OLD FRENCH SERIES · VOLUME 26

The Death of King Arthur

La Mort Artu

The Death of King Arthur

Part One: Lancelot and the Queen

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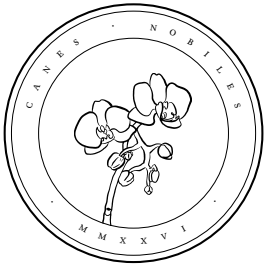
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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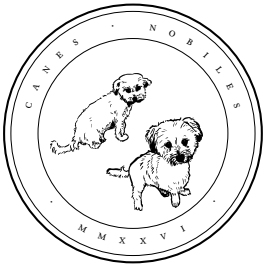

Volume 26 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows J. Douglas Bruce's text, Mort Artu,
an Old French Prose Romance of the XIIIth Century (Halle, 1910),
from Bibliothèque nationale MS. fr. 342, with his corrections

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

The text keeps the manuscript's spelling as Bruce prints it, with u for v and i for j, almost no accents, and words joined as the scribe joined them (kil, sen, lapiela); his square brackets supply what the manuscript leaves out. The manuscript's rubrics, which Bruce prints in italics, open their paragraphs.

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The Return of Bors

I

Walter Map, at King Henry's wish, begins this last part. Bors returns from Jerusalem with news of Galahad and Perceval. Thirty-two companions died in the quest, and Gawain admits he killed eighteen, King Bagdemagus among them. The king cries a tournament at Winchester. Lancelot has fallen back into his love for the queen, now so openly that Agravain sees it. Lancelot stays behind, sending his kinsmen ahead, and Agravain tells the king why, though the king will not believe it.

Apres cou que maistres Gautiers Map ot portraitie des
After this that master Walter Map had portrayed of-the
auentures del Graal asses soufissamment, si com il li
adventures of-the Grail quite sufficiently so as it to-him
sambloit, Si fu auis au roi Henri, son signor, que ce kil
seemed So was opinion to-the king Henry his lord that this which-he
auoit fait ne deuoit pas soufire, sil ne le racontast la fin de cex
had done not ought at-all to-suffice if-he not it recounted the end of those
dont il auoit deuant faite mentium et comment cil morurent
of-whom he had before made mention and how those died
de qui il auoit les proeces ramenteues en son liure; et por ce
of whom he had the prowesses recalled in his book and for this
recommencha il ceste darraine partie. Et quant il lot ensamble
began-again he this last part And when he it-had together
mise, il lapiela la Mort Artu, por ce que uiers la fin est escrit
put he it-called the Death (of-)Arthur for this that toward the end is written
comment li rois Artus fu naures en la bataille de Salesbieres
how the king Arthur was wounded in the battle of Salisbury
Et comment il se parti de Girflet, ki tant li fist
And how he himself parted from Girflet who so-much to-him did

compaignie que apres lui ne fu nus hom ki le ueist viuant. Si
company that after him not was any man who him saw living So
comencha maistres Gautiers en tel maniere ceste deraine partie.
began master Walter in such manner this last part

Quant Boors fu uenus a cort en la cite meesmes de Camaalot
When Bors was come to court in the city itself of Camelot
de si lontaines parties comme des parties de Iherusalem,
from so distant parts as from-the parts of Jerusalem
asses troua a court ki grant ioie li fist, car molt le
a-good-deal found at court who great joy to-him made for much him
desiroient tot et totes a ueoir. Quant il ot [r]aconte le
desired all-men and all-women to see When he had recounted the
trespassement de Galahas et la mort de Pierceual, Si en furent
passing of Galahad and the death of Perceval So thereof were
molt dolant a cort, Mais toutes uoies sen reconforterent
very sorrowful at court But all the-same themselves-thence comforted
au plus biel kil porent. Lors fist li rois metre en escrit
at-the most well that-they could Then had the king put in writing
totes les auentures que li compaignon de la queste del Graal
all the adventures which the companions of the quest of-the Grail
auoient racontees en sa cort, Et, quant il ot cou fait, si dist:
had recounted in his court And when he had this done so said
'Segnor, gardes entre uos quans de nos compaignons nos
Lords look among you how-many of our companions we
poons auoir pierdus en ceste queste'. Et il i garderent tot
can have lost in this quest And they there looked all
maintenant Si trouerent kil lor en faloit .xxxij. par conte,
at-once So found that-it them thereof lacked thirty-two by count
Ne de tous cex ni auoit un seul ki ne fust mors par
Nor of all those not-there had one single who not were dead by

armes. Li rois auoit oi consonner ke mesires Gauains en
arms The king had heard rumored that my-lord Gawain thereof
auoit ocis plusors, Si le fist uenir deuant lui et se li dist:
had killed several So him had come before him and so to-him said
'Gauain, ie uos requier sor le sairement que vos me fesistes,
Gawain I you ask upon the oath which you me made
quant ie uos fis cheualier premierement, que vos me dites ce
when I you made knight first that you me tell this
ke ie vos demanderai'. 'Sire', fait mesire Gauains, 'vos maues
which I you shall-ask Lord says my-lord Gawain you me-have
tant coniure que ie ne le celeroie en nule maniere que ie
so-much conjured that I not it would-hide in any manner that I
nel uos desise, neis se ce estoit ma honte et ele estoit
not-it to-you would-tell not-even if this were my shame and it were
la graindre ki onques a cheualier de uostre cort auenist.'
the greatest which ever to knight of your court happened
'Or vos demanc ie', fait li rois, 'ke uos me dites quans
Now you ask I says the king that you me tell how-many
cheualiers uos quidies auoir ocis de uostre main en ceste
knights you think to-have killed by your hand in this
queste'. Et mesire Gauains pense un petit. Et li rois li dist
quest And my-lord Gawain thinks a little And the king to-him said
autre fois: 'Par mon cief, ie le uoel sauoir, por ce que aucun
other time By my head I it wish to-know for this that some
vont disant ke uos en aues tant ocis que ce est merueille.'
go saying that you thereof have so-many killed that this is marvel
'Sire', fait mesire Gauains, 'uos uoles estre certains de ma
Lord says my-lord Gawain you wish to-be certain of my
grant mescheance et ie le uos dirai, car ie uoi bien que a
great misfortune and I it to-you shall-say for I see well that to
faire le me couient. Ie uos di por uoir que ie en ai ocis par
do it me behooves I you say for truth that I thereof have killed by

ma main dis et wit. Non mie por cou que iou fusse millors
my hand ten and eight Not at-all for this that I were better
cheualiers ke uns autres Mais la mescheance se torna plus
knight than an other But the misfortune itself turned more
sor moi ke a nul de mes compaignons. Si sachies ke ce na
upon me than to any of my companions So know that this not-has
pas este par ma cheualerie. Si maues ore fait dire ma honte'.
at-all been by my chivalry So me-have-you now made say my shame
'Certes, biaus nies', fait li rois, 'uoirement a cou este
Certainly fair nephew says the king truly has this been
mesceance droite, et ie sai bien que ce vos est auenu par
misfortune right and I know well that this to-you is happened by
vostre pechiet. Mais toutes uoies me dites se vos quidies
your sin But all the-same me tell if you think
auoir ocis le roi Bandemagu'. 'Sire', fait il, 'oil, sans faille,
to-have killed the king Bagdemagus Lord says he yes without fail
ie locis, Si ne fis onques cose dont il me pesast autant
I him-killed So not did-I ever thing whereof it me grieved as-much
comme de lui'. 'Certes', fait li rois, 'sil uos en poise, ce
as of him Certainly says the king if-it you thereof grieves this
nest mie grans merueille, que, si mait Dex, si fait il
not-is at-all great marvel for so me-may-help God so does it
a moi molt durement, car plus est mes osteus enpiries por
to me very hard for more is my house impaired by
la mort de lui ke des trois millors cheualiers ki soient
the death of him than of-the three best knights who be
mort en la queste'. Ceste parole dist li rois Artus del roi
dead in the quest This word said the king Arthur of-the king
Bandemagu, dont mesire Gauains fu asses plus amalaise que
Bagdemagus whereof my-lord Gawain was much more ill-at-ease than
deuant. Et li rois Artus, por ce kil ueoit que les auentures
before And the king Arthur for this that-he saw that the adventures

del roiaume de Logres estoi[en]t si menees a fin kil nen
of-the kingdom of Logres were so brought to end that-it not-thereof
auenoit mais nule, se petit non, fist crier un tornoiement
happened more any except little not had cry a tournament
en la praierie de Guincestre, por ce kil ne uoloit mie
in the meadow of Winchester for this that-he not wished at-all
toutes uoies que si compaignon laissent a porter armes.
all the-same that his companions might-leave off bearing arms
Mais comment que Lanselos se fust uiestus casteement
But however that Lancelot himself were clothed chastely
par le conseil del preudomme a qui il se fist confies,
by the counsel of-the worthy-man to whom he himself had confessed
quant il fu en la queste del Saint Graal, et selonc Diu
when he was in the quest of-the Holy Grail and according-to God
et eust del tot renoiet la roine Genieure, Si comme li
and had of-the all renounced the queen Guinevere So as the
contes a cha deuise cha ariere, Si tost com il fu uenus a
tale has here related here back So soon as he was come to
court, Il ne demora pas .i. mois apres kil fu de la roine
court He not stayed at-all one month after that-he was for the queen
autresi espris et alumes commil auoit onques este plus nul
likewise taken and kindled as-he had ever been more any
iour, Si kil renchei el peciet de la roine autresi commil
day So that-he fell-again into-the sin of the queen likewise as-he
auoit fait autre fois. Et sil auoit maintenu deuant cel
had done other time And if-he had maintained before that
pechiet si sagement et si couiertement ke nus ne sen
sin so wisely and so covertly that any not himself-thereof
estoit apercheus, Il le maintint apres si folement que
was perceived He it maintained after so madly that
Agreuains, li freres mon signor Gauain, ki onques ne lauoit
Agravain the brother (of-)my lord Gawain who ever not him-had

ame clerement et plus se prendoit garde de ses erremens
loved openly and more himself took heed of his doings
ke nus des autres, sen aperchut et tant sen
than any of-the others himself-thereof perceived and so-much himself-thereof
prist garde kil sot vraiement ke la roine amoit Lanselot
took heed that-he knew truly that the queen loved Lancelot
de fole amor et Lanselos li autresi. Et la roine ert tele
with mad love and Lancelot her likewise And the queen was such
que tos li mondes sen esmeruilloit, car a celui tans
that all the world itself-thereat marveled for at that time
meesmes kele estoit bien de leage de .l. ans estoit ele si
itself that-she was well of the-age of fifty years was she so
tres biele dame que on ne trouast mie en tot le monde sa
very fair lady that one not would-find at-all in all the world her
pareille, dont aucun cheualier disent, por ce que sa biautes
equal whereof some knights said for this that her beauty
ne faloit nule fois, kele estoit fontaine de tote biaute.
not failed any time that-she was fountain of all beauty

Quant Agreuains se fu apercheus de la roine et de
When Agravain himself was perceived of the queen and of
Lanselot, il fu lies molt durement, et plus por le damage
Lancelot he was glad very hard and more for the harm
kil quidoit que Lanselos en eust que por cou kil
which-he thought that Lancelot thereof might-have than for this that-he
beast le roi a uengier de sa honte. Cele sesmaine meesment
aspired the king to avenge of his shame That week itself
auint que li iors fu que li tornoiemens dut estre a
it-happened that the day was that the tournament was-to be at
Guincestre, Si i ala des cheualiers le roi Artu a
Winchester So there went of-the knights (of-)the king Arthur in
grant plente. Mais Lanselos, ki i baoit a estre en tel
great plenty But Lancelot who there aspired to be in such

maniere ke nus ne le conneust, dist a cex ki entor lui
manner that any not him might-know said to those who around him
estoient kil estoit si deshaities ke il ni poroit aler en
were that-he was so ill that he not-there could go in
nule maniere mais il uoloit bien que Boors et Hestors et
any manner but he wished well that Bors and Hector and
Lyoniaus et li cheualier de lor compaignie i alaissent. Et
Lionel and the knights of their company there might-go And
cil disent kil niroient pas, puis kil estoit si deshaities.
they said that-they not-would-go at-all since that-he was so ill
Et il lor dist: 'Ie uoel', fait il, 'et le uos commanch ke
And he to-them said I wish says he and it to-you command that
vos i aillies. si moures le matin et ie remanrai. Et ancois
you there go so will-move the morning and I shall-remain And before
que vos reuignies mais, serai de tous garis, se Diu plest'.
that you may-come-back more shall-I-be of all healed if God pleases
'Sire', font il, 'puis kil vos plest, nos irons, mais molt
Lord say they since that-it you pleases we shall-go but much
volsissons avoec vos remanoir, por vos faire compaignie'. Et
would-we-wish with you to-remain for you to-make company And
il dist que ce ne velt il pas. Au matin se parti Boors de
he said that this not wishes he at-all At-the morning himself parted Bors from
la cite de Camaalot, entre lui et sa compaignie. Et quant
the city of Camelot between him and his company And when
Engreuains sot que Boors sen aloit et lor cheualerie auoec
Agravain knew that Bors himself-thence went and their chivalry with
lui et que Lanselos remanoit, si pensa tanstost que ce faisoit
him and that Lancelot remained so thought-he at-once that this did
il por la roine v il voloit auenir, Quant li rois sen
he for the queen where he wished to-come When the king himself-thence
seroit ales. Lors uint au roi, son oncle, se li dist:
would-be gone Then came-he to-the king his uncle so to-him said

‘Sire’, fait il, ‘ie uos diroie une cose a conseil, se ie ne
Lord says he I you would-tell a thing in counsel if I not
quidoie kil vos empesast; et sacies que ie le di por uostre
thought that-it you would-trouble and know that I it say for your
honte uengier’. ‘Ma honte?’ fait li rois, ‘va donc la cose si
shame to-avenge My shame says the king goes then the thing so
haute ke ma honte i est?’ ‘Sire’, fait Engreuains, ‘oil, et
high that my shame there is Lord says Agravain yes and
si uos dirai coment’. Lors le traist a une part a conseil
so you I-shall-tell how Then him he-drew to one side in counsel
se li dist: ‘Sire, il est ensi ke madame la roine aime
so to-him said Lord it is thus that my-lady the queen loves
Lanselot de fole amor, et Lan[se]los li. et por ce kil
Lancelot with mad love and Lancelot her and for this that-they
ne pueent pas auenir ensamble a lor volentet, quant vos i
not can at-all come together at their will when you there
estes, est Lanselos remes, kil nira pas au tornoiement
are is Lancelot remained that-he not-will-go at-all to-the tournament
a Guincestre, ains i a enuoies cex de son ostel, Si ke,
at Winchester rather there has-he sent those of his household So that
quant vos en seres ales a nuit v demain, lors pora tot a
when you thence will-be gone at night or tomorrow then can-he all at
loisir parler a la roine.’ Li rois Artus, ki entent ceste parole,
leisure speak to the queen The king Arthur who hears this word
ne puet pas quidier ke ce soit uoirs, ains croit vraiement
not can at-all think that this be true rather believes truly
ke che soit mencoigne. Si respont a Engreuain et dist:
that this be lie So answers-he to Agravain and said
‘Biaus nies, ne dites iamais tel parole, car ie ne uos en
Fair nephew not say ever such word for I not you thereof
creroie pas, car ie sai bien uraiement ke Lanselos ne
would-believe at-all for I know well truly that Lancelot not

le se penseroit en nule maniere. et, certes, sil onques le
it himself would-think in any manner and certainly if-he ever it
pensa, ie sai bien ke force damors li fist faire, encontre qui
thought I know well that force of-love him made do against which
sens domme ne raisons ne puet auoir duree'. 'Coment, sire',
sense of-man nor reason not can have duration How lord
fait Engreuains 'nen feres uos plus?' 'ke uoles vos', fait
says Agravain not-thereof will-do you more what wish you says
li rois, 'que ie en face?' 'Sire', fait Engreuains, 'ie uolsise
the king that I thereof may-do Lord says Agravain I would-wish
ke vos les fesissies espijer tant que on les presist ensamble
that you them might-have spied until that one them might-take together
et lors conneussies la uerite de cou ke ie uos ai dit, si
and then you-would-know the truth of this that I you have said so
men creissies mieus une autre fois'. 'faites ent', fait li
me-thereof you-would-believe better an other time do thereof says the
rois, 'cou ke uos en uoles faire, ke ia par moi nen
king this that you thereof wish to-do for ever by me not-thereof
seres destornes'. et Engreuains dist kil ne demande plus.
will-you-be turned-aside and Agravain said that-he not asks more

The Tournament at Winchester

II

The king leaves the queen behind to test Agravain's charge. Lancelot takes her leave and rides by night toward Winchester. At a castle on the way the king, at a window, knows his horse and then his face, and he and Girflet agree to tell no one. Lancelot lodges with a vavasour whose two sons are new knights with plain red shields, and borrows one, leaving his own arms behind, naming himself only a foreign knight from Gaul.

Cele nuit pensa li rois Artus a ce ke Engreuains li auoit
That night thought the king Arthur of this that Agravain to-him had
dit, Mais ne le tourna pas gramment a son cuer, car il ne
said But not it turned at-all greatly to his heart for he not
creist pas legierement que ce peust estre uoirs. au matin
believed at-all lightly that this could be true at-the morning
sapareilla por aler ueoir le tornoiement et semonst auoec
himself-prepared for to-go see the tournament and summoned with
lui grant partie de ses cheualiers por lui faire compaignie. Et
him great part of his knights for him to-make company And
la roine li dist: 'Sire, sil uos plaisoit, ie iroie ueoir ceste
the queen to-him said Lord if-it you pleased I would-go see this
assamblee, et il mi plairoit molt a aler, car iai oi dire kil
assembly and it to-me would-please much to go for I-have heard say that-it
i ara trop grant ceualerie'. 'Dame', fait li rois, 'vos nires
there will-have very great chivalry Lady says the king you not-will-go
pas a ceste foie'. et ele sen taist atant. Et il le faisoit
at-all at this time and she herself-thereof is-silent then And he her had
tot de gre remanoir, por esprouer la mencoigne Engreuain.
all by will remain for to-test the lie (of-)Agravain

Quant li rois fu meus, entre lui et ses compaignons,
When the king was moved between him and his companions
a aler au tornoiement, Il parlerent asses entreus de
to go to-the tournament They spoke much among-themselves of
Lanselot et disent que or ne uenroit il pas a ceste
Lancelot and said that now not would-come he at-all to this
assamblee. Et Lanselos, si tost commil sot ke li rois fu
assembly And Lancelot so soon as-he knew that the king was
meus et cil ki a Guincestre deuoient aler, Il se leua de
moved and those who to Winchester were-to go He himself raised from
son lit et apareilla. Puis uint a la roine se li dist: 'Dame,
his bed and prepared Then came-he to the queen so to-her said Lady
se vos le uolies soufrir, ie iroie a cest tornoiement.' 'Por
if you it would-wish allow I would-go to this tournament For
coi', fait ele, 'aues uos tant demore apres les autres?' 'Dame',
what says she have you so-long stayed after the others Lady
fait il, 'por cou que ie i uoloie aler tos seus et uenir
says he for this that I there wished to-go all alone and to-come
au tornoiement en tel maniere que ie ne fusse conneus
to-the tournament in such manner that I not were known
destranges ne de priues'. 'Ales i dont', fait ele, 'sil uos plest,
by-strangers nor by intimates Go there then says she if-it you pleases
car ie le uoel bien'. et il se part tot maintenant de laiens
for I it wish well and he himself parts all at-once from in-there
et uient a son ostel et demeure ilueques iusques a la nuit.
and comes to his lodging and stays there until to the night

Au soir, quant il fu anuitie, si tost com il se furent
At-the evening when it was nightfallen so soon as they themselves were
communalment couchie par la cite de Camaalot, si uient
commonly lain-down through the city of Camelot so comes
Lanselos a son escuier se li dist: 'Il te couient monter
Lancelot to his squire so to-him said It thee behooves to-mount

et cheuauchier hui mais auoec moi, car ie uoel aler ueoir le
and to-ride today more with me for I wish to-go see the
tornoiement de Guincestre. Ne nos ne ceuaucerons, entre moi
tournament of Winchester Nor we not shall-ride between me
et toi, fors de nuis, car por nule rien ie ne uolroie estre
and thee except by night for for any thing I not would-wish to-be
aperceus en ceste uoie.' Li escuiers fait son commendement,
perceived on this way The squire does his command
puis sapareille au plus tost kil puet, et enmaine le
then himself-prepares at-the most soon that-he can and leads the
millor ceual ke Lanselos auoit, comme cil ki bien aperchoit
best horse that Lancelot had as he who well perceives
ke ses sire volra porter armes au tornoiement. Et quant
that his lord will-wish to-bear arms at-the tournament And when
il furent hors de Camaalot et il se furent mis el
they were out of Camelot and they themselves were put on-the
droit cemin a aler a Guincestre, Il ceuaucierent toute
straight road for going to Winchester They rode all
la nuit en tel maniere que onques ne se reposerent.
the night in such manner that ever not themselves rested

A [l]endemain, quant il fu iors, si vinrent en un castiel
On the-next-day when it was day so came-they to a castle
v li rois Artus auoit la nuit geu. Ne Lanselos ni uint
where the king Arthur had the night lain Nor Lancelot not-there came
si matin, fors por ce kil ne voloit pas de iors cheuauchier
so early except for this that-he not wished at-all by day to-ride
kil ne fu conneus par auenture. Quant il uint par desous le
so-that-he not were known by chance When he came by below the
castiel, Il cheuaucha si embrons ke a paines le peust nus hom
castle He rode so head-bowed that with pains him could any man
connoistre. Et che faisoit il por les gens le roi ki de laiens
know And this did he for the folk (of-)the king who from in-there

issioient. Se li plaisoit molt de cou kil estoit encore venus
went-out So to-him pleased much of this that-he was yet come
si tost, deuant cou kil se fussent tot parti de laiens.
so soon before this that-they themselves were all parted from in-there
Li rois Artus, ki encore estoit a vne des fenestres, uit
The king Arthur who still was at one of-the windows saw
le ceual Lanselot si le connut bien comme celui que il
the horse (of-)Lancelot so it knew well as that-one which he
meismes li auoit donne, mais Lanselot ne connoist il mie,
himself to-him had given but Lancelot not knows he at-all
car trop se tenoit enbronchies. Et nanpourquant au
for too-much himself held head-bowed And nevertheless at-the
trespas dune rue, v Lanselos drecha son cief, le regarda li
passing of-a street where Lancelot raised his head him looked-at the
rois, si le connut maintenant et lors le moustre a Girflet
king so him knew at-once and then him shows to Girflet
et li dist Si ke nus autres ne lentendi: 'Girflet, aues
and to-him said So that any other not it-heard Girflet have-you
ueu de Lanselot, ki nos faisoit ier entendant kil estoit
seen of Lancelot who us made yesterday understand that-he was
deshaities et il est ia en cest castiel?' 'Sire', fait Girfles,
ill and he is already in this castle Lord says Girflet
'ie uos dirai por coi il le faisoit. Sachies kil uieut estre
I you shall-tell for what he it did Know that-he wishes to-be
a cest tornoiement en tel maniere ke nus ne le connoisse;
at this tournament in such manner that any not him may-know
et por ce ni vot il pas uenir auoec uos, por ce que
and for this not-there wished he at-all to-come with you for this that
on le conneust; et cou est locoisons por coi il remest.'
one him would-know and this is the-occasion for what he remained
Et Lanselos, ki de tout cou ne se prendoit Garde, se
And Lancelot who of all this not himself took Heed himself

fu ia mis en un ostel, entre lui et son escuier, et
was already put in a lodging between him and his squire and
fu entres en vne cambre et ot bien deffendu kil ne
was entered into a chamber and had well forbidden that-he not
fust ensegnies, se aucuns le demandast par auenture. Et
were pointed-out if anyone him asked by chance And
li rois, ki fu totes uoies a la fenestre et atendoit ke
the king who was all the-same at the window and awaited that
Lanselos passast par desous lui, demora tant iluec kil
Lancelot might-pass by below him stayed so-long there that-he
apierchut bien ke Lanselos estoit remest en le uile.
perceived well that Lancelot was remained in the town

Lors dist a Girflet: 'nos auons perdu Lanselot, car il
Then said-he to Girflet we have lost Lancelot for he
est ia hierbegies a hui mais'. 'Sire', fait Girfles, 'ce puet
is already lodged for today more Lord says Girflet this can
bien estre. Sacies kil ne ceuauce fors ke de nuit, por
well be Know that-he not rides except that by night for
ce kil ne soit conneus.' 'puis kil se uieut celer', fait
this that-he not be known since that-he himself wishes to-hide says
li rois, 'or le faisons bien. Gardes ke vos ne contes a
the king now it let-us-do well See that you not tell to
nul home mortel que vos laies ueu en ceste uoie, ne ie
any man mortal that you him-have seen on this way nor I
endroit moi nen parlerai ia; et ensi pora bien estre
as-for me not-thereof shall-speak ever and thus will-be-able well be
celes, car nus fors nos doi ne lont ueu'. Et Girfles li
hidden for any except us two not him-have seen And Girflet to-him
creante kil nen parlerat ia. Atant sen part li
promises that-he not-thereof will-speak ever Then himself-thence parts the
rois a grant compaignie de cheualiers. et Lanselos remest
king with great company of knights and Lancelot remained

laiens, ki fu hierbegies chies un uauassour rice et
in-there who was lodged at-the-house-of a vavasour rich and
aaisiet, ki auoit .ij. fils molt biaus et fors, et auoient este
well-off who had two sons very fair and strong and had been
cheualier nouielement de la main le roi Artu meesme.
knights newly from the hand (of-)the king Arthur himself
Et Lanselos, ki commencha a regarder les escus as .ij.
And Lancelot who began to look-at the shields of-the two
cheualiers, uit kil estoient tot uermeil comme fus, sans
knights saw that-they were all red as fire without
entresaigne nule. Et il estoit coustume a celui tans que nus
device any And it was custom at that time that any
cheualiers nouiaus ne portast le premier an kil receuoit
knight new not might-bear the first year that-he received
lordene cheualerie escus ki ne fust tous dune coulour, et
the-order of-chivalry shield which not were all of-one color and
sil autrement le faisoit, cestoit contre son ordene. Lors dist
if-he otherwise it did this-was against his order Then said
Lanselos au signor de laiens: 'Sire, ie vos uolroie proier
Lancelot to-the lord of in-there Lord I you would-wish to-pray
en gueredon que uos lun de ces .ij. escus me prestes a
in reward that you the-one of these two shields me may-lend to
porter en ceste assamblee de Guincestre, et les couuertures
bear in this assembly of Winchester and the coverings
et tot lapareillement ausi.' 'Sire', fait li uaassours, 'naues
and all the-equipment also Lord says the vavasour not-have
vos point descut'? 'Nenil', fait il, 'ke ie voel le porter, car,
you at-all of-shield No says he that I wish it to-bear for
se ie li portoie, ie seroie par auenture plus tost conneus
if I it bore I would-be by chance more soon known

que ie ne uolroie; ains le uos lairai chaiens et mes armes
than I — would-wish rather it you shall-leave in-here and my arms
auoec, tant ke ie reuiegne parchi'. Et li preudom li dist:
with-it until that I may-return by-here And the worthy-man to-him said
'Biaus sire, prendes quanque vos voles et celui ki mieus
Fair lord take whatever you wish and that-one which best
vos plaira, car autresi est li uns de mes fils deshaities, si
you will-please for likewise is the one of my sons ill so
kil ne poroit pas aler a cest tornoiement. Mes li autres
that-he not could at-all go to this tournament But the other
moura orendroit de chaiens por aler a lasamblee.' A ces
will-move now from in-here for to-go to the-assembly At these
paroles uint laiens li cheualiers ki a lassamblee deuoit aler
words came in-there the knight who to the-assembly was-to go
Et quant il uit Lanselot, se li fist molt biel samblant, por
And when he saw Lancelot so to-him made very fair semblance for
ce ke preudom li sambloit. Puis li demande ki il estoit.
this that worthy-man to-him seemed Then him asks who he was
Et Lanselos li dist kil estoit uns cheualiers estranges
And Lancelot to-him said that-he was a knight foreign
deuers le roiaume de Gaule, Mais onques son non ne li
from-toward the kingdom of Gaul But ever his name not to-him
volt dire. Ne plus ne li descouri de son estre, fors tant
wished-he say Nor more not to-him disclosed of his being except so-much
solement kil li dist kil uolroit estre a lassamblee
only that-he to-him said that-he would-wish to-be at the-assembly
de Guincestre, car por autre cose nestoit il uenus cele part.
of Winchester for for other thing not-was he come that way
'Sire', fait li cheualiers, 'bien uos en est auenu; ausi
Lord says the knight well to-you thereof is happened also
i uoel ie aler. or mouons ensamble, si fera li uns a
there wish I to-go now let-us-move together so will-do the one to

lautre compaignie'. 'Sire', fait Lanselos, 'ie ne ceuauceroie
the-other company Lord says Lancelot I not would-ride
pas de iors, car la calors del tans me fait mal, Mais, se
at-all by day for the heat of-the weather me does ill But if
vos uolies atendre iuscau soir, ie vos feroie compaignie
you would-wish to-wait until-the evening I you would-make company
molt uolentiers; ne deuant cele eure ie ne me mouuroie en
very willingly nor before that hour I not myself would-move in
nule maniere'. 'Sire', fait li cheualiers, 'uos me sambles si
any manner Lord says the knight you me seem so
preudom que ie en ferai quanque vos volres. Si demorrai
worthy-man that I thereof shall-do whatever you will-wish So I-shall-stay
tot cest ior por lamor de vos et sempres de quele eure kil
all this day for the-love of you and at-once at what hour that-it
vos plaira, nos en irons tot ensamble'. et Lanselos len
you will-please we thence shall-go all together and Lancelot him-thereof
mercie molt de ceste compaignie, kil li offre a tenir.
thanks much for this company which-he to-him offers to hold

The Maiden's Sleeve

III

The vavasour's fair daughter asks Lancelot a gift, and he must wear her sleeve on his helmet at the tournament, though he fears the queen will hear of it. Riding by night with the vavasour's son, he lodges at the young man's aunt's house near Winchester. His squire reports Bors and Hector among the knights inside. Lancelot leaves the squire behind lest he be known. Gawain and Gaheriet watch with the king from the tower, and Lancelot joins the weaker side outside.

Celui ior demora laiens Lanselos et fu seruis et aaisies de
That day stayed in-there Lancelot and was served and eased with
quan con pot preudome aaisier et seruir. asses demandent
whatever one could worthy-man ease and serve much ask
cil del ostel de lor estre, mais onques rien nen
those of-the house of their being but ever anything not-thereof
porent sauoir, fors tant ke li escuiers dist a la fille
could-they know except so-much that the squire said to the daughter
au signor de laiens, ki tant estoit biele et ki trop
of-the lord of in-there who so was fair and who too-much
len tenoit court kil li desist ke ses sires estoit; et
him-thereof held short that-he to-her might-tell who his lord was and
cil, ki la uit de trop grant biaute plaine, ne losa del tot
he who her saw of too great beauty full not it-dared of-the all
escondire, por ce ke uilonie li samblast, ains li dist:
refuse for this that villainy to-him seemed rather to-her said
'damoisiele, ie ne le vos puis pas del tot escondire ne del
damsel I not it you can at-all of-the all refuse nor of-the
tot descourir, car ie me pariurroie et en poroie mon
all disclose for I myself would-perjure and thereby could my
signor courouchier, mais, sans faille, ce ke ie uos en
lord anger but without fail this that I to-you thereof

porai descourir, sans moi meffaire, ie vos en dirai.
shall-be-able disclose without myself misdoing I to-you thereof shall-tell
Sacies por uoir que ce est li miudres cheualiers del monde,
Know for truth that this is the best knight of-the world
ce uos creanc ie loiaument'. 'Certes', fait la pucele, 'asses
this to-you promise I loyally Certainly says the maiden enough
en aues dit et molt maues bien paiet de ceste parole'.
thereof have-you said and much me-have-you well paid with this word
Lors uient la pucele tot maintenant a Lanselot Si
Then comes the maiden all at-once to Lancelot So
sageneille deuant lui si li dist: 'Gentius hom, donne moi
herself-kneels before him so to-him said Noble man give me
un don par la foi que tu dois a la riens ke tu plus
a gift by the faith which thou owest to the thing that thou most
ainmes'. Et quant Lanselos uit deuant lui si biele damoisele
lovest And when Lancelot saw before him so fair damsel
a genous et si auenant comme cele estoit, si en fu tous
on knees and so comely as she was so thereof was-he all
courouncies Se li dist molt doucement: 'Ha! damoisiele', fait
angered So to-her said very sweetly Ah damsel says
il, 'leues sus, car sacies kil nest riens en tierre ke faire
he rise up for know that-it not-is anything on earth which to-do
peusse ke ie ne fesise par ceste requeste que vos maues
I-could that I not would-do by this request which you me-have
faite'. et ele se lieue maintenant, Puis li dist: 'Sire,
made and she herself raises at-once Then to-him said Lord
molt de mercis de cest otroi, et saues uos ke uos maues
much of thanks for this grant and know you what you me-have
donne? vos maues donne ke uos porteres a cest tornoiement
given you me-have given that you will-bear at this tournament
me mance destre en .i. pignonciel desus uostre helme, et
my sleeve right in a pennon upon your helmet and

feres darmes por lamor de moi'. Et il lotroie, car il nel
will-do of-arms for the-love of me And he it-grants for he not-it
osast pas escondire, puis kil li auoit acreante; Mais
dared at-all refuse since that-he to-her it-had promised But
nanporquant il fu molt dolans de cest otroi, car il set bien
nevertheless he was very sorrowful of this grant for he knows well
ke, se la roine le puet sauoir, ele len sara si maluais
that if the queen it can know she him-thereof will-know so ill
gre kil ne trouera iamais pais enuers li. Mes totes uoies,
will that-he not will-find ever peace toward her But all the-same
si com il dist, Se metra il en auenture, por son creant
so as he said Himself will-put he in adventure for his promise
tenir — car autrement seroit il desloiaus — et por faire
to-keep for otherwise would-be he disloyal and for to-do
del tot la uolente a la damoisele. Et la pucele li aporte
of-the all the will of the damsel And the maiden to-him brings
maintenant sa mance, atachie en .i. pignonciel, et li prie
at-once her sleeve fastened in a pennon and him prays
molt kil face darmes a cest tornoiement por lamor de
much that-he may-do of-arms at this tournament for the-love of
li, tant kele tiegne sa mance a bien emploie. 'Et sacies,
her so-that she may-hold her sleeve for well employed And know
sire', fait ele, 'que uos estes li premiers cheualiers que ie
lord says she that you are the first knight whom I
proiasse onques mais de riens. Ne encore nel fesise ie pas,
prayed ever more of anything Nor yet not-it would-do I at-all
se ne fust la grans bontes que je quic en vos.' Et il dist
if not were the great goodness which I think in you And he said
ke por lamor de li fera il tant kil nen deuera estre
that for the-love of her will-do he so-much that-he not-thereof ought to-be
blasmes. Ensi remest Lanselos laiens toute iour. au soir,
blamed Thus remained Lancelot in-there all day at-the evening

quant il fu anuitie, il se parti de cies le uaassour
when it was nightfallen he himself parted from at-the-house-of the vavasour
et commanda a Diu la damoisele de laiens. Si en fist
and commended to God the damsel of in-there So thereof he-had
porter a son escuier lescu kil auoit laiens pris et le
carry by his squire the-shield which-he had in-there taken and the
sien i laissa. Toute la nuit cheuauchierent grant aleure,
his there he-left All the night they-rode great pace
tant ke il uinrent lendemain .i. poi deuant soleil leuant a
so-long that they came the-next-day a little before sun rising to
vne liue de Guincestre. ‘Sire’, fait li cheualiers a Lanselot,
a league from Winchester Lord says the knight to Lancelot
‘v volres uos estre, a ostel en la uile v dehors?’ ‘Sire’,
where will-wish you to-be at lodging in the town or outside Lord
fait Lanselos, ‘ki seust .i. rechet pres del tornoiement,
says Lancelot who might-know a refuge near the tournament
v nos peussiens priueement iestre, ie men tenisse
where we might privately be I myself-thereby would-hold
a molt bien paie, car ie nen terroie pas en Guincestre
at very well paid for I not-thereof would-wish at-all in Winchester
laissier, por doute de connissance.’ ‘par foi’, fait li cheualiers,
to-lodge for fear of recognition by faith says the knight
‘de ce uos est il bien auenu. Pres de chi, hors del
of this to-you is it well happened Near from here out of-the
grant chemin, a senestre est li osteus a vne moie antain
great road at left is the house of a my aunt
gentil feme, ki molt bien vos hierbegera et molt fera
noble woman who very well you will-lodge and very will-make
ia grant ioie de nos, quant ele nos uerra a son ostel.’
already great joy of us when she us will-see at her house

Atant laissent le grant chemin, puis sen uont
Then leave-they the great road then themselves-thence go
droit cele part v li osteus a la dame estoit. Et quant
straight that way where the house of the lady was And when
il furent laiens descendu et la dame connut son neueu,
they were in-there dismounted and the lady knew her nephew
onques ne ueistes si grant ioie commele li fist, car ele
ever not saw-you so great joy as-she to-him made for she
ne lauoit mais ueu, puiskil auoit este cheualiers nouiaus.
not him-had more seen since-that-he had been knight new
Se li dist: 'biaus nies, v aues vos laissiet vostre frere?
So to-him said fair nephew where have you left your brother
ne vendra il auoec vos a cest tornoiement?' 'Dame', fait
not will-come he with you to this tournament Lady says
il, 'nenil, il ne puet; car nos le laissames en maison .i.
he no he not can for we him left at house a
poi deshaitie.' 'Et ki est', fait ele, 'cis cheualiers ki est
little ill And who is says she this knight who is
uenus auoec vos?' 'Dame', fait il, 'si mait [Dex], ie
come with you Lady says he so me-may-help God I
nen sai riens, fors tant ke preudomme me samble,
not-thereof know anything except so-much that worthy-man me seems
et por la bonte ke ie espoir en lui li ferai ie
and for the goodness which I hope in him to-him shall-make I
demain compaignie au tornoiement et arons ambedoi vnes
tomorrow company at-the tournament and shall-have both the
meesmes couertures et armeures dune maniere.' Et la dame
same coverings and armor of-one manner And the lady
sen vait maintenant a Lanselot Si lapiele molt biel et
herself-thence goes at-once to Lancelot So him-calls very fair and
molt loneure, puis le maine en vne cambre et le maine
much him-honors then him leads into a chamber and him leads

couchier et reposer en .i. molt biel lit, car bien li auoit
to-lie-down and to-rest in a very fair bed for well to-her had
on dit kil auoient toute la nuit cheuauchie et erre.
one said that-they had all the night ridden and journeyed
Toute ior fu Lanselos laiens, et orent a grant plente de
All day was Lancelot in-there and had in great plenty of
tos les biens que la dame pot auoir le ior. Et la nuit
all the goods which the lady could have the day And the night
regarderent li escuier les armes lor signors kil ni
looked-to the squires the arms (of-)their lords that-it not-there
fausist riens. Et lendemain, si tost com li iors aparut, se
failed anything And the-next-day so soon as the day appeared himself
leua Lanselos et ala oir messe en vne capiele dun hiermite
raised Lancelot and went to-hear mass in a chapel of-a hermit
ki pres diluec estoit hierbegies en .i. boscage. Et quant
who near there was lodged in a thicket And when
il ot messe oie et il ot faites ses orisons, ensi comme
he had mass heard and he had made his prayers thus as
cheualiers crestiens les doit faire, Si se departi de laiens
knight Christian them ought to-make So himself departed from in-there
et reuint a son ostel; puis se desieunerent, entre lui
and came-back to his lodging then themselves breakfasted between him
et son compaignon. Lanselos auoit enuoiet son escuier a
and his companion Lancelot had sent his squire to
Guincestre, por sauoir quels gens aideroient a ciaus dedens
Winchester for to-know which folk would-help to those within
et li quel seroient de la partie dehors. Si se hasta tant
and the which would-be of the party outside So himself hastened so-much
li escuiers denquerre les nouieles et de repairier tost quil
the squire of-inquiring the news and of returning soon that-he

reuint a lostel ancois com eust Lanselot commenchiet
came-back to the-lodging before that-one had Lancelot begun
a armer. Et quant il uint a son signor, se li dist:
to arm And when he came to his lord so to-him said
'Sire', fait il, 'molt a grant gent dedens et dehors,
Lord says he very there-is great folk within and outside
car de totes pars i sont cheualiers uenut, ausi li priue
for from all parts there are knights come both the intimates
com li estrange. Mais nanporquant par dedens est la plus
and the strangers But nevertheless by within is the most
grans plentes por lamor de ciaus de la Table Reonde, ki
great plenty for the-love of those of the Table Round who
si sont torne.' 'Et sestu', fait il, 'de quel part Boors et
so are turned And knowest-thou says he on which side Bors and
Hestors se sont mis?' 'Sire', fait cil, 'par dedens et
Hector themselves are put Lord says he by within and
a droit, car autrement ne mousterroient il kil fussent
with right for otherwise not would-show they that-they were
compaignon de la Table Reonde, Sil naidoient de cele
companions of the Table Round If-they not-helped on that
part.' 'Et ki est par dehors?' fait Lanselos. 'Sire', fait cil,
side And who is by outside says Lancelot Lord says he
'li rois d'Escoce et li rois d'Irlande et cil de Gales et
the king of-Scotland and the king of-Ireland and he of Wales and
de Norgales et autres haus homes asses, Mais totes uoies
of North-Wales and other high men many But all the-same
nont il mie si bonne gent commil a par dedens, car il
not-have they at-all so good folk as-there is by within for they
sont tot cheualier conquellit et estranges, ki ne sont pas
are all knights gathered and strangers who not are at-all
coustumier darmes porter ausi comme sont cil del roialme
accustomed of-arms to-bear also as are those of-the kingdom

de Logres ne si bon cheualier.' Lors monte Lanselos sor
of Logres nor so good knights Then mounts Lancelot upon
son ceual, Puis dist a son escuier: 'Tu ne uenras pas
his horse Then said-he to his squire Thou not wilt-come at-all
auoec moi, car, se tu i uenoies, on te connistroit et
with me for if thou there camest one thee would-know and
par toi connoistroit on moi, et ce ne uolroie ie en
through thee would-know one me and this not would-wish I in
nule maniere.' Et cil dist kil remanra uolentiers, puis
any manner And he said that-he will-remain willingly since
kil li plaist, Mais mieus amast laler auoec lui.
that-it him pleases But better he-would-have-loved the-going with him
Lors sen part de laiens, entre lui et son conpaignon
Then himself-thence parts from in-there between him and his companion
et .ij. des escuiers au cheualier auoec aus. Si errerent
and two of-the squires of-the knight with them So journeyed-they
tant en tel maniere kil uinrent a Guincestre en la
so-much in such manner that-they came to Winchester into the
praerie, ki ia estoit tote couuerte de iousteors et de
meadow which already was all covered with jousters and with
tornoians, et ia estoit li tornoiemens si pleniers, que tot
tourneyers and already was the tournament so full that all
estoient assamble dune part et dautre. Et mesire Gauains
were assembled on-one side and on-the-other And my-lord Gawain
ne porta pas celui ior armes ne ses freres Gaheries, ains
not bore at-all that day arms nor his brother Gaheriet rather
[li roi Artus] lor auoit deffendu por cou kil sauoit
the king Arthur to-them had forbidden for this that-he knew
bien ke Lanselos i uenroit Si ne uoloit pas kil
well that Lancelot there would-come So not wished-he at-all that-they
sentreblechaissent, se au ioster uenist, car il doutoit que
each-other-might-wound if to-the jousting it-came for he feared that

maltalens et grans courous ne sorsist entraus. Li rois ot
ill-will and great wrath — might-arise between-them The king with
grant compaignie de cheualiers fu montes en la grant tor
great company of knights was mounted into the great tower
por ueoir le tornoiement. Et auoec lui fu mesire Gauains
for to-see the tournament And with him was my-lord Gawain
et Gaheries. Et li cheualiers ki auoec Lanselot estoit
and Gaheriet And the knight who with Lancelot was
uenus li demande: 'Sire, as ques aiderons nos?' 'desquels',
come to-him asks Lord to which shall-help we which
fait Lanselos, 'uos est il auis kil en aient le piour?'
says Lancelot to-you is it opinion that-they thereof may-have the worse
'Sire', fait cil, 'li cheualier ki sont dehors, ce me samble,
Lord says he the knights who are outside this to-me seems
car cil dedens sont molt preu cheualier et si sont molt
for those within are very worthy knights and so are very
amaneui de porter armes'. 'Or soions dont', fait Lanselos,
skilled in bearing arms Now let-us-be then says Lancelot
'de ciaus dehors, car ce ne seroit pas nostre honors, Se
of those outside for this not would-be at-all our honor If
nos aidiens a ciaus ki en ont le plus biel'. Et cil respont
we helped to those who thereof have the most fair And he answers
kil est aprestes de faire quan con li [l]oe. 'Or lor alons,
that-he is ready to do whatever one him advises Now them let-us-go
dont, aidier', fet Lanselos. 'ales', fait cil, 'car ie vos siurai'.
then help says Lancelot go says he for I you shall-follow

Lancelot at the Tournament

IV

Lancelot unhorses two knights with one lance, and the crowd takes him for one of the brothers of Escalot. He fells Hector, not knowing his changed arms. Bors, not knowing him either, drives a lance deep into Lancelot's side, and Lancelot, bleeding, strikes him from his saddle. The king understands, and laughs. Wounded, Lancelot still drives the city's knights back inside, and his side wins. Gawain vows to learn who the knight of the sleeve is.

Lors safice Lanselos sor les estriers, puis se met en
Then fixes-himself Lancelot upon the stirrups then himself puts in
mi les rens et fiert .i. cheualier kil encontra en son
amid the ranks and strikes a knight whom-he met in his
uenir si durement kil porte Lui et le cheual [a terre]. Il
coming so hard that-he carries Him and the horse to ground He
point outre por parfaire son poindre, car ses glaues nestoit
spurs beyond for to-complete his charge for his lance not-was
encore pas brisies, si ataint .i. autre cheualier, si le fiert
yet at-all broken so reaches an other knight so him strikes
si ke li escus ne li haubers nel garantist kil ne li
so that the shield nor the hauberk not-him protects that-he not to-him
face plaie grant et parfonde el coste senestre, mais ne
may-make wound great and deep in-the side left but not
la pas naure a mort. Il lempaint bien si le porte del
him-has at-all wounded to death He him-thrusts well so him carries from-the
ceual a la terre si durement ke cil est tous dequasses au
horse to the ground so hard that he is all shattered in-the
cheoir kil fist Et li glaues uole en pieces. Por cestui cop
falling which-he made And the lance flies in pieces For this blow
saresterent plusor cheualier del tornoiement et disent aucun
themselves-stopped several knights of-the tournament and said some

ki lauoient ueu: 'or auons ueu faire .i. biau cop a .i. nouiel
who it-had seen now we-have seen make a fair blow by a new
cheualier'. 'voire', font li autre, 'ce est li plus biaus ki mais
knight truly say the others this is the most fair which yet
hui i fust fais par la main a .i. seul cheualier Ne il ne
today there were made by the hand of a single knight Nor he not
trouera hui mais a faire ausi bien. Et li compains Lanselot
will-find today more to do also well And the companion (of-)Lancelot
ot laissiet corre a Hestor des Mares, kil encontra en son
had let run at Hector of Mares whom-he met in his
uenir. Si le fiert si kil li brise son glaue en mi le
coming So him strikes so that-he to-him breaks his lance in amid the
pis, et Hestor le fiert de si grant force dun glaue cort
breast and Hector him strikes with so great force with-a lance short
et gros kil abat tot en .i. mont et lui et le ceual. 'Or
and thick that-he fells all in a heap both him and the horse Now
poes ueoir a terre', fait mesire Gauains, 'lun des .ij. freres
can-you see on ground says my-lord Gawain the-one of-the two brothers
del castiel d'Ascalot'. et par le non del castiel estoient li
of-the castle of-Escalot and by the name of-the castle were the
frere apielet en quelconques liu kil uenissent et conneu,
brothers called in whatever place that-they might-come and known
par cou kil portoient tos dis vnes meesmes armes, dont
by this that-they bore all days the same arms whereby
cil del tornoiement quidierent bien le ior de Lanselot ke
those of-the tournament thought well the day of Lancelot that
ce fust li uns des .ij. freres, por les armes kil portoit.
this were the one of-the two brothers by the arms which-he bore

Quant Lanselos uit son compaignon ki par deuant lui
When Lancelot saw his companion who by before him
fu portes a terre si durement, si en est molt courouchies
was carried to ground so hard so thereof is-he much angered

si laisse corre a Hestor, et il tint glaue cort et fort et
so lets run at Hector and he held lance short and strong and
bon. Ne il ne connut pas son frere, car il auoit ses armes
good Nor he not knew at-all his brother for he had his arms
cangies, por plus couertement uenir au tornoiement, si le
changed for more covertly to-come to-the tournament so him
fiert si durement de tote sa force kil labat a terre deuant
strikes so hard with all his force that-he him-fells to ground before
Galegantin le Galois. Et mesire Gauains, ki bien connissoit
Galegantin the Welshman And my-lord Gawain who well knew
Hestor, si comme cil ki ces armes mesmes li auoit baillies,
Hector so as he who these arms themselves to-him had given
Quant il uit celui cop, si dist au roi: 'par mon cief, cil
When he saw that blow so said-he to-the king by my head that
cheualiers as armes uermeilles ki porte cele mance sor
knight with-the arms red who bears that sleeve upon
son elme nest pas cil cheualiers que ie quidoie, ains est
his helmet not-is at-all the knight whom I thought rather is-he
autres ciertainement, le vos di, Car onques par la main de
other certainly it to-you I-say For ever by the hand of
lun des .ij. freres nissi teus cols.' 'Et ki quidies vos
the-one of-the two brothers not-went-out such blows And who think you
qui il soit?' fait li rois. 'Ne sai', fait mesire Gauains, 'mais
who he may-be says the king Not I-know says my-lord Gawain but
il est preudom'. Et Lanselos ot tant fait kil ot son
he is worthy-man And Lancelot had so-much done that-he had his
compaignon remonte sor son ceual et lot releue de la
companion remounted upon his horse and him-had raised from the
presse, la v ele estoit plus grans. Et Boors, ki uenoit
press there where it was most great And Bors who came
parmi le tornoiement abatant cheualiers et errachant elmes
through the tournament felling knights and tearing-off helmets

de testes et escus de cols, e[s]t atant ale kil encontre
from heads and shields from necks is then gone that-he meets
Lanselot parmi la presse. Il nel salue pas, comme cil ki
Lancelot amid the press He not-him greets at-all as he who
ne connoissoit mie Lanselot, ains le fiert de tote sa force
not knew at-all Lancelot rather him strikes with all his force
del glaue fors et roide et le fiert si durement kil li
with-the lance strong and stiff and him strikes so hard that-he to-him
perce lescut et le hauberc, se li met el coste destre le
pierces the-shield and the hauberk so to-him puts in-the side right the
fier de son glaue, si kil li fait plaie grant et parfonde.
iron of his lance so that-he to-him makes wound great and deep
Il fu bien afichies es archons si vint de grant force si en
He was well fixed in-the saddlebows so came with great force so thereby
paint Lanselot si durement kil labat a terre, et lui et le
pushes Lancelot so hard that-he him-fells to ground both him and the
cheual, et au parcheoir brise li glaues; mais il ne demora
horse and in-the falling breaks the lance but he not stayed
pas gramment en tel maniere, car li cheuaus fu fors et il
at-all greatly in such manner for the horse was strong and he
fu uistes et legiers. Ne onques por tote la plaie ne remest
was quick and light Nor ever for all the wound not remained-he
kil ne sali sus tantost et remonte el ceual tot suant
that-he not leapt up at-once and remounts on-the horse all sweating
dangousse et de duel de ce ke uns cheualiers lauoit ensi
with-anguish and with grief of this that a knight him-had thus
abatu; et dist kil nest mie garchons, cil ki la abatu
felled and said that-he not-is at-all boy he who him-has felled
a terre, car onques mais ne troua home ki tant le peust
to ground for ever more not found-he man who so-much him could
faire; Mais il ne troua onques mais bonte ki si tost li
do But he not found ever more kindness which so soon to-him

fust rendue, sil onques puet. Si prent maintenant .i. glaue que
were rendered if-he ever can So takes-he at-once a lance which
uns de ses escuiers tenoit Si sadrece erralment uers Boort.
a of his squires held So himself-directs at-once toward Bors
La place lor fu auques tost widie, Si tost com li autre
The place for-them was somewhat soon emptied So soon as the others
uirent kil uoloient ioster pareil. Et il lauoient ia
saw that-they wished to-joust together And they it-had already
si bien fait el tornoiement kil estoient tenu as .ij.
so well done in-the tournament that-they were held for-the two
millors de la place, et Lanselos, ki uenoit si grant aleure
best of the place and Lancelot who came so great pace
comme il pooit del ceual traire, fiert Boort si durement
as he could from-the horse draw strikes Bors so hard
kil le porte del ceual a la terre en mi le pre, sa
that-he him carries from-the horse to the ground in amid the meadow his
siele entre ses quisses, car les caingles et li poitral furent
saddle between his thighs for the girths and the breast-strap were
rompu. Et mesire Gauains, qui bien connut Boort, quant
broken And my-lord Gawain who well knew Bors when
il le uit a terre, si dist au roi: 'Sire, se Boors est a
he him saw on ground so said-he to-the king Lord if Bors is on
terre, ciertes il ni a pas grant honte, car il ne sauoit
ground certainly it not-there has at-all great shame for he not knew
a quoi tenir Et cil cheualiers ki ces .ij. iostes a faites a
at what to-hold And that knight who these two jousts has made on
lui et a Hestor est preudom et bons cheualiers, et, par
him and on Hector is worthy-man and good knight and by
mon cief, se nos neussons laissie Lanselot malade a la cite
my head if we not-had left Lancelot sick at the city
de Camaalot, ie desise por uoir que ce fust il la.' Et
of Camelot I would-say for truth that this were he there And

quant li rois entent ceste parole, si sapense maintenant
when the king hears this word so bethinks-himself at-once
que ce est Lanselos. Si commence a rire, puis dist a mon
that this is Lancelot So begins-he to laugh then said to my
signor Gauain: 'par mon cief, biaus nies, cis cheualiers,
lord Gawain by my head fair nephew this knight
ke ke il soit, la molt bien commenchiet, Mais ie croi
whoever that he may-be it-has very well begun But I believe
que encore le fera il mieus en la fin, au mien auis.'
that yet it will-do he better in the end to-the my opinion
Lanselos, si tost commil ot son glaue pechoiet, Si met
Lancelot so soon as-he had his lance broken So puts-he
la main a lespee si commence a doner grans cols destre et
the hand to the-sword so begins to give great blows right and
senestre et a abatre cheualiers et ceuaus et a ocire escus
left and to fell knights and horses and to kill shields
de cols et elmes de testes et faire si grans proeces de totes
from necks and helmets from heads and to-do so great prowesses on all
pars ke nus nel uoit ki nel tiegne a grant merueille.
sides that any not-him sees who not-it may-hold for great marvel
Et Boors et Hestors, ki se furent releue et monte en
And Bors and Hector who themselves were raised and mounted on
lor ceuaus, le recommencent si bien a faire en lor endroit
their horses it begin-again so well to do in their place
ke nus ne les en peust a droit blasmer; et faisoi[en]t,
that any not them thereof could with right blame and did
uoiant tos ciaus de la place, cheualeries Si apertement ke li
seeing all those of the place feats-of-chivalry So openly that the
plusor de lor partie prendoient example de hardement en lor
most of their party took example of boldness in their
bien faire, ce estoit de uaintre le tornoiement, et faisoient
well doing this was to conquer the tournament and made

Lanselot resortir et reuser souentes fois, v il uolsist
Lancelot fall-back and give-ground oft times whether he wished
v non; car il li estoi[en]t tos dis au deuant et le
or not for they to-him were all days in-the front and him
tenoient si cort ke par mi lor mains le couenoit a
held so short that through-the midst-of their hands it behooved-him to
passer, Se li tolirent celui ior a faire maint biel colp et
pass So from-him took that day to make many-a fair blow and
mainte biele proece. Et ce ne fu pas grans merueille, car il
many-a fair feat And this not was at-all great marvel for he
estoit naures molt durement et auoit asses perdu del sanc,
was wounded very hard and had much lost of-the blood
Si kil nestoit mie en son deliure pooir, et cil estoient
So that-he not-was at-all in his free power and they were
ambedoi cheualier et de grant proece. Et nanporquant par
both knights and of great prowess And nevertheless through
mi aus deus, v il vausissent v non, fist il tant par
amid them two whether they wished or not did he so-much by
sa proece ke cil de la cite furent dedens enbatu a fine
his prowess that those of the city were within driven by sheer
force et en porta le pris dambes .ij. pars del tornoiement
force and thence carried the prize of-both two sides of-the tournament
et molt perdirent cil dedens et asses i gaaignierent cil
and much lost those within and much there gained those
dehors. Et quant ce uint au departir, si dist me sire
outside And when this came to-the parting so said my lord
Gauains au roi: 'Certes, sire', fait il, 'ie ne sai ki cil
Gawain to-the king Certainly lord says he I not know who that
cheualiers est ki porte cele mance sor son elme, Mais ie
knight is who bears that sleeve upon his helmet But I
diroie por droit kil a cest tornoiement uencu et kil
would-say for right that-he has this tournament conquered and that-he

en doit auoir le los et le pris. et sacies ke ie ne serai
thereof ought to-have the praise and the prize and know that I not shall-be
iamais aaise, deuant ce ke ie sace ki il est, car trop
ever at-ease before this that I may-know who he is for too-much
fait ceualeries a mon [ensiant]'. 'certes', fait Gaheries, 'ie
he-does feats-of-chivalry to my knowledge certainly says Gaheriet I
ne quic pas que ie le connoisse, mais tant sai ie bien
not think at-all that I him may-know but so-much know I well
ke ce est li miudres cheualiers, au mien ensiant, que
that this is the best knight to-the my knowledge whom
ie ueisse onques mais, fors solement Lanselot del Lac'.
I saw ever more except only Lancelot of-the Lake

The Wounded Knight

V

Lancelot leaves the field with his companion for the aunt's house, where an old knight skilled in wounds says he can heal him, though he will lie there six weeks. Gawain and Gaheriet ride after the stranger, but meet only two squires carrying a knight killed by a boar. Bors admits giving the stranger's wound. The king says he will never repent a wound more, and when Hector answers angrily, falls silent, afraid for Lancelot's life.

Teus paroles disent li doi frere de Lanselot. et mesire
Such words said the two brothers of Lancelot and my-lord
Gauains dist que on li amaint son ceual, car il volra
Gawain said that one to-him may-bring his horse for he will-wish
aler ueoir ki li cheualiers est, por soi acointier de lui; et
to-go to-see who the knight is for himself to-acquaint with him and
autresi dist Gaheries. Lors descendent de la tour et vienent
likewise said Gaheriet Then descend-they from the tower and come

en mi la cort. Et Lanselos, si tost com il uit ke cil
in amid the court And Lancelot so soon as he saw that those
dedens auoient le tot pierdu, si dist au cheualier ki auoec
within had the all lost so said-he to-the knight who with
lui estoit uenus: 'biaus sire, alons nos ent dechi, car en
him was come fair lord let-us-go us thence from-here for in
plus demorer ne poons nos riens gaaignier.' si sen
more staying not can we anything gain so themselves-thence
vont tot maintenant grant aleure et laissent en la place
go all at-once great pace and leave in the place
vn de lor escuiers ocis, ke uns cheualiers auoit feru
one of their squires killed whom a knight had struck
par mesauenture dun glaue parmi le pis. Et li cheualiers
by misadventure with-a lance through the breast And the knight
demande a Lanselot quel part il volra aler. 'Ie volroie', fait
asks to Lancelot which way he will-wish to-go I would-wish says
il, 'estre en tel liu v iou peusse seiorner .viij. iors v plus
he to-be in such place where I could stay eight days or more
encore, car ie sui si naures durement ke li cheuauchiers me
still for I am so wounded hard that the riding me
poroit molt nuire'. 'Dont nos en alons', fait cil, 'cies
could much harm Then us thence let-us-go says he at-the-house-of
mantain, la v nos geumes anuit, car iluec seres uos bien
my-aunt there where we lay last-night for there will-be you well
et a repos, et si na mie gramment iusques la'. et il
and at rest and so not-is at-all greatly up-to there and he
lotroie. Si se metent maintenant en vnes broches. Et ce
it-grants So themselves put-they at-once in some spurrings And this
fist Lanselos tot de gre, car il pensoit bien ke aucuns del
did Lancelot all by will for he thought well that some of-the
ostel le roi Artu le siuroit por lui connoistre, car le
household (of-)the king Arthur him would-follow for him to-know for the

ior lorent ueu et regarde maint cheualier a lassamblee. Ensi
day him-had seen and looked-at many-a knight at the-assembly Thus
sen vont grant aleure, entre lui et le cheualier et
themselves-thence go great pace between him and the knight and
un escuier auoec aus, et font tant kil uienent a lostel
a squire with them and do so-much that-they come to the-lodging
v il auoient geu la nuit deuant. Si descent Lanselos tos
where they had lain the night before So dismounts Lancelot all
sanglens et naures durement. Et quant li cheualiers uoit la
bloody and wounded hard And when the knight sees the
plaie, si en est molt esmaies Si mande au plus tost quil
wound so thereof is-he much dismayed So sends-he at-the most soon that-he
puet .i. uiel cheualier ki pres diluec manoit ki sentremetoit
can a old knight who near there dwelt who himself-undertook
de garir plaies et plus en sauoit, sans faille, ke nus
of healing wounds and more thereof knew without fail than any
hom ki el pais fust; et quant il ot ueue la plaie, Si
man who in-the country were and when he had seen the wound So
dist quil len quidoit bien garir a laide de Diu Mais
said-he that-he him-thereof thought well to-heal with the-aid of God But
ce ne seroit mie tost, car ele estoit grant et parfonde.
this not would-be at-all soon for it was great and deep

Ensi troua Lanselos secors et aide de sa plaie. Si len
Thus found Lancelot succor and aid for his wound So him-thereof
auint molt bien, car, sil eust auques targiet, il en peust
befell very well for if-he had somewhat delayed he thereby could
bien estre en peril de mort et de cele plaie kil ot recheue
well be in peril of death and of that wound which-he had received
par la main Boort, son cousin. uit il laiens .vi. sesmaines en
by the hand (of-)Bors his cousin lay he in-there six weeks in
tel maniere kil not pooir de porter armes ne dissir del
such manner that-he not-had power of bearing arms nor of-going-out of-the

ostel. Mais atant laisse ore li contes a parler de lui i chi
house But thereupon leaves now the tale to speak of him here in-this
endroit et retorne au roi Artu et a mon signor Gauain.
place and returns to-the king Arthur and to my lord Gawain
Or dist li contes que quant mesire Gauains, entre lui
Now said the tale that when my-lord Gawain between him
et Gaheriet, furent monte [por aler apres le] cheualier ki
and Gaheriet were mounted for to-go after the knight who
lassamblee auoit uencue, Si cheuauchierent cele part v il
the-assembly had conquered So rode-they that way where they
quidoient kil fust tornes. Et quant il orent erre entor
thought that-he were turned And when they had journeyed around
.ij. liues englesces Si grant oire kil leussent, sans
two leagues English So great pace that-they him-would-have without
faille, aconseu, sil fust cele part ales, Lors encontrerent
fail overtaken if-he were that way gone Then met-they
.ij. escuiers ki venoient trop grant duel faisant et tot apie
two squires who came very great grief making and all on-foot
et aportoient en lor deuant .i. cheualier nouielement ocis.
and carried in their front a knight newly killed
Mesire Gauains et Gaheries vienent droit cele part Si lor
My-lord Gawain and Gaheriet come straight that way So them
demande[nt] sil encontrerent deus cheualiers armes dunes
ask if-they met two knights armed with-some
armes uermeilles, dont li vns porte sor son elme vne
arms red of-which the one bears upon his helmet a
mance a dame v a damoisiele. Et cil respondent kil
sleeve of lady or of damsel And they answer that-they
ne uirent hui nul cheualier arme en tel maniere com il
not saw today any knight armed in such manner as they
deuisent ciaus kil quierent Mais dautres ki uienent
describe those whom-they seek But of-others who come

del tornoiement ont il ueu aplente. 'Sire', fait Gaheries
from-the tournament have they seen in-plenty Lord says Gaheriet
a mon signor Gauain, 'sacies uraiement ke li cheualiers
to my lord Gawain know truly that the knight
nest mie uenus ceste uoie, car, sil i fust uenus, nos
not-is at-all come this way for if-be there were come we
leussons piecha aconseu, a cou ke nos somes venu grant
him-would-have long-ago overtaken by this that we are come great
aleure. De ce ke nos nel trouons', fait il, 'me poise molt
pace Of this that we not-him find says be me grieves very
durement, car il est si preudom et si bons cheualiers ke
hard for he is so worthy-man and so good knight that
trop amaisse a auoir lacointance de lui; et se ie le
much I-would-have-loved to have the-acquaintance of him and if I him
tenisse ore auoec moi, Certes ie ne finaisse iamais deuant ke
held now with me Certainly I not would-cease ever before that
ie leusse mene auoec Lanselot del Lac, si ke ie acointasse
I him-had led with Lancelot of-the Lake so that I might-acquaint
lun de lautre. Lors demande as escuiers ki cil est
the-one with the-other Then asks-he to-the squires who that-one is
kil portent. 'Sire', font il, 'ce fu uns cheualiers'. 'et
whom-they carry Lord say they this was a knight and
ki le naura en tel maniere?' fait il. 'Sire', font cil, 'vns
who him wounded in such manner says he Lord say they a
pors saluages kil auoit assali a lentree de cele forest'.
boar wild which-him had assailed at the-entry of that forest
Se li moustrent lonc diaus bien vne liue. 'Par foi', fait
So to-him show-they far from-them well a league By faith says
Gaheries, 'ce est damages, car il a bien persone domme
Gaheriet this is pity for he has well person of-man
kil peust estre preudom et bons cheualiers'.
that-he could be worthy-man and good knight

Atant se partent des escuiers et sen
Then themselves part-they from-the squires and themselves-thence
reuienent a Guincestre, et il estoit ia nuis oscure, quant
return to Winchester and it was already night dark when
il uinrent. Et quant li rois voit mon signor Gauain reuenut,
they came And when the king sees my lord Gawain come-back
Se li demande: 'Gauain, aues uos troue celui ke uos
So to-him asks Gawain have you found him whom you
queries?' 'Sire', fait il, 'nenil. Il torna autre uoie que cele ke
sought Lord says he no He turned other way than that which
nos alames'. Et li rois commence a sosrire et dist: 'Gauain,
we went And the king begins to smile and said Gawain
ce nest mie la premiere fois ke uos laues quis, ne ce ne
this not-is at-all the first time that you him-have sought nor this not
sera mie la derraine, au mien ensiant.' Lors saperchoit bien
will-be at-all the last to-the my knowledge Then himself-perceives well
mesire Gauains que li rois le connoist bien, se li dist:
my-lord Gawain that the king him knows well so to-him said
'Ha! Sire, puis ke uos le connissies, sil uos plaist, vos
Ah Lord since that you him know if-it you pleases you
me poes bien dire ki il est.' 'Ie ne uos dirai ore mie', fait
me can well tell who he is I not you shall-tell now at-all says
li rois, 'ki il est, car, puis kil se vieut courir, ie feroie
the king who he is for since that-he himself wishes to-hide I would-do
trop grant vilonie, se ie len descouroie a uos ne a
too great villainy if I him-thereof disclosed to you nor to
autrui; por ce si men tairai a ceste fois. et en cou
another for this so myself-thereof I-shall-be-silent at this time and in this
ne perdres vos noient, car ie sai bien ke vos le connistres
not will-lose you anything for I know well that you him will-know
tot a tans'. 'Par foi', fait Galegantins li Galois, 'ie ne sai
all in time By faith says Galegantin the Welshman I not know

ki il est, Mais tant uos os ie bien dire, kil sest
who he is But so-much you dare I well say that-he himself-is
partis del tornoiement molt mesaaisies et si sanglens
parted from-the tournament very ill-at-ease and so bloody
ke on le peust bien siure par trace dune grant plaie que
that one him could well follow by track of-a great wound which
mesire Boors de Gaunes li fist a une iouste'. 'Est cou
my-lord Bors of Gaunes to-him made at a joust Is this
uoirs?' fait li rois. 'Sire', fait cil, 'oil, ce sacies vos'. Et li
true says the king Lord says he yes this know you And the
rois dist maintenant a Boort, ki estoit de iouste lui: 'Boort,
king said at-once to Bors who was at side him Bors
naurastes vos hui le cheualier ki a vencue lassemblee hui?'
wounded you today the knight who has conquered the-assembly today
'Sire', fet il, 'oil, ce uos creanc ie'. 'Or sacies dont', fait
Lord says he yes this you promise I Now know then says
li rois, 'que vos onques ne fesistes plaie dont uos vos
the king that you ever not made wound whereof you yourself
repentissies autretant ke vos feres de ceste, et, sil en
might-repent as-much as you will-do of this-one and if-he thereof
muert, mar le veistes'. Et Hestors, ki bien quide ke
dies in-an-ill-hour him you-saw And Hector who well thinks that
li rois ait dite tele parole par mal de Boort, saut auant
the king may-have said such word for ill of Bors leaps forward
tous, couroucies, et dist au roi: 'Sire, se li cheualiers muert
all angered and said to-the king Lord if the knight dies
de la plaie, si muire, car de sa mort ne nos puet uenir
of the wound so let-him-die for from his death not to-us can come
maus ne doutance.' Et li rois se taist atant, en sousriant
ill nor fear And the king himself is-silent then in smiling

tous corouchies de cou ke Lanselos sen est partis
all angered of this that Lancelot himself-thence is parted
naures, car il a grant paour quil ne soit en peril de mort.
wounded for he has great fear that-he — be in peril of death

The Knight with the Sleeve

VI

A tournament is cried at Taneborc. The king lodges at Escalot, and Gawain by chance in the house where Lancelot lay, in the chamber where his shield hangs. When Gawain praises the knight with the sleeve, the vavasour's daughter hides her joy. In the meadow behind the house Gawain asks for her love and offers to be her knight, but she answers that she loves the knight who wore her sleeve, and will love no other.

