sleeves close and elegant

Solers a laz e estiviaus

Shoes with laces and half-boots

aies sovent frois e noviaus,

2150

have often fresh and new

e gar qu'il soient si chauçant

and see that-they be so fitting

que cil vilain aillent tençant

that those churls go disputing

en quel guise tu i entras

in what wise thou into-them didst-enter

e de quel part tu en istras.

and by what part thou thereof wilt-issue

De ganz, d'aumosniere de soie

2155

Of gloves of-a-pouch of silk

e de ceinture te cointoie;

and of a-girdle thyself adorn

e se tu n'es de la richece

and if thou not-art of the wealth

quel puisses faire, si t'estrece;

that-it mayest do so thee-straiten

mais au plus bel te doiz deduire

but at-the most fair thee thou-oughtest to-delight

2160 que tu porras senz toi destruire:

that thou wilt-be-able without thyself to-destroy

chapel de flors, qui petit coste,

a-garland of flowers which little costs

ou de roses a Pentecoste,

or of roses at Pentecost

ice puet bien chascuns avoir,

that-same can well each have

qu'il n'i covient pas grant avoir.

for-it not-there behooves at-all great wealth

2165 Ne suefre sor toi nule ordure;

Not suffer upon thee any filth

lave tes mains, tes denz escure;

wash thy hands thy teeth scour

s'en tes ongles pert point de noir,

if-in thy nails appears a-speck of black

ne l'i laisse pas remenoir.

not it-there let at-all to-remain

Cous tes manches, tes cheveus pigne,

Sew thy sleeves thy hair comb

2170 mais ne te farde ne ne guigne:

but not thyself paint nor not trim

ce n'appartient s'as dames non,

this not-belongs except-to ladies alone

ou a ceus de mauvais renon,

or to those of ill renown

qui amors par male aventure

who loves by evil adventure

ont trovees contre Nature.

have found against Nature

Après ce te doit sovenir

After this thee ought to-remember

2175

d'envoiseüre maintenir.

of-merriment to-keep-up

A joie e a deduit t'atorne:

To joy and to delight thyself-turn

amor n'a cure d'ome morne;

love not-has care of-a-man gloomy

c'est maladie mout courtoise,

this-is a-malady very courtly

ou l'en joue e rit e envoie.

where one plays and laughs and makes-merry

2180

Il est ensi que li amant

It is thus that the lovers

ont par eures joie e torment;

have by hours joy and torment

amant sentent le mal d'amer

lovers feel the ill of-loving

une eure douz e autre amer;

one hour sweet and another bitter

maus d'amer est mout corageus:

the-ill of-loving is very passionate

2185

or est li amanz en ses jeux,

now is the lover in his games

or est destroiz, or se demente,

now is distressed now himself laments

une eure pleure e autre chante.

one hour he-weepes and another sings

Se tu sez nul bel deduit faire,

If thou knowest any fair pastime to-make

2190 par quoi tu puisses as genz plaire,

by which thou mayest to-the folk please

je te comant que tu le faces:

I thee command that thou it do

chascuns doit faire en toutes places

each ought to-do in all places

ce qu'il set qui miauz li avient,

that which-he knows which best to-him befits

car los e pris e grace en vient.

for praise and worth and grace thereof comes

2195 Se tu te senz viste e legier,

If thou thyself feelest nimble and light

ne fai pas de saillir dangier;

not make at-all of leaping a-difficulty

e se tu es bien a cheval,

and if thou art good on horse

tu doiz poindre amont e aval;

thou oughtest to-spur up and down

e se tu sez lances brisier,

and if thou knowest lances to-break

2200 tu t'en puez faire mout prisier;

thou thyself-thereof canst make much to-be-prized

e s'as armes es acesmez,

and if-at arms thou-art accomplished

par ce seras dis tanz amez.

by this thou-wilt-be ten times loved

Se tu as la voiz clere e saine,

If thou hast the voice clear and sound

tu ne doiz mie querre essoine

thou not oughtest at-all to-seek excuse

de chanter, se l'en t'en semont,

of singing if one thee-thereof summons

car biaux chanters abelist mont.

for fair singing pleases much

Si avient bien a bacheler

And-so it-befits well to a-young-man

que il sache de vieler,

that he know of fiddling

de fleüter e de dancier:

of fluting and of dancing

par ce se puet mout avancier.

by this himself he-can much advance

Ne te fai tenir por aver,

Not thee make to-be-held for a-miser

car ce te porroit mout grever:

for this thee could much grieve

il avient bien que li amant

it befits well that the lovers

doignent dou lor plus largement

give of theirs more largely

que cil vilain entulle e sot.

than those churls dull and foolish

Onques on rien d'amer ne sot

Ever a-man anything of-loving not knew

cui il n'abelist a doner.

to-whom it not-pleases to give

2205

2210

2215

Se nus se viaut d'amors pener,
If anyone himself wishes of-love to-take-pains

d'avarice très bien se gart,
from-avarice very well himself let-him-keep

2220 car cil qui a por un regart,
for he who has for one look

ou por un ris douz e serin,
or for one smile sweet and serene

doné son cuer tot enterin
given his heart wholly entire

doit bien, après si riche don,
ought well after so rich a-gift

doner l'avoir tot a bandon.
to-give the-wealth wholly at liberty

2225 Or te vueil briement recorder
Now to-thee I-wish briefly to-recall

ce que t'ai dit, por remembrer,
this which to-thee-I-have said for remembering

car la parole moins engrieve
for the word less burdens

a retenir quant ele est brieve:
to retain when it is brief

qui d'Amors viaut faire son maistre
who of-Love wishes to-make his master

2230 cortois e senz orgueil doit estre;
courteous and without pride ought to-be

cointes se teigne e envoisiez,
elegant himself let-him-bold and merry

e de largece soit proisiez.
and of largesse let-him-be prized

Après t'enjoing en penitence

After thee-I-enjoin in penance

que nuit e jor, senz repentance,

that night and day without repenting

en amors metes ton penser:

in love thou-put thy thought

toz jorz i pense senz cesser,

all days there think without ceasing

e te membre de la douce eure

and thee remember of the sweet hour

don la joie tant te demeure.

of-which the joy so-long thee tarries

E, por ce que fins amanz soies,

And for this that a-fine lover thou-be

vueil je e comant que tu aies

wish I and command that thou have

en un seul leu tot ton cuer mis,

in one single place all thy heart put

si qu'il n'i soit mie demis,

so that-it not-there be at-all halved

mais toz entiers, senz tricherie,

but wholly entire without cheating

car je n'ain pas moiteierie.

for I not-love at-all halving

Qui en mainz leus son cuer depart,

Who in many places his heart divides

par tot en a petite part;

in all thereof has little part

2235

2240

2245

mais de celui point ne me dot

but of him at-all not myself I-fear

qui en un leu met son cuer tot;

who in one place puts his heart wholly

por ce vueil qu'en un leu le metes.

for this I-wish that-in one place it thou-put

2250 Mais garde bien que tu nou pretes,

But take-beed well that thou not-it lend

car se tu l'avoies preté,

for if thou it-hadst lent

jou tendroie a chaitiveté;

I-it should-bold for wretchedness

mais done le en don tot quite,

but give it in gift wholly quit

si en avras graignor merite,

and-so thereof thou-wilt-have greater merit

2255 car bonté de chose pretee

for the-kindness of a-thing lent

est tost rendue e aquitee;

is soon returned and discharged

mais de chose donee en dons

but of a-thing given in gifts

doit estre granz li guerredons.

ought to-be great the recompense

Done le donc tot quitement,

Give it therefore wholly freely

2260 si le fai debonairement,

and-so it do graciously

car l'en doit chose avoir mout chiere

for one ought a-thing to-hold very dear

qui est donee a bele chiere,

which is given with fair countenance

e je ne pris le don un pois

and I not prize the gift a pea

que l'en done desus son pois.

which one gives against his will

The Torments of the Lover

XIV

The heart given, the torments follow, Love warns. The lover will withdraw from company, sigh and shudder, go hot and cold, and stand as still as a dumb image, then come to himself with a start. He will walk to her street, find nothing, and go again. Seeing her, he will feed his eyes and only feed the fire, and afterward reproach himself for never daring to speak; should he meet her and begin, two of three things will go unsaid. At night he will toss, dream her in his arms, build castles in Spain, weep, and beg the sun to rise.

Quant tu avras ton cuer doné,

When thou wilt-have thy heart given

si con je t'ai ci sarmoné,

so as I to-thee-have here preached

lors te vendront les aventures

then to-thee will-come the adventures

qui as amanz sont griés e dures.

which to-the lovers are grievous and hard

2265

Sovent, quant il te sovendra

Often when it to-thee will-remember

2270 de tes amors, te covendra

of thy loves thee it-will-behoove

partir des genz par estovoir,

to-part from-the folk by necessity

qu'il ne puissent apercevoir

so-that-they not may perceive

le mal don tu es angoisseus.

the ill of-which thou art anguished

A une part iras toz seus:

To one part thou-wilt-go all alone

2275 lors te vendront sospir e plaintes,

then to-thee will-come sighs and complaints

frïons e autres dolors maintes;

shudders and other griefs many

en plusors sens seras destroiz,

in several ways thou-wilt-be distressed

une eure chاوز e autre froiz,

one hour hot and another cold

vermauz une eure, une autre pales:

red one hour an other pale

2280 onques fievers n'eüs si males,

ever fevers not-thou-hadst so evil

ne cotidianes ne quartes.

neither quotidian nor quartan

Bien avras, ainz que tu t'en partes,

Well thou-wilt-have before that thou thyself-thence part

les dolors d'amors essaiees.

the griefs of-love tried

Or t'avendra maintes feices

Now to-thee-will-happen many times

qu'en pensant t'entroblieras

that-in thinking thyself-thou-wilt-forget

e une grant piece seras

and a great while thou-wilt-be

ausi come une image mue,

just as an image dumb

qui ne se crole ne remue,

which not itself stirs nor moves

senz piez, senz mains, senz doiz croler,

without feet without hands without fingers to-stir

senz iauz movoir e senz parler.

without eyes to-move and without speaking

A chief de piece revendras

At end of a-while thou-wilt-come-again

en ta memoire e tressaudras

into thy memory and thou-wilt-start

au revenir en esfreor,

at-the returning in fright

ausi come on qui a peor,

just as a-man who has fear

e sospirras de cuer parfont,

and thou-wilt-sigh from heart deep

car bien saches qu'ensi le font

for well know that-thus it do

cil qui ont les maus essaiez

those who have the ills tried

don tu es or si esmaiez.

of-which thou art now so dismayed

2285

2290

2295

Après est droiz qu'il te soveigne

After it-is right that-it thee remember

2300 que t'amie t'est trop lointaigne;

that thy-friend to-thee-is too far-off

lors diras: «Deus! con sui mauvais

then thou-wilt-say God how I-am wretched

quant la ou mes cuers est ne vais!

when there where my heart is not I-go

Mon cuer seul por quoi i envoi?

My heart alone for what there I-send

Adès i pens e rien n'en voi:

Ever there I-think and anything not-thereof I-see

2305 quant ne puis les iauz enveier

when not I-can the eyes to-send

après, por le cuer conveier,

after for the heart to-escort

se mi ueil mon cuer ne convoient,

if my eyes my heart not escort

je ne pris rien quanque il voient.

I not prize anything whatever they see

Doivent se il ci arester?

Ought themselves they here to-stop

2310 Nenil, mais aillent visiter

No-indeed but let-them-go to-visit

ce don li cuers a tel talent.

that of-which the heart has such desire

Je me puis bien tenir a lent

I myself can well hold for slow

quant de mon cuer sui si lointiens;

when from my heart I-am so far-off

si m'aïst Deus, por fol m'en tiens.

so me-help God for fool myself-thereat I-hold

Or irai, plus nou laisserai;

Now I-shall-go more not-it I-shall-leave

jamais a aise ne serai

ever at ease not I-shall-be

devant qu'aucune enseigne en oie.»

before that-some token thereof I-hear

Lores te metras a la voie

Then thee thou-wilt-put on the way

e iras la par tel covent

and wilt-go there by such covenant

qu'a ton esme faudras sovent

that-at thy reckoning thou-wilt-fail often

e gasteras en vain tes pas;

and thou-wilt-waste in vain thy steps

ce que tu quiers ne verras pas,

that which thou seekest not thou-wilt-see at-all

si covendra que tu retournes,

and-so it-will-behoove that thou return

senz plus faire, pensis e mornes.

without more doing pensive and gloomy

Lores seras a grant meschief

Then thou-wilt-be at great distress

e te vendront tot de rechief

and to-thee will-come all of once-more

sospir e pointes e friçons,

sighs and pangs and shudders

qui poignent plus que heriçons.

which prick more than hedgebogs

2315

2320

2325

Qui ne le set si le demant

Who not it knows so it let-him-ask

2330 a ceus qui sont leial amant.

of those who are loyal lovers

Ton cuer ne porras apaier,

Thy heart not thou-wilt-be-able to-appease

ainz iras encore essayer

rather thou-wilt-go again to-try

se tu verras par aventure

whether thou wilt-see by chance

ce don tu es en si grant cure;

that of-which thou art in so great care

2335 e se tu te puez tant pener

and if thou thyself canst so-much labor

qu'au veoir puisses assener,

that-at-the seeing thou-mayest attain

tu voudras mout ententis estre

thou wilt-wish very intent to-be

a tes iauz saouler e paistre.

on thy eyes to-sate and to-feed

Grant joie en ton cuer demerras

Great joy in thy heart thou-wilt-lead

2340 de la biauté que tu verras,

of the beauty which thou wilt-see

e saches que dou regarder

and know that of-the looking

feras ton cuer frire e larder,

thou-wilt-make thy heart to-fry and to-baste

e tot adès en regardant

and all ever in looking

aviveras le feu ardent:

thou-wilt-quicken the fire burning

qui ce qu'il aime plus regarde,

who that which-he loves more looks-at

plus alume son cuer e larde;

more kindles his heart and bastes

cil larz alume e fait flamer

that basting kindles and makes to-blaze

le feu qui fait les genz amer.

the fire which makes the folk to-love

Chascuns amanz suit par costume

Each lover follows by custom

le feu qui l'art e qui l'alume;

the fire which him-burns and which him-kindles

quant il le feu de plus près sent,

when he the fire from more near feels

e il s'en vait plus apressant.

and he himself-thence goes more approaching

Li feus si est ce qu'il remire

The fire and-so is this that-he gazes-at

s'amie qui le fait defrire;

his-friend who him makes to-melt

quant il se tient de li plus près,

when he himself holds from her more near

e il plus est d'amer engrès.

and he more is of-loving eager

2345

2350

2355

Ce sevent tuit sage e musart:

This know all wise and foolish

qui plus est près dou feu plus art.

who more is near of-the fire more burns

Tant con ta joie ensi verras,

As-long as thy joy thus thou-wilt-see

2360 jamais movoir ne t'en querras;

ever to-move not thee-thence thou-wilt-see

e quant partir t'en covendra,

and when to-part to-thee-thence it-will-behoove

tot le jor puis te sovendra

all the day after to-thee will-remember

de ce que tu avras veü;

of that which thou wilt-have seen

si te tendras a deceü

and-so thee thou-wilt-hold for deceived

2365 d'une chose mout laidement:

of-one thing very foully

que onques cuer ne hardement

that ever heart nor boldness

n'eüs de li araisonier,

not-thou-hadst of her to-address

ainz as esté senz mot soner

rather thou-hast been without word sounding

lez li, con fos e entrepris.

beside her as a-fool and confounded

Bien cuideras avoir mespris

2370

Well thou-wilt-think to-have transgressed

don tu n'as la bele aparlee

since thou not-hast the fair-one addressed

avant qu'ele s'en fust alee.

before that-she herself-thence were gone

Torner te doit a grant contraire,

To-turn thee ought to great vexation

car se tu n'en peüsses traire

for if thou not-thereof couldst draw

fors seulement un bel salu,

2375

except only one fair greeting

si t'eüst il cent mars valu.

so thee-would-have it a-hundred marks been-worth

Lors te prendras a demaler,

Then thee thou-wilt-take to bestir

e querras achoison d'aler

and wilt-seek occasion of-going

de rechief encore en la rue

of once-more yet into the street

ou tu avras cele veüe

2380

where thou wilt-have her seen

que tu n'osas metre a raison;

whom thou not-darest to-put to speech

mout iroies en sa maison

much thou-wouldst-go into her house

volentiers, s'achoisn avoies.

willingly if-occasion thou-hadst

Il est droiz que toutes tes voies

It is right that all thy ways

2385 e tes alees e ti tor

and thy goings and thy turns

s'en reveignent par la entor.

