OLD FRENCH SERIES · VOLUME 29

Rutebeuf

Rutebeuf

Forty-Two Poems: Complaints, Crusade Poems, Satires, Fabliaux, and the Miracle of Theophilus

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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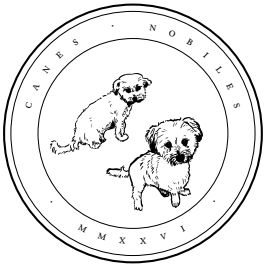

Volume 29 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows Adolf Kressner's text,
Rustebuef's Gedichte (Wolfenbüttel, 1885)

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Artwork by Esther Steves

The text and spelling are Kressner's, and the poems stand in his order and under his titles; the English titles are this press's. The Testament of the Ass, printed in Old French 16, is not set again. Kressner's brackets enclose the verses and words he supplies, ∗ ∗ ∗ marks a verse the edition counts and does not have, and speech stands between guillemets.

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Le Mariage Rustebeuf

I · RUTEBEUF'S MARRIAGE

In 1260, a week after Christmas, the poet married without reason a wife of fifty, poor, lean, and plain, and made everyone who loves him grieve. He has no house, no firewood, and a broken pot; his wife will have as much fish as cream for Lent, and time enough to fast, and he dares not go home with empty hands. People cross themselves at his marvels. No martyr suffered as he does, since their pain ended and his lasts his life, and he prays that God turn it to penance.

En l'an de l'incarnacion
In the-year of the-incarnation
[mil deus cens a m'intencion]
thousand two hundred to my-understanding
huit jors apres la nascion
eight days after the Nativity
Jhesu qui sofri passion,
(of-)Jesus who suffered passion
en l'an soissante,
in the-year sixty
qu'arbres n'a foille, n'oisiaus ne chante,
when-tree not-has leaf nor-bird not sings
fis je tote la rien dolante
made I all the creature sorrowful
qui de cuer m'aime;
who from heart me-loves
nes li musarz musart me claime.
even the fool fool me calls
Or puis filer, qu'il me faut traime;
Now I-can spin for-it to-me lacks weft

molt ai a fere.
much I-have to do

Diex ne fist cuer tant deputere,
God not made heart so wicked

tant li aie fet de contrere
so-much to-him I-may-have done of vexation

ne de martire,
nor of torment

s'il en mon martire se mire,
if-he in my torment himself mirrors

qui ne doie de bon cuer dire
who not ought from good heart say

«Je te claim cuite.»
I thee declare quit

Envoier un home en Egypte,
To-send a man into Egypt

ceste dolor est plus petite
this sorrow is more small

que n'est la moie;
than is the mine

je n'en puis mes se je m'esmoie.
I not-thereof can more if I myself-dismay

L'en dit que fols qui ne foloie
One says that fool who not plays-the-fool

pert sa seson:
loses his season

je sui mariez sanz reson
I am married without reason

et si n'ai borde ne meson.
and so not-I-have cottage nor house

Encor plus fort:
Still more strong
por plus doner de reconfort
for more to-give of comfort
a cels qui me heent de mort
to those who me hate to death
tel fame ai prise
such wife I-have taken
que nus fors moi n'aime ne prise
that anyone except me not-loves nor prizes
et s'estoit povre et entreprise
and so-was poor and distressed
quant je la pris.
when I her took
A ci mariage de pris,
Has here marriage of worth
qu'or sui povres et entrepris
for-now I-am poor and distressed
aussi come ele,
just as she
et si n'est pas gente ne bele.
and so not-is at-all comely nor fair
Cinquante anz a en s'escuele
Fifty years she-has in her-bowl
s'est megre et seche:
so-is lean and dry
n'ai pas paor qu'ele me treche.
not-I-have at-all fear that-she me may-deceive

Despuis que fu nez en la greche
Since that was born in the manger
Diex de Marie
God of Mary
ne fu mes tel esposerie.
not was ever such wedding
Je sui toz plains d'envoiserie,
I am all full of-merriment
bien pert a l'uevre.
well appears at the-work
Or dira l'en que mal se cuevre
Now will-say one that ill himself covers
Rustebues qui rudement uevre:
Rutebeuf who rudely works
l'en dira voir,
one will-say truth
quant je ne porrai robe avoir.
when I not shall-be-able robe to-have
A toz mes amis faz savoir
To all my friends I-make know
qu'il se confortent:
that-they themselves comfort
plus bel qu'il porront se deportent,
most fair that-they will-be-able themselves may-amuse
a cels qui tels noveles portent
to those who such news carry
ne doingnent gueres.
not may-give much
Petit dot mes provos ne meres:
Little I-fear henceforth provosts nor mayors

je cuit que Diex li deboneres
I think that God the gracious
m'aime de loing;
me-loves from afar
bien l'ai prové a cest besoing;
well it-I-have proved at this need
la sui ou li maus met le coing:
there I-am where the evil puts the wedge
Diex m'i a mis.
God me-there has put
Or faz feste a mes anemis,
Now I-make feast for my enemies
duel et coroz a mes amis.
grief and wrath for my friends
Or du voir dire,
Now of-the truth to-say
se Dieu ai fet coroz ne ire,
if (to-)God I-have done wrath or anger
de moi se puet joer et rire,
of me himself can sport and laugh
que biau s'en vange.
for fairly himself-thereof avenges
Or me covient froter au lange;
Now me behooves to-rub at-the wool
je ne dot privé ne estrange
I not fear intimate nor stranger
que il rien m'emble;
that he anything from-me-may-steal
n'ai pas busche de chesne ensamble:
not-I-have at-all log of oak together

quant j'i sui si a fou et tramble
when I-there am so has beech and aspen
n'est ce assez?
not-is this enough
Mes poz est brisiez et quassez
My pot is broken and smashed
et j'ai toz mes bons jors passez.
and I-have all my good days passed
Je qu'en diroie?
I what-thereof would-say
Nes la destruction de Troie
Even the destruction of Troy
ne fu si granz com est la moie!
not was so great as is the mine
Encor i a,
Still there has
foi que doi Ave Maria,
faith that I-owe Hail Mary
s'onques nus hom por mort pria
if-ever any man for dead prayed
si prit por moi:
so he-may-pray for me
je n'en puis mes se je m'esmoi.
I not-thereof can more if I myself-dismay
Avant que viengne avrils ne may
Before that may-come April or May
vendra quaresme;
will-come Lent
de ce puis bien dire mon esme:
of this I-can well say my reckoning

de poisson autant com de cresme
of fish as-much as of cream
aura ma fame;
will-have my wife
grant loisir a de sauver s'ame:
great leisure she-has to save her-soul
or geunt por la douce Dame,
now she-may-fast for the sweet Lady
qu'ele a loisir,
for-she has leisure
et voist de haute ore gesir,
and may-go of high hour to-lie
qu'el n'aura pas tot son desir,
for-she not-will-have at-all all her desire
c'est sanz dotance.
this-is without doubt
Or soit plaine de grant sofrance,
Now she-may-be full of great patience
que c'est la plus granz porveance
for this-is the most great provision
que je i voie.
that I there may-see
Par cel Seignor qui tot avoie,
By that Lord who all guides
quant je la pris petit avoie
when I her took little I-had
et ele mains:
and she less
je ne sui pas ovriers des mains;
I not am at-all worker of-the hands