Asses parlerent cele nuit del cheualier a la mance ki le
Much spoke-they that night of-the knight with the sleeve who the
tornoiement auoit uencu et molt furent en grant [desir] de
tournament had conquered and much were in great desire of
sauoir ki il estoit. Mais ce ne pot estre kil le seussent a
knowing who he was But this not could be that-they it might-know at
cele fois, car li rois endroit soi le cela si bien ke onques
that time for the king for-his-part himself it hid so well that ever
par lui nen fu nouiele seue, deuant kil furent a
by him not-thereof was news known before that-they were at
Camaalot. Lendemain se partirent tot de Guincestre et
Camelot The-next-day themselves parted-they all from Winchester and
fisent crier, ains kil sen partissent, le tornoiement
had cried before that-they themselves-thence parted the tournament
deuant Thanebourc del lundi apres en .i. mois. Icil
before Taneborc of-the Monday after in a month This

Tanebours estoit vns castiaus molt fors et molt bien seans
Taneborc was a castle very strong and very well situated
a lentree de Norgales et estoit li castiaus au roi de
at the-entry of North-Wales and was the castle (of-)the king of
Norgales. Quant li rois se fu partis de Guincestre, Il
North-Wales When the king himself was parted from Winchester He
ceuaucha tant kil uint el castiel ke on apieloit Ascalot,
rode so-long that-he came to-the castle which one called Escalot
celui castiel meesmes v il auoit veu Lanselot. Li rois
that castle itself where he had seen Lancelot The king
se hierbega en la forterece a grant compaignie de gent,
himself lodged in the fortress with great company of folk
Mais a mon signor Gauain auint ensi par auenture kil
But to my lord Gawain it-happened thus by chance that-he
descendi en celui ostel meesmes v Lanselos auoit geu, et
dismounted at that house itself where Lancelot had lain and
li fist on son lit en la cambre v li escus Lanselot
to-him made one his bed in the chamber where the shield (of-)Lancelot
pendoit. Cele nuit nala pas mesire Gauains a court, car
hung That night not-went at-all my-lord Gawain to court for
il se sentoit .i. poi plus deshaitiet kil ne volsist, ains
he himself felt a little more ill than-he — would-wish rather
manga a son ostel, entre lui et son frere Gaheriet et
ate-he at his lodging between him and his brother Gaheriet and
Mordret ausi, ki au tornoiement auoit portet armes, et
Mordred also who at-the tournament had borne arms and
auoec aus ot autres cheualiers asses por faire a mon
with them had other knights a-good-deal for to-make to my
signor Gauain compaignie. Et quant il furent assis au
lord Gawain company And when they were seated at-the
souper, la damoisele ki a Lanselot auoit baillie la mance
supper the damsel who to Lancelot had given the sleeve

commencha a demander a mon signor Gauain la uerite del
began to ask to my lord Gawain the truth of-the
tornoiement, Se il auoit este bons et bien ferus, et li
tournament If it had been good and well struck and the
ques en auoit portet le pris. 'Certes, damoisiele', fet mesire
which thereof had carried the prize Certainly damsel says my-lord
Gauains, 'del tornoiement puis ie bien dire kil a este
Gawain of-the tournament can I well say that-it has been
li mius ferus ke ie ueisse piecha mais, et si la vencu
the best struck which I saw long-ago more and so it-has conquered
vns cheualiers qui ie volroie resambler de bonte et de
a knight whom I would-wish to-resemble in goodness and in
cheualerie; car, si mait Dex, ce est li miudres cheualiers
chivalry for so me-may-help God this is the best knight
et li plus preudom ke ie ueisse, puis ke ie me parti de
and the most worthy-man whom I saw since that I myself parted from
Camaalot; Mais i tant i a ke ie ne sai ki il est, ne
Camelot But there so-much there has that I not know who he is nor
coument il a a non'. 'Sire', fait ele, 'keus armes portoit il?'
how he has as name Lord says she what arms bore he
'Damoisele, vnes toutes vermeilles, et auoit sor son elme vne
Damsel some all red and had upon his helmet a
mance de dame v de damoisele, ne sai lequel, Mes tant
sleeve of lady or of damsel not I-know which But so-much
vos os ie bien dire que, se ie estoie damoisele, Ie volroie
you dare I well say that if I were damsel I would-wish
bien ke la mance fust moie, par si ke cil mamast par amors
well that the sleeve were mine by so that he me-loved by love
ki le portoit, car certes ie ne ui onques en liu v ie
who it bore for certainly I not saw ever in place where I
fusse mance mius enploie que ceste a este ne autresi bien'.
were sleeve better employed than this-one has been nor also well

Quant la damoisele entent cele nouele, si a si grant
When the damsel hears that news so has-she so great
ioie ke a paines le uos poroit nus conter, Mais samblant
joy that with pains it you could any tell But semblance
nen ose faire, por ciaus ki sont deuant li. Tant comme
not-thereof dares-she make for those who are before her As-long as
li cheualier sisent a la table, serui la damoisiele, car a celui
the knights sat at the table served the damsel for at that
tans de lors estoit coustume el roialme de Logres que se
time of then was custom in-the kingdom of Logres that if
cheualier errant venissent en lostel a aucun haut homme, sil
knights errant came into the-house of some high man if-he
eust laiens damoisele nule, de tant com ele fust plus gentils
had in-there damsel any of so-much as she were more noble
feme, ele ne se sist ia a table deuant kil eussent tos
woman she not herself sat ever at table before that-they had all
lor mes eus. Par ceste raison serui la damoisele, tant comme
their dishes had For this reason served the damsel as-long as
[me] sire Gauains et si compaignon mangierent. Ele estoit
my lord Gawain and his companions ate She was
de molt grant biaute, ensi com ie uos ai deuise cha ariere,
of very great beauty thus as I you have related here back
et estoit si bien taillie et si bien seans de totes coses ke
and was so well shaped and so well seemly in all things that
nule feme ne peust estre mius. Mesire Gauains le regarde
any woman not could be better My-lord Gawain her looks-at
molt uolentiers tant com ele serui, et tant li plot et
very willingly as-long as she served and so-much him pleased and
enbieli la damoisiele ke plus li tint de regarder ke de
delighted the damsel that more to-him mattered of looking than of

mangier. Se li fu auis ke buer fu nes cil cheualiers
eating So to-him was opinion that in-a-good-hour was born that knight
ki de tel damoisele peust auoir sa volente et son deduit.
who of such damsel could have his will and his pleasure
Au soir apres souper auint que li sires del ostel
At-the evening after supper it-happened that the lord of-the house
saloit esbatir en .i. praiel ki derriers son ostel estoit
himself-went to-disport in a little-meadow which behind his house was
et en mena sa fille auoec lui. Et quant il uint la, si
and thence led his daughter with him And when he came there so
i troua mon signor Gauain et ses compaignons, ki iluec
there found-he my lord Gawain and his companions who there
se deduisoient. Si se leuerent tot encontre lui, quant
themselves disported So themselves raised all to-meet him when
il le uirent uenir. Si le fist me sire Gauains aseoir dales
they him saw come So him made my lord Gawain sit beside
lui a destre et a senestre fist la pucele aseoir, Si ke ele
him at right and at left made-he the maiden sit So that she
sist entre lui et Mordret, son frere. Et li ostes sist entre
sat between him and Mordred his brother And the host sat between
Gaheriet et mon signor Gauain et lors commencierent a
Gaheriet and my lord Gawain and then began-they to
parler de maintes coses. Et Gaheries trait lor oste a vne
speak of many things And Gaheriet draws their host to one
part .i. poi ensus de mon signor Gauain Se li commence
side a little away from my lord Gawain So to-him begins-he
a demander des coustumes del castiel, et cil len dist
to ask of-the customs of-the castle and he to-him-thereof told
tote la uerite. et Mordres se refu trais en sus de
all the truth and Mordred himself was-again drawn in away from
mon signor Gauain, por ce que me sire Gauains parlast
my lord Gawain for this that my lord Gawain might-speak

priueement a la pucele, se lui pleust. Et quant mesire
privately to the maiden if him it-pleased And when my-lord
Gauains se uit si en point de parler a la damoisele, Si
Gawain himself saw so in point of speaking to the damsel So
parla a li et le requist damours. Et cele li demande
spoke-he to her and her asked of-love And she to-him asks
ki il estoit. 'Ie sui', fait il, 'vns cheualiers Si ai a non
who he was I am says he a knight So have-I as name
Gauains, li nies le roi Artu, si vos ameroie par amors,
Gawain the nephew (of-)the king Arthur so you would-love by love
sil vos plaisoit, En tel maniere que, tant comme lamors de
if-it you pleased In such manner that as-long as the-love of
moi vos plairoit, Ie vos creanc que ie nameroi ne dame
me you would-please I you promise that I not-would-love neither lady
ne damoisele, se uos non, ains seroie de totes coses vostres
nor damsel if you not rather would-be in all things your
cheualiers et abandonnes outreement a faire uostre volente'.
knight and abandoned utterly to do your will
'Ha! me sire Gauain', fait ele, 'ne me gabes mie. ie sai
Ah my lord Gawain says she not me mock at-all I know
bien ke uos estes trop rices hom et trop haus hom por
well that you are too rich man and too high man for
amer si poure damoisele comme ie sui. Et nanporquant, se
to-love so poor damsel as I am And nevertheless if
vos mamies bien par amors, Sacies ke il men peseroit
you me-loved well by love Know that it me-thereof would-grieve
plus por uos ke por autre cose.' 'Por moi, damoisiele'? fait
more for you than for other thing For me damsel says
me sire Gauains. 'por quoi uos en peseroit il por moi?'
my lord Gawain for what you thereof would-grieve it for me
'por cou', fait ele, 'ke, se uos mamies iusques au cuer
for this says she that if you me-loved until to-the heart

creuer, ne pories vos a moi venir en nule maniere, car ie aim
to-burst not could you to me come in any manner for I love
par amors .i. cheualier, vers qui ie ne fausseroie en nule
by love a knight toward whom I not would-be-false in any
maniere ke ie ne fusse toute soie. Et si vos di ie vraiement
manner that I not were all his And so you say I truly
que ie sui encore pucele Ne onques nauoie ame, quant ie le
that I am still maiden Nor ever not-had-I loved when I him
ui, Mes Maintenant len amai et li requis kil fesist
saw But At-once him-thereof I-loved and him asked that-he might-do
darmes por lamor de moi, et il me promist ke si feroit
of-arms for the-love of me and he me promised that so would-do
il. Si en a puis fait tant soie merci, si com ie sai
he So thereof has-he since done so-much his thanks so as I know
de uoir, ke on deuroit honir damoisele qui le lairoit et
for truth that one ought to-shame damsel who him would-leave and
vos prendroit; car, se Dex mait, il nest pas mains bons
you would-take for if God me-may-help he not-is at-all less good
cheualiers de vos ne mains prisies darmes de vos ne mains
knight than you nor less prized of-arms than you nor less
biaus cheualiers de uos nest il mie. Si nel di ie mie por
fair knight than you not-is he at-all So not-it say I at-all for
vos desprisier mais ie men uois parmi la uerite, et por
you to-disparage but I myself-thence go through the truth and for
ce vos di ie bien ke ce seroit paine gastee de moi proier
this you say I well that this would-be pain wasted of me praying
damours, car ie sui celui qui riens nen feroit fors por
of-love for I am she who anything not-thereof would-do except for
celui que ie aim de tot mon cuer et de quanque ie puis.'
him whom I love with all my heart and with whatever I can

Gawain and the Maiden of Escalot

VII

The damsel will not name her knight, but shows Gawain his shield, and he knows it for Lancelot's. Ashamed, he begs her pardon. He believes Lancelot loves her, and thinks him not to blame, she is so fair. Riding home, Gawain names Lancelot as the winner, and the king, confirming it, repeats Agravain's charge, now judging it false since Lancelot left Camelot. Gawain swears to fight any knight who accuses Lancelot, and the king will not believe it though the whole world tells him.

Quant mesire Gauains entent la damoisele, ki si fierement
When my-lord Gawain hears the damsel who so proudly
lescondist, Se li respont trop courouchies de cest escondit
him-refuses So to-her answers-he very angered by this refusal
kele li ot fet, Puis li dist: 'damoisele, or faites
which-she to-him had made Then to-her said damsel now do
tant par cortoisie et por lamor de moi ke, se ie puis
so-much by courtesy and for the-love of me that if I can
prouer encontre lui kil naille pis de moi as
prove against him that-he not-may-be-worth worse than me at-the
armes, laissies [lui] et moi ames'. 'Coment, sire?' fait ele,
arms leave him and me love How lord says she
'quidies vos ke ie le fesise? ensi poroie faire morir .ij. des
think you that I it would-do thus could-I make die two of-the
plus preudomes del monde, v lun au mains. sans ce ne
most worthy-men of-the world or the-one at-the least without this not
remanroit il mie, se vos assamblies cors a cors, luns contre
would-remain it at-all if you joined body to body the-one against
lautre'. 'Coment?' fait me sire Gauains, 'est il dont uns des
the-other How says my lord Gawain is he then one of-the
plus preudomes del monde?' 'Il na mie gramment', fait
most worthy-men of-the world It not-has at-all greatly says

la damoisiele, ‘ke ie loi tiesmoignier au millor cheualier
the damsel that I it-heard witness to-the best knight
del siecle’. ‘Et coment a il non?’ fait me sire Gauains.
of-the world And how has he as-name says my lord Gawain
‘Sire’, fait ele, ‘son non ne vos dirai ie mie, Mais ie uos
Lord says she his name not to-you shall-tell I at-all But I you
mousterrai son escut, kil me laissa chaiens, quant il ala a
shall-show his shield which-he me left in-here when he went to
lasamblee de Guincestre’. ‘Lescut’, fait me sire Gauains, ‘voel
the-assembly of Winchester The-shield says my lord Gawain wish
ie ueoir, Car, sil est cheualiers de grant proece renommes,
I to-see For if-he is knight of great prowess renowned
ce ne puet estre que ie ne le connoisse par lescut’. ‘lescut’,
this not can be that I not him may-know by the-shield the-shield
fait ele, ‘veres vos encore anuit, quant vos ires coucher, car
says she will-see you yet tonight when you will-go to-lie for
il pent a une chieuile en la cambre deuant uostre lit’. Et
it hangs on a peg in the chamber before your bed And
me sire Gauains dist ke dont le uera il asses prochainement.
my lord Gawain said that then it will-see he much soon
Lors se lieuent de la v il sestoient assis et tot
Then themselves raise-they from there where they themselves-were seated and all
li autre font autresi, quant il uoient que mesire Gauains
the others do likewise when they see that my-lord Gawain
sen violt aler. Et me sire Gauains prent la damoisiele
himself-thence wishes to-go And my lord Gawain takes the damsel
par la main Si sen entre en lostel et li autre apres,
by the hand So himself-thence enters into the-house and the others after
et la pucele le mainne droit a la cambre, v il auoit si
and the maiden him leads straight to the chamber where it had so
grant luminaire de cirges et de tortis, comme se la cambre
great lighting of tapers and of torches as if the chamber

fust enprise. Et ele li mostre lescut et dist: 'Sire, ueeschi
were afire And she to-him shows the-shield and said Lord see-here
lescut a lomme del monde que ie mius aim. Or gardes se
the-shield of the-man of-the world whom I best love Now look if
vos pories connoistre ki il est et se vos vos pories acorder
you could know who he is and if you yourself could agree
ke ce fust li miudres cheualiers del monde.' Et il le regarde
that this were the best knight of-the world And he it looks-at
si connoist maintenant que cest li escus Lanselot del Lac, Si
so knows at-once that this-is the shield (of-)Lancelot of-the Lake So
se traist ariere tos esbahis et trop dolans des paroles kil
himself draws back all amazed and very sorrowful for-the words which-he
ot dites a la damoisiele, car il a paour que Lanselos ne le
had said to the damsel for he has fear that Lancelot — it
sace, si tost commele parlera a lui. Et nanporquant, sil
may-know so soon as-she will-speak to him And nevertheless if-he
pooit faire sa pais vers ceste damoisiele, ancois que Lanselos
could make his peace toward this damsel before that Lancelot
uenist, molt se tenroit a bien paiet. Lors li dist:
came much himself would-hold for well paid Then to-her said-he
'Ha! damoisiele, por Diu, ne vos poist des paroles
Ah damsel for God not to-you may-it-grieve of-the words
ke ie uos ai dites. ie me tieng a conclus et a uencut
which I you have said I myself hold for concluded and for conquered
encontre uos de totes coses qui entre nos ont este dites;
against you in all things which between us have been said
si macorc a vos, et, por uoir, cil ke uos ames est li
so myself-agree with you and for truth he whom you love is the
miudres cheualiers del monde. Ne il na el monde dame
best knight of-the world Nor it not-has in-the world lady
ki volsist amer par amors ki par droit ne me laissast
who would-wish to-love by love who by right not me would-leave

et lui retenist; car, por voir, il est miudres cheualiers de
and him would-keep for for truth he is better knight than
moi et plus preudom et plus biaus et plus auenans, et, se
me and more worthy-man and more fair and more comely and if
ie quidasse ke ce fust il et que vos eussies cuer damer si
I had-thought that this were he and that you had heart of-loving so
hautement, ia certes ne me fusse entremis de vos requerre
highly ever certainly not myself would-be undertaken of you to-ask
damors. Si uos di ie vraiement que vos estes la damoisiele
of-love So you say I truly that you are the damsel
del monde ke ie mieus volsisse ki mamast par amors,
of-the world whom I best would-wish who me-might-love by love
sil ni eust si grant contredit com il i a. Et, ciertes,
if-it not-there had so great opposition as it there has And certainly
sil est ensi ke mesire Lanselos vos aint autant comme
if-it is thus that my-lord Lancelot you may-love as-much as
vos lames, onques mais a damoisiele nauint si bien damors
you him-love ever more to damsel not-befell so well of-love
ne si hautement ne fu assenee. Et por Diu ie uos pri
nor so highly not was-she placed And for God I you pray
ke, se ie vos ai dite parole ki uos desplaise, ke vos le
that if I you have said word which you may-displease that you it
me pardonnes.' 'Ciertes, sire', fait ele, 'molt volentiers'. Et
me may-pardon Certainly lord says she very willingly And
quant il uoit kil a sa pais en tel maniere quele li
when he sees that-he has his peace in such manner that-she to-him
a creante ke de parole ki ait este dite ne parlera
has promised that of word which may-have been said not will-speak
iamais a Lanselot ne a autrui, Lors li dist:
ever to Lancelot nor to another Then to-her said-he

‘Damoisele, ie uos pri ke vos me diies ques armes me
Damsel I you pray that you me may-tell what arms my
sire Lanselos porta a lasamblee de Guincestre.’ ‘Sire’, fait
lord Lancelot bore at the-assembly of Winchester Lord says
ele, ‘il porta .i. escut tot vermeil et couertures autreteles
she he bore a shield all red and coverings such
et ot sor son elme vne mance de soie vermeille que ie
and had upon his helmet a sleeve of silk red which I
li donnai’. ‘Par mon cief, damoisiele’, fait mesire Gauains,
to-him gave By my head damsel says my-lord Gawain
‘ce sont bonnes ensegnes, car il i fu (car ie li ui) tot
these are good tokens for he there was for I him saw all
ensi arme comme vos laues deuise et ie croi ore mius ke
thus armed as you it-have described and I believe now better than
ie ne fis hui mais kil vos aime par amors, car autrement
I — did today more that-he you loves by love for otherwise
neust il mie portee tele ensegne. Si mest auis ke
not-would-have he at-all borne such token So to-me-is opinion that
molt vos deues proisier, quant vos estes amee de si
much you ought to-prize-yourself since you are loved by so
preudomme. et, si mait Dex, il mest molt bon ke ie le
worthy-man and so me-may-help God it to-me-is very good that I it
sai, car il sest tos iors si celes uers totes gens ke on ne
know for he himself-is all days so hidden toward all folk that one not
pot onques a court vraiement sauoir kil amast par amors.’
could ever at court truly know that-he loved by love
‘Sire’, fait la pucele, ‘tant vaut il mieus, car vos saues
Lord says the maiden so-much is-worth it better for you know
bien ke amors descouertes ne puent en grant pris monter’.
well that loves disclosed not can in great worth rise

Atant sen parti la pucele de laiens, et me sire Gauains
Then herself-thence parted the maiden from in-there and my lord Gawain
le convoia et puis sala couchier. Si pensa molt la nuit
her escorted and then himself-went to-bed So thought-he much the night
a Lanselot, puis dist a soi meesmes kil ne quidast
of Lancelot then said-he to himself even that-he not would-have-thought
pas que Lanselos baast iamais en liu v il volsist maitre
at-all that Lancelot would-aspire ever in place where he would-wish to-put
son cuer, se ce ne fust en plus haut liu et en plus honorable
his heart if this not were in more high place and in more honorable
ke en autre. 'Et nanporquant', fait il, 'ie ne le puis a droit
than in other And nevertheless says he I not him can with right
blasmer, sil aime ceste damoisele, car ele est si biele et si
blame if-he loves this damsel for she is so fair and so
auenans en totes coses ke, se li plus haus hom del siecle i
comely in all things that if the most high man of-the world there
auoit mis son cuer, si laroit il bien emploiet, al mien auis'.
had put his heart so it-would-have he well employed to-the my opinion
Cele nuit dormi me sire Gauains molt petit, car asses
That night slept my lord Gawain very little for much
pensa a la damoisiele et a Lanselot, et au matin, si tost
thought-he of the damsel and of Lancelot and at-the morning so soon
com il fu aiorne, se leua et ausi fisent tot cil de laiens,
as it was dawned himself raised and also did all those of in-there
car li rois auoit ia mande a mon signor Gauain kil
for the king had already sent-word to my lord Gawain that-he
montast, car il sen uoloit aler del castiel. Quant
might-mount for he himself-thence wished to-go from-the castle When
il furent tot apareilliet, mesire Gauains uint a son oste Si
they were all prepared my-lord Gawain came to his host So
le comanda a Diu et molt le mercie de la biele chiere
him commended to God and much him thanks for the fair cheer

kil li auoit faite en son ostel. Puis reuient a la
which-he to-him had made in his house Then comes-back-he to the
damoisiele se li dist: 'Damoisiele, ie uos commanc a Diu,
damsel so to-her said Damsel I you commend to God
et sachies ke ie sui vostres cheualiers, en quelconques liu
and know that I am your knight in whatever place
ke ie soie; Ne il nest Si estranges lius, se ie i estoie et
that I may-be Nor it not-is So strange place if I there were and
vos me mandies a uostre besoing, ke ie ni uenisse a
you me summoned at your need that I not-there would-come to
mon pooir. et por Deu salues moi monsignor Lanselot, car
my power and for God greet me my-lord Lancelot for
ie quic bien ke uos le ueres, ancois ke nos ne ferons.' Et
I think well that you him will-see before that we — shall-do And
ele dist ke ia si tost ne le uerra kele le saluera de
she said that ever so soon not him will-see-she that-she him will-greet from
par mon signor Gauain, et il len mercie molt. Si se
by my lord Gawain and he her-thereof thanks much So himself
part maintenant de laiens tos montes et trueue enmi la
parts-he at-once from in-there all mounted and finds amid the
uoie le roi, son oncle, ki latendoit a tot grant compaignie
way the king his uncle who him-awaited with all great company
de gent. Il sentresaluent et se metent en lor cemin.
of folk They each-other-greet and themselves put on their road
Et mesire Gauains dist au roi: 'Sire, saues uos ki li
And my-lord Gawain said to-the king Lord know you who the
cheualiers est, ki a uencue lasamblee de Guincestre — cil
knight is who has conquered the-assembly of Winchester he
as armes vermeilles, ki portoit la mance sor son elme?'
with-the arms red who bore the sleeve upon his helmet
'por coi le demandes vos?' fait li rois. 'pour ce', fait me
for what it ask you says the king for this says my

sire Gauains, 'ke ie ne quic mie que vos le sachies'. 'Si
lord Gawain that I not think at-all that you it may-know So
sai bien', fait li rois, 'Mais vos ne le saues pas et si le
know-I well says the king But you not it know at-all and yet him
deussies uos bien connoistre a la merueille darmes quil
ought you well to-know by the marvel of-arms which-he
fist, car nus fors lui solement nen peust autretant faire.'
did for any except him only not-thereof could as-much do
'Certes', fait mesire Gauains, 'voirement le deusse ie bien
Certainly says my-lord Gawain truly him ought I well
connoistre, car maintes fois li auoie ueu autant faire darmes,
to-know for many times him had-I seen as-much do of-arms
Mais [por] ce kil se desghisa en samblance de nouiel
But for this that-he himself disguised in semblance of new
cheualier, il men toli la droite connissance; Mais ie
knight he from-me-thereof took the right knowledge But I
ai puis tant apris que ie sai ore certainement ki il fu'.
have since so-much learned that I know now certainly who he was
'Et ki fu ce?' fait li rois. 'ie sai bien, se vos dites voir'.
And who was this says the king I know well if you say true
'Sire', fait il, 'ce fu mesire Lanselos del Lac'. 'Ce est uoirs',
Lord says he this was my-lord Lancelot of-the Lake This is true
fait li rois, 'et si i uint si couiertement ke nus nel
says the king and so there came-he so covertly that any not-him
refusast a encontrer por connissance. Ciertes uoirement est il
would-refuse to meet for knowledge Certainly truly is he
li plus preudom del monde et li miudres cheualiers, et, se
the most worthy-man of-the world and the best knight and if
ie creisse Engreuain, uostre frere, ie leusse fait ocire.
I had-believed Agravain your brother I him-would-have had killed
Si en eusse faite uilonnie et desloiaute si grant ke tos
So thereof would-have-I done villainy and disloyalty so great that all

li mondes men deust hair et a droit'. 'voire, sire', fait
the world me-thereof ought to-hate and with right truly lord says
me sire Gauains, 'ke uos en dist dont Engreuains, mes
my lord Gawain what you thereof said then Agravain my
freres? dites le moi'. 'Ce uos dirai ie bien', fait li rois. 'Il
brother tell it me This you shall-say I well says the king He
vint avant ier a moi et me dist kil sesmeruilloit
came the-day-before yesterday to me and me said that-he himself-marveled
molt coment ie auoie cuer de tenir Lanselot auoec moi, ki
much how I had heart of keeping Lancelot with me who
si grant honte me faisoit comme de uergoignier moi de ma
so great shame me did as of shaming me of my
feme, et me dist outreement ke Lanselos lamoit de fole
wife and me said outright that Lancelot her-loved with mad
amor par de iouste moi et ke il lauoit conneue carnelment
love by at side me and that he her-had known carnally
et ke ie fusse aseur ke il nestoit remes por autre cose
and that I might-be assured that he not-was remained for other thing
a Camaalot fors por auenir a la roine a sa volente, quant
at Camelot except for coming to the queen at his will when
ie seroie uenus au tornoiement de Guincestre.
I would-be come to-the tournament of Winchester

'E[t] cou me fist a croire Engreuains Si men tenisse
And this me made to believe Agravain So myself-thereby I-would-hold
ore por honni, se ie leusse [creu] de sa mencoigne, car ie
now for shamed if I him-had believed of his lie for I
sai ore bien ke, se Lanselos amast la roine damor vilaine,
know now well that if Lancelot loved the queen with-love villainous
il ne se fust pas remues de Camaalot, tant comme ie
he not himself would-be at-all moved from Camelot as-long as I
fusse hors, ains i fust remes por auoir de la roine sa
were out rather there would-be remained for to-have of the queen his

fole volente.' 'Certes', fait mesire Gauains, 'onques Lanselos
mad will Certainly says my-lord Gawain ever Lancelot
ne remest por icele ocoison; ancois remest por uenir plus
not remained for that occasion rather remained-he for to-come more
couertement al tornoiement, et ce poes uos ore bien
covertly to-the tournament and this can you now well
connoistre a uerite. Ne ne creissies iamais nul home ki vos
know for truth Nor not believe ever any man who you
aportast tel parole, car ie vos di vraiement kil onques ne
might-bring such word for I you say truly that-he ever not
pensa de tel amor vers la roine, ains vos di por uoir kil
thought of such love toward the queen rather you I-say for truth that-he
aime par amors vne des plus bieles damoisieles del monde et
loves by love one of-the most fair damsels of-the world and
pucele, et ele lui molt durement. Et encore sauons nos bien
maiden and she him very hard And yet know we well
tot kil a amee longement de tot son cuer la biele fille
all that-he has loved long with all his heart the fair daughter
au rice roi Pelles, dont Galahas li tres bons cheualiers
of-the rich king Pelles of-whom Galahad the very good knight
fu nes, cil ki mist a fin les auentures del Saint Graal'.
was born he who put to end the adventures of-the Holy Grail
'Certes', fait li rois, 'sil estoit voirs ke Lanselos lamast
Certainly says the king if-it were true that Lancelot her-loved
par amors, si ne poroie ie pas croire kil eust cuer de
by love so not could I at-all believe that-he had heart of
faire si grande desloiaute comme de moi honir de ma feme,
doing so great disloyalty as of me shaming of my wife
car en cuer v il a si grant proece ne se poroit enbatre
for in heart where it has so great prowess not itself could thrust
traisons, se ce nestoit la grignors diaublie del monde'. ensi
treason if this not-were the greatest devilry of-the world thus

dist li rois Artus de Lanselot. Et me sire Gauains li dist
said the king Arthur of Lancelot And my lord Gawain to-him said
bien kil soit tot aseur, car onques Lanselos ne bea a la
well that-he may-be all assured for ever Lancelot not aspired to the
roine si folement comme Engreuains li a mis sus. 'Et
queen so madly as Agravain on-him has put upon And
encore uos di ie bien, sire', fait il 'que ie senc Lanselot si
yet you say I well lord says he that I feel Lancelot so
sauf de ceste cose, kil na el monde si bon cheualier,
safe of this thing that-it not-has in-the world so good knight
Si len apieloit, que ie nen entraisse en camp encontre
If him-thereof accused that I not-thereof would-enter into field against
lui, por Lanselot deffendre'. 'Quen diries vos?' fait li rois.
him for Lancelot to-defend What-thereof would-say you says the king
'se tous li mons le maloit disant de ior en ior et ie ne
if all the world it me-went saying from day to day and I not
men apercheuoie mieus que ie ne soie encore apercheus,
myself-thereof perceived better than I — may-be yet perceived
si nel kerroie ie pas'. Et me sire Gauains li loe molt
so not-it would-believe I at-all And my lord Gawain him advises much
kil ne se remut ia de ceste bone volente kil a ore.
that-he not himself may-move ever from this good will which-he has now

The Queen's Jealousy

VIII

At Camelot the queen hears of the red knight with a damsel's sleeve and will not believe it was Lancelot, until Girflet says he saw his face and Gawain confirms it on his faith. She weeps in her chamber that the man she thought all loyalty has betrayed her. Bors says the red knight left wounded by a lance Bors himself gave him, and begs her not to believe it, but she swears to forbid Lancelot her house and the king's.

Atant en laissierent la parole ester et cheuauchierent a
Then thereof left-they the word to-stand and rode by
petites iornees, tant kil uinrent a Camaalot. Quant il
small day-stages until that-they came to Camelot When they
furent descendu, asses i ot de ciaus ki demanderent
were dismounted a-good-deal there had of those who asked
noueles del tornoiement et ki lauoit vencu. Mais il nen
news of-the tournament and who it-had conquered But it not-thereof
i ot nul, fors que li rois et me sire Gauains, ki noueles
there had any except that the king and my lord Gawain who news
en seussent a dire. Si ne le volrent encore mie descourir,
thereof might-know to say So not it wished-they yet at-all disclose
por ce kil sauoient bien ke Lanselos se voloit celer. Si
for this that-they knew well that Lancelot himself wished to-hide So
dist me sire Gauains a la roine: 'Dame, nos ne sauons pas
said my lord Gawain to the queen Lady we not know at-all
tres bien a dire ki vainqui le tornoiement, car nos quidons
very well to say who conquered the tournament for we think
ke ce fust vns estranges cheualiers, Mais tant vos sauons
that this was a foreign knight But so-much you know
nos bien a dire kil porta a lasamblee vnes armes uermeilles
we well to say that-he bore at the-assembly some arms red

et ot sor son elme en .i. pignonciel vne mance a damoisele
and had upon his helmet in a pennon a sleeve of damsel
v a dame'. Et lors pense maintenant la roine que ce
or of lady And then thinks at-once the queen that this
nest pas Lanselos, car ele ne quidoit pas kil portast en
not-is at-all Lancelot for she not thought at-all that-he would-bear in
tornoiement nule entresegne, sele ne li eust baillie. Si en
tournament any token if-she not to-him had given So thereof
laisse atant la parole ke plus nen enquiert, fors tant
leaves-she then the word that more not-thereof inquires-she except so-much
ke ele dist: 'Mesire Gauain, ni fu pas Lanselos a cele
that she said My-lord Gawain not-there was at-all Lancelot at that
assamblee?' 'Dame, sil i fu et ie li ui, ne li connu[i]
assembly Lady if-he there was and I him saw not him knew
iou mie, et sil i fust, ie croi bien kil eust vencu
I at-all and if-he there were I believe well that-he would-have conquered
le tornoiement; et meesment ses armes auons nos veues
the tournament and even his arms have we seen
tantes fois ke, sil i fust venus, sil ni venist en repost,
so-many times that if-he there were come if-he not-there came in secret
nos li peussons legierement connoistre'. 'Ie uos di', fait la
we him could lightly know I you say says the
roine, 'kil i ala au plus couertement kil pot onques.'
queen that-he there went at-the most covertly that-he could ever
'Et ie uos di, dame, ke, sil i fu, ce fu cil as armes
And I you say lady that if-he there was this was he with-the arms
vermeilles ki venki lassamblee'. 'Ce ne fu il pas', fait la
red who conquered the-assembly This not was he at-all says the
roine, 'cou sacies vos vraiement, car il nest pas tant tenus a
queen this know you truly for he not-is at-all so-much bound to
dame ne a damoisele kil enportast mance ne entresegne'.
lady nor to damsel that-he would-carry-away sleeve nor token

Lors saut avant Girfles et dist a la roine: ‘dame, sacies
Then leaps forward Girflet and said to the queen lady know
vraiement ke cil as armes uermeilles, ki porta la mance
truly that he with-the arms red who bore the sleeve
sor son elme, fu Lanselos, car, quant il ot uencue lassamblee
upon his helmet was Lancelot for when he had conquered the-assembly
et il sen parti, ie alai apres por conoistre se ce estoit
and he himself-thence parted I went after for to-know if this were
il, car encore en doutoie ie, por cou kil estoit si desghises.
he for still thereof doubted I for this that-he was so disguised
Si alai tant ke ie le vi en mi le uis apiertement, v il
So went-I so-far that I him saw in amid the face openly where he
sen aloit molt naures auoec .i. cheualier, tot ausi comme
himself-thence went very wounded with a knight all also as
il estoit, Si kil auoient ambedoi armes dune maniere et
he was So that-they had both arms of-one manner and
dun samblant’. ‘Mesire Gauain’, fait la roine, ‘quidies vos
of-one semblance My-lord Gawain says the queen think you
kil die uoir? par la foi ke vos deues mon signor le roi,
that-he may-say true by the faith which you owe my lord the king
dites ment cou ke uos en saues, se riens en saues’.
say me-thereof this which you thereof know if anything thereof you-know
‘Dame’, fait il, ‘vos maues tant coniuret que ie ne vos
Lady says he you me-have so-much conjured that I not you
en mentirai riens ke ie en sace. Ie uos di vraiement
thereof shall-lie anything that I thereof may-know I you say truly
kil uenqui lassamblee et ke ce fu il ki porta les armes
that-he conquered the-assembly and that this was he who bore the arms
uermeilles et la mance de sor son elme’. Et quant ele entent
red and the sleeve of upon his helmet And when she hears
ceste parole, Si est trop dolans Si sen taist atant ke
this word So is-she too sorrowful So herself-thereof is-silent then that

plus nen enquiert, ains sen entre en sa cambre,
more not-thereof inquires-she rather herself-thence enters into her chamber
larmoiant des ieus del cief et faisant trop grant duel. Et
weeping from-the eyes of-the head and making very great grief And
si disoit a soi meesmes: 'He! Dex, tant ma vilainement
so said-she to herself even Ah God so-much me-has villainously
tretie cil v ie quidoie ke tote loiautes fust et por qui ie
treated he in-whom I thought that all loyalty were and for whom I
auoie tant fait que por lamor de lui auoie ie honni le plus
had so-much done that for the-love of him had I shamed the most
preudomme del monde! Ha! Dex, ki osera iamais esperer
worthy-man of-the world Ah God who will-dare ever hope
loiaute en homme ne en cheualier, quant desloiautes sest
loyalty in man nor in knight when disloyalty itself-is
hierbegie el millor des bons?' Teus paroles dist la roine,
lodged in-the best of-the good Such words said the queen
car ele quidoit maintenant tot de uoir que Lanselos amast par
for she thought now all for true that Lancelot loved by
amors celi qui mance il auoit aportee el tornoiement et
love her whose sleeve he had brought to-the tournament and
kil leust laissie por cele. Si est tant amalaise kele ne
that-he her-had left for that-one So is-she so-much ill-at-ease that-she not
set quel conseil ele puisse prendre de ceste cose, fors tant
knows what counsel she can take of this thing except so-much
kele sen vengera v a Lanselot v a la damoisele, se
that-she herself-thereof will-avenge either on Lancelot or on the damsel if
ele le puet connoistre, si tost commele en uenra en liu.
she her can know so soon as-she thereof will-come in place

Molt est la roine dolante de ceste nouiele ke mesire
Very is the queen sorrowful of this news which my-lord
Gauains li a aportee, car ele ne quidast en nule
Gawain to-her has brought for she not would-have-thought in any

maniere que Lanselos eust cuer ne uolente damer autre
manner that Lancelot had heart nor will of-loving other
dame ke li. Si en fist tot le ior molt mate chiere et
lady than her So thereof made-she all the day very dejected face and
en laissa le rire et le iuer. Lendemain vinrent a court
thereof left the laughing and the playing The-next-day came to court
Boors et Hestors et Lioniaus et lor autre compaignie,
Bors and Hector and Lionel and their other company
ki venoient del assamblee. Quant il furent descendu en
who came from-the assembly When they were dismounted at
lostel le roi, v il auoient lor giste et lor repaire totes
the-house (of-)the king where they had their lodging and their resort all
les eures kil uenoient a Camaalot, Hestors commencha a
the hours that-they came to Camelot Hector began to
demander as vns et as autres ki laiens estoient remes
ask of-the ones and of-the others who in-there were remained
auoec la roine, quant il alerent a lasamblee, Sil sauoient
with the queen when they went to the-assembly If-they knew
v Lanselos estoit ales, car laiens le laissierent il, quant
where Lancelot was gone for in-there him left they when
il sen partirent. ‘Sire’, font il, ‘il sen ala
they themselves-thence parted Lord say they he himself-thence went
de chaiens lendemain ke uos uos en partistes, ensi
from in-here the-next-day that you yourselves thence parted thus
kil nen mena auoec lui cun tot sol escuier a tel
that-he not-thereof led with him but-a all single squire at such
eure ke onques puis ne le ueimes ne noimes parler’.
hour that ever since not him saw-we nor not-heard-we speak

Quant la roine sot ke li cousin Lanselot estoient venut,
When the queen knew that the cousins (of-)Lancelot were come
ele fist Boort uenir deuant li Se li dist molt courouchie:
she had Bors come before her So to-him said very angered

‘Boort, aues vos este a cele assamblee?’ ‘Dame, oil’, fet il.
Bors have you been at that assembly Lady yes says he
‘Et ueistes vos i uostre signor?’ ‘dame, nenil, car il ni
And saw you there your lord lady no for he not-there
fu mie.’ ‘Par mon cief’, fait ele, ‘si fu’. ‘Dame’, fait il,
was at-all By my head says she so was-he Lady says he
‘salue vostre grasce, non fu; il ne puet estre, sil i eust
saving your grace not was he not can be if-he there had
este, kil neust parle a moi et ke ie ne li eusse conneu’.
been that-he not-had spoken to me and that I not him had known
‘Sacies vraiement’, fait ele, ‘kil i fu, a ces ensegnes kil
Know truly says she that-he there was by these tokens that-he
ot vnes armes vermeilles, totes dun taint, et porta sor son
had some arms red all of-one hue and bore upon his
elme en .i. pignonciel vne mance a dame v a damoisiele, et
helmet in a pennon a sleeve of lady or of damsel and
ce fu cil ki venki lassamblee’. ‘En non Diu, dame’, fait
this was he who conquered the-assembly In name (of-)God lady says
Boors, ‘de celui ne volroie ie en nule maniere que ce fust
Bors of that-one not would-wish I in any manner that this were
me sires ne mes cousins, car celui dont vos me parles
my lord nor my cousin for that-one of-whom you me speak
sen parti, si comme on me dist, molt naures del
himself-thence parted so as one me told very wounded from-the
tornoiement dune plaie que ie li fis a vne iouste el
tournament with-a wound which I to-him made at a joust in-the
coste’. ‘Maleoite soit leure’, fait ele, ‘que vos ne locesistes,
side Cursed be the-hour says she that you not him-killed
car il sest si desloiaument menes uers moi que ie nel
for he himself-is so disloyally conducted toward me that I not-it
quidasse por riens del monde kil le fesist ior de
would-have-thought for anything of-the world that-he it might-do day of

sa uie'. 'Dame', fait il, 'coment?' Et ele li conte tot ensi
his life Lady says he how And she to-him tells all thus
com ele le pensoit. Et quant ele a tot dit, Se li respont:
as she it thought And when she has all said So to-her answers-he
'Dame, ne crees pas kil soit ensi comme vos le penses,
Lady not believe at-all that-it may-be thus as you it think
deuant que vos le sacies plus vraiement, car, si mait
before that you it may-know more truly for so me-may-help
Dex, ie ne poroie pas croire quil eust fausse uers vos
God I not could at-all believe that-he had been-false toward you
en tel maniere.' 'Ie uos di', fait ele, 'que aucune dame v
in such manner I you say says she that some lady or
damoisiele la souspris par puisons v par encantement,
damsel him-has seized by potions or by enchantment
que iamais, tant comme il uiue, ne sera bien de moi ne
that ever as-long as he may-live not will-be well of me nor
ie de lui. Et sil reuenoit demain en ceste court par aucune
I of him And if-he came-back tomorrow into this court by some
auenture, Ie li veeroie del tot lostel mon signor et
chance I to-him would-forbid of-the all the-house (of-)my lord and
le mien et li deffendroie kil ne fust iamais si hardis
the mine and him would-forbid that-he not were ever so bold
kil i mesist le pie.' 'Dame', fait Boors, 'vos en feres
that-he there might-put the foot Lady says Bors you thereof will-do
vostre volente, Mais totes voies uos di ie certainement que
your will But all the-same you say I certainly that
onques me sire ne sentremist de faire cou ke vos li
ever my lord not himself-undertook of doing this which you on-him
metes sus'. 'Il la bien moustre a ceste assamblee', fait
put upon He it-has well shown at this assembly says
la roine; 'ce poise moi ke la prueue en est si aparissant'.
the queen this grieves me that the proof thereof is so apparent

‘Dame’, fait Boors, ‘sil est ensi comme vos le dites, il
Lady says Bors if-it is thus as you it say he
ne fist onques cose dont il me pesast autre tant ne dont
not did ever thing whereof it me grieved other so-much nor whereof
il meffesist autre tant, car vers qui ke il se meffesist,
he misdid other so-much for toward whom that he himself might-misdo
a vos ne deust il meffaire en nule maniere’. Toute cele
toward you not ought he to-misdo in any manner All that
sesmaine entiere et lautre apres demora Boors en lostel le
week entire and the-other after stayed Bors at the-house (of-)the
roi, entre lui et sa compaignie, et furent molt plus mat
king between him and his company and were much more dejected
et molt plus pensif kil ne soloient estre, por la roine
and much more pensive than-they — were-wont to-be for the queen
kil ueoient molt durement courouchie. Onques dedens
whom-they saw very hard angered Ever within
celui terme ne uint nus hom a court ki aportast nouieles
that term not came any man to court who brought news
de Lanselot, kil leust ueu ne lonc ne pres. Si sen
of Lancelot that-he him-had seen nor far nor near So himself-thereat
esmeruilla molt li rois et ausi faisoient tot li autre.
marveled much the king and also did all the others

Gawain Tells of the Sleeve

IX

Gawain tells the king and queen in secret that Lancelot stays at Escalot for a damsel he loves, and that he has seen his shield there. The queen knows the shield for the one Lancelot took. The queen tells Bors that Lancelot will never have peace with her. Bors calls the teller a liar and says that he and all their lineage will leave in the morning to seek their lord, who stayed in Logres only for her.

Un ior estoient, entre le roi et la roine et mon signor Gauain,
One day were between the king and the queen and my lord Gawain
as fenestres del palais et parloient entraus de plusors
at-the windows of-the palace and spoke among-themselves of several
coses Et tant que li rois dist: 'Biaus nies, trop mesmerueil
things And so-much that the king said Fair nephew very myself-marvel
durement v Lanselos demeure tant. Ie ne ui piecha mais
hard where Lancelot stays so-long I not saw long-ago more
kil laissast autre tant ma cort com il fait ore.' Et me sire
that-he left other so-much my court as he does now And my lord
Gauains, commence a sosrire et dist au roi: 'Sire, or sacies
Gawain begins to smile and said to-the king Lord now know
vraiement ke li lius v il est ne li anuie pas, car, sil li
truly that the place where he is not him wearies at-all for if-it him
anuiast, il ne sen fust ore pas a uenir; et, sil li plaist,
wearied he not himself-thence would-be now at-all to come and if-it him pleases
ie ne men esmerueille pas, car il deuroit bien plaire au
I not myself-thereat marvel at-all for it ought well to-please to-the
plus rice home del monde, sil i auoit ausi mis son cuer,
most rich man of-the world if-he there had also put his heart
comme ie croi que Lanselos i ait le sien Mis outreement.'
as I believe that Lancelot there may-have the his Put utterly

Quant li rois entent ceste parole, Si est asses plus
When the king hears this word So is-he much more
angousseus ke deuant de sauoir ke cou est Si en requiert
anxious than before to know what this is So thereof asks-he
mon signor Gauain kil len die la uerite sor la foi
my lord Gawain that-he him-thereof may-tell the truth upon the faith
et sor le sairement kil li fist. 'Sire', fait il, 'et ie uos
and upon the oath which-he him made Lord says he and I you
en dirai la uerite, si com ie quic, Mais ke ce soit cose
thereof shall-tell the truth so as I think But that this be thing
celee entre nos trois, car, se ie quidoie kil fust reconte en
hidden between us three for if I thought that-it were told in
autre liu, ie ne uos en diroie ia nule rien'. Et li rois
other place I not you thereof would-tell ever any thing And the king
dist ke ia en auant ne sera seu. 'Sire', fait il, 'et ie uos di
said that ever in forward not will-be known Lord says he and I you say
que me sire Lanselos demeure a Escalot por vne damoisiele
that my lord Lancelot stays at Escalot for a damsel
kil i aime par amors. Mais sachies por uoir ke ce est
whom-he there loves by love But know for truth that this is
la plus biele damoisele del roiaume de Logres, et estoit
the most fair damsel of-the kingdom of Logres and was
encore pucele, quant nos i fumes. et, por la grant biaute
still maiden when we there were and for the great beauty
ke ie ui en li, le requis ie damors, na pas encor
which I saw in her her asked I of-love not-has at-all yet
grament, Mais ele sescondist molt bien de moi et dist quele
greatly But she refused-herself very well from me and said that-she
estoit amee de plus biel cheualier et de millor ke ie nestoie,
was loved by more fair knight and by better than I was
et ie fui molt couoiteus de sauoir ki il estoit. Si le ting
and I was very eager to know who he was So her held-I

si courte et tant en cierkai la parole quele me dist ke
so short and so-much thereof searched the word that-she me said that
cou estoit Lanselos et ke la mance estoit soie kil auoit
this was Lancelot and that the sleeve was hers which-he had
portee a lasamblee desus son elme; et encore me moustra
borne at the-assembly upon his helmet and still me showed
ele lescut Lanselot quil li auoit baillie por garder, celui
she the-shield (of-)Lancelot which-he to-her had given for to-keep that-one
meesmes kil enporta de chaiens, quant il sen parti.'
itself which-he carried-off from in-here when he himself-thence parted
'Me sire Gauain', fait la roine, 'ques li escus?' 'Dame,
My lord Gawain says the queen what the shield Lady
il estoit blans', fait il, 'a .ij. lions dasur coronnes'. 'Par
it was white says he with two lions of-azure crowned By
mon cief', fait ele, 'ce fu il, car celui en porta il, quant
my head says she this was he for that-one thence carried he when
il sen ala de chaiens; bien vos doit on croire a ces
he himself-thence went from in-here well you ought one to-believe by these
ensegnes de cou ke vos en aues dit'. 'Or me dites', fait li
tokens of this that you thereof have said Now me tell says the
rois, 'ki est cele pucele que uos tenes a si biele'. 'Par Deu,
king who is that maiden whom you hold for so fair By God
sire', fait il, 'ce est la fille a .i. vaassour, gentilhome et
lord says he this is the daughter of a vavasour gentleman and
de grant linage, et, sil lamoit bien, ce ne seroit pas grant
of great lineage and if-he her-loved well this not would-be at-all great
merueille, car ele est de trop grant biaute'. 'Certes', fet li
marvel for she is of very great beauty Certainly says the
rois, 'ie ne poroie croire kil mesist son cuer en dame ne
king I not could believe that-he would-put his heart in lady nor
en damoisele, se trop nestoit de haut afaire, et ie uos di
in damsel if very not-were of high condition and I you say

loiaument kil ne demeure pas por cou, ains gist malades
loyally that-he not stays at-all for this rather lies sick
et naures, se ie onques connui de la plaie riens ke Boors,
and wounded if I ever knew of the wound anything which Bors
ses cousins, li fist au tornoiement'. 'Par foi', fait me
his cousin to-him made at-the tournament By faith says my
sire Gauains, 'ce reporoit bien estre. Or nen sai ie que
lord Gawain this could-again well be Now not-thereof know I what
quidier, fors tant ke, sil fust malades, il le nos eust
to-think except so-much that if-he were sick he it us would-have
fait piecha sauoir v a tot le mains leust il mande a
made long-ago to-know or at all the least it-would-have he sent-word to
son frere et a ses cousins ki chaiens sont.' Asses parlerent
his brother and to his cousins who in-here are Much spoke-they
celui [ior] de Lanselot, entre le roi et la roine et mon
that day of Lancelot between the king and the queen and my
signor Gauain, et quant il en orent laissiet la parole,
lord Gawain and when they thereof had left the word
La roine se lieue dentraus et vient en sa cambre
The queen herself raises from-among-them and comes into her chamber
tant dolante ke nule dame plus, comme cele ki quide bien
so sorrowful that no lady more as she who thinks well
ke mesire Gauains ait dit uoir de la damoisele et que
that my-lord Gawain may-have said true of the damsel and that
Lanselos soit auoec la damoisele. Lors mande Boort kil
Lancelot be with the damsel Then sends-she-for Bors that-he
uiegne parler a li. Et il i uient tantost. Et la roine
may-come to-speak to her And he there comes at-once And the queen
li dist maintenant: 'Boort, or sai ie bien la uerite de
to-him said at-once Bors now know I well the truth of
uostre signor. Il demeure a Ascalot auoec vne damoisele
your lord He stays at Escalot with a damsel

kil aime par amors. or poons nos bien dire que ie et
whom-he loves by love now can we well say that I and
vos lauons perdu, car ele la si atorne kil ne se
you him-have lost for she him-has so arrayed that-he not himself
poroit pas de li partir, se il bien uoloit. et ce dist
could at-all from her part if he well wished and this said
orendroit, oiant le roi et oiant moi, tes cheualiers ke uos
just-now hearing the king and hearing me such knight that you
kerries bien dune parole, sil le uos afermoit por uoir'.
would-believe well of-one word if-he it you affirmed for truth
'Certes, dame', fait Boors, 'ie ne sai ki li cheualiers fu
Certainly lady says Bors I not know who the knight was
ki ceste parole dist, Mais, sil estoit li plus uoirs disans
who this word said But if-he were the most truth saying
hom del monde, si sai ie bien kil est menteres de ceste
man of-the world so know I well that-he is liar in this
cose metre auant, car ie sai bien ke me sires est de si
thing to-put forward for I know well that my lord is of so
haut cuer kil ne le daigneroit faire. Si vos volroie proier
high heart that-he not it would-deign to-do So you would-wish to-pray
ke uos me desistes ki li cheualiers est ki ceste parole
that you me might-tell who the knight is who this word
dist, car il ne sera ia teus ke ie nel sace encore
said for he not will-be ever such that I not-him may-know yet
anuit tenir a mencoignier'. 'Vos nen sares ia plus
tonight hold for liar You not-thereof will-know ever more
par moi', fait ele, 'Mais tant vos di ie bien ke iamais
through me says she But so-much you say I well that ever
Lanselos ior de sa uie a moi nara pais'. 'Dame', fait
Lancelot day of his life with me not-will-have peace Lady says
il, 'ce poise moi, car ce est la riens par coi uos poes
he this grieves me for this is the thing by which you can

plustost honnir mon signor et tot nostre linage; et puis
soonest shame my lord and all our lineage and since
que vos uers mon signor aues si enprise a certes haine, ie
that you toward my lord have so undertaken in earnest hatred I
volroie pas chaiens bon demorer ne li nostre ausi; por ce
would-wish not in-here good to-stay nor the ours also for this
pren ge congie a vos et vos commanc a nostre signor, car
take I leave of you and you commend to our lord for
ie men irai le matin de chaiens et tot nostre linage.
I myself-thence shall-go the morning from in-here and all our lineage
Et quant nos serons au chemin, nos querrons tant mon
And when we shall-be on-the road we shall-seek so-long my
signor ke nos larons, et quant nos larons troue,
lord that we him-shall-have and when we him-shall-have found
nos demorrons en cest pais, sil li plaist, et remanrons
we shall-stay in this country if-it him pleases and shall-remain
a aucun haut home, sil le daigne faire. Et sil ne violt
with some high man if-he it deigns to-do And if-he not wishes
ensi ke li demorers de cest pais ne li plaise, nos
thus that the staying of this country not to-him may-please we
nos en irons en nos terres a nos homes, qui molt sont
ourselves thence shall-go into our lands to our men who much are
desirant de nos veoir, car pieche a kil ne nos virent, et
desirous of us seeing for long-ago it-is that-they not us saw and
ilueques serons, se Deu plaist, en ioie et en bone auenture,
there shall-be-we if God pleases in joy and in good adventure
en doucor et en lasouatume de nos amis carneus que
in sweetness and in the-ease of our friends of-the-flesh whom
nos nauons pas ichi auoec nos. Dame, si sacies por voir
we not-have at-all here with us Lady so know for truth
ke nos neussons pas tant demore en ceste paijs, comme
that we not-would-have at-all so-long stayed in this country as

nos auons, se por lamor de mon signor ne fust. Ne il ne
we have if for the-love of my lord not were Nor he not
demora puis la queste del Graal, ce sacies uos certainement,
stayed since the quest of-the Grail this know you certainly
se por vos non, kil a amee plus loiaument et de
except for you not whom-he has loved more loyally and with
grignor amor, sans faussete, au sien ensient, ke onques
greater love without falseness to his knowledge than ever
cheualiers nama dame ne damoisiele nul ior de sa uie'.
knight not-loved lady nor damsel any day of his life

Lancelot's Kinsmen Seek Him

x

Bors, Hector, and Lionel take leave of the king and search fifteen days in vain. They wait near Taneborc, and promise the king of North Wales to fight on his side. Lancelot lies over a month near death. The damsel of Escalot comes and nurses him, and loves him until she cannot live without him. He answers that his heart is given where he wishes, and she says she will die of it. A squire brings news that the queen will come to Taneborc.