themselves-thence come-again by there about

Mais vers la gent très bien te cele,

But toward the folk very well thyself conceal

e quier autre achoison que cele

and seek other occasion than that

qui cele part te fait aler,

which that part thee makes to-go

2390 qu'il est granz sens de soi celer.

for-it is great sense of oneself to-hide

S'il avient chose que tu trueves

If-it happens a-thing that thou find

la bele en point que tu la doives

the fair-one at a-point that thou her must

araisoner ne saluer,

address nor greet

lors t'estovra color muer,

then thee-it-will-behoove color to-change

2395 si te fremira toz li sans;

and-so thee will-quiver all the blood

parole te faudra e sens

speech thee will-fail and sense

quant tu cuideras comencier;

when thou wilt-think to-begin

e se tant te puez avancier

and if so-much thyself thou-canst advance

que ta raison comencier oses,

that thy speech to-begin thou-darest

quant tu devras dire trois choses,

when thou wilt-have to-say three things

tu n'en diras mie les deus,

thou not-thereof wilt-say at-all the two

tant seras vers li vergondeus.

so-much thou-wilt-be toward her bashful

Il n'iert ja nus si apensez

There not-will-be ever any so collected

qui en ce point n'oblit assez,

who in this point not-forget much

se teus n'est que de guile serve;

if such not-is that of guile serve

mais faus amant content lor verve

but false lovers tell their tale

si come il vuelent, senz peor;

so as they wish without fear

icil sont fort losengeor:

those are great flatterers

il dient un e pensent el

they say one and think other

li traïtor felon mortel.

the traitors wicked deadly

Quant ta raison avras fenie,

When thy speech thou-wilt-have finished

senz dire mot de vilanie,

without saying word of villainy

2400

2405

2410

mout te tendras a conchié

much thee thou-wilt-hold for befouled

quant tu avras rien oblié

when thou wilt-have anything forgotten

2415 qui te fust avenant a dire;

which to-thee were fitting to say

lors reseras en grant martire.

then thou-wilt-be-again in great martyrdom

C'est la bataille, c'est l'ardure,

This-is the battle this-is the-burning

c'est li contenz qui toz jorz dure:

this-is the strife which all days lasts

amanz n'avra ja ce qu'il quiert,

a-lover not-will-have ever that which-be seeks

2420 toz jorz li faut, ja en pais n'iert.

all days to-him it-fails ever in peace not-be-will-be

Ja fin ne prendra ceste guerre,

Ever end not will-take this war

tant que j'en vueille la pais querre.

until that I-thereof wish the peace to-seek

Quant ce vendra qu'il sera nuiz,

When this will-come that-it will-be night

lors avras plus de mil enuiz.

then thou-wilt-have more than a-thousand troubles

2425 Tu te coucheras en ton lit,

Thou thyself wilt-lay in thy bed

ou tu avras poi de delit,

where thou wilt-have little of delight

car quant tu cuideras dormir,

for when thou wilt-think to-sleep

tu comenceras a fremir,

thou wilt-begin to shiver

a tressaillir, a demener;

to start to toss

sor costé t'estovra torner,

on side thee-it-will-behoove to-turn

e puis envers, e puis adenz,

and then on-back and then prone

come ome qui a mal as denz.

as a-man who has ache in-the teeth

Lors te vendra en remembrance

Then to-thee will-come in remembrance

e la façon e la semblance

both the fashion and the semblance

a cui nule ne s'apareille.

to which any not herself-matches

Si te dirai fiere merveille:

And-so to-thee I-shall-say a-mighty marvel

tel foiz sera qu'il t'iert avis

such a-time will-be that-it to-thee-will-be seeming

que tu tendras cele au cler vis

that thou wilt-hold her with-the bright face

entre tes braz trestoute nue,

between thy arms wholly naked

ausi con s'el fust devenue

just as if-she were become

dou tot t'amie e ta compaigne;

of all thy-friend and thy companion

2430

2435

2440

lors feras chastiaus en Espaigne

then thou-wilt-make castles in Spain

e avras joie de neient

and wilt-have joy of nothing

tant con tu iras foleiant

as-long as thou wilt-go doting

2445 en la pensee delitable

in the thought delightful

ou il n'a que mençonge e fable

where there not-has but falsehood and fable

mais poi i porras demorer.

but little there thou-wilt-be-able to-stay

Lors comenceras a plorer,

Then thou-wilt-begin to weep

e diras: «Deus, ai je songié?

and wilt-say God have I dreamed

2450 Qu'est ice? Ou estoie gié?

What-is this Where was I

Ceste pensee don me vint?

This thought whence to-me came

Certes le jor dis foiz ou vint

Certainly the day ten times or twenty

voudroie qu'ele revenist:

I-should-wish that-it should-come-again

el me paist tot e replenist

it me feeds wholly and fills

2455 de joie e de bone aventure;

with joy and with good fortune

mais ce m'a mort que poi me dure.

but this me-has killed that little me lasts

Deus! verrai je ja que je soie

God shall-see I ever that I be

en itel point con je pensoie?

in such a-point as I thought

Jou voudroie par covenant

I-it should-wish by covenant

que je morisse maintenant.

that I should-die at-once

La mort ne me greveroit mie

The death not me would-grieve at-all

se je moroie es braz m'amie.

if I died in-the arms of-my-friend

Mout me grieve Amors e tormente;

Much me grieves Love and torments

sovent me plaing e me demente.

often myself I-lament and myself distress

Mais se tant fait Amors que j'aie

But if so-much does Love that I-have

de m'amie enterine joie,

of my-friend entire joy

bien seront mi mal acheté.

well will-be my ills bought

Las! je demant trop chier cheté;

Alas I demand too dear a-purchase

je ne me tieng mie por sage

I not myself bold at-all for wise

don je demandai tel outrage,

since I demanded such an-outrage

car, qui demande musardie,

for who demands foolishness

2460

2465

2470

bien est droiz que l'en l'escondie.

well is right that one him-refuse

Ne sai coment dire l'osai:

Not I-know how to-say it-I-dared

maint plus preu e plus alosé

many-a more worthy and more renowned

2475 de moi avroient grant enor

than me would-have great honor

en un loier assez menor.

in a reward quite lesser

Mais se, senz plus, d'un seul baisier

But if without more of-one single kiss

me deignoit la bele aaisier,

me deigned the fair-one to-ease

mout avroie riche deserte

much I-should-have rich recompense

2480 de la poine que j'ai soferte;

of the toil which I-have suffered

mais fort chose est a avenir;

but a-hard thing it-is to happen

je me puis bien por fol tenir

I myself can well for fool hold

quant j'ai mis mon cuer en tel leu

when I-have put my heart in such a-place

don ja n'avrai joie ne preu.

whence ever not-I-shall-have joy nor profit

2485 Si di je que fos e que garz,

And-so say I like a-fool and like a-knave

car miauz vaut de li uns regarz

for better is-worth of her one look

que d'autre li deduiz entiers.

than of-another the delight entire

Mout la verroie volentiers

Much her I-should-see willingly

orendroites, si Deus m'aïst;

just-now so God me-help

gueriz fust qui or la veïst.

healed were-be who now her should-see

Deus! quant sera il ajorné?

God when will-be it dawned

Trop ai en cest lit sejoigné;

Too-long I-have in this bed sojourned

je ne pris guieres tel gesir

I not prize much such lying

quant je n'ai ce que je desir.

when I not-have that which I desire

Gesirs est enuieuse chose

Lying is a-wearisome thing

quant l'en ne dort ne ne repose.

when one not sleeps nor not rests

Mout m'enuie certes e grieve

Much me-wearies certainly and grieves

que l'aube orendroites ne crieve,

that the-dawn just-now not breaks

e que la nuit tost ne trespasse,

and that the night soon not passes

car, s'il fust jorz, je me levasse.

for if-it were day I myself should-rise

2490

2495

2500

Ha! solauz! por Deu, car te heste,

Ha sun for God now thyself hasten

ne sejourne ne ne t'arestes;

not sojourn nor not thyself-stay

fai departir la nuit obscure

make to-depart the night dark

e son enui qui trop me dure.»

and its trouble which too-long me lasts

Love's Remedies

XV

Before dawn he is to go secretly to her house, listen at the door, let her hear him grieve, kiss it on leaving, and be home before light. Such nights thin a man down and mark off the praters, who claim a lost appetite and are fatter than priors. He should be liberal to her maid, honor her friends, and stay near her. Asked how anyone endures it, Love answers that nothing good comes without a price, and that Hope keeps a lover alive as she keeps a prisoner in his dungeon.

2505 La nuit ensi te contendras

The night thus thyself thou-wilt-conduct

e de repos petit prendras,

and of rest little thou-wilt-take

se j'onques mal d'amer conui;

if I-ever ill of-loving knew

e quant tu ne porras l'enui

and when thou not wilt-be-able the-trouble

sofrir en ton lit de veillier,

to-suffer in thy bed of waking

2510 lors t'estovra apareillier,

then thee-it-will-behoove to-make-ready

vestir, chaucier e atorner,

to-dress to-shoe and to-array

ainz que tu voies ajorner.

before that thou see to-dawn

Lors t'en iras en recelee,

Then thyself-thence thou-wilt-go in secret

soit par pluie, soit par gelee,

be-it in rain be-it in frost

tot droit vers la maison t'amie,

all straight toward the house of-thy-friend

qui se sera bien endormie

who herself will-be well fallen-asleep

e a toi ne pensera guieres;

and of thee not will-think much

une eure iras a l'uis derrieres,

one moment thou-wilt-go to the-door behind

savoir s'il est remés desclos,

to-know whether-it is remained unlatched

e jucheras iluec defors,

and thou-wilt-perch there outside

toz seus, a la pluie e au vent;

all alone in the rain and in-the wind

après vendras a l'uis devant,

after thou-wilt-come to the-door in-front

e se tu trueves fendeüre

and if thou findest a-crack

ne fenestre ne serreüre,

or window or lock

2515

2520

- 2525 oreille e escoute par mi
listen and hearken through midst
 s'il se sont laienz endormi;
whether-they themselves are within fallen-asleep
 e se la bele, senz plus, veille,
and if the fair-one without more wakes
 ce te lo je bien e conseille
this to-thee advise I well and counsel
 qu'el t'oie plaindre e doloser,
that-she thee-bear to-lament and to-grieve
- 2530 si qu'el sache que reposer
so that-she know that to-rest
 ne puez en lit por s'amitié:
not thou-canst in bed for her-love
 bien doit fame aucune pitié
well ought a-woman some pity
 avoir de celui qui endure
to-have of him who endures
 tel mal por li, se mout n'est dure.
such ill for her if very not-she-is hard
- 2535 Si te dirai que tu doiz faire
And-so to-thee I-shall-say what thou oughtest to-do
 por l'amor dou haut saintuaire
for the-love of-the high sanctuary
 de quoi tu ne puez avoir aise:
of which thou not canst have ease
 au revenir la porte baise;
at-the returning the door kiss

e, por ce que l'en ne te voie

and for this that one not thee see

devant la maison n'en la voie,

before the house nor-in the way

gar que tu soies repairiez

see that thou be gone-back

ainz que li jorz soit esclairiez.

before that the day be lightened

Icil venirs, icil alers,

That coming that going

icil veilliers, icil parlers

that waking that speaking

fait as amanz soz les drapiaus

makes to-the lovers under the sheets

durement amaigrir les piaus.

greatly grow-lean the skins

Bien le savras par toi meïsmes:

Well it thou-wilt-know by thee thyself

il covient que tu t'essäimes,

it behooves that thou thyself-thin

car bien saches qu'amors ne laisse

for well know that-love not leaves

sor fins amanz color ne graisse;

on fine lovers color nor fat

a ce sont bien cil parissant

at this are well those apparent

qui vont les dames traïssant:

who go the ladies betraying

il dient, por eus losengier,

they say to them flatter

2540

2545

2550

qu'il ont perdu boivre e mangier,

that-they have lost drinking and eating

2555 e je les voi, les jangleors,

and I them see the praters

plus gras qu'abez ne que priors.

more fat than-abbots or than priors

Encor te comant e encharge

Still thee I-command and charge

que tenir te faces por large

that to-bold thee thou-make for liberal

a la pucele de l'ostel:

to the maid of the-household

2560 un garnement li done tel

a garment to-her give such

qu'el die que tu es vaillanz.

that-she say that thou art worthy

T'amie e toz ses bienvoillanz

Thy-friend and all her well-wishers

doiz enorer e chiers tenir;

thou-oughtest to-honor and dear to-bold

granz biens te puet par aus venir:

great good thee can by them come

2565 quant cil qui sont de li privé

when those who are of her intimate

li conteront qu'il t'ont trové

to-her will-tell that-they thee-have found

preu e cortois e afaitié,

worthy and courteous and well-bred

miauz t'en prisera la moitié.

better thee-thereof will-prize the half

Dou païs guieres ne t'esloigne;

From-the country much not thyself-distance

e se tu as si grant besoigne

and if thou hast so great business

que il esloignier te coveigne,

that it to-go-far thee behoove

garde bien que tes cuers remaigne,

take-heed well that thy heart remain

e pense dou tost retorner.

and think of-the soon returning

Tu ne doiz guieres sejourner;

Thou not oughtest much to-tarry

fai semblant qu'a veoir te tarde

make seeming that-to see to-thee is-long

celi qui ton cuer a en garde.

her who thy heart has in keeping

Or t'ai dit coment n'en quel guise

Now to-thee-I-have said how and-in what wise

amanz doit faire mon servise:

a-lover ought to-do my service

or le fai donques, se tu viaus

now it do therefore if thou wishest

de la bele avoir tes aviaus.»

of the fair-one to-have thy delights

Quant Amors m'ot ce comandé,

When Love to-me-had this commanded

je li ai lores demandé:

I to-him have then asked

2570

2575

2580

«Sire, en quel guise ne coment

Lord in what wise or how

pueent endurer cil amant

can endure those lovers

2585 les maus que vos m'avez contez?

the ills which you to-me-have told

Forment en sui espoentez.

Strongly thereof I-am terrified

Coment vit on e coment dure

How lives one and how lasts

qui est en poine e en ardure,

who is in toil and in burning

en duel, en sospirs e en lermes,

in grief in sighs and in tears

2590 e en toz poinz e en toz termes

and in all points and in all terms

est en soussi e en esveil?

is in care and in wakefulness

Si m'aïst Deus, mout me merveil

So me-help God much myself I-marvel

coment on, s'il estoit de fer,

how a-man if-he were of iron

puet un an vivre en tel enfer.»

can one year to-live in such a-hell

2595 Li deus d'Amors lors me respont

The god of-Love then me answers

e ma demande bien m'espont:

and my question well to-me-expounds

«Biaus amis, par l'ame mon pere,

Fair friend by the-soul of-my father

nus n'a bien s'il ne le compere;

anyone not-has good if-be not it pay-for

si aime l'en miauz le cheté

and-so loves one better the purchase

quant l'en l'a plus chier acheté,

when one it-has more dear bought

e plus en gré sont receü

and more in favor are received

li bien don l'en a mal eü.

the goods of-which one has ill had

Il est voirs que nus maus n'ataint

It is true that any ill not-reaches

a celui qui les amanz teint;

to that-one which the lovers stains

ne qu'en puet espuisier la mer

no-more than-one can drain the sea

ne porroit nus les maus d'amer

not could anyone the ills of-loving

conter en romanz ne en livre;

tell in romance nor in book

e toutesvoies covient vivre

and nevertheless it-behooves to-live

les amanz, qu'il lor est mestiers.

the lovers for-it to-them is needful

Chascuns fuit la mort volentiers.