l'en ne saura ja ou je mains
one not will-know ever where I dwell
por ma poverte.
for my poverty
Ja n'i sera ma porte overte,
Ever not-there will-be my door open
quar ma mesons est trop deserte
for my house is too deserted
et povre et gaste,
and poor and waste
sovent n'i a ne pain ne paste.
often not-there has neither bread nor dough
Ne me blasmez se ne me haste
Not me blame if not myself I-hasten
d'aler arriere,
of-going back
que ja n'i aurai bele chiere:
for ever not-there I-shall-have fair welcome
l'en n'a pas ma venue chiere
one not-has at-all my coming dear
se je n'aporte;
if I not-bring
c'est ce qui plus me desconforte,
this-is this which most me distresses
que je n'os entrer en ma porte
that I not-dare to-enter into my door
à vuide main.
with empty hand
Savez coment je me demain:
Know-you how I myself conduct

l'esperance de lendemain
the-hope of morrow
ce sont mes festes.
these are my feasts
L'en cuide que je soie prestres,
One thinks that I may-be priest
quar je faz plus seignier de testes,
for I make more cross-themselves of heads
ce n'est pas guile,
this not-is at-all trick
que se je chantasse Evangile.
than if I sang Gospel
L'en se seingne parmi la vile
One himself crosses throughout the town
de mes merveilles.
at my marvels
On les doit bien conter aus veilles:
One them ought well tell at-the vigils
quar n'i a nules lor pareilles,
for not-there has any their equals
ce n'est pas dote.
this not-is at-all doubt
Il pert bien que je n'i vi gote,
It appears well that I not-there saw a-whit
Diex n'a nul martir en sa rote
God not-has any martyr in his troop
qui tant ait fet,
who so-much may-have done
s'il ont esté por Dieu desfet,
if-they have been for God undone

rosti, lapidé ou detret,
roasted stoned or torn-apart
je n'en dot mie,
I not-thereof doubt at-all
que lor paine fu tost fenie;
that their pain was soon ended
mes ce durra tote ma vie
but this will-last all my life
sanz avoir ese.
without to-have ease
Or pri a Dieu que il li plese
Now I-pray to God that it him may-please
ceste dolor, ceste mesese
this sorrow this distress
et ceste enfance
and this folly
m'atort a vraie penitance
me-may-turn to true penance
si qu'avoir puisse s'acointance. Amen.
so that-to-have I-may his-acquaintance Amen

La Complainte Rutebeuf

II · RUTEBEUF'S COMPLAINT

God has made him Job's companion and taken at one blow all he had, the sight of his right eye with it. His wife has borne a child, his horse has broken a leg, the nurse wants money, and his host wants the rent. His friends were thinly sown and the wind has carried them off. He turns to the worthy men who have fed him, prays the Trinity for health, and sends the poem to the king's son, the count of Poitiers and Toulouse.

Ne covient pas que vos raconte
Not behooves at-all that to-you I-recount
coment je me sui mis a honte,
how I myself am put to shame
quar bien avez oi le conte
for well you-have heard the tale
en quel maniere
in what manner
je pris ma fame darreniere,
I took my wife lately
qui bele ne gente ne iere.
who fair nor comely not was
Lors nasqui paine,
Then was-born pain
qui dura plus d'une semaine
which lasted more than-a week
qu'el commenca en lune plaine.
for-it began in moon full
Or entendez,
Now hear

vos qui rime me demandez,
you who rhyme of-me ask
coment je me sui amendez
how I myself am bettered
de fame prendre.
from wife to-take
Je n'ai qu'engagier ne que vendre,
I not-have what-to-pledge nor what to-sell
que j'ai tant eu a entendre
for I-have so-much had to attend
et tant a fere;
and so-much to do
quanques j'ai fet est a refere,
whatever I-have done is to redo
quar qui le vos voudroit retrere,
for who it to-you would-wish recount
il durroit trop.
it would-last too-long
Diex m'a fet compagnon a Job,
God me-has made companion to Job
qu'il m'a tolu a un seul cop
for-he from-me-has taken at one single blow
quanques j'avoie.
whatever I-had
De l'ueil destre, dont miex veoie,
Of the-eye right with-which better I-saw
ne voi je pas aler la voie
not see I at-all to-go the way
ne moi conduire:
nor myself to-guide

a ci dolor dolente et dure,
has here sorrow sorrowful and hard
qu'a miedi m'est nuiz obscure
for-at noon to-me-is night dark
de celui ueil.
of that eye
Or n'ai je pas quanques je vueil,
Now not-have I at-all whatever I wish
ainz sui dolenz et si me dueil
rather am grieving and so myself I-grieve
parfondement,
deeply
qu'or sui en grant afondement,
for-now I-am in great sinking
se par cels n'ai relevement
if by those not-I-have raising-up
qui jusque ci
who until here
m'ont secoru la lor merci.
me-have succored the their mercy
Le cuer en ai tristre et noirci
The heart thereof I-have sad and blackened
de cest mehaing,
from this maiming
quar je n'i voi pas mon gaaing.
for I not-there see at-all my gain
Or n'ai je pas quanques je aing;
Now not-have I at-all whatever I love
c'est mes domages.
this-is my loss

Ne sai se c'a fet mes outrages;
Not I-know if this-has done my excess
or devendrai sobres et sages
now I-shall-become sober and wise
apres le fet,
after the deed
et me garderai de forfet.
and myself I-shall-guard from wrongdoing
Mes ce que vaut? Ce est ja fet;
But this what avails This is already done
tart sui meuz;
late I-am moved
a tart me sui aperceuz
at late myself I-am perceived
quant je sui en mes las cheuz
when I am into my snares fallen
cest premier an.
this first year
Me gart cil Diex en mon droit san
Me may-guard that God in my right sense
qui por nos ot paine et ahan
who for us had pain and toil
et me gart l'ame.
and for-me may-guard the-soul
Or a d'enfant geu ma fame;
Now has of-child lain-in my wife
mes chevax a brisié la jame
my horse has broken the leg
a une lice;
at a barrier

or vuet de l'argent ma norrice
now wants of the-money my nurse
qui me destraint et me pelice
who me presses and me fleeces
por l'enfant pestre,
for the-child to-feed
ou il revendra brere en l'estre:
or he will-come-again to-bawl in the-house
cil dame Diex qui le fist nestre
that lord God who him made be-born
li doint chevance,
to-him may-give means
et li envoit sa sostenance,
and to-him may-send his sustenance
et me doint encore alejance
and to-me may-give still relief
qu'aidier li puisse,
that-to-help him I-may
et que miex son vivre li truise
and that better his living for-him I-may-find
et que miex mon ostel conduise
and that better my lodging I-may-guide
que je ne fes.
than I — do
Se je m'esmai je n'en puis mes,
If I myself-dismay I not-thereof can more
quar je n'ai dosaine ne fes,
for I not-have dozen nor bundle
en ma meson,
in my house