Quant la roine entendi cou que Boors li dist, ele ne se
When the queen heard this which Bors to-her said she not herself
pot tenir ke les larmes ne li uenissent as iex Si est
could hold that the tears not to-her might-come to-the eyes So is-she
tant amalaise ke nule plus. et, quant ele parole, si dist ke
so-much ill-at-ease that none more and when she speaks so said-she that
'maudite soit leure ke ces noueles vinrent deuant moi, car
cursed be the-hour that these news came before me for
ien sui mal baillie.' Apres redist a Boort; 'comment, sire,
I-thereof am ill treated After says-again-she to Bors how lord

me laires uos dont ensi?' 'Dame', fait il, 'a faire le couient'.
me will-leave you then thus Lady says he to do it behooves
Atant se part de la cambre et uient a son frere et a
Then himself parts-he from the chamber and comes to his brother and to
Hestor si lor dist et conte les paroles ke la roine lor
Hector so to-them said and tells the words which the queen to-them
auoit dites, et en sont molt amalaise. Si ne sen
had said and thereof are-they very ill-at-ease So not themselves-thereof
seuent a coi prendre, fors ke cascuns maudist leure ke
know to what to-take-hold except that each curses the-hour that
onques Lanselos sacointa de la roine. Et il lor dist:
ever Lancelot himself-acquainted with the queen And he to-them said
'prendons congie au roi, si nos en alons de chaiens Et
let-us-take leave of-the king so us thence let-us-go from in-here And
querons tant mon signor que nos le trouons; et, se nos
let-us-seek so-long my lord that we him may-find and if we
lauiens troue et nos le peussons mener el roialme de
him-had found and we him could lead into-the kingdom of
Gaunes, onques si bone oeure ne fesismes, car adont seriens nos
Gaunes ever so good work not did-we for then would-be we
en pais et a repos, se il pooit consirer de madame ia roine'.
in peace and at rest if he could dispense with my-lady the queen
A ceste cose sacorde Hestor et Lioniaus, puis vienent
To this thing themselves-agree Hector and Lionel then come-they
au roi et li demandent congie daler querre Lanselot,
to-the king and him ask leave of-going to-seek Lancelot
et il lor donne molt enuis, car molt les amoit a auoir
and he them gives very reluctantly for much them loved-he to have
pres de lui, meesment por Boort, ki lors estoit de plus
near of him even for Bors who then was of more
haute renomee de bonne cheualerie et de bone uie ke
high renown of good chivalry and of good life than

nus cheualiers del roiaume de Logres. lendemain se parti
any knight of-the kingdom of Logres the-next-day himself parted
de cort li linages le roi Ban Si cheuauchierent tant
from court the lineage (of-)the king Ban So rode-they so-much
le droit chemin kil vinrent a Ascalot. Et quant il
the straight road that-they came to Escalot And when they
i furent venu, Si demanderent nouieles de Lanselot par
there were come So asked-they news of Lancelot through
tot la v il en quidierent auoir aucun ensegnement.
all there where they thereof thought to-have some information
Mais onques ni porent trouer ki nouieles lor en
But ever not-there could-they find who news to-them thereof
seust dire. asses le quisent sus et ius, Mais, tant com
might-know to-tell much him sought-they up and down But as-long as
il le queroient plus, et il mains en aprendoient. Si
they him sought more and they less thereof learned So
cheuauchierent en tel maniere par mi le pais .xv. iors
rode-they in such manner through amid the country fifteen days
v plus que onques rien nen aprisent. et quant il
or more so-that ever anything not-thereof learned-they and when they
uirent cou, Si disent: 'por noient nos traueillerons nos plus,
saw this So said-they for nothing us we-shall-toil we more
car nos nel trouerons deuant lasamblee, Mais la, sans
for we not-him shall-find before the-assembly But there without
faille, uenra il, por ke il soit en cest pais et en sa
fail will-come he provided that he be in this country and in his
deliure poeste'. Si demeurent por ceste cose a .i. castiel ke
free power So stay-they for this thing at a castle which
on apiele Athean, ki est a vne iornee de Tanebor ne
one calls Athean which is at a day's-journey from Taneborc nor
iusques a lasamblee nauoit mais ke .vi. iors. Et li rois de
until to the-assembly not-there-was more than six days And the king of

Norgales, ki demoroit en .i. sien rechet pres a .viij. liues de
North-Wales who stayed at a his refuge near at eight leagues from
[A]thean, Si tost com il sot ke li parentes le roi Ban
Athean So soon as he knew that the kindred (of-)the king Ban
i estoit, cil del monde ki estoient renome de grignour
there was those of-the world who were renowned of greater
cheualerie, il les ala ueoir, car molt desiroit a estre lor
chivalry he them went to-see for much he-desired to be their
acointes et molt volsist, sil peust estre, kil fussent
acquaintance and much would-wish-be if-it could be that-they were
de sa maisnie a lassamblee encontre les gens le roi Artu.
of his household at the-assembly against the folk (of-)the king Arthur
Quant il uirent le roi ki les uenoit ueoir, il le tinrent a
When they saw the king who them came to-see they it held for
molt grant debonnairete, si le rechurent biel et cortoisement
very great graciousness so him received fairly and courteously
comme cil ki bien le sorent faire, et le fisent demorer la
as those who well it knew to-do and him made stay the
nuit auoec aus et il les proia tant kil sen alerent
night with them and he them prayed so-much that-they themselves-thence went
lendemain auoec lui a son rechet. Si les tint li rois de
the-next-day with him to his refuge So them held the king of
Norgales en son ostel trescau ior de lassamblee, et tant les
North-Wales in his house until-the day of the-assembly and so-much them
proia dedens le terme kil li promisent kil seroient
prayed-he within the term that-they to-him promised that-they would-be
a lasamblee deuers sa partie. Et li rois fu de ceste promesse
at the-assembly toward his side And the king was of this promise
molt lies et molt ioians et molt les merchia durement.
very glad and very joyful and much them thanked hard

Mais or laisse li contes ichi endroit de Boort et de sa
But now leaves the tale here in-place of Bors and of his
compaignie et retorne a parler de Lanselot, ki gisoit malades.
company and returns to speak of Lancelot who lay sick
Or dist li contes ke .i. mois et plus fu Lanselos Si
Now said the tale that a month and more was Lancelot So
malades de sa plaie ke Boors li fist deuant Guincestre
sick of his wound which Bors to-him made before Winchester
ke li cheualiers ki auoec lui auoit este au tornoiement
that the knight who with him had been at-the tournament
ni atendoit se la mort non. Si len poise trop
not-there awaited except the death not So him-thereof grieves very
durement, car il auoit tant de bien ueu en Lanselot kil
hard for he had so-much of good seen in Lancelot that-he
le prisoit de bonte et de cheualerie sor tos ciaus kil
him prized in goodness and in chivalry above all those whom-he
auoit onques ueus. Ne il ne sauoit encore pas ke ce fust
had ever seen Nor he not knew yet at-all that this were
Lanselos. Quant il ot laiens demore bien un mois, Il auint
Lancelot When he had in-there stayed well a month It happened
ke la damoisiele ki la mance li auoit baillie vint la,
that the damsel who the sleeve to-him had given came there
Et, quant ele uit kil nestoit encore pas garis, Si len
And when she saw that-he not-was yet at-all healed So her-thereof
pesa molt. Si demanda a son frere comment il le faisoit.
grieved much So asked-she to her brother how he it did
Et cil li respont: 'il le fait bien, Diu merci, Selonc les
And he to-her answers he it does well God thanks According-to the
auentures ki ont este, Mais iai ueut, na pas .xv. iors,
adventures which have been But already-I saw not-has at-all fifteen days
tele eure que ie ne peusse pas quidier kil en escapast
such hour that I not could at-all think that-he thence might-escape

uis, se mors non, car trop a este sa plaie perilleuse
alive except dead not for too-much has been his wound perilous
a garir, et par cou quidoie ie bien kil en moreust'.
to heal and by this thought I well that-he thereof would-die
'Morir!' fait ele, 'Diu merci et le gart de mort! Certes
To-die says she God mercy and him guard from death Certainly
ce fust trop dolereus damages, car apres lui ne remansist
this would-be too grievous harm for after him not would-remain
el monde nus si preudom com il est et com il a este'.
in-the world any so worthy-man as he is and as he has been
'Biele suer', fait li cheualiers, 'saues uos ki li cheualiers
Fair sister says the knight know you who the knight
est?' 'Oil', fait ele, 'molt bien. ce est me sire Lanselos del
is Yes says she very well this is my lord Lancelot of-the
Lac, li miudres cheualiers de la maison le roi Artu, voire
Lake the best knight of the house (of-)the king Arthur truly
del monde. Si le me dist me sire Gauains meesmes. 'voire',
of-the world So it me said my lord Gawain himself truly
fait li cheualiers, 'par mon chief, ie le croi bien ke ce puet
says the knight by my head I it believe well that this can
il bien estre, car onques ne ui a nul homme autretant faire
he well be for ever not saw-I of any man as-much do
darmes com il fist a lasamblee de Guincestre ne onques mance
of-arms as he did at the-assembly of Winchester nor ever sleeve
a damoisiele ne fu mius enploie ne tant regardee comme la
of damsel not was better employed nor so-much looked-at as the
uostre fu'. La damoinsiele remest auoec son frere et tant i
yours was The damsel remained with her brother and so-long there
demora ke Lanselos fu si garis kil pot auques aler par
stayed that Lancelot was so healed that-he could somewhat go through
laiens. Et quant il fu pres ke garis et auques reuenus en sa
in-there And when he was near to healed and somewhat come-back into his

biaute, La damoisiele, ki demoroit auoec lui de iors et de
beauty The damsel who stayed with him by days and by
nuis, len ama tant por les biens que on en disoit
nights him-thereof loved so-much for the good-things which one of-him said
et por la biaute ke ele ueoit en lui kil li fu auis
and for the beauty which she saw in him that-it to-her was opinion
kele ne poroit durer en nule maniere, sele nauoit de lui
that-she not could last in any manner if-she not-had of him
tote sa uolente. Ensi ama la damoisele Lanselot tant com
all her will Thus loved the damsel Lancelot as-much as
ele pot. Et quant ele ne pot plus taire cou kele pensoit,
she could And when she not could more be-silent this which-she thought
Ele dist .i. ior kele se fu apareillie et uestue au mius
She said one day that-she herself was prepared and dressed at-the best
kele pooit — Et, sans faille, ele estoit de trop grant biaute:
that-she could And without fail she was of very great beauty
'Sire', fait ele a Lanselot, 'dont ne seroit li cheualiers molt
Lord says she to Lancelot then not would-be the knight very
uilains qui ie requerroie damors, sil sen escondissoit?'
churlish whom I would-ask of-love if-he himself-thence refused
'Damoisele', fait Lanselos, 'sil auoit si son cuer en sa
Damsel says Lancelot if-he had so his heart in his
baillie kil en peust del tot faire sa uolente et son
keeping that-he thereof could of-the all do his will and his
commandement, il seroit trop uilains, sil vos escondissoit,
command he would-be too churlish if-he you refused
Mais sil estoit ensi kil ne peust faire ne de soi ne de
But if-it were thus that-he not could do neither of himself nor of
son cuer sa uolente et il vos escondissoit de samour, nus
his heart his will and he you refused of his-love any
ne len deuroit blasmer; si le uos di, por moi tot auant,
not him-thereof ought to-blame so it you say for me all before

Que, se Dex me conseut, se uos esties tele ke uos daignissies
That if God me may-counsel if you were such that you deigned
metre vostre cuer en moi et ie pooie de moi faire mon
to-put your heart on me and I could of me do my
plaisir, ausi com maint autre cheualier feroient et poroient
pleasure also as many another knight would-do and could
faire, Ie sui cil ki sen tenroit a bon eure, se vos li
do I am he who himself-thereby would-hold at good hour if you to-him
daignies donner uostre amor; car, si uoirement mait Dex,
deigned give your love for so truly me-may-help God
ie ne ui piecha damoisele qui on deust mieus amer ke on
I not saw long-ago damsel whom one ought better to-love than one
deuroit uos'. 'Coment, sire', fait ele, 'nest pas vostres cuers a
ought you How lord says she not-is at-all your heart to
vos si abandonnes ke vos en peussies faire uostre uolente?'
you so abandoned that you thereof could do your will
'Ma volente', fait il, 'en fac iou, car il est del tot la v ie
My will says he thereof do I for it is of-the all there where I
uoel, ne en autre liu ne uoel ie pas kil soit, car il ne poroit
wish nor in other place not wish I at-all that-it be for it not could
nul liu estre si bien assenes comme il est la v ie lai
any place be so well placed as it is there where I it-have
assis, ne ia Dex ne doinst kil de ceste uolente se parte,
set nor ever God not may-grant that-it from this will itself may-part
car apres ce ne poroie ie nul ior uiure si aise comme ie sui'.
for after this not could I any day live so at-ease as I am
'Ciertes, sire', fait ele, 'tant men aues dit ke ie
Certainly lord says she so-much me-thereof have-you said that I
connois grant partie de uostre cuer. Si me poise kil est
know great part of your heart So me grieves that-it is
ensi, car, apres cou ke uos men aues apris a une sole
thus for after this that you me-thereof have taught by a single

parole, me feres uos aprochier de mort hastiue; et se vos
word me will-make you approach of death hasty and if you
le meussies dit .i. peu plus couiertement, vos eussies mis
it me-had said a little more covertly you would-have put
mon cuer en vne langour replenie de tote douce esperance,
my heart in a languor filled with all sweet hope
Si ke lesperance me fesist uiure en tote la ioie et en tote
So that the-hope me would-make live in all the joy and in all
la doucour v cuers morteus poroit demorer'. Lors uient
the sweetness where heart mortal could dwell Then comes
la damoisele a son frere Se li descueure tot son penser
the damsel to her brother So to-him discloses all her thought
et se li dist kele aime Lanselot si meruilleusement
and so to-him said that-she loves Lancelot so marvelously
kele en est a la mort uenue, sil ne fait tant kele
that-she thereof is to the death come if-he not does so-much that-she
en ait tote sa uolente. et il en est trop dolans
thereof may-have all her will and he thereof is very sorrowful
et li dist: 'Biele suer, certes en autre liu vos couient
and to-her said Fair sister certainly in other place you it-behooves
baer, car en cestui ne pories vos auenir en nule maniere,
to-aspire for in this-one not could you attain in any manner
car ie pens bien kil a son cuer si hautement assis kil
for I think well that-he has his heart so highly set that-he
ne daigneroit pas descendre por amer vne si poure puciele
not would-deign at-all to-descend for to-love a so poor maiden
comme vos estes, encore soies vos une des plus bieles
as you are though be you one of-the most fair
pucieles del monde. Si couient, se vos voles amer, ke uos
maidens of-the world So it-behooves if you wish to-love that you
metes vostre cuer plus bas, car de si haut arbre ne pories
may-put your heart more low for from so high tree not could

vos le fruit quellir'. 'Certes', fait la damoisele, 'ce poise
you the fruit gather Certainly says the damsel this grieves
moi et ie volsisse bien, se a Diu pleust, kil ne me fust
me and I would-wish well if to God it-pleased that-he not to-me were
de lui a plus kil estoit dautres cheualiers deuant cou ke
of him at more than-he was of-other knights before this that
ie le ueisse. Mais ce ne puet ore estre, car il est, ce me
I him saw But this not can now be for it is this me
samble, destinee cose ke ie muire por lui et ie en morrai
seems destined thing that I may-die for him and I thereof shall-die
ke vos le uerres apiertement'. Ensi deuise la damoisele sa
so-that you it will-see openly Thus describes the damsel her
mort, ki li auint tot ensi com ele dist, car ele morut,
death which to-her happened all thus as she said for she died
sans faille, por Lanselot, ensi comme li contes le deuisera
without fail for Lancelot thus as the tale it will-relate
apertement. Celui ior mesmes auint que vns escuiers se
openly That day itself it-happened that a squire himself
hierbega laiens, ki estoit de Nohumberlande. Si le fist
lodged in-there who was of Northumberland So him had
Lanselos uenir deuant lui Se li demanda v il aloit. et
Lancelot come before him So to-him asked-he where he went and
cil li dist: 'Sire', fait il, 'ie uois a Thanebourc v li
he to-him said Lord says he I go to Taneborc where the
tornoiemens sera dui entiere iour'. 'Et ques gens i ara
tournament will-be two whole days And what folk there will-have
il?' fait Lanselos. 'le sens tu?' 'Sire', fait cil, 'cil de la
it says Lancelot it knowest thou Lord says he those of the
Table Reonde i seront et tot cil del roiaume de Logres,
Table Round there will-be and all those of-the kingdom of Logres
et encontre aus seront tot cil del roialme de Norgales et
and against them will-be all those of-the kingdom of North-Wales and

tot ki i furent a lasamblee deuers Guincestre, et, por le
all who there were at the-assembly toward Winchester and for the
tornoiement veoir, si com on dist, i venra li rois Artus
tournament to-see so as one said there will-come the king Arthur
et amenra en sa compaignie madame la roine Genieure'.
and will-bring in his company my-lady the queen Guinevere

Lancelot Longs for the Tournament

XI

Hearing that the queen will come to Taneborc, Lancelot curses the man who wounded him. Straining in his grief, he bursts his wound open. Next day he pretends to be healed, but agrees to stay fifteen days more. He sends the squire with a greeting for Gawain and the queen. At the king of North Wales's lodging the squire tells Gawain of a wounded knight mad to ride, and Gawain knows him for Lancelot.

Quant Lanselos entent que la roine i uenra, Si est si
When Lancelot hears that the queen there will-come So is-he so
torbles kil li est auis kil doie morir de duel, Si
troubled that-it to-him is opinion that-he must die of grief So
commence a escaufer trop durement. Et quant il parole, si
begins-he to grow-hot too hard And when he speaks so
dist si haut ke tot cil ki deuant lui estoient le porent bien
said-he so loud that all those who before him were it could well
oir: 'Ha! dame, or ni ueres vos pas vostre cheualier, car
hear Ah lady now not-there will-see you at-all your knight for
ie ne fai ichi fors ke languir. Ha! cheualiers ki ceste plaie
I not do here except that languish Ah knight who this wound
me fesis, por coi ie sui chi retenus, Dex doinst que ie te
me madest for which I am here held God grant that I thee

truise encore en tel maniere que ie te connoisse! Certes ie
may-find yet in such manner that I thee may-know Certainly I
nen prendroie pas damende tot le siecle que ie ne te
not-thereof would-take at-all in-amends all the world that I not thee
face de male mort morir.' Lors sestent del grant
may-make by evil death die Then himself-stretches-he from-the great
duel kil en a et a lestendre kil fist li escrieue
grief which-he thereof has and in the-stretching which-he made to-him bursts-open
sa plaie, si en saut uns rais de sanc autresi com il fesist
his wound so thence leaps a jet of blood also as it would-do
dune beste acoree Si se pasme maintenant. Et quant
from-a beast slaughtered So himself swoons-he at-once And when
ses maistres le uoit, si dist al escuier: 'Biaus amis, vos
his master him sees so said-he to-the squire Fair friend you
laues mort par vos nouieles.' Si le fait tantost despoillier
him-have killed by your news So him has-he at-once undressed
et couchier a vne pait si se paine de lui estanchier,
and laid on a side so himself labors of him staunching
car autrement fust il mors erralment. Tout celui ior fu
for otherwise would-be he dead straightway All that day was-he
en tel paine et en tel martire kil nouri puis les iex
in such pain and in such martyrdom that-he not-opened since the eyes
ne ne dist mot, ains fu ensi comme demis mors.
nor not said word rather was thus as half dead

A lendemain se resuigora de parler au plus kil pot
On the-next-day himself strove-again of speaking at-the most that-he could
et fist samblant kil ne sentist mal ne dolour et kil
and made semblance that-he not felt ill nor pain and that-he
fust tos garis. Si dist a son mire: 'Maistres, Diu merci et
were all healed So said-he to his physician Master God thanks and
la uostre, uos aues mis en moi si grant paine et si grant
the yours you have put on me so great pain and so great

trauail que ie me senc si sain et si haitie que ie puis
toil that I myself feel so sound and so hale that I can
bien des ore mais cheuaucier sans moi greuer de nule cose.
well from now more ride without myself grieving of any thing
por cou uolroie ie proier la dame de chaiens et cest mien
for this would-wish I to-pray the lady of in-here and this my
compaignon, qui tante honor ma faite en ceste maladie,
companion who so-much honor me-has done in this sickness
kil me donnaissent congie daler ment dechi. Et uos
that-they me might-give leave of-going myself-thence from-here And you
encore requier iou, por cou ke uos prendes de moi, ke uos me
yet ask I for this that you may-take of me that you me
facies compaignie iusques a Tanebourc, car por mort ne por
may-make company until to Taneborc for for death nor for
uie ie ne lairoie ke ie ne ueisse cel tornoiement v tote la
life I not would-leave that I not might-see that tournament where all the
flors de la cheualerie del monde sera assamblee.' 'Ha! sire',
flower of the chivalry of-the world will-be assembled Ah lord
fait li prodom, 'que est ce ke uos dites? ce nest pas bon.
says the worthy-man what is this that you say this not-is at-all good
'Car certes, se uos esties ore montes sor le plus souef
For certainly if you were now mounted upon the most gently
portant palefroi del siecle, trestos li mons ne uos poroit
carrying palfrey of-the world wholly-all the world not you could
garantir ke vos ne fussies mors, ancois ke vos eussies
protect that you not were dead before that you had
cheuauchie demie liue; car vos estes si tres durement Malades
ridden half league for you are so very hard Sick
ke ie ne uoi gaires bien coment nus fors Dex vos puise doner
that I not see much well how any except God you can give
garison.' 'Ha! sire', fait il, 'ne men dires vos autre cose?'
healing Ah lord says he not me-thereof will-say you other thing

'Nenil,' fait il, 'fors que vos estes a la mort, se vos vos
No says he except that you are at the death if you yourselves
moues de chaiens a cest point'. 'Par foi, sire', fait Lanselos,
move from in-here at this point By faith lord says Lancelot
'se ie ne uoi cele assamblee, riens nule ne me poroit garir
if I not see that assembly anything any not me could heal
que ie nen muire de duel. Et sil au morir vient, Mius
that I not-thereof may-die of grief And if-it to dying comes Better
uoel ie morir en ceuauchant ke en languissant, por quoi il me
wish I to-die in riding than in languishing for which it me
uaut mieus li alers ke li remanoirs.' 'vos en feres', fait li
is-worth better the going than the remaining you thereof will-do says the
preudom, 'ce me samble, cou ke uos plaira et cou que li
worthy-man this me seems this which you will-please and this which the
cuers vos en aportera, car por moi nen laires vos riens.
heart you thereof will-bring for for me not-thereof will-leave you anything
Et puis ke uos a mon conseil ne uoles errer, ie vos lais
And since that you by my counsel not wish to-go I you leave
del tot, et vos et uostre compaignie, Si que, se uos mores
of-the all both you and your company So that if you die
en ceste compaignie, ie ne uoel pas ke on die ke ce soit
in this company I not wish at-all that one may-say that this be
par moi. Et se uos garissies — que Dex le vos doinst —
by me And if you heal which God it you may-grant
ie nen uoel estre de nule cose ne blasmes ne loes.'
I not-thereof wish to-be in any thing neither blamed nor praised

'Ha! biaus maistres', fait Lanselot, 'uoles me uos dont ensi
Ah fair master says Lancelot wish me you then thus
del tot laissier, ki maues aidie et valut iusques chi? comment
of-the all leave who me-have helped and availed up-to here how
le pories vos trouer en uostre cuer?' 'Par foi', fet li maistres,
it could you find in your heart By faith says the master

‘il couient que ie vos lais, car ie ne uolroie por riens ke si
it behooves that I you leave for I not would-wish for anything that so
preudomme comme uos estes morust tant comme ie leusse en
worthy-man as you are might-die as-long as I him-had in
ma garde’. ‘Me dites uos loiaument’, fait Lanselos, ‘kil men
my keeping Me tell you loyally says Lancelot that-it me-thereof
couenroit morir, se ie men partoie de chaiens, por aler
would-behoove to-die if I myself-thence parted from in-here for to-go
a lasamblee?’ ‘Ie uos di’, fait li preudom, ‘ke, se tos li mons
to the-assembly I you say says the worthy-man that if all the world
en estoit en vostre aide, fors Deu solement, Si naueries
thereof were in your aid except God only So not-would-have
vos pooir de cheuauchier .ij. liues ke uos ne fussies mors
you power of riding two leagues that you not were dead
entre uoies. Mais demores encore chaiens .xv. iors Et ie uos
between ways But stay yet in-here fifteen days And I you
di ke a celui terme uos quic iou rendre si sain et si haitie
say that at that term you think I to-render so sound and so hale
a laide de Diu ke uos pores cheuauchier a seur par tot
with the-aid of God that you can ride at safe through all
la v vos plaira.’ ‘Biaus maistres’, fait il, ‘et ie remanrai,
there where you will-please Fair master says he and I shall-remain
tant dolans de cou kil le me couient a faire que nus ne
so sorrowful of this that-it it me behooves to do that any not
poroit estre plus courouchies; si a asses raison por coi’.
could be more angered so has-he much reason for which
Lors dist al escuier ki deuant lui estoit — celui ki
Then said-he to-the squire who before him was him who
les nouieles del tornoiement li auoit aportees — kil
the news of-the tournament to-him had brought whom-he
auoit au matin retenu, por lui faire compaignie, por cou
had at-the morning retained for him to-make company for this

kil quidoit uraiement aler a lasamblee: 'Biaus amis', fait il,
that-he thought truly to-go to the-assembly Fair friend says he
'ales uos ent la v vos baes a aler, car ie me remanrai,
go you thence there where you aspire to go for I myself shall-remain
ce mest auis; et quant tu uenras a lasamblee et tu i
this to-me-is opinion and when thou wilt-come to the-assembly and thou there
uoies mon signor Gauain et madame la roine, Si les salue
seest my lord Gawain and my-lady the queen So them greet
de par celui ki uenqui lassamblee de Guincestre. Et sil te
from by him who conquered the-assembly of Winchester And if-they thee
demandent que ie fac, onques de mon estre ne lor di rien
ask what I do ever of my being not to-them tell anything
ne leu iou sui'. Et cil dist que cest mesage li fera
nor the-place-where I am And he said that this message for-him will-do
il bien, sil en uient en point. Si monte sor son ronci et
he well if-he thereof comes in point So mounts-he upon his nag and
sen part de laiens et cheuauce tant ca lasamblee
himself-thence parts from in-there and rides so-much that-to the-assembly
vint. Il estoit auques acointies del roi de Norgales, Si ala
he-came He was somewhat acquainted with-the king of North-Wales So went-he
en son ostel et i demora le soir que li tornoiemens deuoit
to his lodging and there stayed the evening when the tournament was-to
estre a lendemain. Quant la nuis fu uenue, me sire Gauains
be on the-next-day When the night was come my lord Gawain
vint a lostel le roi de Norgales, por ueoir Boort et ses
came to the-lodging (of-)the king of North-Wales for to-see Bors and his
compaignons et por parler a aus. Et cil le rechurent a
companions and for to-speak to them And they him received with
molt grant ioie Et li fisent fieste grant et molt meruilleuse.
very great joy And to-him made feast great and very marvelous

Li escuiers ki auoit parle a Lanselot seruoit del uin. Et
The squire who had spoken to Lancelot served of-the wine And
quant il se fu agenoullies deuant mon signor Gauain, por
when he himself was knelt before my lord Gawain for
lui donner le uin, si commencha a sosrire trop durement,
him to-give the wine so began-he to smile too hard
car il li souint de Lanselot et de la deruerie kil
for it to-him reminded of Lancelot and of the madness which-he
uoloit faire, por uenir a lasamblee. Quant me sire Gauains
wished to-do for to-come to the-assembly When my lord Gawain
le uit sosrire, Si pensa que ce nestoit mie por noient, si
him saw smile So thought-he that this not-was at-all for nothing so
but, Et quant il ot beu, si dist a lescuier: 'Biaus amis',
drank-he And when he had drunk so said-he to the-squire Fair friend
fait il, 'se Dex tait, di moi cou que ie te demanderai'.
says he so God thee-may-help tell me this which I thee shall-ask
Et cil li dist, sil le set, kil li dira [son] demant
And he to-him said if-he it knows that-he to-him will-tell his asking
seurement. 'Tu commenchas ore a sosrire', fait me sire
surely Thou beganst now to smile says my lord
Gauains. 'di moi le raison por coi ce fu'. 'Sire', fait cil,
Gawain tell me the reason for which this was Lord says he
'kil me souint del plus fol cheualier et del plus derue
that-it me reminded of-the most mad knight and of-the most crazed
que ie onques ueisse, car il est naures ausi com a mort, en
whom I ever saw for he is wounded also as to death in
tel maniere que il ne se puet remuer, et si uoloit ier
such manner that he not himself can move and so wished-he yesterday
matin venir a ceste assamblee, v ses mires volsist v
morning to-come to this assembly whether his physician would-wish or

non, Et il estoit encore si mesaaisies ke a paines en
not And he was still so ill-at-ease that with pains thence
pooit on parole traire. dont nestoit cou bien grans forsenerie?'
could one word draw whereof not-was this well great madness
'Biaus frere', fait me sire Gauains, 'quant tu cou ueis
Fair brother says my lord Gawain when thou this sawest
del cheualier, ie te di, au mien ensient, kil est prodom,
of-the knight I thee say to-the my knowledge that-he is worthy-man
et si sai de uoir ke, sil fust en son deliure pooir,
and so know-I for truth that if-he were in his free power
il nel laissast pas legierement kil ni uenist. Or
he not-it would-leave at-all lightly that-he not-there might-come Now
li doinst Dex sante, car, si mait Dex, ce est grans
him grant God health for so me-may-help God this is great
damages, quant preudom a maladie ki li tolt a faire
harm when worthy-man has sickness which from-him takes to do
proece.' 'En non Diu', fait li escuiers, 'ie ne sai ki il est
prowess In name (of-)God says the squire I not know who he is
Mais tant uos os ie bien dire ke ie loi tenir por le
But so-much you dare I well say that I him-heard hold for the
millor cheualier del monde. Et encor me dist il que ie uos
best knight of-the world And yet me said he that I you
saluaisse de par celui qui uenki lassamblee de Guincestre,
should-greet from by him who conquered the-assembly of Winchester
et madame la roine mande il ausi.' Et quant me sire
and my-lady the queen sends he also And when my lord
Gauains entent ces nouieles, si set bien tantost que ce
Gawain hears these news so knows-he well at-once that this
est Lanselos. Si dist al escuier: 'Ha! biaus amis, por Diu,
is Lancelot So said-he to-the squire Ah fair friend for God
v le laissastes uos?' 'Sire', fait il, 'ce ne vos dirai ie
where him left you Lord says he this not you shall-tell I

mie, car ie me mefferoie'. 'au mains' fait me sire Gauains,
at-all for I myself would-misdo at-the least says my lord Gawain
'maues vos dit quil est naures'. 'Sire', fait cil, 'se ie le dis,
me-have you said that-he is wounded Lord says he if I it said
ie men repenc, car plus vos en ai dit et descouiert
I myself-thereof repent for more you thereof have-I said and disclosed
que ie ne deusse. Mais totes uoies uos pri ie ke, se uos
than I not ought But all the-same you pray I that if you
uees la roine Genieure auant ke iou, ke uos le salues de
see the queen Guinevere before that I that you her may-greet from
par celui ke ie uos ai dit.' Et [quant] mesire Gauains
by him whom I you have said And when my-lord Gawain
entent ces nouieles, [si dist] ke si fera il molt uolentiers.
hears these news so said-he that so will-do he very willingly

The Tournament at Taneborc

XII

The cousins press the squire, who names a false road. At Taneborc King Ban's kindred carry off the prize, but Lancelot is absent, and the king has another tournament cried at Camelot. The queen thinks the damsel keeps Lancelot, and hates him. Bors refuses to return to court without news of his lord. Gawain leads the cousins to Escalot, where Bors knows Lancelot's shield, and the host promises to show them where its owner lies.

De ceste parole furent molt espoente li troi cousin, car bien
At this word were much frightened the three cousins for well
aperchurent que ce ert Lanselos ki saluoit mon signor Gauain,
perceived-they that this was Lancelot who greeted my lord Gawain
Si tinrent le uallet molt en grant [peine] kil lor desist
So held-they the squire very in great pain that-he to-them might-tell

v il auoit laissiet Lanselot. Et cil respont ke ia plus ne
where he had left Lancelot And he answers that ever more not
lor en descouerra, por proiere que nus len sace
to-them thereof will-he-disclose for prayer that any him-thereof may-know
faire. 'au mains', fait il, 'nos pues tu bien dire quel part
make at-the least says he us canst thou well tell which way
tu le laissas'. Et cil, ki uoit kil le tiennent si court,
thou him leftest And he who sees that-they him hold so short
lor noume vn autre liu ke celui v il lauoit laissiet. Et
to-them names an other place than that-one where he him-had left And
il dient que au partir del tornoiement iront il cele part
they say that at-the parting of-the tournament will-go they that way
et le querront tant ke, se Diu plest, kil le troueront.
and him will-seek so-long that if God pleases that-they him will-find

Lendemain assamblerent en la praerie desus le castiel de
The-next-day assembled in the meadow above the castle of
Thanebour li cheualier de .iiij. roiaumes encontre ciaus de
Taneborc the knights of four kingdoms against those of
la Table Reonde et encontre ciaus del roiaume de Logres.
the Table Round and against those of-the kingdom of Logres
Si i ot mainte biele iouste et maint biau cop ferut de
So there had many-a fair joust and many-a fair blow struck with
lances et despees. Si peust on ueoir la praerie couierte des
lances and with-swords So could one see the meadow covered with-the
cheualiers des estranges terres ki tornoioient encontre ciaus
knights of-the foreign lands who tourneyed against those
de la Table Reonde, ki de proece et de hardement estoient
of the Table Round who for prowess and for boldness were
renommet sor tous autres cheualiers. Asses i ot celui ior
renowned above all other knights Much there had that day
feru et abatus cheualiers et mains ocis et mains naures
struck and felled knights and many killed and many wounded

et maint mehaigniet, Mais sor tous ciaus ki la furent
and many maimed But above all those who there were
le fisent bien, selonc cou kil estoient, cil del parente
it did well according-to this that-they were those of-the kindred
le roi Ban de Benuic. Si enporterent celui ior le pris del
(of-)the king Ban of Benwick So carried-off-they that day the prize of-the
tornoiement, entre mon signor Gauain et Boort. Et quant
tournament between my lord Gawain and Bors And when
li rois vit et sot vraiement que Lanselos ni auoit pas
the king saw and knew truly that Lancelot not-there had at-all
este, si en fu trop dolans, car plus i estoit il uenus
been so thereof was-he very sorrowful for more there was he come
por ueoir Lanselot ke por autre cose. Si fist maintenant
for to-see Lancelot than for other thing So had-he at-once
par le commun assentement des plusors kil ot en cele
by the common assent of-the several whom-he had in that
place meesmes un autre tornoiement crie a .i. mois apres tot
place itself an other tournament cried at a month after all
droit en la praerie de Camaalot. Se si acorderent
straight in the meadow of Camelot So themselves-thereto agreed
bien pres tot cil de la place. Si fu en tel maniere departis
well near all those of the place So was in such manner parted
li tornoiemens que plus ni ot fait a cele fois.
the tournament that more not-there was done at that time

Celui ior dist li rois a Boort quil uenist a court,
That day said the king to Bors that-he might-come to court
entre lui et sa compaignie, et il dist que non feroit kil
between him and his company and he said that not would-do that-he
ni entenroit iamais deuant quil seust la uerite de
not-there would-attend ever before that-he might-know the truth of
son signor. Li rois ne len osa plus requerre, car, sil
his lord The king not him-thereof dared more ask for if-he

quidast que proiere i eust mestier, asses len eust
thought that prayer there had use much him-thereof would-have-he
requist. Et me sire Gauains reconte a la roine cou que li
asked And my lord Gawain recounts to the queen this which the
escuiers li ot dit de Lanselot, comment il uoloit uenir
squire to-him had said of Lancelot how he wished to-come
au tornoiement Mais ses mires ne li laissa, por cou kil
to-the tournament But his physician not him let for this that-he
le ueoit encore trop malade. La roine ne puet croire kil
him saw yet too sick The queen not can believe that-he
ait este si longement deshaities, ains quide vraiement ke
may-have been so long ill rather thinks truly that
la damoisiele ke me sire Gauains auoit tant loee soit
the damsel whom my lord Gawain had so-much praised may-be
ocoisons de sa demoree et kil soit remes auoec li et
occasion of his delay and that-he may-be remained with her and
que por autre cose nait tant demore a uenir a cort. Si
that for other thing not-has-he so-long delayed to come to court So
en het Lanselot si tres durement kil nest hontes ne
thereof hates-she Lancelot so very hard that-it not-is shame nor
deshonors kele ne li volsist bien ueoir soufrir. Mais de
dishonor that-she not to-him would-wish well to-see suffer But of
[Boort] et de sa compaignie ki ensi ont la court laissie por
Bors and of his company who thus have the court left for
defaute de Lanselot a ele si grant pitie et tant en est
default of Lancelot has she so great pity and so-much thereof is-she
amalaise de cou kele les a ensi perdus kele ne set quele
ill-at-ease by this that-she them has thus lost that-she not knows what
en puisse deuenir. Si amast molt, sil peust estre quil
thereof may become So would-love-she much if-it could be that-they
reuenissent ariere, car tant amoit lor compaignie por la
might-come back for so-much loved-she their company for the

grant debonairete et por la cortoisie quele i trouoit quele
great graciousness and for the courtesy which-she there found that-she
ne prisoit nule gent auers aus. Et la v ele estoit plus
not prized any folk beside them And there where she was more
en son deliure conseil dist ele [une] fois kele ne sauoit nul
in her free counsel said she one time that-she not knew any
cheualier si bien digne ne si soufissant dauoir tot le monde
knight so well worthy nor so sufficient to-have all the world
en sa main comme estoit Boors de Gaunes et que por lamor
in his hand as was Bors of Gaunes and that for the-love
de lui li pesoit il molt que tot li autre nestoient a cort.
of him to-her grieved it much that all the others not-were at court
Trois iors demora li rois a Thanebour, por soi reposer
Three days stayed the king at Taneborc for himself to-rest
et aaisier, et commanda a Boort et a sa compaignie, ki
and to-ease and commanded to Bors and to his company who
demoroient auoec le roi de Norgales, quil le uenissent
stayed with the king of North-Wales that-they him might-come
ueoir. Et cil li disent kil ni uenroient mie ne
to-see And they to-him said that-they not-there would-come at-all nor
iamais ne retorneroient en son ostel iusques a cele eure
ever not would-return to his house until to that hour
kil i saroient Lanselot. Lendemain par matin se parti
that-they there would-know Lancelot The-next-day by morning himself parted
li rois de Thanebour et cheuaucha uers Camaalot, entre
the king from Taneborc and rode toward Camelot between
lui et ciaus de son ostel, et Boors se parti celui ior
him and those of his household and Bors himself parted that day
meesmes del roi de Norgales, entre lui et sa compaignie,
itself from-the king of North-Wales between him and his company
et me sire Gauains auoec aus, car il dist quil ne se
and my lord Gawain with them for he said that-he not himself

partiroit iamais de lor compaignie deuant kil aroient
would-part ever from their company before that-they would-have
troue Lanselot. Si cheuaucierent ensi ensamble cele part v
found Lancelot So rode-they thus together that way where
li escuiers lor auoit dit kil lauoit laissiet, Mais, quant
the squire to-them had said that-he him-had left But when
il i furent uenu, il ni trouerent ne un ne autre
they there were come they not-there found neither one nor other
ki riens lor en seust a dire. Et quant me sire
who anything to-them thereof might-know to say And when my lord
Gauains uit kil ne troueroient iluec ki rien lor en
Gawain saw that-they not would-find there who anything to-them thereof
desist, si dist a Boort: 'Sire, ie loeroie ke nos aillissons
might-say so said-he to Bors Lord I would-advise that we might-go
droit a Ascalot, car en celui castiel sai ie tel ostel v
straight to Escalot for in that castle know I such house where
ie quic que on men sara assener daucune cose de cou
I think that one me-thereof will-know direct of-some thing of this
que nos alons querant'. 'Sire', fait Boors, 'ie uolroie ia
that we go seeking Lord says Bors I would-wish already
que nos i fuissons, car molt me targe que nos aions
that we there were for much me tarries that we may-have
troue Lanselot'. Atant se partent diluec, Puis cheuaucent
found Lancelot Then themselves part-they from-there Then ride-they
iusques au soir et ui[n]rent la nuit dales .i. hermitage.
until to-the evening and came the night beside a hermitage

Lendemain, si tost com il fu iors, Si monterent et
The-next-day so soon as it was day So mounted-they and
cheuauchierent a la froidour et errerent tant a petites
rode in the cool and journeyed so-much by small
iornees kil uinrent a Ascalot. Mesire Gauains descendi en
day-stages that-they came to Escalot My-lord Gawain dismounted at

lostel v il auoit a lautre fois geu et autresi descendirent
the-house where he had at the-other time lain and likewise dismounted
li autre. Et quant il furent tot descendu, Mesire Gauains
the others And when they were all dismounted My-lord Gawain
Mainne Boors en la cambre v il auoit laissiet lescut si le
Leads Bors into the chamber where he had left the-shield so it
troua encore i pendant quant il uint. Lors li moustre
found-he still there hanging when he came Then to-him shows-he
lescut ki iluec pendoit. Se li dist: 'Sire, cestui escut
the-shield which there hung So to-him said Lord this shield
veistes vos onques mais?' Et Boors le reconnoist tantost
saw you ever before And Bors it recognizes at-once
et puis li dist: 'En non Diu, cestui escut laissames
and then to-him said In name (of-)God this shield left
nos a Chamaalot, quant nos en partimes et nos en
we at Camelot when we thence parted and us thence
alames a lasamblee de Guincestre, et cou est li derrains
went to the-assembly of Winchester and this is the last
escus que on fist faire a mon signor'. Lors mande me sire
shield which one had made for my lord Then sends-for my lord
Gauains a loste de laiens kil uiegne a lui et cil i
Gawain to the-host of in-there that-he may-come to him and he there
vint erralment. Et mesire Gauains li dist: 'biaus ostes,
came straightway And my-lord Gawain to-him said fair host
ie uos pri en tos weredons et vos requier par cele foi que
I you pray in all rewards and you ask by that faith which
vos deues a la riens del monde ke uos [plus ames] que
you owe to the thing of-the world which you most love that
vos nos dites v li cheualiers est ki laissa chaiens cest
you us may-tell where the knight is who left in-here this
escut, car ie sai de uoir que vos saues bien v il est Si
shield for I know for truth that you know well where he is So

le nos pores bien ensegnier, sil vos plest. Et, se vos estes
it us can-you well point-out if-it you pleases And if you are
teus que vos nen voellies riens faire por proiere, aseur
such that you not-thereof wish anything to-do for prayer assured
poes estre que nos vos greuerons, se nos en uenons en
can-you be that we you shall-grieve if we thereto come in
liu.' 'Se ie quidoie', fait li preudom, 'que vos por son bien
place If I thought says the worthy-man that you for his good
le quesisies, ie le vos ensegneroie, Mais autrement ne le
him sought I it you would-point-out But otherwise not it
feroie ie ne por manace ne por proiere'. 'Ie uos creanc',
would-do I neither for threat nor for prayer I you promise
fait mesire Gauains, 'sor quanque ie tieng de Diu, que
says my-lord Gawain upon whatever I hold of God that
nos somes chaiens cil del monde ki de grignor amor
we are in-here those of-the world who with greater love
lamons et ki plus feriemes por lui; et, por ce ke nos
him-love and who more would-do for him and for this that we
nel ueimes piecha, ne riens ne sauons de son estre, sil
not-him saw long-ago nor anything not know of his being if-he
est aise v amalaise, et lauons quis plus a de .viii. iors'.
is at-ease or ill-at-ease and him-have sought more has than eight days
'Or demores hui mais chaiens', fait li prodom, 'et demain,
Now stay today more in-here says the worthy-man and tomorrow
quant vos volres mouoir, ie vos ensegnerai v vos le pores
when you will-wish to-move I you shall-point-out where you him can
trouer v ie uos baillerai un de mes valles de chaiens ki vos
find or I you shall-give one of my squires of in-here who you
i menra le droit chemin'. et il len merchient molt.
there will-lead the straight road and they him-thereof thank much

Lancelot Found

XIII

Guided by a knight who lay sick at Escalot, Bors, Hector, Lionel, and Gawain ride to the lady's house where Lancelot has lain since Winchester. He is up and walking; the physician promises he will bear arms within eight days. At dinner Gawain asks who wounded him; Lancelot threatens the man's head, and Gawain, laughing, warns Bors. Bors, ashamed, blames the disguise, and Lancelot pardons him and Hector both.

Cele nuit demorerent laiens a grant ioie et furent molt
That night stayed-they in-there with great joy and were very
plus aaise kil ne soloient, por les noueles quil orent
more at-ease than-they — were-wont for the news which-they had
aprises. et lendemain au jour se leuerent et vinrent
learned and the-next-day at-the day themselves raised-they and came
en la sale Si trouerent lor oste ki ia estoit leues et
into the hall So found-they their host who already was risen and
celui cheualier ki estoit deshaities a leure ke Lanselos
that knight who was ill at the-hour that Lancelot
i uint, Mais il ert ore garis et dist kil lor feroit
there came But he was now healed and said that-he them would-make
compaignie iusques la v li cheualiers demoroit quil
company until there where the knight stayed whom-they
aloient querant. Et il dient que ce lor plaist molt.
went seeking And they say that this them pleases much
Atant se partirent de laiens tot ensamble et
Then themselves parted-they from in-there all together and
commanderent molt lor oste a Diu. Si se hasterent molt
commended much their host to God So themselves hastened-they much
de ceuauchier tant kil vinrent au soir a lostel a la dame
of riding until that-they came at-the evening at the-house of the lady

cies qui Lanselos estoit et v il auoit demore puis
at-the-house-of whom Lancelot was and where he had stayed since
lassamblee de Guincestre, et il estoit si bien tornes a garison
the-assembly of Winchester and he was so well turned to healing
kil se pooit leuer et aler esbatre par laiens. Quant cil
that-he himself could raise and go to-disport through in-there When they
uinrent a lentree, il descendirent deuant la porte. Et Lanselos
came to the-entry they dismounted before the gate And Lancelot
estoit adont en la court et saloit esbatant et deduisant
was then in the court and himself-went disporting and amusing
par la cort, entre lui et le prodomme ki gari lauoit, et si
through the court between him and the worthy-man who healed him-had and so
estoit li cheualiers qui auoec lui estoit venus au tornoiement,
was the knight who with him was come to-the tournament
ki en cele maladie li auoit si grant compaignie portee que
who in that sickness to-him had so great company borne that
onques ne le uot laissier ne au main ne au soir.
ever not him wished-he to-leave neither at-the morning nor at-the evening
Quant cil furent descendut et entre dedens la court et
When they were dismounted and entered within the court and
Lanselos les uit uenir et il les connut, ne demandes pas
Lancelot them saw come and he them knew not ask at-all
sil ot ioie, car il nauoit gent el siecle kil tant desirast
if-he had joy for he not-had folk in-the world whom-he so-much desired
a ueoir. Si courut maintenant a Boort, les bras tendus,
to see So ran-he at-once to Bors the arms stretched
Si lacole et dist ke bien soit il uenus, puis reuait a
So him-embraces and said that well may-be he come then goes-again to
Hestor, son frere, et a Lyonel et a mon signor Gauain. a
Hector his brother and to Lionel and to my lord Gawain to
celui fait il feste grant et meruilleuse et puis lor dist:
that-one makes he feast great and marvelous and then to-them said

'Biau signor, ke vos soies li bien uenut'. 'Sire', font il, 'li
Fair lords that you may-be the well come Lord say they the
grant desirier que nos auiens de vos ueoir et la grans paours
great desire which we had of you seeing and the great fear
ke nos auiens de vos, por ce ke uos nauies pas este a ceste
which we had of you for this that you not-had at-all been at this
derraine assamblee, nos a mis en ceste queste de uos; Si nos
last assembly us has put into this quest of you So to-us
en est la merchi Deu bien auenu, car a mains de paine
thereof is the thanks (of-)God well happened for with less of pain
que nos ne quidiens soufrir vos auons troue. Mais, por Diu,
than we — thought to-suffer you have-we found But for God
de vostre estre nos dites et comment vos laues puis fait, car
of your being us tell and how you it-have since done for
nos oimes deuant ier dire que vos esties trop durement
we heard the-day-before yesterday say that you were too hard
deshaities'. 'Ciertes', fait il, 'la merci Deu, il mest a orendroit
ill Certainly says he the thanks (of-)God it to-me-is at now
molt bien, car ie sui del tot tornes a garison. Mais, sans
very well for I am of-the all turned to healing But without
faille, ie ai puis este molt malades et molt ai soufert grant
fail I have since been very sick and much have-I suffered great
angousse et fui ausi comme en peril de mort, comme faisoit
anguish and was also as in peril of death as was
entendant'. 'Sire', fait Boors, 'v presistes vos ceste maladie,
understood Lord says Bors where took you this sickness
si comme vos quidies?' 'Ie sai bien', fait il, 'que ie le pris
so as you think I know well says he that I it took
a lasamblee de Guincestre dune plaie que vns cheualiers me
at the-assembly of Winchester from-a wound which a knight me
fist a une iouste. Si fu la plaie asses plus parfonde que ie
made at a joust So was the wound much more deep than I

ne quidoie; et bien i pert, car encore nen sui ie pas si
— thought and well there appears for still not-thereof am I at-all so
bien garis que ie peusse si bien cheuauchier demain .ij. liues'.
well healed that I could so well ride tomorrow two leagues
'Sire', fait mesire Gauains, 'puis ke Dex vos a torne a la
Lord says my-lord Gawain since that God you has turned to the
garison, il ne me caut de la dolour trespassee, car de cele
healing it not me matters of the pain past for of that-one
naues vos mais garde, Mais dites nos quant vos quidies
not-have you more care But tell us when you think
estre en si bon point que vos puissies uenir a cort?' 'Certes',
to-be in so good point that you can come to court Certainly
fait il, 'prochainement, se Diu plest'. Et li preudom ki de
says he soon if God pleases And the worthy-man who of
lui garir sestoit entremis respont a mon signor Gauain:
him healing himself-was undertaken answers to my lord Gawain
'Sire', fait il, 'il sera si outreement garis dedens .viij. iors
Lord says he he will-be so utterly healed within eight days
kil pora cheuaucier et porter armes ausi efforchiement
that-he will-be-able ride and bear arms as strongly
comme il fist a lasamblee de Guincestre'. et il respondent
as he did at the-assembly of Winchester and they answer
que de ceste nouele sont il molt durement ioiant.
that of this news are they very hard joyful

A [l]endemain, quant il se seoient au disner, dist
On the-next-day when they themselves sat at-the dinner said
mesire Gauains, oiant tos, en sosriant a Lanselot: 'Sire, del
my-lord Gawain hearing all in smiling to Lancelot Lord of-the
cheualier ki cele plaie vos fist a lasamblee v vos fustes,
knight who that wound you made at the-assembly where you were
seustes vos puis ki il fu?' 'Certes, sire', fait Lanselos, 'ie
knew you since who he was Certainly lord says Lancelot I

non; Mais, se Dex me donnoit que ie le peusse connoistre
no But if God me granted that I him could know
et ie le trouoie par auenture en aucune assamblee, Ie quic
and I him found by chance in some assembly I think
quil ne fist onques cose dont la bontes li fust ausi bien
that-he not did ever thing whereof the kindness to-him were so well
rendue comme ie li renderoie; car, ancois kil sen
rendered as I to-him would-render for before that-he himself-thence
partist, li feroie ie connoistre, uoiant tos ciaus de la
parted to-him would-make I know seeing all those of the
place, se mespee puet entamer achier; et sil traist sanc de
place if my-sword can cut steel and if-he drew blood from
mon coste, Ie len quideroie traire de la teste autretant v
my side I him-thence would-think to-draw from the head as-much or
plus'. Lors commence mesire Gauains a batre ses paumes et
more Then begins my-lord Gawain to beat his palms and
a faire la grignor ioie del monde. Si dist a Boort: 'Boort,
to make the greatest joy of-the world So said-he to Bors Bors
or i parra que vos feres, car, par mon cief, vos nestes
now there will-appear what you will-do for by my head you not-are
mie manechies del plus couart home del monde. Or uos
at-all threatened by-the most coward man of-the world Now yourself
en gardes, car, sil mauoit autant manechie, ie ne seroie
thereof guard for if-he me-had as-much threatened I not would-be
iamais aaise, deuant la ke ie eusse ma pais enuers lui.'
ever at-ease before there that I had my peace toward him

Quant Lanselos entent ceste parole, il est tos esbahis, Si
When Lancelot hears this word he is all amazed So
dist a Boort: 'Coment, Boort? fustes vos ce ki ensi me
said-he to Bors How Bors were you this who thus me
naurastes?' Et Boors est si dolans kil ne set kil doie
wounded And Bors is so sorrowful that-he not knows what-he ought

dire, car il nel ose otroier ne noier ne le puet. Mais totes
to-say for he not-it dares grant nor deny not it can-he But all
uoies respont: 'Sire, se ie le fis, ce poise moi, ne nus ne
the-same answers-he Lord if I it did this grieves me nor any not
men deuroit blasmer, car au point que mesire Gauains
me-thereof ought to-blame for at-the point that my-lord Gawain
me met sus, se vos estes cil qui ie naurai, esties vos si
me puts upon if you are he whom I wounded were you so
desghises que ie ne vos conneusse iamais en ces armes,
disguised that I not you would-know ever in these arms
a cou que eles estoient ausi comme a nouiel cheualier et
by this that they were also as for new knight and
vos aues porte armes plus a de .xxv. ans. Et ce fu la
you have borne arms more has than twenty-five years And this was the
cose por coi ie uos mesconnissoie plus. Si mest auis ke
thing for which I you misknew more So to-me-is opinion that
uos ne men deueries pas sauoir mais gre'. Et il respont
you not me-thereof ought at-all to-know ill will And he answers
que 'non', fait il, 'puis kil est ensi auenut'. 'En non Diu,
that no says he since that-it is thus happened In name (of-)God
biaus freres', fait Hestors, 'de cele iornee me lo ie de
fair brother says Hector of that day me praise I of
vos; vos me fesistes sentir la terre tele eure que ie nen
you you me made feel the earth such hour that I not-thereof
auoie talent'. Et Lanselos respont tot en riant: 'Biaus frere,
had desire And Lancelot answers all in laughing Fair brother
ia tant ne vos plaindres de moi que ie ne me plaigne
ever so-much not you will-complain of me that I not myself may-complain
encore plus de vos, car or connois ie bien que, entre vos et
yet more of you for now know I well that between you and
Boort, iestes li doi cheualier ki plus me destorbastes a cele
Bors you-are the two knights who most me hindered at that

assamblee a faire ma uolente, car vos Mesties si contraire
assembly from doing my will for you To-me-were so contrary
del tot ke vos ne baies fors a moi honir et greuer. Si quic
of-the all that you not aspired except to me shaming and grieving So think-I
bien que ie en peusse porte[r] le pris de cele iornee Mais,
well that I thence could have-carried the prize of that day But
entre uos deus, le me tolsistes; et sacies que ie onques ne
between you two it me took-away and know that I ever not
trouai cheualiers .ij. en vne place ki autretant me greuaissent
found knights two in one place who as-much me might-grieve
ne ki si me menaissent mal comme, entre vos .ij. fesistes. Si
nor who so me might-lead ill as between you two did So
ne men ores iamais parler autretant comme ie ai chi
not me-thereof will-hear-you ever speak as-much as I have here
fait, ains le vos pardoins del tot, car ie le doi faire'. 'Sire',
done rather it you I-pardon of-the all for I it ought to-do Lord
fait me sire Gauains, 'or saues vos bien comment il seuent
says my lord Gawain now know you well how they know-how
ferir despee et de lance'. 'Voire, sire', fait il, 'ie lai bien
to-strike with-sword and with lance Truly lord says he I it-have well
esproue et encore en porc ie tes ensegnes qui bien aperent'.
proved and still thereof bear I such tokens which well appear

Arthur Lost in the Wood

XIV

The companions feast a week at the lady's house, and Bors never dares repeat the queen's cruel words. Arthur sends the queen to Camelot and rides into the wood where Morgan once held Lancelot prisoner. Lost at nightfall, his men begin to pitch his pavilion, until a horn sounds twice. Sagremor finds a great walled tower; its porter fetches the lady, who rejoices. Inside, all is lit with tapers and hung with silk, and Morgan meets the king with a hundred knights and damsels.

Asses parlerent a cele fois de ceste chose et mesire Gauains
Much spoke-they at that time of this thing and my-lord Gawain
en reprendoit trop uolentiers la parole, por cou kil ueoit
thereof took-up very willingly the word for this that-he saw
ke Boors en estoit si honteus et si mas comme sil eust
that Bors thereof was so ashamed and so dejected as if-he had
fait le plus [grant] forfait del monde. Ensi demorerent laiens
done the most great misdeed of-the world Thus stayed-they in-there
tote la sesmaine et a grant ioie et a grant feste, molt lie
all the week and in great joy and in great feast very glad
de cou kil ueoient que Lanselos tornoit a garison. Et tant
of this that-they saw that Lancelot turned to healing And as-long
com il furent laiens, ne li ose onques Boors descourir cou
as they were in-there not to-him dared ever Bors disclose this
kil auoit oi de la roine, car il doutoit kil ne sen
which-he had heard of the queen for he feared that-he — himself-thereof
tormentast trop malement, sil oist les crueuses paroles
would-torment very badly if-he heard the cruel words
kele auoit dites de lui. Mais atant laisse ore li contes
which-she had said of him But then leaves now the tale
a parler diaus tous ichi endroit et retorne au roi Artu.
to speak of-them all here in-place and returns to-the king Arthur

Or dist li contes que, quant li rois Artus se fu partis de
Now said the tale that when the king Arthur himself was parted from
Thanebour, entre lui et la roine, il cheuaucierent le premier
Taneborc between him and the queen they rode the first
ior tres ca un sien castiel que on apieloit Tauroc. La nuit
day until to a his castle which one called Tauroc The night
ui[n]rent laiens a grant compaignie de cheualiers. Au matin
came-they in-there with great company of knights At-the morning
commanda a la roine que ele sen alast droit a Camaalot,
commanded-he to the queen that she herself-thence might-go straight to Camelot
car il seiornoit .i. poi en cest pais. Ele fist son commandement
for he would-stay a little in this country She did his command
si se parti de lui et sen ala a grant compaignie de
so herself parted from him and herself-thence went with great company of
gent vers la cite de Camalot; et li rois Artus remest a Tauroc
folk toward the city of Camelot and the king Arthur remained at Tauroc
et seiorna iluec .iij. jors entiers, et puis sen parti tres ca
and stayed there three days whole and then himself-thence parted until to
.i. bois, celui meesmes v Lanselos ot iadis este en la prison
a wood that-one itself where Lancelot had formerly been in the prison
Morgain .ij. yuiers; et encore manoit la desloiaus en celui bois.
(of-)Morgan two winters and still dwelt the disloyal-one in that wood
Li rois se mist el bois a toute sa maisnie Et il nestoit
The king himself put into-the wood with all his household And he not-was
pas molt haities; si foruoierent si kil perdirent del tot lor
at-all very well so strayed-they so that-they lost of-the all their
chemin droit et en tel maniere alerent cha et la parmi le
road straight and in such manner went-they here and there through the
bois tant que la nuis lor fu soruenue, noire et oscure. Lors
wood until that the night to-them was come-upon black and dark Then
sareste li rois et demande a sa maisnie: ‘que ferons nous?
himself-stops the king and asks to his household what shall-do we

nos auons pierdu nostre cemin'. 'Sire', font il, 'il nos samble
we have lost our road Lord say they it us seems
kil nos uient mieus chi remanoir que aler auant, car nos ne
that-it us comes better here to-remain than to-go forward for we not
feriens fors nos trauillier, a cou kil na en cest bos ne
would-do except ourselves to-toil for this that-it not-has in this wood neither
maison ne rechet, que nos sachons, et nos auons uiande a
house nor refuge that we may-know and we have food in
grant plente. Si tendrons vostre pauillon en .i. pre ki est
great plenty So we-shall-pitch your pavilion in a meadow which is
chi dales, Si que uos i reposeres a nuit mais; et demain, se
here beside So that you there will-rest at night more and tomorrow if
Diu plest, quant nos serons mis a la uoie, Nos trouerons tel
God pleases when we shall-be put on the way We shall-find such
chemin ki hors de cest bois nos conduira a nostre uolente'.
road which out of this wood us will-lead at our will
Li rois sacorde bien a ceste cose et en cou kil
The king himself-agrees well to this thing and in this that-they
orent commenchie a tendre le pauillon le roi, Si oent
had begun to pitch the pavilion (of-)the king So hear-they
un cor asses pres deus ki sona par deus fois. 'Par foi',
a horn much near of-them which sounded by two times By faith
fet li rois, 'chi pres a gent; ales ueoir v cou est.'
says the king here near there-are folk go see where this is
Et Saigremors li Desrees monte maintenant sor son ceual
And Sagremor the Unruly mounts at-once upon his horse
si sen uait grant aleure cele part v il auoit la uois
so himself-thence goes great pace that way where he had the voice
oie del cor. Si na pas gramment ale quant il trueue
heard of-the horn So not-has-he at-all greatly gone when he finds
une grant tor et fort menuement crenelee, close de toutes
a great tower and strong finely crenelated closed on all

pars de bons murs fors et haus. Saigremors uint a la porte
sides with good walls strong and high Sagremor came to the gate
si i apiele. Quant li portiers entent kil i a gent par
so there calls When the porter hears that-it there are folk by
de fors, il demande ki cou est. 'Ie sui', fait il, 'Saigremors,
from outside he asks who this is I am says he Sagremor
uns cheualiers que me sire li rois Artus, ki chi pres est
a knight whom my lord the king Arthur who here near is
en cest bois, enuoie cha et mande a cex de cest ostel ke
in this wood sends here and sends-word to those of this house that
il ueut anuit gesir laiens; si soies apareilliet de lui recheuoir
he wishes tonight to-lie in-there so be prepared for him to-receive
si comme vos deues, car ie le uos amenrai orendroit'.
so as you ought for I him to-you shall-bring just-now
'Biaus sire', fait li portiers, 'or vos atendes .i. petit, sil
Fair lord says the porter now yourself wait a little if-it
vos plest, tant que ie aie parle a ma dame'. 'Coment?' fait
you pleases until that I may-have spoken to my lady How says
Saigremors, 'na il laiens point de signor?' 'Sire', fait cil, 'nenil'.
Sagremor not-has it in-there at-all of lord Lord says he no
'Or ua dont tost, biaus amis, et si reuien erraument, car ie
Now go then quickly fair friend and so come-back at-once for I
nai chi que demorer.' Li ualles uient a sa dame, et cou
not-have here what to-stay The squire comes to his lady and this
estoit Morgain la fee, se li conte che que Saigremors li
was Morgan the fairy so to-her tells this which Sagremor to-him
auoit dit. Et quant ele entent cele nouiele, Si a trop grant
had said And when she hears this news So has-she very great
ioie se li dist: 'va uistement et si di au cheualier kil
joy so to-him said go quickly and so tell to-the knight that-he
amaint cha seurement le roi Artu, car il sera chaiens recheus
may-bring here safely the king Arthur for he will-be in-here received

au mius que nos porons'. Et cil reuient a Saigremort et
at-the best that we shall-be-able And he comes-back to Sagremor and
fait son mesage, tot ensi comme sa dame li ot commandet.
does his message all thus as his lady to-him had commanded
Atant sempart Saigremors de la porte et sen uait
Then himself-parts Sagremor from the gate and himself-thence goes
grant aleure par mi le bos tant que il uient au roi, et,
great pace through amid the wood until that he comes to-the king and
quant il la troue, se li dist: 'Sire, bien uos est auenu.
when he him finds so to-him said Lord well to-you is happened
Ie ai troue ostel biel et bon, v vos seres hierbegies
I have found lodging fair and good where you will-be lodged
aaisiement, si comme on ma dit'. Quant li rois entent
at-ease so as one me-has said When the king hears
ceste parole, si dist a cex ki auoec lui estoient: 'Montons',
this word so said-he to those who with him were Let-us-mount
fait il, 'si alons cele part'. Lors montent tot et Saigremors
says he so let-us-go that way Then mount all and Sagremor
les conduist uers le rechet v il auoit este. et quant il
them leads toward the refuge where he had been and when they
uienent a la porte, si le trueuent ouerte, mais il sont tot
come to the gate so it find-they open but they are all
esbahi, quant il sont dedens entre, car il uoient le liu si
amazed when they are within entered for they see the place so
biel et si rice et si meruilleusement hierbegiet kil norent
fair and so rich and so marvelously furnished that-they not-had
onques ueu en lor eage si biel ostel, ce lor samble; et
ever seen in their age so fair house this to-them seems and
il auoit laiens si grant plente de cirges que li luminaires
it had in-there so great plenty of tapers that the light
estoit si grans kil sesmeruilloient tot v ce pooit estre
was so great that-they themselves-marveled all where this could be

pris, car il nauoient laiens ne mur ne paroit ki ne fust
taken for they not-had in-there neither wall nor partition which not were
couierte de dras de soie. Li rois demande a Saigremort:
covered with cloths of silk The king asks to Sagremor
'Ueistes vos orains ichi rien de cest apareillement, quant
Saw you just-now here anything of this array when
vos i fustes?' 'Certes, sire', fait il, 'ie non'. Et li rois se
you there were Certainly lord says he I no And the king himself
saine de la merueille kil en a, car il nauoit onques
crosses for the marvel which-he thereof has for he not-had ever
ueu plus richement engordine ne moustier ne eglise que la
seen more richly hung nor minster nor church than the
cours de laiens estoit. 'Par foi', fait li rois, 'sil auoit laiens
court of in-there was By faith says the king if-there had in-there
grant richece, ie ne men esmerueilleroie pas, car cha
great riches I not myself-thereat would-marvel at-all for here
dehors en a trop a laparant que nos ueons'. Li rois
outside thereof has too-much by the-appearance which we see The king
descent, entre lui et sa compaignie, et, quant il uoelent
dismounts between him and his company and when they wish
entrer en la grant sale de laiens, il encontrent Morgain
to-enter into the great hall of in-there they meet Morgan
et auoec li bien .c. que cheualiers que damoisieles ki
and with her well a-hundred both knights and damsels who
li faisoient compaignie tous iors. Et estoient tot uestu si
to-her made company all days And were all dressed so
richement que onques a nule fieste que li rois Artus eust
richly that ever at any feast which the king Arthur had
onques tenue ne uit nus cheualiers autresi bien uestus ne
ever held not saw any knights so well dressed nor
si cointement acesmes commil estoient tot communalment.
so elegantly adorned as-they were all together

Arthur at Morgan's Castle

XV

Arthur is served at Morgan's tables as if she had been warned a month before, then two damsels lead him to bed in the chamber where Lancelot painted his love for the queen. Morgan lies awake weighing whether to tell. At dawn she asks a gift: that he stay two days. When he asks who she is, she names herself his sister, and he embraces her, having thought her long dead. She refuses to come to court, and will go to Avalon.