Each flees the death willingly

Cil que l'en met en chartre obscure,

He whom one puts in a-dungeon dark

en verminier e en ordure,

in vermin and in filth

2600

2605

2610

qui n'a que pain d'orge ou d'avoine,

who not-has but bread of-barley or of-oats

ne se muert mie por la poine:

not himself dies at-all for the toil

2615 Esperance confort li livre,

Hope comfort to-him delivers

e se cuide veoir delivre

and himself thinks to-see free

encor par aucune cheance;

yet by some chance

trestoute autretele beance

wholly just-such-a longing

a cil qu'Amors tient en prison:

has he whom-Love holds in prison

2620 il espoire sa guerison.

he hopes-for his healing

Ceste esperance le conforte,

This hope him comforts

e cuer e talent li aporte

and heart and will to-him brings

de son cors a martire ofrir;

of his body to martyrdom to-offer

Esperance li fait sofrir

Hope to-him makes to-suffer

2625 les maus don nus ne set le conte,

the ills of-which anyone not knows the reckoning

por la joie qui cent tanz monte.

for the joy which a-hundred times amounts

Esperance par sofrir vaint

Hope by suffering conquers

e fait que li amant vivaint.

and makes that the lovers live

Beneoite soit Esperance,

Blessed be Hope

qui les amanz ensi avance!

who the lovers thus advances

Mout est Esperance cortoise:

Very is Hope courteous

el ne laira ja une toise

she not will-leave ever a fathom

nul vaillant ome jusqu'au chief,

any worthy man even-to-the end

ne por perill ne por meschief.

neither for peril nor for mischief

Nes au larron que l'en viaut pendre

Not-even to-the thief whom one wisbes to-hang

fait ele adès merci atendre.

makes she ever mercy to-await

Iceste te garantira,

This-same thee will-protect

ne ja de toi ne partira

nor ever from thee not will-part

qu'el ne te secueure au besoing.

that-she not thee succor at-the need

2630

2635

2640 E avueques ce je te doing
And besides this I to-thee give
 trois autres biens qui granz solaz
three other goods which great solace
 font a ceus qui sont en mes laz.
make to those who are in my snares

The Three Goods, and Love's Departure

XVI

Besides Hope, Love gives three comforts. Sweet Thought recalls what Hope promises and sets the lady's face before the lover. Sweet Speech is the joy of hearing her spoken of, so he should seek one wise and secret companion to whom he can tell everything, worth more still if the friend is a lover too. Sweet Looks belongs to the eyes, which carry news to the heart and drive out its darkness as light drives out night. Love vanishes the moment he has finished, and the lover, left alone and aching from his wounds, knows the bud can never be his unless Love takes a hand.

Li premiers biens qui solaz face
The first good which solace make
 ceus que li laz d'Amors enlace,
to-those whom the snare of-Love entwines
 2645 c'est Douz Pensers, qui lor recorde
this-is Sweet Thought which to-them recalls
 ce ou Esperance s'acorde.
that wherein Hope itself-agrees
 Quant li amanz plaint e sospire,
When the lover laments and sighs
 e est en duel e en martire,
and is in grief and in martyrdom

Douz Pensers vient a chief de piece,

Sweet Thought comes at end of a-while

qui l'ire e la dolor despice,

which the-wrath and the grief shatters

e a l'amant en son venir

and to the-lover in his coming

fait de la joie sovenir

makes of the joy to-remember

que Esperance li promet;

which Hope to-him promises

e après au devant li met

and after at-the before to-him puts

les iauz rianz, le nés traitiz,

the eyes laughing the nose well-drawn

qui n'est trop granz ne trop petiz,

which not-is too great nor too little

e la bouchete coloree,

and the little-mouth colored

don l'aleine est si savoree;

of-which the-breath is so fragrant

si li plaist mout quant il li membre

and-so to-him it-pleases much when it to-him comes-to-mind

de la biauté de chascun membre.

of the beauty of each limb

2650

2655

2660

Encor vait cil solaz doublant

Still goes that solace doubling

quant d'un ris ou d'un bel semblant

when of-a laugh or of-a fair look

li membre ou d'une bele chiere

to-him it-comes-to-mind or of-a fair countenance

que fait li a s'amie chiere.

which made to-him has his-friend dear

2665 Douz Penses ensi assoage

Sweet Thought thus assuages

la dolor d'amor e la rage.

the grief of-love and the madness

Icestui vueil bien que tu aies;

This-one I-wish well that thou have

e se tu l'autre refusoies,

and if thou the-other shouldst-refuse

qui n'est mie moins doucereus,

which not-is at-all less sweet

2670 tu seroies mout dangereus.

thou wouldst-be very hard-to-please

Li autres biens est Douz Parlers,

The other good is Sweet Speech

qui a fait a mainz bachelers

which has rendered to many bachelors

e a maintes dames secors,

and to many ladies succor

car chascuns qui de ses amors

for each who of his loves

2675 ot parler toz s'en esbaudist;

bears to-speak wholly himself-thereat gladdens

si me sovient que por ce dist

and-so to-me it-remembers that for this said

une dame qui bien amot,

a lady who well loved

en sa chançon, un cortois mot:

in her song a courtly word

«Mout sui», fait ele, «a bone escole,

Much I-am says she at good school

qui de mon ami me parole.

who of my friend to-me speaks

Si m'aïst Deus, il m'a guerie

So me-help God he me-has healed

qui m'en parole, quoi qu'il die.»

who to-me-thereof speaks whatever that-be say

Cele de Douz Parler savoit

That-one of Sweet Speech knew

quanqu'il en iert, car el l'avoit

whatever-it thereof was for she it-had

essaïé en maintes manieres.

tried in many fashions

Or te lo e vueil que tu quieres

Now to-thee I-advice and wish that thou seek

un compaignon sage e celant

a companion wise and secret

cui tu dies tot ton talent

to-whom thou say all thy desire

e descuevres tot ton corage;

and uncover all thy heart

cil te fera grant avantage.

he to-thee will-do great advantage

2680

2685

2690

Quant ti mal t'angoisseront fort,

When thy ills thee-will-anguish strongly

tu iras a lui por confort,

thou wilt-go to him for comfort

e parleroiz andui ensemble

and you-will-speak both together

de la bele qui ton cuer emble,

of the fair-one who thy heart steals

2695 de sa biauté, de sa semblance

of her beauty of her semblance

e de sa simple contenance.

and of her simple bearing

Tot ton estre li conteras,

All thy condition to-him thou-wilt-tell

e conseil li demanderas

and counsel of-him thou-wilt-ask

coment tu porras chose faire

how thou wilt-be-able a-thing to-do

2700 qui a t'amie puisse plaire.

which to thy-friend may please

Se cil qui tant iert tes amis

If he who so-much will-be thy friend

en bien amer son cuer a mis,

in well loving his heart has put

lors vaudra miauz la compaignie;

then will-be-worth better the company

si est raison qu'il te redie

and-so is reason that-be to-thee tell-in-turn

2705 se s'amie est pucele ou non,

whether his-friend is a-maiden or not

qui ele est e coment a non:

who she is and how she-has name

si n'avras pas peor qu'il muse

and-so thou-wilt-have not fear that-be dally

a t'amie ne qu'il t'encuse;

with thy-friend nor that-be thee-accuse

ainz vos entreporteroiz foi,

rather you each-other-will-bear faith

e tu a lui e il a toi.

both thou to him and he to thee

2710

Saches que c'est mout plaisant chose

Know that this-is a-very pleasing thing

quant l'en a ome a cui l'en ose

when one has a-man to whom one dares

son conseil dire e son segré.

his counsel to-say and his secret

Cel deduit prendras mout en gré,

That delight thou-wilt-take much in favor

e t'en tendras a bien païé

and thyself-thereof wilt-hold for well paid

puis que tu l'avras essaïé.

after that thou it-wilt-have tried

2715

Li tierz biens vient de regarder,

The third good comes from looking

c'est Douz Regarz, qui siaut tarder

this-is Sweet Looks which is-wont to-tarry

a ceus qui ont amors lointaignes;

to those who have loves far-off

2720 mais je te lo que tu te teignes

but I to-thee advise that thou thyself hold

près des teues por Douz Regart,

near to-the thine for Sweet Looks

que ses solaz trop ne te tart,

so-that his solace too-much not to-thee tarry

car il est mout as amoreus

for it is very to-the amorous

delitables e savoreus;

delightful and savourous

2725 mout ont au matin bone encontre

much have in-the morning good encounter

li ueil quant Damedeus lor montre

the eyes when the-Lord-God to-them shows

le saintuaire precieus

the sanctuary precious

de quoi il sont si envieus.

of which they are so desirous

Le jor qu'il le pueent veoir

The day that-they it can see

2730 ne lor doit mie mescheoir:

not to-them ought at-all to-go-ill

il ne doutent poudre ne vent,

they not fear dust nor wind

ne nule autre chose grevant;

nor any other thing grievous

e quant li ueil sont en deduit,

and when the eyes are in delight

il sont si appris e si duit

they are so taught and so trained

que seul ne sevent avoir joie,

that alone not they-know to-have joy

ainz vuelent que li cuers s'esjoie,

rather they-wish that the heart itself-rejoice

e font ses maus rassoagier,

and make its ills to-be-eased

car li ueil, con droit messagier,

for the eyes as right messengers

tot maintenant au cuer envoient

all at-once to-the heart send

noveles de ce que il voient;

tidings of that which they see

e por la joie covient lors

and for the joy it-behooves then

que li cuers oblit ses dolours

that the heart forget its griefs

e les tenebres ou il iere.

and the darkneses where it was

Tot autresi con la lumiere

All just as the light

les tenebres devant soi chace,

the darkneses before itself chases

tot ausi Douz Regarz esface

all likewise Sweet Looks effaces

les tenebres ou li cuers gist

the darkneses where the heart lies

qui nuit e jor d'amors languist,

which night and day of-love languishes

2735

2740

2745

car li cuers de rien ne se diaut

for the heart of anything not itself grieves

2750 quant li ueil voient ce qu'il viaut.

when the eyes see that which-it wishes

Or t'ai, ce m'est vis, déclaré

Now to-thee-I-have this to-me-is seeming declared

ce don je te vi esgaré,

that of-which I thee saw bewildered

car je t'ai conté, senz mentir,

for I to-thee-have told without lying

les biens qui pueent garantir

the goods which can protect

2755 les amanz e garder de mort;

the lovers and keep from death

or sez qui te fera confort,

now thou-knowest what thee will-make comfort

qu'au moins avras tu Esperance,

for-at-the least wilt-have thou Hope

s'avras Douz Penser, senz doutance,

and-wilt-have Sweet Thought without doubting

e Douz Parler e Douz Regart.

and Sweet Speech and Sweet Looks

2760 Chascuns de ceus vueil qu'il te gart

Each of these I-wish that-it thee keep

jusque tu puisses miauz atendre,

until thou mayest better await

qu'autres biens, qui ne sont pas mendre,

that-other goods which not are at-all lesser

mais graignor, avras ça avant;

but greater thou-wilt-have here after

mais je te doing a ja itant.»

but I to-thee give for now just-so-much

Tot maintenant que Amors m'ot

2765

All at-once that Love to-me-had

son plaisir dit, je ne soi mot

his pleasure said I not knew word

que il se fu esvanoïz,

that he himself was vanished

si en fui mout essaboïz

and-so thereof I-was much astounded

quant je ne vi lez moi nului.

when I not saw beside me anyone

De mes plaies mout me dolui,

2770

Of my wounds much myself I-grieved

e soi que guerir ne pooie

and I-knew that to-heal not I-could

fors par le bouton ou j'avoie

except by the bud whereon I-had

tot mon cuer mis e ma beance,

all my heart put and my longing

si n'avoie en nului fiance

and-so not-I-had in anyone trust

fors ou deu d'Amors de l'avoir;

2775

except in-the god of-Love of the-having

ançois savoie bien de voir

rather I-knew well for truth

que de l'avoir neienz estoit

that of the-having nothing it-was

s'Amors ne s'en entremetoit.

if-Love not himself-thereof intervened

Fair Welcome, and the Rose

XVII

A young man named Fair Welcome, son of Courtesy, gives the lover leave to cross the hedge and picks him a leaf from beside the bud. But a churl lies hidden in the grass: Danger, keeper of the rosebushes, with Wicked Tongue, with Shame, whom Reason lent to Chastity against Venus, and with Fear, whom Jealousy brought; four guard the roses. Emboldened, the lover asks Fair Welcome for the bud; Fair Welcome refuses to strip the rosebush, and at that Danger leaps out, black and bristling, and drives the lover back over the hedge while Fair Welcome flees.

Li rosier d'une haie furent

The rosebushes with-a hedge were

2780 clos environ si come il durent,

closed around so as they ought

mais je passasse la cloison

but I should-pass the enclosure

mout volentiers, por l'achoisson

very willingly for the-occasion

dou bouton qui iaut miauz de basme,

of-the bud which smells better than balm

se je n'en crainsisse avoir blasme;

if I not-thereof feared to-have blame

mais assez tost peüst sembler

2785

but quite soon it-could seem

que les roses vosisse embler.

that the roses I-wished to-steal

Ensi con je me porpensoie

Thus as I myself bethought

s'outre la haie passeroie,

whether-beyond the hedge I-should-pass

je vi vers moi tot droit venant

I saw toward me all straight coming

un vallet bel e avenant,

2790

a young-man fair and comely

en cui il n'ot rien que blasmer:

in whom there not-was anything to blame

Bel Acueil se faisoit clamer,

Fair Welcome himself made to-be-called

fiz fu Cortoisie la sage.

son he-was of-Courtesy the wise

Cil m'abandona le passage

He to-me-gave-up the passage

de la haie mout doucement,

2795

of the hedge very sweetly

e me dist amiablement:

and to-me said amiably

«Biaus amis chiers, se il vos plaist,

Fair friend dear if it to-you please

passez la haie senz arest,

pass the hedge without stay

pour l'odor des roses sentir;

for the-odor of-the roses to-smell

- 2800 je vos i puis bien garantir
I to-you there can well warrant
 n'i avroiz mal ne vilanie,
not-there you-will-have harm nor villainy
 por quoi vos gardez de folie;
provided that you keep-yourself from folly
 se de rien vos i puis aidier,
if in anything you there I-can help
 ja ne m'en quier faire plaidier,
ever not myself-thereof I-seek to-make entreated
 2805 car prez sui de vostre servise:
for ready I-am of your service
 je le vos di tot senz feintise.
I it to-you say all without feigning
 — Sire», fis je a Bel Acueil,
Lord said I to Fair Welcome
 «ceste promesse en gré recueil,
this promise in favor I-receive
 si vous rent graces e merites
and-so to-you I-render thanks and merits
 2810 de la bonté que vos me dites,
of the kindness which you to-me say
 car mout vos muet de grant franchise;
for much to-you it-comes of great generosity
 e, quant vos plaist, vostre servise
and since to-you it-pleases your service
 sui prez de prendre volentiers.»
I-am ready of to-take willingly
 Par ronces e par aiglientiers,
By brambles and by wild-roses

don en la haie avoit assez,

2815

of-which in the hedge there-were plenty

sui maintenant outre passez.

I-am at-once beyond passed

Vers le bouton m'en vois errant

Toward the bud myself-thence I-go hastening

qui miaudre odor des autres rent,

which better odor than-the others gives

e Bel Acueil me conveia;

and Fair Welcome me escorted

si vos di que mout m'agrea

2820

and-so to-you I-say that much me-pleased

don je me poi si près remaindre

since I myself could so near remain

que au bouton peüsse ataindre.

that at-the bud I-might reach

Bel Acueil m'ot mout bien servi

Fair Welcome me-had very well served

quant le bouton de si près vi;

when the bud from so near I-saw

mais uns vilains, qui grant honte ait,

2825

but a churl who great shame may-have

près d'ilueques repoz estoit:

near of-there hidden was

Dangiers ot non, si fu closiers

Danger had name and-so was gatekeeper

e garde de toz les rosiers.

and guardian of all the rosebushes

En un destor fu li cuverz,

In a corner was the base-one

2830 d'erbe e de fueilles toz coverz,
with-grass and with leaves all covered
 por ceus espier e sorprendre
to those spy-on and surprise
 qu'il voit as roses la main tendre.
whom-he sees to-the roses the hand stretch

Ne fu mie seus li gaignons,
Not was at-all alone the mastiff

ançois avoit a compaignons
rather he-bad for companions

2835 Male Bouche le jangleor,
Wicked Tongue the prater
 e avuec lui Honte e Peor.
and with him Shame and Fear
 Li miauz vaillanz d'aus si fu Honte;
The best worthy of-them so was Shame

e sachiez que, qui a droit conte
and know that who at right counts

son parenté e son lignage,
her kindred and her lineage

2840 el fu fille Raison la sage,
she was daughter of-Reason the wise
 e ses peres ot non Mesfaiz,
and her father had name Misdeed
 qui est si hisdeus e si laiz
who is so hideous and so ugly
 qu'onques a lui Raison ne jut,
that-ever with him Reason not lay
 mais dou veoir Honte conçut.
but of-the seeing Shame she-conceived

Quant Deus ot Honte faite naistre,

2845

When God had Shame made to-be-born

Chasteé, qui dame doit estre

Chastity who lady ought to-be

e des roses e des boutons,

both of-the roses and of-the buds

iert assaillie des gloutons

was assailed by-the gluttons

si qu'ele avoit mestier d'aïe,

so that-she had need of-help

car Venus l'avoit envaïe,

2850

for Venus her-had assailed

qui nuit e jor sovent li emble

who night and day often from-her steals

boutons e roses tot ensemble;

buds and roses all together

lors requist a Raison sa fille.

then she-besought of Reason her daughter

Chasteé, que Venus essille,

Chastity whom Venus barries

por ce que desconseilliee iere,

2855

for this that helpless she-was

vost Raison faire sa priere

wished Reason to-do her prayer

e li preta, a sa requeste,

and to-her lent at her request

Honte, qui est simple e oneste;