de busche por ceste seson.
of firewood for this season
Si esbahiz ne fu mes hom
So dismayed not was ever man
com je sui, voir,
as I am truly
qu'onques ne fui a mains d'avoir.
for-ever not I-was at less of-having
Mes ostes vuet l'argent avoir
My host wants the-money to-have
de son osté,
of his lodging
et j'en ai presque tot osté
and I-thereof have almost all taken-away
et si me sont nu li costé
and so to-me are bare the sides
contre l'yver.
against the-winter
Cist mal me sont dur et divers,
These ills to-me are hard and harsh
dont molt me sont changié li vers
by-which much to-me are changed the verses
envers antan.
toward yesteryear
Por pou n'afol quant j'i entan;
For little not-I-go-mad when I-there attend
ne m'estuet pas taner en tan,
not me-behooves at-all to-tan in tanbark

quar le resveil
for the waking
me tane assez quant je m'esveil,
me tans plenty when I myself-wake
si ne sai se je dorm ou veil,
so not I-know if I sleep or wake
ou se je pens,
or if I think
quel part je penrai mon despens
which way I shall-take my expense
par quoi puisse passer le tenz.
by which I-may pass the time
Tel siecle ai gié:
Such world have I
mi gage sont tuit engagié
my pledges are all pledged
et de chiez moi desmanagié,
and from (the-)house-of me unhoused
quar j'ai geu
for I-have lain
trois mois que nului ai veu.
three months that nobody I-have seen
Ma fame r'a enfant eu:
My wife in-turn-has child had
un mois entier
a month entire
me r'a geu sor le chantier.
me in-turn-has lain on the trestle

Et je gisoie endementier
And I lay meanwhile
en l'autre lit
in the-other bed
ou j'avoie pou de delit:
where I-had little of delight
onques mes mains ne m'abelit
ever before less not me-pleased
gesirs que lors;
lying than then
quar j'en sui de mon avoir fors
for I-thereof am from my having out
et s'en sui mehaigniez du cors
and so-thereof am maimed of-the body
jusqu'au fenir.
until-the end
Li mal ne sevent seul venir:
The ills not know-how alone to-come
tot ce m'estoit a avenir
all this to-me-was to happen
s'est avenu.
so-is happened
Que sont mi ami devenu
What are my friends become
que j'avoie si pres tenu
whom I-had so close held
et tant amé?
and so-much loved
Je cuit qu'il sont trop cler semé:
I think that-they are too thinly sown

il ne furent pas bien semé,
they not were at-all well sown
si sont failli.
so are failed
Itel ami m'ont mal bailli,
Such friends me-have ill handled
qu'onques tant com Diex m'assailli
for-ever as-long as God me-assailed
en maint costé
on many-a side
n'en vi un seul en mon osté:
not-thereof I-saw a single-one in my lodging
je cuit li venz les m'a osté.
I think the wind them from-me-has taken
L'amors est morte:
The-love is dead
ce sont ami que venz enporte,
these are friends that wind carries-off
et il ventoit devant ma porte,
and it blew before my door
ses enporta,
so-them carried-off
qu'onques nus ne m'en conforta
for-ever anyone not me-thereof comforted
ne du sien riens ne m'aporta.
nor of-the his anything not to-me-brought
Ice m'aprent:
This me-teaches
qui auques a, privez le prent,
who somewhat has intimates it takes

et cil trop a tart se repent
and he too at late himself repents
qui trop a mis
who too-much has put
de son avoir por fere amis,
of his having for to-make friends
qu'il nes trueve entiers ne demis
for-he not-them finds whole nor half
a lui secorre.
to him succor
Or lerai donc fortune corre
Now I-shall-let then fortune run
si entendrai a moi rescorre
so I-shall-attend to myself to-rescue
se jel puis fere.
if I-it can do
Vers les preudomes m'estuet trere
Toward the worthy-men me-behooves to-draw
qui sont cortois et debonere
who are courteous and gracious
et m'ont norri;
and me-have nourished
mi autre ami sont tuit porri,
my other friends are all rotten
je les envoi a mestre Orri
I them send to master Orri
et ses i les;
and so-them there I-leave

on en doit bien fere son les
one thereof ought well make his bequest
et tel gent lessier en reles
and such people to-leave in release
sanz reclamer,
without reclaiming
qu'il n'a en els riens a amer,
for-there not-has in them anything to love
que l'en doie a amor clamer.
that one ought to love claim
Or pri celui
Now I-pray him
qui trois parties fist de lui,
who three parts made of himself
qui refuser ne set nului
who to-refuse not knows-how anybody
qui le reclaime,
who him calls-upon
qui l'aore et Seignor le claime,
who him-adores and Lord him calls
et qui cels tempte que il aime,
and who those tempts whom he loves
qui m'a tempté,
who me-has tempted
que il me doint bone santé,
that he to-me may-give good health
que je face sa volenté
that I may-do his will
tot sanz desroi.
all without disorder

Mon seignor, qui est filz de Roi,
To-my lord who is son of King
mon dit et ma complainte envoi,
my poem and my complaint I-send
qu'il m'est mestiers.
for-it to-me-is need
Qu'il m'a aidié molt volentiers:
For-he me-has helped very willingly
ce est li bons cuens de Poitiers
this is the good count of Poitiers
et de Tolose;
and of Toulouse
il saura bien que cil golose
he will-know well what that-one craves
qui si fetement se dolose.
who so in-such-wise himself laments

C'est la Paiz de Rutebuef

III · RUTEBEUF'S PEACE

He prays God keep his friend in middling state, since a friend raised to lordship listens to flatterers, and then the poor friend is chased from court. A rich man who trusts flatterers does more wrong than right, and wise is he who trusts in God alone. He has lost a good friend in France and his own sight is failing, but he will have enough wherever he is, whoever is grieved by it.

Mon bon ami Diex le mainteingne!
My good friend God him may-maintain
Mes resons me montre et enseingne
My reason me shows and teaches
qu'a Dieu face une tel priere,
that-to God I-may-make a such prayer
s'il est moiens, que Diex l'i tiengne,
if-be is middling that God him-there may-keep
que puis qu'en seignorie viengne
for since that-into lordship he-may-come
j'i pert honor et bele chiere!
I-there lose honor and fair welcome
Moiens est de bele maniere
Middling he-is of fair manner
et s'amors est ferme et entiere
and his-love is firm and entire
et set bon gré qui l'acompaingne;
and knows good thanks who him-accompanies
quar com plus basse est la lumiere,
for as more low is the light
miex voit on avant et arriere,
better sees one forward and back
et com plus hausse, plus esloingne.
and as more it-rises more it-goes-far