Quant il uoient le roi Artu entrer laiens, se crient tot
When they see the king Arthur enter in-there themselves cry all
a une uois: 'Sire, bien puissies vos uenir! beneoite soit la
with one voice Lord well may you come blessed be the
uoie ki cha vos amena! car onques mais ne nos auint si
way which here you brought for ever more not to-us happened so
grans honors ne si grant ioie comme nos auons de cou que
great honor nor so great joy as we have of this that
vos uenes chaiens hierbegier'. Et li rois respont que Dex
you come in-here to-lodge And the king answers that God
lor enuoit ioie a tous. Et il le prendent si le mainent
to-them may-send joy to all And they him take so him lead
en mi la sale, puis la seent en vne caiere si biele et si
in amid the hall then there seat in a chair so fair and so
rice kil ne li sambloit pas kil onques mais eust ueue
rich that-it not to-him seemed at-all that-he ever more had seen
si delitable ne si uaillant. maintenant que li rois fu assis
so delightful nor so valuable at-once that the king was seated
et il ot ses mains lauees, les tables furent erraument mises
and he had his hands washed the tables were straightway set
si fist on aseoir tous cex ki de la compaignie le roi
so made one sit all those who of the company (of-)the king

estoient, por kil fussent cheualier. Et lors commencierent
were provided that-they were knights And then began
damoisieles a uenir et a porter mes sor les tables a si
damsels to come and to carry dishes upon the tables in so
grant plente comme sil fussent porueu de la uenue le
great plenty as if-they were forewarned of the coming (of-)the
roi .i. mois deuant. Ne li rois nauoit onques ior de sa uie
king a month before Nor the king not-had ever day of his life
nule table ueue si plenteuieuse de uasselemente dor comme
any table seen so plentiful in vessels of-gold as
cele estoit; et sil fust en sa cite de Camaalot et il
that-one was and if-he were in his city of Camelot and he
fesist tot son pooir dauoir grans riqueces de mes, nen
did all his power to-have great riches of dishes not-thereof
eust il pas plus eus kil ot a cele table, ne plus
would-have he at-all more had than-he had at that table nor more
biel ne plus cointement, dont si grans plentes pooit uenir.
fair nor more elegantly whence so great plenty could come
Quant il orent mangie tant com il lor plot, Li rois
When they had eaten as-much as it them pleased The king
escoute si ot [en] une cambre ki pres diluec estoit
listens so hears-he in a chamber which near there was
tos les diuers estrumens dont il onques eust oi parler;
all the diverse instruments of-which he ever had heard speak
et sonnoient tot ensanble, lun auoec lautre, si doucement
and sounded all together the-one with the-other so sweetly
kil nauoit onques oie melodie ki tant li fust douce
that-he not-had ever heard melody which so-much to-him were sweet
ne plaisans a oir. Et en cele cambre auoit trop grant clarte.
nor pleasing to hear And in that chamber had very great brightness
Puis ne demora gaires kil en uit issir .ij. damoisieles
Then not delayed much that-he thence saw go-out two damsels

molt bieles et molt auenans et portoient en .ij. candelers
very fair and very comely and carried in two candlesticks
dor .ij. gros cirges ardans, si uienent deuant le roi et li
of-gold two big tapers burning so come-they before the king and to-him
dient: 'sire, il seroit bien hui mes tans de reposer uos, sil
say lord it would-be well today more time of resting you if-it
uos plest, car il est ia grant piece de la nuit alee et
you pleases for it is already great while of the night gone and
uos aues hui tant cheuaucie que vos estes molt trauillies,
you have today so-much ridden that you are very wearied
si comme nos quidons'. Et li rois respont kil uolroit
so as we think And the king answers that-he would-wish
ia estre couchies, car ausi en a il grant mestier. 'Sire',
already to-be lain-down for also thereof has he great need Lord
font eles, 'nos sommes chii uenues por uos conuoier iusca
say they we are here come for you to-escort until-to
uostre lit, car ensi nos est commande'. 'ce uoel ie bien',
your bed for thus to-us is commanded this wish I well
fait il. Lors se lieue maintenant et eles uont tot droit
says he Then himself raises-he at-once and they go all straight
en la cambre v Lanselos ot ia dis tant demore, la v
to the chamber where Lancelot had of old so-long stayed there where
il auoit portraite lestore de lui et de la roine Genieure.
he had portrayed the-story of him and of the queen Guinevere
En cele cambre couchierent les damoisieles le roi Artu.
In that chamber laid-to-bed the damsels the king Arthur
Et quant il fu endormis, eles sen partirent et
And when he was asleep they themselves-thence parted and
reuienent ariere a lor dames. Et Morghe pensa molt cele
come back to their ladies And Morgan thought much that
nuit au roi Artu, Car ele bee a faire lui sauoir les amors
night of-the king Arthur For she aspires to make him know the loves

de Lanselot et de la roine. Et dautre part ele se doute
of Lancelot and of the queen And on-the-other side she herself fears
que, se ele li dist et Lanselos en oie parler que
that if she to-him said and Lancelot thereof may-hear speak that
li rois lait seu par li, nus fors Dex ne le poroit
the king it-may-have known through her any except God not her could
garantir kil ne locesist. Ases pensa cele nuit a cele
protect that-he not her-would-kill Much thought-she that night of this
cose, sauoir sele li dira v sele sen taira: Se
thing to-know if-she to-him will-tell or if-she herself-thereof will-keep-silent If
ele li dist ele est en auenture de mort, se Lanselos le
she to-him said she is in risk of death if Lancelot it
puet sauoir, Et sele li choile, ele ne uenra iamais en
can know And if-she from-him hides she not will-come ever into
si bon point de dire lui comme ele est orendroit. en tel
so good point of telling him as she is now in such
pense demora tant kele sendormi. et au matin, si tost
thought stayed-she so-long that-she herself-slept and at-the morning so soon
commil fu iors, ele se leua et uint au roi Artu et le
as-it was day she herself raised and came to-the king Arthur and him
salua molt biel et se li dist: 'Sire, ie uos demanc .i.
greeted very fair and so to-him said Lord I you ask a
don en guerredon de tos les seruices que ie onques uos fis'.
gift in reward of all the services which I ever you did
'Et ie le uos doins', fist il, 'se ce est cose que ie puisse
And I it to-you give says he if this is thing which I can
donner ne doie'. 'Vos le me poes bien donner', fait ele,
give nor ought You it me can well give says she
'et saues uos que ce est? Ce est que vos seiornes chaiens
and know you what this is This is that you stay in-here
hui et demain; Et sacies que, se uos esties a la millor
today and tomorrow And know that if you were at the best

cite que uos aues el monde, vos ni series pas mieus
city which you have in-the world you not-there would-be at-all better
seruis que vos series chaiens ne plus aaisies, car ia ni
served than you would-be in-here nor more at-ease for ever not-there
sares de bouce deuiser riens que vos naies'. et il
will-you-know with mouth to-describe anything that you not-may-have and he
dist kil remanra, puis que il la otroiet. 'Sire', fait ele, 'ie
said that-he will-remain since that he it-has granted Lord says she I
uos di uraiement que vos estes en lostel del monde v
you say truly that you are in the-house of-the world where
on desiroit plus que Dex et auenture vos i amenast; Et
one desired more that God and adventure you there might-bring And
sachies bien kil na feme el siecle ki plus vos aint
know well that-it not-has woman in-the world who more you may-love
de moi, et ie le doi faire, se carneus amors ne faut'.
than me and I it ought to-do if of-the-flesh love not fails
'Dame', fait li rois, 'ki estes vos dont ki tant mames,
Lady says the king who are you then who so-much me-love
si comme vos dites? ie ne sai se uos me gabes'. 'Sire', fait
so as you say I not know if you me mock Lord says
ele, 'ie sui uostre plus carneus amie et ai a non Morgue,
she I am your most of-the-flesh friend and have as name Morgan
et sui vostre suer, fille de la roine Yguerne, et fui fille
and am your sister daughter of the queen Igraine and was daughter
au duc de Tintaioel. Vos me deussies par droit mieus
of-the duke of Tintagel You me ought by right better
connoistre que vos ne me connissies'. et il le regarde si le
to-know than you — me know and he her looks-at so her
connoist tantost. Si saut maintenant sus tos nus, fors de
knows at-once So leaps-he at-once up all naked except for
ses braies et de sa chemise, se li giete ses bras au col
his breeches and for his shirt so to-her throws his arms at-the neck

et li fait la grignor ioie del monde et li dist kil
and to-her makes the greatest joy of-the world and to-her said that-he
est trop lies de ceste auenture et de ce que Dex li a
is very glad of this adventure and of this that God to-him has
donne trouer, 'car ie uos di', fait il, 'biele suer, sor quanque
given to-find for I you say says he fair sister upon whatever
ie tieng de Diu, que ie quidoie bien que uos fussies piecha
I hold of God that I thought well that you were long-ago
morte et trespassee de cest siecle; et, puis kil plaist a
dead and passed from this world and since that-it pleases to
Diu que ie uos ai trouee, sainne et haitie, ie uos en
God that I you have found sound and hale I you thereof
menrai auoec moi a Camaalot, quant ie me partirai de
shall-lead with me to Camelot when I myself shall-part from
chaiens, Si que uos demorres a cort des oremais et feres
in-here So that you will-stay at court from now-on and will-make
compaignie a la roine Genieure; et ie sai bien quele sera
company to the queen Guinevere and I know well that-she will-be
molt lie et molt ioieuse, quant ele sara la uerite de
very glad and very joyful when she will-know the truth of
vos et kele amera molt uostre compaignie'.
you and that-she will-love much your company

'Biaus frere', fait ele, 'de ce ne me requeres ia, car ie vos
Fair brother says she of this not me ask ever for I you
creanc loiaument que iamais ior que ie uiue nirai a
promise loyally that ever day that I may-live not-shall-I-go to
cort, mais, sans faille, quant ie me partirai, girai en lille
court but without fail when I myself shall-part I-shall-go in the-isle
d'Aualon, la v les dames sont ki seuent toutes les forces
of-Avalon there where the ladies are who know all the powers
des encantemens del siecle'. Li rois se uiest et apareille,
of-the enchantments of-the world The king himself dresses and prepares

et puis sasiet en son lit et puis si fait sa sereur aseoir
and then himself-sits on his bed and then so has his sister sit
de iouste lui et li commence a demander de son estre.
at side him and to-her begins to ask of her being
Et ele len dist partie et partie len choile. Si
And she to-him-thereof said part and part from-him-thereof hides So
demorerent laiens en teus paroles iusques a eure de prime.
stayed-they in-there in such words until to hour of prime

The Pictures in the Chamber

XVI

In the sunlit chamber Arthur reads the images Lancelot painted while a prisoner. At the pictures of Lancelot and Galehaut he says to himself that, if they are true, Lancelot has shamed him with the queen. He makes Morgan pledge to tell the truth, and promises as king that she will never be accused through him. She says Lancelot has loved the queen since the day he was knighted, and that he loved her long without ever saying so.

Celui ior fist molt biel tans et li solaus fu molt biaus
That day made very fair weather and the sun was very fair
et molt clers ki se feri laiens de toutes pars, si que
and very bright which itself struck in-there from all sides so that
la cambre en fu asses plus clere quele nestoit deuant.
the chamber thereby was much more bright than-it was before
Il furent seul a seul, car molt se delitoient a parler
They were alone with alone for much themselves delighted to speak
li uns a lautre, et quant il ont asses demande li uns
the one to the-other and when they have much asked the one
a lautre de son estre, Si auint que li rois commencha
of the-other of his being So it-happened that the king began

asgarder tot enuiron lui tant kil uit les ymages et les
to-look all around him until that-he saw the images and the
paintures que Lanselos auoit faites, tant com il auoit demore
paintings which Lancelot had made as-long as he had stayed
en la prison. Il sauoit de letres tant que asses sauoit .i.
in the prison He knew of letters so-much that enough knew-he a
escrit entendre. Et quant il uit les letres des paintures et
writing to-understand And when he saw the letters of-the paintings and
des ymages ki deuisoient la senefiance des portraitures,
of-the images which described the meaning of-the portrayals
si les commencha a lire et tant kil connut apertement
so them began-he to read and so-long that-he knew openly
que cele cambre estoit pointe des œures Lanselot et
that that chamber was painted with-the works (of-)Lancelot and
des cheualeries kil auoit faites. si ne uit iluec gaires
with-the feats-of-chivalry which-he had done so not saw-he there much
cose kil ne conneust a uoire, a cou que on aportoit
thing which-he not might-know for true by this that one brought
les noueles a cort, si tost commil auoit faite la cheualerie.
the news to court so soon as-he had done the feat-of-chivalry
Ensi commencha li rois a lire et a recorder les œures
Thus began the king to read and to recall the works
Lanselot por les portraitures kil uit iluec pointes; Mais, quant
(of-)Lancelot by the portrayals which-he saw there painted But when
il regarda les ymages ki deuisoient lacointement de Galehot,
he looked-at the images which described the-acquaintance of Galehaut
Il ne fu mie petit esbahis, ains en fu trop trespenses. Si
He not was at-all little amazed rather thereof was-he too thoughtful So
commencha a regarder mieus et mieus cele cose et dist a soi
began-he to look-at better and better that thing and said to himself
meesmes tot en bas: ‘Par foi, se la senefiance de ces ymages
even all in low By faith if the meaning of these images

est uraie, dont ma Lanselos honnit de la roine, car ichi uoi
is true then me-has Lancelot shamed with the queen for here see
ie tot en apiert kil sen est acointies, et, sil est uoirs,
I all in open that-he himself-thereof is acquainted and if-it is true
si comme ceste painture le deuise et tiesmoigne, ce est la cose
so as this painting it describes and witnesses this is the thing
ki me metra au gregnor duel que ie onques eusse, car plus
which me will-put into-the greatest grief that I ever had for more
ne me peust Lanselos auillier que de honnir moi de ma feme.'
not me could Lancelot debase than by shaming me with my wife

Lors dist a Morgain: 'biele suer, ie uos pri que vos me
Then said-he to Morgan fair sister I you pray that you me
dites uoir de ce que ie uos demanderai'. et ele dist que si
may-tell truth of this which I you shall-ask and she said that so
fera ele, sele set. 'fiancies le moi', fait il. Et ele li fiance.
will-do she if-she it-knows pledge it me says he And she to-him pledges
'Or uos requier ie', fait il, 'que uos me dites ki ces ymages
Now you ask I says he that you me may-tell who these images
portraist, et, se vos en saues la uraie senefiance, ne laissies
portrayed and if you thereof know the true meaning not leave
pas que uos ne le me diies'. 'Ha! sire', fait Morgue, 'que ce
at-all that you — it me may-tell Ah lord says Morgan what this
est que vos maues demande? Certes, se ie uos en disoie la
is that you me-have asked Certainly if I you thereof told the
uerite et cil le sauoit ki les portraitures fist, nus fors Dex
truth and he it knew who the portrayals made any except God
ne me poroit estre garans kil ne mocesist'. 'En non Deu',
not me could be protection that-he not me-would-kill In name (of-)God
fet li rois, 'il couient que uos men dites le uoir Et ie
says the king it behooves that you me-thereof may-tell the truth And I
uos creanc comme rois que ia par moi nen seres
you promise as king that ever through me not-thereof will-you-be

encusee'. 'Sire', fait ele, 'souferries uos ent por rien?' 'Nenil',
accused Lord says she would-forbear you thence for anything No
fait il, 'il couient que vos le me dites'. 'et ie le uos dirai',
says he it behooves that you it me may-tell and I it you shall-tell
fait ele, 'en tel maniere que ia nen mentirai de mot'.
says she in such manner that ever not-thereof shall-I-lie by word
'Uoirs est — ce ne sai ie se uos le saues — que
True is this not know I if you it know that
Lanselos aime ma dame la roine des le premier ior kil
Lancelot loves my lady the queen from the first day that-he
rechut lordene de ceualerie, et, por lamor de la roine, quant
received the-order of chivalry and for the-love of the queen when
il fu nouuiaus cheualiers, faisoit il totes les proeces kil
he was new knight did he all the prowesses which-he
faisoit. Et ce peustes uos bien ueoir au castiel de la
did And this could you well see at-the castle of the
Dolerouse Garde, quant vos i uenistes primes et vos ni
Dolorous Gard when you there came first and you not-there
peustes metre le pie, quant on vos fist aseoir sor la riuiere
could put the foot when one you made sit upon the river
et quant uos i enuoiastes de cascun ior .i. cheualier de
and when you there sent of each day a knight from
par vos, kil ni pot onques entrer, Mais, si tost comme
by you that-he not-there could ever enter But so soon as
Keus i uint, ki estoit cheualiers la roine, il i entra'.
Kay there came who was knight (of-)the queen he there entered
'Certes', fait li rois, 'de cou ne maperchiuc ie pas uoirement,
Certainly says the king of this not myself-perceived I at-all truly
Mais ensi auint de Keu le senescal comme vos dites —
But thus it-happened of Kay the seneschal as you say
che ne sai ie se che fu por la roine v por moi'. 'Sire',
this not know I if this was for the queen or for me Lord

fait ele, 'encore i a plus'. 'dites', fait li rois. 'Sire, il ama
says she still there has more say says the king Lord he loved
molt longement ma dame la roine, tant que morteus hom
very long my lady the queen so-much that mortal man
ne poroit pas plus dame amer, mais onques par lui ne par
not could at-all more lady love but ever by him nor by
autrui ne li descouuri, et tant se trauilla por lamor de
another not to-her disclosed-he and so-much himself toiled for the-love of
li kil fist toutes les ceualeries que vos uees ichi portraites.
her that-he did all the feats-of-chivalry which you see here portrayed

Morgan's Tale

XVII

Morgan tells how Lancelot wasted for love until Galehaut won him the queen, who gave him her love with a kiss. Arthur asks who painted it; Morgan says Lancelot himself, a prisoner here two winters and a summer, until he broke the window's irons with his hands. Arthur recalls that Agravain told him the same, and vows to take the lovers together within a month. Morgan, who hates Lancelot, urges vengeance all week, and Arthur lets no one else into the chamber.

Si com Morghe raconte les amors de Lanselot et de la
So as Morgan recounts the loves of Lancelot and of the
roine au roi Artu et comment eles commencierent.
queen to-the king Arthur and how they began

'Atant tans fu en tel maniere kil ne faisoit se languir
So-much time was-he in such manner that-he not did except languish
non, comme cil ki amoit si nestoit pas ames ne nosoit samor
not as he who loved so not-was at-all loved nor not-dared his-love
descourir, et tant kil sacointa de Galehot, le fil a la
disclose and until that-he himself-acquainted with Galehaut the son of the

iaiande, celui ior kil porta les armes noires et kil uenqui
giantess that day that-he bore the arms black and that-he conquered
lassamblee de vos .ij. Si comme la portraiture que vos uees
the-assembly of you two So as the portrayal which you see
iluec le vos deuise. Et quant il ot faite la pais de vos et de
there it you describes And when he had made the peace of you and of
Galehot en tel maniere que lonors en fu uostre del tot,
Galehaut in such manner that the-honor thereof was yours of-the all
Galehos, ki uit que cil ne faisoit se enpirier non de ior en
Galehaut who saw that he not did except worsen not from day to
iour et kil auoit del tot perdu le boire et le mangier —
day and that-he had of-the all lost the drinking and the eating
tant amoit estroitement la roine — le hasta tant et
so-much loved-he closely the queen him pressed so-much and
tant li proia que Lanselos li connut kil amoit la
so-much him prayed that Lancelot to-him acknowledged that-he loved the
roine et kil morroit por li. Et Galehos li promist
queen and that-he would-die for her And Galehaut to-him promised
maintenant kil ne sen esmaiast pas de ceste cose, car
at-once that-he not himself-thereof might-dismay at-all of this thing for
il feroit tant kil aroit de la roine totes ses volentes.'
he would-do so-much that-he would-have of the queen all his wishes
'Tot ensi commil li promist li souuint il, car il
All thus as-he to-him promised to-him came-to-pass it for he
proia tant la roine quele sotroia del tot a Lanselot
prayed so-much the queen that-she herself-granted of-the all to Lancelot
et le saisi de samor par .i. baisier, tot ensi comme ces
and him seized of her-love by a kiss all thus as these
paintures le uos moustrent.' 'asses', fait li rois, 'men
paintings it you show enough says the king me-thereof
aues dit; ie nen quier plus oir, car ie i uoi ma
have-you said I not-thereof seek more to-hear for I there see my

honte toute aperte et la traison de Lanselot. Mais or uoel
shame all open and the treason of Lancelot But now wish
ie que vos me dies ki ces portraitures fist, car ce ne pot
I that you me may-tell who these portrayals made for this not could
estre kil ne sot asses des afaires Lanselot.' 'certes, sire',
be that-he not knew much of-the affairs (of-)Lancelot certainly lord
fait ele, 'Lanselos le fist de sa main, et si vos dirai en
says she Lancelot it made with his hand and so you I-shall-tell in
quel termine. vos souenroit il ore des .ij. assemblees ki
what term you would-remember it now of-the two assemblies which
iadis furent en la praerie de Camaalot a celui tans que li
formerly were in the meadow of Camelot at that time that the
compaignon de la Table Reonde disent kil niroient pas
companions of the Table Round said that-they not-would-go at-all
a lasamblee, se Lanselos estoit par deuers aus, por cou kil
to the-assembly if Lancelot were by toward them for this that-he
enportoit de totes les assamblees le los et le pris? Et
carried-off from all the assemblies the praise and the prize And
quant Lanselos le sot, si se torna encontre eus et lor
when Lancelot it knew so himself turned-he against them and them
fist wuidier le camp et fuir les a fine force en la cite
made empty the field and flee them by sheer force into the city
de Camaalot. vos souient il de cele assamblee?' 'Oil, molt
of Camelot you remember it of that assembly Yes very
bien', fait li rois; 'encore mest il auis que ie le uoie,
well says the king still to-me-is it opinion that I it may-see
car onques puis en liu v ie fusse ne ui a un cheualier
for ever since in place where I were not saw-I to a knight
faire si grant merueilles darmes, commil fist celui ior. mais
do so great marvels of-arms as-he did that day but
por coi laues vos ramenteue?' 'Ie le di', fait ele, 'por cou
for what it-have you recalled I it say says she for this

que, quant il se parti de cort a cele fois, Il fu perdus
that when he himself parted from court at that time He was lost
plus dun an et demi, en tel maniere que on nen sot
more than-a year and half in such manner that one not-thereof knew
ne uent ne uoie.' 'Certes', fait li rois, 'vos dites uoir'. 'Ie
neither wind nor way Certainly says the king you say true I
vos di', fait ele, 'sor la foi que ie vos ai pleuie que en
you say says she upon the faith which I you have pledged that in
celui termine le ting ie en ceste cambre en ma prison .ij.
that term him held I in this chamber in my prison two
yuiers et un este, et lors pint il ces ymages que vos
winters and a summer and then painted he these images which you
uees chi; et encore le tenisse ie en ma prison que iamais
see here and still him would-hold I in my prison so-that ever
ior de sa vie nen issist, Se ne fust cou kil fist
day of his life not-thence would-be-go-out If not were this that-he did
la grignor dyaublie que onques nus hom fesist.' 'Et ques fu
the greatest devilry that ever any man did And what was
ele?' fait li rois. 'En non Diu', fait ele, 'il rompi a ses
it says the king In name (of-)God says she he broke with his
mains les fiers de cele fenestre'. Se li moustre les fiers
hands the irons of that window So to-him shows-she the irons
kil auoit puis fait remetre. Et li rois regarde les fiers si
which-she had since had put-back And the king looks-at the irons so
dist que ceste cose ne fu pas œure domme mais danemi.
said-he that this thing not was at-all work of-man but of-devil

Molt regarde li rois louraigne de la cambre et molt i
Much looks-at the king the-work of the chamber and much thereon
pense durement. Si se tient grant piece en tel maniere kil
thinks hard So himself holds-he great while in such manner that-he
ne dist mot mais totdis pense. Et quant il a grant piece pense,
not said word but ever thinks And when he has great while thought

Si dist a Morgain: 'Certes, ceste meesme cose me dist lautre
So said-he to Morgan Certainly this same thing me said the-other
ior Engreuains et ie ne len creoie pas, ains quidoie kil
day Agravain and I not him-thereof believed at-all rather thought that-he
le desist par enuie de Lanselot. Mais ceste cose ki chi est
it said by envy of Lancelot But this thing which here is
mainne mon cuer a grignor certainete que ie nestoie deuant,
leads my heart to greater certainty than I was before
por coi ie di que iamais nen serai aaise, deuant que
for which I say that ever not-thereof shall-I-be at-ease before that
ie sace la pure uerite; et, sil est ensi comme ces ymages
I may-know the pure truth and if-it is thus as these images
le tiesmoignent que Lanselos mait fait tel honte et tel
it witness that Lancelot me-may-have done such shame and such
deshonor comme honir moi de ma feme, ie me traueillerai
dishonor as shaming me with my wife I myself shall-toil
tant kil seront pris ensamble tot proue. Et lors, se ie
so-much that-they will-be taken together all proved And then if I
nen fai tel iustice kil en sera parle a tosiors, ia ne puis
not-thereof do such justice that-it thereof will-be spoken for always ever not can
ie mais porter coronne el cief.' 'autrement', fait Morgue, 'vos
I more wear crown on-the head otherwise says Morgan you
deuroit Dex et tous li siecles honir, car il nest pas ne rois ne
ought God and all the world to-shame for he not-is at-all nor king nor
hom ki tel honte et tel deshonnor suefre que on li face.'
man who such shame and such dishonor suffers that one to-him may-do

Asses parlerent celui matin de ceste cose, entre le roi
Much spoke-they that morning of this thing between the king
et sa seror, et molt li amoneste Morgue kil uengast
and his sister and much him admonishes Morgan that-he might-avenge
ceste honte prochainement. Et il li creanta comme rois
this shame soon And he to-her promised as king

que si feroit il si crueument kil en seroit a tos
that so would-do he so cruelly that-he thereof would-be for all
les iors del siecle parle, sil onques puet auenir kil les
the days of-the world spoken if-he ever can happen that-he them
prenge proues ensamble. 'Il ne demorra mie', fait Morghe,
may-take proved together It not will-delay at-all says Morgan
'kil ne soient proue et pris ensamble, se on sen
that-they not may-be proved and taken together if one himself-thereof
uieut prendre garde.' 'Ien ferai', fait li rois; 'puis que
wishes to-take heed I-thereof shall-do says the king since that
li uns aime lautre si folement comme vos dites, ie les
the one loves the-other so madly as you say I them
ferai prendre ensamble, ancois que cis mois soit passes,
shall-have taken together before that this month be passed
sil auient que Lanselos uiegne a cort dedens celui termine.'
if-it happens that Lancelot may-come to court within that term

Celui ior demora li rois Artus auoec sa serour, lendemain
That day stayed the king Arthur with his sister the-next-day
et tote la sesmaine. Ele haoit Lanselot plus mortelment que
and all the week She hated Lancelot more mortally than
cheualier del monde, por ce quele sauoit bien que la roine
knight of-the world for this that-she knew well that the queen
lamoit, Si ne fina onques tant comme li rois fu auoec
him-loved So not ceased-she ever as-long as the king was with
li de lui amonester kil uengast sa honte, quant il uenist
her of him admonishing that-he might-avenge his shame when he came
a Camaalot, sil onques en uenoit en liu. 'Biele suer', fait
to Camelot if-he ever thereto came in place Fair sister says
li rois, 'il ne men couient pas proiier, car ie ne lairoie
the king it not me-thereof behooves at-all to-pray for I not would-leave
por la moitie de mon roialme que ie nen fesise quanque ie
for the half of my kingdom that I thereof might-do whatever I

ai en pense.' Li rois seiorna laiens tote la sesmaine entiere,
have in thought The king stayed in-there all the week entire
car li lius estoit biaus et plaisans a desmesure et li bos
for the place was fair and pleasant beyond measure and the wood
plenteuieus de bestes saluages, dont li rois prist tant la
plentiful in beasts wild of-which the king took so-much the
sesmaine que asses sen pot trauillier. Mais atant laisse
week that much himself-thereby could tire But then leaves
li contes a parler de lui et de Morgain, fors que tant
the tale to speak of him and of Morgan except that so-much
en dist li contes ke, tant kil seiorna laiens, ne soufri
thereof said the tale that as-long as-he stayed in-there not allowed-he
que nus entrast en la cambre, fors kil et Morghe, por les
that any might-enter into the chamber except he and Morgan for the
portraitures ki si apertement deuisoient sa honte; et sil en
portrayals which so openly described his shame and if-he thereof
seust bien la uerite, ne volsist il en nule maniere que nus
knew well the truth not would-wish he in any manner that any
en seust rien, car trop doutoit honte et que la parole
thereof might-know anything for too-much he-feared shame and that the word
nen fust ailleurs portee. Si sen taist aitant li contes
thereof were elsewhere carried So itself-thereof silences then the tale
ichi endroit et parole de Lanselot et de ses compaignons.
here in-place and speaks of Lancelot and of his companions

The Maiden's Confession

XVIII

Lancelot is healed, and rewards the lady of the house and his physician richly. The two brothers of Escalot become his knights. Their sister tells him, weeping, that she has loved him since she first saw him and will die unless he helps her. He answers that his heart is given elsewhere, and she takes to the bed she will leave only dead. The companions ride to Camelot, where the queen, seeing Lancelot from a window, withdraws, and tells Gawain she is ill.

Si com Lanselos et si cousin se partent del castiel
So as Lancelot and his cousins themselves part from-the castle
v Lanselos auoit iut naures.
where Lancelot had lain wounded

Chi dist li contes que tant seiourna Boors et me sire
Here said the tale that so-long stayed Bors and my lord
Gauains et li autre compaignon auoec Lanselot kil fu
Gawain and the other companions with Lancelot that-he was
tous garis et reuenus en autre si grant force et en autre
all healed and come-back into other so great strength and into other
si grant uertu commil estoit deuant. Si tost commil senti
so great vigor as-he was before So soon as-he felt
kil estoit tous respasses et kil nauoit mais garde por
that-he was all recovered and that-he not-had more care for
porter armes, Si dist a son mire: 'maistres, ne vos samble
bearing arms So said-he to his physician master not to-you seems
il que ie puisse des oremais bien faire darmes, sans estre en
it that I can from now-on well do of-arms without being in
peril de la plaie ki tant ma dure?' 'Ie uos di', fait li
peril of the wound which so-much me-has lasted I you say says the
preudom, 'que vos estes tous garis ne que uos naues mais
worthy-man that you are all healed or that you not-have more

garde de maladie que vos aies eue.' 'Ceste nouiele me
care of sickness which you may-have had This news me
plaist molt', fait Lanselos, 'car or men puis aler, quant
pleases much says Lancelot for now me-thence can-I go when
moi plaira.' 'voirs est', fait il, et il sen taist atant.
me will-please true is-it says he and he himself-thereof is-silent then
Asses fisent laiens celui ior grant fieste et grant ioie li
Much made in-there that day great feast and great joy the
compaignon. Au soir dist Lanselos a la dame de laiens kil
companions At-the evening said Lancelot to the lady of in-there that-he
sen iroit au matin, si le mercia molt de la biele ciere
himself-thence would-go at-the morning so her thanked much for the fair cheer
et de la compaignie quele li auoit faite en son ostel. Se
and for the company which-she to-him had made in her house So
li fist tant donner del sien et a celui ki garit lauoit de
to-her had so-much given of-the his and to him who healed him-had of
sa plaie kil en furent plus aaise tos les iors de lor uies.
his wound that-they thereby were more at-ease all the days of their lives
Celui ior proierent li doi frere d'Ascalot a Lanselot kil
That day prayed the two brothers of-Escalot to Lancelot that-he
soufrist kil li fesisent compaignie, et li disent kil
might-allow that-they to-him might-make company and to-him said that-they
seroient des cheualiers de sa baniere et kil iamais nel
would-be of-the knights of his banner and that-they ever not-him
lairoient por autre signor. Et il les rechut molt uolentiers,
would-leave for other lord And he them received very willingly
car asses estoient ambedoi prodome et bon cheualier, Si lor
for much were both worthy-men and good knights So to-them
dist: 'Segnor, ie vos recoif bien a mes compaignons, mais
said-he Lords I you receive well as my companions but
sachies que ie ne serai pas tos iors auoec vos, ne ne vos
know that I not shall-be at-all all days with you nor not you

porterai compaignie, ains men irai souentes fois en mains
shall-bear company rather me-thence shall-go oft times into many
lius long de vos, Si seus que vos ne sares ia de moi ne
places far from you So alone that you not will-know ever of me neither
uens ne uoie.' 'Sire', font il, 'ce nos plaist molt, puis que vos
wind nor way Lord say they this us pleases much since that you
le uoles, mais que nos nos puissons de par vos reclamer
it wish but that we ourselves can from by you claim
et que vos nos tignies a uos cheualiers.' Et il dist que ce
and that you us may-hold for your knights And he said that this
lor fera il uolentiers Et kil lor donra terres et iretages
to-them will-do he willingly And that-he to-them will-give lands and heritages
a tenir el roiaume de Benuic v de Gaunes toutes les eures
to hold in-the kingdom of Benwick or of Gaunes all the hours
kil lor plaira. Et il deuienent ensi si cheualier andoi.
that-it them will-please And they become thus his knights both

Celui soir uint a Lanselot la damoisele, cele ki estoit
That evening came to Lancelot the damsel she who was
suer as .ii. cheualiers, Si dist: 'Sire, uos vos en ales;
sister to-the two knights So said-she Lord you yourselves thence go
del reuenir est il en auenture, et, por ce que nus mesages
of-the returning is it in risk and for this that any messenger
ne doit si bien estre creus de la besoigne son signor
not ought so well to-be believed of the business (of-)his lord
comme li sires meesmes, vos di iou le mien besoing et
as the lord himself you tell I the my need and
descuevre, ki tant est grans que ie uoel bien que vos
disclose which so-much is great that I wish well that you
sacies vraiement que ie sui a la mort uenue, se ie nen
may-know truly that I am to the death come if I not-thence
sui ostee par vos.' 'A la mort, damoisele?' fait il. 'Certes,
am removed by you To the death damsel says he Certainly

ia, se Diu plaist, ne morres por cose dont ie uos puisse
ever if God pleases not will-you-die for thing wherein I you can
aidier.' Lors commence la damoisele a plorer trop durement
help Then begins the damsel to weep too hard
et dist a Lanselot: 'Sire, ie puis bien dire que ie mar
and said to Lancelot Lord I can well say that I in-an-ill-hour
vos ui.' 'por coi?' fait il; 'dites le moi'. 'Por ce', fait ele, 'que,
you saw for what says he tell it me For this says she that
si tost comme ie vos ui, ie vos amai outre cou que cuers
so soon as I you saw I you loved beyond this that heart
de feme amast onques home, car puis ne poi iou boire ne
of woman loved ever man for since not could I drink nor
mangier ne reposer, ains ai traueilliet iusques chi en penser
eat nor rest rather have-I toiled until here in thinking
et en mal soufrir et de dolor traire de nuit et de ior.'
and in ill suffering and in grief drawing by night and by day
'Damoisele', fait il, 'ce fu folie de baer a moi en tel
Damsel says he this was folly of aspiring to me in such
maniere, Et meesment des lors que ie uos dis que mes cuers
manner And even from then that I you said that my heart
nestoit pas a moi et que, se ie en pooie faire ma uolente,
not-was at-all to me and that if I thereof could do my will
ie men tenisse a bon eure, Se teus damoisele comme
I myself-thereby would-hold at good hour If such damsel as
vos esties me daignast amer. ne deussies uos ia puis auoir
you were me deigned to-love not ought you ever since to-have
bae a moi, car bien poies connoistre que ie uoloie dire
aspired to me for well could-you know what I wished to-say
par cele parole que ie nameroie ne vos ne autrui, fors celi
by that word that I not-would-love neither you nor another except her
seulement v iou auoie tout mon cuer mis.' 'Ha! sire', fait
only where I had all my heart put Ah lord says

ele, ‘ne trouerai iou en vos autre conseil de ma mesestance?’
she not shall-find I in you other counsel for my distress
‘Nenil’, fait il, ‘car ie ne le poroie amender ne por mort
No says he for I not it could amend neither for death
ne por uie.’ ‘Sire’, fait ele, ‘ce poise moi, car sacies vraiement
nor for life Lord says she this grieves me for know truly
que iou en sui a la mort uenue et que par mort departira
that I thereof am to the death come and that by death will-part
mes cuers de uostre amor; et ce sera li gueredons de la
my heart from your love and this will-be the reward for the
bone compaignie que mes freres vos a portee, puis que vos
good company which my brother to-you has borne since that you
uenistes en ceste pais.’ Lors se part la pucele de deuant
came into this country Then herself parts the maiden from before
lui et uient a son lit Si se couche par tel air que puis
him and comes to her bed So herself lays-down with such force that since
nen leua, se morte non, Si comme lestore le deuisera
not-thence rose-she except dead not So as the-story it will-relate
apertement. Et Lanselos, ki asses ert dolans et courouchies
openly And Lancelot who much was sorrowful and angered
de cou quele li auoit dit, fu la nuis asses plus mas et
by this that-she to-him had said was the night much more dejected and
plus cois kil ne siut, si fist asses plus mate chiere
more quiet than-he — was-wont so made-he much more dejected face
que deuant, dont tot li compaignon sesmeruillierent molt
than before whereat all the companions themselves-marveled very
durement, car il ne lauoient pas apris a ueoir triste ne dolant.
hard for they not him-had at-all learned to see sad nor sorrowful

Celui soir enuoia Boors le cheualier ki auoit gari
That evening sent Bors the knight who had healed
Lanselot au roi de Norgales, et li manda kil pensast
Lancelot to-the king of North-Wales and to-him sent-word that-he might-think

de lui en tel maniere kil len seust gre, car trop
of him in such manner that-he him-thereof might-know thanks for very-much
auoit fait li cheualiers por lui. Lendemain, si tost comme il
had done the knight for him The-next-day so soon as it
fu iors, se parti Lanselos de laiens a tote sa compaignie
was day himself parted Lancelot from in-there with all his company
et commanda molt a Diu la dame. Et quant il se
and commended much to God the lady And when they themselves
furent mis au chemin, il errerent par lor iornees tant
were put on-the road they journeyed by their day-stages until
kil uinrent a Camaalot et descendirent en la cort aual.
that-they came to Camelot and dismounted in the court below
A celui point que Lanselos vint laiens, estoit la roine as
At that point that Lancelot came in-there was the queen at-the
fenestres. et, si tost com ele le uit, si se part de la
windows and so soon as she him saw so herself parts from the
fenestre v ele sestoit apoie et se met en sa cambre, car
window where she herself-was leaned and herself puts in her chamber for
ele ne volsist en nule maniere parler a lui. Et si tost com
she not would-wish in any manner to-speak to him And so soon as
me sire Gauains fu descendus, Si sen uait a la roine
my lord Gawain was dismounted So himself-thence goes-he to the queen
en sa cambre Si le troua gisant en son lit, v ele faisoit
into her chamber So her found-he lying on her bed where she made
trop bien chiere de feme courouchie. Si le salue, Et ele
very well face of woman angered So her greets-he And she
se lieue encontre lui Se li dist que bien soit il uenus.
herself raises to-meet him So to-him said that well may-be he come
'Dame', fait il, 'nos vos amenons Lanselot, ki asses a demore
Lady says he we you bring Lancelot who much has stayed
hors de cest pais.' Et ele dist kele ne puet parler a lui,
out of this country And she said that-she not can speak to him

car ele se sent deshaitie et malade. Et il sen ist
for she herself feels ill and sick And he himself-thence goes-out
maintenant de la cambre et uient as autres compaignons
at-once from the chamber and comes to-the other companions
et lor dist: 'Ma dame la roine est malade; nos ne poons
and to-them said My lady the queen is sick we not can
ore parler a li, mais reposons nos ore chaiens et atendons
now speak to her but let-us-rest ourselves now in-here and let-us-await
tant que li rois uiegne. Et, sil targe gramment et il nos
so-long that the king may-come And if-he delays greatly and it us
anuie, nos porons cascun ior aler en bos et en fories,
wearies we shall-be-able each day go into woods and into forests
dont il a pres de ci plusors, et nos poons deduire
of-which it has near from here several and we can disport
et esbatre en tel maniere, tant que me sire li rois viegne.'
and amuse in such manner until that my lord the king may-come

The Queen's Anger

XIX

The queen tells Bors she hates Lancelot above all things. Bors answers that every man who loved long was shamed by a woman, naming King David's son, Solomon, Samson, Hector and Achilles, and Tristan, killed by Iseut less than five years ago. She will give no other answer. Bors takes Lancelot aside and says the queen has forbidden them her house. Lancelot leaves, though Gawain urges him to await the king and to come to the Camelot tournament.

Cele nuit parla Boors a la roine et li dist: 'Dame, que
That night spoke Bors to the queen and to-her said Lady what
aues vos?' 'Ie nai', fait ele, 'nule maladie, Mais il ne me
have you I not-have says she any sickness But it not me

prent mie cuers ne talens dentre[r] en cele sale, tant que ie
takes at-all heart nor desire of-entering into that hall as-long as I
i sace Lanselot; car ie naroie pas iex dont ie le
there may-know Lancelot for I not-would-have at-all eyes whereby I him
peusse regarder ne cuer ki me consentist que ie parlaisse a
could look-at nor heart which me might-consent that I might-speak to
lui.' 'Coment, dame?' fait il, 'le haes vos dont si durement?'
him How lady says he him hate you then so hard
'Oil, certes', fait ele, 'ie ne he riens autretant comme ie
Yes certainly says she I not hate anything as-much as I
fac lui, Ne onques ior ne lamai tant que ie nel hace
do him Nor ever day not him-loved-I so-much that I not-him may-hate
orendroit plus.' 'Dame', fait il, 'ce est nostre grans damages
now more Lady says he this is our great harm
et a tos ciaus de nostre parente. Et ce me poise molt
and to all those of our kindred And this me grieves very
durement que li afaires uait ensi, car teus pierdra en ceste
hard that the affair goes thus for such will-lose in this
haine ki ne lauoit pas deserui. Ne fortune nasambla onques
hatred who not it-had at-all deserved Nor fortune not-assembled ever
lamor de vos .ij. en tel maniere comme ie le uoi assamblee
the-love of you two in such manner as I it see assembled
fors por nostre grant damage, car ie uoi bien ke me sire mes
except for our great harm for I see well that my lord my
cousins, ki est li plus preudom del monde et li plus biaus
cousin who is the most worthy-man of-the world and the most fair
et la merueille des cheualiers, ne ne crient orendroit ne ne
and the marvel of-the knights nor not fears now nor not
redoute kil ne puist uenir au desus de tot le monde, Se
dreads that-he not may come on-the top of all the world If
une seule cose ne li toloit — ce est, li courous de vos.
one single thing not to-him took-away this is the wrath of you

Mais ce, sans faille, le puet destorner de tous biens et
But this without fail him can turn-aside from all goods and
de totes honors et de toutes bonnes auentures; car certes,
from all honors and from all good adventures for certainly
sil sauoit orendroit les paroles que vos aues dites, ausi
if-he knew now the words which you have said also
comme ie les sai, ie ne quic mie que ie iamais peusse a
as I them know I not think at-all that I ever could to
li uenir kil ne se fust ancois ocis v kil ne fust mors
him come that-he not himself were before killed or that-he not were dead
de duel. Si est, ce mest auis, damages trop grans, quant
of grief So is this to-me-is opinion harm too great when
il, ki est li miudres des bons, uos aime si destroitement
he who is the best of-the good you loves so closely
et vos le haes de uostre cuer.' 'Se ie le he', fait ele,
and you him hate with your heart If I him hate says she
'mortelment, iou nai point de tort, car il la deserui.'
mortally I not-have a-whit of wrong for he it-has deserved
'Dame', fait Boors, 'ken diroie iou? ie ni uoi
Lady says Bors what-thereof would-say I I not-there see
onques preudome ki longement amast par amors ki au
ever worthy-man who long loved by love who at-the
derrains nen fust tenus por honnis. Et se vos uolies
last not-thereof were held for shamed And if you would-wish
regarder es fais des anchiens, asses uos en poroie mostrer
to-look in-the deeds of-the ancients much you thereof could-I show
de teus ke la uraie istore tiesmongne kil furent honi
of such that the true history witnesses that-they were shamed
par feme. Regardes en lestore del roi Dauid; vos i pores
by woman Look in the-story of-the king David you there can
trouer kil ot un sien fil, la plus biele creature que onques
find that-he had a his son the most fair creature that ever

Dex formast. Cil commencha la guerre contre son pere par
God formed He began the war against his father by
esmuete de feme et en morut asses uilainement. ensi poes
incitement of woman and thereof died much villainously thus can
vos ueoir que li plus biaus hom des Iuis morut par feme.
you see that the most fair man of-the Jews died by woman
'Apres poes ueoir en cele istore meesme que Salemons,
Afterward can-you see in that history itself that Solomon
a qui Dex dona sens outre cou que morteus cuers ne se
to whom God gave sense beyond this that mortal heart not itself
poroit estre a comprendre science, renoia Deu par feme et
could be to comprehend knowledge denied God by woman and
en fu honnis et deceus. Sanses fortins, li plus fors hom
thereby was shamed and deceived Samson the-strong the most strong man
ki onques nasquist de feme peceresse, en rechut mort.
who ever was-born of woman sinner thereby received death
Hestor li preus et Acilles, ki darmes et de ceualeries
Hector the worthy and Achilles who of-arms and of chivalry
orent los et pris sor tos les cheualiers del monde, en
had praise and prize above all the knights of-the world thereby
morurent et en furent andoi ocis par locoison dune feme
died and thereby were both killed by the-occasion of-a woman
ke Paris amena par force de Gresce; et a nostre tans
whom Paris brought by force from Greece and in our time
meesmement, na encore pas .v. ans, en morut Tristrans,
itself not-has yet at-all five years thereby died Tristan
li nies le roi Marc, ki si loiaument ama Iseut la
the nephew (of-)the king Mark who so loyally loved Iseut the
blonde, Si que onques a son uiuant ne mesprist en uers li
blond So that ever in his lifetime not misdid in toward her
de riens. Quen diroie iou? onques nus hom ne si
in anything What-thereof would-say I ever any man not himself-thereto

prist fermement kil nen fust mors. Yseus ocist Tristran,
took firmly that-he not-thereof were dead Iseut killed Tristan
que on doit asses plaindre. Et saues vos que vos feres?
whom one ought much to-lament And know you what you will-do
uos feres noaus que toutes ces autres dames ne fisent; car
you will-do worse than all these other ladies — did for
vos feres perir el cors dun seul home totes les bonnes
you will-make perish in-the body of-a single man all the good
grasces par coi home montent en honor terriene et par coi
graces by which men rise in honor earthly and by which
il est apieles gracieus: Ce est, biautes, proece, hardemens,
he is called gracious This is beauty prowess boldness
cheualerie, gentillece. Dame, totes ces uiertus poes uos trouer
chivalry nobility Lady all these virtues can you find
el cors de mon signor si parfitement ke riens ne len
in-the body of my lord so perfectly that anything not him-thereof
faut; car ce saues vos bien kil est li plus biaus cheualiers
lacks for this know you well that-he is the most fair knight
del monde et li plus biaus et li plus preus et li plus
of-the world and the most fair and the most worthy and the most
hardis et li miudres cheualiers que on sace. Et auoec
bold and the best knight whom one may-know And with
chou est il estrais de si haut linage, et de par pere et
this is he descended from so high lineage both from by father and
de par mere, que on ne set pas orendroit el monde nul
from by mother that one not knows at-all now in-the world any
plus gentil homme kil est. Mais tot ausi commil est ore
more noble man than-he is But all also as-he is now
couuers et auironnes de ces bonnes uiertus, Tot ausi len
covered and surrounded with these good virtues All also him-thereof
despoilleres vos et desnueres. Si poes par cou dire vraiement
will-strip you and will-bare So can-you by this say truly

que vos osteres dentre les estoiles le soleil — Ce est a
that you will-remove from-among the stars the sun This is to
dire, la flors des cheualiers del monde dentre ciaus de
say the flower of-the knights of-the world from-among those of
chaiens — Et par cou pores vos ueoir tot aperdement,
in-here And by this will-be-able you see all openly
dame, que vos damageres plus cest roialme et maint autre
lady that you will-harm more this kingdom and many another
que onques dame ne fist par le cors dun seul cheualier.
than ever lady — did by the body of-a single knight
Ce est li grans biens que nos atendons de uostre amor.'
This is the great good which we await from your love
A ceste parole respont la roine, et dist: 'Boort, sil
At this word answers the queen and said Bors if-it
auenoit ensi comme vos dites, en ceste cose ne perdroit
happened thus as you say in this thing not would-lose
nus autant comme ie feroie, car iou i perdroie le cors et
any as-much as I would-do for I there would-lose the body and
lame. si men laissies autant ester, car a ceste fois ni
the-soul so me-thereof let as-much stand for at this time not-there
troueres autre respons.' 'Dame', fait il, 'or sacies uraiement
will-you-find other answer Lady says he now know truly
que vos ne men ores iamais auant parler, Se vos ancois
that you not me-thereof will-hear ever forward speak If you before
ne men araisnies.' Lors se part tantost de li et uient
not me-thereof address Then himself parts-he at-once from her and comes
a Lanselot Se li dist tot a conseil, quant il lot trait
to Lancelot So to-him said all in counsel when he him-had drawn
a une part lonc des autres: 'Sire', fait il, 'ie loeroie que
to one side far from-the others Lord says he I would-advise that
nos allisons fors de chaiens, car nos ni auons pas bon
we might-go out of in-here for we not-there have at-all good

demorer, ce mest auis.' 'Por coi?' fait Lanselos. 'le saues
staying this to-me-is opinion For what says Lancelot it know
vos?' 'Sire', fait Boors, 'oil, bien. Si le vos dirai, quant
you Lord says Bors yes well So it you shall-tell-I when
nos serons fors de chaiens.' 'Montons dont', fait Lanselos,
we shall-be out of in-here Let-us-mount then says Lancelot
'Si me dires que cou est, car molt me tarde que iou le
So me you-will-tell what this is for much me tarries that I it
sace.' 'Sire, ia a ma dame la roine vee son ostel
may-know Lord already has my lady the queen forbidden her house
et a moi et a uos et a tos ciaus ki de par nos i
both to me and to you and to all those who from by us there
uenront.' 'Por coi, Dex aie?' fait Lanselos. 'a madame la
will-come For what God help says Lancelot to my-lady the
roine ne quide ie rien auoir meffet.' Lors uient Lanselos
queen not think I anything to-have misdone Then comes Lancelot
a mon signor Gauain Se li dist: 'Sire, partir me couient
to my lord Gawain So to-him said Lord to-part me behooves
de chaiens por .i. mien afaire que ie ne puis laissier. quant
from in-here for a my affair which I not can leave when
vos uerres mon signor le roi, si le salues de par moi
you will-see my lord the king so him greet from by me
et se li dites que iou reuenrai au plus tost que iou
and so to-him say that I shall-come-back at-the most soon that I
en arai loisir.' 'En non Diu', fait me sires Gauains, 'ia
thereof shall-have leisure In name (of-)God says my lord Gawain ever
en tel maniere ne uos departires de nos, ains atendres
in such manner not you will-part from us rather will-await-you
mon signor le roi, tant ke il uiegne.' Et il dist que il nel
my lord the king until that he may-come And he said that he not-it
feroit por rien. Si remonte, entre lui et sa compaignie,
would-do for anything So remounts-he between him and his company

et se partent de laiens. et mesire Gauains les conuoie
and themselves part-they from in-there and my-lord Gawain them escorts
grant piece et li dist: 'Sire, prochainement ara en ceste
great while and to-him said Lord soon will-have in this
praerie de Camaalot tornoiement grant et meruilleus. gardes
meadow of Camelot tournament great and marvelous see
que nus essoignes ne vos tiengne que vos ni soies, car
that any excuse not you may-hold that you not-there be for
poi remaindra de bons cheualiers el roiaume de Logres ki
few will-remain of good knights in-the kingdom of Logres who
ni soient.' Et il dist ke il i uenra, sil est adont en
not-there may-be And he said that he there will-come if-he is then in
sa deliure poeste; si se part atant li uns del autre.
his free power so themselves part then the one from-the other
Si sen reuient me sire Gauains a Camaalot et molt
So himself-thence returns my lord Gawain to Camelot and much
sesmerueille de cou que Lanselos sen est si tost ales.
himself-marvels at this that Lancelot himself-thence is so soon gone

Bors Tells Lancelot Why

xx

In the forest Bors explains the queen's anger over the sleeve worn at Winchester. Bors advises him to keep away a month and follow the tournaments, since she will send for him first. Lancelot rides off with one squire, promising to wear white arms at Camelot. Arthur returns to court, and Lancelot's brief stay half dispels Morgan's words. A knight who hates Gawain plans to send the queen poisoned fruit, expecting her to give it to him.

En tel maniere ceuauce Lanselos et sa compaignie tant
In such manner rides Lancelot and his company until
que il uient en la forest de Camaalot. Et quant il est
that he comes into the forest of Camelot And when he is
entres dedens, Si demande a Boort: 'Dites moi', fait il,
entered within So asks-he to Bors Tell me says he
'por coi ma dame la roine sest courouchie?' 'Sire', fait
for what my lady the queen herself-is angered Lord says
il, 'uolentiers'. Lors li commence a dire de la mance
he willingly Then to-him begins-he to tell of the sleeve
kil porta au tornoiement de Guincestre, 'dont la roine
which-he bore at-the tournament of Winchester whereby the queen
sest si durement courouchie quele dist bien que iamais ne
herself-is so hard angered that-she said well that ever not
troueres pais en vers li.' Et quant il li a tot conte,
will-you-find peace in toward her And when he to-him has all told
Lanselos sareste et commence a penser molt durement. Et
Lancelot stops and begins to think very hard And
quant il a grant piece este en tel maniere que nus nen
when he has great while been in such manner that any not-thence
peust parole traire, Si dist a cief de piece: 'He, amors!
could word draw So said-he at head of while Ah love

ce est li gueredons de vos sieruir. Car ki del tot a uos
this is the reward of you serving For who of-the all to you
sotroie, il nen puet escaper sans mort; et cestui loier
himself-grants he not-thence can escape without death and this wage
me rendes vos por loiaument amer. Ha! Boort, biaus cousins,
me render you for loyally loving Ah Bors fair cousin
ki ausi bien connissies mon cuer comme ie meesmes fac et
who also well know my heart as I myself do and
ki saues vraiement que iou por nule cose del monde ne
who know truly that I for any thing of-the world not
fausseroie damors enuers ma dame, por coi ne mescusates
would-be-false of-love toward my lady for what not me-excused
uos del tot enuers li?' 'Sire', fait il, 'ie en i fis mon
you of-the all toward her Lord says he I thereof there did my
pooir, mais onques a cose que ie li desise ne se volt
power but ever to thing which I to-her said not herself wished-she
acorder.' 'Or me consillies dont', fait Lanselos, 'que ie en
to-agree Now me counsel then says Lancelot what I thereof
porai faire, car, se ie ma pais ne pooie trouer enuers
shall-be-able do for if I my peace not could find toward
li, Ie ne croi mie ke ie peusse longement durer. se ie ne
her I not believe at-all that I could long last if I not
parloie iamais a li et ele mauoit pardonnet son courouc
spoke ever to her and she me-had pardoned her wrath
et son maltalent, si me seroit cou uns grans reconfors que
and her ill-will so me would-be this a great comfort that
asses plus ioieusement men viueroie. Mais en tel maniere
much more joyfully myself-thence I-would-live But in such manner
comme ie sui orendroit que ie eusse son courouc et sa male
as I am now that I had her wrath and her ill
voellance ne neusse congiet de parler a li, ne croi ie mie
will nor not-had leave of speaking to her nor believe I at-all

que ie peusse longement viure, car dex et ire macorroit. Et
that I could long live for grief and anger me-would-kill And
por ce uos pri ie ke uos me consillies, car ie ne uoi pas
for this you pray I that you me may-counsel for I not see at-all
que ie puisse faire de moi apres cou que vos maues dit.'
what I can do of me after this that you me-have said
'Sire', fait Boors, 'se vos vos peussies soufrir de
Lord says Bors if you yourselves could refrain from
repairier la v ele est et de repairier en ses uoies et
returning there where she is and from going in her ways and
de ueoir li, Ie uos di uraiement que ia ne uerries .i.
from seeing her I you say truly that ever not would-see-you a
mois passer, quant ele ne uos uerroit ne oroit nouieles de
month pass when she not you would-see nor would-hear news of
uos, que ele seroit plus angousseuse de vos a auoir en sa
you that she would-be more anxious of you to have in her
compaignie que vos ne fustes onques de li et autant vos
company than you — were ever of her and as-much you
desirroit ele. Et sacies tot por uoir que ele vos envoieroit
would-desire she And know all for truth that she you would-send
querre, se ele vos sauoit pres ne long. Et por cou uos
to-seek if she you knew near or far And for this you
loe iou en droit conseil que vos vos aillies esbatant et
advise I in right counsel that you yourselves may-go disporting and
deduisant par cest pais et siuant les tornoiemens ensi
amusing through this country and following the tournaments thus
comme on les criera; et uos ares auoec vos mesnie biele
as one them will-cry and you will-have with you household fair
et gente et grant partie de vostre parente, de coi uos
and gracious and great part of your kindred of which you
vos deues molt esioir, ki uos feront compaignie, sil
yourselves ought much to-rejoice who you will-make company if-it

vos plest, en quelconques liu que vos aillies.' Et il dist ke
you pleases in whatever place that you may-go And he said that
cil consaus li samble bons, mais de compaignie na il
this counsel to-him seems good but of company not-has he
mestier, car il sen vieut aler tous seus ne mais de la
need for he himself-thence wishes to-go all alone nor but of the
compaignie a .i. seul escuier kil menra auoeques lui, tant
company of a single squire whom-he will-lead with him as-long
comme lui plaira. 'Mais vos', fait il, 'Boort, entre vos et
as him will-please But you says he Bors between you and
vo compaignie, ires a cort et seres la tant que vos uoies
your company will-go to court and will-be there until that you may-see
mon cors v mon mesage, ki uos uiegne querre.' 'Sire', fait
my body or my message which you may-come to-seek Lord says
Boors, 'molt me sera fort cose a faire de ce que nos nos
Bors very to-me will-be hard thing to do of this that we ourselves
departons de vos et que uos aillies par cest paijs a si
part from you and that you may-go through this country with so
poure compaignie, car, sil vos mesauenoit demain par aucune
poor company for if-it you mishappened tomorrow by some
auenture, dont Dex uos gart, comment le sariesmes
adventure from-which God you may-guard how it would-know
nos?' 'Naies garde', fait il; 'chil ki ma treska chi soufiert
we Not-have fear says he he who me-has until here allowed
honor a auoir et uictore en tos les lius v ie ai este ne
honor to have and victory in all the places where I have been not
souferra pas, par sa grasse, kil me meskiece en liu v
will-allow at-all by his grace that-it me may-mishap in place where
ie soie. Et sil me mescheoit, vos le saries plus tost que
I may-be And if-it me mishappened you it would-know more soon than

nul autre home del monde.' Et lors reuint Lanselos a ses
any other man of-the world And then came-back Lancelot to his
compaingnons, ki en mi le chemin estoient, Si lor dist:
companions who in amid the road were So to-them said-he
'Segnor, ie uoel aler en .i. mien afaire v ie ne puis pas
Lords I wish to-go on a my affair where I not can at-all
mener grande compaignie, si uos commanc tos a Diu.' et lors
lead great company so you commend-I all to God and then
prent auoec lui .i. escuier ki auoit non Anguis et li dist
takes-he with him a squire who had as-name Anguis and to-him said
kil le siue. Et cil dist que si fera il molt uolentiers,
that-he him may-follow And he said that so will-do he very willingly
car trop en est lies. Si se depart en tel maniere de ses
for very thereof is-he glad So himself parts-he in such manner from his
amis carneus et il li dient: 'Sire, por Diu, ne laissies
friends of-the-flesh and they to-him say Lord for God not leave
pas que vos ne soies a cele assamblee de Camaalot en tel
at-all that you — be at that assembly of Camelot in such
maniere que on vos connoisse.' et il dist kil i sera, se
manner that one you may-know and he said that-he there will-be if
trop grans essoingnes nel tient. Et lors apiele Boort et
too great hindrances not-him hold And then calls-he Bors and
li dist: 'Sacies que, se iou i sui, ie porterai blances
to-him said Know that if I there am I shall-bear white
armes sans point de nul autre taint, et a cou me pories
arms without a-whit of any other hue and by this me can-you
connoistre.' Si se partent atant li un des autres et
know So themselves part-they then the ones from-the others and
sentresaluent. Et li rois Artus, ki estoit cies Morgain,
each-other-greet And the king Arthur who was at-the-house-of Morgan
sa serour, quant il i ot tant demore comme lui plot, Il
his sister when he there had so-long stayed as him pleased He

semparti o grant compaignie de cheualiers et dautre
himself-thence-parted with great company of knights and on-the-other
gent et cheuaucha par mi la forest tant kil fu fors et
folk and rode through amid the forest until that-he was out and
que il uint as plains cans. Tant ala par ses iornees kil
that he came to-the plain fields So-much went-he by his day-stages that-he
uint a la cite de Camaalot, v on le rechut molt liement.
came to the city of Camelot where one him received very gladly

Quant li rois fu uenus et on li ot dit que Lanselos
When the king was come and one to-him had said that Lancelot
auoit este a cort mais seiorne ni auoit que un seul
had been at court but stayed not-there had except one single
ior, puis kil sen parti, asses fu ses cuers en diuiers
day since that-he himself-thence parted much was his heart in diverse
pensers, car il li estoit auis que, se Lanselos amast
thoughts for it to-him was opinion that if Lancelot loved
la roine de fole amor, ensi comme on li auoit fait a
the queen with mad love thus as one to-him had made to
entendre et que on li metoit sus, il ne peust la cort si
understand and that one on-him put upon he not could the court so
eslongier ne metre ariere dos, com il faisoit; et ce estoit
distance nor put behind back as he did and this was
vne cose ki molt metoit son cuer a aise et ki molt
a thing which much put his heart at ease and which much
li faisoit mescroire les paroles que Morgue, sa suer, li
to-him made disbelieve the words which Morgan his sister to-him
auoit dites. Et nanporquant onques puis ne fu eure kil
had said And nevertheless ever since not was hour that-he
neust la roine en plus grant soupechon kil nauoit eue
not-had the queen in more great suspicion than-he had had
deuant. Et a lendemain kil fu uenus a Camaalot, auint
before And on the-next-day that-he was come to Camelot it-happened

a leure de disner ke me sire Gauains mangoit a la table
at the-hour of dinner that my lord Gawain ate at the table
la roine et autre cheualier asses en vne cambre dales la
(of-)the queen and other knights plenty in a chamber beside the
sale. Laiens auoit un cheualier ki estoit apieles Auarlan et
hall In-there had a knight who was called Avarlan and
haoit mon signor Gauain de mortel haine. Il auoit fruit
hated my lord Gawain with mortal hatred He had fruit
enuenime, dont il quidoit faire morir mon signor Gauain
poisoned whereby he thought to-make die my lord Gawain
par aucune auenture. Se li fu auis, quant il uit mon
by some chance So to-him was opinion when he saw my
signor Gauain seoir dales la roine, que sil enuoioit a la
lord Gawain sit beside the queen that if-he sent to the
roine de son fruit, ele en donroit plus tost a mon signor
queen of his fruit she thereof would-give more soon to my lord
Gauain que a nul autre, por cou kil estoit li plus gentius
Gawain than to any other for this that-he was the most noble
hom et plus pres de li seoit. Et sil auenist kil en
man and more near of her sat And if-it happened that-he thereof
goustast, tos li mons ne le garandiroit pas kil ne morust
tasted all the world not him would-protect at-all that-he not might-die
tot erraument, car trop estoient les pumes enuenimees de
all straightway for too-much were the apples poisoned with
maluais uenim, et tot por mon signor Gauain ocire.
bad venom and all for my lord Gawain to-kill

The Poisoned Fruit

XXI

The queen gives the fruit to Gaheris of Carahew, who eats it and dies before the whole table. A knight tells the king the queen has killed a Round Table companion, Mador of the Gate's brother. The queen swears she would not have given it for half the world had she known. Gaheris is buried at Saint Stephen's, and the companions inscribe the tomb that Queen Guinevere put him to death by poison.