Shame who is simple and honest

e, por les rosiers miauz garnir,

and for the rosebushes better to-furnish

- 2860 i fist Jalousie venir
there made Jealousy to-come
 Peor, qui bee durement
Fear who aspires greatly
 a faire son comandement:
to doing her commandment
 or sont as rosiers garder quatre,
now are at-the rosebushes to-guard four
 qui se lairont avant bien batre
who themselves will-let sooner well beat
 2865 que nus bouton ne rose emport.
than anyone bud nor rose carry-off
 Je fusse arivez a bon port
I should-have-been arrived at good port
 se par aus ne fusse agaitiez,
if by them not I-were spied-on
 car li frans, li bien afaitiez,
for the noble the well bred
 Bel Acueil se poine de faire
Fair Welcome himself pains of doing
 2870 quanqu'il set qui me doie plaire.
whatever-he knows which to-me ought to-please
 Sovent me semont d'aprouchier
Often me he-summons to-approach
 vers le bouton e d'atouchier
toward the bud and to-touch
 au rosier qui l'avoit chargié;
to-the rosebush which it-had borne
 de tot ce me done congié,
of all this to-me he-gives leave

por ce qu'il cuide que jou vueille;

for this that-he thinks that I-it wish

si a cuilli une vert fueille

and-so he-has plucked a green leaf

lez le bouton, qu'il m'a donee,

beside the bud which-he to-me-has given

por ce que près ot esté nee.

for this that near it-had been born

De la fueille me fis mout cointes,

Of the leaf myself I-made very proud

e quant je me senti acointes

and when I myself felt acquainted

de Bel Acueil e si privez,

with Fair Welcome and so intimate

je cuidai bien estre arivez;

I thought well to-be arrived

lors ai pris cuer e hardement

then I-have taken heart and boldness

de dire a Bel Acueil coment

of telling to Fair Welcome how

Amors m'avoit pris e navré:

Love me-had taken and wounded

«Sire», fis je, «jamais n'avrai

Lord said I ever not-I-shall-have

joie se n'est par une chose,

joy if not-it-is by one thing

que j'ai dedenz le cuer enclose

which I-have within the heart enclosed

une mout pesant maladie,

a very heavy malady

2875

2880

2885

- 2890 mais ne sai coment je la die,
but not I-know how I it say
 car je vos crien trop corrocier;
for I you fear too-much to-anger
 miauz voudroie a coutiaus d'acier
better I-should-wish with knives of-steel
 piece a piece estre despeciez
piece by piece to-be hewn
 que vos en fussiez corrociez.
than you thereof were angered
- 2895 — Dites», fait il, «vostre voloir,
Say says he your will
 que ja ne m'en feroiz doloir
for ever not me-thereof you-will-make to-grieve
 de chose que vos voilliez dire.»
of a-thing which you may-wish to-say
 Lors li ai dit: «Sachiez, biaux sire,
Then to-him I-have said Know fair lord
 qu'Amors durement me tormente;
that-Love grievously me torments
- 2900 ne cuidiez pas que je vos mente:
not think at-all that I to-you lie
 il m'a ou cuer cinc plaies faites,
he me-has in-the heart five wounds made
 ja les dolors n'en seront traites
ever the griefs not-thereof will-be drawn
 se le bouton ne me bailliez
if the bud not to-me you-deliver
 qui est des autres miauz tailliez.
which is of-the others best shaped

Ce est ma mort, ce est ma vie,

2905

This is my death this is my life

de nule rien n'ai plus envie.»

of any thing not-I-have more desire

Lors s'est Bel Accueil esfreez,

Then himself-is Fair Welcome frightened

e me dist: «Frere, vos beez

and me said Brother you aspire

a ce qui ne puet avenir.

to that which not can happen

Coment! me volez vos honir?

2910

How me wish you to-shame

Vos m'avriez bien assoté

You me-would-have well befooled

se le bouton avoie osté

if the bud I-had taken

de son rosier; n'est pas droiture

from its rosebush not-it-is at-all rightness

que l'en l'oste de sa nature.

that one it-take from its nature

Vilains estes dou demander;

2915

Churlish you-are of-the asking

laissez le croistre e amender.

let it grow and improve

Nou voudroie avoir deserté

Not-it I-should-wish to-have stripped

dou rosier qui l'a aporté

from-the rosebush which it-has borne

por nul ome vivant, tant l'ains.»

for any man living so-much it-I-love

2920 Atant saut Dangiers li vilains

Thereupon leaps Danger the churl

de la ou il s'estoit muciez.

from there where he himself-had bidden

Granz fu e noirs e hericiez,

Great he-was and black and bristling

s'ot les iauz roges come feus,

and-he-had the eyes red as fire

le nés froncié, le vis hisdeus,

the nose wrinkled the face hideous

2925 e s'escrie con forsenez:

and cries-out like a-madman

«Bel Acueil, por quoi amenez

Fair Welcome for what bring-you

entor ces rosiers cest vassaut?

around these rosebushes this fellow

Vos faites mal, si Deus me saut,

You do ill so God me save

qu'il bee a vostre avilement.

for-he aspires to your shaming

2930 Dehé ait, senz vos solement,

Cursed be except you only

qui en cest vergier l'amena!

who into this garden him-brought

Qui felon sert itant en a.

Who a-felon serves just-so-much thereof has

Vos li cuidiez bonté faire

You to-him think kindness to-do

e il vos quiert honte e contraire.

and he to-you seeks shame and vexation

Fuiez, vassaus, fuiez de ci,

2935

Flee fellow flee from here

par poi que je ne vos oci.

by little that I — you kill

Bel Acueil mal vos conoissoit

Fair Welcome ill you knew

qui de vos servir s'angoissoit;

who of you to-serve himself-troubled

si le beez a conchier.

and-so him you-aspire to befoul

Ne me quier plus en vos fier,

2940

Not me I-seek more in you to-trust

car bien est ores esprovee

for well is now proved

la traïson qu'avez covee.»

the treason which-you-have hatched

N'osai iluec plus remenoir,

Not-I-dared there more to-remain

por le vilain hisdeus e noir,

because-of the churl hideous and black

qui me menace a assaillir.

2945

who me threatens to assail

La haie me fait tressaillir

The hedge me he-makes to-leap-over

a grant peor e a grant heste;

with great fear and with great haste

e li vilains crole la teste,

and the churl shakes the head

e dit se jamais i retor

and says if ever there I-return

2950 il me fera prendre un mal tor.

he me will-make to-take an ill turn

Lors s'en est Bel Acueil foïz,

Then himself-thence is Fair Welcome fled

e je remés essaboïz,

and I remained astounded

honteus e maz, si me repens

ashamed and downcast and-so myself I-repent

don onques dis ce que je pens.

that ever I-said that which I think

2955 De ma folie me recors,

Of my folly myself I-recall

si voi que livrez est mes cors

and-so I-see that delivered is my body

a duel, a poine e a martire.

to grief to toil and to martyrdom

E de ce ai la plus grant ire

And of this I-have the most great wrath

que je n'osai passer la haie.

that I not-dared to-pass the hedge

2960 Nus n'a mal qui Amors n'essaie.

Anyone not-has ill whom Love not-tries

Ne cuidiez pas que nus conoisse,

Not think at-all that anyone know

s'il n'a amé, qu'est grant angoisse.

if-he not-has loved what-is great anguish

Amors vers moi mout bien s'aquite
Love toward me very well himself-acquits

de la poine qu'il m'avoit dite.
of the toil which-he to-me-had said

Cuers ne porroit mie penser 2965
A-heart not could at-all think

ne bouche d'ome recenser
nor mouth of-a-man reckon

de ma dolor la quarte part;
of my grief the fourth part

par poi que li cuers ne me part
by little that the heart — me splits

quant de la rose me sovient,
when of the rose to-me it-remembers

que si esloignier me covient. 2970
which so to-leave-behind me it-bebooves

Reason's Rebuke

XVIII

From her tower the lady Reason has watched him, and comes down: neither young nor gray, made by God in his own image, with power to keep from folly any man who will believe her. Folly brought him here; the key Idleness carries let him into Mirth's garden, and he should put the love out of mind. Danger means war on him, and worse, her own daughter Shame guards the roses with Fear and Wicked Tongue. Love is folly: a lover does no good work and takes more pains than a hermit for a joy soon over.

En cest point ai grant piece esté,

In this point I-have great while been

tant que me vit ensi maté

until that me saw thus checkmated

la dame de la haute angarde,

the lady of the high watch-tower

qui de sa tor aval esgarde;

who from her tower below looks

2975 Raison fu la dame apelee.

Reason was the lady called

Lors est de sa tor devalée,

Then is from her tower come-down

si est tot droit a moi venue.

and-so is all straight to me come

El ne fu juene ne chenue,

She not was young nor boary

ne fu trop haute ne trop basse,

nor was too tall nor too short

2980 ne fu trop graille ne trop grasse,

nor was too slender nor too plump

li uel qui en son chief estoient

the eyes which in her head were

con deus estoiles reluisoient;

as two stars shone

si ot ou chief une corone:

and-so she-had on-the head a crown

bien ressembloit haute persone.

well she-resembled a-high person

A son semblant e a son vis

2985

By her semblance and by her face

pert qu'el fu faite en parevis,

appears that-she was made in paradise

car Nature ne seüst pas

for Nature not would-know at-all

uevre faire de tel compas.

a-work to-make of such compass

Sachiez, se la lettre ne ment,

Know if the letter not lies

que Deus la fist demainement,

2990

that God her made in-person

a sa semblance e a s'image,

in his likeness and in his-image

e li dona tel avantage

and to-her gave such an-advantage

qu'ele a pooir e seignorie

that-she has power and lordship

de garder ome de folie,

of keeping a-man from folly

por quoi il soit teus qu'il la croie.

2995

provided that he be such that-he her believe

Ensi con je me dementoie,

Thus as I myself lamented

atant es vos Raison comence:

thereupon behold you Reason begins

«Biaus amis, folie e enfance

Fair friend folly and childishness

t'ont mis en poine e en esmai;

thee-have put in toil and in dismay

3000 mar veïs le bel tens de mai
in-an-ill-hour thou-sawest the fair season of May

qui fist ton cuer trop esgaier;
which made thy heart too-much to-rejoice

mar t'alas onques ombreier
in-an-ill-hour thou-wentest ever to-take-shade

ou vergier don Oiseuse porte
in-the garden of-which Idleness bears

la clef don el t'ovri la porte;
the key with-which she to-thee-opened the gate

3005 fos est qui s'acointe d'Oiseuse:
foolish is who himself-acquaints with-Idleness

s'acointance est trop perilleuse.
her-acquaintance is too perilous

El t'a traï e deceü;
She thee-has betrayed and deceived

Amors ne t'eüst ja veü
Love not thee-would-have ever seen

s'Oiseuse ne t'eüst conduit
if-Idleness not thee-had led

3010 ou bel vergier qui est Deduit.
into-the fair garden which is Mirth's

Se tu as folement ovré,
If thou hast foolishly wrought

or fai tant qu'il soit recovré,
now do so-much that-it be recovered

e garde bien que plus ne croies
and take-heed well that more not thou-believe

le conseil par quoi tu foloies.
the counsel by which thou playest-the-fool

Bel foloie qui se chastie;

3015

Fairly plays-the-fool who himself chastises

e quant juenes on fait folie,

and when a-young man does folly

l'en ne s'en doit pas merveillier.

one not himself-thereat ought at-all to-marvel

Or te vueil dire e conseilier

Now to-thee I-wish to-say and to-counsel

que l'amor metes en obli

that the-love thou-put in forgetting

don je te voi si afoibli

3020

of-which I thee see so weakened

e si conquis e tormenté.

and so overcome and tormented

Je ne voi mie ta santé

I not see at-all thy health

ne ta guerison autrement,

nor thy healing otherwise

car mout te bee durement

for much thee aspires grievously

Dangiers li fel a guerreier:

3025

Danger the felon to make-war

tu ne l'as mie a essayer.

thou not him-bast at-all to try

E de Dangier neient ne monte

And of Danger nothing not amounts

envers que de ma fille Honte,

beside what of my daughter Shame

qui les roses defent e garde

who the roses defends and guards

3030 con cele qui n'est pas musarde,

as she who not-is at-all a-dawdler

si en doiz avoir grant Peor,

and-so thereof thou-oughtest to-have great Fear

car a ton ues n'i voi peor.

for at thy need not-there I-see fear

Avueques ceus est Male Bouche,

With those is Wicked Tongue

qui ne suefre que nus i touche;

who not suffers that anyone there touch

3035 avant que la chose soit faite

before that the thing be done

l'a il ja en cent leus retraite.

it-has he already in a-hundred places retold

Mout as a faire a dure gent.

Much thou-hast to do with hard folk

Or garde lequel est plus gent

Now consider which is more noble

ou dou laissier ou dou porsivre

either of-the leaving or of-the pursuing

3040 ce qui te fait a dolor vivre,

that which thee makes in grief to-live

c'est li maus qui amors a non,

this-is the ill which love has for-name

ou il n'a se folie non.

wherein there not-has except folly not

Folie, si m'aïst Deus, voire!

Folly so me-help God truly

On qui aime ne puet bien faire

A-man who loves not can well to-do

ne a nul preu dou monde entendre:

nor to any profit of-the world attend

s'il est clers, il pert son aprendre,

if-he is a-clerk he loses his learning

e se il fait autre mestier,

and if he does other trade

il n'en puet guieres exploitier.

he not-thereof can much to-prosper

Ensorquetot il a plus poine

Above-all-else he has more toil

que n'ont ermite ne blanc moine.

than have a-hermit nor a-white monk

La poine en est desmesuree

The toil thereof is beyond-measure

e la joie a corte duree.

and the joy has a-short duration

Qui joie en a, petit li dure,

Who joy thereof has little to-him lasts

e de l'avoir est aventure,

and of the-having it-is chance

car je voi que maint s'en travaillent

for I see that many-a-one themselves-thereat labor

qui en la fin dou tot i faillent.

who in the end of all there fail

Onques mon conseil n'atendis

Ever my counsel not-thou-didst-await

quant au deu d'Amors te rendis;

when to-the god of-Love thyself thou-yieldedst

3045

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li cuers que tu as trop volage

the heart which thou hast too flighty

3060 te fist entrer en tel folage.

thee made to-enter into such madness

La folie fu tost emprise,

The folly was soon undertaken

mais a l'issir a grant maistrise.

but at the-issuing there-is great mastery

Or met l'amor en nonchaloir,

Now put the-love in disregard

qui te fait vivre e non valoir,

which thee makes to-live and not to-be-worth

3065 car la folie adès engraigne,

for the folly ever grows-greater

qui ne fait tant qu'ele remaigne.

who not does so-much that-it cease

Pren durement as denz le frein,

Take firmly in-the teeth the bridle

si dente ton cuer e refrain.

and-so tooth thy heart and restrain

Tu doiz metre force e defense

Thou oughtest to-put force and defense

3070 encontre ce que tes cuers pense:

against that which thy heart thinks

qui toutes eures son cuer croit,

who all hours his heart believes

ne puet estre qu'il ne foloit.»

not can be that-he not play-the-fool

Friend's Counsel, and Danger Appeased

XIX

The lover answers angrily that his heart is Love's outright and that Reason is wasting her French, and she leaves him. Remembering Love's advice to seek a companion, he goes to Friend, who has long known Danger: rough with lovers at first, but soft to coaxing. Coached, the lover comes to Danger, standing with a thorn staff, and begs pardon. Danger grants it grudgingly, on condition he keep far from the roses, and Friend bids him wait his moment. But at the hedge the lover weeps, and Danger, though he sees no feigning in him, will not yet relent.