Quant li moiens devient granz sires,
When the middling-man becomes great lord
lors vient flaters et net mesdires;
then comes flattering and is-born slandering
qui plus en set, plus a sa grace.
who most thereof knows most has his favor
Lors est perduz joers et rires:
Then is lost playing and laughing
li roiaumes devient empires
the kingdom becomes worse
et tuit ensuient une trace.
and all follow one track
Li povre amis est en espace:
The poor friend is in abeyance
s'il vient a cort, chascuns l'en chace
if-he comes to court each him-thence chases
par gros moz ou par vitupires.
by coarse words or by insults
Li flateres de pute estrace
The flatterer of vile lineage
fet cui il vuet vuidier la place:
makes whom he wishes to-empty the place
s'il vuet, li mieudres est li pires.
if-he wishes the best is the worst

Riches hom qui flateor croit
Rich man who flatterer believes
fet de legier plus tort que droit,
does from lightly more wrong than right
et de legier faut a droiture
and from lightly fails at uprightness
quant de legier croit et mescroit.
when from lightly he-believes and misbelieves
Fols est qui sor s'amor acroit
Fool is who upon his-love borrows
et sages qui entor li dure.
and wise who around him lasts
James jor ne metrai ma cure
Ever day not I-shall-put my care
en fere reson ne mesure
into making reason nor measure
se n'est por celui qui tot voit;
if not-is for him who all sees
sages est qu'en li s'asseure,
wise is who-in him himself-assures
quar s'amors est ferme et seure;
for his-love is firm and sure
tuit li autre sont d'un endroit.
all the others are of-one place

J'avoie un bon ami en France,
I-had a good friend in France
or l'ai perdu par mescheance.
now him-I-have lost by mischance
De totes parz Diex me guerroie,
From all sides God me makes-war
de totes parz pert je chevance!
from all sides lose I means
Diex le m'atort a penitance
God it to-me-may-turn to penance
que par tenz cuit que pou i voie;
for in time I-think that little there I-may-see
de sa veue r'ait il joie
of his sight again-may-have he joy
aussi grant com j'ai de la moie
as great as I-have of the mine
qui m'a meu tel mesestance;
who to-me-has moved such distress
mes bien le sache et si le croie:
but well it be-may-know and so it be-may-believe
j'aurai assez ou que je soie,
I-shall-have enough wherever that I may-be
qui qu'en ait anui et pesance.
who that-thereof may-have vexation and grief

De la Griesche d'Yver

IV · WINTER GAMING

Against the winter, when the leaves fall, he begins a poem of his poverty. God has given him poor wit, poor memory, poor income, and a cold backside when the north wind blows. The stakes he laid took all he had, and the dice his robe. No one loves the gambler who trusts their counsel, and the man who once called him cousin laughs and sends him to buy cloth on credit. So each man pays him back.

Contre le tenz qu'arbres desfueille,
Toward the time when-tree unleaves
qu'il ne remaint en branche fueille
for-it not remains on branch leaf
qui n'aut a terre,
that not-may-go to earth
por povreté, qui moi aterre,
for poverty which me fells
qui de totes parz me muet guerre,
which from all sides on-me moves war
contre l'yver,
toward the-winter
dont molt me sont changié li ver,
by-which much to-me are changed the verses
mon dit commence trop diver
my poem begins too harsh
de povre estoire.
of poor story
Povre sens et povre memoire
Poor sense and poor memory
m'a Diex doné, li rois de gloire,
to-me-has God given the king of glory

et povre rente,
and poor income
et froit au cul quant bise vente.
and cold at-the ass when north-wind blows
Li venz me vient, li venz m'esvente,
The wind to-me comes the wind me-fans
et trop sovent
and too often
plusors foiees sent le vent.
several times I-feel the wind
Bien le m'ot griesche en covent
Well it to-me-had the-griesche in promise
quanques me livre;
whatever to-me she-delivers
bien me paie, bien me delivre:
well me she-pays well me she-frees
contre le sout me rent la livre
against the sou to-me she-renders the pound
de grant poverte.
of great poverty
Povretez est sor moi reverte:
Poverty is upon me returned
toz jors m'en est la porte overte,
all days to-me-thence is the door open
toz jors i sui
all days there I-am
ne nule foiz ne m'en eschui;
nor any time not myself-thence escaped
par pluie moil, par chaut essui.
by rain I-soak by heat I-dry

Ci a riche home;
Here has rich man
je ne dorm que le premier some.
I not sleep but the first sleep
De mon avoir ne sai la some
Of my having not I-know the sum
qu'il n'i a point.
for-it not-there has at-all
Diex me fet le tenz si a point:
God to-me makes the weather so at point
noire mousche en esté me point,
black fly in summer me stings
en yver blanche.
in winter white
Aussi sui com l'osiere franche
Just I-am as the-willow noble
ou com li oisiaus sor la branche:
or as the bird upon the branch
en esté chante,
in summer I-sing
en yver plor et me gaimante,
in winter I-weep and myself lament
et me desfueil aussi com l'ente
and myself unleave just as the-graft
au premier giel.
at-the first frost
En moi n'a ne venin ne fiel;
In me not-has neither venom nor gall
il ne me remaint rien soz ciel:
it not to-me remains anything under heaven

tot va sa voie.
all goes its way
Li envial que j'envioie
The stakes that I-staked
m'ont avoié quanques j'avoie
me-have sent-away whatever I-had
et forsvoié,
and led-astray
et fors de voie desvoié.
and out of way strayed
Fols enviaus ai envoié,
Foolish stakes I-have sent
or m'en sovient;
now me-thereof remembers
or voi je bien, tot va, tot vient,
now see I well all goes all comes
tot venir, tot aler covient
all to-come all to-go behooves
fors que bien fet.
except that good deed
Li dé que li detier ont fet
The dice that the dice-makers have made
m'ont de ma robe tot desfet;
me-have of my robe all undone
li dé m'ocient;
the dice me-kill
li dé m'aguetent et espient,
the dice me-watch and spy
li dé m'assaillent et desfient,
the dice me-assail and defy

ce poise moi;
this weighs me
je ne puis mes se je m'esmai.
I not can more if I myself-dismay
Ne voi venir avril ne may,
Not I-see to-come April nor May
vez ci la glace.
see here the ice
Or sui entrez en male trace.
Now I-am entered on evil track
Li traitor de pute estrace
The traitors of vile lineage
m'ont mis sanz robe.
me-have put without robe
Li siecles est si plains de lobe!
The world is so full of deceit
Qui auques a, si fet le gobe;
Who somewhat has so makes the swagger
et je que fes,
and I what I-do
qui de povreté sent le fes?
who of poverty feel the burden
Griesche ne me lest en pes,
The-griesche not me leaves in peace
molt me desroie,
much me disorders
molt m'assaut et molt me guerroie.
much me-assails and much me makes-war
James de cest mal ne garroie,
Ever of this ill not I-would-be-cured