Quant li fruis fu mis deuant la roine, Cil ki la porta ne
When the fruit was put before the queen He who it carried not
dist pas de par qui eles i estoient enuoies. Et la roine si
said at-all from by whom they there were sent And the queen so
prist maintenant le fruit, ki de cele traison ne se donnoit
took at-once the fruit who of that treason not herself gave
garde. Si en done tout premierement a un cheualier ki
heed So thereof gives-she all first to a knight who
estoit compains de la Table Reonde et auoit a non Gaheris
was companion of the Table Round and had as name Gaheris
de Caraheu. Et cil, ki en grant cierte le tint por honor de
of Carahew And he who in great dearness it held for honor of
la roine, en manga de maintenant. Et si tost commil en
the queen thereof ate of at-once And so soon as-he thereof
ot passe le col, Si morut tot erralment deuant la roine et
had passed the neck So died-he all straightway before the queen and
uoiant tos ciaus ki a la table seoient. Si salirent maintenant
seeing all those who at the table sat So leapt-they at-once
tot sus de la table et furent trop durement esbahi de
all up from the table and were too hard amazed by
ceste grant merueille. Quant la roine uit le cheualier morir
this great marvel When the queen saw the knight die

deuant li, Si est tant dolante de ceste mesauenture quele
before her So is-she so-much sorrowful by this misadventure that-she
ne set quel conseil ele en doiue prendre, nes de soi
not knows what counsel she thereof ought take not-even of herself
meesmes, car ceste cose ont tant preudome ueue que
even for this thing have so-many worthy-men seen that
ele ne le poroit pas noier, se ele uoloit. La nouiele uint
she not it could at-all deny if she wished The news came
deuant le roi Se li dist .i. cheualiers ki en la cambre
before the king So to-him said a knight who in the chamber
auoit mangiet: 'Sire', fait il, 'merueilles sont orendroit laiens
had eaten Lord says he marvels are just-now in-there
auenues.' 'Confaites?' fait li rois. 'Sire, ma dame la roine a
happened What-kind says the king Lord my lady the queen has
ocis .i. cheualier par la grignor traison que ie ueisse onques
killed a knight by the greatest treason that I saw ever
mais; et estoit compains de la Table Reonde et freres
more and was companion of the Table Round and brother
Mador de la Porte et par tele auenture': Se li conte
(of-)Mador of the Gate and by such adventure So to-him tells-he
quele. Li rois se sainne tantost de la merueille kil
which The king himself crosses at-once from the marvel which-he
en a Si saut fors de la cambre por ueoir se cou est
thereof has So leaps-he out of the chamber for to-see if this is
uoirs, cou que cil conte, et autresi fisent tot li autre ki
true this which he tells and likewise did all the others who
en la sale estoient. Et quant li rois est uenus en la cambre
in the hall were And when the king is come into the chamber
et il trueue le cheualier mort, ki en la cambre gisoit
and he finds the knight dead who in the chamber lay
deuant la table, Si dist que chi a trop grant mescheance
before the table So said-he that here there-is too great mischance

et ke trop a mespris la roine, Se ele a cou fait de
and that too-much has misdone the queen If she has this done by
son gret. 'Certes', font aucun de laiens, 'de cestui fait a
her will Certainly say some of in-there for this deed has
ele bien mort deseruie, sil est ensi que ele seust vraiement
she well death deserved if-it is thus that she knew truly
que li fruis fust enuenimes dont li cheualiers est mors'.
that the fruit were poisoned whereof the knight is dead

La roine ne set que dire, tant est ele esbahie durement
The queen not knows what to-say so-much is she amazed hard
de ceste auenture, fors que ele respont: 'Si uoirement mait
by this adventure except that she answers So truly me-may-help
Dex', fait ele, 'Il men poise cent tans plus que biel ne
God says she It me-thereof grieves hundred times more than fair —
men soit, et, se ie quidasse que li fruis que ie li donnai
to-me-thereof may-be and if I had-thought that the fruit which I to-him gave
fust si desloiaus, ie ne li eusse pas donne por demi le
were so disloyal I not to-him would-have at-all given for half the
monde.' 'Dame', fait li rois, 'coment que vos li donnissies,
world Lady says the king however that you to-him gave-it
lueure est maluaise et vilaine, et iou ai molt grant doutance
the-work is evil and villainous and I have very great fear
que vos nen soies plus courouchie que vos ne quidies.' Lors
that you thereof be more angered than you — think Then
dist a ciaus ki entor le cors estoient et ki le regardoient:
said-he to those who around the body were and who it looked-at
'Segnor, cil cheualiers est mors; il ni a mais nul recourier,
Lords this knight is dead it not-there has more any remedy
cou est molt grans damages. Or penses au cors a faire si
this is very great harm Now think of-the body to do so
grant honor comme on doit faire a cors de preudome, car certes
great honor as one ought to-do to body of worthy-man for certainly

il estoit molt preudom et uns des bons cheualiers de chaiens,
he was very worthy-man and one of-the good knights of in-here
Ne ie ne ui onques en ma vie plus loial cheualier de lui. Si
Nor I not saw ever in my life more loyal knight than him So
men poise asses plus que maintes gens ne poroient quidier.'
me-thereof grieves much more than many folk — could think
Atant sen ist li rois de la cambre, et entre
Then himself-thence goes-out the king from the chamber and enters
el grant palais et se saine plus de cent mile fois
into-the great palace and himself crosses more than hundred thousand times
por la merueille kil a de cel cheualier qui est mors par
for the marvel which-he has of that knight who is dead by
tel mescheance. Et la roine sen fu issue apres le roi
such mischance And the queen herself-thence was gone-out after the king
si sen ala en un praiel a grande compaignie de
so herself-thence went into a little-meadow with great company of
dames et de damoisieles. Et quant ele i est uenue, Si
ladies and of damsels And when she there is come So
commence a faire trop grant duel et dist que Dex le het
begins-she to make very great grief and said that God her hates
et kil la oubliee, quant par tele mesceance et par
and that-he her-has forgotten when by such mischance and by
si grant mesauenture a ocis un si preudomme comme
so great misadventure she-has killed a so worthy-man as
cil estoit. 'Et, si mait Dex', fait ele, 'ce que ie li
he was And so me-may-help God says she this which I to-him
fis auant mangier que a moi le fruit, ne le faisoie iou
made before eat than to me the fruit not it did I
se par grant debonnairete non. Or men est si mescheu
except by great graciousness not Now me-thereof is so mishappened
que Dex ne la soufiert fors que por moi greuer.'
that God not it-has allowed except that for me to-grieve

Molt fist la roine grant duel de cou ki li est
Much made the queen great grief of this which to-her is
mesauenu del preudome. et les dames de laiens enseuelirent
mishappened of-the worthy-man and the ladies of in-there shrouded
le cors au plus biel et au plus ricement que eles porent
the body at-the most fair and at-the most richly that they could
et li fisent si grant honor comme on doit faire a cors
and to-him made so great honor as one ought to-do to body
de si prodome; et fu lendemain entieres a lentree del
of so worthy-man and was-he the-next-day buried at the-entry of-the
moustier S. Estieuene, ki estoit la mere eglise de la
minster (of-)Saint Stephen which was the mother church of the
cite de Camaalot. Et quant li seruices fu fais, grans et rices,
city of Camelot And when the service was done great and rich
et li rois et tot si cheualier li orent fait si grant honor
and the king and all his knights to-him had done so great honor
comme on pot plus et li cors fu enterres et la tombe mise
as one could most and the body was buried and the tomb put
desus si biele et si rice comme on pot el palais trouer, Li
over-it so fair and so rich as one could in-the palace find The
compaignon de la Table Reonde par le commun assentement
companions of the Table Round by the common assent
de tous i fisent escrire letres ki deuisent sa mort, et
of all there had written letters which tell his death and
disoient: 'Chi gist Gaheris li blans de Carraheu, li freres
said Here lies Gaheris the white of Carahew the brother
Mador de la Porte, que la roine Genieure fist morir par
(of-)Mador of the Gate whom the queen Guinevere made die by
venim.' Teus paroles disoient les letres ki estoient escrites
venom Such words said the letters which were written
de sor la tombe au cheualier mort. et a cel tans estoit
of upon the tomb of-the knight dead and at that time was

coustume el roiaume de Logres que, quant uns cheualiers
custom in-the kingdom of Logres that when a knight
moroit v par armes v par autre mescheance, On escrisoit
died either by arms or by other mischance One wrote
sor sa tombe coment il auoit mort recheue et par qui,
upon his tomb how he had death received and by whom
dont molt de mal auinrent el roialme en cel termine. Li
whereof much of ill happened in-the kingdom in that term The
rois Artus fu molt dolans de la mort au cheualier et tot
king Arthur was very sorrowful of the death of-the knight and all
li compaignon ki laiens estoient Si soufrirent en tel maniere
the companions who in-there were So endured-they in such manner
desi au ior de lasamblee ki deuoit estre deuant Camaalot
until to-the day of the-assembly which was-to be before Camelot
ke petit en parlerent, car, por cou que la cose estoit si
that little thereof spoke-they for for this that the thing was so
uilainement et si laidement auenue, Si en parloient au
villainously and so uglily happened So thereof spoke-they at-the
mains kil pooient. Mais atant se taist li contes diaus
least that-they could But then himself is-silent the tale of-them
et del roi Artu et de sa compaignie et retorne a Lanselot,
and of-the king Arthur and of his company and returns to Lancelot
por deuiser locoison ki le retint daler a lasamblee ki
for to-relate the-occasion which him kept from-going to the-assembly which
fu deuant Camaalot v il ot este plusors fois.
was before Camelot where he had been several times

The Hunter's Arrow

XXII

Lancelot stays with a hermit in the forest of Camelot and sends his squire for white arms with three red bends, which Bors will know. Sleeping unarmed by a spring, he is struck through the thigh by an archer of Arthur's hunt, who was shooting at a stag. The huntsman knows him and flees with his companions, fearing his kindred. Lancelot draws out the arrow and rides back to the hermit, who tells him he must forgo the tournament.

Si com Lanselos demoroit en la forest cies .i. hermite
So as Lancelot stayed in the forest at-the-house-of a hermit
Si dist .i. ior a son escuier kil alast a Camaalot et
So said-he one day to his squire that-he might-go to Camelot and
li aportast .i. escu blanc.
to-him might-bring a shield white

Or dist li contes que, quant Lanselos se fu partis de
Now said the tale that when Lancelot himself was parted from
Boort et d'Estor, son frere, et de ses autres compaignons,
Bors and from-Hector his brother and from his other companions
Il ceuaucha, entre lui et son escuier, par mi la forest de
He rode between him and his squire through amid the forest of
Camaalot vne eure auant et autre ariere et gisoit cascun
Camelot one hour forward and other back and lay each
soir chies un hermite a qui il sestoit fais confies
evening at-the-house-of a hermit to whom he himself-was made confessed
aucune fois. Et cil li faisoit tote la feste et tote lonor
some time And he to-him made all the feast and all the-honor
kil pooit. Au tierc ior deuant ce que lassamblee deust estre
that-he could At-the third day before this that the-assembly was-to be
dist Lanselos a son escuier: 'vatent', fait il, 'a Camaalot et si
said Lancelot to his squire go-thou says he to Camelot and so

maporte .i. escut tot blanc a .iij. bendes de bellinc uermeilles
me-bring a shield all white with three bends of slantwise red
et couertures totes blances. Ie ai iceus armes portees tantes
and coverings all white I have these arms borne so-many
fois que, se Boors uient a lasamblee, Il me pora connoistre
times that if Bors comes to the-assembly He me can know
legierement. et ie le fac por lui plus que por nul autre, car
lightly and I it do for him more than for any other for
ie ne uolroie en nule maniere kil blechast moi ne iou lui.'
I not would-wish in any manner that-he might-wound me nor I him
Li escuiers se part de Lanselot, por aler en la cite et por
The squire himself parts from Lancelot for to-go to the city and for
querre teus armes kil li auoit deuisees, et Lanselos se
to-seek such arms as-he to-him had described and Lancelot himself
part del hermite tos seus et entre en la forest por esbatre
parts from-the hermit all alone and enters into the forest for to-disport
ne ne porte auoec lui nule arme fors sespee. Cel ior fist
nor not bears with him any arm except his-sword That day made
molt grant caut et por le grant ardour que Lanselos troua
very great heat and for the great ardor which Lancelot found
descendi il ius de son ceual, Puis li osta la siele et
dismounted he down from his horse Then from-it removed-he the saddle and
le frain Si latacha a .i. caisne ases pres de lui. et quant il
the bridle So it-tied-he to an oak much near of him and when he
ot cou fait, il ala gesir sor leur dune fontaine et sen
had this done he went to-lie upon the-edge of-a spring and himself-thence
dormi tot erralment, por le liu kil troua froit et roisant.
slept all straightway for the place which-he found cool and dewy

Si com Lanselos se dormoit desous .i. arbre Si passa
So as Lancelot himself slept under a tree So passed
par la vn veneres ki cachoit un chierf, Si le quida
by there a huntsman who chased a stag So it thought-he
traire et il traist Lanselot en la quisse.
to-shoot and he shot Lancelot in the thigh

Or dist li contes ke, entrementiers que me sire Lanselos
Now said the tale that while that my lord Lancelot
se gisoit la tous seus Et il auoit deuant eu molt grant
himself lay there all alone And he had before had very great
caut Et quant il se fu endormis, Il auint que uns
heat And when he himself was fallen-asleep It happened that a
grans ciers que li ueneour le roi Artu auoient eaquelli
great stag which the huntsmen (of-)the king Arthur had roused
en la forest vint a la fontaine, por estanchier sa soif, Car
in the forest came to the spring for to-quench its thirst For
asses auoit celui ior estet cachies vne part et autre.
much had-it that day been chased one side and other

Quant il se fu ferus en la fontaine, vns archiers, ki
When it itself was thrust into the spring an archer who
estoit montes sor .i. grant destrier et uenoit grant piece
was mounted upon a great charger and came great while
deuant tous les autres, Quant il fu auques pres de lui, si
before all the others When he was somewhat near of it so
traist cele part por lui ferir par mi le pis. Si auint
shot that way for it to-strike through amid the breast So it-happened
ensi kil fali del tot por le cierf, ki tressali auant,
thus that-he failed of-the all for the stag which leapt forward
mais li cols nala pas del tot a faute, car il en
but the blow not-went at-all of-the all to fault for he thereby

feri Lanselot par mi la senestre quisse si durement kil
struck Lancelot through amid the left thigh so hard that-he
li passa outre le fier atot grant partie del fust.
to-him passed beyond the iron with great part of-the shaft
Quant Lanselos se sent naure, si saut sus molt
When Lancelot himself feels wounded so leaps-he up very
angousseus et molt destrois et uoit le ueneor ki uenoit
anguished and very distressed and sees the huntsman who came
vers le cierf si grant aleure commil pooit del ceual traire.
toward the stag so great pace as-he could from-the horse draw
Se li crie: 'Ribaus, lechieres, que vos auoie iou forfait, ki
So to-him cries Ribald lecher what you had I misdone who
maues naure en dormant? Ciertes, mar le fesistes et
me-have wounded in sleeping Certainly in-an-ill-hour it you-did and
sachies que uostre grande male auenture vos a cha acachiet.'
know that your great evil adventure you has here chased
Lors trait lespee et li uait corre sus. Quant cil le
Then draws-he the-sword and to-him goes running upon When he him
uoit uenir et il connoist que cou est Lanselos, si sen
sees come and he knows that this is Lancelot so himself-thence
retorne et senfuit la grignor aleure kil onques puet. Et
turns and flees the greatest pace that-he ever can And
quant il encontre ses compaignon[s], Si lor dist: 'Signor,
when he meets his companions So to-them said-he Lords
nales en auant de chi, mais retornes, se uos ne uoles morir,
not-go in forward from here more turn-back if you not wish to-die
car iluec a cele fontaine se gisoit me sire Lanselos, qui
for there at that spring himself lay my lord Lancelot whom
iou ai nauret de vne saiete. Et quant ie quidai ore le
I have wounded with an arrow And when I thought just-now the
cierf ferir et iou trais a lui, si fali si feri Lanselot, et
stag to-strike and I shot at it so failed-I so struck Lancelot and

iou ai molt grant paor que ie ne laie nauret a mort
I have very great fear that I — him-may-have wounded to death
et kil ne nos siue.' Quant li autre oent ceste parole, si
and that-he — us may-follow When the others hear this word so
dient a lor compaignon: 'vos aues molt mal esploitie, car, sil
say-they to their companion you have very badly fared for if-he
a nul mal et li rois le set, nos en serons tot destruit
has any ill and the king it knows we thereby shall-be all destroyed
et essilliet; et, se li rois meesmes ne sen entremetoit
and exiled and if the king himself not himself-thereof undertook
ia, si ne nos en poroit nus garandir fors que Dex
ever so not us thereof could any protect except that God
encontre celui parente, por tant kil le puissent sauoir et
against that kindred for so-much that-they it can know and
il li mesauenoit de ceste plaie.' Lors sen tornent
he to-him mishappened from this wound Then themselves-thence turn
fuiant au trauers de la forest. Et Lanselos, ki fu remes
fleeing at-the across of the forest And Lancelot who was remained
a la fontaine naures trop durement, traist la saite fors de
at the spring wounded too hard drew the arrow out of
sa quisse a grant angousse et lors si uoit la plaie grant
his thigh with great anguish and then so sees-he the wound great
et parfonde, car li fiers de la saiete estoit les durement.
and deep for the iron of the arrow was broad hard
Atant trenche Lanselos vn peu de sa chemise por
Then cuts Lancelot a little of his shirt for
estanchier sa plaie ki sannoit a molt grant fuison. Et
to-staunch his wound which bled in very great abundance And
quant il la bendee au mieus kil set, Il uient a son
when he it-has bandaged at-the best that-he knows He comes to his
ceual Se li met le frain et la siele et monte sus a
horse So on-it puts-he the bridle and the saddle and mounts up with

molt grant angousse Si sen uait en tel maniere, a
very great anguish So himself-thence goes-he in such manner in
quel que dolor kil ait, tant kil uint a lermitage v
what that pain that-he may-have until that-he came to the-hermitage where
il repairoit tos les iors. Et quant li preudom le uit si
he resorted all the days And when the worthy-man him saw so
naure, si fu molt esmaies, Puis li demande ki cou
wounded so was-he very dismayed Then to-him asks-he who this
li fist. 'Ie ne sai', fait il, 'quel pautonier mont ensi naure,
to-him did I not know says he what scoundrel me-has thus wounded
comme uos uees, Mais itant sai iou bien kil sont de la
as you see But so-much know I well that-they are of the
maison mon signor le roi Artu.' Lors li conte comment
house (of-)my lord the king Arthur Then to-him tells-he how
il ot este naures ne par quele ocoison. 'Certes', fait li
he had been wounded nor by what occasion Certainly says the
preudom, 'ce fu droite mescheance'. 'Il ne men caut', fait
worthy-man this was right mischance It not me-thereof matters says
Lanselos, 'tant por moi comme por ce que ie en pierdrai
Lancelot so-much for me as for this that I thereby shall-lose
a ceste fois a aler a lasamblee de Camaalot, et autresi perdi
at this time to go to the-assembly of Camelot and likewise lost
iou lautre ki fu lautre ior a Thanebour par vne autre
I the-other which was the-other day at Taneborc by an other
plaie que ie rauoie en celui termine; et ce est la cose
wound which I had-again in that term and this is the thing
dont plus me poise, que, por cou que ie nauoie pas este a
whereof more me grieves that for this that I not-had at-all been at
lautre, volsise iou estre a cesti.' 'Puis kil est ensi auenu',
the-other would-wish I to-be at this-one Since that-it is thus happened
fait li preudom, 'a soufrir vos en couient a ceste fois,
says the worthy-man to to-forbear you thereof behooves at this time

car, se uos lauies iuret, ni feries uos riens dont vos
for if you it-had sworn not-there would-do you anything whereby you
eussies honor, se vos ore i aillies. Et por ce remanres
would-have honor if you now there went And for this will-remain
vos, se vos men crees.' Et Lanselos dist que voirement
you if you me believe And Lancelot said that truly
remanra il, car faire li couuient, v voelle v non.
will-remain he for to-do it-him behooves whether he-may-wish or not

Lancelot Kept from the Tournament

XXIII

Lancelot lies fifteen days at the hermitage. At the Camelot tournament twenty thousand knights meet, and Bors wins the prize; he refuses to stay without Lancelot and will not say whether Lancelot is angry with the court. Leaving, he tells Hector and Lionel he fears the queen's anger is the cause, and Hector foresees a great war between their kindred and the king. Mador of the Gate returns, reads his brother's epitaph, and vows vengeance.

Ensi remest Lanselos daler a lasamblee par locoison de cele
Thus remained Lancelot from-going to the-assembly by the-occasion of that
plaie. Si en fu tant dolans por cou que remanoir li
wound So thereof was-he so sorrowful for this that to-remain to-him
couenoit kil li estoit bien auis kil deust morir dire
behooved that-it to-him was well opinion that-he must die of-anger
et de courouc. Au soir, quant ses escuiers reuint et il le
and of wrath At-the evening when his squire came-back and he him
troua naure si durement, Il en fu trop esbahis. Lanselos fist
found wounded so hard He thereby was very amazed Lancelot had
laiens metre son escut kil deuoit porter a lasamblee et fist
in-there put his shield which-he was-to bear at the-assembly and had

estoier ses armes et dist kil ne les porteroit ore pas, car
stored his arms and said that-he not them would-bear now at-all for
a remanoir li couenoit, v il volsist v non. Si remest
to remain to-him behooved whether he would-wish or not So remained-he
laiens ensi et i demora .xv. iors entiers, anchois kil peust
in-there thus and there stayed fifteen days whole before that-he could
cheuauchier a sa uolente. Et li rois Artus seiorna tos cois a
ride at his will And the king Arthur stayed all quiet at
Chamaalot apres la mort de Gaheri desi au iour de lasamblee.
Camelot after the death of Gaheris until to-the day of the-assembly
A celui ior de lasamblee peust on ueoir en la praerie
At that day of the-assembly could one see in the meadow
de fors la cite teus .xx. [mile homes], que dune part
of outside the city such twenty thousand men both on-one side
que dautre, dont il nen i auoit nul que on [nel]
and on-the-other of-whom it not-thereof there had any whom one not-him
tenist a preudomme et a bon cheualier. Et quant il
might-hold for worthy-man and for good knight And when they
furent asamble, lors peussies ueoir cheoir et abatre menu
were assembled then could-you see fall and fell often
et souent. Si en porta de cele iornee Boors de Gaunes le
and frequently So thereof carried of that day Bors of Gaunes the
pris. Et disent tot cil ki en la place auoient este kil les
prize And said all those who in the place had been that-he them
auoit tous uencus dune part et dautre. Et li rois, ki bien
had all conquered on-one side and on-the-other And the king who well
le connut, uint a lui se li dist: ‘Boort, ie uos preng. Il
him knew came to him so to-him said Bors I you take It
couient que vos uignies laiens et que vos demorres auoec
behooves that you may-come in-there and that you may-stay with
nous. Si nos feres compaignie tant que uos plaira, car
us So us you-will-make company as-long as you will-please for

outre uostre uolente ne uos uoel ie mie detenir.' 'Sire', fait
beyond your will not you wish I at-all to-detain Lord says
Boors, 'ie niroie en nule maniere, puis que mes sires mes
Bors I not-would-go in any manner since that my lord my
cousins ni est, Mais, sil i fust, ie i demorraisse
cousin not-there is But if-he there were I there would-stay
volentiers et seiornasse tant comme lui pleust a demorer
willingly and would-sojourn as-long as him might-please to stay
auoec vos; et, si mait Dex, se iou ne le quidasse auoir
with you and so me-may-help God if I not him had-thought to-have
trouee a ceste assamblee, ie ni fusse ia uenus; car
found at this assembly I not-there would-be ever come for
il me dist, quant il se parti derrainement de moi, kil
he me said when he himself parted lastly from me that-he
i uenroit ne por nule rien ne le lairoit, Sil nauoit
there would-come nor for any thing not it would-leave If-he not-had
essoigne ki le retenist a force.' 'Vos remanres auoec moi',
hindrance which him might-hold by force You will-remain with me
fait li rois, 'et latendres tant kil uiegne en la cort'.
says the king and him-will-await until that-he may-come to the court
'Sire', fait Boors, 'por noient i remanroie, car ie ne quic
Lord says Bors for nothing there would-I-remain for I not think
pas que vos li uoies uenir en piece mais.' 'Por coi', fait li
at-all that you him may-see come in while more For what says the
rois, 'ni uenra il? donques est il courouchies a nos?'
king not-there will-come he then is he angered with us
'Sire', fait Boors, 'ia plus nen sares par moi; a autre
Lord says Bors ever more not-thereof will-know-you through me to another
le demandes, se vos en voles sauoir la uerite.' 'Se ie sauoie
it ask if you thereof wish to-know the truth If I knew
en ma cort', fait li rois, 'nul ki a dire le me seust, ie li
in my court says the king any who to tell it me might-know I to-him

demanderoie, mais, puis que ie nel sai, a soufrir men couient
would-ask but since that I not-it know to endure me-thereof behooves
et atendre tant que cil uiegne de qui ie vos demanc'. Atant
and to-wait until that he may-come of whom I you ask Then
se parti Boors del roi et de sa compaignie et sen
himself parted Bors from-the king and from his company and himself-thence
ala, entre lui et son frere et Hestor et lor autres compaignons,
went between him and his brother and Hector and their other companions
et me sire Gauains les conuoia grant piece et dist a Boort:
and my lord Gawain them escorted great while and said to Bors
'Trop mesmerueil que me sire Lanselos na este a cele
Very myself-marvel that my lord Lancelot not-has been at that
assamblee.' 'Certes, sire', fait Boors, 'ie sai vraiement kil est
assembly Certainly lord says Bors I know truly that-he is
malades, v kil soit, car, sil fust en sa deliure poeste, iou
sick where that-he be for if-he were in his free power I
sai bien kil i fust uenus.' Si prent atant li uns congie
know well that-he there would-be come So takes then the one leave
de lautre et se departent. Si torne Boors cele part v
of the-other and themselves part So turns Bors that way where
il quidoit trouer le roi de Norgales et dist a son frere et a
he thought to-find the king of North-Wales and said to his brother and to
Estor: 'Segnor', fait il, 'ie nai paour fors que de cou que me
Hector Lords says he I not-have fear except that of this that my
sires se soit adoles por la roine ki a lui sest courouchie.
lord himself may-be grieved for the queen who with him herself-is angered
Maleoite soit leure que ceste amors fu commenchie, car ie ai
Cursed be the-hour that this love was begun for I have
molt grant doutance kil ne nos en soit encore molt de
very great fear that-it — to-us thereof may-be yet much of
pis.' 'Certes', fait Hestor, 'se iou onques connui de riens ceste
worse Certainly says Hector if I ever knew of anything this

cose, vos ueres encore entre nostre parente et le roi Artu La
thing you will-see yet between our kindred and the king Arthur The
grignor guerre que vos onques ueissies et tot por ceste cose.'
greatest war that you ever saw and all for this thing

Ensi commencent a parler de ceste cose cil ki Lanselot
Thus begin to speak of this thing those who Lancelot
amoient plus et ki gregnor doutance auoient de lui. Et me
loved most and who greatest fear had for him And my
sire Gauains, quant il se fu partis diaus, cheuaucha tant
lord Gawain when he himself was parted from-them rode until
kil uint a Camaalot; et quant il fu descendus et uenus
that-he came to Camelot and when he was dismounted and come
a mont el palais, Si dist au roi: 'Sire', fait il, 'or
to up into-the palace So said-he to-the king Lord says he now
sachies que me sire Lanselos est deshaities, puis kil nest
know that my lord Lancelot is ill since that-he not-is
uenus a ceste asamblee. Or nest il riens que ie seusse
come to this assembly Now not-is it anything which I would-know
ausi uolentiers comme la uerite de son estre, por sauoir
so willingly as the truth of his being for to-know
sil est naures v sil remest por ocoison dautre maladie.'
if-he is wounded or if-he remained for occasion of-other sickness

'Certes', fait li rois, 'sil est malades v deshaities, il me
Certainly says the king if-he is sick or ill it me
poise kil nest chaiens, car de sa uenue et de sa compaignie
grieves that-he not-is in-here for by his coming and by his company
et de ciaus ki auoec li sont amende tant mes osteus,
and by those who with him are improves so-much my household
quant il i uienent, que nus ne le poroit contreproisier.'
when they there come that any not it could overprize
Teus paroles dist li rois de Lanselot et del parente le
Such words said the king of Lancelot and of-the kindred (of-)the

roi Ban et remest ensi a Camaalot et auoec lui grant
king Ban and remained thus at Camelot and with him great
compaignie de cheualiers. Au tierc ior apres lasamblee
company of knights At-the third day after the-assembly
auint que Madors de la Porte uint a cort. et quant il fu
it-happened that Mador of the Gate came to court and when he was
uenus, il not laiens si hardi cheualier ki li osast dire les
come he not-had in-there so bold knight who to-him dared tell the
nouieles de son frere, car il le connissoient a cheualier de
news of his brother for they him knew for knight of
si grant cuer kil sauoient de uoir que, si tost kil saroit
so great heart that-they knew for truth that so soon as-he would-know
la uerite de Gaheri, son frere, Il ne lairoit en nule maniere
the truth of Gaheris his brother He not would-leave in any manner
kil ne len uengast a son pooir. A lendemain li
that-he not him-thereof might-avenge to his power On the-next-day to-him
auint ensi kil ala a la maistre eglise de Chamaalot; et
happened thus that-he went to the master church of Camelot and
quant il uit la tombe, ki nouielement i auoit este mise,
when he saw the tomb which newly there had been put
Si pensa tantost que cestoit aucuns de la Table Reonde.
So thought-he at-once that this-was some-one of the Table Round
Lors torne cele part, por sauoir que cou estoit. et lors estoit
Then turns-he that way for to-know what this was and then was
coustume en cascun rice liu, Si con li contes dist deuant, que
custom in each rich place So as the tale said before that
on metoit le non del mort de sor la lame. Quant Mador uit
one put the name of-the dead of upon the slab When Mador saw
les letres ki disoient, ‘chi gist Gaheris de Caraheu, que la
the letters which said here lies Gaheris of Carahew whom the

roine fist mordrir par uenim', Lors ueissies home esbahi
queen had murdered by venom Then would-you-have-seen man amazed
et esperdu, car il ne pooit encore pas croire que ce fust uoirs.
and distraught for he not could yet at-all believe that this were true
Lors regarde deriere lui et uoit .i. cheualier d'Escoce, ki
Then looks-he behind him and sees a knight of-Scotland who
estoit compains de la Table Reonde. Il lapiele maintenant
was companion of the Table Round He him-calls at-once
si le coniure sor la foi kil li doit kil li die
so him conjures upon the faith which-he to-him owes that-he to-him may-tell
uerite de cou kil li demandera, sil le set. 'Mador', fait
truth of this which-he to-him will-ask if-he it knows Mador says
cil, 'ie sai bien que uos me voles demander se ce est uoirs
he I know well what you me wish to-ask if this is true
que la roine ait ocis uostre frere, et ie uos responderai
that the queen may-have killed your brother and I you shall-answer
a cou. Sacies uraiement kil est uoirs, tot ensi com li escris
to this Know truly that-it is true all thus as the writing
le tiesmoigne.' 'Voire', fait Mador, 'certes, cou est damages,
it witnesses Truly says Mador certainly this is harm
car molt estoit mes freres preudom et bons cheualiers,
for much was my brother worthy-man and good knight
et ie lamoie tant de bon cuer, comme freres doit amer
and I him-loved so-much with good heart as brother ought to-love
autre. Si enquerrai la uengance tele comme ie porai.'
other So shall-seek-I the vengeance such as I shall-be-able

Mador Accuses the Queen

XXIV

Mador asks the king for right in his court, renders up his homage and land, and accuses the queen of killing his brother by treason, offering to prove it on any champion. The court judges that she has forty days to find one. No knight will meet her eyes, and she repents having driven off King Ban's kindred, who alone would defend her. Next day, as Arthur leans pensive at a window, a little boat covered in silk comes to rest beneath his tower.

Molt fait Madors grant duel de son frere et demeure iluec
Much makes Mador great grief for his brother and stays there
iusques apres le grant messe. Et quant il sot que li rois
until after the great mass And when he knew that the king
fu assis al mangier, Si se part de la tombe son
was seated at-the eating So himself parts-he from the tomb (of-)his
frere tot plorant et uient en la sale le roi et parole si
brother all weeping and comes into the hall (of-)the king and speaks so
haut ke tot cil del palais le porent bien entendre et dist:
loud that all those of-the palace it could well hear and said

Si com Madors vint deuant le roi demander droit de la
So as Mador came before the king to-ask right of the
roine, qui avoit ocis son frere.
queen who had killed his brother

'Rois Artus, se tu ies rois si droituriers comme rois
King Arthur if thou art king so just as king
doit estre, tien moi a droit en ta cort, en tel maniere
ought to-be hold me in right in thy court in such manner
que, se nus me set demander nule rien, iou ferai droit
that if any me knows to-ask any thing I shall-do right
a ton plaisir. Et se ie sai que demander a autre ki i
at thy pleasure And if I know what to-ask of another who there

soit, droit me faites ensi comme la cors esgardera.' Li rois
be right me do thus as the court will-judge The king
respont que ceste cose ne poroit il pas ueer par raison; or
answers that this thing not could he at-all refuse by reason now
die cou kil uolt dire, car il li fera droit tout
may-he-say this which-he wishes to-say for he to-him will-do right all
outreement. 'Sire', fait Mador, 'ie ai este .xlv. ans v plus
utterly Lord says Mador I have been forty-five years or more
vostres cheualiers et uostre hom et ai tenue terre de
your knight and your man and have held land from
vos. Or vos renc uostre homage et vostre terre, car il
you Now you I-render your homage and your land for it
ne me plaist mie que ie des ore mais tiegne terre de uos
not me pleases at-all that I from now more may-hold land from you
ne nule riens.' Lors passe avant si se desuiest de tote
nor any thing Then passes-he forward so himself divests of all
la terre kil tenoit del roi. Puis li dist: 'Sire, or
the land which-he held from-the king Then to-him said-he Lord now
vos requier iou, comme a roi, ke vos me faites droit de
you ask I as to king that you me may-do right of
la roine, ki en traison a Gaheri, mon frere, ocis. Et sele
the queen who in treason has Gaheris my brother killed And if-she
uoloit noier quele en traison ne la fait, ie sui pres del
wished to-deny that-she in treason not it-has done I am ready of-the
prouer encontre le meillor cheualier quele i osera metre.'
proving against the best knight whom-she there will-dare to-put
Apres ceste parole lieue grans noise par laiens, car li
After this word rises great noise through in-there for the
plusor vont laiens entreus disant cor est la roine mal
most go in-there among-themselves saying now is the queen ill
baillie, car ele ne trouera pas ki por li entre en camp
treated for she not will-find at-all who for her may-enter into field

encontre Mador, a cou que tot seuent vraiement quele ocist le
against Mador by this that all know truly that-she killed the
cheualier dont ele est apielee. et li rois, ki molt est dolans
knight of-whom she is accused and the king who much is sorrowful
de cest apiel, A cou kil ne puet ueer kil ne face droit
of this accusation By this that-he not can refuse that-he not may-do right
au cheualier et li drois donra tot apertement la destruction
to-the knight and the right will-give all openly the destruction
et lescil de la roine, Se li demande kele uiegne deuant
and the-exile of the queen So to-her asks-he that-she may-come before
lui, por respondre a cou que li cheualiers dist et a cou kil
him for to-answer to this which the knight said and to this which-he
li demandera. et la roine i uient molt dolante et asses
to-her will-ask and the queen there comes very sorrowful and much
courouchie, car ele set bien kele ne trouera ia cheualier
angered for she knows well that-she not will-find ever knight
ki por li entre en cest camp, por cou que tot sauoient
who for her may-enter into this field for this that all knew
vraiement kele lauoit ocis par la pume kele li dona.
truly that-she him-had killed by the apple which-she to-him gave

Atant furent les tables ostees et il auoit laiens grant plente
Then were the tables removed and it had in-there great plenty
de cheualiers et de haus homes; et la roine uint par
of knights and of high men and the queen came through
laiens, la teste baissie, Si sambloit trop bien feme courouchie.
in-there the head lowered So seemed-she very well woman angered
Si lamenoit de lune part mesire Gauains et de lautre
So her-led on-the one side my-lord Gawain and on-the other
part Gaheries, ses freres. Et quant ele est deuant le roi, Il
side Gaheriet his brother And when she is before the king He
li dist: 'Dame, cis cheualiers vos apiele de la mort de son
to-her said Lady this knight you accuses of the death of his

frere et dist que uos locesistes en traison.' Et ele drece la
brother and said that you him-killed in treason And she raises the
teste et dist: 'v est li cheualiers?' et il saut auant et
head and said where is the knight and he leaps forward and
respont: 'uees me chi.' 'Coment?' fait ele. 'dites uos dont que
answers see me here How says she say you then that
ie ai vostre [frere] ocis a mon ensient?' 'Ie di', fait il, 'que
I have your brother killed to my knowledge I say says he that
uos le fesistes ocire desloiament et en traison, et, sil
you him had killed disloyally and in treason and if-there
auoit chaiens cheualier tant preu ne tant hardi ki volsist
had in-here knight so worthy nor so bold who would-wish
por vos deffendre entrer en camp encontre moi, Ie sui tos
for you to-defend to-enter into field against me I am all
pres que ie len renderai mort v recreant, v a nuit
ready that I him-thence shall-render dead or recreant either at night
v demain v au iour ke cil de ceste court esgarderont.'
or tomorrow or at-the day which those of this court will-decide

Quant la roine uoit ke cil se poroffre si hardiement de
When the queen sees that he himself offers so boldly of
li prouer la traison encontre le millor cheualier de laiens,
her proving the treason against the best knight of in-there
Si commence a regarder tot entor li, por sauoir se nus se
So begins-she to look all around her for to-know if any himself
mesist auant ki de cest apiel le deffendist. Et quant
might-put forward who from this accusation her might-defend And when
ele uoit ke nus de ciaus de laiens ne se muet, ains
she sees that any of those of in-there not himself moves rather
baissent tos les tiestes et les iex et escoutent, ele est tant
lower all the heads and the eyes and listen she is so
esbahie et tant esperdue quele ne set quele puisse faire.
amazed and so distraught that-she not knows what-she can do

Et nanporquant par mi tote cele angousse et par mi
And nevertheless through amid all that anguish and through amid
tote cele paour kele auoit respont: 'Sire', fait ele, 'ie vos
all that fear which-she had answers-she Lord says she I you
proi que uos me tignies a droit selonc lesgart de ceste
pray that you me may-hold in right according-to the-judgment of this
cort.' 'Dame', fait li rois, 'li esgars de ceste cort est teus
court Lady says the king the judgment of this court is such
que, se uos connissies le mesfait, ensi com il le uos met
that if you acknowledge the misdeed thus as he it you puts
sus, vos estes alee. Et, sans faille, ce ne uos poons nos
upon you are gone And without fail this not you can we
pas ueer que uos naies respit iusca .xl. iors, por vos
at-all refuse that you not-may-have respite until-to forty days for you
consillier de ceste cose et por sauoir se vos dedens celui
to-take-counsel of this thing and for to-know if you within that
terme pories trouer aucun preudomme ki por vos entrast
term could find some worthy-man who for you might-enter
en camp et ki vos deffendist de cest apiel.' 'Sire', fait
into field and who you might-defend from this accusation Lord says
ele, 'poroie ie trouer en uos autre conseil que cestui?'
she could I find in you other counsel than this-one
'Dame', fait il, 'nenil; car ie ne feroie tort ne por vos
Lady says he no for I not would-do wrong neither for you
ne por autrui, uoiant tant de preudomes comme chi a.'
nor for another seeing so-many of worthy-men as here there-are
'Sire', fait ele, 'dont vos demanc iou le ior de .xl. iors,
Lord says she then you ask I the day of forty days
et dedens celui termine, se Diu plest, trouerai ie aucun
and within that term if God pleases shall-find I some
preudome ki por moi enterra en camp; et, se au .xl.isme
worthy-man who for me will-enter into field and if at-the fortieth

ior ne lai troue, dont pores uos faire de moi cou que
day not him-have-I found then can you do with me this which
la cors esgardera.' Et li rois li donne le respit. Et quant
the court will-judge And the king to-her gives the respite And when
Madors uoit que la cose est a tant uenue, si dist au roi:
Mador sees that the thing is to so-far come so said-he to-the king
'Sire, me faites uos droit de doner a la roine si lonc respit?'
Lord me do you right in giving to the queen so long respite
'Oil', fait li rois, 'ce sacies uos uraiement.' 'Sire, dont men
Yes says the king this know you truly Lord then me-thence
irai iou et a celui ior serai iou chaiens, se Dex me deffent
shall-go I and at that day shall-be I in-here if God me defends
de mal et dencombrier.' 'Ie uos di bien', fait li rois, 'se uos
from ill and from-hindrance I you say well says the king if you
a celui [ior] ni estes apareillies de faire cou que uos aues
at that day not-there are prepared to do this which you have
chi offert, ia apres celui ior nen series escoutes.' Et il
here offered ever after that day not-thereof would-you-be heard And he
dist kil i sera, se mors ne le detient; car encontre cest
said that-he there will-be if death not him detains for against this
afaire ne le poroit pas prisons tenir, se trop nestoit crueus.
affair not him could at-all prison hold if very not-were cruel
Atant se part Mador de la cort et sen uait
Then himself parts Mador from the court and himself-thence goes
si grant duel faisant por son frere que nus ne le ueist
so great grief making for his brother that any not him saw
ki grande pite nen eust. et la roine remest laiens molt
who great pity not-thereof had and the queen remained in-there very
esmaie et esperdue, car ele set bien quele ne trouera ia
dismayed and distraught for she knows well that-she not will-find ever
cheualier, ne un ne autre, ki por li uoelle entrer en
knight neither one nor other who for her may-wish to-enter into

camp, Se ce nest aucuns del parente le roi Ban. Mais
field If this not-is some-one of-the kindred (of-)the king Ban But
cil, sans faille — ce set ele bien — ne li fausissent
those without fail this knows she well not to-her would-fail
pas, sil fussent laiens, Mais ele les a si eslongies del
at-all if-they were in-there But she them has so distanced of-the
tot quele sen puet or bien tenir a honie. Si sen
all that-she herself-thereof can now well hold for shamed So herself-thereof
repent si durement kil na el monde riens, sans soi
repents-she so hard that-it not-has in-the world anything short-of herself
honir, kele ne fesist volentiers por couent kil fussent a
shaming that-she not would-do willingly for covenant that-they were at
cort ausi com il estoient, na pas lonc tans. A lendemain
court also as they were not-has at-all long time On the-next-day
que cis apiaus fu fais auint tot droit a eure de miedi
that this accusation was made it-happened all straight at hour of midday
que une naciele couerte de trop rices dras de soie ariua
that a boat covered with very rich cloths of silk arrived
desos la tor le roi. Li rois Artus auoit mangiet a
beneath the tower (of-)the king The king Arthur had eaten with
grant compaignie de cheualiers et estoit apoies as fenestres
great company of knights and was leaned at-the windows
dunes loges et regardoit contreual la riuiere. Si estoit molt
of-some galleries and looked down-along the river So was-he very
pensis et molt mas por la roine, car il sauoit bien kele
pensive and very dejected for the queen for he knew well that-she
ne troueroit ia secors en cheualier de laiens, por cou kil
not would-find ever succor in knight of in-there for this that-they
auoient tot ueu apertement quele auoit au cheualier donne
had all seen openly that-she had to-the knight given
a mangier cou dont il estoit mors; et por cou kil le
to eat this whereof he was dead and for this that-they it

sauoient tot, nen i auoit il nul ki sen osast
knew all not-thereof there had it any who himself-thereof dared
metre en auenture duscau prendre iteus gages.
put in adventure up-to-the taking such pledges

The Boat of the Dead Maiden

XXV

Arthur and Gawain go down to the silk-covered boat and find in it a bed, and on the bed a fair damsel lately dead. Gawain knows her for the damsel of Escalot, who refused him for Lancelot. A letter in her purse, read aloud by the king, tells the knights of the Round Table that she died for loving Lancelot loyally, who would have no mercy on her. Gawain owns that he slandered Lancelot, and the maiden is carried up into the palace.

Quant li rois, ki a ceste cose pensoit, uit ariuer la nachiele
When the king who of this thing thought saw arrive the boat
ki tant estoit biele et rice, Il le moustre a mon signor
which so-much was fair and rich He it shows to my lord
Gauain Se li dist: 'Certes, uees la le plus rice naciele que
Gawain So to-him said Certainly see there the most rich boat that
ie ueisse onques mais. alons ueoir kil a dedens.' 'Alons',
I saw ever more let-us-go to-see what-it has within Let-us-go
fait me sire Gauains. Lors descendent ambedoi del palais.
says my lord Gawain Then descend both from-the palace
Et quant il sont uenu aual, si uoient la nacele Si cointement
And when they are come below so see-they the boat So elegantly
apareillie kil sen esmerueillent tot. 'Par foi', fait
prepared that-they themselves-thereat marvel all By faith says
me sire Gauains, 'se ceste naciele est ausi biele par dedens
my lord Gawain if this boat is also fair by within

comme ele est par de fors, ce sont merueilles a ueoir et
as it is by from outside these are marvels to see and
par un peu que ie ne di ke les auentures recommencent.'
by a little that I — say that the adventures begin-again
'Certes', fait li rois, 'autre tel auoie ie en pense a dire.'
Certainly says the king other such had I in thought to say
La nacele estoit couerte a uolte, et me sire Gauains
The boat was covered with vault and my lord Gawain
soslieue .i. peu del drap dont ele estoit couierte et dist
lifts a little of-the cloth wherewith it was covered and said
au roi: 'Sire, entrons dedens Si uerons kil i a.'
to-the king Lord let-us-enter within So we-shall-see what-it there has
Si com la nacele v la damoisiele d'Escalot iut morte
So as the boat where the damsel of-Escalot lay dead
vint ariuer a Camalot.
came to-arrive at Camelot
Li rois saut maintenant en la naciele et me sire Gauains
The king leaps at-once into the boat and my lord Gawain
apres. et quant il sont entre dedens, Il trueuent en mi
after and when they are entered within They find in amid
liu de la nef .i. lit molt bien apareilliet de totes les coses
place of the ship a bed very well prepared with all the things
dont rices lis peust estre apareillies et garnis, et dedens
wherewith rich bed could be prepared and furnished and within
le lit gisoit une damoisele morte nouielement, ki molt auoit
the bed lay a damsel dead newly who much had
este biele Par le samblant kele auoit encore. Lors dist me
been fair By the semblance which-she had still Then said my
sire Gauains au roi: 'Sire, dont ne uos samble il bien que
lord Gawain to-the king Lord then not to-you seems it well that
trop fu la mors uilaine et enuieuse, quant ele se mist
too-much was the death villainous and grievous when she herself put

el cors de tel damoisele comme ceste estoit, na pas
into-the body of such damsel as this-one was not-has at-all
encore granment?' 'Ciertes', fait li rois, 'il mest auis quele
yet greatly Certainly says the king it to-me-is opinion that-she
ait este trop biele creature, si est damages trop grans,
may-have been very fair creature so is-it harm too great
quant ele est morte en tel eage. Et por la grant biaute
when she is dead in such age And for the great beauty
ki en li a este saroie iou molt uolentiers ki ele fu.'
which in her has been would-know I very willingly who she was
Asses le regarderent longement, et quant me sire Gauains
Much her looked-at-they long and when my lord Gawain
la bien auisee, Si connoist que cou est la biele damoisele
her-has well considered So knows-he that this is the fair damsel
d'Escalot, cele kil requist damors, Cele ki li dist quele
of-Escalot she whom-he asked of-love She who to-him said that-she
nameroit ia, se Lanselot non. Lors dist au roi: 'Sire',
not-would-love ever except Lancelot not Then said-he to-the king Lord
fait il, 'ie sai bien ki ceste damoisiele fu.' 'Et ki fu ele?'
says he I know well who this damsel was And who was she
fait li rois. 'Sire', fait me sire Gauains, 'vos menberroit il ia
says the king Lord says my lord Gawain you would-remember it ever
de la pucele dont ie parlai a vos lautre ior et a ma dame
of the maiden of-whom I spoke to you the-other day and to my lady
la roine, cele que ie uos dis que Lanselos amoit par amors?'
the queen she whom I you said that Lancelot loved by love

'Certes', fait li rois, 'uoirement men souient il bien. vos
Certainly says the king truly me-thereof remembers it well you
me fesistes entendant que vos lauies requise damors Mais ele
me made understand that you her-had asked of-love But she
uos escondist tot outreement.' 'Sire', fait me sire Gauains, 'or
you refused all utterly Lord says my lord Gawain now

sacies tot certainement ke ceste est cele meesmes dont nos
know all certainly that this-one is she herself of-whom we
parlons.' 'Certes', fait li rois, 'ce poise moi. Or sauroie ie molt
speak Certainly says the king this grieves me Now would-know I very
volentiers locoison de sa mort, car ie croi kele soit morte de
willingly the-occasion of her death for I believe that-she be dead of
duel.' Endementiers kil parloient de ceste cose, auint que
grief While that-they spoke of this thing it-happened that
me sire Gauains regarda en coste de la damoisele et vit pendre
my lord Gawain looked at side of the damsel and saw hang
a sa chainture vne aumosniere, molt biele et molt rice, mais
at her girdle a purse very fair and very rich but
ele nestoit mie wide par samblant. Et il met maintenant a
it not-was at-all empty by semblance And he puts at-once to
laumosniere sa main Si lueure tantost Si en traist fors vnes
the-purse his hand So it-opens at-once So thence draws-he out some
letres et les desploie et les baille au roi. Et li rois les
letters and them unfolds and them gives to-the king And the king them
commence maintenant a lire Si trueue que les letres disoient:
begins at-once to read So finds-he that the letters said

'A tous les cheualiers de la Table Reonde mande salus la
To all the knights of the Table Round sends greetings the
damoisele d'Escalot. Ie fac, fait ele, ma complainte a uos tos,
damsel of-Escalot I make says she my complaint to you all
Non pas por cou que vos le puissies mais amender, Mais, por
Not at-all for this that you it can more amend But for
cou que ie uos connois as plus preudommes del monde
this that I you know for-the most worthy-men of-the world
et a la plus enuoisie gent: vos fac iou connoistre et sauoir
and for the most merry folk you make I know and to-know
tot plainement que por loiaument amer sui a ma fin uenue.
all plainly that for loyally loving am-I to my end come

Et, se uos me demandes por qui amer ie ai soufierte ceste
And if you me ask for whom loving I have suffered this
angousse de mort, ie uos responc que ie sui morte por le
anguish of death I you answer that I am dead for the
mieus vaillant home del monde et le plus vilain — Ce est
most worthy man of-the world and the most villainous This is
Lanselos del Lac, li plus vilains cheualiers que on sace
Lancelot of-the Lake the most villainous knight whom one may-know
et que ie onques trouaisse, car ie ne li soi onques
and whom I ever found for I not him knew-how ever
tant doucement proier a plors et a larmes kil onques
so-much sweetly to-pray with weepings and with tears that-he ever
volsist auoir de moi merci. Si men a tant este au
would-wish to-have of me mercy So me-thereof has-it so-much been at-the
cuer que ie sui a ma fin uenue por loiaument amer.'
heart that I am to my end come for loyally loving

Teus paroles disoient les letres. et quant li rois les ot lites,
Such words said the letters and when the king them had read
oiant mon signor Gauain, Si dist: 'Certes, damoisele, voirement
hearing my lord Gawain So said-he Certainly damsel truly
poes vos bien dire de celui por qui vos estes morte kil est
can you well say of him for whom you are dead that-he is
li plus vaillans cheualiers del monde et li plus vilains, car
the most worthy knight of-the world and the most villainous for
ceste uilonie kil a faite de uos par est si tres grans et
this villainy which-he has done to you indeed is so very great and
si anieuse que tos li mons len deueroit blasmer. Certes,
so grievous that all the world him-thereof ought to-blame Certainly
iou, ki sui rois et ki nel deuroie faire en nule maniere,
I who am king and who not-it ought to-do in any manner
neusse pas soufiert ke uos fussies morte por moi por le
not-would-have at-all allowed that you were dead for me for the

millor castel ke iou aie.' 'Sire', fait me sire Gauains, 'or poes
best castle that I may-have Lord says my lord Gawain now can-you
sauoir que iou le sordisoie a tort, quant ie uos dis auant
know that I him maligned at wrong when I you said the-day-before
ier kil demoroit auoec dame v auoec damoisiele que il
yesterday that-he stayed with lady or with damsel whom he
amoit par amors. et uos desistes uoir, quant vos desistes kil
loved by love and you said true when you said that-he
ne daigneroit pas son cuer abassier por amer en si bas liu.'
not would-deign at-all his heart to-lower for loving in so low place
'Or me dites', fait li rois, 'que nos porons faire de ceste
Now me tell says the king what we shall-be-able do with this
damoisele, car ie ne men sai preu consillier.' 'Sire', fait
damsel for I not myself-thereof know well to-counsel Lord says
me sire Gauains, 'ele fu gentils feme et de haut linage et
my lord Gawain she was noble woman and of high lineage and
vne des plus gentius femes del monde et des plus bieles.
one of-the most noble women of-the world and of-the most fair
Faisons li si grant honor que nos le fachons entierer en la
Let-us-make her so great honor that we her may-have buried in the
mere eglise de Camaalot et faisons escrire deseure sa tombe
mother church of Camelot and let-us-have written above her tomb
letres ki dient et ki tiesmongnent la uerite de sa mort,
letters which say and which witness the truth of her death
Si que tot cil ki uenront apres nos laient en memore.'
So that all those who will-come after us it-may-have in memory
Et li rois dist ke a ceste cose sacorde il bien, et tot li
And the king said that to this thing himself-agrees he well and all the
autre autresi. Et endementiers kil regardoient les letres et
others likewise And while that-they looked-at the letters and
la damoisele et il plaignoient sa mescheance, Li haut home
the damsel and they lamented her mischance The high men

furent tot descendu del palais et uenut au piet del palais,
were all descended from-the palace and come to-the foot of-the palace
por ueoir kil auoit en la nacele. Et li rois la fait maintenant
for to-see what-it had in the boat And the king it has at-once
descourir et prendre la damoisele et porter amont el palais.
uncovered and taken the damsel and carried up into-the palace
Se si assamblent li .i. et li autre et uienent cele part
So themselves assemble the ones and the others and come that way
a grant presse, car molt tienent ceste cose a grant merueille.
in great press for much hold-they this thing for great marvel

The Queen's Remorse

XXVI

The queen learns the truth and reproaches herself for thinking Lancelot fickle: he alone could save her from Mador. Lancelot, half healed, meets a Scottish knight by a spring and, unknown, hears of the poisoned fruit, Mador's charge, and the forty days, and that no knight of the court will defend the queen. He promises a champion will come. Then he meets Hector, and keeps him with him until his own wound is healed.

Li rois commence a conter a Gaheriet et a mon signor
The king begins to tell to Gaheriet and to my lord
Yuain la uerite de la damoisele et comment ele est morte
Yvain the truth of the damsel and how she is dead
por ce que Lanselos ne li uolt otroier samor. Et cil le
for this that Lancelot not to-her wished to-grant his-love And they it
recontent as autres, qui molt estoient angousseus de sauoir
recount to-the others who much were anxious to know
la certainetet. Si en est tant contee la parole et dune
the certainty So thereof is so-much told the word both on-one

part et dautre que la roine en set la uerite tot ensi
side and on-the-other that the queen thereof knows the truth all thus
com ele estoit auenue. Se li dist me sire Gauains meesmes:
as it was happened So to-her said my lord Gawain himself
'Dame, dame, or sai ie bien vraiement que ie menti de
Lady lady now know I well truly that I lied of
mon signor Lanselot, quant ie dis kil amoit la damoisele
my lord Lancelot when I said that-he loved the damsel
d'Escalot et kil demoroit auoec li, car, si mait Dex,
of-Escalot and that-he stayed with her for so me-may-help God
sil lamast de si grant amor comme ie li metoie sus, ele
if-he her-loved with so great love as I to-him put upon she
ne fust pas encore morte, ains eust Lanselos fait por li
not would-be at-all yet dead rather would-have Lancelot done for her
debonnairement quan quele li requesist.' 'Sire', fait la roine,
graciously whatever that-she to-him might-ask Lord says the queen
'on sordist maint preudomme, Si est molt grans damages, car
one maligns many-a worthy-man So is-it very great harm for
il i perdent maintes fois plus asses que on ne quide.'
they thereby lose many times more much than one — thinks
Atant se part me sire Gauains de la roine et ele
Then himself parts my lord Gawain from the queen and she
remaint asses plus dolante kele nestoit deuant Si se
remains much more sorrowful than-she was before So herself
claime lasse, caitiue, poure de tous sens. Et dist a soi
calls-she weary wretched poor of all senses And said to herself
meesmes: 'Mal euree cose, coment osas tu quidier que si
even Ill fated thing how daredst thou think that so
preudom com est Lanselos fust noueliers et amast autre
worthy-man as is Lancelot were fickle and might-love another
que toi? por coi ties tu si traie et honnie? Or uois
than thee for which thyself-art thou so betrayed and shamed Now seest

tu bien ke tot cil de chaiens te sont falit au grant
thou well that all those of in-here to-thee are failed at-the great
besoing et tot laissie en si grant peril que tu nen
need and all left in so great peril that thou not-thence
pues escaper sans mort, Se tu ne trueues a ten ior ki
canst escape without death If thou not findest at thy day one-who
encontre Mador le grant te deffende. A ciaus de caiens as
against Mador the great thee may-defend To those of in-here hast
tu falit, car nus ne ten aidera, car il seuent tot de uoir
thou failed for any not thee will-help for they know all for truth
ke li tors en est miens et li drois Mador; por coi il
that the wrong thereof is mine and the right (of-)Mador for which they
te guerpiront tot et lairont mener a mort uilainement et
thee will-abandon all and will-let lead to death villainously and
honteusement. Et nanporquant par mi tot le grant tort
shamefully And nevertheless through amid all the great wrong
ke iou ai, Se li miens amis fust chaiens, li plus loiaus de
which I have If the my friend were in-here the most loyal of
tos les autres, Cil ki autre fois ma deliuree de mort, Ie
all the others He who other time me-has delivered from death I
sai bien kil me deliurast de cest peril v iou sui ore
know well that-he me would-deliver from this peril where I am now
chaioite. Ha! Dex, por coi ne set il ore la grant destrece
fallen Ah God for what not knows he now the great distress
ke mes cuers sent et por lui et por moi? Ha! Dex, il
which my heart feels both for him and for me Ah God he
ne le saura pas a tans, Se Dex et auenture nel fait. Si
not it will-know at-all in time If God and adventure not-it does So
men couenra morir honteusement! Et en cou partira il si
me-thereof will-behoove to-die shamefully And in this will-part he so
durement kil en morra apres de duel, ce sai iou bien
hard that-he thereof will-die after of grief this know I well

tot vraiement, si tost com il lorra dire que ie serai del
all truly so soon as he it-will-hear say that I shall-be from-the
siecle trespassee, A cou que hom morteus nama onques
world passed For this that man mortal not-loved ever
dame si loiaument commil ma amee et ayme encore.'
lady so loyally as-he me-has loved and loves still

Ensi se plaint la roine et se dolouse et se blasme et
Thus herself complains the queen and herself grieves and herself blames and
se honnist et laidenge de son fait meesmes, de cou quele a
herself shames and reviles for her deed itself of this that-she has
eslongie et cachiet dentor li celui kele deust chier tenir
distanced and chased from-around her him whom-she ought dear to-hold
et amer sor tos homes. Li rois fist la damoisele enseuelir
and to-love above all men The king had the damsel shrouded
au plus biel et au plus ricement con pot, Si comme
at-the most fair and at-the most richly that-one could So as
damoisiele de grant linage, et le fist entierer en la mere
damsel of great lineage and her had buried in the mother
eglise de Camaalot, et fist metre sor li vne tombe biele et
church of Camelot and had put upon her a tomb fair and
rice. et auoit sor la tombe letres escrites, ki disoient: 'chi
rich and there-was upon the tomb letters written which said here
gist La damoisele d'Escalot, qui por lamor de Lanselot morut'.
lies The damsel of-Escalot who for the-love of Lancelot died
et estoient ces letres faites, les unes dor et les autres dasur,
and were these letters made the ones of-gold and the others of-azure
trop richement. Mais atant laisse ore li contes a parler del roi
very richly But then leaves now the tale to speak of-the king
et de la roine et de ciaus de la cort et retorne a Lanselot.
and of the queen and of those of the court and returns to Lancelot

Si com Lanselos se dormoit en vne forest Si i vint
So as Lancelot himself slept in a forest So there came
vns cheualiers ki li dist nouieles de la roine.
a knight who to-him told news of the queen
Or dist li contes que tant demora Lanselos chies
Now said the tale that so-long stayed Lancelot at-the-house-of
liermite de la forest kil fu auques garis de la plaie ke
the-hermit of the forest that-he was somewhat healed of the wound which
li ueneres li ot faite. Vn ior apres eure de tierce monta
the huntsman to-him had made One day after hour of terce mounted-he
sor son ceual, Si comme cil ki se uoloit aler esbatre en
upon his horse So as he who himself wished to-go to-disport in
la forest, Si se parti del hermitage et se mist en .i.
the forest So himself parted-he from-the hermitage and himself put on a
petit sentier. Si not gaires cheuauchie, quant il troua une
little path So not-had-he much ridden when he found a
molt biele fontaine desos .ij. grans arbres, et par deles cele
very fair spring under two great trees and by beside that
fontaine se gisoit uns cheualiers tos armes fors la teste.
spring himself lay a knight all armed except the head
Et auoit son elme mis de iouste lui et son ceual atachiet a
And had his helmet put at side him and his horse tied to
un arbre. Quant Lanselos uoit le cheualier dormant, si pense
a tree When Lancelot sees the knight sleeping so thinks-he
kil ne lesueillera pas, ains le laira reposer, et, quant il sera
that-he not him-will-wake at-all rather him will-let rest and when he will-be
esuillies, Lors pora il parler a lui et demander qui il est.
awakened Then will-be-able he speak to him and to-ask who he is
Lors descent et atache son ceual auques pres de lautre et
Then dismounts-he and ties his horse somewhat near of the-other and
puis se couche de lautre part de la fontaine. Puis ne demora
then himself lays-down on the-other side of the spring Then not delayed

gaires que li cheualiers sesuilla por la noise des ceuaus
much that the knight himself-woke for the noise of-the horses
ki sentrecombatoient; et, quant il uoit deuant lui Lanselot,
which each-other-fought and when he sees before him Lancelot
Si sesmerueille molt quele auenture lot iluec aporte.
So himself-marvels-he much what adventure him-had there brought
Atant sentresaluent et demande li uns a lautre de son
Then each-other-greet-they and asks the one to the-other of his
estre. Et Lanselos, ki ne se uolt mie descourir, puis
being And Lancelot who not himself wished at-all to-disclose since
kil uoit ke cil nel connoist pas, li dist kil est uns
that-he sees that he not-him knows at-all to-him said that-he is a
cheualiers estranges del roiaume de Gaule. 'et ie sui', fait
knight foreign of-the kingdom of Gaul and I am says
li cheualiers, 'del roiaume d'Escoce.' 'Et dont uenes vos?'
the knight of-the kingdom of-Scotland And whence come you
fait Lanselos. 'Sire', fait il, 'ie uien de Camaalot, v ie ai
says Lancelot Lord says he I come from Camelot where I have
laissiet le roi a molt grant compaignie de gent. Mais tant
left the king with very great company of folk But so-much
uos di ie por uoir kil en i auoit plusors courouchies
you say I for truth that-it thereof there had several angered
dune auenture ki laiens est auenue nouielement et si auint
by-an adventure which in-there is happened newly and so happened
a ma dame la roine meesmement.' 'A madame la roine?'
to my lady the queen herself To my-lady the queen
fait Lanselos. 'por Diu, dites moi que ce fu, car trop le
says Lancelot for God tell me what this was for too-much it
desir a sauoir.' 'Et ie le uos dirai', fait li cheualiers. 'Na
I-desire to know And I it you shall-tell says the knight Not-has
pas encore gramment ke la roine mangoit en vne soie
at-all yet greatly that the queen ate in a her

cambre et auoit auoec li grant compaignie de cheualiers et
chamber and had with her great company of knights and
de dames et de damoisieles, et ie meesmes mangoie celui
of ladies and of damsels and I myself ate that
ior a la table la roine. Quant nos eumes eut le premier
day at the table (of-)the queen When we had had the first
mes, vns valles entra en la cambre ki presenta fruit a
dish a squire entered into the chamber who presented fruit to
la roine et ele en dona maintenant a mangier a .i.
the queen and she thereof gave at-once to eat to a
cheualier. Et cil morut tantost com il ot del fruit gouste.
knight And he died at-once as he had of-the fruit tasted
'Li cris leua par laiens et i vinrent tot, por cele
The cry rose through in-there and there came all for that
merueille ueoir; et, quant il trouerent le cheualier mort,
marvel to-see and when they found the knight dead
asses i ot de ceus ki la roine blasmerent molt de ceste
a-good-deal there had of those who the queen blamed much for this
cose. Il misent le cheualier en tiere et en laissierent
thing They put the knight in earth and thereof left
atant la parole que plus nen disent a la roine. Lautre
then the word so-that more not-thereof said-they to the queen The-other
semaine tot droit auint ke Mador de la Porte, ki freres
week all straight it-happened that Mador of the Gate who brother
fu au cheualier mort, uint a cort. Et quant il uit la
was to-the knight dead came to court And when he saw the
tombe son frere et il sot de uoir coment la roine lauoit
tomb (of-)his brother and he knew for truth how the queen him-had
fait morir, Il uint deuant la roi Si apela la roine de
made die He came before the king So accused the queen of
traison. Et ele commenca a regarder tot entor li, por sauoir
treason And she began to look all around her for to-know

se laiens eust nul cheualier ki por li deffendre uenist
if in-there there-were any knight who for her to-defend might-come
auant, Mais onques ni ot si hardi ki por li deffendre
forward But ever not-there was-one so bold who for her to-defend
uenist auant ne volsist tendre son gage. Et li rois dona
would-come forward nor would-wish to-hold-out his pledge And the king gave
maintenant a la roine respit dusca .xl. iors En tel maniere
at-once to the queen respite until forty days In such manner
que, se la roine ne trueue dedens celui terme aucun cheualier
that if the queen not finds within that term some knight
ki por li uoelle entrer en camp encontre Mador, ele en
who for her may-wish to-enter into field against Mador she thereby
sera destruite et malbailli. et ce est la cose por coi li
will-be destroyed and ill-treated and this is the thing for which the
plusor de la cort sont plus amati et couroucie; car certes
most of the court are more downcast and angered for certainly
laiens ne trouera ele ia cheualier ki por li entre en camp.'
in-there not will-find she ever knight who for her may-enter into field
'Or me dites, sire cheualiers', fait Lanselos, 'la v ma
Now me tell lord knight says Lancelot there where my
dame la roine fu ensi apielee, comme vos dites, Auoit il
lady the queen was thus accused as you say Had it
laiens nul des preudommes de la Table Reonde?' 'Sire', fait
in-there any of-the worthy-men of the Table Round Lord says
il, oil, asses. Tot li .v. neueu le roi Artu i estoient,
he yes many All the five nephews (of-)the king Arthur there were
Mesire Gauains, Gaheries, Engreuains, Guerrehes et Mordres.
My-lord Gawain Gaheriet Agravain Guerrehet and Mordred
Et si i estoit Yuains, li fils au roi Urijen, et Saigremors
And so there was Yvain the son of-the king Urien and Sagremor
li Desrees et me sire Gaus li fils le roi de Norual et
the Unruly and my lord Gaus the son (of-)the king of Norval and

me sire Brandelis et Girfles li fils Do et maint autre bon
my lord Brandelis and Girflet the son (of-)Do and many another good
cheualier.' 'Et coment pot ce estre dont', fait Lanselos, 'kil
knight And how could this be then says Lancelot that-they
soufrirent ke ma dame la roine ot honte deuant aus kil
allowed that my lady the queen had shame before them that-it
ni ot aucun ki le deffendist?' 'Par foi', fait li cheualiers,
not-there was any who her might-defend By faith says the knight
'il nen i ot nul ki en fesist grant force. si orent
it not-thereof there had any who thereof made great force so had-they
droit, car il ne se volrent pas desloiauter por li, A cou
right for they not themselves wished at-all to-make-disloyal for her For this
kil sauoient bien vraiement quele auoit ocis le cheualier;
that-they knew well truly that-she had killed the knight
car il fussent desloiaute, ce me samble, sil se mesissent
for they would-be disloyalty this me seems if-they themselves put
en faus gages, a lor ensient.' 'Et quidies uos', fait Lanselos,
in false pledges to their knowledge And think you says Lancelot
'que cil Madors reuiegne iamais a cort por ceste cose?' 'Oil,
that that Mador may-return ever to court for this thing Yes
par foi', fet li cheualiers; 'ie sai de uoir kil reuenra al
by faith says the knight I know for truth that-he will-return at-the
quarantisme ior, por ensiuir lapiel kil a fait. Et ie
fortieth day for to-pursue the-accusation which-he has made And I
croi bien ke la roine en sera honnie a ceste fois, a cou
believe well that the queen thereby will-be shamed at this time by this
kele ne trouera ia nul cheualier ki por li entre en camp.'
that-she not will-find ever any knight who for her may-enter into field
'Certes', fait Lanselos, 'se Deu plest, si fera, car donques
Certainly says Lancelot if God pleases so will-do-she for then
auroit ele molt mal emploiet les biaus seruices kele a fais
would-have she very ill employed the fair services which-she has done

as estranges cheualiers, Sele ne trouoit ki, por li deffendre,
to-the foreign knights If-she not found who for her to-defend
entrast en cele bataille. et sacies kil en a aucun par
might-enter into that battle and know that-it thereof has some through
le pais et par le monde ki, por li deffendre, metroient
the country and through the world who for her to-defend would-put
lor cors a mort, ancois kil ne la gietassent de cest
their bodies to death before that-they — her might-cast from this
paril. Et ie uos pri ke uos me dites quant li quarantismes
peril And I you pray that you me may-tell when the fortieth
iors sera.' Et cil li dist maintenant. 'Or sacies', fait
day will-be And he to-him said at-once Now know says
Lanselos, 'kil a tel cheualier en cest pais ki ne lairoit
Lancelot that-it has such knight in this country who not would-leave
por tote lonor le roi Artu kil ne fust a cort a celui
for all the-honor (of-)the king Arthur that-he not were at court on that
ior et kil ne deffendist ma dame la roine a celui ior a
day and that-he not would-defend my lady the queen on that day to
son pooir encontre Mador de la Porte.' 'Et ie uos di', fait
his power against Mador of the Gate And I you say says
li cheualiers, 'que cil ki en ceste auenture se metera
the knight that he who in this adventure himself will-put
ni pora conquester nule honor; Car, sil uencoit bien
not-there will-be-able win any honor For if-he conquered well
la bataille, Si saront tot cil de la cort kil aroit este
the battle So will-know all those of the court that-he would-have been
encontre droit et encontre loiaute.' Et atant en laissent
against right and against loyalty And then thereof leave-they
la parole ester que plus nen dient. et demeurent iluec
the word to-stand so-that more not-thereof say-they and stay there
dusques a eure de uespres Et lors uient li cheualiers a
until to hour of vespers And then comes the knight to

son ceual et monte sus et prent congiet de Lanselot et il
his horse and mounts up and takes leave of Lancelot and he
le commande molt a Diu. Et quant li cheualiers se fu
him commends much to God And when the knight himself was
auques eslongies de Lanselot, il regarde a trauiers et uoit
somewhat distanced from Lancelot he looks at across and sees
uenir .i. cheualier arme et un escuier auoec lui sans plus.
come a knight armed and a squire with him without more
Lanselos la uise tant que il le connoist, et si set tot
Lancelot him eyes until that he him knows and so knows all
uraiement que ce est Hestor des Mares. Si en est molt
truly that this is Hector of Mares So thereof is-he much
lies et molt en a grant ioie. Se li uait a lencontre
glad and much thereof has great joy So to-him goes to the-encounter
tot a piet et li crie si haut ke bien le puet oir:
all on foot and to-him cries so loud that well it can hear

'Hestor! biaus freres, bien uignies vos! quele auenture uos
Hector fair brother well come you what adventure you
a amene ceste part?' Et quant Hestor le uoit, si descent
has brought this way And when Hector him sees so dismounts-he
et oste erralment son elme. Puis li rent son salu Si
and removes straightway his helmet Then to-him renders his greeting So
lies que nus plus et li dist: 'Sire, ie aloie a Camaalot,
glad that none more and to-him said Lord I went to Camelot
por deffendre ma dame la roine encontre Mador de la
for to-defend my lady the queen against Mador of the
Porte, ki apielee la de traison.' 'vos remanres anuit mais
Gate who accused her-has of treason you will-remain tonight more
auoec moi', fait Lanselos, 'et tant ke ie soie bien garis;
with me says Lancelot and until that I may-be well healed
et quant li iors de la bataille deuera estre, nos irons a
and when the day of the battle ought to-be we shall-go to

cort, entre moi et vos, et lors, se li cheualiers ki cest
court between me and you and then if the knight who this
apiel a fait ne trueue ki encontre lui deffende ma dame,
accusation has made not finds who against him may-defend my lady
dont ne le trouera il iamais a nul ior de son uiuant.'
then not him will-find he ever at any day of his lifetime

Lancelot Meets Bors

XXVII

Healed, Lancelot meets Bors seeking him. Lancelot vows to fight Mador for the queen however she hates him, though he believes the right is Mador's. From the castle of Alfain he sends Bors and Hector to Camelot, telling them to watch for white arms with a red bend. The queen rejoices at their arrival, but Bors tells her she has driven off the best knight in the world, and refuses to help her, saying he does not know where Lancelot is.