Quant j'oi cest chastiment,

When I-beard this chastisement

je respondi irieement:

I answered angrily

«Dame, je vos vueil mout prier

3075

Lady I you wish much to-beg

que me laissez a chastier.

that me you-leave off chastising

Vos me dites que je refraigne

You me say that I restrain

mon cuer, qu'Amors plus nou sorpreigne

my heart so-that-Love more not-it surprise

cuidiez vos donc qu'Amors consente

think you then that-Love consent

que je refraigne e que je dente

3080

that I restrain and that I tooth

le cuer qui est siens trestoz quites?

the heart which is his wholly quit

Ce ne puet estre que vos dites:

This not can be which you say

Amors a si mon cuer denté

Love has so my heart toothed

qu'il n'est mais a ma volenté;

that-it not-is more at my will

3085 il le jostise si forment

he it rules so strongly

qu'il i a faite clef fermant.

that-he there has made a-key locking

Or me laissez trestot ester,

Now me leave wholly to-be

car vos porriez bien gaster

for you could well to-waste

en oiseuse vostre françois.

in idleness your French

3090 Je voudroie morir ançois

I should-wish to-die sooner

qu'Amors m'eüst de fausseté

than-Love me-had of falsehood

ne de traïson areté.

nor of treason accused

Je me vueil loer ou blasmer,

I myself wish to-praise or to-blame

au derrenier, de bien amer;

at-the last of well loving

3095 si m'enuie qui me chastie.»

and-so me-wearies who me chastises

Atant Raison s'est departie,

Thereupon Reason herself-is departed

qui voit bien que por sarmoner

who sees well that by preaching

ne me porroit de ce torner.

not me could from this turn

Je remés d'ire e de duel pleins,

I remained of-wrath and of grief full

sovent plorai, sovent me plains,

often I-wept often myself I-lamented

car de moi ne soi chevissance,

for of myself not I-knew remedy

tant qu'il me vint en remembrance

until that-it to-me came in remembrance

qu'Amors me dist que je queïsse

that-Love to-me said that I should-see

un compaignon cui je deïsse

a companion to-whom I should-tell

mon conseil tot outretement:

my counsel wholly utterly

ce m'osterait de grant torment.

this would-take-me-away from great torment

Lors me porpensai que j'avoie

Then myself I-bethought that I-had

un compaignon que je savois

a companion whom I knew

a mout leial: Amis ot non;

for very loyal Friend he-had name

onques n'oi meilleur compaignon.

ever not-I-had better a-companion

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A lui m'en vin grant aleüre,

To him myself-thence I-came at-great pace

si li desclos l'encloëüre

and-so to-him I-disclosed the-wound

don je me sentoie encloé,

of-which I myself felt pierced

si come Amors m'avoit loé,

so as Love me-had counseled

3115 e me plains a lui de Dangier,

and myself I-lamented to him of Danger

qui par poi ne me vost mangier,

who by little — me wished to-eat

e Bel Acueil en fist aler

and Fair Welcome thence made to-go

quant il me vit a lui parler

when he me saw to him to-speak

dou bouton a cui je beoie,

of-the bud to which I aspired

3120 e me dist que jou comparroie

and me said that I-it should-pay-for

se jamais por nule achoison

if ever for any occasion

me veoit passer la cloison.

me he-saw to-pass the enclosure

Quant Amis sot la verité,

When Friend knew the truth

il ne m'a mie espoenté,

he not me-has at-all frightened

ainz me dist: «Compainz, or seiez

3125

rather me said Comrade now be

seürs e ne vos esmaiez;

assured and not yourself dismay

je conois bien pieç'a Dangier:

I know well long-since Danger

il a apris a laidengier,

he has learned to abuse

a laidir e a menacier

to insult and to threaten

ceus qui aiment, au comencier;

3130

those who love at-the beginning

pieç'a que je l'ai esprové.

long-since that I him-have proved

Se vos l'avez felon trové,

If you him-have felon found

il iert autres au derrenier;

he will-be other at-the last

je le conois come un denier:

I him know as a penny

il se set bien amoleier

3135

he himself knows well to-soften

par chuer e par soupleier.

by wheedling and by entreating

Or vos dirai que vos feroiz:

Now to-you I-shall-say what you will-do

je lo que vos li requeroiz

I advise that you to-him will-ask

qu'il vos pardoint sa malvoillance

that-he to-you pardon his ill-will

3140 par amor e par acordance;

by love and by agreement

e li metez bien en covent

and to-him put well in covenant

que jamais des ore en avant

that ever from now in forward

ne feroiz rien qui li desplaise;

not you-will-do anything which to-him displease

c'est une rien qui mout l'apaise,

this-is a thing which much him-appeases

3145 qui le chue e qui le blandist.»

who him cajoles and who him flatters

Tant parla Amis e tant dist

So-much spoke Friend and so-much said

qu'il m'a auques reconforté,

that-he me-has somewhat comforted

e hardement e volenté

and boldness and will

me dona d'aler essayer

me gave of-going to-try

3150 se Dangier porroie apaiar.

whether Danger I-could appease

A Dangier sui venuz honteus,

To Danger I-am come ashamed

de ma pais faire covoiteus;

of my peace to-make desirous

mais la haie ne passai pas,

but the hedge not I-passed at-all

por ce qu'il m'ot veé le pas.

for this that-he to-me-had forbidden the passage

Je le trovai en piez drecié,

I him found on feet raised

fel par semblant e corrocié,

felon by seeming and angered

en sa main un baston d'espine.

in his hand a staff of-thorn

Je tin vers lui la teste encline,

I held toward him the head bowed

e li dis: «Sire, je sui ci

and to-him said Lord I am here

venuz por vos crier merci;

come for you to-cry mercy

mout me poise s'il peüst estre

much me it-grieves if-it could be

don je vos fis onques iraistre,

that I you made ever to-be-angry

mais or sui prez de l'amender

but now I-am ready of it-to-amend

si con vos savroiz comander.

so as you will-know to-command

Senz faille Amors le me fist faire,

Without fail Love it me made to-do

don je ne puis mon cuer retraire;

from-whom I not can my heart to-withdraw

3155

3160

3165

mais jamais jor n'avrai beance

but ever a-day not-I-shall-have longing

a rien don vos aiez pesance;

to anything whence you have vexation

je vueil miauz sofrir ma mesaise

I wish better to-suffer my discomfort

3170 que faire rien qui vos desplaie.

than to-do anything which you displease

Or vos requier que vos aiez

Now you I-beg that you have

Pitié de moi e apaiez

Pity of me and appease

vostre ire, qui trop m'espoente,

your wrath which too-much me-frightens

e je vos jur e acreante

and I you swear and promise

3175 que vers vos si me contendrai

that toward you so myself I-shall-conduct

que ja de rien n'i mesprendrai,

that ever in anything not-there I-shall-transgress

por quoi vos me voilliez greer

provided that you to-me be-willing to-grant

ce que ne me poez veer.

that which not to-me you-can refuse

Voilliez que j'ain tant solement,

Be-willing that I-love so only

3180 autre chose ne vos demant,

other thing not you I-ask

toutes voz autres volentez

all your other wishes

ferai se ce me consentez;

I-shall-do if this to-me you-consent

si ne me poez destorber,

and-so not me you-can hinder

ja ne vos quier de ce lober,

ever not you I-seek of this to-deceive

car j'amerai puis qu'il me siet,

for I-shall-love since that-it to-me suits

cui qu'il soit bel ne cui qu'il griet;

to-whomsoever that-it be fair nor to-whomsoever that-it grieve

mais ne voudroie, por mon pois

but not I-should-wish for my weight

d'argent, qu'il fust sor vostre pois.»

of-silver that-it were against your weight

Mout trovai Dangier dur e lent

Very I-found Danger hard and slow

de pardonner son mautalent;

of pardoning his ill-will

e si le m'a il pardonné

and yet it to-me-has he pardoned

en la fin, tant l'ai sarmoné,

in the end so-much him-I-have preached

e me dist par parole brieve:

and me said by word brief

«Ta requeste rien ne me grieve,

Thy request anything not me grieves

si ne te vueil pas escondire.

and-so not thee I-wish at-all to-refuse

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Saches je n'ai vers toi point d'ire,

Know I not-have toward thee at-all of-wrath

e se tu aimes, moi que chaut?

and if thou lovest to-me what matters

Ce ne me fait ne froit ne chaut.

This not me makes neither cold nor hot

Adès aime, mais que tu soies

Ever love provided that thou be

3200 loing de mes roses toutesvoies.

far from my roses nevertheless

Ja ne te porterai menaie

Ever not thee I-shall-bear mercy

se tu passes jamais la haie.»

if thou passest ever the hedge

Ensi m'otreia ma requeste,

Thus be-granted-me my request

e je l'alai conter en heste

and I it-went to-tell in haste

3205 a Ami, qui s'en esjoï,

to Friend who himself-thereat rejoiced

con bons compainz, quant il l'oi.

as a-good comrade when he it-heard

«Or vait», fait il, «bien vostre affaire:

Now goes says he well your business

encor vos sera debonaire

yet to-you will-be gracious

Dangiers, qui fait a mainz lor bon

Danger who does to many their pleasure

3210 quant il a montré son bobon.

when he has shown his bluster

S'il iere pris en bone voine,

If-be were taken in good vein

Pitié avroit de vostre poine;

Pity be-would-have of your toil

or devez sofrir e atendre

now you-must to-suffer and to-wait

tant qu'en bon point le puissiez prendre;

until that-in good point him you-may take

j'ai bien esprové que l'en vaint

I-have well proved that one conquers

par sofrir felon e refraint.»

by suffering a-felon and restrains

Mout me conforta doucement

Much me comforted sweetly

Amis, qui mon avancement

Friend who my advancement

vosist autresi bien con gié.

would-wish as well as I

Atant ai pris de lui congié.

Thereupon I-have taken of him leave

A la haie que Dangiers garde

To the hedge which Danger guards

sui retornez, que mout me tarde

I-am returned for much me it-seems-long

que je le bouton au moins voie,

that I the bud at least see

des qu'avoir n'en puis autre joie.

since that-to-have not-thereof I-can other joy

3215

3220

- 3225 Dangiers se prent garde sovent
Danger himself takes heed often
 se je li tieng bien son covent;
whether I to-him keep well his covenant
 mais je redot tant sa menace
but I dread so-much his threat
 que n'ai talent que li mesface;
that not-I-have desire that to-him I-do-wrong
 ainz me sui penez longuement
rather myself I-am labored long
 3230 de faire son comandement,
at doing his commandment
 por lui acointier e atraire;
for him to-win-over and to-attract
 mais ce me torne a grant contraire
but this me turns to great vexation
 que sa merci trop me demeure.
that his mercy too-long me tarries
 Il voit maintes foiz que je pleure
He sees many times that I weep
 3235 e que je me plaing e sospir,
and that I myself lament and sigh
 por ce qu'il me fait trop croupir
for this that-he me makes too-much to-crouch
 delez la haie, que je n'ose
beside the hedge which I not-dare
 passer por aler a la rose,
to-pass for to-go to the rose

e tant qu'il a certainement

and so-much that-he has certainly

veü a mon contenment

seen by my bearing

qu'Amors malement me jostise,

that-Love evilly me rules

e qu'il n'i a point de feintise

and that-there not-there has a-whit of feigning

en moi ne de desleiauté;

in me nor of disloyalty

mais il est de tel cruauté

but he is of such cruelty

qu'il ne se deigne encor refraindre,

that-he not himself deigns yet to-relent

tant m'oie dementer ne plaindre.

however-much me-he-bear to-lament nor to-complain

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3245

Venus, and the Kiss

XX

Franchise and Pity come to plead with Danger, arguing that the lover has done him no wrong and that harshness is conquered by humility. Danger gives way and allows Fair Welcome's company again; Franchise fetches Fair Welcome, who greets the lover warmly and leads him inside the enclosure. The rose has grown and opened a little, and the lover asks for a kiss. Fair Welcome dares not grant it for Chastity's sake. Then Venus, mother of the god of Love, comes with her flaming brand and argues the case.

Si con j'estoie en ceste poine,

So as I-was in this toil

atant es vos que Deus m'amoine

thereupon behold you that God me-brings

Franchise, e avuec li Pitié.

Franchise and with her Pity

3250 N'i ot onques plus respitié:

Not-there was ever more delayed

a Dangier vont andeus tot droit,

to Danger go both all straight

car l'une e l'autre me voudroit

for the-one and the-other me would-wish

aidier, s'eus pueent, volentiers,

to-help if-they can willingly

qu'eus voient qu'il en est mestiers.

for-they see that-it thereof is needful

3255 La parole a premiere prise,

The speech has first taken

seue merci, dame Franchise,

her-own mercy lady Franchise

e dist: «Dangiers, si Deus m'ament,

and said Danger so God me-mend

vos avez tort de cel amant,

you have wrong toward that lover

qui par vos est trop mal menez.

who by you is too ill used

3260 Sachiez que vos avilenez,

Know that you degrade-yourself

car je n'ai mie encore appris

for I not-have at-all yet learned

qu'il ait de rien vers vos mespris.

that-he have in anything toward you transgressed

S'Amors le fait par force amer,

If-Love him makes by force to-love

devez le vos por ce blasmer?

must him you for this to-blame

Plus i pert il que vos ne faites,

More there loses he than you — do

qu'il en a poines maintes traites.

for-he thereof has toils many drawn

Mais Amors ne viaut consentir

But Love not wishes to-consent

que il s'en puisse repentir;

that he himself-thereof may repent

qui le devroit tot vif larder,

who him should all alive to-lard

ne s'en porroit il pas garder.

not himself-thereof could he at-all to-keep

Mais, biaux sire, que vos avance

But fair lord what you avails

de li faire enui e grevance?

of to-him to-do trouble and vexation

Avez vos guerre a lui emprise

Have you war against him undertaken

por ce qu'il vos redoute e prise,

for this that-he you fears and prizes

e que il est vostre sougiez?

and that he is your subject

3265

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3275

S'Amors le tient pris en ses giez

If-Love him holds taken in his jesses

e le fait a vos obeïr,

and him makes to you to-obey

devez le vos por ce haïr?

must him you for this to-hate

Ainz le deüssiez espernier

Rather him you-should to-spare

3280 plus qu'un orgueilleus pautonier.

more than-a proud scoundrel

Cortoisie est que l'en secueure

Courtesy it-is that one succor

celui don l'en est au deseure;

him of-whom one is at-the upper-hand

mout a dur cuer qui ne se ploie

much has a-hard heart who not himself bends

quant il trueve qui le souploie.»

when he finds who him entreats

3285 Pitiez respont: «C'est veritez

Pity answers This-is truth

qu'engrestié vaint umilitez;

that-harsbness is-vanquished-by humility

e quant trop dure l'engrestiez,

and when too-long lasts the-harsbness

c'est felonie e mauvaistiez:

this-is felony and wickedness

por ce, Dangiers, vos vueil requerre

for this Danger you I-wish to-beseech

que vos ne mainteniez plus guerre

that you not maintain more war

vers cel chaitif qui languist la,

against that wretch who languishes there

qui d'amors onques ne guila.

who of-love ever not beguiled

Avis m'est que vos le grevez

Seeming to-me-is that you him grieve

assez plus que vos ne devez;

quite more than you — must

il trait trop male penitence

he draws too evil a-penance

des lors en ça que l'acointance

from then in hither that the-acquaintance

Bel Acueil li avez toloite,

of-Fair Welcome to-him you-have taken-away

car c'est la rien qu'il plus covoit.

for this-is the thing which-he most covets

Il iere avant assez troblez,

He was before quite troubled

mais ore est ses enuiz doblez;

but now is his trouble doubled

or est il morz e mal bailliz

now is he dead and ill bested

quant Bel Acueil li est failliz.

when Fair Welcome to-him is failed

Por quoi li faites nul contraire?

For what to-him do-you any vexation

3290

3295

3300

Trop li faisoit Amors mal traire.

Too-much to-him made Love ill to-draw

3305 Il a tant mal que il n'eüst

He has so-much ill that he not-would-have

mestier de pis, s'il vos pleüst.

need of worse if-it you pleased

Or ne l'alez plus gordeiant,

Now not him-go more bullying

que vos n'i gaaigniez neient;

for you not-there gain anything

sofrez que Bel Acueil li face

suffer that Fair Welcome to-him do

3310 des ore mais aucune grace:

from now onward some grace

de pecheor misericorde.

to a-sinner mercy

Puis que Franchise s'i acorde

Since that Franchise herself-there agrees

e le vos prie e amoneste,

and it you begs and admonishes

ne refusez pas sa requeste;

not refuse at-all her request

3315 mout par est fel e deputaire

very much is felon and base

qui por nos deus ne viaut rien faire.»

who for us two not wishes anything to-do

Lors ne pot plus Dangiers durer,

Then not could more Danger endure

il le covint amesurer:

it him behooved to-moderate

«Dames», dist il, «je ne vos ose

Ladies said he I not you dare

escondire de ceste chose,

3320

to-refuse of this thing

que trop seroit grant vilanie.

for too-much it-would-be great villainy

Je vueil qu'il ait la compaignie

I wish that-he have the company

Bel Acueil, puis que il vos plaist.

of-Fair Welcome since that it you pleases

Je n'i metrai jamais arest.»

I not-there shall-put ever a-stay

Lors est a Bel Acueil alee

3325

Then is to Fair Welcome gone

Franchise, la bien emparlee,

Franchise the well spoken

e li a dit cortoisement:

and to-him has said courteously

«Trop vos estes de cel amant,

Too-much yourself you-are from that lover

Bel Acueil, grant piece esloigniez,

Fair Welcome a-great while distanced

qui regarder ne le deigniez.