par tel marchié.
by such bargain
Trop ai en mauves leu marchié.
Too-much I-have in bad place bargained
Li dé m'ont pris et enparchié;
The dice me-have taken and impounded
je les claim quite.
I them declare quit
Fols est qu'a lor conseil abite,
Fool is who-at their counsel dwells
de sa dete pas ne s'aquite,
of his debt at-all not himself-acquits
aincois s'encombre;
rather himself-encumbers
de jor en jor acroist le nombre.
from day to day increases the number
En esté ne quiert il pas l'ombre
In summer not seeks he at-all the-shade
ne froide chambre,
nor cold chamber
que nu li sont sovent li membre.
for bare to-him are often the limbs
Du duel son voisin ne li membre,
Of-the grief his neighbor's not to-him remembers
mes le sien plore;
but the his-own he-weeps
griesche li a coru sore,
the-griesche to-him has run upon
desnué l'a en petit d'ore,
stripped him-has in little of-hour

et nus ne l'aime;
and anyone not him-loves
cil qui devant cosin le claime
he who before cousin him calls
li dist en riant: «Ci faut traime
to-him says in laughing Here lacks weft
par lecherie.
by lechery
Foi que tu dois sainte Marie,
Faith that thou owest saint Mary
quar va ore en la draperie
now go now into the drapery
du drap acroire.
of-the cloth to-get-on-credit
Se li drapiers ne t'en vuet croire,
If the draper not thee-thereof wishes to-believe
si t'en reva droit a la foire
so thee-thence go-back straight to the fair
et va au change.
and go to-the exchange
Se tu jures saint Michiel l'ange,
If thou swearest saint Michael the-angel
que tu n'as sor toi lin ne lange
that thou not-hast upon thee linen nor wool
ou ait argent,
where may-be silver
l'en te verra molt biau sergent.
one thee will-see very fair sergeant
Bien t'aperceveront la gent,
Well thee-will-perceive the people

creuz seras;
believed thou-wilt-be
quant d'iluecques te partiras,
when from-there thyself thou-wilt-part
argent ou faille enporteras.»
silver or failure thou-wilt-carry-off
Or ai ma paie;
Now I-have my pay
ainsi vers moi chascuns s'apaie:
thus toward me each himself-pays
je n'en puis mes.
I not-thereof can more

La Griesche d'Esté

V · SUMMER GAMING

He laments his folly the week round. All winter he worked and won nothing to cover him, since the griesche says check to its worker. The gamblers boast in March that they will have robes if two dice do not bewitch them, but the purse is empty and the money goes to the tavern. Lent is over, April comes, and they own nothing but the belly. Now God has lent them a warm season and they have all learned to go barefoot.

En recordant ma grant folie
In recalling my great folly
qui n'est ne gente ne jolie,
which not-is neither comely nor pretty
ainz est vilaine,
rather is churlish
et vilains cil qui la demaine,
and churl he who it practices

me plaing sept jors en la semaine,
myself I-complain seven days in the week
et par reson.
and by reason
Si esbahiz ne fu mes hom,
So dismayed not was ever man
qu'en yver tote la seson
for-in winter all the season
ai si ovré
I-have so worked
et en ovrant m'ai aovré
and in working myself-I-have wrought
qu'en ovrant n'ai rien recovré
that-in working not-I-have anything recovered
dont je me cuevre.
with-which I myself cover
Ci a fol ovrier et fole oevre;
Here has foolish worker and foolish work
qui par ovrer riens ne recuevre
who by working anything not recovers
tot torne a perte,
all turns to loss
et la griesche est si aperte,
and the griesche is so open
qu'eschac dit a la descoverte
that-check says at the discovery
a son ovrier,
to her worker
dont puis n'i a nul recovrier.
by-which then not-there has any recovery

Juigniez li fet sambler fevrier.
July to-him she-makes seem February
La dent dit: «Cac»
The tooth says Chack
et la griesche dit: «Eschac»;
and the griesche says Check
qui plus en set s'afuble un sac
who most thereof knows himself-wraps a sack
de la griesche.
of the griesche
De Gresce vient, si griez eesche;
From Greece comes so grievous bait
or est ja Borgoingne briesche:
now is already Burgundy poor-in-bread
tant a venu
so-much has come
de la gent qu'ele a retenu,
of the people that-she has retained
sont tuit cil de sa rote nu
are all those of her troop bare
et tuit deschaus
and all unshod
et par les froiz et par les chaus,
and by the colds and by the heats
nes li plus mestres seneschaus
even the most master seneschal
n'a robe entiere.
not-has robe entire

La griesche est de tel maniere
The griesche is of such manner
qu'ele vuet avoir gent legiere
that-she wishes to-have people light
en son servise:
in her service
une ore en cote, autre en chemise.
one hour in coat another in shirt
Tel gent aime com je devise,
Such people she-loves as I describe
trop het riche home;
too-much she-hates rich man
s'aus poins le tient, ele l'assome.
if-in-the fists him holds she him-fells
En cort terme set bien la some
In short term she-knows well the sum
de son avoir:
of his having
plorer li fet son non savoir;
to-weep him she-makes his not knowing
sovent li fet gruel avoir,
often him she-makes gruel to-have
qui qu'ait avaine;
whoever may-have oats
tramblé m'en a la mestre vaine;
trembled to-me-thereof has the master vein
or vos dirai de lor covaine:
now to-you I-shall-tell of their covenant
j'en sai assez,
I-thereof know plenty

sovent en ai esté lassez:
often thereof I-have been wearied
mi-marz que li froiz est passez
mid-March when the cold is passed
notent et chantent.
they-note and sing
Li un et li autre se vantent
The one and the other themselves boast
que se dui dé ne les enchantent
that if two dice not them enchant
il auront robe.
they will-have robe
Esperance les sert de lobe
Hope them serves with mockery
et la griesche les desrobe.
and the griesche them robs
La borse est vuide;
The purse is empty
li jeus fet ce que l'en ne cuide:
the game does that which one not thinks
qui que tisse chascuns desvide;
who that may-weave each unwinds
li penssers chiet,
the thinking falls
nus biaus eches ne lor eschiet.
any fair throw not to-them falls
N'en pueent mes qu'il lor meschiet,
Not-thereof they-can more that-it to-them goes-ill
ainz lor en poise.
rather to-them thereof weighs

Qui qu'ait l'argent, Diex a la noise.
Whoever may-have the-silver God has the noise
Aillors covient lor penssers voise,
Elsewhere behooves their thought may-go
quar deus tornois,
for two tournois
trois parisis, cinq vienois
three parisis five viennois
ne pueent pas fere un borgois
not can at-all make a burgher
d'un nu despris.
of-a bare despised-one
Je ne di pas que jes despris,
I not say at-all that I-them despise
ainz di qu'autres conseus est pris
rather I-say that-other counsel is taken
de cel argent,
of that silver
ne s'en vont pas longues charjant,
not themselves-thence go at-all long loading
por ce que li argenz art gent,
for this that the silver burns people
n'en ont que fere,
not-thereof they-have what to-do
ainz entendent a autre afere:
rather they-attend to other affair
au tavernier font du vin trere;
to-the taverner they-make of-the wine draw
or entre bole,
now enters trickery