A ceste cose sacordent ambedoi. Lors uient Lanselos a son
To this thing themselves-agree both Then comes Lancelot to his
ceual si monte et Hestors autresi. Si sen vont droit
horse so mounts and Hector likewise So themselves-thence go-they straight
a lermitage v Lanselos auoit tant demore. Et quant li
to the-hermitage where Lancelot had so-long stayed And when the
prodom uoit Hestor, Se li fait molt grant ioie por
worthy-man sees Hector So to-him makes-he very great joy for
lamor de Lanselot et por cou kil lauoit asses ueu autre
the-love of Lancelot and for this that-he him-had much seen other
fois. Si fu cele nuit Hestors molt en grans [desir] de sauoir
times So was that night Hector very in great desire of knowing
ki auoit naure Lanselot. et il li dist tot ensi com il li
who had wounded Lancelot and he to-him said all thus as it to-him

estoit auenut, et Hestor le tint a molt grant merueille. Si
was happened and Hector it held for very great marvel So
demorerent ensamble laiens .viij. iors entiers tant que Lanselos
stayed-they together in-there eight days whole until that Lancelot
fu tos garis de sa plaie ke li ueneres li auoit faite, Si
was all healed of his wound which the huntsman to-him had made So
fu ausi sains et ausi haities com il auoit este v plus.
was-he also sound and also hale as he had been or more

Lors se partirent de cies le prodomme et
Then themselves parted-they from at-the-house-of the worthy-man and
commencierent a cheuauchier parmi le pais, entre lui et
began to ride through the country between him and
Hestor, son frere, et .ij. escuiers, si celeement que a paines
Hector his brother and two squires so secretly that with pains
peust on quidier que ce fussent il. Si lor auint ensi un
could one think that this were they So to-them happened thus one
ior kil encontrerent Boort tot seul cheuauchant et aloit
day that-they met Bors all alone riding and went
querant Lanselot la v il le quidoit plus tost trouer. et
seeking Lancelot there where he him thought most soon to-find and
sestoit cele sesmaine partis de Lyonel, son frere, Si lauoit
himself-was that week parted from Lionel his brother So him-had
laissiet chies le roi de Norgales, ki lauoit retenu, por lui
left at-the-house-of the king of North-Wales who him-had retained for him
faire compaignie. Quant il sentreconurent, Lors ueissies
to-make company When they each-other-recognized Then would-you-have-seen
ioie grant et meruilleuse que li uns cousins fait de lautre.
joy great and marvelous which the one cousin makes of the-other

Lors traist Boors Lanselot a vne part se li dist: 'Sire,
Then draws Bors Lancelot to one side so to-him said Lord
aues vos encore oi coment ma dame la roine est encoupee
have you yet heard how my lady the queen is inculpated

deuant le roi?' 'Oil', fait il, 'on le ma bien conte.' 'Sire',
before the king Yes says he one it me-has well told Lord
fait Boors, 'sacies kil men est molt biel — cest, par cou
says Bors know that-it me-thereof is very fair this-is by this
quele ne puet trouer ki le deffende, li couenra a fine
that-she not can find who her may-defend to-her it-will-behoove by sheer
force kele face pais a uos et ke li uns de nos se
force that-she may-make peace with you and that the one of us himself
combate encontre Mador.' 'Certes', fait Lanselos, 'se ele me
may-fight against Mador Certainly says Lancelot if she me
deuoit hair tant com ele uiuera en tel maniere ke iamais
ought to-hate as-long as she will-live in such manner that ever
ne trouaisse pais a li, Si ne poroie ie pas soufrir kele fust
not might-I-find peace with her So not could I at-all allow that-she were
deshonoree a mon viuant; car ce est la dame del monde ki
dishonored in my lifetime for this is the lady of-the world who
plus ma fait honor, puis ke ie portai armes premierement;
most me-has done honor since that I bore arms first
Si me metrai en auenture por li deffendre — Non pas
So myself shall-put-I in adventure for her to-defend Not at-all
ausi hardiement com iou ai fait en mainte autre bataille,
so boldly as I have done in many-a other battle
car ie sai tot uraiement, ensi com ie lai oi dire, ke
for I know all truly thus as I it-have heard say that
li tors en sera miens et li drois Mador de le Porte.'
the wrong thereof will-be mine and the right (of-)Mador of the Gate

Cele nuit iurent en .i. castiel ke on apieloit Alfain. et de
That night lay-they in a castle which one called Alfain and from
celui ior nauoit mais ke .iiij. iors duskes au quarantisme ior.
that day not-had more than four days until to-the fortieth day
Lors dist Lanselos a Hestor et a Boort: 'vos en ires', fait
Then said Lancelot to Hector and to Bors you thence will-go says

il, 'tot droit a Camaalot et demorres iluec duscau mardi, et
he all straight to Camelot and will-stay there until-to-the Tuesday and
adont est li iors madame. et entre chi et la uos enquerres
then is the day (of-)my-lady and between here and there you will-inquire
a ma dame se ie iamais poroie ma pais trouer a li, Si ke
of my lady if I ever could my peace find with her So that
uos uenres apres moi, quant la bataille sera outree, sil plaist
you will-come after me when the battle will-be finished if-it pleases
ensi a Nostre Signor kil men auiegne honors, et lors
thus to Our Lord that-it to-me-thereof may-come honor and then
me dires cou ke uos ares trouet uers li.' Et il dient
me you-will-tell this which you will-have found toward her And they say
ke ce feront il molt volentiers. Au matin se partirent
that this will-do they very willingly At-the morning themselves parted
li doi cousin de Lanselot. Et il lor deffendi molt bien kil
the two cousins from Lancelot And he them forbade very well that-they
ne desissent a riens nee kil deust uenir a cort. 'Mais
not might-tell to anything born that-he was-to come to court But
por cou', fait il, 'ke uos me connissies bien, quant ie serai
for this says he that you me may-know well when I shall-be
uenus, vos di iou ke ie porterai unes armes totes blances
come you tell I that I shall-bear some arms all white
a vne bende de bellinc uermeille, et par cou me pores
with a bend of slantwise red and by this me will-be-able
uos connoistre la v li autre ne saront qui iou serai.'
you know there where the others not will-know who I shall-be
Atant se partent li doi de Lanselot et il remaint
Then themselves part the two from Lancelot and he remains
el castiel en la compaignie dun seul escuier, si fait
in-the castle in the company of-a single squire so has
apareillier et querre vnes armes de tel maniere, com il les
prepared and sought some arms of such manner as he them

auoit deuisees. Et li doi cousin ceuauchierent tant kil
had described And the two cousins rode until that-they
uinrent a eure de nonne a Camaalot; et ce porent il
came at hour of nones to Camelot and this could they
bien faire, car d'Alfain nauoit que .xxx. liues englesces
well do for from-Alfain not-there-was but thirty leagues English
dusca Camaalot. Quant il furent descendu et desarme, li
until-to Camelot When they were dismounted and disarmed the
rois lor ala encontre, por aus conioir, car cou estoient
king to-them went to-meet for them to-welcome for these were
doi des cheualiers del monde kil plus prisoit; et ausi
two of-the knights of-the world whom-he most prized and also
fist me sire Gauains et tot li autre preudome de laiens.
did my lord Gawain and all the other worthy-men of in-there
Si les rechurent a si grant honor comme on doit faire
So them received-they with so great honor as one ought to-do
.ij. teus cheualiers comme il estoient. Mais quant la roine
two such knights as they were But when the queen
oi dire kil estoient uenut, si ne fu onques grignors
heard say that-they were come so not was ever greater
ioie kele en ot, et dist a une soie puciele: 'Damoisiele,
joy than-she thereof had and said to a her maiden Damsel
puis ke cist doi sont uenu, or sui iou tot aseur que ie
since that these two are come now am I all assured that I
ni morrai iamais seule; car il sont si prodomme kil
not-there shall-die ever alone for they are so worthy-men that-they
meteroient por moi en auenture cors et ames, ancois ke ie
would-put for me in adventure bodies and souls before that I
recheusse mort ne honte, la v il fussent. beneois soit
might-receive death nor shame there where they might-be blessed be
Dex ki a tel point les a amenes! car autrement me
God who at such point them has brought for otherwise to-me

fust il molt mescaoit.' Et ensi com ele me disoit teus
would-be it very mishappened And thus as she to-her said such
paroles a la damoisiele, Boors, ki estoit desirans de ueoir la
words to the damsel Bors who was desirous of seeing the
roine, entra laiens; et si tost comme ele le uoit uenir, si
queen entered in-there and so soon as she him sees come so
se drece encontre lui et dist ke 'bien soit il uenus'. Et
herself raises to-meet him and said that well may-be he come And
il respont ke 'Dex li doinst honor et ioie.' 'Ciertes, sire',
he answers that God to-her may-give honor and joy Certainly lord
fait ele, 'a ioie ne puis ie falir, puis ke uos estes uenus. Si
says she of joy not can I fail since that you are come So
quidoie ie auoir eslongie tote ioie Mais ie quic ore bien que
thought I to-have distanced all joy But I think now well that
ie la recouuerrai par Diu et par vos prochainement.' Et
I it shall-recover through God and through you soon And
il li respont ausi com sil ne seust rien de son afaire.
he to-her answers also as if-he not knew anything of her affair
'Dame, coment estoit cou ke vos quidies auoir perdue tote
Lady how was this that you thought to-have lost all
ioie?' 'Coment'? fait ele. 'ne saues vos pas coment il mest
joy How says she not know you at-all how it to-me-is
puissedi auenu que vos ne me ueistes?' Et il dist kil
since-the-day happened that you not me saw And he said that-he
nen set rien. 'Non?' fait ele. 'en non Diu et ie le
not-thereof knows anything No says she in name (of-)God and I it
uos dirai en tel maniere que ia nen mentirai de mot.'
you shall-tell in such manner that ever not-thereof shall-I-lie by word
Lors li conte la uerite comment il li estoit auenu,
Then to-him tells-she the truth how it to-her was happened
ensi ke nule rien ne len cela. 'Si men apiele', fait
thus that any thing not from-him-thereof hid-she So me-thereof accuses says

ele, ‘Madors de traison, Mais onques not chaiens si preut
she Mador of treason But ever not-had in-here so worthy
cheualiers ki men osast deffendre encontre lui.’ ‘Dame’, fait
knight who me-thereof dared defend against him Lady says
Boors, ‘si mait Dex! se cheualier uos falent, ce nest pas
Bors so me-may-help God if knights you fail this not-is at-all
grans merueille; car uos saues uraiement ke uos aues fali et
great marvel for you know truly that you have failed and
por noient au millor cheualier del monde. Si ne seroit mie
for nothing to-the best knight of-the world So not would-be at-all
grans desmisons, ce me samble, sil uos mescheoit durement,
great unreason this me seems if-it you mishappened hard
car uos faites morir a duel et a honte le plus preudome que
for you make die of grief and of shame the most worthy-man whom
on sace; por coi ie sui ore plus lies de ceste mesceance
one may-know for which I am now more glad of this mischance
ki uos est auenue que ie ne fui piecha mais de cose ke ie
which to-you is happened than I — was long-ago more of thing which I
ueisse, car or sares uos et connistres comment puet estre
saw for now will-know you and will-know how can be
amalaise cele ki preudomme piert; car, se me sire fust ore
ill-at-ease she who worthy-man loses for if my lord were now
chaiens, il ne laissast por tot le monde quil ne fesist ceste
in-here he not would-leave for all the world that-he not would-do this
bataille contre Mador, tot seust il de uoir ke li tors en fust
battle against Mador all knew he for truth that the wrong thereof were
siens. Mais uos estes ore a cou uenue, Diu merchi, ke uos
his But you are now to this come God thanks that you
ne troueres ki por vos sen entremete, dont vos poes
not will-find who for you himself-thereof may-undertake whereby you can
bien estre en auenture de tote honte recheuoir, ce mest auis.’
well be in risk of all shame receiving this to-me-is opinion

‘A cort’, fait la roine, ‘a qui que iou faille de secors
At court says the queen to whomever that I may-fail of succor
trouer, a uos ne falrai ie mie, le sai ie bien.’ ‘Dame’, fait
to-find to you not shall-fail I at-all it know I well Lady says
il, ‘ia Dius ne mait, se vos en moi troues secors de
he ever God not me-may-help if you in me find succor of
ceste cose! car puis que vos celui maues tolu que ie amoie
this thing for since that you him me-have taken whom I loved
sor tos homes comme mon signor et mon cousin, ie ne
above all men as my lord and my cousin I not
uos doi pas aidier mais nuire de tot mon pooir.’ ‘Coment?’
you ought at-all to-help but to-harm with all my power How
fait ele. ‘ai ie le uos donques tolu?’ ‘Oil’, fait il, ‘en tel
says she have I him you then taken Yes says he in such
maniere ke ie ne sai kil est deuenus. Ne onques puis
manner that I not know what-he is become Nor ever since
que ie li oi dites nouieles de cou que vos mauies dit,
that I to-him had said news of this which you me-had said
ne soi v il ala, nient plus ke sil fust en terre entres.’
not knew-I where he went no more than if-he were in earth entered

No Champion for the Queen

XXVIII

The queen weeps aloud, and alone laments that King Ban's kindred loved her only for Lancelot's sake. No knight will fight Mador, each holding her guilty. Arthur begs Gawain, who answers that he saw her give the fruit and would not defend his own mother in a wrong. On the eve of the battle the king tells the queen that all his knights have failed her, and they weep together. He advises her to ask Bors and Hector, and she says she will.

Quant la roine entent ceste parole, si est molt amalaise
When the queen hears this word so is-she very ill-at-ease
et comence a plorer trop durement et est si pensiue kele
and begins to weep too hard and is so pensive that-she
ne set kele doiue deuenir. et quant ele parole, si dist
not knows what-she ought to-become and when she speaks so said-she
si haut que Boors le pot bien entendre: 'Ha Dex! por coi
so loud that Bors it could well hear Ah God for what
fui ie onques nee, quant il couient ma uie finer par si
was I ever born since it behooves my life to-end by so
grant dolour?' Et lors se part Boors de laiens, ki molt
great grief And then himself parts Bors from in-there who much
sen volsist uengier par paroles de la roine, sil onques
himself-thereof would-wish to-avenge by words on the queen if-he ever
peust. Et quant il est issus de la cambre et ele voit quele
could And when he is gone-out of the chamber and she sees that-she
ne trouera riens ki le reconfort, si commence .i. duel si
not will-find anything which her may-comfort so begins-she a grief so
grant et si meruilleus comme sele ueist deuant li morte la
great and so marvelous as if-she saw before her dead the
riens el monde kele plus amast. et dist a bassete uois:
thing in-the world which-she most loved and said in low voice

‘Biaus, dous amis! or puis ie bien ueoir ke cil del
Fair sweet friend now can I well see that those of-the
parente le roi Ban ne mamoient pas, se por vos non,
kindred (of-)the king Ban not me-loved at-all except for you not
car il me sont fali, quant il quident que uos maues fali.
for they to-me are failed when they think that you me-have failed
Or puis ie bien dire que ie aurai a cest besoigne soufraite
Now can I well say that I shall-have at this need lack
de vos.’ Si demaine la roine en tel maniere molt grant duel
of you So leads the queen in such manner very great grief
et molt se demente et pleure et nuit et ior. Ne onques
and much herself laments and weeps both night and day Nor ever
sa dolors ne cesse ne ne fine, ains croist de ior en ior. Si
her grief not ceases nor not ends rather grows from day to day So
en est li rois molt amalaise, car il ne puet laiens trouer
thereof is the king very ill-at-ease for he not can in-there find
cheualier ki uoelle entrer en camp por la roine encontre
knight who may-wish to-enter into field for the queen against
Mador. Ains dist cascuns, quant il les en araisne, ke la
Mador Rather said each when he them thereof addresses that the
roine est coupable de cou con li met sus et Madors
queen is guilty of this which-one to-her puts upon and Mador
en uieut le droit soustenir. Li rois meesmes en parole
thereof wishes the right to-sustain The king himself thereof speaks
a mon signor Gauain Se li dist: ‘Biaus nies, ie uos
to my lord Gawain So to-him said Fair nephew I you
proi por Diu et por lamor de moi ke vos entres en
pray for God and for the-love of me that you may-enter into
ceste bataille encontre Mador por la roine deffendre de cou
this battle against Mador for the queen to-defend from this
dont ele est apielee.’ et il respont: ‘sire, ie sui pres que
whereof she is accused and he answers lord I am ready that

ie en face uostre uolente, Mais ke vos me creanteres
I thereof may-do your will But that you me will-promise
que vos me conseilleres loiaument comme rois. et ie uos
that you me will-counsel loyally as king and I you
di comme loiaus cheualiers que madame la roine ocist le
say as loyal knight that my-lady the queen killed the
cheualier dont ele est apielee, car ie le ui, et maint autre
knight of-whom she is accused for I it saw and many another
cheualier. Or esgardes se ie le puis deffendre loiaument,
knight Now judge if I her can defend loyally
car, se ie le puis faire, ie sui pres ke ie me mete por
for if I it can do I am ready that I myself may-put for
li en camp, et, se ie ne puis, ie uos di uraiement ke,
her into field and if I not can I you say truly that
sele estoit ma mere, si le lairoie ie encore, car il nest
if-she were my mother so her would-leave I still for it not-is
encore pas nes por qui ie uolsise faire desloiaute.'
yet at-all born for whom I would-wish to-do disloyalty

Autre parole ne pot li rois trouer en mon signor Gauain
Other word not could the king find in my lord Gawain
ne en nul del autres preudommes de laiens, car il estoit,
nor in any of-the other worthy-men of in-there for they were
sans faille, tel kil ne se uolsissent desloiauter ne
without fail such that-they not themselves would-wish to-make-disloyal nor
por le roi ne por nul autre. Si en fu li rois esmaies trop
for the king nor for any other So thereof was the king dismayed too
durement et en fu trop amalaise. Le soir deuant cou
hard and thereof was very ill-at-ease The evening before this
ke la bataille dut estre A lendemain peussies uos ueoir
that the battle was-to be On the-next-day could you see
el palais de Camaalot tos les plus haus hommes et les
in-the palace of Camelot all the most high men and the

plus poissans del roiaume de Logres; car tot i estoient
most powerful of-the kingdom of Logres for all there were
assamble, por ueoir quel fin la roine feroit de sa bataille.
assembled for to-see what end the queen would-make of her battle
Celui soir apres eure de uespres dist li rois a la roine,
That evening after hour of vespers said the king to the queen
molt courouchies et molt esmaies: 'Dame, se Dex mait,
very angered and very dismayed Lady so God me-may-help
ie ne sai que dire de uos. tot li bon cheualier de ma
I not know what to-say of you all the good knights of my
cort vos sont fali, par coi uos poes estre aseur ke au
court to-you are failed by which you can be assured that at-the
ior de demain recheueres vos mort honteuse et uilaine. Si
day of tomorrow will-receive you death shameful and villainous So
uolsise mieus auoir perdue tote ma tiere v kele soit
would-wish-I better to-have lost all my land wherever that-it may-be
que ce uos auenist a mon uiuant; car ie namai onques
than this to-you might-happen in my lifetime for I not-loved ever
tant riens dou siecle comme ie uos ai amee et aime
so-much anything of-the world as I you have loved and love
encore.' et quant la roine entent ceste cose, Si commence
still and when the queen hears this thing So begins-she
a plorer trop durement, et ausi fait li rois dautre part. Et
to weep too hard and also does the king on-other side And
quant il ont grant piece cest duel mene, Si dist li rois
when they have great while this grief led So said the king
a la roine: 'Dame', fait il, 'requesistes uos onques Boort ne
to the queen Lady says he asked you ever Bors or
Hestor kil entrassent por vos en ceste bataille?' 'Certes,
Hector that-they might-enter for you into this battle Certainly
sire', fait ele, 'ie non; car ie ne quic mie kil fesisent
lord says she I no for I not think at-all that-they would-do

tant por moi, a cou kil ne tienent riens de uos,
so-much for me by this that-they not hold anything from you
ains sont dune estrange terre.' 'dont uos lo ie', fait li
rather are of-a foreign land then you advise I says the
rois, 'ke uos en requeres et lun et lautre. Et quant
king that you thereof may-ask both the-one and the-other And when
cil doi uos seront fali, apres iaus ne sai iou ki i puisse
those two you will-be failed after them not know I who there can
metre conseil.' Et ele li dist ke dont les mandera ele
put counsel And she to-him said that then them will-summon she
et les en proiera por sauoir kele i pora trouer.
and them thereof will-pray for to-know what-she there will-be-able find

Bors Consents

XXIX

The queen falls at the feet of Bors and Hector, and Bors promises to fight Mador if no better help comes by terce. Next morning Mador, a huge knight, offers battle, and the king rules that the queen is condemned if none defends her by vespers. Before midday a knight in white arms with a red bend enters alone, and offers to defend her. Gawain tells Mador his quarrel is bad, and the king prays God give the stranger honor.

Si com la roine prie Boort et Lionel kil le deffengent
So as the queen prays Bors and Lionel that-they her may-defend
contre Mador, ki apielee la.
against Mador who accused her-has
A ces paroles sen ist li rois de laiens tant dolens
At these words himself-thence goes-out the king from in-there so sorrowful
ke nus plus. Et la roine mande maintenant a Boort et a
that none more And the queen sends-for at-once to Bors and to

Hestor kil uiegnent parler a li, Et cil i vienent tantost.
Hector that-they may-come to-speak to her And they there come at-once
Et quant ele les uoit uenir, si se laisse cheoir a lor pies
And when she them sees come so herself lets fall at their feet
Si lor dist tot en plorant: 'Ha! franc cheualier, gentil home
So to-them said all in weeping Ah noble knights gentle men
de cuer et de linage! sonkes amastes celui ke on apiele
of heart and of lineage if-ever you-loved him whom one calls
Lanselot, secoures moi et aidies a cest besoing, non pas por
Lancelot succor me and help at this need not at-all for
lamor de moi mais por lamor de lui. Et se uos nel uoles
the-love of me but for the-love of him And if you not-it wish
faire, sacies ciertainement ke ie serai honie et deshonoree
to-do know certainly that I shall-be shamed and dishonored
ains demain au uespre, car tot cil de ceste cort me sont
before tomorrow at-the evening for all those of this court to-me are
fali a ceste fois.' Quant Boors uoit la roine si angousseuse
failed at this time When Bors sees the queen so anguished
et si esmaie, Si len prent trop grans pities et le relieue
and so dismayed So him-thereof takes too great pity and her raises
de la terre tot maintenant et puis li dist tot maintenant:
from the ground all at-once and then to-her said all at-once
'Dame, or ne soies pas si esmaie. sacies tot uraiement
Lady now not be at-all so dismayed know all truly
ke, se vos naues demain dedens eure de tierche millor secors
that if you not-have tomorrow within hour of terce better succor
ke li miens ne vos seroit, ie sui cil ki por vos enterra
than the mine — you would-be I am he who for you will-enter
en camp encontre Mador.' 'Meillor secors ke le uostre', fait
into field against Mador Better succor than the yours says
la roine, 'biaus amis, dont me poroit il uenir?' 'Dame', fait
the queen fair friend whence me could it come Lady says

Boors, ‘ce ne uos dirai ie pas a ceste fois; Mais ce ke
Bors this not you shall-tell I at-all at this time But this which
ie uos ai dit uos tenrai iou, ke, se autres de moi ne uos
I you have said you shall-hold I that if another than me not you
uient secorre a vostre besong, aseure soies ke ie uos en
comes to-succor at your need assured be that I you thereof
aiderai de tot mon pooir.’ Et quant la roine entent ceste
shall-help with all my power And when the queen hears this
parole, ele en deuint plus lie kele ne fu mais piecha,
word she thereof became more glad than-she — was ever long-ago
car ele pense erraument ke ce soit Lanselos dont il parole
for she thinks straightway that this be Lancelot of-whom he speaks
ki le doiue secorre. Et Boors se part maintenant de la
who her ought to-succor And Bors himself parts at-once from the
roine, entre lui et Hestor; puis sen uont en vne
queen between him and Hector then themselves-thence go into a
cambre de laiens v il gisoient acoustumeement, quant
chamber of in-there where they lay customarily when
il uenoient a cort, et il i demoroient.
they came to court and they there stayed

A lendemain entor eure de prime fu tos li palais enplis
On the-next-day around hour of prime was all the palace filled
des barons et des cheualiers ki tot atendoient la uenue
with-the barons and with-the knights who all awaited the coming
de Mador; et teus i auoit ki trop i estoient en grant
of Mador and such there were who too-much there were in great
paour et en grant angousse por la roine, car il ne quidoient
fear and in great anguish for the queen for they not thought
pas que nus uenist auant, por li deffendre. vn poi apres
at-all that any might-come forward for her to-defend a little after
eure de tierce uint Mador a la cort aual a grant compaignie
hour of terce came Mador to the court below with great company

de cheualiers, ki tot estoient si parent. Il descendi si monta
of knights who all were his kinsmen He dismounted so mounted
el palais tous armes fors de son cief et fors son escut
into-the palace all armed except of his head and except his shield
et son glauie. Il estoit grans cheualiers a merueille et plains
and his lance He was great knight at marvel and full
de si tres grant force ke on ne sauoit en la maison le
of so very great strength that one not knew in the house (of-)the
roi Artu gaires plus fort cheualier de lui. Et quant il uint
king Arthur much more strong knight than him And when he came
deuant le roi, Il se poroffri de sa bataille, ensi com il
before the king He himself offered of his battle thus as he
auoit fait autre fois. Et li rois li dist: 'Mador, la queriele
had done other time And the king to-him said Mador the quarrel
la roine doit estre menee par tel maniere ke, sele en cest
(of-)the queen ought to-be conducted by such manner that if-she in this
ior dui ne trueue ki la deffende, on fera de son cors ce
day today not finds who her may-defend one will-do with her body this
ke la cors esgardera. Or Remanes chaiens iusques a eure de
which the court will-judge Now Remain in-here until to hour of
uespres, et, se dedens celui terme ne uient auant ki por li
vespers and if within that term not comes forward who for her
enprenge ceste bataille, vos estes quites de uostre bataille et
may-undertake this battle you are quit of your battle and
ele en est encoupee.' et Madors respont ke dont atendera
she thereof is condemned and Mador answers that then will-wait
il. Si sen uont aseoir en mi le palais, entre lui et
he So themselves-thence go to-sit in amid the palace between him and
son parente. La sale fu emplie de gent si durement que ce
his kindred The hall was filled with folk so hard that this
ne fu se merueille non, Mais il se tenoient tot si
not was except marvel not But they themselves held all so

coi kil ni auoit noise ne tant ne quant. si se
quiet that-it not-there had noise neither so-much nor how-much so themselves
tinrent en tel maniere iusques apres prime grant piece.
held-they in such manner until after prime great while

Un petit deuant miedi auint ke Lanselos entra en la cort,
A little before midday it-happened that Lancelot entered into the court
si armes kil ne li faloit riens ke a cheualier couenist.
so armed that-it not to-him lacked anything which to knight might-befit
Mais il uint en tel maniere kil namena en sa compaignie
But he came in such manner that-he not-brought in his company
ne cheualier ne sergant, ains uint tous seus armes dunes
neither knight nor sergeant rather came-he all alone armed with-some
blances armes et ot en son escut une bende uermeille de
white arms and had on his shield a bend red of
bellinc. Quant il uient en mi la cort, si descent et atache
slantwise When he comes in amid the court so dismounts-he and ties
son ceual a .i. orme, ki iluec estoit, et i pendi son escut
his horse to an elm which there was and there hung his shield
et apoie son glaue et puis monte el palais en haut; ne
and leaned his lance and then mounts into-the palace on high nor
onques nosta son elme de sa teste, ains uint en tel
ever not-removed his helmet from his head rather came-he in such
maniere deuant le roi et deuant les barons kil not homme
manner before the king and before the barons that-he not-had man
laiens ki le conneust, fors solement Hestors et Boors.
in-there who him knew except only Hector and Bors

Quant il uint pres del roi, si parole si haut ke tot cil de
When he came near of-the king so speaks-he so loud that all those of
laiens le puent bien oir et si dist: 'Rois Artus', fait il, 'ie sui
in-there it can well hear and so said-he King Arthur says he I am
uenus a ta cort por une merueille que ie ai oi conter en
come to thy court for a marvel which I have heard tell in

cest pais; car aucunes gens mont fait entendant que a cest
this country for some folk me-have made understand that at this
ior dui doit uenir chaiens uns cheualiers ki apiele madame la
day today ought to-come in-here a knight who accuses my-lady the
roine de traison. Et sil de cest afaire sest entremis, onques
queen of treason And if-he of this affair himself-is undertaken ever
mais de si fol cheualier noi parler; car ce seuent bien tot
more of so mad knight not-heard-I speak for this know well all
priue et estrange que en tot le mont, tant comil dure, na
intimate and foreign that in all the world as-long as-it lasts not-has
plus uaillant dame comme ele est. Et por la ualor et por la
more worthy lady as she is And for the valor and for the
bonte que ie connois en li sui ie chaiens uenus apareillies de
goodness which I know in her am I in-here come prepared with
mes armes, por li deffendre, sil auoit chaiens cheualier si
my arms for her to-defend if-there had in-here knight so
hardi ki losast apieler.' Et lors saut auant Mador et li dist:
bold who her-dared accuse And then leaps forward Mador and to-him said
'Sire cheualiers, puis ke uos estes uenus por li deffendre,
Lord knight since that you are come for her to-defend
et ie sui pres del prouer kele desloiaument et en traison
and I am ready of-the proving that-she disloyally and in treason
ocist Gaheri mon frere.' 'Et ie sui pres del deffendre', fait
killed Gaheris my brother And I am ready of-the defending says
Lanselos, 'kele onques desloiaute ne traison ni pensa'. Et
Lancelot that-she ever disloyalty nor treason not-there thought And
Madors ne se prent garde de cest parole, si tent son gage
Mador not himself takes heed of this word so holds-out his pledge
au roi, et Lanselos autresi, et li rois les rechoit ambes
to-the king and Lancelot likewise and the king them receives both
.ij. Lors dist me sire Gauains a Mador: 'Mador, or poroie ie
two Then said my lord Gawain to Mador Mador now could I

bien croire ke uos fussies en maluaise queriele, Car, coment
well believe that you were in bad quarrel For however
ke uostre frere morust, Ie iurroie sor sains al mien
that your brother died I would-swear upon relics to-the my
ensient ke onques madame la roine ni pensa desloiaute
knowledge that ever my-lady the queen not-there thought disloyalty
ne traison. Si uos en poroit bien tost maus auenir, Se li
nor treason So you thereof could well soon ill come If the
cheualiers auoit en lui grament de proece.' 'Certes', fait li
knight had in him greatly of prowess Certainly says the
rois, 'ie ne sai ki li cheualiers est, Mais ie croi kil en
king I not know who the knight is But I believe that-he thereof
auera lonor. et Dex li otroit ensi come ie le uolroie!'
will-have the-honor and God to-him may-grant thus as I it would-wish

The Combat with Mador

XXX

In the meadow Lancelot unhorses Mador, dismounts rather than fight a man on foot, and bleeds him in more than ten places. Not wishing his death, he offers peace; Mador, knowing him by his generosity, yields, and the king embraces Lancelot. The queen is cleared. The lovers' passion rekindles so openly that Gawain and his brothers know it. Agravain will not keep silent, and the king overhears. Gawain and Gaheriet refuse to speak and leave in tears, fearing the court's ruin.

A ceste parole comence la sale a uuidier de gent. Si
At this word begins the hall to empty of folk So
descendent li grant et li petit et uont es pres
descend the great and the small and go into-the meadows
de fors la uile, v il auoit vne place v on faisoit
of outside the town where it had a place where one made

acoustumeement les batailles. Et me sire Gauains prent la
customarily the battles And my lord Gawain takes the
glaue au cheualier et dist kil li portera dusques au
lance of-the knight and said that-he for-him will-carry-it until to-the
camp. Et Boors prent lescut et Lanselos monte erraument
field And Bors takes the-shield and Lancelot mounts straightway
Si sen uait iuscal camp. Li rois fist amener la
So himself-thence goes until-to-the field The king had brought the
roine, puis li dist, quant il lot mise dedens le camp:
queen then to-her said when he her-had put within the field
'Dame, ues chi un cheualier ki por vos se met en
Lady see here a knight who for you himself puts in
auenture de mort. sacies, sil est conquis, ke uos en
risk of death know if-he is conquered that you thereby
seres destruite.' 'Sire', fait ele, 'Dex soit au droit, ausi
will-be destroyed Lord says she God be with-the right as
uoirement ke ie ni pensai onques desloiaute ne traison!'
truly as I not-there thought ever disloyalty nor treason
Lors prent son cheualier si le met dedens le camp se
Then takes-she her knight so him puts within the field so
li dist: 'Biaus sire, uenes auant. que Nostre Sire vos
to-him said Fair lord come forward that Our Lord to-you
soit en aie!' Lors se traient li un ensus des autres,
may-be in aid Then themselves draw the ones away from-the others
puis laissent corre les cheuaus si sentreuienent si grans
then let run the horses so each-other-come so great
aleures comil pueent des cheuaus traire et sentrefierent
paces as-they can from-the horses draw and each-other-strike
en lor uenir si durement ke li escut ne li haubierc ne
in their coming so hard that the shields nor the hauberks not
lor ont mestier kil ne se facent plaies grans et
to-them have availed that-they not themselves may-make wounds great and

meruilleuses. Li cheualiers ki la roine apieloit uole del
marvelous The knight who the queen accused flies from-the
ceual a terre si kil est tos debrisies au cheoir, a cou
horse to ground so that-he is all shattered in-the falling by this
kil ert grans et pesans, Mais il se relieue tantost, Si
that-he was great and heavy But he himself raises at-once So
comme cil ki nestoit pas aseur, Car il a troue au iouster
as he who not-was at-all assured For he has found at-the jousting
son anemi fort et dur. Et quant Lanselos le uoit a piet,
his enemy strong and hard And when Lancelot him sees on foot
il li est auis, sil le requeroit a cheual, kil en
it to-him is opinion if-he him attacked on horse that-he thereby
seroit blasmes. Si descent et laisse son destrier aler quel
would-be blamed So dismounts-he and lets his charger go which
part kil ueut, puis trait lespee et giete lescut de sor
way that-it wishes then draws-he the-sword and casts the-shield of over
sa teste et uait requerre Mador la v il le quide trouer,
his head and goes to-attack Mador there where he him thinks to-find
Se li donne si grant colp par mi lelme ke cil en
So to-him gives-he so great blow through amid the-helmet that he thereby
deuient tos esbahis. et nanporquant il se deffent au
becomes all amazed and nevertheless he himself defends at-the
mius kil puet et donne des grans cols a Lanselot souent
best that-he can and gives of-the great blows to Lancelot often
et menut, Mais tot ce ne li a mestier, car, ancois ke
and frequently But all this not to-him has availed for before that
leure de miedi fust passee, la Lanselos si atorne kil
the-hour of midday were passed him-has Lancelot so arrayed that-he
li ot fait salir le sanc del cors en plus de .x. lius.
to-him had made leap the blood from-the body in more than ten places

Si com Lanselos se combat a Mador, ki auoit apielee
So as Lancelot himself fights with Mador who had accused
la roine de mordre.
the queen of murder

Tant a Lanselos trauillie et tant mene Mador et dune
So-much has Lancelot toiled and so-much led Mador both on-one
part et dautre ke tot cil de la place voient apertement
side and on-the-other that all those of the place see openly
kil en est si au desous kil en est a la mort uenus,
that-he thereof is so on-the bottom that-he thereof is to the death come
se ses auersaires uieut. Si loent molt tot cil de la place le
if his adversary wishes So praise much all those of the place the
cheualier ki a Mador se combat, car il ne uirent piecha
knight who with Mador himself fights for they not saw long-ago
mais nul si bon cheualier, ce lor samble. Et quant Lanselos,
more any so good knight this to-them seems And when Lancelot
ki bien connissoit Mador et ki ne volsist pas sa mort, por
who well knew Mador and who not would-wish at-all his death for
ce ke aucunes fois auoient este compaignon darmes, uoit kil
this that some times they-had been companions of-arms sees that-he
la menet a cou kil le puet ocire, se lui plest, il en a
him-has led to this that-he him can kill if him pleases he thereof has
pitie se li dist: 'Mador, tu es entres en vne queriele dont
pity so to-him said Mador thou art entered into a quarrel whereby
tu es honnis, se ie uoel, et mors et ales, se ceste bataille
thou art shamed if I wish and dead and gone if this battle
dure plus. Et por cou te loeroie plus ke tu laissasses
lasts more And for this thee would-advise-I more that thou mightest-leave
ten apiel, ancois ke noaus ten auenist. Et ie ferai
thy accusation before that worse to-thee-thereof might-happen And I shall-do
tant pour toi, por cou que aucunes fois mas tu serui, ke
so-much for thee for this that some times me-hast thou served that

ma dame la roine te pardonra cest meffet ke tu li as
my lady the queen thee will-pardon this misdeed which thou to-her hast
mis sus a grant tort et li rois ten clamera tot quite.'
put upon at great wrong and the king thee-thereof will-proclaim all quit
Quant Madors entent la debonnairete et la francise ke
When Mador hears the graciousness and the nobility which
cil li offre, Si connoist maintenant ke cou est Lanselos.
he to-him offers So knows-he at-once that this is Lancelot
Lors sageneille erraument deuant lui se li rent sespee
Then himself-kneels-he straightway before him so to-him renders his-sword
et li dist: 'Sire, tenes mespee, car ie me mec del tot
and to-him said Lord take my-sword for I myself put of-the all
en uostre manaie et en uostre merci. et sacies que ie
into your keeping and into your mercy and know that I
nel tieng pas a honte, car certes a si preudome com
not-it hold at-all for shame for certainly with so worthy-man as
vos estes ne me poroie ie mie prendre. Si laues ci bien
you are not myself could I at-all take So it-have-you here well
moustre, et chi et ailleurs.' Lors uient Madors au roi Si
shown both here and elsewhere Then comes Mador to-the king So
li dist: 'Sire, uos maues decheu, ki encontre moi aues
to-him said Lord you me-have deceived who against me have
mis mon signor Lanselot del Lac.' Et quant li rois entent
put my lord Lancelot of-the Lake And when the king hears
que ce est Lanselos, Si natent mie tant kil soient
that this is Lancelot So not-awaits-he at-all until that-they may-be
fors del camp, ains saut dedens et ceurt a Lanselot si
out of-the field rather leaps-he within and runs to Lancelot so
lacole tot ensi arme com il est. et me sire Gauains
him-embraces all thus armed as he is and my lord Gawain
uient auant se li deslace lelme. Adont peussies ueoir
comes forward so to-him unlaces the-helmet Then could-you see

encontre lui une si grant ioie ke de grignor ne uos poroit
toward him a so great joy that of greater not you could
nus hom terriens conter. La roine Genieure fu clamee
any man earthly tell The queen Guinevere was proclaimed
cuite de lapiel ke Madors auoit fait sor li. et se ele
quit of the-accusation which Mador had made upon her and if she
auoit este courouchie uers Lanselot, ele se tient a fole
had been angered toward Lancelot she herself holds for mad
et a dieruee et a decheue, et li dist .i. ior apres:
and for crazed and for deceived and to-him said one day after
'ie uos mescrei a tort, car or sai bien uraiement ke, se
I you misbelieved at wrong for now know-I well truly that if
vos eussies amee la damoisele d'Escalot ensi comme on me
you had loved the damsel of-Escalot thus as one me
faisoit entendant, ele ne fust mie morte por vos.' 'Coment?'
made understand she not would-be at-all dead for you How
fait il. 'est dont morte la damoisele?' 'Oil, certes', fait
says he is then dead the damsel Yes certainly says
ele. 'ele gist ens el moustier monsignor Saint Estieuene.'
she she lies in in-the minster (of-)my-lord Saint Stephen
'Par Diu!' fait il, 'ce est damages, car trop estoit biele.
By God says he this is harm for very was-she fair
Si men poise, si mait Dex.' Et se Lanselos auoit
So me-thereof grieves so me-may-help God And if Lancelot had
deuant cou amee la roine, il lama ore plus kil nauoit
before this loved the queen he her-loved now more than-he had
fait onques mais. Et ele en fu tot autresi esprise dautre
done ever before And she thereby was all likewise inflamed on-other
part. Si sen demenerent si folement ke li plusor de
side So themselves-thence conducted-they so madly that the most of

laiens le sorent tot uraiement et me sire Gauains meesmes
in-there it knew all truly and my lord Gawain himself
sen aperchut bien, et ausi fisent tot li .iiij. frere.
himself-thereof perceived well and also did all the four brothers
Un ior auint ke tot li .v. frere estoient ensamble
One day it-happened that all the five brothers were together
en mi le palais et parloient de ceste cose molt a estroit.
in amid the palace and spoke of this thing very at close
Mais Engreuains en estoit asses plus engres et plus
But Agravain thereof was much more eager and more
angousseus ke tot li autre frere nestoient. Endementiers
anxious than all the other brothers were While
kil parloient de ceste cose, auint ke li rois issi
that-they spoke of this thing it-happened that the king came-out
dune cambre. Et quant me sire Gauains volt dire a ses
of-a chamber And when my lord Gawain wished to-say to his
freres, 'taisies vos; ues chi mon signor le roi ki uient',
brothers be-silent you see here my lord the king who comes
Et li rois oi bien ke Engreuains dist kil ne sen
And the king heard well that Agravain said that-he not himself-thereof
tairoit en nule maniere, 'biaus nies', fait li rois a
would-be-silent in any manner fair nephew says the king to
Engreuain, 'de quel cose parles uos si aigrement?' 'Ha! sire',
Agravain of what thing speak you so sharply Ah lord
fait me sire Gauains, 'por Diu laissies cou ester. Engreuains
says my lord Gawain for God let this stand Agravain
est asses plus anieus kil ne deust. et ne uos caille
is much more tiresome than-he — ought and not you may-it-concern
de cou sauoir, car nus preus ne uos en poroit uenir ne
of this knowing for any profit not you thereof could come neither
a uos ne a nul preudome.' 'En non Diu', fait li rois, 'ie
to you nor to any worthy-man In name (of-)God says the king I

le uoel sauoir'. 'Ha! sire', fait Gaheries, 'ce ne puet estre en
it wish to-know Ah lord says Gaheriet this not can be in
nule maniere et en cou kil dist il ni a se fable
any manner and in this that-he said it not-there has except fable
non et mencoigne, la plus desloial del monde. et por
not and lie the most disloyal of-the world and for
ce uos loeroie ie com a mon signor liege ke uos en
this you would-advise I as to my lord liege that you thereof
laississies atant le demander.' 'Par mon cief!' fait li rois,
might-leave then the asking By my head says the king
'non ferai; ains uos requier sor le foi et sor le sairement
not shall-do-I rather you ask upon the faith and upon the oath
que uos maues iuret ke uos me dites de coi cis estris
which you me-have sworn that you me may-tell of what this strife
estoit ore entre uos.' 'Sire', fait me sire Gauains, 'merueilles
was now between you Lord says my lord Gawain marvels
est de uos, ki si estes ardans et curieus de sauoir noueles
it-is of you who so are ardent and curious of knowing news
et ki riens ne vos pueent ualoir. certes, se uos en
and which anything not you can avail certainly if you thereby
deuies ore bien corchier a moi et moi gieter de uostre
ought now well to-be-angered with me and me to-cast from your
terre poure et essilliet, nel uos diroie ie pas; car, se uos
land poor and exiled not-it you would-tell I at-all for if you
le creissies, encore soit cou la grignors fable del monde,
it believed even be this the greatest fable of-the world
Il en poroit auenir teus maus que onques a uostre tans
It thereof could happen such ills that ever in your time
nauint teus maus.' Lors est li rois asses plus esbahis ke
not-happened such ills Then is the king much more amazed than
deuant, Si dist kil le saura v il les fera tos destruire.
before So said-he that-he it will-know or he them will-have all destroyed

‘En non Diu’, fet me sire Gauains, ‘Ia, se Diu plest, ne le
In name (of-)God says my lord Gawain Ever if God pleases not it
sares par moi, car en la fin en aroie ie uostre haine
will-know-you through me for in the end thereof would-have I your hatred
Et se ni aroit ne moi ne autrui ki ne sen
And so not-there would-have neither me nor another who not himself-thereof
repentist, sil li loisoit.’ Si se part atant de la sale
would-repent if-it to-him were-allowed So himself parts-he then from the hall
et ausi fait Gaheries. et li rois les apiele maintenant, mais
and also does Gaheriet and the king them calls at-once but
il ne welent en nule maniere retorner, Si sen uont
they not wish in any manner to-return So themselves-thence go-they
tant dolant que nus plus et dient entreus deus, tot en
so sorrowful that none more and say between-themselves two all in
plorant, ke mar fu onques ceste parole enprise; car, se li
weeping that in-an-ill-hour was ever this word undertaken for if the
rois le set et il se melle a Lanselot, la cors en sera
king it knows and he himself quarrels with Lancelot the court thereby will-be
destruite et honnie, a cou ke Lanselos ara en saide tot le
destroyed and shamed by this that Lancelot will-have in his-aid all the
pooir del roiaume de Gaule et de maint autre pais auoec.
power of-the kingdom of Gaul and of many another country with-it

Agravain's Plot

XXXI

Arthur shuts his three nephews in a chamber and raises a sword at Agravain, who tells him Lancelot has known the queen carnally. The king turns pale, and charges them to take the lovers together. Guerrehet warns that Lancelot's kin will make war. News comes that Lancelot has taken the prize at the tournament of Karahes, and the king, lamenting that treason lodges in so worthy a man, asks his nephews how Lancelot may be surprised.

Ensi sen uont li doi frere tant dolant kil ne
Thus themselves-thence go the two brothers so sorrowful that-they not
seuent kil doiuent faire. Et li rois, ki fu remes el
know what-they ought to-do And the king who was remained in-the
palais, dist a ses .iij. neueus kil le siuent; et il si font.
palace said to his three nephews that-they him may-follow and they so do
Et li rois les maine en une cambre dales un gardin; et
And the king them leads into a chamber beside a garden and
quant il sont laiens, il ferme luis sor iaus, puis lor dist
when they are in-there he shuts the-door upon them then to-them said
et coniure par la foi kil li doiuent kil li dient
and conjures by the faith which-they him owe that-they to-him may-tell
cou dont il les requiert, et en semont tot premierement
this whereof he them asks and thereof summons all first
Engreuain. Et cil respont kil ne li dira pas: as
Agravain And he answers that-he not to-him will-tell at-all of-the
autres le demant, ki autresi bien le seuent com il set. Et
others it ask who likewise well it know as he knows And
cil dient que ia, se Diu plest, nen parleront. 'Puis ke
they say that ever if God pleases not-thereof will-they-speak Since that
vos ne men uoles dire la uerite', fait li rois, 'vos estes a
you not me-thereof wish to-tell the truth says the king you are to

ce uenu que vos mocires v ie uos.' Lors cort maintenant a
this come that you me-will-kill or I you Then runs-he at-once to
une espee, ki estoit sor .i. lit, Si le trait fors del fuerre
a sword which was upon a bed So it draws out of-the sheath
Si uient a Engreuain Se li dist kil morra, sans faille,
So comes-he to Agravain So to-him said that-he will-die without fail
sil ne li dist ce dont il a si grant desirier del sauoir.
if-he not to-him tells this whereof he has so great desire of-the knowing
Si le lieue contremont por lui ferir par mi la teste.
So it raises-he upward for him to-strike through amid the head
Et quant il uoit ke li rois est si escaufes, se li crie:
And when he sees that the king is so heated so to-him cries
'Ha! sire, ne mocijes mie, ancois le uos diroie ie. Sire,
Ah lord not me-kill at-all rather it you would-tell I Lord
ie disoie a mon signor Gauain, mon frere, et a Gaheriet
I said to my lord Gawain my brother and to Gaheriet
et a mes autres freres, ki sont chi, ke il estoient traitre
and to my other brothers who are here that they were traitors
et desloial, quant il ont si longement souferte la honte et
and disloyal when they have so long suffered the shame and
la grant deshonor ke mesire Lanselos del Lac vos fait.'
the great dishonor which my-lord Lancelot of-the Lake you does
'Coment?' fait li rois. 'me fait dont Lanselos honte? de coi est
How says the king me does then Lancelot shame of what is
cou? dites le moi. de lui ne me gardasse ie iamais kil ma
this tell it me from him not myself would-guard I ever that-he my
honte me porcachast, car ie lai tous iors tant honore
shame for-me would-procure for I him-have all days so-much honored
et chier tenu kil ne deust en nule maniere porcachier
and dear held that-he not ought in any manner to-procure
cose ki a ma deshonor tornast.' 'Sire', fait Engreuains, 'il
thing which to my dishonor might-turn Lord says Agravain he

uos est si loiaus kil uos fait deshonor de uostre fame
to-you is so loyal that-he you does dishonor of your wife
kil a conneue carneument. che sauons nos tot uraiement.'
whom-he has known carnally this know we all truly
Quant li rois entent ceste parole, il mue coulor et
When the king hears this word he changes color and
deuient pales et dist ke 'chi a merueilles a entendre'.
becomes pale and said that here there-is marvels to hear
Lors commence a penser trop durement, et se contint en
Then begins-he to think too hard and himself held in
tel maniere quil ne dist mot dune grant piece. 'Sire', fait
such manner that-he not said word for-a great while Lord says
Mordres, 'nos le uos celames tant comme nos peumes
Mordred we it from-you hid as-long as we could
Mais au derrains couient il ke la uerites en soit seue
But at-the last behooves it that the truth thereof be known
et ke nos le uos dions. et de tant que nos le uos
and that we it you may-tell and by so-much that we it from-you
auons cele, auonmes nos este pariuret et desloial enuers
have hidden have we been perjured and disloyal toward
vos. or nos en aquitons et le uos disons tot plainement
you now us thereof let-us-acquit and it you tell all plainly
kil est ensi. Or gardes coment ceste honte sera uengie.'
that-it is thus Now look how this shame will-be avenged
De ceste cose fu li rois dolans et pensis et tant amalaise
By this thing was the king sorrowful and pensive and so ill-at-ease
kil ne set kil doiue faire ne dire. Et totes uoies,
that-he not knows what-he ought to-do nor to-say And all the-same
quant il parole, si respont et dist en tel maniere: 'Se
when he speaks so answers-he and said in such manner If
uos onques mamastes, faites ke uos les prendes proues,
you ever me-loved make that you them may-take proved

et lors, se iou nen preng uengance tele comme on doit
and then if I not-thereof take vengeance such as one ought
prendre de traitre et de desloial, ie ne quier iamais porter
to-take of traitor and of disloyal I not seek ever to-wear
coronne.' 'Sire', fait Guerrehes, 'il couient ke uos nos en
crown Lord says Guerrehet it behooves that you us thereof
consillies, car ce est une cose ki molt fait a redouter,
may-counsel for this is a thing which much makes to fear
ke de mener Lanselot a mort, car il de sa main est fors
as of leading Lancelot to death for he of his hand is strong
et meruilleus et si parent poissant de totes coses, dont
and marvelous and his kinsmen powerful in all things whereof
il auenra, ce saues uos bien, ke, se Lanselos est liures
it will-happen this know you well that if Lancelot is delivered
a mort, Li parentes en commencera la guerre contre uos
to death The kindred thereof will-begin the war against you
et si meruilleuse ke li plus poissant de nostre regne i
and so marvelous that the most powerful of our realm there
aront asses a faire el maintenir; et uos meesmes, se
will-have much to do in-the maintaining and you yourself if
Deux nel fait, en pores estre legierement ocis, a cou
God not-it does thereby can be lightly killed by this
kil baeront plus a Lanselot uengier ke as cors garantir.'
that-they will-aspire more to Lancelot to-avenge than to-the bodies to-protect
'De moi', fait li rois, 'ne uos esmaies ia, mais de cou
For me says the king not yourselves dismay ever but of this
ke ie di uos souiegne et vos metes en agait et en
which I say you may-remember and yourselves put in ambush and in
engien ke uos les prendes ensamble. Si uos requier sor
contrivance that you them may-take together So you ask-I upon
la foi ke uos mi deues et sor le sairement ke uos
the faith which you to-me owe and upon the oath which you

me iurastes, quant uos deuenistes compaignon de la Table
me swore when you became companions of the Table
Reonde, ke uos i metes paine.' et cil dient kil le
Round that you there may-put pain and they say that-they it
feront, puis kil en est si angousseus, Se li fiancent tot
will-do since that-he thereof is so anxious So to-him pledge all
troi. Lors issent maintenant de la cambre et sen
three Then go-out-they at-once from the chamber and themselves-thence
entrent el palais. Celui ior fu li rois molt pensis et
enter into-the palace That day was the king very pensive and
molt fist plus laide chiere kil ne seut, Si moustra bien
much made more ugly face than-he — was-wont So showed-he well
au samblant kil faisoit kil fust molt courouchies.
by-the semblance which-he made that-he were much angered
A eure de nonne uint me sire Gauains el palais et
At hour of nones came my lord Gawain into-the palace and
ses freres Gaheries auoec lui. Et quant il uirent le roi, il
his brother Gaheriet with him And when they saw the king they
connurent bien a sa chiere ke cil li auoient dites nouieles
knew well by his face that those to-him had told news
de Lanselot; et por cou ne retornerent il onques uers lui,
of Lancelot and for this not turned they ever toward him
Ains salerent apoier as fenestres del palais. La sale
Rather themselves-went-they to-lean at-the windows of-the palace The hall
estoit coie et serie, car po auoit laiens cheualiers ki mot
was quiet and still for few had in-there knights who word
desisent, por le roi kil ueoient courouchiet. Et lors uint
said for the king whom-they saw angered And then came
laiens .i. cheualier armes, ki dist au roi: 'Sire, nouieles uos
in-there a knight armed who said to-the king Lord news you
sai dire del tornoiement de Charahes. Cil del roialme
I-know-how to-tell of-the tournament of Karahes Those of-the kingdom

de Sorelois et de Tiere Gaste i ont le tot perdu.' 'I ot
of Sorelois and of Land Waste there have the all lost There had
il nul des cheualiers de chaiens?' fait li rois. 'Sire', fait li
it any of-the knights of in-here says the king Lord says the
cheualiers, 'oil. Me sire Lanselos del Lac i fu, ki les a
knight yes My lord Lancelot of-the Lake there was who them has
si tos uencus kil en a tot le pris porte dune part et
so all conquered that-he thereof has all the prize carried on-one side and
dautre.' Li rois Artus sembronce contreual, quant il oi ces
on-the-other The king Arthur lowers-his-head down when he heard these
nouieles, et commence a penser molt durement. Et quant il
news and begins to think very hard And when he
a grant piece sis en pais, Si se lieue si angousseus ke
has great while sat in peace So himself raises-he so anguished that
nus plus et dist si haut ke plusor le porent bien entendre:
none more and said so loud that several it could well hear
'Dex! quel dolour et quel damage, quant onques en si
God what grief and what harm when ever in so
preudomme se hierbega traisons!' et maintenant entre en sa
worthy-man itself lodged treason and at-once enters into his
cambre Si se couce pensis et dolens, Car il set bien que
chamber So himself lays-down pensive and sorrowful For he knows well that
se Lanselos est pris en cest afaire et il en rechoit mort,
if Lancelot is taken in this affair and he thereby receives death
si grans maus en uenra que onques si grans nauint por
so great ills thereof will-come that ever so great not-happened for
lamor dun tot seul cheualier. Et nanporquant, si com il dist,
the-love of-a all single knight And nevertheless so as he said
il uieut mieus kil i muire ke sa honte ne soit uengie.
he wishes better that-he there may-die than his shame not be avenged
Lors mande a ses .iij. neueus kil uiegnent deuant lui.
Then sends-he to his three nephews that-they may-come before him

et quant il i sont uenu, si lor dist: 'Segnor, Lanselos
and when they there are come so to-them said-be Lords Lancelot
uenra ia del tornoiement. consillies moi coment on le
will-come soon from-the tournament counsel me how one him
pora sosprendre en cest afaire ke uos maues descouiert.'
will-be-able surprise in this affair which you me-have disclosed
'Par foi', fait Guerrehes, 'ie ne sai'. 'ne iou', fait Mordres.
By faith says Guerrehet I not know nor I says Mordred

The Plan to Take Lancelot

XXXII

Agravain proposes a hunt without Lancelot, so that he goes to the queen and is taken. The king agrees. Gawain warns against it and is rebuked for hiding the shame, and swears Lancelot never wronged the king. Gawain and Gaheriet meet Lancelot returning, and Gaheriet lodges him with them. At supper the king turns his face away and refuses Lancelot's company at the hunt. Bors tells Lancelot that war is coming, and that only Agravain or Morgan would have dared tell.