3330

who to-look-at not him you-deign

Mout a esté pensis e tristes

Much he-has been pensive and sad

des lors que vos ne le veïstes;

from then that you — him saw

or pensez de lui conjoïr,

now think of him to-welcome

se de m'amor volez joïr,
if of my-love you-wish to-enjoy

3335 e de faire sa volenté.
and of doing his will

Sachiez que nos avons denté
Know that we have tamed

entre moi e Pitié Dangier,
between me and Pity Danger

qui vos en faisoit estrangier.
who you thereof made to-estrangle

— Je ferai quanque vos voudroiz»,
I shall-do whatever you will-wish

3340 fait Bel Accueil, «car il est droiz,
says Fair Welcome for it is right

puis que Dangiers l'a otreié.»
since that Danger it-has granted

Lors le m'a Franchise enveié.
Then him to-me-has Franchise sent

Bel Accueil au comencement
Fair Welcome at-the beginning

me salua mout doucement;
me greeted very sweetly

3345 s'il ot esté vers moi iriez,
if-be had been toward me angered

ne se fu de rien empiriez,
not himself was in anything worsened

ainz me montra plus bel semblant
rather to-me showed more fair countenance

qu'il n'avoit onques fait devant.
than-be had ever done before

Il m'a lores par la main pris

He me-bas then by the hand taken

por mener dedenz le porpris

for to-lead within the enclosure

que Dangiers m'avoit chalongié.

whiche Danger to-me-had disputed

Or ai d'aler par tot congié,

Now I-have of-going through all leave

or sui cheoiz, ce m'est avis,

now I-am fallen this to-me-is seeming

de grant enfer en parevis,

from great hell into paradise

car Bel Acueil par tot me moine,

for Fair Welcome through all me leads

qui de mon gré faire se poine.

who of my pleasure to-do himself pains

Si con j'oi la rose apressiee,

So as I-had the rose approached

un poi la trovai engroissiee,

a little her I-found grown-fuller

e vi qu'ele estoit puis creüe

and I-saw that-she was since grown

que je ne l'oi de près veüe;

that I — her-had from near seen

3350

3355

3360

la rose auques s'eslargissoit

the rose somewhat herself-widened

par amont; si m'abelissoit

by above and-so me-pleased

ce qu'el n'iere pas si overte

this that-she not-was at-all so open

que la graine fust descoverte;

that the seed were uncovered

3365 ançois estoit encore enclose

rather it-was still enclosed

entre les fueilles de la rose,

between the leaves of the rose

qui amont droites se levoient

which upward straight themselves raised

e la place dedenz emploient,

and the place within filled

si ne pooit paroir la graine,

and-so not could to-appear the seed

3370 por la rose qui estoit pleine.

because-of the rose which was full

Ele fu, Deus la beneïe,

She was God her bless

assez plus bele espaneïe

quite more fair opened

qu'el n'iere avant e plus vermeille.

than-she was before and more red

Toz m'esbaï de la merveille:

Wholly myself-I-marveled at the marvel

e Amors plus e plus me lie

3375

and Love more and more me binds

de tant come ele est embelie,

by as-much as she is grown-fairer

e tot adès estreint ses laz

and all ever tightens his snares

tant con je voi plus de solaz.

as-much as I see more of solace

Grant piece ai iluec demoré,

Great while I-have there lingered

qu'en Bel Acueil grant amor ai

3380

for-in Fair Welcome great love I-have

e grant compaignie trovee;

and great company found

e quant je voi qu'il ne me vee

and when I see that-be not me refuses

ne son solaz ne son servise,

neither his solace nor his service

une chose li ai requise

a thing to-him I-have asked

qui bien fait a amentevour:

3385

which well is to be-mentioned

«Sire», fis je, «sachiez de voir

Lord said I know for truth

que durement sui envieus

that greatly I-am eager

d'avoir un baisier precieus

of-having a kiss precious

de la rose qui soef flaire,

of the rose which sweetly gives-scent

- 3390 e, s'il ne vos devoit desplaïre,
and if-it not you should displease
 je le vos requerroie en dons.
I it you would-ask in gift
 Por Deu, sire, dites moi dons
For God lord say to-me then
 se il vos plaist que je la baise,
if it you pleases that I her kiss
 car ce n'iert ja tant qu'il vos plaise.
for this not-will-be ever until that-it you please
 3395 — Amis», fait il, «si Deus m'aïst,
Friend says he so God me-help
 se Chasteé ne m'enhaïst,
if Chastity not me-bated
 ja ne vos fust par moi veé,
ever not to-you it-were by me refused
 mais je n'ose por Chasteé,
but I not-dare because-of Chastity
 vers cui je ne vueil pas mesprendre.
toward whom I not wish at-all to-transgress
 3400 Ele me siaut toz jorz defendre
She me is-wont all days to-forbid
 que dou baisier congié ne doigne
that of-the kiss leave — I-give
 a nul amant qui m'en semoigne,
to any lover who me-thereof summon
 car qui au baisier puet ataindre
for who at-the kiss can attain
 a poine puet atant remaindre;
with trouble can at-that-point to-remain

e sachiez bien cui l'en otroie

3405

and know well to-whom one grants

le baisier, il a de la proie

the kiss he has of the prey

le miauz e le plus avenant,

the best and the most pleasing

si a erres dou remenant.»

and-so has earnest of-the remainder

Quant je l'oï ensi respondre,

When I him-heard thus to-answer

je nou vos plus de ce semondre,

3410

I not-it wished more of this to-urge

car jou cremoie corrocier:

for I-him feared to-anger

l'en ne doit mie ome enchaucier

one not ought at-all a-man to-press

outre son gré n'angoissier trop.

beyond his pleasure nor-to-distress too-much

Vous savez bien qu'au premier cop

You know well that-at-the first stroke

ne cope l'en mie le chesne,

3415

not cuts one at-all the oak

ne l'en n'a pas le vin de l'aisne

nor one not-has at-all the wine of-the vat

tant que li pressoirs soit estroiz.

until that the press be tight

Adès me tarda li otroiz

Ever me delayed the grant

dou baisier que je desiroie,

of-the kiss which I desired

3420 mais Venus, qui toz jorz guerroie
but Venus who all days makes-war-on

Chasteé, me vint au secors:

Chastity to-me came to-the succor

ce est la mere au deu d'Amors,

this is the mother of-the god of-Love

qui a secoru maint amant.

who has succored many-a lover

Ele tint un brandon flamant

She held a brand flaming

3425 en sa main destre, don la flame

in her hand right of-which the flame

a eschaufee mainte dame;

has heated many-a lady

si fu si cointe e si tifee

and-so she-was so elegant and so tricked-out

qu'el ressembla deesse ou fee;

that-she resembled a-goddess or a-fairy

dou grant ator que ele avoit

by-the great array which she had

3430 bien puet conoistre qui la voit

well can know who her sees

qu'el n'est pas de religion.

that-she not-is at-all of religion

Ne ferai or pas mencion

Not I-shall-make now at-all mention

de sa robe e de son oré,

of her gown and of her gold-work

ne de son treçoer doré,

nor of her hair-band gilded

ne de fermail, ne de corroie,

nor of brooch nor of belt

por ce que trop i demorroie;

for this that too-long there I-would-linger

mais bien sachiez certainement

but well know certainly

qu'ele fu cointe durement,

that-she was elegant greatly

e si n'ot point en li d'orgueil.

and so not-she-had at-all in her of-pride

Venus se trait vers Bel Accueil,

Venus herself draws toward Fair Welcome

si li a comencié a dire:

and-so to-him has begun to say

«Por quoi vos faites vos, biaux sire,

For what yourself make you fair lord

vers cel amant si dangereus

toward that lover so grudging

d'avoir un baisier doucereus?

of-having a kiss sweet

Ne li deüst estre veez,

Not to-him ought to-be refused

car vos savez bien e veez

for you know well and see

qu'il sert e aime en leiauté,

that-he serves and loves in loyalty

si a en lui assez biauté,

and-so has in him quite beauty

par quoi est dignes d'estre amez.

by which he-is worthy of-being loved

3435

3440

3445

3450 Veez come il est acesmez,
See how he is trim
 come il est biaux, come il est genz
how he is fair how he is noble
 e douz e frans vers toutes genz;
and sweet and frank toward all folk
 e avuec ce il n'est pas viauz,
and besides this he not-is at-all old
 ainz est enfes, don il vaut miauz.
rather is a-child whence he is-worth better

3455 Il n'est dame ne chastelaine
There not-is a-lady nor a-chatelaine
 que je ne tenisse a vilaine
whom I not should-bold for churlish
 s'ele faisoit de lui dangier.
if-she made of him difficulty
 Ses cors ne fait pas a changier
His body not makes at-all to be-exchanged
 se le baisier li otreiez;
if the kiss to-him you-grant

3460 mout iert en lui bien empleiez,
much it-will-be on him well bestowed
 qu'il a, ce cuit, mout douce aleine;
for-be has this I-think very sweet breath
 e sa bouche n'est pas vilaine,
and his mouth not-is at-all churlish
 ainz semble estre faite a estuire
rather seems to-be made on purpose
 por solacier e por deduire,
for solacing and for delighting

car les levres sont vermeillettes

for the lips are ruddy

e les denz blanches e si netes

and the teeth white and so clean

qu'il n'i a teigne ne ordure.

that-it not-there has stain nor filth

Bien est, ce m'est avis, mesure

Well is this to-me-is seeming measure

que uns baisiers lui soit greez.

that a kiss to-him be granted

Donez lui, se vos m'en creez,

Give to-him if you me-thereof believe

car tant con vos plus atendroiz,

for as-long as you more will-wait

tant, ce sachiez, de tens perdroiz.»

so-much this know of time you-will-lose

3465

3470

Wicked Tongue, Jealousy, Shame, and Fear

XXI

Fair Welcome grants the kiss, and a scent from the rose enters the lover's body, casting out his grief. But Wicked Tongue has watched, and puts it about that there is an evil acquaintance between them, waking Jealousy, who storms at Fair Welcome and threatens to bind him or shut him in a tower. Shame excuses him and blames her own slackness; Jealousy answers that she will wall the rosebushes in and raise a tower to imprison him. Fear draws aside in fright, and she and Shame go to reproach Danger, whom they find dozing under a hawthorn.

Bel Acueil, qui senti l'aier

Fair Welcome who felt the-air

dou brandon, senz plus delaier,

of-the brand without more delaying

3475 m'otreia un baisier en dons,

me-granted a kiss in gift

tant fist Venus e ses brandons;

so-much did Venus and her brands

n'i ot onques plus demoré:

not-there was ever more lingered

un baisier douz e savoré

a kiss sweet and savorous

ai pris de la rose erraument.

I-have taken of the rose straightway

3480 Se j'oi joie nus nou demant,

If I-had joy anyone not-it let-ask

car une odor m'entra ou cors

for an odor me-entered into-the body

qui en geta la dolor hors

which thereof cast the grief out

e adouci les maus d'amer

and softened the ills of-loving

qui me soloient estre amer.

which me were-wont to-be bitter

3485 Onques mais ne fui si aaise.

Ever before not I-was so at-ease

Mout est gueriz qui tel flor baise,

Greatly is healed who such a-flower kisses

qui est si sade e bien olanz.

which is so sweet and well smelling

Je ne serai ja si dolenz,

I not shall-be ever so doleful

s'il m'en sovient, que je ne soie

if-it me-thereof remembers that I not be

toz pleins de delit e de joie;

wholly full of delight and of joy

e neporquant j'ai mainz enuiz

and nevertheless I-have many troubles

soferz e maintes males nuiz

suffered and many evil nights

puis que j'oi la rose baisiee.

since that I-had the rose kissed

La mer n'iert ja si apaisiee

The sea not-will-be ever so calmed

qu'el ne soit trouble a poi de vent;

that-it not be troubled at little of wind

Amors se rechange sovent,

Love himself changes-again often

il oint une eure e autre point,

he anoints one hour and another pricks

Amors n'est guieres en un point.

Love not-is much in one point

Des ore est droiz que je vos conte

From now it-is right that I to-you tell

coment je fui mellez a Honte,

how I was embroiled with Shame

par cui je fui puis mout grevez,

by whom I was afterward much grieved

3490

3495

3500

e coment li murs fu levez

and how the wall was raised

e li chastiaus riches e forz,

and the castle rich and strong

qu'Amors prist puis par ses esforz.

which-Love took afterward by his efforts

3505 Toute l'estoire vueil porsivre,

All the-story I-wish to-pursue

ja parece ne m'iert d'escrivre,

ever sloth not to-me-will-be of-writing

por quoi je cuit qu'il abelisse

for which I think that-it may-please

a la bele, que Deus guerisse,

to the fair-one whom God preserve

qui le guerredon m'en rendra

who the recompense to-me-thereof will-render

3510 miauz que nule quant el voudra.

better than any when she will-wish

Male Bouche, qui le covine

Wicked Tongue who the doings

de mainz amanz pense e devine,

of many lovers thinks and divines

e tot le mal qu'il set retrait,

and all the ill that-he knows retells

se prist garde dou bel atrait

himself took heed of-the fair welcome

3515 que Bel Acueil me deignoit faire,

which Fair Welcome to-me deigned to-do

e tant que il ne se pot taire,

and so-much that he not himself could be-silent

qu'il fu fiz d'une vieille iraise,

for-he was son of-an old-woman shrewish

si ot la langue mout punaise

and-so had the tongue very foul

e mout poignant e mout amere:

and very stinging and very bitter

bien en retraioit a sa mere.

well thereof he-took-after to his mother

Male Bouche des lors en ça

Wicked Tongue from then on hither

a encuser me comença,

at accusing me began

e dist que il metroit son ueil

and said that he would-put his eye

que entre moi e Bel Accueil

that between me and Fair Welcome

avoit mauvais acointement.

there-was an-evil acquaintance

Tant parla li gloz folement

So-much spoke the rogue foolishly

de moi e dou fill Cortoisie

of me and of-the son of-Courtesy

qu'il fist esveillier Jalousie,

that-he made to-awaken Jealousy

qui se leva en esfreor

who herself rose in fright

quant ele oï le jangleor.

when she heard the prater

E quant ele se fu levee,

And when she herself was risen

3520

3525

3530

ele corut come desvee

she ran as a-mad-woman

vers Bel Acueil, qui vosist miauz

toward Fair Welcome who would-wish better

estre a Estampes ou a Miauz,

to-be at Étampes or at Meaux

3535 lors l'a par parole assailli:

then him-bas by word assailed

«Garz neienz, por quoi t'a failli

Knave worthless for what thee-bas failed

sens, que bien fusses d'un garçon

sense that well thou-wert with-a lad

don j'ai mauvaise sospeçon?

of-whom I-have an-evil suspicion

Bien pert que tu croiz les losenges

Well appears that thou believest the flatteries

3540 de legier as garçons estranges.

with ease of-the lads strange

Ne me vueil plus en toi fier.

Not myself I-wish more in thee to-trust

Certes, je te ferai lier,

Certainly I thee shall-make to-bind

ou enserrer en une tor,

or to-shut-up in a tower

car je n'i voi autre retor.

for I not-there see other resort

Trop s'est de toi Honte esloignee

3545

Too-much herself-is from thee Shame distanced

e si ne s'est pas bien poignee

and so not herself-is at-all well pained

de toi garder e tenir cort;

of thee to-guard and to-hold short

si m'est avis qu'ele secort

and-so to-me-is seeming that-she succors

mout mauvairement Chasteé,

very evilly Chastity

qui laisse un garçon desreé

3550

who lets a lad unruly

en nostre porprise venir

into our enclosure to-come

por moi e li avilenir.»

for me and her to-degrade

Bel Acueil ne sot que respondre;

Fair Welcome not knew what to-answer

ançois se fust alez repondre,

rather himself would-have gone to-bide

s'el ne l'eüst iluec trové

3555

if-she not him-had there found

e pris avuec moi tot prové.

and taken with me wholly proved

Mais quant je vi venir la grive,

But when I saw to-come the shrew

qui contre nos plaide e estrive,

who against us pleads and strives

je sui tantost tornez en fuïe,

I am at-once turned in flight

3560 por la riote qui m'enuie.

because-of the brawl which me-wearies

Honte s'est lores avant traite,

Shame herself-is then forward drawn

qui se crient mout estre forfaite;

who herself fears much to-be at-fault

si fu umeliant e simple,

and-so was humble and simple

e ot un voile en leu de guimpe

and had a veil in place of wimple

3565 ausi con none d'abaïe;

just as a-nun of-an-abbey

e, por ce qu'el fu esbaïe,

and for this that-she was abashed

comença a parler en bas:

she-began to speak in low

«Por Deu, dame, ne creez pas

For God lady not believe at-all

Male Bouche le losengier:

Wicked Tongue the flatterer

3570 c'est uns on qui ment de legier,

this-is a man who lies with ease

e maint prodome a amusé.

and many-a worthy-man has deceived

S'il a Bel Acueil encusé,

If-he has Fair Welcome accused

ce n'est ore pas li premiers;

this not-is now at-all the first

Male Bouche est bien costumiers

Wicked Tongue is well accustomed

de raconter fausses noveles

3575

of recounting false tidings

de vallez e de damoiseles.

of young-men and of damsels

Senz faille, ce n'est pas mençonge,

Without fail this not-is at-all falsehood

Bel Acueil a trop longue longe;

Fair Welcome has too long a-tether

l'en li a sofert a atraire

one to-him has suffered to attract

teus genz don il n'avoit que faire.