ne boivent pas, chascuns le cole;
not drink at-all each it gulps
tant en entonent par la gole,
so-much thereof they-pour through the throat
ne lor sovient
not to-them remembers
se robe achater lor covient.
if robe to-buy to-them behooves
Riche sont, mes ne sai dont vient
Rich they-are but not I-know whence comes
lor granz richece:
their great richness
chascuns n'a riens quant il se drece,
each not-has anything when he himself raises
au paier sont plain de parece:
at-the paying they-are full of sloth
or faut la feste,
now fails the feast
or remainent chancons de geste,
now cease songs of deed
si s'en vont nu come une beste
so themselves-thence go bare as a beast
quant il s'esmuevent.
when they themselves-stir
A lendemain povre se truevent;
At morrow poor themselves they-find
li dui dé povrement se pruevent:
the two dice poorly themselves prove

or faut quaresme
now fails Lent
qui lor a esté durs et pesme.
which to-them has been hard and worst
De poisson autant com de cresme
Of fish as-much as of cream
i ont eu:
there they-have had
tot ont joé, tot ont beu;
all they-have played all they-have drunk
li uns a l'autre deceu,
the one has the-other deceived
dist Rustebues,
says Rutebeuf
por lor tabar, qui n'est pas nues,
for their tabard which not-is at-all new
qui toz est venduz en deus oes;
which wholly is sold in two uses
et avrils entre,
and April enters
et il n'ont riens defors le ventre.
and they not-have anything outside the belly
Lors sont il viste et prunte et entre,
Then are they quick and ready and entire
s'il ont que metre;
if-they have what to-put
lors les verriiez entremetre
then them you-would-see busy-themselves
de dez prendre et de dez jus metre.
with dice to-take and with dice down to-put

Ez vos la joie:
Behold you the joy
n'i a si nu qui ne s'esjoie;
not-there has so bare who not himself-rejoices
plus sont seignor que raz en moie
more they-are lords than rats in mow
tot cel esté;
all that summer
trop ont en grant froidure esté,
too-much they-have in great cold been
or lor a Diex un tenz presté
now to-them has God a time lent
ou il fet chaut,
where it makes hot
et d'autre chose ne lor chaut:
and of-other thing not to-them matters
tuit ont apris aler deschaut.
all have learned to-go unshod

C'est de la povreté Rutebeuf

VI · RUTEBEUF'S POVERTY

He prays the king of France for some help, since he has lived on loans and is known to be poor and in debt, and the king has been abroad. Dear times and his household have left him no pennies or pledges. Death and the king's two voyages, the last to Tunis, have taken his good patrons from him. He has no coat and no bed but straw, and at Paris among all good things none is his; the Creed is denied him.

Je ne sai par ou je comance,
I not know by where I may-begin
tant ai de matiere abondance
so-much I-have of matter abundance
por parler de ma povreté.
for to-speak of my poverty
Por Dieu vos pri, frans Rois de France,
For God you I-pray noble King of France
que me donez quelque chevance, 5
that to-me you-may-give some means
si ferez trop grant charité.
so you-will-do exceedingly great charity
J'ai vescu de l'autrui chaté
I-have lived of the-other's goods
que l'en m'a creu et presté;
which one to-me-has credited and lent
or me faut chascuns de creance,
now me fails each of credit

qu'on me set povre et endeté:
for-one me knows poor and indebted
vos r'avez hors du regne esté
you in-turn-have outside of-the realm been
ou tote avoie m'atendance.
where all I-had my-expectation

Entre chier tenz et ma mesnie,
Between dear time and my household
qui n'est malade ne fenie,
which not-is sick nor ended
ne m'ont lessié deniers ne gages;
not to-me-have left pence nor pledges
gent truis d'escondire aramie
people I-find of-refusing ready
et de doner mal enseignie;
and of giving ill taught
du sien garder est chascuns sages.
of-the his-own to-keep is each wise
Mors me r'a fet de granz damages,
Death to-me in-turn-has done of great damages
et vos, bons Rois, en deus voiages
and you good King in two voyages
m'avez bone gent esloignie,
from-me-have good people removed

et li lontainz pelerinages
and the distant pilgrimage
de Tunes qui est leus sauvages
of Tunis which is place savage
et la male gent renoie.
and the evil people renegade

Granz Rois, s'il avient qu'a vos faille —
Great King if-it happens that-to you I-may-fail
(a toz ai je failli sanz faille)
to all have I failed without fail
vivres me faut et est failliz.
living me fails and is failed
Nus ne me tent, nus ne me baille;
Anyone not to-me holds-out anyone not to-me hands
je touz de froit, de faim baaille,
I cough from cold from hunger yawn
dont je sui mors et maubailliz.
by-which I am dead and ill-handled
Je sui sanz cotes et sanz liz,
I am without coats and without beds
n'a si povre jusqu'a Senliz.
not-has so poor as-far-as-to Senlis
Sire, si ne sai quel part aille;
Lord so not I-know which way I-may-go

mes costez conoit le pailliz,
my side knows the straw-heap
et liz de paille n'est pas liz
and bed of straw not-is at-all bed
et en mon lit n'a fors la paille.
and in my bed not-has except the straw

Sire, je vos faz a savoir:
Lord I you make to know
je n'ai de quoi du pain avoir;
I not-have of what of-the bread to-have
a Paris sui entre toz biens,
at Paris I-am among all goods
et n'i a nul qui i soit miens.
and not-there has any who there may-be mine
Pou i voi et si i preng pou;
Little there I-see and so there I-take little
il m'i sovient plus de saint Pou
it to-me-there remembers more of saint Paul
qu'il ne fet de nul autre apostre.
than-it — does of any other apostle
Bien sai Pater, ne sai qu'est nostre,
Well I-know Our-Father not I-know what-is our
que li chiers tenz m'a tot osté,
for the dear time from-me-has all taken

qu'il m'a si vuidié mon osté
for-it to-me-has so emptied my lodging
que li Credo m'est deveez
that the Creed to-me-is denied
et je n'ai plus que vos veez.
and I not-have more than you see

La Mort Rustebeuf

VII · RUTEBEUF'S DEATH

He must leave rhyming and weep, since he never served God perfectly and gave his mind to play. Ignorance will not warrant him, since God gave him sense and died for him. He has rhymed to please some at the cost of others, and the enemy has put his soul in orphanhood. Only the Lady who made the blessed Egyptian clean can heal his. Death spares neither weak nor strong, and he must render God his reckoning; now he will hold his peace.