A ces paroles respont Engreuains et dist: 'en non Diu,
At these words answers Agravain and said in name (of-)God
signor, puis ke uos ne le saues, ie le uos dirai.' 'Sire', fait
lords since that you not it know I it you shall-tell Lord says
il au roi, son oncle, 'faites anuit sauoir par uos serians ke
he to-the king his uncle make tonight known by your sergeants that
uos ires demain en bois, et le dites a tos uos cheualiers
you will-go tomorrow into wood and it say to all your knights
de chaiens kil i aillent auoec uos, fors seulement a
of in-here that-they there may-go with you except only to
Lanselot. Cil remanra molt volentiers, ce sai ie bien, dont
Lancelot He will-remain very willingly this know I well whence

il auenra ke, si tos[t] con uos seres ales el bois, il se
it will-happen that so soon as you will-be gone into-the wood he himself
uenra couchier auoec ma dame la roine. et nos serommes
will-come to-lie with my lady the queen and we shall-be
remes, por faire connoistre ceste cose et por sauoir ent
remained for to-make known this thing and for to-know thereof
la uerite, et nos serons repost en aucune cambre de chaiens
the truth and we shall-be hidden in some chamber of in-here
Si ke nos les trouerons tot maintenant et les prendrons
So that we them shall-find all at-once and them shall-take
ensamble en tel maniere. Si les uos estuierons tant ke uos
together in such manner So them you shall-keep until that you
reuignies.' Li rois sacorde bien a ceste cose et dist ke
may-return The king himself-agrees well to this thing and said that
cou li plaist molt. 'Mais gardes', fait li rois, 'ke riens nee
this him pleases much But see says the king that anything born
nel sace, deuant kil soit fait, ensi com uos laues dit.'
not-it may-know before that-it be done thus as you it-have said

A cest conseil soruint me sire Gauains. Et quant il uit
To this counsel came-up my lord Gawain And when he saw
kil parolent si estroitement, si dist au roi: 'Sire, Dex
that-they speak so closely so said-he to-the king Lord God
doinst ke de cest conseil vos uiegne biens! Car certes ie
grant that from this counsel to-you may-come good For certainly I
espoir ke ce soit pis, et plus a uos ca autrui. Engreuain,
hope that this be worse and more to you than-to others Agravain
biaus freres, ie uos proi ke uos ne commenchies cose ke
fair brother I you pray that you not may-begin thing which
uos ne puissies parfurnir a vostre preu et a uostre honor:
you not can accomplish to your profit and to your honor
Ne ne dites rien de Lanselot, se bien non, car, se Dius
Nor not say anything of Lancelot except good not for so God

me gart, il est plus preudom ke uos nestes et miudres
me may-guard he is more worthy-man than you are and better
cheualiers.' 'Gauain', fait li rois, 'ales de chi; vos estes cil
knight Gawain says the king go from here you are he
en qui ie ne me fierai iamais, car maluaisement vos estes
in whom I not myself shall-trust ever for wickedly you are
maintenus enuers moi, ki sauies ma honte et le soufries
conducted toward me who knew my shame and it suffered
ne riens ne men faisies sauoir.' 'Certes, sire', fait me sire
nor anything not me-thereof made know Certainly lord says my lord
Gauains, 'onques ma traison ne ueistes ne chi ne ailleurs.
Gawain ever my treason not saw-you neither here nor elsewhere
Ne onques uostre honor ne ui ne chi ne ailleurs ke
Nor ever your honor not saw-I neither here nor elsewhere that
ie nel amendaisse a mon pooir. Mais puissedi ke uos
I not-it would-amend to my power But since-the-day that you
commenchies a croire mesdisans noueliers et traitors, maluais
begin to believe slanderers fickle and traitors wicked
fait demorer entor vos a nul preudomme. Si iurroie
makes to-stay around you to any worthy-man So would-swear-I
en sains et men combatroie por droit et por raison
on relics and myself-thereof would-fight for right and for reason
encontre le millor cheualier de uostre cort ke onques, au
against the best knight of your court that ever to-the
mien ensient, me sire Lanselos vostre honte ne porcacha.'
my knowledge my lord Lancelot your shame not procured
En tel maniere dist me sire Gauains et puis uient hors
In such manner said my lord Gawain and then comes out
de la cambre et dist a Gaheriet, son frere: 'totes uoies a
of the chamber and said to Gaheriet his brother all the-same has
Engreuains dit au roi cou ke il nos demandoit, et sacies
Agravain said to-the king this which he us asked and know

tot uraiement ke maus en uenra.' 'or len couiegne bien',
all truly that ill thereof will-come now him-thereof may-it-befall well
fait Gaheries, 'car ie ne men entremeterai ia, se Diu
says Gaberiet for I not myself-thereof shall-undertake ever if God
plest, Ne ia, se Diu plest, [si preudomme] comme Lanselos
pleases Nor ever if God pleases so worthy-man as Lancelot
est ne sera par moi encuses de tel uilonnie'. 'Alons a nos
is not will-be through me accused of such villainy Let-us-go to our
osteus', fait me sire Gauains, 'Si laissons Engreuain faire cou
lodgings says my lord Gawain So let-us-leave Agravain to-do this
kil a enpris. Et, se biens len uient, si le prenge,
which-he has undertaken And if good to-him-thereof comes so it may-be-take
et, sil len meschiet, nus ne pora dire ke ce soit
and if-it him-thereof mishaps any not will-be-able say that this be
par nos.' Lors se partent de laiens si sen uont
through us Then themselves part-they from in-there so themselves-thence go
a lor ostel. et en cou kil sen aloient aual la uile,
to their lodging and in this that-they themselves-thence went down the town
Si encontrent Lanselot et Boort et Lyonel et Hestor et
So meet-they Lancelot and Bors and Lionel and Hector and
auoec aus grant plente de cheualiers. Quant il sentrecontrent,
with them great plenty of knights When they each-other-meet
de si long com il se uoient si sentrefont ioie molt
from so far as they each-other see so each-other-make-they joy very
meruilleuse et grant. 'Me sire Lanselos', fait Gaheries, 'ie
marvelous and great My lord Lancelot says Gaheriet I
uos demanc .i. don'. et il li dist: 'ie le uos doins, se ce
you ask a gift and he to-him said I it you give if this
est cose ke ie puisse auoir et que ie doiue donner'. 'Grans
is thing which I can have and which I ought to-give Great
mercis', fait Gaheries. 'Or vos requier ie', fait il, 'dont ke vos
thanks says Gaheriet Now you ask I says he then that you

hierbegies anuit auoec moi en mon ostel auoec mon signor,
may-lodge tonight with me in my lodging with my lord
mon frere, ki chi est, entre vos et uostre compaignie. Et
my brother who here is between you and your company And
sacies tot vraiement ke ie le fac plus por uostre preu ke
know all truly that I it do more for your profit than
por le mien'. et il li otroient molt debonnairement. Si
for the mine and they to-him grant very graciously So
retornent et descendent a lostel Gaheriet tot ensi com
return-they and dismount at the-lodging (of-)Gaheriet all thus as
il estoient. Et lors saillent escuier et seriant, por Lanselot
they were And then leap squires and sergeants for Lancelot
desarmer et ciaus ki del tornoiement estoient uenut.
to-disarm and those who from-the tournament were come

Au soir apres uespres, quant il fu eure de mangier, si
At-the evening after vespers when it was hour of eating so
alerent a cort tot ensamble. Mais molt sesmeruilla Lanselos,
went-they to court all together But much himself-marveled Lancelot
quant il fu laiens uenus, de cou ke li rois, ki tant
when he was in-there come at this that the king who so-much
le siut biel apieler, ne li dist mot a cele fois, ains
him was-wont fairly to-call not to-him said word at that time rather
torna sa chiere dautre part, Si tost com il le uit uenir.
turned his face to-other side So soon as he him saw come
Il ne se perchut mie ke li rois fust si couroucies uers
He not himself perceived at-all that the king were so angered toward
lui com il estoit, car il ne quidoit pas kil eust oies les
him as he was for he not thought at-all that-he had heard the
nouieles ke Engreuains li auoit dites. Si sasist auoec
news which Agravain to-him had said So himself-sat-he with
les autres, non pas si enuoisies com il soloit, por cou kil
the others not at-all so merry as he was-wont for this that-he

ueoit le roi triste et pensif, cou li fu auis. Apres souper,
saw the king sad and pensive this to-him was opinion After supper
quant les tables furent leuees, semonst li rois ses cheualiers
when the tables were raised summoned the king his knights
daler en la forest de Camaalot a lendemain par matin.
to-go into the forest of Camelot on the-next-day by morning
Et Lanselos dist au roi: 'Sire', fait il, 'uos maures a
And Lancelot said to-the king Lord says he you me-will-have for
compaignon en ceste uoie.' 'Biaus sire', fait li rois, 'vos poes
companion on this way Fair lord says the king you can
bien remanoir, car ie ai tant des autres cheualiers ke ie
well remain for I have so-many of-the other knights that I
me souferrai bien de uostre compaignie'. Et lors sapercut
myself shall-dispense well with your company And then perceived
bien Lanselos ke li rois est courouchies a lui, mais il
well Lancelot that the king is angered with him but he
ne sot onques de coi. Si len poise trop durement et
not knew ever of what So him-thereof grieves too hard and
le saroit trop uolentiers, sil pooit estre en nule maniere.
it would-know very willingly if-it could be in any manner
Au soir quant il fu eure de couchier et la nuis fu
At-the evening when it was hour of lying-down and the night was
uenue, Lanselos se parti de laiens a grant compaignie
come Lancelot himself parted from in-there with great company
de cheualiers. Et quant il furent a lor ostel, Lanselos
of knights And when they were at their lodging Lancelot
dist a Boort: 'aues vos ueut quele ciere li rois ma faite
said to Bors have you seen what face the king me-has made
et moustree anuit? Ie ne kerrai iamais riens, sil nest
and shown tonight I not shall-believe ever anything if-he not-is
courouncies a moi daucune cose.' 'Sire', fait Boors, 'or sacies
angered with me of-some thing Lord says Bors now know

kil a oies noueles de vos et de madame la roine. Or
that-he has heard news of you and of my-lady the queen Now
gardes ke vos en feres; car vos estes uenus a la guerre
see what you thereof will-do for you are come to the war
ki iamais ne falra.' 'Ha! Sire Dex', fait Lanselos, 'ki fu cil
which ever not will-fail Ah Lord God says Lancelot who was he
ki de ceste cose osa dire nouieles a mon signor le roi?'
who of this thing dared tell news to my lord the king
'Se ce fu cheualiers ki le dist', fait Boors, 'donques fu cou
If this was knight who it said says Bors then was this
Engreuains, et, se ce fu feme, dont fu cou Morghe li Fee, la
Agravain and if this was woman then was this Morgan the Fairy the
suer le roi; car nus autres fors cil doi nel osast dire.'
sister (of-)the king for any other except those two not-it would-dare say

The Trap

XXXIII

Lancelot stays behind from the hunt, and the queen sends for him. Bors begs him not to go, then shows him the way through the garden and makes him take his sword. Agravain's spies see him pass. Lancelot lies with the queen, and the ambushers batter at the door. He opens it, cleaves Tanaguin to the shoulders, arms himself in the dead man's harness, and leaps out among them. He reaches his lodging, telling Bors he has escaped in spite of them all.

Asses parlerent cele nuit li doi cousin de ceste cose.
Much spoke that night the two cousins of this thing
Lendemain, quant li iors aparut, Mesire Gauains dist a
The-next-day when the day appeared My-lord Gawain said to
Lanselot: 'Sire, entre moi et Gaheriet, mon frere, irons
Lancelot Lord between me and Gaheriet my brother we-shall-go

en la forest auoec ces autres cheualiers de laiens. venres
into the forest with these other knights of in-there will-come
uos auoec nos?' 'Sire, nenil', fait il; 'ie remanrai, car ie
you with us Lord no says he I shall-remain for I
nen sui ore mie bien aaisies'. et me sire Gauains se
not-thereof am now at-all well at-ease and my lord Gawain himself
part tantost de laiens, entre lui et Gaheriet, Si sen
parts at-once from in-there between him and Gaheriet So themselves-thence
alerent apres le roi en la forest. La roine, si tost comme li
went-they after the king into the forest The queen so soon as the
rois se fu partis de laiens, prent son mesage et lenuoie
king himself was parted from in-there takes her messenger and him-sends
a Lanselot, ki encore se gisoit en son lit, Se li mande
to Lancelot who still himself lay in his bed So to-him sends-word
kil ne laist en nule maniere kil ne uiegne a li. Et
that-he not may-leave in any manner that-he not may-come to her And
quant il uit le mesage, si en fu a merueilles lies Si
when he saw the messenger so thereof was-he at marvels glad So
dist kil sen aut, car il le siura tot maintenant.
said-he that-he himself-thence may-go for he him will-follow all at-once
Lors se uiest et apareille et se porpense coment il
Then himself dresses-he and prepares and himself bethinks how he
pora aler plus couertement, Si ke nus ne le sace, et
will-be-able go more covertly So that any not it may-know and
sen conseille a Boort. et cil li prie por Diu kil
himself-thereof counsels with Bors and he him prays for God that-he
ni aut mie, car 'bien sacies', fait il, 'sire, se uos i
not-there may-go at-all for well know says he lord if you there
ales, ke courous et deus uos en uenra; car mes cuers, ki
go that wrath and grief you thereof will-come for my heart which
onques mais not paour de uos, fors a ceste fois, le me ua
ever more not-had fear for you except at this time it me goes

disant.' Et il respont kil ne lairoit en nule maniere kil
saying And he answers that-he not would-leave in any manner that-he
ni alast. 'Sire', fait Boors, 'puis kil vos plaist que vos
not-there might-go Lord says Bors since that-it you pleases that you
i aillies, ie vos ensegnerai par v vos ires. Vees chi un
there may-go I you shall-show by where you will-go See here a
gardin ki dure duskes a la cambre ma dame la roine;
garden which lasts until to the chamber (of-)my lady the queen
entres i si troueres la plus coie uoie et la plus estrangie
enter there so will-find-you the most quiet way and the most remote
de gent ke ie sace; et si ne laissies en nule maniere ke
from folk that I may-know and so not leave in any manner that
uos ne portes auoec vos uostre espee.' Et Lanselos le fait
you not may-carry with you your sword And Lancelot it does
tot ensi come Boors li ensegne. Puis si se met en une
all thus as Bors to-him shows Then so himself puts-he on a
sente del gardin ki duroit dusques as maisons le roi.
path of-the garden which lasted until to-the houses (of-)the king
Quant il aprocha de la tor, Engreuains, ki auoit ses
When he approached of the tower Agravain who had his
espies de totes pars, sot kil uenoit, car uns garchons li
spies on all sides knew that-he came for a boy to-him
dist: 'Sire, par decha uient me sire Lanselos'. et il dist au
said Lord by here comes my lord Lancelot and he said to-the
garchon kil se taise et puis uait a une fenestre
boy that-he himself may-be-silent and then goes to a window
ki ouroit deuers le iardin et uoit la dedens Lanselot, ki
which opened toward the garden and sees there within Lancelot who
uenoit molt grande aleure uers la tor. Mais Engreuains, ki
came very great pace toward the tower But Agravain who
auoit grant compaignie de cheualiers auoec lui, les maine a
had great company of knights with him them leads to

la fenestre et lor moustre Lanselot et lor dist: ‘uees le
the window and to-them shows Lancelot and to-them said see him
chi. Or gardes, quant il sera ia entres en la cambre, kil
here Now see when he will-be already entered into the chamber that-he
ne uos escape’. Et cil dient ke de lescaper est il noiens,
not you may-escape And they say that of the-escaping is it nothing
car il les sousprendront tot nut et desarmet. Et Lanselos,
for they them will-surprise all naked and disarmed And Lancelot
ki de celui agait ne se prendoit garde, uint a luis
who of that ambush not himself took heed came to the-door
de la cambre, ki ouroit el gardin, et entre dedens et
of the chamber which opened into-the garden and enters within and
vait de cambre en cambre tant kil uint la v la roine
goes from chamber to chamber until that-he came there where the queen
latendoit. Quant il uint la dedens, il ferma luis apres
him-awaited When he came there within he shut the-door after
lui, ensi com auenture fu kil ni deuoit pas estre ocis.
him thus as adventure was that-he not-there was-to at-all be killed
Si se descauce tot maintenant et despoille et se couce
So himself unshoes-he all at-once and undresses and himself lays
auoec madame la roine. Mais il ni ot pas gramment
with my-lady the queen But he not-there had at-all greatly
demore, quant cil ki... por le prendre uinrent a luis de
stayed when those who for him to-take came to the-door of
la cambre Mais il le trouerent fermee. Se ni ot celui
the chamber But they it found shut So not-there had that-one
ki tos nen fust esbahis, car adont sorent il bien kil
who all not-thereof were amazed for then knew they well that-they
auoient fali a cou kil uoloient faire. Il demandent a
had failed in this which-they wished to-do They ask to
Engreuain comment il enterront laiens et il lor ensegne
Agravain how they will-enter in-there and he to-them shows

luis a brisier, car il uoient bien ke autrement ni
the-door to break for they see well that otherwise not-there
metroient il ia le piet. Si hurtent et boutent tant ke
would-put they ever the foot So knock-they and push so-long that
la roine lentent, ki le dist tantost a Lanselot: 'Ha! biaus
the queen it-hears who it said at-once to Lancelot Ah fair
amis', fait ele, 'trai somes'. 'Coment?' fait Lanselos, 'ke
friend says she betrayed we-are How says Lancelot what
est cou?' Lors escoute Si ot a luis grant cri et grant
is this Then listens-he So hears-he at the-door great cry and great
noise de gens ki uoelent luis brisier mais il ne pueent.
noise of folk who wish the-door to-break but they not can
'Ha! biaus amis', fait la roine, 'or sommes nos honni et
Ah fair friend says the queen now are we shamed and
mort, car or sara me sire li rois liestre de moi et
dead for now will-know my lord the king the-being of me and
de uos. tot cest plait nos a basti Engreuains, li freres
of you all this plea us has built Agravain the brother
mon signor Gauain.' 'Voire', fait il, 'or ne vos caille.
(of-)my lord Gawain Truly says he now not to-you may-it-matter
Si uoirement mait Dex, il a sa mort porcachie. Car
So truly me-may-help God he has his death procured For
ce sera il tos premiers ki en morra, se ie puis.'
this will-be he all first who thereof will-die if I can
Atant saillent sus del lit ambedoi et sapareillent
Then leap up from-the bed both and prepare-themselves
si com il pueent. 'Ha! dame', fait Lanselos, 'aues uos
so as they can Ah lady says Lancelot have you
chaiens ne hauberc ne autre armeure de coi ie puisse mon
in-here nor hauberk nor other armor with which I could my
cors armer?' 'Certes, sire', fait ele, 'nenil. ains i est la
body arm Certainly lord says she no rather there is the

mescheance si grans kil nos i estuet morir, et moi et
mischance so great that-it us there behooves to-die both me and
uos. Si men poise, se Dex mait, plus por uos kil
you So me-thereof grieves so God me-may-help more for you than-it
ne fait por moi, car trop sera graindres damages de uostre
— does for me for much will-be greater harm of your
mort ke de la moie. Et nanporquant, se Dex par son
death than of the mine And nevertheless if God by his
plaisir nos uolsist otroier ke nos de chi nos peussons
pleasure us would-wish to-grant that we from here ourselves could
escaper sain et haitie, Ie sai bien kil nest encore mie
escape sound and hale I know well that-it not-is yet at-all
nes ki por cestui meffait osast mon cors liurer a mort,
born who for this misdeed would-dare my body deliver to death
por tant kil uos seust en uie. Mais ie douc molt ke
for so-much that-he you might-know in life But I fear much that
nostre pecies ne nos encombre.' Quant Lanselos ot ceste
our sin not us may-encumber When Lancelot hears this
parole, il sadrece enuers luis Si comme cil ki riens
word he himself-directs toward the-door So as he who anything
ne redoute et crie a cex ki a luis hurtent: 'Maluais
not dreads and cries to those who at the-door knock Wicked
cheualier, recreant, couart et fali, atendes uos, car ie uos
knights recreant coward and failed wait you for I you
vieng luis ourir, por ueoir ki auant uenra.' Lors traist
come the-door to-open for to-see who forward will-come Then draws-he
lespee del fuerre et oeure luis, et dist ke 'or uiegne
the-sword from-the sheath and opens the-door and said that now may-come
auant ki uieut'. et uns cheualiers ki Tanaguins estoit
forward who wishes and a knight who Tanaguin was
apieles et haoit Lanselot de mortel haine se met deuant
called and hated Lancelot with mortal hatred himself puts before

tos les autres et entre dedens. Et Lanselos ki ot lespee
all the others and enters within And Lancelot who had the-sword
drechie encontremont le fiert si durement, a cou kil i
raised upward him strikes so hard by this that-he there
met tote sa force, ke li elmes ne la coiffe de fier ne le
puts all his force that the helmet nor the coif of iron not him
garandist kil ne le porfende tot iuskes ens espaules. Puis
protects that-he not him may-cleave all until into-the shoulders Then
estort son cop si labat mort a la tiere. et quant li autre
wrenches-he his blow so him-fells dead to the ground and when the others
le uirent si atorne, il ni ot si hardi ki ne sen
him saw so arrayed it not-there had-one so bold who not himself-thence
traisist ariere en tel maniere ke lentree remest tote wide.
drew back in such manner that the-entry remained all empty

Quant Lanselos uoit cou, si dist a la roine: 'Dame, ceste
When Lancelot sees this so said-he to the queen Lady this
guerre est finee. quant uos plaira, ie men irai ke ia
war is ended when you will-please I myself-thence shall-go for ever
nel lairai por home ki chi soit.' Et ele dist kele uolroit
not-it shall-leave-I for man who here may-be And she said that-she would-wish
ia kil fust a sauuete, coi kil deust apres auenir de
already that-he were in safety whatever that ought after to-happen of
li. Lors regarde Lanselos le cheualier kil ot ocis, ki fu
her Then looks Lancelot the knight whom-he had killed who was
caois a luis de la cambre dedens. Lors le trait a soi
fallen at the-door of the chamber within Then him draws-he to himself
et puis referme luis. Se li oste le hauberc et lelme
and then shuts-again the-door So from-him removes the hauberk and the-helmet
et totes les autres armeures Si sen apareille maintenant
and all the other armors So himself-thereof equips-he at-once
au mieus kil puet. Puis dist a la roine: 'Dame, puis ke
at-the best that-he can Then said-he to the queen Lady since that

ie sui armes, or men deuroie ie bien aler sauuement,
I am armed now myself-thence ought I well to-go safely
sil plaisoit a Dameldiu.' et ele li dist kil sen
if-it pleased to Lord-God and she to-him said that-he himself-thence
aut, sil puet. Lors reuient al huis si lueure et dist
may-go if-he can Then comes-he-back to-the door so it-opens and said
kil nel tenront huimais en prison. Si saut en mi aus,
that-they not-him will-hold henceforth in prison So leaps-he in amid them
lespee traite, et fiert le premier kil encontre si durement
the-sword drawn and strikes the first whom-he meets so hard
kil le porte a terre tot estonnet Si kil na pooir de
that-he him carries to ground all stunned So that-he not-has power of
soi releuer. Quant li autre uoient lor compaignon a terre,
himself raising When the others see their companion on ground
Si se traient ariere et li font voie tot li plus hardi
So themselves draw back and to-him make way all the most bold
ki en la place sont. Et quant il uoit kil lont tot
who in the place are And when he sees that-they him-have all
coi laissiet ester, il se trait uers le iardin et se met
quiet let stand he himself draws toward the garden and himself puts
dedens. Puis sen uait tot droit a son ostel et trueue
within Then himself-thence goes all straight to his lodging and finds
Boort en une cambre, ki molt auoit grant paour et grant
Bors in a chamber who much had great fear and great
doutance ke Lanselos a sa uolente, car bien li estoit
dread that Lancelot to his will for well to-him was
caoit el cuer ke cil del parente le roi lauoient espijet
fallen in-the heart that those of-the kindred (of-)the king him-had spied
en aucune maniere, por lui prendre. Quant il uoit son
in some manner for him to-take When he sees his
signor arme uenir, ki tos desarmes sestoit partis de lui,
lord armed come who all disarmed himself-was parted from him

Si saperchoit maintenant kil a eué aucune mellee. Si
So himself-perceives-he at-once that-he has had some melee So
uient tot maintenant encontre lui et li demande: 'Sire,
comes-he all at-once to-meet him and to-him asks Lord
ques besoins vos a fait armer?' Et il li conte comment
what need you has made arm And he to-him tells how
Engreuains et Guerrehes et Mordres lauoient espijet et le
Agravain and Guerrehet and Mordred him-had spied and him
uolrent prendre proue auoec la roine et auoient auoec aus
wished to-take proved with the queen and had with them
amenee grant ceualerie Si leussent pris, sans faille, a
brought great chivalry So him-would-have-they taken without fail by
cou quil ne sen donnoit garde, Mais il sen est
this that-he not himself-thereof gave heed But he himself-thence is
deffendus forment et tant a fait par laide de Diu ke
defended strongly and so-much has done by the-aid of God and
par sa proece kil sen est escapes maugret aus tous.
by his prowess that-he himself-thence is escaped in-spite-of them all

Lancelot Flees to the Forest

XXXIV

Bors foresees a war that will outlast their lives. Hector advises hiding in the forest and rescuing the queen by force when she is led out to die, then taking her to Benwick or Gaunes. Twenty-eight knights ride out, and a squire goes to Camelot for news. The brothers take the queen with insults. Arthur returns from the hunt, sends forty knights who find Lancelot gone, and charges King Yon and the barons to judge her, but Yon will give no judgment after nones.

Quant Boors entent ceste parole, Si a dit a son signor:
When Bors hears this word So has-he said to his lord
'Ha! sire, or uaut asses noaus ke deuant! Or est la cose
Ah lord now goes-it much worse than before Now is the thing
descouierte ke nos auons si longement celee! or ueres la
disclosed which we have so long hidden now will-you-see the
guerre commenchier ki iamais ne prendra fin en no uiuant!
war begin which ever not will-take end in our lifetime
Car se li rois nos a ames duske chi de grignor cuer ke
For if the king us has loved until here with greater heart than
nul autre cheualier ki ne li apertenist, or nos harra
any other knight who not to-him belonged now us will-hate
il plus mortelment ke nul autre, puis kil sara ke uos
he more mortally than any other since that-he will-know that you
tant li aues meffait comme de lui uergonder de sa feme.
so-much to-him have misdone as of him shaming with his wife
Or couient il ke nos prendons conseil ke nos porons faire
Now behooves it that we may-take counsel what we shall-be-able do
entre nos; Car ce sai ie bien ke li rois nos sera dore en
between us For this know I well that the king to-us will-be from-now on
auant anemis morteus. Mais de madame la roine ki por uos
forward enemy mortal But of my-lady the queen who for you

sera liuree a mort me poise, se Dex mait, Si uolroie
will-be delivered to death me grieves so God me-may-help So would-wish-I
bien, sil pooit estre, ke on i mesist conseil en tel
well if-it could be that one there might-put counsel in such
maniere kele escapast de cest afaire a sauuete de son cors.'
manner that-she might-escape from this affair in safety of her body
A cest conseil se tint Hestors des Mares. Et quant
At this counsel himself held Hector of Mares And when
il oi ke la cose estoit a cou uenue, il en fu tant
he heard that the thing was to this come he thereof was so
dolans ke nus plus et lors dist: 'Sire, puis kil ne puet
sorrowful that none more and then said Lord since that-it not can
remanoir ke la cose nait este ensi com ele est auenue,
remain that the thing not-may-have been thus as it is happened
li miudres ke ie i uoi a nostre oes et por nostre preu
the best that I there see to our use and for our profit
et por le preu ma dame la roine Si est ke nos nos
and for the profit (of-)my lady the queen So is that we ourselves
departons de chaiens et aillons ailleurs en cele forest de
part from in-here and go elsewhere into that forest from
la fors en tel liu ke li rois, ki orendroit i est, ne
there outside in such place that the king who now there is not
nos truist. Et quant ce sera cose ke ma dame la roine
us may-find And when this will-be thing that my lady the queen
sera iugie, de ce uos asseur ie bien, quant ele sera fors
will-be judged of this you assure I well when she will-be out
menee por destruire, Lors saurons nos tot ensamble arme et
led for to-destroy Then shall-sally we all together armed and
le rescourrons, v il voellent v non, cil ki a sa mort
her shall-rescue whether they wish or not those who to her death
le quident auoir menee; et quant nos larons par deuers
her think to-have led and when we her-shall-have by toward

nous, Lors nos porons nos partir de cest pais et mener
us Then we shall-be-able ourselves part from this country and to-lead
la auoec nos el roialme de Benuyc v en cel de Gaunes;
her with us into-the kingdom of Benwick or into that of Gaunes
et lors, se nos poons tant faire que nos li eussons
and then if we can so-much do that we her might-have
conduite, ia puis ne doute riens le roi ne tot son pooir.'
conducted ever since not fear anything the king nor all his power
A cest conseil sacorde maintenant Lanselos et Boors. Si
To this counsel himself-agrees at-once Lancelot and Bors So
font maintenant monter tos ciaus de lor compaignie, dont
have-they at-once mount all those of their company of-whom
il i ot cheualiers preus et hardis, ki estoient .xxviij.
it there had knights worthy and bold who were twenty-eight
par conte. Si se partent en tel maniere de lor ostel et
by count So themselves part-they in such manner from their lodging and
font tant ke de la uile sont issu. Si se metent en
do so-much that from the town they-are gone-out So themselves put-they in
loreille de la forest, cele part v il le uoient plus espesse,
the-edge of the forest that way where they it see most thick
por cou kil i soient mains apercheu. Si demeurent
for this that-they there may-be less perceived So stay-they
iluec iusques au soir. Et lors prent Lanselos un sien uallet
there until to-the evening And then takes Lancelot a his squire
Se li dist: 'vatent', fait il, 'maintenant a Camaalot et si
So to-him said go-thou says he at-once to Camelot and so
aprent noueles de ma dame la roine et cou ke on volra
learn news of my lady the queen and this which one will-wish
faire de li et se on le iuge a mort. Si le nos uien redire
to-do with her and if one her judges to death So it to-us come tell-again
hasteement, car por paine ne por trauail ke nos deussons
hastily for for pain nor for toil which we ought

soufrir por rescoure li ne seroit il laissiet kele ne fust
to-suffer for to-rescue her not would-be it left that-she not were
garie de mort a nos pooirs.' Li ualles se part de ses
saved from death to our powers The squire himself parts from his
signors et sen uait la droite uoie uers Camaalot et
lords and himself-thence goes the straight way toward Camelot and
fait tant ke a la cort uient. Mais atant lait ore li contes
does so-much that to the court he-comes But then leaves now the tale
a parler de lui et de Lanselot et retorne as trois freres.
to speak of him and of Lancelot and returns to-the three brothers
Si com Mordres et Engreuains et Guerrehes prisent la
So as Mordred and Agravain and Guerrehet took the
roine, quant Lanselos fu troues auoec li.
queen when Lancelot was found with her
Or dist li contes ke a celui point ke Lanselos se fu
Now said the tale that at that point that Lancelot himself was
partis de la roine et se fu ferus el iardin et escapes
parted from the queen and himself was thrust into-the garden and escaped
de ciaus ki auoec la roine le quidoient sousprendre, Cil ki
from those who with the queen him thought to-surprise Those who
furent remes a luis de la cambre, maintenant kil surent
were remained at the-door of the chamber at-once that-they knew
ke Lanselos sen fu ales, Il entrerent en la cambre et
that Lancelot himself-thence was gone They entered into the chamber and
prisent la roine et li fisent uilonie et honte et laidure
took the queen and to-her did villainy and shame and outrage
asses plus kil ne deussent et disent ke ore estoit bien la
much more than-they — ought and said that now was well the
cose prouee et conneue et kele auoit tant fait kele nen
thing proved and known and that-she had so-much done that-she not-thence
pooit escaper sans mort. Asses li disent honte et uilonnie,
could escape without death Much to-her said-they shame and villainy

et ele totes uoies escoutoit tant dolante ke nule plus et
and she all the-same listened so sorrowful that none more and
estoit molt pensiue et ploroit si durement ke asses en
was very pensive and wept so hard that a-good-deal thereof
deussent auoir pitie li felon et li desloial qui le tenoient.
ought to-have pity the felons and the disloyal-ones who her held
A eure de nonne uint li rois del bois, et quant il fu
At hour of nones came the king from-the wood and when he was
descendus en la cort aual a tant de gent ki le siuoient,
dismounted in the court below with so-many of folk who him followed
Maintenant uint a lui la nouiele de la roine ki auoit este
At-once came to him the news of the queen who had been
prise auoec Lanselot. et quant il ot oie ceste nouiele, Si fu
taken with Lancelot and when he had heard this news So was-he
tant dolans kil ne sot ke dire et demande se Lanselos
so sorrowful that-he not knew what to-say and asks if Lancelot
estoit retenus. 'Sire', font cil, 'nenil, car il se deffendi si
was retained Lord say they no for he himself defended so
meruilleusement ke onques nus hom seus ne fist cou kil
marvelously that ever any man alone not did this which-he
a fait.' 'Puis kil nest chaiens', fait li rois, 'uos le troueres
has done Since that-he not-is in-here says the king you him will-find
a son ostel. faites armer cheualiers et autres gens et ales a
at his lodging have armed knights and other folk and go to
lostel si le prendes, et, quant vos lares pris, amenes
the-lodging so him take and when you him-will-have taken bring
le moi. Si fera on iustice de lui et de la roine ensamble.'
him me So will-do one justice of him and of the queen together
A ceste parole se uont armer par laiens duskes a
At this word themselves go to-arm through in-there until to
.xl. cheualiers, Non pas par lor uolente mais por cou ke
forty knights Not at-all by their will but for this that

faire lor couient, Car li rois lor commande de bouce.
to-do to-them behooves For the king to-them commands by mouth
Et quant il sen furent parti et il furent uenu a
And when they themselves-thence were parted and they were come to
lostel Lanselot et il ne le trouerent pas, Il ni ot
the-lodging (of-)Lancelot and they not him found at-all It not-there had
celui ki molt nen fust lies, car il sauoient bien ke,
that-one who much not-thereof were glad for they knew well that
sil i fust troues et il le uolsissent prendre a force, Il
if-be there were found and they him would-wish to-take by force They
ne fausissent pas a mellee grant et cruel. Lors reuienent
not would-fail at-all of melee great and cruel Then come-back-they
maintenant au roi se li dient que a Lanselot auoi[en]t il
at-once to-the king so to-him say that of Lancelot had they
falit, car il sen est ales grant piecha et en a menes
failed for he himself-thence is gone great while-ago and thence has led
auoec lui ses cheualiers. Et quant li rois lentent, si dist
with him his knights And when the king it-hears so said-he
ke ce poise lui, Mais, puis kil est ensi que a Lanselot
that this grieves him But since that-it is thus that on Lancelot
ne se puet uengier de sa honte, Il se uengera a la
not himself can-be avenge of his shame He himself will-avenge on the
roine en tel maniere kil en sera parle a tos iors mais.
queen in such manner that-it thereof will-be spoken for all days more
'Biaus sire', fait li rois Yons, 'ken baes uos a faire?' 'Ie
Fair lord says the king Yon what-thereof aspire you to do I
uoel', fait il, 'ke por cestui forfait et por ceste desloiaute kele
wish says he that for this misdeed and for this disloyalty which-she
menoit enuers moi ke ie en face si grant iustice ke totes
led toward me that I thereof may-do so great justice that all
autres dames ki en oront parler en seront castoies. Ie vos
other ladies who thereof will-hear speak thereby will-be chastened I you

commanc', fait il au roi Yon, 'a uos premierement, por cou
command says he to-the king Yon to you first for this
ke uos estes rois, et a ces autres barons, ki chaiens sont, et
that you are king and to these other barons who in-here are and
le uos requier sor vos sairemens ke uos regardes entre vos de
it you ask upon your oaths that you may-consider among you of
quele mort ele doit morir; car, sans faille, sans mort nen
what death she ought to-die for without fail without death not-thence
puet ele escaper, Se uos meesmes vos tenies deuers li et tot
can she escape If you yourselves you held toward her and all
li autre, Si ke uos desisies kele ni deust pas morir.'
the others So that you might-say that-she not-there ought at-all to-die
'Sire', fait li rois Yons, 'il nest pas en cest pais coustume ne
Lord says the king Yon it not-is at-all in this country custom nor
usages ke on face apres eure de nonne iugement, meesment
usage that one may-make after hour of nones judgment even
de mort domme ne de feme, Et encore de si haute dame
of death of-man nor of woman And still of so high lady
comme est madame la roine. Mais demain au matin, se nos
as is my-lady the queen But tomorrow at-the morning if we
somes a cou mene kil le nos couiegne faire, lors le feromes.'
are to this led that-it it to-us may-behoove to-do then it we-shall-do

The Queen Condemned

XXXV

At prime Mordred and Agravain judge that the queen must die, and the barons agree, seeing the king's will. Gawain renounces all he holds of the king and leaves. Arthur orders a fire built in the meadow of Camelot. The queen, in red sendal, is led weeping through streets where the people curse the king. Agravain guards the field with knights, and Gaheriet comes under threats, vowing never to fight Lancelot. The squire brings Lancelot word, and he prays to find Agravain.

Atant en laisse li rois la parole et fu tant dolans de
Then thereof leaves the king the word and was so sorrowful of
ceste auenture ke onques la nuit ne but ne ne manga
this adventure that ever the night not drank-he nor not ate
ne onques la nuit ne volt que la roine uenist deuant
nor ever the night not wished-he that the queen might-come before
lui. Au matin a eure de prime, si tost comme li baron
him At-the morning at hour of prime so soon as the barons
furent asamble el palais, comanda li rois a Engreuain et
were assembled in-the palace commanded the king to Agravain and
a Mordret et as autres barons de laiens kil desissent
to Mordred and to-the other barons of in-there that-they might-say
ke on deuoit faire de la roine par droit iugement; et
what one ought to-do with the queen by right judgment and
il se traisent maintenant a conseil Si demanderent a
they themselves drew at-once to counsel So asked-they to
Mordret et a Engreuain, por cou kil estoient mieus del
Mordred and to Agravain for this that-they were better of-the
roi ke li autre, kil lor sambloit con deuoit faire de la
king than the others what to-them seemed that-one ought to-do with the
roine. Et cil dient maintenant kil esgardoient par droit
queen And they say at-once that-they judged by right

kele deuoit morir, car trop auoit faite grande desloiaute et
that-she ought to-die for too-much had-she done great disloyalty and
grant felonnie, quant ele el liu le roi Artu, ki tant
great felony when she in-the place (of-)the king Arthur who so-much
est preudom, auoit laissie a li gesir .i. autre cheualier,
is worthy-man had let with her lie an other knight
et de cest fait, sans faille, auoit ele bien mort deseruie.
and for this deed without fail had she well death deserved
A ceste corde sacordent li un et li autre a fine force,
To this accord themselves-agree the ones and the others by sheer force
car il uoient bien ke li rois le vieut. et quant me sire
for they see well that the king it wishes and when my lord
Gauains uoit ke li iugemens est a cou menes ke la mors
Gawain sees that the judgment is to this led that the death
la roine i estoit tote esclairie, Si dist, se Diu plest, ke
(of-)the queen there was all made-clear So said-he if God pleases that
ia ceste dolour nesgardera, kil uoie morir la dame del
ever this grief not-will-he-look-on that-he may-see die the lady of-the
monde ki grignor honor li auoit tos iors portee. Lors
world who greater honor to-him had all days borne Then
uient au roi Se li dist: 'Sire', ie uos reng quanke ie
comes-he to-the king So to-him said Lord I you render whatever I
tieng de vos Ne iamais, tant comme ie uiue, ne vos sieruirai
hold of you Nor ever as-long as I may-live not you shall-serve
ne entor vos ne demorrai, se vos soufres ceste desloiaute.' Li
nor around you not shall-stay if you allow this disloyalty The
rois Artus ne respont nient a cou ke me sire Gauains li
king Arthur not answers anything to this that my lord Gawain to-him
dist, car molt entendoit a autre afaire. Et me sire Gauains
said for much he-attended to other affair And my lord Gawain
sen uait si grant duel faisant comme sil ueist deuant
himself-thence goes so great grief making as if-he saw before

lui mort tot le monde, car molt estoit dolans de cou kil
him dead all the world for much was-he sorrowful of this that-he
ne pooit ueir comment la roine puist escaper sans mort; et
not could see how the queen could escape without death and
se li rois ne fust ses oncles et il ne lamast tant, il i
if the king not were his uncle and he not him-loved so-much he there
mesist ancois le uie kil consentist sa mort en tel maniere.
would-put rather the life than-he might-consent her death in such manner
Et li rois, ki fu remes en son palais, commande a ses
And the king who was remained in his palace commands to his
serians kil facent en la praerie de Camaalot vn fu grant
sergeants that-they may-make in the meadow of Camelot a fire great
et meruilleus, v la roine sera mise; car autrement, si com
and marvelous where the queen will-be put for otherwise so as
il dist, ne doit roine morir ki tel desloiaute fait apres cou
he said not ought queen to-die who such disloyalty does after this
kele est sacree et beneoite et enointe. Lors lieue li cris et
that-she is consecrated and blessed and anointed Then rises the cry and
la noise par laiens si grans ke on ni oist pas Deu
the noise through in-there so great that one not-there would-hear at-all God
tonnant; et font duel ausi angousseus comme se la roine fust
thundering and make grief also anguished as if the queen were
mere as plusors diaus. et cil a qui il fu commande font
mother to-the most of-them and those to whom it was commanded have
apareillier le fu et grant et meruilleus la v il quidoient
prepared the fire both great and marvelous there where they thought
ke la roine deust morir, si com il quidoient tot vraiement.
that the queen ought to-die so as they thought all truly

Quant li fus fu grans, si ke cil del palais le porent
When the fire was great so that those of-the palace it could
ueoir, Si dist li rois ke on amaint auant la roine, et on
see So said the king that one may-bring forward the queen and one

la maine. Et ele uint molt tenrement plorant, uestie dune
her leads And she came very tenderly weeping dressed in-a
robe de cendal uermeil, cote et mantiel, Si estoit si biele
robe of sendal red tunic and mantle So was-she so fair
dame et si auenans ke en tot le monde ne trouast on si
lady and so comely that in all the world not would-find one so
biele de son eage. Et quant li rois le uoit, si en a
fair of her age And when the king her sees so thereof has-he
si grant pitie kil ne le puet regarder, ains commande ke
so great pity that-he not her can look-at rather commands that
on loste de deuant lui et en face on ce ke li
one her-may-remove from before him and with-her may-do one this which the
iugemens de la cort a esgarde. Lors enmainent maintenant
judgment of the court has judged Then lead-away-they at-once
la roine fors del palais et len conduient tot contreual les
the queen out of-the palace and her conduct all down the
rues de Camaalot. et quant ele fu issue del palais et
streets of Camelot and when she was gone-out of-the palace and
cil de la cite le uirent uenir et il sorent ke ele aloit a
those of the city her saw come and they knew that she went to
sa mort, Lors oissies braire et crier gens de totes
her death Then would-you-have-heard bray and cry folk of all
manieres, uieus et iones, poures et rices, si durement comme
manners old and young poor and rich so hard as
son les deust tos ocire; et disoient tot a une uois: 'Ha!
if-one them ought all to-kill and said all with one voice Ah
dame, douce, debonnaire et cortoise asses plus ke nul autre
lady sweet gracious and courteous much more than any other
dame del monde, v troueront iamais poure gent pitie ne
lady of-the world where will-find ever poor folk pity nor
debonnairete? Ha! rois Artus, ki porcacie as sa mort par
graciousness Ah king Arthur who procured hast her death by

desloiaute et par felonnie, encore ten puisses tu repentir
disloyalty and by felony yet thee-thereof mayest thou repent
Si durement ke tu en soies essillies et destruis et li
So hard that thou thereby mayest-be exiled and destroyed and the
traitor felon et desloial en puissent morir prochainement!'
traitors felon and disloyal thereby may die soon
Iteus paroles disoient par tote la vile ensi com il ueoient
Such words said-they through all the town thus as they saw
par deuant aus trespasser la roine. Si aloient apres li, criant
by before them pass the queen So went-they after her crying
et braiant ausi com sil fussent tot hors del sens. Et li rois
and braying also as if-they were all out of-the sense And the king
commande a Engreuain kil prenge auoec lui .xl. cheualiers
commands to Agravain that-he may-take with him forty knights
armes et aille garder le camp v li fus est alumes, Si ke,
armed and may-go guard the field where the fire is lit So that
se Lanselos uient, kil nait pooir de la roine rescoure.
if Lancelot comes that-he not-may-have power of the queen rescuing
'Sire', fait il, 'se vos uoles que iou aille, commandes a Gaheriet,
Lord says he if you wish that I may-go command to Gaheriet
mon frere, kil uiegne auoec nos.' et il li commande
my brother that-he may-come with us and he to-him commands
et il dist kil nen fera noient. Et nanporquant li rois
and he said that-he not-thereof will-do anything And nevertheless the king
le manace tant kil li promet kil ira. Lors uait
him threatens so-much that-he to-him promises that-he will-go Then goes-he
prendre ses armes et ausi font tot li autre que Engreuains
to-take his arms and also do all the others whom Agravain
li ot eslius. Et quant il furent tot arme et issu fors
to-him had chosen And when they were all armed and gone out
de la uile, Il regarderent ke il furent pres de .iiij.xx.
of the town They saw that they were near of eighty

'Engreuains', fait Gaheries, 'quidies vos que ie soie chi uenus
Agravain says Gaheriet think you that I may-be here come
por meller moi a mon signor Lanselot? sil uient rescoure
for to-fight myself with my lord Lancelot if-he comes to-rescue
la roine, Sacies uraiement ke ie ia ne men mellerai,
the queen Know truly that I ever not myself-thereof shall-fight
car mieus uolroie ie, si mait Dex, kil leust ore auoec
for better would-wish I so me-may-help God that-he her-had now with
li a tenir la a tos les iors de sa uie kele morust ichi.'
him to hold there for all the days of his life than-she might-die here
Ensi alerent parlant entraus tant kil aprochierent del
Thus went-they speaking among-themselves until that-they approached of-the
fu et Lanselos, ki estoit enbuschies a tote sa compaignie a
fire and Lancelot who was ambushed with all his company at
lentree de la forest, Si tost com il uoit son mesage uenir, Se li
the-entry of the forest So soon as he sees his messenger come So him
demande ques nouieles il aporte de cort. 'Sire, maluaises', fet
asks-he what news he brings from court Lord bad says
li ualles. 'Ma dame la roine est iugie a mort, et uees la le fu
the squire My lady the queen is judged to death and see there the fire
que on apareille por li ardoir.' 'Voire', fait il, 'or del monter!
which one prepares for her to-burn Truly says he now of-the mounting
teus le quide faire morir, ki en morra tot auant. Or doinst
such her thinks to-make die who thereof will-die all first Now may-grant
Dex, sil onques oi peceour de proiere kil li requesist,
God if-he ever heard sinner of prayer which-he him asked
que ie i truise Engreuain, ki tot cest plaist nos a basti.'
that I there may-find Agravain who all this plea for-us has built

The Rescue at the Stake

XXXVI

Lancelot's company, thirty-two knights, charges the fire. Lancelot drives his lance through Agravain, and Bors runs Guerrehet through. Gaheriet throws one of Lancelot's men into the fire, and Hector strikes off his helmet; Lancelot, not knowing him, cleaves his head to the teeth. Only Mordred and two others escape to the city. Lancelot takes the queen into the forest, learns he has killed Gaheriet, and foresees endless war, then proposes the Joyous Gard, where Galehaut lies buried.

Si com Lanselos vint rescoure la roine, ki ert amenee por
So as Lancelot came to-rescue the queen who was brought for
ardoir.
to-burn

Lors regardent entraus quant cheualier il sont Si
Then look-they among-themselves how-many knights they are So
trueuent kil sont .xxxij. par conte. cascuns monte sor
find-they that-they are thirty-two by count each mounts upon
son ceual et puis prendent escus et glaues et espees. Si
his horse and then take-they shields and lances and swords So
tornent cele part v il uoient le fu si grant aleure com
turn-they that way where they see the fire so great pace as
il pueent traire des ceuaus. Et quant cil ki estoient
they can draw from-the horses And when those who were
es pres les uoient uenir, Si sescrient tot ensamble:
in-the meadows them see come So themselves-cry-out-they all together
'fuies, fuies! ues chi Lanselot, ki uient rescoure la roine!'
flee flee see here Lancelot who comes to-rescue the queen
Et Lanselos, ki uient deuant tos les autres sor le ceual
And Lancelot who comes before all the others upon the horse
legier et courant, sadrece cele part v il uoit Engreuain,
light and running himself-directs that way where he sees Agravain

car il connut molt bien ses armes, se li escrie: 'Cuuiers,
for he knew very well his arms so to-him cries Wretch
traitres, vos estes uenus a vostre mort!' Et maintenant
traitor you are come to your death And at-once
le fiert si durement ke li escus ne li [haubiers] nel
him strikes-he so hard that the shield nor the hauberk not-him
garandist kil ne li mece le glaue par mi le cors
protects that-he not to-him may-put the lance through amid the body
Si parfont ke la lemiele en pert de lautre part bien
So deep that the blade thereof appears from the-other side well
demi piet et plus. Il len paint bien si comme cil ki
half foot and more He him-thereby thrusts well so as he who
asses auoit cuer et force et ki molt durement estoit iries
much had heart and strength and who very hard was angered
Si labat ius del ceual a la tiere, et al parcheoir
So him-fells-he down from-the horse to the ground and in-the falling
brise li glaues. Et Boors, ki uient quankil puet del
breaks the lance And Bors who comes whatever-he can from-the
ceual traire, crie Guerrehet kil se gart de lui, car
horse draw cries to-Guerrehet that-he himself may-guard from him for
il le deffie de mort. Se li adrece le glaue alongie Si
he him defies to death So to-him directs-he the lance lengthened So
le fiert si meruilleusement que nule rien nel garantist
him strikes so marvelously that any thing not-him protects
kil ne li mece par mi le pis le fier trenchant. Si
that-he not to-him may-put through amid the breast the iron cutting So
labat a terre Si mal atorne kil na mestier de mire,
him-fells-he to ground So badly arrayed that-he not-has need of physician
car il est naures a mort. et li autre, ki apres uenoient,
for he is wounded to death and the others who after came
se fierent entre les autres Si en abatent partie. Et
themselves struck among the others So thereof fell part And

puis metent les mains as espees et commencent la mellee
then put-they the hands to-the swords and begin the melee
cruel et dolereuse. Mais, quant Gaheries uoit ke si frere
cruel and grievous But when Gaheriet sees that his brothers
sunt abatu, Il ne couient pas demander sil est couroucies
are felled It not behooves at-all to-ask if-he is angered
et dolans, a cou kil quide bien kil soient mort. Il
and sorrowful by this that-he thinks well that-they may-be dead He
sadrece uers Meliadus le Noir, kil uoit uenir, ki molt
himself-directs toward Meliadus the Black whom-he sees come who much
se penoit daidier a Lanselot et de uengier la honte la
himself labored of-helping to Lancelot and of avenging the shame (of-)the
roine. Si le fiert si durement kil labat en mi le fu.
queen So him strikes-he so hard that-he him-fells in amid the fire
Il met la main a lespee, Si comme cil ki estoit plains de
He puts the hand to the-sword So as he who was full of
grant uasselage, et fiert maintenant si durement kil [l]abat
great valor and strikes at-once so hard that-he him-fells
as pies Lanselot. Et quant Hestor, ki molt se prendoit
at-the feet (of-)Lancelot And when Hector who much himself took
garde de Gaheriet, uoit kil les ua si durement damagant,
heed of Gaheriet sees that-he them goes so hard harming
Si dist a soi meesmes: 'Se cis dure longement, il nos
So said-he to himself even If this-one lasts long he us
pora asses nuire, a cou kil est de grant proece, et por
will-be-able much harm by this that-he is of great prowess and for
cou uient il mieus ke ie locie, se ie puis.' Ceste parole
this comes it better that I him-may-kill if I can This word
dist Hestors de Gaheriet, ia fust cou kil le conneust
said Hector of Gaheriet already were this that-he him knew
bien Et ke Gaheries fust uns des cheualiers de la cort le
well And that Gaheriet were one of-the knights of the court (of-)the

roi Artu ke cil del parente le roi Ban amaissent plus.
king Arthur whom those of-the kindred (of-)the king Ban loved most
Lors si laisse courre, lespee traite, si le fiert si durement
Then so lets-he run the-sword drawn so him strikes so hard
kil li fait lelme uoler de la teste. Et quant Gaheries
that-he to-him makes the-helmet fly from the head And when Gaheriet
sent sa teste nue et desarmee, Si est tous couroucies. Et
feels his head bare and disarmed So is-he all angered And
Lanselos, ki aloit les rens cierkant et ki ne le conut pas,
Lancelot who went the ranks searching and who not him knew at-all
le fiert si durement parmi le cief kil li fent iusques
him strikes so hard through the head that-he to-him cleaves until
es dens Si labat mort ius de son ceual, dont ce fu
into-the teeth So him-fells-he dead down from his horse whereof this was
molt grans damages, car molt estoit Gaheries preudom et
very great harm for much was Gaheriet worthy-man and
bons cheualiers de sa main et auoit tos iors ame Lanselot
good knight of his hand and had all days loved Lancelot
plus ke nul autre cheualier estrange kil conneust.
more than any other knight foreign whom-he knew

A cest cop se desconfirent la gent le roi Artu,
At this blow themselves routed the folk (of-)the king Arthur
Si tost com il uirent Gaheriet cheoir, Mais cil ki les
So soon as they saw Gaheriet fall But those who them
siuoient les tienent si cors ke de tos les .iiij. uins nen
followed them hold so short that of all the four score not-thence
escaperent ke trois, ki se ferirent en la cite a garant.
escaped but three who themselves struck into the city for safety
Si en fu Mordres li uns et li autre doi estoient de la
So thereof was Mordred the one and the other two were of the
Table Reonde. Et quant Lanselos uit ke des gens le roi
Table Round And when Lancelot saw that of-the folk (of-)the king

nauoit mais nul en la place ki rien lor contre desist,
not-there-was more any in the place who anything to-them against might-say
car li un sen estoient fui Et li autre gisoient mort
for the ones themselves-thence were fled And the others lay dead
par les pres, Il uient a la roine et li dist: 'Dame ke
through the meadows He comes to the queen and to-her said Lady what
uoles uos ke on face de uos?' Et ele li respont molt lie
wish you that one may-do with you And she to-him answers very glad
de ceste auenture ke Dex li a enuoie: 'Sire, ie uolroie
of this adventure which God to-her has sent Lord I would-wish
molt, sil pooit estre, ke uos meussies mise a sauuete en
much if-it could be that you me-might-have put in safety in
tel liu ke li rois ni eust nul pooir.' 'Dame', fait il,
such place that the king not-there might-have any power Lady says he
'vos monteres dont et uos en uenres auoec moi en cele
you will-mount then and you thence will-come with me into that
forest, et iluec, se Deu plest, prenderons nos tel conseil ki
forest and there if God pleases shall-take we such counsel which
bons sera a uostre oes.' Et ele dist ke cou li plaist molt.
good will-be to your use And she said that this her pleases much
Lors le montent sor .i. palefrois et len mainnent en la
Then her mount-they upon a palfrey and her lead into the
forest, la v il le uoient plus espesse. Et quant il i
forest there where they it see most thick And when they there
sont uenu, Si regardent sil ont perdu a cele mellee nesun
are come So look-they if-they have lost in that melee any
de lor cheualiers. Si trueuent kil lor en faloit .v. Lors
of their knights So find-they that-it to-them thereof lacked five Then
demandent li un as autres kil sont deuenut. 'Par foi',
ask the ones of-the others what-they are become By faith
fait Hestors, 'ie en ui .iij. morir ke Gaheries ocist de sa
says Hector I thereof saw three die whom Gaheriet killed with his

main'. 'Coment?' fait Lanselos. 'a dont este Gaheries a ceste
hand How says Lancelot has then been Gaheriet at this
mellee?' 'Sire', fait Boors, 'que ce est ke uos dites? ia
melee Lord says Bors what is this that you say already
laues uos ocis de uostre main.' 'Certes', fait il, 'non ai, se
him-have you killed with your hand Certainly says he not have-I if
Deu plest, ke iou sace.' 'En non Diu', fait Hestor, 'ie ui
God pleases that I may-know In name (of-)God says Hector I saw
ke uos locesistes.' 'Dont poons nos bien dire', fait Lanselos,
that you him-killed Then can we well say says Lancelot
'ke iamais tant comme nos uiuons narons pais au roi
that ever as-long as we live not-shall-have peace with-the king
ne a mon signor Gauain por la mort Gaheriet, dont il
nor with my lord Gawain for the death (of-)Gaheriet whereof it
me poise trop durement. Si mait Dex, or commencera
me grieves too hard So me-may-help God now will-begin
la guerre entre nos ki iamais ne finera a nos uiuans.'
the war between us which ever not will-end in our lifetimes
Molt fu Lanselos couroucies de la mort Gaheriet, car
Much was Lancelot angered by the death (of-)Gaheriet for
estoit uns des cheualiers del monde ki riens ne li
he-was one of-the knights of-the world who anything not to-him
apartenist kil plus amoit. Et Boors dist a Lanselot: 'Sire,
belonged whom-he most loved And Bors said to Lancelot Lord
il couient prendre conroi coment ma dame la roine soit
it behooves to-take care how my lady the queen may-be
mise a sauuete, Si kele nait garde del roi Artu.' 'Se
put in safety So that-she not-may-have fear of-the king Arthur If
nos poiens tant faire', fait Lanselos, 'ke nos leussons mise
we could so-much do says Lancelot that we her-had put
en .i. castiel ke ie conquis iadis, Ie croi ke ele ne poroit
in a castle which I conquered formerly I believe that she not could

gaires douter tot le pooir le roi Artu, car li castiaus
much fear all the power (of-)the king Arthur for the castle
est a merueilles fors et est en tel liu ke on ne le poroit
is at marvels strong and is in such place that one not it could
mie legierement aseoir; et, se nos i estiens uenu, ie
at-all lightly besiege and if we there were come I
manderoie lonc et pres As cheualiers ke iou ai seruis
would-summon far and near To-the knights whom I have served
par maintes fois aide et secours. Et il en a tant par
by many times aid and succor And it thereof has so-many through
le monde ki sont a moi par lor fiances ke, se ie les
the world who are to me by their pledges that if I them
auoie tos en maide et nos estiens en cel cestiel ke ie uos
had all in my-aid and we were in that castle which I you
di, asses poriens legierement greuer .i. rice home, Sil estoit
say much could-we lightly grieve a rich man If-he were
pres de nous.' 'Sire', fait Boors, 'v est cil castiaus ke vos
near of us Lord says Bors where is that castle which you
dites?' 'Il est', fait il, 'pres del castiel de Longefain, et a
say It is says he near of-the castle of Longefain and has
a non li castiaus de la Ioieuse Garde. Mais quant ie le
as name the castle of the Joyous Gard But when I it
conquis, lonc tans a ia, estoit il apieles li castiaus de
conquered long time it-has already was it called the castle of
la Dolerouse Garde. Et sacies tot uraiement ke laiens gist
the Dolorous Gard And know all truly that in-there lies
li cors Galehot le signor des Lontaines Isles.' 'Ha! Dex',
the body (of-)Galehaut the lord of-the Distant Isles Ah God
fait la roine, 'cor i fussons nos ore! voirement est
says the queen for-would-that there were we now truly is
li castiaus si fors kil ne crient nule riens fors traison.'
the castle so strong that-it not fears any thing except treason

To Joyous Gard

XXXVII

At the castle of Calet, Count Dagitin feasts Lancelot and gives him forty sworn knights. The people of the Joyous Gard receive him as if he were God and swear to help him, and the castle is provisioned. In Camelot Mordred tells the king that Lancelot has routed them and carried off the queen. The forest is searched in vain, and King Carados advises closing the ports. On the field Arthur finds Agravain dead, swoons over him, and has his body carried into Camelot.

A ceste parole sacorderent tot. Puis entrerent el grant
To this word agreed-they all Then entered-they into-the great
cemin de la forest. Et dient bien ke ia nus ne uenra apres
road of the forest And say well that ever any not will-come after
aus kil nocient. Si cheuaucierent en tel maniere tant kil
them that-they may-harm So rode-they in such manner until that-they
uinrent a .i. castiel ki estoit en mi la forest et estoit
came to a castle which was in amid the forest and was
apieles Calet. Si en estoit sires uns quens bons cheualiers
called Calet So thereof was lord a count good knight
et de grant pooir, et amoit Lanselot plus ke nul homme
and of great power and loved Lancelot more than any man
kil conneust. Et quant il sot sa uenue, Si en fu
whom-he knew And when he knew his coming So thereof was-he
molt lies et molt ioians et le rechut molt honorablement
very glad and very joyful and him received very honorably
et li fist la nuit toute la feste kil onques pot et
and to-him made the night all the feast that-he ever could and
li promist a aidier encontre tos homes a son pooir, neis
to-him promised to help against all men to his power even
encontre le roi Artu, et li dist: 'Sire', fait il, 'sil uos
against the king Arthur and to-him said Lord says he if-it you

plaisoit, ie uos bailleroie cest castiel a uos et a ma dame
pleased I you would-give this castle to you and to my lady
la roine; et vos le me deues bien otroier, ce me samble,
the queen and you it to-me ought well to-grant this to-me seems
car molt est fors, et, se uos i voles demorer, uos naues
for very is-it strong and if you there wish to-stay you not-have
garde de tot le monde ne de tot le pooir le roi Artu.'
fear of all the world nor of all the power (of-)the king Arthur
Et Lanselos le mercie molt de cest offre kil li faisoit,
And Lancelot him thanks much for this offer which-he to-him made
Mes il li dist kil ni demorra pas. Au matin, si
But he to-him said that-he not-there will-stay at-all At-the morning so
tost comme li iors aparut, Se parti Lanselos de laiens a
soon as the day appeared Himself parted Lancelot from in-there with
toute sa compaignie. Et li quens, ki estoit apieles Dagitins,
all his company And the count who was called Dagitin
li bailla .xl. de des cheualiers et lor fist iurer sor sains
to-him gave forty of his knights and them made swear upon relics
kil a Lanselot aideront duskes a la mort encontre tos
that-they to Lancelot will-help until to the death against all
homes ki mal li uolroient faire. Se li sot Lanselos
men who ill to-him would-wish to-do So to-him knew Lancelot
molt bon gre de ceste bonte. Si se partirent de laiens
very good thanks for this kindness So themselves parted-they from in-there
et cheuauchierent tant par lor iornees kil uinrent a
and rode so-much by their day-stages that-they came to
.iiij. liues pres de la Ioieuse Garde. Et quant cil de laiens
four leagues near of the Joyous Gard And when those of in-there
sorent ke Lanselos uenoit, Se li uinrent a lencontre, si
knew that Lancelot came So to-him came-they to the-encounter so
grant ioie faisant comme se ce fust Dex meesmes. Si le
great joy making as if this were God himself So him

rechurent asses plus hautement, comme se ce fust li rois
received-they much more highly than if this were the king
Artus, quant il sorent kil uoloit laiens demorer et por
Arthur when they knew that-he wished in-there to-stay and for
coi il i estoit uenus. Se li iurerent tot sor sains kil
what he there was come So to-him swore-they all upon relics that-they
li aideront encontre tos ciaus del monde et len font
him will-help against all those of-the world and him-thereof make
bien seur. et il commence a mander les cheualiers del
well assured and he begins to summon the knights of-the
pais, et il en i uint a molt grant plente; et fisent
country and they thereof there came in very great plenty and had
uenir uiande de toutes pars, Si kil garnirent le castiel
come food from all parts So that-they furnished the castle
si meruilleusement kil nesteust mieus. Mais atant laisse
so marvelously that-it not-would-behoove better But then leaves
or li contes a parler diaus tous et retorne au roi Artu.
now the tale to speak of-them all and returns to-the king Arthur

Si com li rois Artus vit uenir Mordres par mi le
So as the king Arthur saw come Mordred through amid the
maistre rue afuiant uers le palais Si sen esmerueille
master street fleeing toward the palace So himself-thereat marvels-he
molt por coi cestoit.
much for what it-was

Or dist li contes ke a celui point ke li rois Artus vit
Now said the tale that at that point that the king Arthur saw
uenir Mordret afuiant tot contreual la cite de Camaalot a poi
come Mordred fleeing all down the city of Camelot with little
de compaignie, Il sesmerueille molt ke ce puet estre. Lors
of company He himself-marvels much what this can be Then
demande a ciaus ki deuant uenoient kil ont ki ensi en
asks-he to those who before came what-they have who thus thence

afuient. ‘Sire’, fait uns ualles, ki en la place auoit este v la
flee Lord says a squire who in the place had been where the
bataille fu, ‘Nouieles uos sai dire maluaises et anieuses a
battle was News you I-know-how to-tell bad and grievous to
tos ciaus de chaiens. Or sacies tot uraiement ke des cheualiers
all those of in-here Now know all truly that of-the knights
ki la roine menerent au fu ne sont escape ke troi ke tot
who the queen led to-the fire not are escaped but three that all
ne soient mort. Si en est li uns Mordres, et li autre doi
not may-be dead So thereof is the one Mordred and the other two
ne sai ki il sont.’ ‘Ha!’ fait li rois, ‘i a Lanselos este?’
not I-know who they are Ah says the king there has Lancelot been
‘Sire’, fait il, ‘uoirement i fu il. Si uos di por uoir kil
Lord says he truly there was he So you I-say for truth that-he
en mainne auoec lui ma dame la roine, quil a de mort
thence leads with him my lady the queen whom-he has from death
rescousse, et sen est entres en la forest de Camaalot.’
rescued and himself-thence is entered into the forest of Camelot
Li rois est tant dolans de ceste nouiele kil ne set kil
The king is so sorrowful of this news that-he not knows what-he
doie faire. A ces paroles vint laiens Mordres, ki dist au roi:
ought to-do At these words came in-there Mordred who said to-the king
‘Sire, maluaisement est de la cose. Lanselos sen uait,
Lord badly is-it of the thing Lancelot himself-thence goes
ki tos nos a desconfis, et en maine la roine auoec lui.’
who all us has routed and thence leads the queen with him
Quant li rois ot cou, si est tant dolans kil ne set
When the king hears this so is-he so sorrowful that-he not knows
kil puisse faire ne dire. et nanporquant il dist: ‘Or, apres
what-he can do nor say and nevertheless he said Now after
aus’, fait il, ‘car ia ensi ne sen iront, ke ie puisse.’
them says he for ever thus not themselves-thence will-go that I can

Lors fait armer cheualiers et serians et tos ciaus ki auoec
Then has-he armed knights and sergeants and all those who with
lui estoient, et montent sor les ceuaus, fors et isniaus,
him were and mount upon the horses strong and swift
au plus tost kil pueent, et issent de la uile tot couiert
at-the most soon that-they can and go-out of the town all covered
de fier et ne finent de poindre tant ke en la forest
with iron and not cease of spurring until that into the forest
uinrent. Si entrent ens et uont sus et ius, por sauoir sil
came-they So enter-they therein and go up and down for to-know if-they
poroient trouer ciaus kil quidierent trouer, Mais ensi
could find those whom-they thought to-find But thus
lor auint kil ne les trouerent pas. Li rois lor dist
to-them happened that-they not them found at-all The king to-them said
quil se departent par diuiers chemins Si les troueront
that-they themselves may-part by diverse roads So them will-find-they
plus legierement. 'En non Diu', fait li rois Carados, 'ce ne
more lightly In name (of-)God says the king Carados this not
loeroie ie pas, car, sil se departent et Lanselos les
would-advise I at-all for if-they themselves part and Lancelot them
trueue, a cou kil a en sa compaignie de bons cheualiers
finds by this that-he has in his company of good knights
et de hardis, tot cil kil enconterra sont alet, sans
and of bold all those whom-he will-meet are gone without
faille, car il les ocira tot maintenant.' 'Et ke en fera
fail for he them will-kill all at-once And what thereof will-do
on dont?' fait li rois. 'Sire, ie le uos dirai', fait li rois
one then says the king Lord I it you shall-tell says the king
Carados. 'enuoies uostres messages a tos les trespas de cest
Carados send your messengers to all the passages of this
paijs et deffendes as maronniers, v ke il soient, ke
country and forbid to-the sailors wherever that they may-be that

nus ne soit si hardis kil pasast Lanselot a nef ne home
any not be so bold that-he might-pass Lancelot by ship nor man
de sa partie, et ensi le couenra remanoir, v il uoelle
of his party and thus him it-will-behoove to-remain whether he may-wish
v non, en ceste tiere. et puis kil i sera remes et nos
or not in this land and since that-he there will-be remained and we
porons sauoir v il repaira, nos irons sor lui atot si grant
shall-be-able know where he resorts we shall-go upon him with so great
plente de gent ke nos le porons prendre legierement, et
plenty of folk that we him shall-be-able take lightly and
lors vos en pores uengier et vos et autrui. Iteus est
then you thereof will-be-able avenge both you and others Such is
mes conseus et ensi le pora on faire plus legierement
my counsel and thus it will-be-able one do more lightly
ke en nule autre maniere ke ie puisse ueoir.'
than in any other manner which I can see

Atant apiele li rois serians et cheualiers Si les enuoie, les
Then calls the king sergeants and knights So them sends the
uns par les castiaus, por Lanselot et sa compaignie faire
ones through the castles for Lancelot and his company to-make
detenir, Et les autres, por deffendre a tos les pors del
detain And the others for to-forbid to all the ports of-the
roialme de Logres ke nus ne fust si hardis kil passast
kingdom of Logres that any not were so bold that-he might-pass
Lanselot outre la mer ne home de sa compaignie. Et quant
Lancelot over the sea nor man of his company And when
il a ensi ses messages enuoies, Si retorne ariere en la place,
he has thus his messengers sent So returns-be back to the place
la v la desconfiture auoit este faite. Et quant il est uenus
there where the rout had been made And when he is come
en la place v li cheualiers auoient este mort, Il regarde a
into the place where the knights had been dead He looks to

destre de lui et uoit gesir mort Engreuain, son neueu, ke
right of him and sees lie dead Agravain his nephew whom
Lanselos auoit ocis. Et estoit ferus dune lance par mi le
Lancelot had killed And was struck with-a lance through amid the
cors, Si ke li fiers en paroit de lautre part. Et si tost
body So that the iron thereof appeared from the-other side And so soon
com li rois le uoit et il le reconnoist, Si ne se puet
as the king him sees and he him recognizes So not himself can-he
tenir en siele, ains chiet a terre de sor le cors tos pasmes.
hold in saddle rather falls-he to ground of over the body all swooned
Et quant il a a chief de piece salaine recouree et reprise
And when he has at head of while his-breath recovered and retaken
et il puet parler, Si dist: 'Ha! biaus, tres chiers nies, tant
and he can speak So said-he Ah fair very dear nephew so-much
vos haoit voirement cil ki si mortelment vos feri? Ciertes
you hated truly he who so mortally you struck Certainly
icou sace il tot por voir ke molt ma mis grant duel
this may-know he all for truth that much me-has-he put great grief
el cuer — ie ne sai se iamais sen istra — ki
in-the heart I not know if ever himself-thence it-will-go-out who
de tel cheualier comme vos estes a descreut mon linage.'
of such knight as you are has diminished my lineage
Lors li oste lelme de la teste et le regarde molt
Then from-him removes-he the-helmet from the head and him looks-at very
dolens, Si ke plus ne puet estre, puis li baise les iex
sorrowful So that more not can be then to-him kisses-he the eyes
et la bouce, ki ia estoient molt froit. Et tot ensi mors
and the mouth which already were very cold And all thus dead
com il estoit le fait prendre a ses cheualiers et lor dist
as he was him has-he taken by his knights and to-them said

et proie molt doucement kil le portent laiens en la cite
and prays very sweetly that-they him may-carry in-there into the city
de Camaalot. Si fait dol trop grant et trop angousseus.
of Camelot So makes-he grief too great and too anguished

Arthur Among the Dead

XXXVIII

Arthur searches the field and finds Guerrehet, killed by Bors, and then Gaheriet, killed by Lancelot, the nephew he loved best after Gawain. He swoons on the body, and on waking curses the sword that wounded Gaheriet. Gawain, who thinks the outcry is for the queen, walks through weeping streets to the palace, where the king shows him Gaheriet in his arms. Gawain swoons twice, then laments the brother who surpassed his peers, asking to live only to avenge him.