3580

such folk of-whom he not-had what to-do

Mais certes je n'ai pas creance

But certainly I not-have at-all belief

que il ait eüe beance

that he have had longing

de mauvaistié ne de folie;

of wickedness nor of folly

mais il est voirs que Cortoisie,

but it is true that Courtesy

qui est sa mere, li enseigne

3585

who is his mother to-him teaches

que d'acointier genz ne se feigne,

that of-acquainting folk not himself be-bold-back

qu'el n'ama onques ome entulle.

for-she not-loved ever a-man dull

En Bel Acueil n'a autre hulle,

In Fair Welcome not-has other flaw

ce sachiez, n'autre encloeüre,

this know nor-other hurt

3590 fors qu'il est pleins d'envoiseüre

except that-he is full of-merriment

e qu'il joue as genz e parole.

and that-he plays with-the folk and talks

Senz faille, j'ai esté trop mole

Without fail I-have been too soft

de lui garder e chastier,

of him to-guard and to-chastise

si vos en vueil merci crier.

and-so to-you thereof I-wish mercy to-cry

3595 Se j'ai esté un poi trop lente

If I-have been a little too slow

de bien faire, j'en sui dolente;

of well doing I-thereof am sorry

de ma folie me repens;

of my folly myself I-repent

mais je metrai tot mon apens

but I shall-put all my care

des or en Bel Accueil garder;

from now on Fair Welcome to-guard

3600 jamais ne m'en quier retarder.

ever not myself-thereof I-seek to-delay

— Honte, Honte», fait Jalousie,

Shame Shame says Jealousy

«grant peor ai d'estre traïe,

great fear I-have of-being betrayed

car Lecherie est tant montee

for Lechery is so-much risen

que tost porroie estre ahontee.

that soon I-might be shamed

N'est merveille se je me dot,

Not-is a-marvel if I myself fear

car Luxure reine par tot;

for Lust reigns through all

ses pooirs ne fine de croistre.

her power not ceases from growing

En abaïe ne en cloistre

In an-abbey nor in a-cloister

n'est mais Chastée asseür:

not-is more Chastity secure

por ce ferai de novel mur

for this I-shall-make with new wall

clore les rosiers e les roses;

to-close the rosebushes and the roses

nes lairai plus ensi descloses,

not-them I-shall-leave more thus unclosed

qu'en vostre garde poi me fi,

for-in your guard little myself I-trust

car je voi bien e sai de fi

for I see well and know for certain

que en meillor garde pert l'en.

that in better guard loses one

3605

3610

3615

Ja ne verroie passer l'an

Ever not I-should-see to-pass the-year

que l'en me tendroit por musarde

before one me would-bold for a-dawdler

se je ne m'en prenoie garde.

if I not myself-thereof took heed

Mestiers est que je m'en porvoie.

Needful it-is that I myself-thereof provide

3620 Certes je lor clorrai la voie

Certainly I to-them shall-close the way

a ceus qui, por moi conchier,

to those who for me to-befoul

vient mes roses espier.

come my roses to-spy-on

Il ne me sera ja parece

It not to-me will-be ever a-sloth

que ne face une forterece

that not I-make a fortress

3625 qui les rosiers clorra entor.

which the rosebushes will-close around

Ou mileu avra une tor,

In-the middle there-will-be a tower

por Bel Acueil metre en prison,

for Fair Welcome to-put in prison

car j'ai peor de traïson.

for I-have fear of treason

Je cuit si bien garder son cors

I think so well to-guard his body

qu'il n'avra pooir d'issir hors

that-he not-will-have power of-issuing out

ne de compaignie tenir

nor of company to-keep

as garçons, qui, por lui honir,

with-the lads who for him to-shame

de paroles le vont chuant.

with words him go wheedling

Trop l'ont trové icil truant

Too-much him-have found those rascals

fol e bergier a decevoir;

foolish and a-shepherd to deceive

mais, se je vif, sache il de voir

but if I live let-know he for truth

mar lor fist onques bel semblant.»

in-an-ill-hour to-them he-made ever fair countenance

A ce mot vint Peor tremblant;

At this word came Fear trembling

mais ele fu si esbaïe

but she was so abashed

quant ele a Jalousie oïe

when she has Jealousy heard

qu'onques mot ne li osa dire,

that-ever a-word not to-her she-dared to-say

por ce qu'el la savoit en ire.

for this that-she her knew in wrath

En sus se trait a une part;

In aside herself draws to one part

3630

3635

3640

e Jalousie atant s'en part:

and Jealousy thereupon herself-thence parts

3645 Peor e Honte laisse ensemble.

Fear and Shame leaves together

Toz li maigres dou cul lor tremble.

All the lean of-the rump to-them trembles

Peor, qui tint la teste encline,

Fear who held the head bowed

parole a Honte sa cosine:

speaks to Shame her cousin

«Honte», fait ele, «mout me poise

Shame says she much me it-grieves

3650 don il nos covient oïr noise

that it us behooves to-bear an-outcry

de ce don nos ne poon mais.

of that of-which we not can more

Maintes foiz est avris e mais

Many times is April and May

passez qu'onques n'eüsmes blasme;

passed that-ever not-we-had blame

or nos laidenge e nos mesasme

now us reviles and us blames

3655 Jalousie, qui nos mescroit:

Jealousy who us mistrusts

alon a Dangier orendroit,

let-us-go to Danger just-now

si li montron bien e dison

and-so to-him let-us-show well and let-us-say

qu'il a faite grant mesprison

that-he has done great wrong

don il n'a graignor poine mise

in-that he not-has greater pains put

a bien garder ceste porprise;

at well guarding this enclosure

trop a a Bel Acueil sofert

too-much he-has to Fair Welcome suffered

a faire son gré en apert,

to do his pleasure in open

si covendra qu'il s'en ament,

and-so it-will-behoove that-he himself-thereof amend

ou sache il bien veraïement

or let-know he well truly

foïr l'en estuet de la terre,

to-flee him-thence it-behooves from the land

qu'il ne durroit pas a la guerre

for-he not would-last at-all at the war

Jalosie n'a l'ataïne,

of-Jealousy nor-at the-rancor

s'ele le cuilloit en haïne.»

if-she him took in hatred

A cel conseil se sont tenues,

At that counsel themselves are held

puis en sont a Dangier venues,

then thence are to Danger come

3660

3665

3670

si ont trové le païsant

and-so have found the peasant

desoz un aubespín gisant.

under a hawthorn lying

Il ot, en leu de chevecel,

He had in place of a-pillow

a son chief, d'erbe un grant moncel,

at his head of-grass a great heap

3675 e començoit a someillier;

and began to doze

mais Honte l'a fait esveillier,

but Shame him-has made to-awaken

qui le laidenge e li cort seure:

who him reviles and him runs upon

«Coment dormez vos a ceste eure»,

How sleep you at this hour

fait ele, «par male aventure?

says she by evil adventure

3680 Fos est qui en vos s'asseüre

Foolish is who in you assures-himself

de garder rose ne bouton

of guarding rose nor bud

ne qu'en la queue d'un mouton.

no-more than-in the tail of-a sheep

Trop estes recreanz e lasches,

Too-much you-are craven and slack

qui deüssiez estre farasches

who ought to-be fierce

3685 e tot le monde estouteier.

and all the world to-bully

Folie vos fist otreier

Folly you made to-grant

que Bel Acueil çaienz meist

that Fair Welcome hither put

ome qui blasmer nos feïst.

a-man who to-blame us made

Quant vos dormez, nos en oon

When you sleep we thereof hear

la noise, qui mais n'en poon.

the outcry who more not-thereof we-can

Estiez vos ore couchiez?

Were you now lain-down

Levez tost sus, e si bouchiez

Rise quickly up and so stop

toz les pertuis de ceste haie,

all the gaps of this hedge

e ne portez nului menaie.

and not bear to-anyone mercy

Il n'afiert pas a vostre non

It not-belongs at-all to your name

que vos faciez se enui non.

that you do except trouble not

Se Bel Acueil est frans e douz,

If Fair Welcome is noble and sweet

e vos seiez fel e estouz,

then you be felon and haughty

pleins de rampones e d'outrage:

full of taunts and of-outrage

vilains qui est cortois enrage,

a-churl who is courteous goes-mad

3690

3695

3700

ce oï dire en reprovier,

this I-heard to-say in a-proverb

ne l'en ne puet faire esprevier

nor one not can make a-sparrowhawk

en nule guise de busart.

in any wise of a-buzzard

Tuit cil vos tienent por musart

All those you hold for a-dawdler

3705 qui vos ont trové debonaire.

who you have found gracious

Volez vos donques as genz plaire

Wish you then to-the folk to-please

ne faire bonté ne servise?

nor to-do kindness nor service

Ce vos muet de recreantise,

This to-you comes of cravenness

si avroiz mais par tot le los

and-so you-will-have henceforth through all the repute

3710 que vos estes lasches e mos

that you are slack and soft

e que vos creez jangleors.»

and that you believe praters

Lors a après parlé Peors:

Then has afterward spoken Fear

«Certes, Dangiers, mout me merveil

Certainly Danger much myself I-marvel

que vos n'estes en grant esveil

that you not-are in great wakefulness

3715 de garder ce que vos devez.

of guarding that which you must

Tost en porroiz estre grevez,

Soon thereof you-could be grieved

se l'ire Jalousie engraigne,

if the-wrath of-Jealousy grows

qu'ele est mout fiere e mout grifaigne,

for-she is very fierce and very grim

e de tencier apareillie.

and for chiding prepared

Ele a ui bien Honte assaillie,

She has today well Shame assailed

e a chacié par sa menace

and has chased by her threat

Bel Acueil hors de ceste place,

Fair Welcome out of this place

e juré qu'il ne puet durer

and sworn that-it not can last

qu'el nou face vif enmurer:

that-she not-him make alive to-be-immured

c'est tot par vostre mauvaistié,

this-is all by your wickedness

qu'en vos n'a mais point d'engrestié.

that-in you not-has more at-all of-barshness

Je cuit que cuers vos est failliz;

I think that heart to-you is failed

mais vos en seroiz mal bailliz,

but you thereof will-be ill handled

e en avroiz poine e enui,

and thereof will-have toil and trouble

s'onques Jalousie conui.»

if-ever Jealousy I-knew

3720

3725

3730

The Castle of Jealousy

XXII

Danger wakes in a rage, swears no living man will get in again, and goes searching the enclosure for gaps to stop; the lover, shut out and remembering the kiss, would rather be dead. Jealousy sends for masons and pioneers: ditches, a wall of hewn ashlar on rock, squared, a hundred fathoms a side, turrets, four gates, mangonels and crossbows, and in the middle a round tower with the rosebushes inside its bailey. Danger, Shame, and Fear hold three gates, and Wicked Tongue the rear, slandering women from the battlements all night long.

Lors leva li vilains s'aumuce,

Then raised the churl his-hood

frote ses iauz, si s'esberuce,

rubs his eyes and-so himself-shakes

fronce le nés, les iauz roille,

wrinkles the nose the eyes rolls

e fu pleins d'ire e de roille

and was full of-wrath and of rust

3735 quant il s'oï si mal mener:

when he himself-heard so ill to-handle

«Bien puis», fait il, «or forsener,

Well I-can says he now to-rage

quant vos me tenez por vaincu.

when you me hold for vanquished

Certes, or ai je trop vescu

Certainly now have I too-long lived

se cest porpris ne puis garder.

if this enclosure not I-can to-guard

Tot vif me face l'en larder

3740

All alive me let one lard

se jamais on vivanz i entre.

if ever a-man living there enter

Mout ai irié le cuer dou ventre

Much I-have angered the heart of-the belly

don nus i mist onques les piez;

that anyone there put ever the feet

miauz amasse de deus espiez

better I-should-love with two spears

estre feruz par mi le cors.

3745

to-be struck through midst the body

J'ai fait que fos, bien m'en recors,

I-have done like a-fool well me-thereof I-recall

or l'amenderai par vos deus;

now it-I-shall-amend by you two

jamais ne serai pareceus

ever not I-shall-be slothful

de ceste porprise defendre;

of this enclosure to-defend

se j'i puis nului entreprendre,

3750

if I-there can anyone to-catch

miauz li vendroit estre a Pavie.

better to-him would-come to-be at Pavia

Jamais a nul jor de ma vie

Ever on any day of my life

ne me tendroiz por recreant,

not me you-will-bold for craven

je le vos jur e acreant.»

I it to-you swear and promise

3755 Lors s'est Dangiers en piez dreciez,

Then himself-is Danger on feet raised

semblant fait d'estre corrociez.

seeming makes of-being angered

En sa main a un baston pris

In his hand has a staff taken

e vait cerchant par le porpris

and goes searching through the enclosure

s'il trovera sentier ne trace

whether-be will-find a-path or trace

3760 ne pertuis qui a bouchier face.

or a-gap which to stopping calls

Des or est mout changiez li vers,

From now is much changed the verse

car Dangiers devient plus divers

for Danger becomes more crabbed

e plus fel qu'il ne soloit estre.

and more felon than-be — was-wont to-be

Mort m'a qui si l'a fait iraistre,

Killed me-has who so him-has made to-grow-angry

3765 car je n'avrai jamais loisir

for I not-shall-have ever leisure

de veoir ce que je desir.

of seeing that which I desire

Mout ai le cuer dou ventre irié

Much I-have the heart of-the belly angered

don j'ai Bel Acueil adirié;

that I-have Fair Welcome lost

e bien sachiez que tuit li membre

and well know that all the limbs

me fremissent quant il me membre

me quiver when it me remembers

de la rose que je soloie

of the rose which I was-wont

veoir de près quant je voloie;

to-see from near when I wished

e quant dou baisier me recors,

and when of-the kiss myself I-recall

qui me mist une odor ou cors

which me put an odor into-the body

assez plus douce que de basme,

quite more sweet than of balm

par un poi que je ne me pame,

by a little that I — myself swoon

qu'encor ai je ou cuer enclose

for-still have I in-the heart enclosed

la douce savor de la rose;

the sweet savor of the rose

e sachiez, quant il me sovient

and know when it to-me remembers

que a consirrer m'en covient,

that to forgo me-thereof it-bebooves

miauz voudroie estre morz que vis.

better I-should-wish to-be dead than alive

Mar touchai la rose a mon vis

In-an-til-hour I-touched the rose with my face

e a mes iauz e a ma bouche,

and with my eyes and with my mouth

3770

3775

3780

s'Amors ne suefre que j'i touche

if-Love not suffers that I-there touch

3785 tot de rechief autre feiee;

wholly of once-more an-other time

se j'ai la savor essaiee,

if I-have the savor tried

tant est graindre la covoitise

so-much is greater the covetousness

qui esprent mon cuer e atise.

which kindles my heart and fires

Or revendront plor e sospir,

Now will-come-again weeping and sighs

3790 longues pensees senz dormir,

long thoughts without sleeping

frçons e pointes e complaintes.

shudders and pangs and complaints

De teus dolors avrai je maintes,

Of such griefs shall-have I many

car je sui en enfer cheoiz.

for I am into hell fallen

Male Bouche soit maleoiz!