Lessier m'estuet le rimoier,
To-leave me-behooves the rhyming
quar je me doi molt esmaier
for I myself ought much dismay
quant tenu l'ai si longuement;
when held it-I-have so long
bien me doit li cuers lermoier,
well me ought the heart weep
qu'onques ne me poi amoier
for-ever not myself I-could set
a Dieu servir parfetement;
to God to-serve perfectly

ainz ai mis mon entendement
rather I-have put my understanding
en jeu et en esbatement,
into play and into amusement
qu'ainz ne daignai nes saumoier;
for-ever not I-deigned even to-psalm
se por moi n'est au jugement
if for me not-is at-the judgment
cele ou Diex prist aombrement
she in-whom God took overshadowing
mau marchié pris au paumoier.
ill bargain I-took at-the handclasp

Tart serai mes au repentir.
Late I-shall-be henceforth at-the repenting
Las moi! qu'onques ne sot sentir
Alas me for-ever not knew-how to-feel
mes fols cuers quels est repentance,
my foolish heart what is repentance
n'a bien fere lui assentir!
nor-to good to-do itself to-assent
Coment oseroie tentir
How would-I-dare to-make-a-sound
quant nes li juste auront dotance?
when even the just will-have dread
J'ai toz jors engressié ma pance
I-have all days fattened my belly
d'autrui chatel, d'autrui substance.
of-other's goods of-other's substance

Ci a bon clerc au miex mentir:
Here has good clerk at-the best to-lie
se je di: «C'est par ignorance
if I say This-is through ignorance
que je ne sai qu'est penitance»
that I not know what-is penance
ce ne me puet pas garantir.
this not me can at-all warrant

Garantir! las! en quel maniere?
Warrant alas in what manner
Ne me fist Diex bonté entiere,
Not to-me did God bounty entire
qui me dona senz et savoir
who to-me gave sense and knowledge
et me fist a sa forme fiere?
and me made in his form proud
Encor me fist bonté plus chiere,
Still to-me he-did bounty more dear
que por moi vout mort recevoir.
that for me he-wished death to-receive
Senz me dona de decevoir
Sense to-me he-gave of deceiving
l'anemi qui me vuet avoir
the-enemy who me wishes to-have
et metre en sa chartre premiere,
and to-put in his prison first

la dont nus ne se puet r'avoir:
there whence anyone not himself can recover
por priere ne por avoir
for prayer nor for having
n'en voi nul qui reviengne arriere.
not-thereof I-see any who may-come back

J'ai fet au cors sa volenté,
I-have done to-the body its will
j'ai fet rimes et s'ai chanté
I-have made rhymes and so-I-have sung
sor les uns por aus autres plere,
upon the ones for to-the others to-please
dont anemis m'a enchanté
by-which enemy me-has enchanted
et m'ame mise en orfenté
and my-soul put in orphanhood
por mener au felon repere.
for to-lead to-the felon lair
Se cele en qui toz biens resclere
If she in whom all goods shine
ne prent en cure mon afere,
not takes into care my affair

de male rente m'a renté
with evil rent me-has rented
mes cuers, ou tant truis de contrere:
my heart where so-much I-find of vexation
fisicien, n'apoticaire
physician nor-apothecary
ne me pueent doner santé.
not to-me can give health

Je sai une fisiciene,
I know a physician
que a Lion ne a Viane,
that at Lyon nor at Vienne
ne tant come li siecles dure,
nor so-long as the world lasts
n'a si bone serurgiene,
not-has so good surgeon
n'est plaie, tant soit anciene,
not-is wound so-much it-may-be ancient
qu'ele ne netoit et escure
that-she not may-clean and scour
puis qu'ele i vuet metre sa cure.
since that-she there wishes to-put her care
Ele espurja de vie obscure
She purged of life dark
la beneoite Egypciene,
the blessed Egyptian

a Dieu la rendi nete et pure:
to God her rendered clean and pure
si com c'est voirs, si praingne en cure
so as this-is true so she-may-take into care
ma lasse d'ame crestiene!
my weary of-soul Christian

Puis que morir voi foible et fort,
Since that to-die I-see weak and strong
coment prendrai en moi confort
how shall-I-take in me comfort
que de mort me puisse desfendre?
that from death me it-may defend
N'en voi nul, tant ait grant esfort,
Not-thereof I-see any so-much may-have great effort
qui des piez n'ost le contrefort;
who of-the feet not-may-take-away the buttress
si fet le cors a terre estendre.
so makes the body to earth stretch
Que puis je fors la mort atendre?
What can I except the death to-await
La morz ne lest ne dur ne tendre,
The death not leaves neither hard nor tender
por avoir que l'en li aport,
for having that one to-her may-bring

et quant li cors est mis en cendre
and when the body is put into ashes
si covient a Dieu reson rendre
so behooves to God reckoning to-render
de quanques fist dusqu'a la mort.
of whatever it-did until-to the death

Or ai tant fet que ne puis mes,
Now I-have so-much done that not I-can more
si me covient tenir en pes:
so me behooves to-hold in peace
Diex doinst que ce ne soit trop tart!
God may-grant that this not may-be too late
Toz jors ai acreu mon fes,
All days I-have increased my burden
et oi dire a clers et [a] les:
and I-heard say from clerks and from laymen
«Com plus cove li feus, plus art.»
As more broods the fire more it-burns
Je cuidai engigner Renart;
I thought to-trick Reynard
or n'i valent engin ne art,
now not-there avail trick nor art
qu'asseur est en son pales.
for-safe he-is in his palace

Por cest siecle qui se depart
For this world which itself departs
m'en covient partir d'autre part:
me-thence behooves to-depart from-other part
qui que l'envie, je le les.
who that it-may-envy I it leave

THE HOLY LAND

La Complainte d'Outre-Mer

VIII · THE COMPLAINT OF THE HOLY LAND

He asks emperors, kings, counts, and dukes by what service they think to win paradise, which the heroes of their romances won by suffering. The Holy Land is lost unless the king of France, the count of Poitiers, and the barons succor it. Prelates who skip matins want only wine and food, great clerks make God of their bellies, and tourneyers will have no answer at the Judgment. Antioch has no Godfrey now, and no one will defend the land.

Empereor et roi et conte
Emperors and kings and counts
et duc et prince a cui l'en conte
and dukes and princes to whom one tells
romanz divers, por vos esbatre,
romances diverse for you to-amuse
de cels qui se seulent combatre
of those who themselves are-wont to-fight
ca en arriers por sainte Yglise,
here in back-time for holy Church

quar me dites par quel servise
now me tell by what service
vos cuidiez avoir paradis.
you think to-have paradise
Cil le gaaignerent jadis
Those it won formerly
dont vos oez ces romanz lire,
of-whom you hear these romances read
par la paine, et par le martire
by the pain and by the torment
que li cors sofrirent sor terre.
that the bodies suffered upon earth
Vez ci le tenz; Diex vos vient querre,
See here the time God you comes to-seek
braz estenduz de son sanc tainz,
arms stretched-out with his blood dyed
par qui li feus vos est estainz
by whom the fire for-you is quenched
et d'enfer et de purgatoire!
and of-hell and of purgatory
Recomenciez novele estoire,
Begin-again new story
servez Dieu de fin cuer entier,
serve God with fine heart entire
quar Diex vos monstre le sentier
for God to-you shows the path
de son pais et de sa marche,
of his country and of his march
que l'en, sanz reson, li sormarche;
which one without reason upon-him encroaches

por ce si devriiez entendre
for this so you-ought attend
a revengier et a desfendre
to avenging and to defending
la terre de promission
the land of promise
qui est en tribulacion
which is in tribulation
et perdue, se Diex n'en pensse,
and lost if God not-thereof thinks
se prochainement n'a desfense.
if soon not-it-has defense
Soviengne vos de Dieu le Pere
May-remember to-you of God the Father
qui por sofrir la mort amere
who for to-suffer the death bitter
envoia en terre son Fil;
sent into earth his Son
or est la terre en grant peril
now is the land in great peril
la ou il fu et morz et vis.
there where he was both dead and alive
Je ne sai que plus vos devis:
I not know what more to-you I-may-tell
qui n'aidera en ceste enpointe,
who not-will-help in this assault
qui ci fera le mesacointe,
who here will-make the stranger
pou priserai tot l'autre afere,
little I-shall-prize all the-other affair