Apres ceste cose va li rois cierkant les mors. Si a tant
After this thing goes the king searching the dead So has-he so-far
ale kil trueue Guerrehet ke Boors auoit ocis, et auoit
gone that-he finds Guerrehet whom Bors had killed and had
par mi le cors .i. glaue. Et lors ueissies faire au
through amid the body a lance And then would-you-have-seen make by-the
roi trop grant duel et ferir lun poing en lautre, ki
king very great grief and strike the-one fist on the-other which
encore estoient tot arme, et il mesmes estoit tos armes
still were all armed and he himself was all armed
fors de son elme, ke on li ot oste de son cief,
except of his helmet which one from-him had removed from his head
et de sa coiffe de fier, ke on li ot abatue. Il fait
and of his coif of iron which one to-him had beaten-down He makes
trop grant duel et trop meruilleus et dist cor a il trop
very great grief and very marvelous and said now has he too-much

uescut, quant il uoit mors a glaues ciaus kil auoit si
lived since he sees dead by lances those whom-he had so
chierement norris et qui il namoit mie mains ke son cors
dearly nourished and whom he not-loved at-all less than his body
meesmes. Et en cou kil demenoit tel duel et il auoit
itself And in this that-he led such grief and he had
fait metre Guerrehet en son escut, por porter a la cite de
had put Guerrehet on his shield for to-carry to the city of
Camaalot, et il aloit encore chercant la place, por sauoir sil
Camelot and he went still searching the place for to-know if-he
i trouast plus de ses carneus amis, Il regarde a senestre
there might-find more of his of-the-flesh friends He looks to left
et uoit le cors de Gaheriet ke Lanselos auoit ocis, Et
and sees the body of Gaberiet whom Lancelot had killed And
cestoit cil de ses neueus kil auoit tos dis plus ame, fors
this-was he of his nephews whom-he had all days most loved except
solement mon signor Gauain. Et quant il uoit le cors de
only my lord Gawain And when he sees the body of
celui qui il sieut tant amer, Il nest dolours ke hom
him whom he was-wont so-much to-love It not-is grief which man
puist sentir por autrui kil ne sente. Et lors ceurt a lui de
can feel for another that-he not may-feel And then runs-he to him at
plain cours et lembrace parmi les flans si estroitement ke,
full course and him-embraces through the flanks so tightly that
sil fust bien uis, Si leust il mort a lestraindre kil
if-he were well alive So him-would-have he killed by the-embracing which-he
fist. Il se pasme sor lui et tant fait kil na baron
made He himself swoons upon him and so-much does that-it not-has baron
en la place ki toute paour nait kil ne muire deuant
in the place who all fear not-may-have that-he — may-die before
aus. Et quant il ot demoret en tel point plus longement
them And when he had stayed in such point more long

ke uns hom ne mesist a aler demie liue de tiere, Si
than a man — would-put to go half league of land So
reuient de pasmisons et dist si haut ke tot loient:
comes-be-back from swoons and said so loud that all it-hear
'Ha! Dex, or ai iou trop uescu! Ha! mors, se uos
Ah God now have I too-much lived Ah death if you
plus demores, or uos tenrai ie trop a lente et a
more delay now you shall-hold I too-much for slow and for
maluaise. Ha! Gaheries, biaus nies, a mal fust onques
wicked Ah Gaheriet fair nephew in ill-hour was ever
lespee forgie dont vos fustes si naures et mal ait
the-sword forged wherewith you were so wounded and ill may-have
li bras ki si uos feri, Car il en a honni moi et
the arm which so you struck For he thereby has shamed me and
mon linage.' Li rois li baise les iex et la bouce et
my lineage The king to-him kisses the eyes and the mouth and
le uis, tot ensi sanglent commil estoit, et en fait tel
the face all thus bloody as-he was and thereof makes such
duel ke tot cil ki le uoient sen esmerueillent. Et
grief that all those who him see themselves-thereat marvel And
nanporquant il nen a nul en la place ki molt nen
nevertheless it not-thereof has any in the place who much not-thereof
soit dolans, car trop amoient tot Gaheriet de grant
may-be sorrowful for too-much loved all Gaheriet with great
amour. Et endementiers kil demenoient lor cris et lor
love And while that-they led their cries and their
noise, issi me sire Gauains de son ostel, ki bien quidoit
noise came-out my lord Gawain from his lodging who well thought
certainement ke la roine fust ia morte et ke cil grans
certainly that the queen were already dead and that this great
dieus fust por li. Et quant il fu uenus en mi les rues et
grief were for her And when he was come in amid the streets and

cil de laiens les uirent, Cil ki premiers le coisirent li
those of in-there him saw Those who first him perceived to-him
disent: 'Ha! me sire Gauain, se uos uoles ueir uostre grant
said Ah my lord Gawain if you wish to-see your great
duel et le grant destruisement de uostre linage, ales en
grief and the great destruction of your lineage go into
cel palais lasus et iluec troueres uos le grignor duel ke
that palace up-there and there will-find you the greatest grief that
uos onques oissies ne ueissies.' Et, sans faille, si troi frere
you ever heard nor saw And without fail his three brothers
estoient ia aporte el palais. Me sire Gauains est de
were already brought into-the palace My lord Gawain is by
ces nouieles tant dolans ke nus plus. Si ne lor respont
these news so sorrowful that anyone more So not to-them answers-he
mot a cou kil dient, Ains sen uait tot contreual les
word to this that-they say Rather himself-thence goes all down the
rues. Il regarde tos iours a destre et a senestre, le chief
streets He looks all days to right and to left the head
enclin, ne ne quide pas ke cis grans dieus soit por ses
bowed nor not thinks at-all that this great grief may-be for his
freres; car encore nen sauoit il riens, Ains quide bien
brothers for yet not-thereof knew he anything Rather thinks-he well
ke ce soit por la roine. Et si com il sen aloit en
that this be for the queen And so as he himself-thence went in
tel maniere contreual les rues, Il regarde tos iors a destre
such manner down the streets He looks all days to right
et a senestre et uoit communalment plorer et uieus et
and to left and sees commonly weep both old and
iones. Et cascuns li disoit ensi com il passoit par deuant
young And each to-him said thus as he passed by before
lui: 'Ales, mesire Gauain, ales ueoir uostre grant damage.'
him Go my-lord Gawain go see your great harm

Quant mesire Gauains entent que cascuns li dist ceste
When my-lord Gawain hears that each to-him said this
parole v autre tele, Si est asses plus esmaies ke deuant
word or other such So is-he much more dismayed than before
mais samblant nen ose faire, fors kil sen uait
but semblance not-thereof dares-he make except that-he himself-thence goes
mas et pensis. Et quant il uient en mi le palais, Si
dejected and pensive And when he comes in amid the palace So
trueue ke cil de laiens font si grant duel comme sil
finds-he that those of in-there make so great grief as if-they
ueissent mors deuant aus tos les princes del siecle. Et
saw dead before them all the princes of-the world And
quant li rois le uoit uenir, Si ne se puet tenir kil ne
when the king him sees come So not himself can-he hold that-he not
li die Si haut ke tot cil de laiens le pueent bien oir:
to-him may-say So loud that all those of in-there it can well hear
'Gauain, Gauain, ueschi uostre grant duel et le mien. Ichi
Gawain Gawain see-here your great grief and the mine Here
gist Gaheries, uostre freres, li plus uaillans hom de nostre
lies Gaheriet your brother the most worthy man of our
linage. uees le uos chi.' Se li moustre ausi sanglent com
lineage see him you here So to-him shows-he also bloody as
il le tenoit encontre son pis. Et quant me sire Gauains
he him held against his breast And when my lord Gawain
entent ceste parole, Il na tant de pooir kil responde
hears this word He not-has so-much of power that-he may-answer
ne kil se tiegne en estant, Ains li faut del tot li
nor that-he himself may-hold in standing Rather to-him fails of-the all the
cors et li cuers Si kil chiet en mi le palais ausi comme
body and the heart So that-he falls in amid the palace also as
mors. Et fu grant piece en pasmisons, et li baron en
dead And was-he great while in swoons and the barons thereof

furent tant dolant Et tant courouchiet kil ne quident
were so sorrowful And so angered that-they not think
iamais auoir ioie. Quant il uoient mon signor Gauain en
ever to-have joy When they see my lord Gawain in
tel maniere cheoir a la terre, Il le courent releuer et
such manner fall to the ground They him run to-raise and
prendre entre lor bras et pleurent sor lui trop durement et
to-take between their arms and weep over him too hard and
dient entraus: 'Ha! Dex, trop a chi grant damage
say among-themselves Ah God too-much there-is here great harm
de totes pars.' Et quant me sire Gauains a geu grant
on all sides And when my lord Gawain has lain great
piece en pasmisons et il est reuenus en son pooir, Il
while in swoons and he is come-back into his power He
se drece et ceurt grant aleure la v il uoit son frere
himself raises and runs great pace there where he sees his brother
Gaheriet mort Si le tolt au roi et lestraint encontre
Gaheriet dead So him takes-he from-the king and him-embraces against
son pis et le commence a baisier, et el baisier kil
his breast and him begins to kiss and in-the kissing which-he
faisoit Il a si grant dolour au cuer kil na pooir de
made He has so great grief at-the heart that-he not-has power of
soi tenir longement en estant, ains chiet atot Gaheriet et
himself holding long in standing rather falls-he with Gaheriet and
est grignor piece en pasmisons kil nauoit este deuant. Et
is greater while in swoons than-he had been before And
quant il reuient, il sasiet atot Gaheriet et le commence
when he comes-back he sits-himself with Gaheriet and him begins
a regarder. Et quant il le uoit feru si meruilleusement,
to look-at And when he him sees struck so marvelously
si dist tot emplorant: 'Ha! biaus frere, maleois soit li bras
so said-he all weeping Ah fair brother cursed be the arm

ki ensi vos feri, car il en a honni moi et mon linage!
which thus you struck for he thereby has shamed me and my lineage
Et il ne sen est preu amendes, car, si mait
And he not himself-thereof is at-all amended for so me-may-help
Dex, si preudomme ocire comme vos esties ne se puet
God so worthy-man to-kill as you were not itself can
amender nus hom morteus. Ha! biaus, dous freres, tant
amend any man mortal Ah fair sweet brother so-much
uos haoit mortelment cil ki ensi uos feri? biaus sire, Dex,
you hated mortally he who thus you struck fair lord God
coument ot il le cuer si cruel ke il cheualier si douc et
how had he the heart so cruel that he knight so sweet and
si debonaire comme uos esties a toute gent liura a mort?
so gracious as you were to all folk delivered to death
biaus frere, ki de cheualerie auies passes tos uos peres
fair brother who in chivalry had surpassed all your peers
et ki esties par proece et par uasselage soustenemens de
and who were by prowess and by valor support of
nostre linage, v deseruistes uos a auoir ceste mort et
our lineage where deserved you to have this death and
a morir a si grant dolour? biaus, dous freres, Gaheriet,
to die in so great grief fair sweet brother Gaheriet
ia uos auoit Nostre Sires garni si meruilleusement de
already you had Our Lord furnished so marvelously with
totes bontes ke preudom doit auoir en son cuer! Vos
all goodnesses which worthy-man ought to-have in his heart You
esties dignes de tenir en uostre main totes les tieres ki
were worthy to hold in your hand all the lands which
sont desos le trosne! Par quel maniere pot onques faire
are under the throne By what manner could ever do
si grande cruaute kil tel persone comme uos esties et
so great cruelty that-he such person as you were and

si garnie de tous biens et de toutes bonnes grasces ocist
so furnished with all goods and with all good graces killed
et liura le cors de si prodomme a si dolereuse mort?
and delivered the body of so worthy-man to so grievous death
'Biaus, dous freres, qui ie amoie sour tous autres homes,
Fair sweet brother whom I loved above all other men
Ne mie solement por cou ke uos esties mes frere mais por les
Not at-all only for this that you were my brother but for the
grans biens ke ie ueoie en uos, Coment pot soufrir fortune
great goods that I saw in you How could suffer fortune
uostre trebucement si lait et si uilain? ia vos siut ele
your downfall so ugly and so base already you was-wont she
estre si douce et si amiable kele vos amoit et auoit leue en
to-be so sweet and so friendly that-she you loved and had raised into
la plus maistre rue de debonairete. biaus frere, cou a ele fait,
the most master street of graciousness fair brother this has she done
por moi ocire et por cou ke ie muire de duel de uos. Ciertes,
for me to-kill and for this that I may-die of grief for you Certainly
si adroit et si bien mi acore ke bien lotroi, Car, puis ke ie
so rightly and so well to-me it-befits that well I-grant-it For since that I
uoi uostre mort auenue par si grant dolour et par si grant
see your death come-about by so great sorrow and by so great
mescheance, Ie sui cil ki plus ne ruis uiure, fors tant solement
mischance I am he who more not ask to-live except so only
ke ie uos aie uengiet del desloial, del felon, ki ceste grant
that I you may-have avenged of-the disloyal of-the villain who this great
cruaute et ceste grant felonnie fist de uos ocire si uilainement.'
cruelty and this great felony did of you to-kill so basely

Gawain's Lament

XXXIX

Gawain sees Agravain and Guerrehet dead as well, and swoons on them until the barons carry him to a chamber, where he lies speechless a day and a night. The dead are buried at Saint Stephen's, Gaheriet above the rest under letters naming Lancelot as his killer. In a silent hall Arthur says this loss came by Lancelot's pride, and asks his liege men's counsel. King Yon advises against war with the kindred of Benwick, and Mordred calls it bad counsel.

Teus paroles auoit commenciet a dire me sire Gauains, et plus
Such words had begun to say my lord Gawain and more
en desist asses, sil en eust le pooir, mais il ne
thereof would-have-said a-good-deal if-he thereof had the power but he not
pooit, Car il auoit le cuer si serre kil ne pooit rien dire
could For he had the heart so tight that-he not could anything say
fors a tart. Quant il sest grant piece teus si dolans ke nus
except at late When he himself-is great while silent so sorrowful that none
plus, Il regarde sor destre et uoit Guerrehet et Engreuain,
more He looks to right and sees Guerrehet and Agravain
ki estoient deuant le roi et gisoient mort en lun de lor
who were before the king and lay dead in one of their
escus, sor coi on les auoit aportes; et quant il les uit et
shields upon which one them had brought and when he them saw and
connut, Si dist si haut ke tot le porent bien oir: 'Ha! las,
knew So said-he so loud that all it could well hear Ah alas
uoirement ai iou trop uescu, quant ie uoi ma char ocise
truly have I too-much lived when I see my flesh killed
a si grant dolour et a si grant martire.' Et lors ceurt cele
with so great sorrow and with so great torment And then runs-he that
part si se laisse cheoir sor aus, puis les enbrace tos ensi
way so himself lets fall upon them then them embraces all thus

sanglens com il estoient et se pasme souent sor aus. Si
bloody as they were and himself swoons often upon them So
en fait tant par le grant duel kil a au cuer ke li
thereof does so-much by the great grief which-he has at-the heart that the
baron ki iluec estoient ont grant paour kil ne muire entre
barons who there were have great fear that-he — may-die between
lor mains. Et li rois Artus, ki tant est amalaise kil ne
their hands And the king Arthur who so-much is ill-at-ease that-he not
set kil puissent faire, demande a ses barons conseil kil
knows what-they might do asks of his barons counsel what-he
fera, 'car, se nos laissons ichi gramment mon signor Gauain,
shall-do for if we leave here long my lord Gawain
ie quic', fait il, 'kil morra de duel'. 'Sire', font il, 'nos
I think says he that-he will-die of grief Lord say they we
loeriemes bien ke on len portast de chi et le couchast on
would-advise well that one him should-carry from here and him should-lay one
en une cambre lonc de gent et fust ilueques tant gardes
in a chamber far from people and he-were there so-long guarded
ke si frere fussent enfoui, car, sans faille, sil demeure chi,
that his brothers were buried for without fail if-he stays here
Il pora tost morir de duel.' Li rois sacorde bien a cest
He will-be-able soon die of grief The king himself-agrees well to this
conseil. Si prendent maintenant Mon signor Gauain, ki encore
counsel So take-they at-once My lord Gawain who still
Gisoit en pasmisons, Si len portent en une des cambres de
Lay in swoons So him carry-they into one of-the chambers of
laiens si deshaitiet et si malade kil nist de lui fus
in-there so stricken and so sick that-he not-came-out from him fire
ne alaine. Si fu mesire Gauains tot le iour et tote la nuit
nor breath So was my-lord Gawain all the day and all the night
en tel point ke nus nen traist parole bonne ne male.
in such point that any not-thence drew word good nor bad

La nuit fisent duel a Camaalot si grant et si plenier kil
That night made-they grief at Camelot so great and so full that-it
ni auoit grant ne petit ki ne plorast. Li cheualier ocis
not-there had great nor small who not wept The knights killed
furent desarme et enseueli, cascuns selonc cou kil estoit
were disarmed and shrouded each according-to this that-he was
de linage. a trestous fist on tombes et sarcus si rices comme
of lineage for all made one tombs and coffins so rich as
on deuoit faire fils de roi, et mist on les cors lun dales
one ought to-make sons of king and put one the bodies the-one beside
lautre, et ce fu el moustier S. Estieuene, ki au tans
the-other and this was in-the minster Saint Stephen which at-the time
de lors estoit la mere eglyse de Camaalot. Et par dales les
of then was the mother church of Camelot And right beside the
sarcus Engreuain et Guerrehet en fist li rois un faire ki
coffins (of-)Agravain and Guerrehet thereof had the king one made which
estoit les .x. pars plus rices et plus biaus ke nus des autres
was the ten parts more rich and more beautiful than any of-the other
deus nestoient. Et en celui sarcut, quant il fu fais si biaus
two were And in that coffin when it was made so beautiful
et si couignables ke a paines peust on son pareil trouer, fist
and so fitting that with pains might one its equal find had
li rois metre le cors de Gaheriet par deseur les autres. Mais
the king put the body of Gaheriet right above the others But
au metre ens peussies ueoir grant duel et grans plors.
at-the putting in might-you-have seen great grief and great weepings
Tot li eueske et li archeueske i uinrent et tot li
All the bishops and the archbishops there came and all the
haut homme de la terre et fisent as cors des cheualiers
high men of the land and did to-the bodies of-the knights
ocis toute lonnor kil porent faire. Et meesment au cors
killed all the-honor that-they could do And especially to-the body

Gaheriet en fisent il plus ke a nul des autres, et por
(of-)Gaheriet thereof did they more than to any of-the others and for
cou kil auoit este si prodom et si bons cheualiers fisent
this that-he had been so worthy-man and so good knight had
il metre sa tombe par deseure les autres. Et i fisent
they put his tomb right above the others And there had
letres escrire ki disoient: 'Chi gist Gaheries, li nies le
letters written which said Here lies Gaheriet the nephew (of-)the
roi Artu, ke Lanselos del Lac ocist.' et autresi misent sor
king Arthur whom Lancelot of-the Lake killed and likewise put-they upon
les lames a cascun des cheualiers le non de celui ki lauoit
the slabs of each of-the knights the name of him who him-had
ocis, a lor quidier. Quant li archeueske et li euesques et li
killed by their thinking When the archbishops and the bishops and the
clergies orent fait tel seruice commil deuoient faire, Li rois
clergy had done such service as-they ought to-do The king
Artus sen reuient en son palais et sasist entre ses
Arthur himself-thence returns into his palace and sat-himself among his
barons, tant dolans et tant pensis kil ne fust pas
barons so sorrowful and so pensive that-he not would-have-been at-all
si courouchies, sil eust perdu le moitiet de son regne; et
so angered if-he had lost the half of his kingdom and
autresi estoient tot li autre si dolant et si triste de ceste
likewise were all the others so sorrowful and so sad from this
auenture kil ne sauoient kil peussent dire ne faire.
adventure that-they not knew what-they might say nor do

La sale fu emplie de totes pars de haus barons et
The hall was filled from all sides with high barons and
nanporquant ele fu ausi coie et ausi serie comme sil ni
nevertheless it was as quiet and as still as if-it not-there
eust home ne feme, car il nauoit laiens si hardi baron
had man nor woman for it not-there-had in-there so bold baron

ki mot osast dire, por le roi kil ueoient courouchiet.
who word dared say for the king whom-they saw angered
Li rois fu el chief del palais molt durement pensis.
The king was in-the head of-the palace very hard pensive
Et quant il ot este une grant piece en tel maniere, si
And when he had been a great while in such manner so
a dit si haut ke tot le porent bien oir:
has-he said so loud that all it could well hear
'Ha! Dex, tant maues longement soufiert et maintenu
Ah God so-much you-me-have long suffered and maintained
en grant honour et en grant hautece et ore sui tant en
in great honor and in great highness and now am-I so-much in
po de tierme abaissies par mescheance ke nus hom ne perdi
little of term brought-low by mischance that any man not lost
mais autretant com ie ai perdu, car ce est droite pierte et
ever as-much as I have lost for this is right loss and
drois damages kil mest auenus. Car, quant il meschiet a
right harm that-it to-me-is come For when it befalls to
un home kil piert sa terre v par force v par traison,
a man that-he loses his land either by force or by treason
ce est une cose kil puet bien recourer par maintes fois,
this is a thing which-he can well recover by many times
Mais, quant il auient ke on piert son ami carneil ke
But when it happens that one loses his friend of-the-flesh which
on ne puet mais recourer por cose ki auiegne, Lors est
one not can ever recover for thing which may-happen Then is
la pierte sans retour, Lors est li damages si grans kil
the loss without return Then is the harm so great that-it
ne puet estre restores en nule maniere. Iceste pierte mest
not can be restored in any manner This loss to-me-is
auenue, biau signour, ensi comme uos poes ueoir, Non pas
come fair lords so as you can see Not at-all

par la iustice de Nostre Signor Mes par le grant orguel
by the justice of Our Lord But by the great pride
Lanselot del Lac. Se ceste dolereuse pierte nos fust auenue
(of-)Lancelot of-the Lake If this sorrowful loss to-us had come
par la iustice celestial, Lors i eussons nos aucune honour
by the justice celestial Then therein would-have we some honor
et le deussons nos adonques legierement soufrir; Mais ele
and it ought we then lightly to-suffer But it
nos est auenue par celui ke nos auons escreu et aleue et
to-us is come by him whom we have increased and raised and
recheu en nostre tiere par maintes fois ausi honorablement
received in our land by many times as honorably
comme sil fust estrais de nostre char. Icil nos a faite
as if-he were drawn of our flesh He to-us has done
ceste honte et cest damage. et uos estes tot mi home et
this shame and this harm and you are all my men and
mi iuret et tenes de moi tiere, por coi ie uos requier
my sworn and hold from me land for which I you ask
sor les sairemens ke uos maues fais ke vos me consillies,
upon the oaths which you me-have made that you me counsel
si comme mi home lige doiuent faire, en tel maniere ke
so as my men liege ought to-do in such manner that
ma honte soit amendee et uos aies honor en plaissier
my shame may-be amended and you may-have honor in to-humble
et en douter ciaus ki ces grans damages nos ont fais.'
and in to-fear those who these great harms to-us have done
Atant se taist li rois et tient en pais et atent ke
Thereupon himself falls-silent the king and keeps in peace and waits that
si baron li respondent. Et il commencent a regarder
his barons to-him may-answer And they begin to look
li un les autres et dist li uns a lautre kil parolt. Et
the ones the others and said the one to the-other that-he should-speak And

quant il se sont grant piece teu, Li rois Yons se
when they themselves are great while kept-silent The king Yon himself
drece en estant et dist au roi: 'Sire, ie sui uostre hom Si
raises in standing and said to-the king Lord I am your man So
uos doi consillier, a mon ensient, a uostre honor et a la
you must-I counsel to my knowledge to your honor and to the
moie et selonc le porfit del regne. Nostre honors si est,
mine and according-to the profit of-the kingdom Our honor so is
sans faille, de uengier ceste honte a nos pooirs, mais ki
without fail to avenge this shame to our powers but who
au preut del regne volroit garder, ie ne quic mie kil
to-the benefit of-the kingdom would guard I not think at-all that-he
ia commenchast guerre encontre le parente de Benuic, car
ever would-begin war against the kindred of Benwick for
nos ueons tot apiertement ke nostre sire la hauchiet et
we see all openly that our lord them-has exalted and
aleuet par deseur tos les linages ke nos connissons ore —
raised right above all the lineages which we know now
Aleue en pooir de gent et de bonne cheualerie, Hauchiet
Raised in power of men and of good chivalry Exalted
en pooir de terre et de bon linage, Si kil na ore,
in power of land and of good lineage So that-it not-has now
au mien ensiant, si preudomme el siecle, sil les uoloit
to-the my knowledge so worthy-man in-the world if-he them wished
durement greuer, kil en eust pas le pooir, sil
hard to-harm that-he thereof might-have at-all the power if-they
estoient en lor terre, se uos solement nesties, sire rois. Et
were in their land if you only not-were lord king And
por cou, sire, uos proi ie por Diu ke uos ne commenchies
for this lord you pray I for God that you not begin
ia guerre encontre aus, se uos ne vos en uees del tot
ever war against them if you not you thereof see of-the all

au desus, Car certes au mien quidier il seront fort a
on-the top For certainly to-the my thinking they will-be strong to
desconfire.' Apres ceste parole leua molt grans noise et molt
discomfit After this word rose very great noise and very
grant tumulte el palais, car molt blasment et escrient
great tumult in-the palace for much blame and cry-out-at
le roi Yon de ce kil auoit dit, et dient tot en audience
the king Yon for this that-he had said and say all in hearing
ke ceste parole a il dite par cou[ardie]. 'Ciertes', fait
that this word has he said through cowardice Certainly says
il, 'onques por ce ne le dis ke ie eusse nient grignor
he ever for this not it said-I that I might-have any-whit greater
paour ke entre uos aues. Mais ie sai uraiement ke, puis
fear than among you have But I know truly that since
ke la guerre sera, sil puent tant faire kil uiegnent
that the war will-be if-they can so-much do that-they may-come
en lor pais, sain et haitie, il douteront nostre effort tot
into their country sound and healthy they will-fear our force all
mains ke uos ne quidies.' 'Ciertes, sire Yon', fait Mordres,
less than you — think Certainly lord Yon says Mordred
'onques de si preudomme com vos sambles nissi mais
ever from so worthy-man as you seem not-came-out ever
ausi maluais consaus comme cis est. Mais, se li rois me
so bad counsel as this is But if the king me
croit, il ne laira pas kil ni uoist et kil ne uos
believes he not will-leave at-all that-he not-there may-go and that-he not you
maint auoec lui, v vos voellies v non.' 'Mordret, Mordret',
may-lead with him either you may-wish or not Mordred Mordred
fait li rois Yons, 'certes ie irai molt plus uolentiers ke
says the king Yon certainly I shall-go much more willingly than

uos ne feres, et mueue li rois, quant il uolra, car ie sui
you — will-do and let-set-out the king when he will for I am
tos pres ke ie mueue auoec lui.'
all ready that I may-set-out with him

The Barons Swear Vengeance

XL

Mador tells the king that Lancelot and the queen are at the Joyous Gard. Arthur says he has never begun a war he could not finish with honor, summons his vassals to Camelot, and has the barons swear on relics to maintain the war. A squire carries the news to the Joyous Gard, and Lancelot has the castles of Benwick and Gaunes garrisoned, and sends for help to Sorelois, the Land Outer, and every knight he has served.

A ceste parole se leua Mador de la Porte, et dist, oiant
At this word himself raised Mador of the Gate and said hearing
iaus tous: 'de molt meruilleuse cose estriues ore', fait il, 'entre
them all of very marvelous thing you-strive now says he among
vos. si vos dirai por coi. Se uos uoles la guerre del tot
you so you shall-I-tell for why If you wish the war of-the all
commencier, il ne couenra pas ke uos les queres lonc, car,
to-begin it not will-be-needful at-all that you them seek far for
si comme on ma dit uraiement, Lanselos et sa compaignie
so as one me-has said truly Lancelot and his company
sunt de cha la mer en un castiel kil conquist iadis,
are on this-side the sea in a castle which-he conquered formerly
quant il commencha premierement a querre auentures par
when he began first to seek adventures through
le roiaume de Logres, et apiele on le castiel la Ioieuse
the kingdom of Logres and calls one the castle the Joyous

Garde. Celui castiel sai ie bien v il est et quel part il
Gard That castle know I well where it is and what way it
est, et ie le doi bien sauoir, car ie i fui ia enprisonnes
is and I it ought well to-know for I there was once imprisoned
et auoie molt grant paour de mort, Quant Lanselos men
and had very great fear of death When Lancelot me-thence
gieta et moi et autres compaignons ki laiens estoient auoec
cast and me and other companions who in-there were with
moi enprisonne.' 'Par foi', fait li rois Artus, 'cel castel sai
me imprisoned By faith says the king Arthur that castle know
ie bien, Mais or me dites se uos quidies kil ait laiens
I well But now me tell if you think that-he may-have in-there
menee [la roine] auoec lui.' 'Sire', fait Madors, 'par uerite
led the queen with him Lord says Mador by truth
sacies ke ma dame la roine i est et Lanselos et tos li
know that my lady the queen there is and Lancelot and all the
parentes, si grans com il estoit en cele court, Mais, par mon
kindred so great as it was in that court But by my
chief, ie ne uos loerai des mois ke uos i aillies a force,
head I not you shall-advise of months that you there may-go by force
por aus greuer ne por destraindre, car li castiaus est si fors
for them to-harm nor for to-constrain for the castle is so strong
kil ne crient siege de gent Et cil ki dedens se sont
that-it not fears siege of men And those who within themselves are
mis sunt si preudomme ke poi douteroient de faire uos
put are so worthy that little they-would-fear of to-do you
vne grant honte et vne grant uilonie.' Quant li rois entent
a great shame and a great villainy When the king hears
ceste nouiele, si respont: 'Par foi, Mador, del castiel ki
this news so answers-he By faith Mador of-the castle which
fors est me dites uos uoir et del grant orguel a ciaus ki
strong is me tell you truth and of-the great pride of those who

dedens se sont mis ne me mentes uos mie. Mes vos
within themselves are put not me lie you at-all But you
saues bien et tot cil de chaiens ke puis icele eure ke ie
know well and all those of in-here that since that hour that I
primes portai couronne nen pris ie Guerre dont ie bien
first wore crown not-thereof took I War whereof I well
ne uenisse a chief a lonnor de moi et de mon roialme,
not might-come to end to the-honor of me and of my realm
et por ce uos di ie ke ie en nule maniere ne lairoie
and for this you tell I that I in any manner not would-leave
ke ie ne les quesisse et commenchaisse la guerre enuers
that I not them might-seek and might-begin the war against
ciaus ki si mont damagie comme de mes amis carneus et
those who so me-have harmed as of my friends of-the-flesh and
de mes cheualiers. Si en semont uos premierement, ki
of my knights So thereof summon-I you first who
chi estes deuant moi, et tos les autres autresi. et ausi i
here are before me and all the others likewise and also there
semonrai ie ciaus ki ni sont mie. Ia ne seront si
shall-summon I those who not-there are at-all Ever not will-be-they so
lonc, por kil tiegnent terre de moi, Si ke tot montet et
far for that-they hold land from me So that all mounted and
tot apareilliet o le grant effort de mon roialme mouerai
all arrayed with the great force of my realm shall-I-set-out
dui en .xv. iors de la cite de Camaalot. Et, por cou
from-today in fifteen days from the city of Camelot And for this
ke ie ne uoel pas ke nus de uos se retraie de ceste
that I not wish at-all that any of you himself may-withdraw from this
emprise, uos requier ie que vos me iures sor sains ceste
enterprise you ask I that you me may-swear upon relics this
guerre a maintenir, a uos pooirs, iusques atant ke nostre
war to maintain to your powers until so-long that our

home soient uengie et li honors de uos et del roiaume
men may-be avenged and the honor of you and of-the kingdom
en soit creue et essaucie, si commele doit estre.'
thereby may-be increased and exalted so as-it ought to-be
Maintenant furent li saint aporte et iurerent cestui
At-once were the relics brought and swore this
sairement, tot cil ki el palais estoient, ausi li rice comme
oath all those who in-the palace were as-much the rich as
li poure, et, quant il ont tot iure la guerre a maintenir,
the poor and when they have all sworn the war to maintain
Li rois tramet ses mesages pres et lonc par tote la contree
The king sends his messengers near and far through all the country
et mande a tos ciaus qui de lui tienent terre kil soient
and commands to all those who from him hold land that-they may-be
au ior kil lor deuise en la cite de Camaalot, car adont
at-the day which-be to-them appoints in the city of Camelot for then
uolra il mouoir atot son pooir de gent a aler au castiel
will-wish he set-out with-all his power of men to go to-the castle
de la Ioieuse Garde. A ceste cose sasentent li un et li
of the Joyous Gard To this thing themselves-assent the ones and the
autre et sapareillent, por aler en la terre del Hombre. Si
others and themselves-make-ready for to-go into the land of-the Humber So
si acordent ausi li fol comme li sage et quident
themselves-there agree as-much the fools as the wise and think
faire tot cou kil deuisent ausi legierement comme il le
to-do all this that-they devise as lightly as they it
pensent. Si fu ensi la guerre enprise ki plus torna a grant
think So was thus the war undertaken which more turned to great
damage et a grant mesauenture del linage le roi Artu. Et
harm and to great misadventure of-the lineage of-the king Arthur And
coument kil fussent au desus au commencement, Il
however that-they were at-the top at-the beginning They

en furent puis honni et desconfit, si comme la uerites
thereby were afterward shamed and discomfited so as the truth
le tiesmoigne. Mais nouiele ki tost cort et ki legierement
it witnesses But news which soon runs and which lightly
est espandue par le monde a la lendemain meesme ke
is spread through the world on the morrow itself that
ceste cose fu auenue [vint] a la Ioieuse Garde. Et li
this thing was happened came to the Joyous Gard And it-there
porta uns ualles ki se parti de cort tantost, et estoit
brought a squire who himself departed from court at-once and was
serians Hestor des Mares. Et quant il uint la v cil
servant Hector of Mares And when he came there where those
latendoient, ki molt desiroient a sauoir nouieles de la court,
him-awaited who much desired to know news of the court
Cil lor dist ke la guerre estoit emprise si fermement
He to-them said that the war was undertaken so firmly
kele ne pooit remanoir, Car li plus poissant cheualier de
that-it not could stay For the most powerful knights of
la Table Reonde ki del ocision estoient escape lauoient
the Table Round who from-the slaughter were escaped it-had
iuree et apres cex sont mande tot li autre baron ki del
sworn and after these are summoned all the other barons who from-the
roi Artu tienent terre. 'Voire', fait Boors, 'est atant la cose
king Arthur hold land Indeed says Bors is so-far the thing
uenue?' 'Sire', fait li mes[ages], 'oil, uoir. Vos pores par
come Lord says the messenger yes truly You will-be-able in
tans ueoir le roi Artu pres de chi atot le pooir del
time see the king Arthur near from here with-all the power of-the
roiaume de Logres et de maint autre pais.' 'Par Deu', fet
kingdom of Logres and of many another country By God says
Hestor, 'mar i uenront et mar commencheront
Hector in-an-ill-hour there they-will-come and in-an-ill-hour will-they-begin

la guerre. Car il ne fisent onques tant dont il se
the war For they not did ever so-much whereof they themselves
repentissent autretant commil feront de cesti, se Diu plest.'
would-repent as-much as-they will-do of this if God please
Quant Lanselos ot ceste nouiele, il prent mesages et
When Lancelot had this news he takes messengers and
les enuoie el roiaume de Benuic et el roiaume de
them sends into-the kingdom of Benwick and into-the kingdom of
Gaune et manda as barons ki la terre gardoient kil
Gaunes and sent to-the barons who the land guarded that-they
garnesissent lor fortereces et lor castiaus, ke, sil auient par
should-furnish their fortresses and their castles that if-it happens by
auenture kil se partent de la Grant Bretaigne et il
adventure that-they themselves part from the Great Britain and it
li couient uenir el roiaume de Gaune, kil truisse les
to-him behooves to-come into-the kingdom of Gaunes that-he may-find the
castiaus si fors et si deffendables kil se puissent tenir
castles so strong and so defensible that-they themselves may hold
encontre le roi Artu, se mestiers lor est. Apres remande
against the king Arthur if need to-them is After sends-he
el roiaume de Sorelois et el roialme de Terre Foraine
into-the kingdom of Sorelois and into-the realm of Land Outer
et a tos les cheualiers kil auoit tante[s] fois seruis kil
and to all the knights whom-he had many times served that-they
le secourent a cest besoing enuers le roi Artu, ki encontre
him may-succor at this need against the king Arthur who against
lui a la guerre enprise. et por cest mandement et por ceste
him has the war undertaken and for this summons and for this
proiiere kil lor fait, a cou ke cou estoit li cheualiers del
prayer which-he to-them makes for this that this was the knight of-the
monde plus ames et plus auoit faites bontes as cheualiers
world most loved and most had done kindnesses to-the knights

ke nus autres hom, en uint tant de totes pars ke, sil
than any other man thereof came so-many from all sides that if-he
fust rois corones ne tiere tenans, ne quidassent pas maintes
were king crowned or land holding not would-have-thought at-all many
gens kil assamblast si grant cheualerie kil ot assamblee a
people that-he could-assemble so great chivalry as-he had assembled at
la Ioieuse Garde. Mais atant laisse ore li contes a parler
the Joyous Gard But thereupon leaves now the tale to speak
de lui et de tote sa compaignie, et Retorne au roi Artu.
of him and of all his company and Returns to-the king Arthur

The New Knights of the Round Table

XLI

At Gawain's counsel the barons choose knights for the seventy-two empty seats of the Round Table, leaving the Seat Perilous empty: Herlian of Ireland takes Lancelot's, Belyor Bors's, the cruel Vadahan the Black Hector's, and Gaheris of North Wales Gaheriet's. Seven kings serve at Arthur's table. The host rides to the Humber and camps half a league from the Joyous Gard, while Bors and Hector lie hidden in a wood with three hundred knights, waiting for a red banner.

Or dist li contes ke a celui ior ke li rois atermina ses
Now said the tale that on that day that the king appointed his
barons kil uenissent a Camalot, Il i uinrent et tant
barons that-they should-come to Camelot They there came and so-many
en i ot ensamble por le mandement kil auoit fait
thereof there had together for the summons which-he had made
ke piecha mais nauoit on ueue si grant ceualerie ensamble
that long-ago ever not-had one seen so great chivalry together
comme cele fu. Dedens celui termine fu me sire Gauains
as that was Within that term was my lord Gawain

tos garis, ki molt auoit este malades, Si ke a celui ior
all healed who much had been sick So that on that day
nomeement kil estoient laiens assamble dist au roi:
namely that-they were in-there assembled said-he to-the king
'Sire', fait il, 'ancois ke uos partes de chi, et bon seroit a
Lord says he before that you depart from here and good would-be to
faire, ce me samble, [et] vos loeroie ie ke uos de ceste
do this me seems and you would-advise I that you from this
grant baronnie, ki chi est, esleus autant de cheualiers
great baronage which here is may-choose as-many of knights
comme on ocist auant ier por ma dame la roine et
as one killed the-day-before yesterday for my lady the queen and
les mesisies a estre compaignons de la Table Reonde el
them might-put to be companions of the Table Round in-the
liu de ciaus ki sont trespasse, Si ke nos eussons autre
place of those who are passed-away So that we might-have other
tel nombre de cheualiers comme nos soliens auoir: Ce est
such number of knights as we were-wont to-have This is
cent et .l. et ie uos di ke, se uos cou faites, ke nostre
hundred and fifty and I you tell that if you this do that our
compaignie en vaurra molt mieus en totes manieres et
company thereby will-be-worth much better in all manners and
plus en sera redoutee en tous lius.' Li rois sacorde bien
more thereby will-be feared in all places The king himself-agrees well
a ceste cose Si dist ke cou est molt bon a faire. Si apielent
to this thing So said-he that this is very good to do So call-they
maintenant les haus barons. Puis lor comande sor lor
at-once the high barons Then to-them commands-he upon their
sairemens kil eslisent laiens des millors cheualiers kil
oaths that-they may-choose in-there of-the best knights whom-they
connoissent, autant comil en faut de la Table Reonde.
know as-many as-there thereof lacks of the Table Round

Si lor fait li rois iurer kil ne lairont por pourete ne
So to-them makes the king swear that-they not will-leave for poverty nor
por rikece kil neslisent les millors, a lor ensient, et il le
for riches that-they not-choose the best to their knowledge and they it
iurent et dient kil le feront, a lor pooirs, molt uolentiers.
swear and say that-they it will-do to their powers very willingly
Si se traient a une part et se metent el palais
So themselves withdraw-they to one side and themselves put in-the palace
a lun les et regardent tot premierement combien il faloit de
at one side and look all first how-many it lacked of
ciaus de la Table Reonde. Si trouerent kil lor en faloit
those of the Table Round So found-they that-it to-them thereof lacked
.lx. et .xij. tot par conte, ke de ciaus ki auoient este mort
sixty and twelve all by count what of those who had been dead
en la queste del Saint Graal, ke de ciaus ki auoient este
in the quest of-the Holy Grail what of those who had been
mort por la roine, ke de ciaus ki estoient auoec Lanselot.
dead for the queen what of those who were with Lancelot
Mais, sans faille, el souerain siege de la Table Reonde, ki
But without fail in-the sovereign seat of the Table Round which
ia dis ot este apieles li Sieges Perilleus, not si hardi
ever always had been called the Seat Perilous not-there-had so bold
ki si osast aseoir, Mais el siege Lanselot sasist
who himself-there dared seat But in-the seat (of-)Lancelot sat-himself
uns cheualiers ki auoit non Herlians et ce estoit li miudres
a knight who had name Herlian and this was the best
cheualiers et li plus renomes de tote Yrlande et fu fils de roi.
knight and the most renowned of all Ireland and was son of king
El siege Boors fu mis uns autres cheualiers ki auoit
In-the seat Bors was put an other knight who had
non Belyor et estoit fils le roi des Estranges Illes. Cil
name Belyor and was son (of-)the king of-the Strange Isles That

cheualiers, sans faille, estoit bons cheualiers mais par la
knight without fail was good knight but by the
proiere de ses amis li donna on le liu Boort. El siege
prayer of his friends to-him gave one the place Bors In-the seat
Hestor fu assis uns cheualiers d'Escoce, bons cheualiers et
Hector was seated a knight of-Scotland good knight and
senes et poissans darmes et damis et fors de cors a
wise and powerful of-arms and of-friends and strong of body at
merueilles et estrais de haut linage et de poissant, et ot
marvels and drawn from high lineage and from powerful and had
a non Vadahans li Noirs; et fu fel et enuieus et li
to name Vadahan the Black and was felonious and envious and the
plus crueus cheualiers ke on seust. El liu de Gaheriet
most cruel knight that one might-know In-the place of Gaheriet
fu mis uns cheualiers ki estoit nies le roi de Norgales.
was put a knight who was nephew of-the king of North-Wales
Cil ert iones hom et bons cheualiers et de bon linages et
He was young man and good knight and of good lineage and
estoit debonaires hom plus ke cheualiers ke on seust. Cil
was gracious man more than knight that one might-know He
estoit bien dignes et par hautece de linage et par proece de
was well worthy both by highness of lineage and by prowess of
cors kil fust mis el siege Gaheriet, et si estoit apieles
body that-he should-be put in-the seat Gaheriet and so was called
Gaheris de Norgales. Et quant il orent ce fait par le conseil
Gaheris of North-Wales And when they had this done by the counsel
mon signor Gauain et del roi Artu, les tables furent mises si
my lord Gawain and of-the king Arthur the tables were put so
mangierent li un et li autre et seruirent celui ior a la table
ate the ones and the others and served that day at the table
le roi Artu .vij. roi ki de lui tenoient terre et estoient si
of-the king Arthur seven kings who from him held land and were his

lige home. Celui ior apareillierent lor oire li cheualier ki en
liege men That day made-ready their journey the knights who into
la guerre deuoient aler. Si trauillierent asses la nuit, ancois
the war were-to go So toiled-they a-good-deal the night before
kil fussent tot apareilliet ne apreste, ne il ne lor harnois.
that-they were all arrayed or prepared or they nor their harness
A lendemain par matin, quant li solaus fu leues, se
On the-next-day in-the morning when the sun was risen themselves
partirent de Camaalot tel troi mil ki tot baoient a
departed from Camelot such three thousand who all were-intent to
forfaire Lanselot et au linage le roi Ban. Et li rois
harm Lancelot and to-the lineage of-the king Ban And the king
Artus meesmes, si tost com il ot la messe oie a la
Arthur himself so soon as he had the mass heard at the
mere eglise de Camaalot, monta, entre lui et ses barons,
mother church of Camelot mounted between him and his barons
et se partirent de la cite et ceuauchierent celui ior
and themselves departed from the city and rode that day
dusques a un castiel ke on apiele Labour. et iut li rois
as-far as a castle which one calls Labor and lay the king
la nuit asses pres del castiel en .i. sien pauillon, ki molt
that night quite near of-the castle in a his-own pavilion which very
estoit rices et biaus, et ausi se logierent de fors li
was rich and beautiful and also themselves lodged of outside the
plusor de ses barons por lui faire compaignie. A lendemain
most of his barons for him to-make company On the-next-day
se partirent diluec et ceuauchierent tant par lor
themselves departed-they from-there and rode so-much by their
iornees kil uinrent a demie liue de la Ioieuse Garde;
days'-journeys that-they came at half league from the Joyous Gard
et por cou kil uirent le castiel si fier et si meruilleuse
and for this that-they saw the castle so proud and so marvelous

kil ne cremoit force de gent ne ne pooit estre asegies,
that-it not feared force of men nor not could be besieged
se de lonc non, se logierent il sor la riuiere del
except from far not themselves lodged they upon the river of-the
Hombre, en tres et en pauillons et en foillies. Mes ce fu
Humber in tents and in pavilions and in huts But this was
plus lonc del castiel que uns arbalestres ne traisist a .ij.
more far from-the castle than a crossbow — would-shoot at two
fois. Tout celui iour sentendirent a aus logier et orent
times All that day applied-themselves-they to themselves lodge and had
mis par deuant aus lor cheualiers tous armes, ke, sil auenist
put out before them their knights all armed that if-it happened
cose ke cil del castiel ississent fors por assambler, kil
thing that those of-the castle should-go-out forth for to-join-battle that-they
fuscent recheu si bien ke on doit recheuoir ses anemis en
were received so well as one ought to-receive one's enemies in
tel point. En tel maniere se furent cil de fors logie;
such point In such manner themselves were those from outside lodged
et apres cou furent prest de recheuoir lor anemis, sil
and after this were-they ready to receive their enemies if-they
uenissent fors. Mais cil del castiel, ki estoient cheualier
should-come out But those of-the castle who were knights
de grant afaire et ki auoient ia grant partie de lor gent
of great affair and who had already great part of their men
enuoiet des la nuit deuant en un bois, ki pres diluec
sent from the night before into a wood which near from-there
estoit, por sousprendre ciaus de lost, quant il uenroient
was for to-surprise those of the-host when they would-come
et il ueroient lor point, sil fussent assali, Si kil
and they would-see their point if-they were assailed So that-they
seroient assali par deuers le bois et par deuers le castiel,
would-be assailed by toward the wood and by toward the castle

onques ne sesmaierent de cest siege, quant il le sorent;
ever not themselves-dismayed-they at this siege when they it knew
ancois disent entraus cil ki laiens estoient kil les
rather said-they among-themselves those who in-there were that-they them
souferroient a loger et a estre en pais la premiere nuit
would-suffer to lodge and to be in peace the first night
Mais lendemain les assauroient, sil en ueoient lor liu.
But the-next-day them would-assail-they if-they thereto saw their place
Cil ki auoient [este] enuoijes fors la nuit deuant estoient
Those who had been sent out the night before were
troi cent cheualier par conte, tot preudome et hardi et
three hundred knights by count all worthy-men and bold and
uaillant. Si les conduisoient Boors et Hestor. Si auoient a
valiant So them led Bors and Hector So had-they to
cheus ki el castiel estoient remes donnees ensegnes teles
those who in-the castle were remained given signs such
ke, tot maintenant kil uerroient desor la maistre forterece
that all at-once that-they should-see upon the master fortress
del castiel drechier une ensegne uermeille, si ississent
of-the castle raise a banner red so should-they-go-out
fors del bois et se ferissent de plain front en lost
forth from-the wood and themselves should-strike of full front into the-host
le roi Artu. Et il ki remanoient lasus referoient autre
of-the king Arthur And they who remained up-there would-do-in-turn other
tel et sen istroient fors a celui point meesmes, Si
such and themselves-thence would-go-out forth at that point itself So
ke cil de lost seroient maintenant asali de deux pars.
that those of the-host would-be at-once assailed from two sides

The Siege of Joyous Gard

XLII

Lancelot lets the host rest the first day. He sends a damsel to ask why Arthur makes war: he will clear himself of the queen by combat, and the nephews caused their own deaths. Gawain urges the king to destroy King Ban's kindred, and Arthur swears Lancelot will never have peace. The damsel warns that the soothsayers foretold the victory of King Ban's kindred, and calls Gawain a fool who forgets the hermit's warning.

Tot le iour regarderent cil ki el bois estoient uers le
All the day looked those who in-the wood were toward the
castiel, por sauoir sil uerroient lensegne uermeille ki lor
castle for to-know if-they would-see the-banner red which to-them
estoit senefiance de fors issir, Mais il nen uirent point,
was signal of out to-go But they not-thereof saw a-whit
car onques Lanselos ne pot soufrir ke cil del ost fussent
for ever Lancelot not could suffer that those of-the host should-be
assali le premier ior, ains les laissa reposer le nuit et le
assailed the first day rather them let-he rest the night and the
ior, ke onques ni ot ne trait ne lanchiet. et por cou
day so-that ever not-there had neither shot nor thrown and for this
furent cil de lost plus asseure kil nestoient deuant et
were those of the-host more assured than-they not-were before and
disent aucun ke, se Lanselos eust auoec li grant compaignie
said some that if Lancelot had with him great company
de gent, il neust lassiet en nule maniere kil ne
of men he not-would-have left in any manner that-he not
fust issus fors, por assambler a tote lost, A cou kil
were come-out forth for to-join-battle with all the-host For this that-he
nestoit mie cheualiers ki uolentiers fust en autrui dangier.
not-was at-all knight who willingly were in another's power

Et quant Lanselos uit ke li castiaus estoit ensi assis de la
And when Lancelot saw that the castle was thus besieged by the
gent le roi Artu, lomme del siecle kil auoit plus ame
men of-the king Arthur the-man of-the world whom-he had most loved
et ki li auoit fait plus donnor et or le connissoit a
and who to-him had done most of-honor and now him knew-he for
son anemi mortel plus ke nul autre, Il est tant dolans et
his enemy mortal more than any other He is so sorrowful and
tant amalaise kil ne set ke dire, non pas por cou kil
so ill-at-ease that-he not knows what to-say not at-all for this that-he
ait paour de lui Mais por cou kil amoit plus le roi
may-have fear of him But for this that-he loved more the king
ke home del monde ki riens ne li fust. Lors prent
than man of-the world who anything not to-him were Then takes-he
une damoisiele de laiens si len maine en une cambre et
a damsel from in-there so her leads into a chamber and
li dist tot a conseil: 'damoisele', fait il, 'uos en ires
to-her said all in secret damsel says he you thence will-go
la fors au roi Artu et Se li demanderes de par moi,
there out to-the king Arthur and So to-him will-ask on behalf of-me
por coi il a en tel maniere coumencie la guerre encontre
for what he has in such manner begun the war against
moi, car ie ne li quidoie pas auoir tant meffet kil le
me for I not him thought at-all to-have so-much wronged that-he it
deust faire ensi. Sil vos dist ke ce est por ma dame la
ought to-do thus If-he you tells that this is for my lady the
roine, dont ie li auoie fait honte Si ke aucunes gens li
queen whereof I him had done shame So as some people to-him
auoient fait entendant, Se li dites ke ie sui pres ke ie
had made understanding So to-him tell that I am ready that I
men deffende encontre le millor cheualier de sa cort ke
me-thereof may-defend against the best knight of his court that

de ceste cose ne sui uraiement encoupes. et por lamor de
of this thing not am-I truly guilty and for the-love of
li et por la bonne voellance de lui a conquerre, que ie
him and for the good will of him to win which I
ai perdue par maluaise ocoison, offres lui de par moi ke ie
have lost by bad occasion offer him on behalf of-me that I
men metrai en lotroi de sa court. Et sil dist dautre
myself-thereof shall-put in the-award of his court And if-he said on-the-other
part kil ait cest guerre commenchie por la mort de ses
side that-he may-have this war begun for the death of his
neueus, dites lui ke de cele mort ne sui ie pas si coupables
nephews tell him that of that death not am I at-all so guilty
kil en deust auoir enuers moi mortel haine, car cil
that-he thereof ought to-have toward me mortal hatred for those
meesme ki furent ocis furent ocoison et cause de lor mort.
themselves who were killed were occasion and cause of their death
'Damoisele', fait Lanselos, 'tot cou dires uos a mon signor
Damsel says Lancelot all this will-say you to my lord
le roi ke ie ne me sent pas si coupable uers lui ke ie ne
the king that I not myself feel at-all so guilty toward him that I not
me mete del tot en lesgart de sa cort outrement. Apres
myself may-put of-the all in the-judgment of his court outright After
cestre offre ke ie li fac de moi deffendre encontre
this offer which I to-him make of myself to-defend against
aucun, se nus i uient auant por le prouer Et se il ne
anyone if any there comes forward for it to-prove And if he not
se ueut acorder a nule de ces coses ke ie li manc,
himself wishes to-agree to any of these things which I to-him send
dites lui que ie esgarderai sa force tant dolans ke nus plus
tell him that I shall-regard his force so sorrowful that none more
de cest courouc qui est entre moi et lui ke a paines le
of this anger which is between me and him that with pains it

poroit nus quidier. Et bien sace il ke, puis ke la guerre
could any-one think And well may-know he that since that the war
sera commenchie, Ie sui cil ki aiderai as miens de tot
will-be begun I am he who shall-help to-the mine with all
mon pooir et confondrai les sien de quanke ie porai. Lui
my power and shall-confound the his of whatever I shall-be-able Him
uoirement, por cou que ie le tieng a mon signor et a
truly for this that I him hold for my lord and for
mon ami — encor ne me soit il pas uenus ueoir come
my friend yet not to-me may-be he at-all come to-see as
me sire Mais comme mes anemis morteus — laseur ie kil
my lord But as my enemy mortal him-assure I that-he
na garde de moi, ains le garantirai tos iors a mon pooir
not-has fear of me rather him shall-protect-I all days to my power
de tos ciaus ki li uolront mal faire. Damoisele, tant li
from all those who him will-wish evil to-do Damsel so-much to-him
dites que ie li manc.' et ele respont ke cest mesage fera
tell as I to-him send and she answers that this message will-do
ele si bien et si biel kele nen deuera pas estre blasmee.
she so well and so fairly that-she not-thereof will-owe at-all to-be blamed

Atant se part la damoisele de laiens et uient a la
Thereupon herself departs the damsel from in-there and comes to the
porte del castiel celeement ke nus ne sen perchoit.
gate of-the castle secretly so-that any not himself-thereof perceives
et fu tot droit a eure de uespres, a cele eure droit ke
and was all straight at hour of vespers at that hour right that
li rois se deuoit aseoir au souper. Quant ele fu uenue
the king himself was-to seat at-the supper When she was come
en lost, onques ne troua home ki larestast, car bien
into the-host ever not found-she man who her-stopped for well
connissoient ke ce estoit vne damoisele et aloit en message.
knew-they that this was a damsel and went on message

et ele proia a cheualiers kele uit kil li ensegnassent
and she prayed to knights whom-she saw that-they to-her should-show
v ele troueroit le roi, et cil len amenerent droit au
where she would-find the king and they her led straight to-the
pauillon le roi Artu. et cele, ki bien connissoit le roi
pavilion of-the king Arthur and she who well knew the king
dentre ses barons, saprocha de lui et li dist tot cou
from-among his barons himself-approached to him and to-him said all this
ke Lanselos li auoit commande et tot ensi com il li
that Lancelot to-her had commanded and all thus as he to-him
mandoit. Me sire Gauains, ki estoit pres del roi et ki bien
sent My lord Gawain who was near to-the king and who well
oi cest mesage, parla, auant que nus des autres sonnast
heard this message spoke before that any of-the others sounded
mot de ceste cose, et dist au roi, oiant tous les barons:
word of this thing and said to-the king hearing all the barons
'Sire, sire, uos estes uenus por vostre honte uengier et
Lord lord you are come for your shame to-avenge and
le grant damage ke Lanselos uos a fait de uos amis.
the great harm which Lancelot you has done of your friends
Vos aues le pooir et la force de faire ce a coi uos baes:
You have the power and the force to do this to which you aspire
Ce est, de metre a noient le parente le roi Ban, ki par
This is to put to nothing the kindred of-the king Ban who by
lor grant orguel et par lor grant deruerie nos ont fait si
their great pride and by their great madness to-us have done so
grant damage de uostre lignie kil nest nus fors Dex ki
great harm of your lineage that-it not-is any-one except God who
lapierte uos en peust restorer. Sire, ceste cose uos ai ie
the-loss you thereof might restore Lord this thing you have I
dite, por cou ke uos estes ore en point de uengier la honte,
said for this that you are now in point to avenge the shame

et, se uos autrement le faisies, uos et uostres linages en
and if you otherwise it did you and your lineage thereby
series honni et abaissie, Si ke iamais naueriens honor
would-be shamed and brought-low So that ever not-would-we-have honor
en liu v nos fuissons.' 'Gauain', fait li rois, 'la cose est
in place where we might-be Gawain says the king the thing is
a tant uenue ke iamais tant comme ie uiue, por cose
to such-a-point come that ever so-long as I may-live for thing
ke Lanselos puisse faire ne dire, nauera pais a moi.
which Lancelot may do nor say not-will-be-have peace with me
Et si est cou li hom el monde a qui ie deueroie plus
And yet is this the man in-the world to whom I ought more
tost pardonner un grant meffet. Car, sans faille, il a plus
soon to-pardon a great wrong For without fail he has more
fait por moi ke nus autres cheualiers ne fesist onques, Mais
done for me than any other knight — did ever But
au derrain le ma il si chierement uendu kil men a
at-the last it me-has he so dearly sold that-he me-thence has
tolu de mes amis carneus que ie onques plus amoie, fors vos
taken of my friends of-the-flesh whom I ever most loved except you
tot solement. Et por cou ne poroit il pas auoir pais entre
all only And for this not could he at-all have peace between
moi et lui, et non aura il, ce uos creanc ie comme rois.'
me and him and not will-have he this you promise I as king
Lors se torne li rois deuers la puciele et li dist:
Then himself turns the king toward the maiden and to-her said
'Damoisele, vos poes bien dire a uostre signor ke nule riens
Damsel you can well say to your lord that any anything
kil me requesist ie ne feroie; ains laseur de guerre a
which-he me might-ask I not would-do rather him-assure-I of war for
tot mon uiuant. Ne ia pais naura a moi por rien
all my living Nor ever peace not-will-be-have with me for anything

ki auiegne.' 'Certes', fait ele, 'ce est damages plus a vos ca
which may-happen Certainly says she this is harm more to you than
autrui, Car uos, ki aues este li plus poissans rois del monde
to-others For you who have been the most powerful king of-the world
et li plus renoumes, en seres destruis et menes a mort
and the most renowned thereby will-be destroyed and led to death
v li sage home par maintes fois sont decheu, car ce nest
where the wise men by many times are deceived for this not-is
mie doute ke li sage deuineour ki a uostre tans ont este
at-all doubt that the wise soothsayers who in your time have been
et ki sauoient parties des coses ki estoient a auenir ne
and who knew parts of-the things which were to happen —
desissent ke en la fin couient il ke li parentes le roi Ban
would-have-said that in the end behooves it that the kindred of-the king Ban
viegne au desus de tos lor anemis. Et uos', fait ele, 'mesire
may-come on-the top of all their enemies And you says she my-lord
Gauain, ki deussies estre sages hom, Certes vos estes plus
Gawain who ought-to be wise man Certainly you are more
nices ke ie ne quidoie, car vos porcachies uostre mort, et
foolish than I — thought for you pursue your death and
si le poes ueir apertement. Or, regardes a uos meesmes. dont
so it can see openly Now look to you yourself then
ne uos souient il de cou ke uos ueistes la bataille auentureus
not you remembers it of this that you saw the battle adventurous
cies le rice Roi Pescheour A celui point que vos ueistes
at-the-house-of the rich King Fisher At that point that you saw
la bataille del serpent et del lupart? sil uos souuenist bien
the battle of-the serpent and of-the leopard if-it you would-remember well
des merueilles ke uos i ueistes et de la senefiance ke li
of-the marvels which you there saw and of the meaning which the
hermites uos deuisa, ia ceste guerre ne fust commenchie
hermit to-you explained ever this war not would-be begun

tant comme uos le peussies destorner, a uostre pooir. Mais
so-long as you it could turn-aside to your power But
uostres maus cuers et uostre grans mescheance uos cache
your bad heart and your great mischance you drives
a ceste cose. Si uos en repentires chiere[me]nt, quant vos
to this thing So you thereof will-repent dearly when you
nel pores amender.' Lors se torne la damoisiele deuers
not-it will-be-able amend Then herself turns the damsel toward
le roi et se li dist: 'Sire, puiske ie ne puis en uos trouer
the king and so to-him said Lord since I not can in you find
nul respons de pais, fors de guerre et de haine, Ie men
any answer of peace except of war and of hatred I me-thence
irai de chi droit a mon signor et li conterai tot ensi
shall-go from here straight to my lord and to-him shall-tell all thus
comme uos li mandes.' 'Ales, damoisele', fait li rois, 'car
as you to-him send Go damsel says the king for
il me plaist molt bien que vos li dites mot a mot.'
it me pleases very well that you to-him may-say word for word

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