Wicked Tongue be cursed

3795 Sa langue desleial e fausse

His tongue disloyal and false

m'a porchaciee ceste sausse.

me-has procured this sauce

Des or est tens que je vos die

From now is time that I to-you tell

la contenance Jalousie,

the doings of-jealousy

qui est en male sospeçon.

who is in evil suspicion

Ou païs ne remest maçon

In-the country not remained a-mason

ne pionier qu'ele ne mant,

nor a-pioneer that-she not send-for

si fait faire, au comencement,

and-so makes to-make at-the beginning

entor les rosiers uns fossez,

around the rosebushes a-set-of ditches

qui costeront argent assez,

which will-cost money plenty

qu'il sont mout lé e mout parfont.

for-they are very wide and very deep

Li maçon sor les fossez font

The masons over the ditches make

un mur de carriaus tailleiz,

a wall of asblar hewn

qui ne siet pas sor croleiz,

which not sits at-all on quaking-ground

ainz est fondez sor roche dure.

rather is founded on rock hard

Li fondemenz tot a mesure

The foundation all in measure

jusqu'au pié des fossez descent

even-to-the foot of-the ditches descends

e vient amont en estreçant,

and comes upward in narrowing

s'en est l'uevre plus fort assez.

and-thereby is the-work more strong quite

3800

3805

3810

Li murs si est si compassez

The wall so is so compassed

3815 qu'il est de droite carreüre;

that-it is of true squareness

chascuns des pans cent toises dure,

each of-the sides a-hundred fathoms runs

si est autant lons come lez.

and-so is as-much long as wide

Les torneles sont lez a lez,

The turrets are side by side

qui sont richement batailliees,

which are richly battlemented

3820 e faites de pierres tailliees.

and made of stones hewn

As quatre coignez en a quatre,

At-the four corners thereof has four

qui seroient forz a abatre;

which would-be hard to beat-down

e si i a quatre portauz,

and so there has four gateways

don li murs est espès e hauz.

of-which the wall is thick and high

3825 Il en a un ou front devant,

There thereof has one in-the front before

bien defensable par covent,

well defensible by agreement

e deus de coste e un derriere,

and two at the-side and one behind

qui ne doutent cop de perriere;

which not fear a-blow of a-mangonel

s'i a bones portes colanz,

and-there has good gates sliding

por faire ceus dehors dolenz,

for to-make those outside doleful

e por aus prendre e retenir

and for them to-take and to-bold

s'il osoient avant venir.

if-they dared forward to-come

Enz ou mileu de la porprise

Right in-the middle of the enclosure

font une tor par grant maistrise

they-make a tower by great mastery

cil qui dou faire furent maistre:

those who of-the making were masters

nule plus bele ne pot estre,

any more fair not could be

qu'ele est e grant e lee e haute.

for-it is both great and wide and high

Li murs ne doit pas faire faute

The wall not ought at-all to-make failure

por engin qui sache getier,

for an-engine which know to-cast

car l'en destrempa le mortier

for one tempered the mortar

de fort vin aigre e de chaux vive.

of strong wine sharp and of lime quick

La pierre est de roche naïve

The stone is of rock native

de quoi l'en fist le fondement,

of which one made the foundation

3830

3835

3840

si est dure come aïmant.

and-so is hard as adamant

3845 La tor si fu toute roonde;

The tower so was wholly round

il n'ot si riche en tot le monde,

there not-was so rich in all the world

ne par dedenz miauz ordenee.

nor by within better ordered

Ele est dehors avironee

It is outside surrounded

d'un baile qui vait tot entor,

by-a bailey which goes all around

3850 si qu'entre le baile e la tor

so that-between the bailey and the tower

sont li rosier espès planté,

are the rosebushes thickly planted

ou il a roses a plenté.

where there has roses in plenty

Dedenz le chastel a perrieres

Within the castle has mangonels

e engins de maintes manieres:

and engines of many fashions

3855 vos peüssiez les mangoniaus

you could the catapults

veoir par desus les creniaus;

to-see by above the battlements

e as archieres tot entor

and at-the arrow-slits all around

sont les arbalestes a tor,

are the crossbows on winch

qu'armeüre ne puet tenir.

which-armor not can withstand

Qui près des murs voudroit venir,

Who near of-the walls would-wish to-come

il porroit bien faire que nices.

he could well do like a-fool

Hors des fossez a unes lices

Outside of-the ditches has a-set-of lists

de bons murs forz, a creniaus bas,

of good walls strong with battlements low

si que cheval ne pueent pas

so that horses not can at-all

jusqu'as fossez venir d'alee

even-to-the ditches to-come of-a-course

qu'il n'i eüst avant mellee.

that-there not-thereat were first a-mêlée

Jalousie a garnison mise

Jealousy has a-garrison put

ou chastel que je vos devise;

in-the castle which I to-you describe

si m'est avis que Dangiers porte

and-so to-me-is seeming that Danger bears

la clef de la premiere porte,

the key of the first gate

qui uevre devers orient;

which opens toward east

avuec lui, au mien escient,

with him to-the my knowledge

a trente sergenz tot a conte.

has thirty sergeants wholly at count

3860

3865

3870

E l'autre porte garde Honte,

And the-other gate is-guarded-by Shame

3875 qui uevre par devers midi;

which opens by toward south

el fu mout sage, e si vos di

she was very wise and so to-you I-say

qu'ele ot sergenz a grant plenté,

that-she had sergeants in great plenty

prez de faire sa volenté.

ready of doing her will

Peor rot grant conestablie,

Fear bad-in-turn a-great constabulary

3880 e fu a garder estableie

and was to guard appointed

l'autre porte, qui est assise

the-other gate which is set

a main senestre, devers bise.

at hand left toward north-wind

Peor n'i sera ja seüre,

Fear not-there will-be ever secure

s'el n'est fermee a serreüre;

if-it not-is fastened with a-lock

3885 e si ne l'uevre pas sovent,

and so not it-opens at-all often

car, quant ele ot bruire le vent,

for when she hears to-rustle the wind

ou el voit saillir deus langoutes,

or she sees to-leap two grasshoppers

si l'en prent il tel eure est soutes.

so her-thereof takes it such an-hour (she-)is loosed

Male Bouche, que Deus maudie,

Wicked Tongue whom God curse

ot soudeiers de Normandie:

3890

had mercenaries from Normandy

cil garde la porte detrois;

he guards the gate behind

e si sachiez qu'as autres trois

and so know that-at-the other three

vait il e vient quant il li siet,

goes he and comes when it to-him suits

qu'il doit la nuit faire le guiet.

for-he must the night to-make the watch

Il monte le soir as creniaus

3895

He mounts in-the evening to-the battlements

e atempre ses chalumiaus

and tunes his pipes

e ses buisines e ses corz:

and his trumpets and his horns

une foiz dit lais e descorz

one time he-says lays and descorts

e sons noviaus de controvaille,

and airs new of invention

as estives de Cornoaille;

3900

on-the bagpipes of Cornwall

autre foiz dit a la fleüste

another time he-says on the flute

qu'onques ne trova fame juste:

that-ever not he-found a-woman true

«Il n'est nule qui ne se rie

There not-is any who not herself laugh

s'ele ot parler de lecherie;

if-she bears to-speak of lechery

3905 ceste est pute, ceste se farde,

this-one is a-whore this-one herself paints

e ceste folement regarde,

and this-one foolishly looks

ceste est vilaine, ceste est fole,

this-one is churlish this-one is foolish

e ceste si a trop parole.»

and this-one so has too-much speech

Male Bouche, qui riens n'esperne,

Wicked Tongue who anything not-spare

3910 trueve a chascune quelque herne.

finds in each some flaw

Fair Welcome in the Tower

XXIII

Jealousy garrisons the tower and shuts Fair Welcome in it, with an old woman who knows every trick of the trade to watch him, so that he dares not move. The lover, outside, compares himself to the peasant whose grain a cloud spoils as the ears flower, and to a man thrown off Fortune's wheel into the mire. He begs Fair Welcome to keep a heart of adamant against Jealousy, and the poem breaks off on his fear of the flatterers and of being forgotten.

Jalousie, que Deus confonde,

Jealousy whom God confound

a garnie la tor roonde,

has garrisoned the tower round

e si sachiez qu'ele i a mis

and so know that-she there has put

des plus privez de ses amis

of-the most intimate of her friends

tant qu'il i ot grant garnison.

so-much that-there there was great garrison

3915

E Bel Acueil est en prison,

And Fair Welcome is in prison

amont en la tor enserrez,

above in the tower shut-up

don li uis est si bien barrez

of-which the door is so well barred

qu'il n'a pooir que il en isse.

that-be not-has power that he thence issue

Une vieille, que Deus honisse,

An old-woman whom God shame

3920

a avuec lui, por lui gaitier,

has with him for him to-watch

qui ne fait nul autre mestier

who not does any other office

fors espier tant solement

except to-spy so only

qu'il ne se moine follement.

that-be not himself conduct foolishly

Nus ne la porroit engignier

Anyone not her could outwit

3925

ne de signier ne de guignier,

neither by signaling nor by winking

qu'il n'est baraz qu'el ne conoisse,

for-there not-is a-trick which-she not know

qu'ele ot des biens e de l'angoisse

for-she had of-the goods and of the-anguish

qu'Amors a ses sergenz depart

which-Love to his servants deals-out

3930 en jonece eü bien sa part.

in youth had well her part

Bel Acueil se taist e escoute,

Fair Welcome himself is-silent and listens

por la vieille que il redoute,

because-of the old-woman whom he fears

e n'est si hardiz qu'il se mueve,

and not-is so bold that-he himself move

que la vieille en lui n'aperçoive

that the old-woman in him not-perceive

3935 aucune fole contenance,

any foolish bearing

qu'el set toute la vieille dance.

for-she knows all the old dance

Tot maintenant que Jalousie

All at-once that Jealousy

se fu de Bel Acueil saisie,

herself was of Fair Welcome seized

e ele l'ot fait enmurer,

and she him-had made to-be-immured

3940 don se prist a asseürer.

then herself took to be-assured

Ses chastiaus, qu'ele vit si fort,

Her castle which-she saw so strong

li a doné grant reconfort;

to-her has given great comfort

el n'a mais garde que glouton

she not-has more care that gluttons

li emblent rose ne bouton:

to-ber steal rose nor bud

trop sont li rosier clos forment;

exceedingly are the rosebushes closed strongly

e en veillant e en dormant

and in waking and in sleeping

puet ele estre bien asseür.

can she be well secure

Mais je, qui sui dehors le mur,

But I who am outside the wall

sui livrez a duel e a poine.

am delivered to grief and to pain

Qui savroit quel vie je moine,

Who would-know what life I lead

il en devroit grant pitié prendre.

he thereof ought great pity to-take

Amors me set ore bien vendre

Love me knows now well to-sell

les biens que il m'avoit pretez;

the goods which he to-me-had lent

jes cuidoie avoir achetez,

I-them thought to-have bought

or les me vent tot de rechief,

now them to-me he-sells all of once-more

car je sui a plus grant meschief,

for I am at more great mischief

por la joie que j'ai perdue,

because-of the joy which I-have lost

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3955

que s'onques ne l'eüsse eüe.

than if-ever not it-I-had had

Que vos iroie je disant?

What to-you should-go I saying

3960 Je ressemble le païsant

I resemble the peasant

qui giete en terre sa semence,

who casts into earth his seed

e a joie quant el comence

and has joy when it begins

a estre bele e drue en erbe,

to be fair and thick in blade

mais, avant qu'il en cueille gerbe,

but before that-be thereof gather a-sheaf

3965 l'empire tel eure est e grieve

it-spoils such an-hour is and grieves

une male nue qui lieve

an evil cloud which rises

quant li espi doivent florir,

when the ears must to-flower

si fait le grain dedenz morir,

and-so makes the grain within to-die

e l'esperance au vilain tost

and the-hope from-the churl takes-away

3970 qu'il avoit eüe trop tost.

which-be had had too soon

Ge crien ausi avoir perdue

I fear likewise to-have lost

e m'esperance e m'atendue,

both my-hope and my-expectation

qu'Amors m'avoit tant avancié

for-Love me-had so-far advanced

que j'avoie ja comencié

that I-had already begun

a dire mes granz privetez

to tell my great secrets

a Bel Acueil, qui apretez

to Fair Welcome who prepared

estoit de recevoir mes jeux;

was of receiving my games

mais Amors est si corageus

but Love is so capricious

qu'il me toli tot en une eure,

that-he me took-away all in one hour

quant je cuidai estre au deseure.

when I thought to-be at-the above

Ce est ausi con de Fortune,

This is likewise as of Fortune

qui met ou cuer des genz rancune,

who puts into-the heart of-the folk rancor

autre eure les aplainne e chue.

another hour them strokes and cajoles

En poi d'eure son semblant mue:

In little of-time her seeming she-changes

une eure rit, autre eure est morne;

one hour she-laughs another hour is gloomy

ele a une roe qui torne,

she has a wheel which turns

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e quant ele viaut ele met

and when she wishes she puts

le plus bas amont ou somet,

the most low up in-the summit

e celui qui est sor la roe

and him who is on the wheel

3990 reverse a un tor en la boe.

overturns at one turn into the mire

E je sui cil qui est versez!

And I am he who is overturned

Mar vi les murs e les fossez

In-an-ill-hour I-saw the walls and the ditches

que je n'os passer ne ne puis.

which I not-dare to-pass nor not can

Je n'oi bien ne joie onques puis

I not-had good nor joy ever since

3995 que Bel Acueil fu en prison,

that Fair Welcome was in prison

car ma joie e ma guerison

for my joy and my healing

est toute en lui e en la rose,

is wholly in him and in the rose

qui est entre les murs enclose;

which is between the walls enclosed

e de la covendra qu'il isse

and from there it-will-behoove that-he issue

4000 s'Amors viaut ja que je guerisse,

if-Love wishes ever that I be-healed

car ja d'ailors ne quier que j'aie

for ever from-elsewhere not I-seek that I-have

enor ne bien, santé ne joie!

honor nor good health nor joy

Ha! Bel Acueil, biaux douz amis,

Ha Fair Welcome fair sweet friend

se vos estes en prison mis,

if you are in prison put

gardez moi au moins vostre cuer,

keep for-me at least your heart

e ne sofrez a nes un fuer

and not suffer at not-even one price

que Jalousie la sauvage

that Jealousy the savage

mete vostre cuer en servage

put your heart in bondage

ensi come ele a fait le cors;

just as she has done the body

e s'el vos chastie defors,

and if-she you chastises outside

aiez dedenz cuer d'aimant

have within a-heart of-adamant

encontre son chastiment.

against her chastisement

Se li cors en prison remaint,

If the body in prison remains

gardez au moins que li cuers m'aint:

take-heed at least that the heart me-love

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4015 frans cuers ne lait mie a amer
a-noble heart not ceases at-all from loving

por batre ne por mesamer.

for beating nor for ill-loving

Se Jalousie est vers vos dure

If Jealousy is toward you hard

e vos fait enui e laidure,

and you does trouble and outrage

faites li engrestié encontre;

do to-her harshness against

4020 e dou dangier qu'ele vos montre

and of-the disdain which-she to-you shows

vos vengiez, au moins en pensant,

you avenge at least in thinking

quant vos ne poez autrement.

when you not can otherwise

Se vos ensi le faisiez,

If you thus it did

je m'en tendroie a bien paiez.

I myself-thereof should-hold for well paid

4025 Mais je sui en mout grant soussi

But I am in very great care

que vos ne faciez pas ensi,

that you not do at-all thus

car, se devient, vos me savez

for if it-happens you me know

mal gré de ce que vos avez

ill thanks of this that you have

esté por moi mis en prison,

been for me put in prison

si n'est ce pas por mesprison

4030

and-so not-is this at-all for wrongdoing

que j'aie encore vers vos faite,

which I-have yet toward you done

qu'onques par moi ne fu retraite

for-ever by me not was retold

chose qui a celer feïst,

a-thing which to conceal befitted

ainz me poise, si Deus m'aïst,

rather me it-grieves so God me-help

plus qu'a vos de la mescheance,

4035

more than-to you of the mishap

car j'en suefre la penitence

for I-thereof suffer the penance

plus grant que nus ne porroit dire.

more great than anyone — could say

Par un poi que je ne font d'ire

By a little that I — melt with-wrath

quant il me membre de ma perte,

when it me remembers of my loss

qui est si grant e si aperte;

4040

which is so great and so open

si ai peor e desconfort,

and-so I-have fear and discomfort

qui me donront, ce croi, la mort.

which me will-give this I-think the death

N'en doi je bien avoir peor

Not-thereof ought I well to-have fear

quant je sai que losengeor

when I know that flatterers

4045 e traïtor e envieus

and traitors and envious-men

sont de moi nuire curieus?

are of me to-harm eager

Ha! Bel Acueil, je sai de voir

Ha Fair Welcome I know for truth

qu'il vos beent a decevoir,

that-they you aim to deceive

e faire tant par lor favele

and to-do so-much by their chatter

4050 qu'il vos traient a lor cordele,

that-they you draw to their cord

e, se devient, si ont il fait.

and if it-happens so have they done

Je ne sai or coment il vait,

I not know now how it goes

mais durement sui esmaiez

but grievously I-am dismayed

que entroblié ne m'aiez,

that forgotten — me-you-have

4055 si en ai duel e desconfort.

and-so thereof I-have grief and discomfort

Jamais n'iert rien qui me confort

Ever not-will-be anything which me comfort

se je pert vostre bienvoillance,

if I lose your good-will

que je n'ai mais aillors fiance.

for I not-have more elsewhere trust