tant sache li papelarz fere;
so-much may-know the pious-fraud to-do
ainz dirai mes et jor et nuit:
rather I-shall-say henceforth both day and night
n'est pas tot or quanqu'il reluit.
not-is at-all all gold whatever-it shines
Ha, rois de France, rois de France,
Ah king of France king of France
la loiz, la foiz et la creance
the law the faith and the belief
va presque tote chancelant!
goes almost wholly tottering
Que vos iroie plus celant?
Why to-you would-I-go more hiding
Secorez la, qu'or est mestiers,
Succor it for-now is need
et vos et li cuens de Poitiers
both you and the count of Poitiers
et li autre baron ensamble:
and the other barons together
n'atendez pas tant que vos emble
not-wait at-all so-long that from-you may-steal
la morz l'ame, por Dieu, seignor;
the death the-soul for God lords
mes qui voudra avoir honor
but who will-wish to-have honor
en paradis, si la deserve,
in paradise so it may-deserve
quar je n'i voi nule autre verve.
for I not-there see any other way

Jhesu-Criz dist en l'Evangile
Jesus-Christ says in the-Gospel
qui n'est de trufe ne de guile:
which not-is of trifle nor of trick
«Ne doit pas paradis avoir
Not ought at-all paradise have
qui fame et enfanz et avoir
who wife and children and having
ne lest por l'amor de celui
not leaves for the-love of him
qu'en la fin est juges de lui.»
who-in the end is judge of him
Assez de gent sont molt dolant
Plenty of people are very sorrowful
de ce que l'en trahi Rollant,
of this that one betrayed Roland
et plorent de fausse pitié
and weep with false pity
et voient aus iex l'amistié
and see with-the eyes the-friendship
que Diex nos fist qui nos cria,
that God to-us did who us created
qui en la sainte croiz cria
who on the holy cross cried
aus juys qu'il moroit de soi;
to-the Jews that-he died of thirst
ce n'est pas por boivre a guersoi,
this not-is at-all for to-drink at carousal
ainz avoit soi de nos reembre.
rather he-had thirst of us to-redeem

Celui doit l'en doter et criembre,
Him ought one fear and dread
por tel seignor doit l'en plorer
for such lord ought one weep
qu'ainsi se lessa devorer,
who-thus himself let devour
qui se fist percer le costé
who himself had pierced the side
por nos oster du mal osté:
for us to-take-away from-the evil lodging
du costé issi sanz et eve
from-the side issued blood and water
qui ses amis netoie et leve.
which his friends cleans and washes
Rois de France, qui avez mis
King of France who have put
et vostre avoir et voz amis
both your having and your friends
et le cors por Dieu en prison,
and the body for God in prison
ci aura trop grant mesprison
here will-have too great misdeed
s'a la sainte terre failliez.
if-to the holy land you-fail
Or covient que vos i ailliez,
Now behooves that you there may-go
ou vos i envoiez de gent,
or you there may-send of people
sanz espargnier or ne argent,
without sparing gold nor silver

dont li droiz Dieu soit calengiez.
by-which the right (of-)God may-be claimed
Diex ne vuet fere plus lonz giez
God not wishes to-make more long delay
a ses amis, ne longue lenge,
to his friends nor long respite
aincois i vuet metre calenge,
rather there he-wishes to-put claim
et vuet cil le voisent veoir
and wishes those him may-go to-see
qu'a sa destre voudront seoir.
who-at his right will-wish to-sit
Ahi, prelat de sainte Yglise,
Ah prelates of holy Church
qui por garder les cors de bise
who for to-guard the bodies from north-wind
ne volez aler aus matines,
not wish to-go to-the matins
mes sires Giefrois de Sargines
my lord Geoffrey of Sargines
vos demande dela la mer;
you asks beyond the sea
mes je di cil fet a blasmer
but I say that-one is to blame
qui nule rien plus vos demande
who any thing more of-you asks
fors bons vins et bone viande
except good wines and good food
et que li poivres soit bien forz!
and that the pepper may-be well strong

C'est vostre guerre et vostre esforz,
This-is your war and your effort
c'est vostre Diex, c'est vostre biens;
this-is your God this-is your good
vostre peres i tret le fiens.
your father there draws the dung
Rustebues dist, qui riens ne coile,
Rutebeuf says who anything not hides
qu'assez aurez d'un pou de toile,
that-enough you-will-have of-a little of cloth
se les pances ne sont trop grasses;
if the bellies not are too fat
et que feront les ames lasses?
and what will-do the souls weary
Els iront la ou dire n'ose:
They will-go there where to-say not-I-dare
Diex est juges de ceste chose.
God is judge of this thing
Quar envoiez le redeisme
Now send the tithe
a Jhesu-Crist du sien meisme,
to Jesus-Christ of-the his-own very
si li fetes tant de bonté,
so to-him do so-much of bounty
puis qu'il vos a si haut monté.
since that-he you has so high mounted
Ahi, grant clerc, grant provandier,
Ah great clerks great prebendaries
qui tant estes grant viandier,
who so-much are great gluttons

qui fetes Dieu de vostre pance,
who make God of your belly
dites moi par quel acointance
tell me by what acquaintance
vos partirez au Dieu roiaume
you will-share in-the God's kingdom
qui ne volez pas dire un siaume
who not wish at-all to-say a psalm
du sautier (tant estes divers),
of-the psalter so-much are-you perverse
fors celui ou n'a que deus vers?
except that where not-has but two verses
Celui dites apres mengier.
That-one you-say after eating
Diex vuet que vos l'alez vengier
God wishes that you him-may-go to-avenge
sanz controver nul autre essoine,
without inventing any other excuse
ou vos lessiez le patremoine
or you may-leave the patrimony
qui est du sanc au Crucefi.
which is of-the blood of-the Crucified
Mal le tenez, je vos afi:
Ill it you-hold I to-you affirm
se vos servez Dieu a l'eglise,
if you serve God at the-church
Diex vos resert en autre guise,
God you serves-in-turn in other guise
qu'il vos pest en vostre meson!
for-he you feeds in your house

C'est quite quite par reson;
This-is quit quit by reason
mes se vos amez le repere
but if you love the dwelling
qui sanz fin est por joie fere,
which without end is for joy to-make
achetez le, que Diex le vent;
buy it for God it sells
quar il a mestier par covent
for he has need by covenant
d'acheteors, et cil s'engingnent
of-buyers and those themselves-deceive
qui orendroit ne le barguingnent;
who now not it bargain-for
quar tels foiz le voudront avoir
for such times it will-wish to-have
que ne l'auront pas por avoir.
that not it-will-have at-all for having
Tornoieor, vos que direz,
Tourneyers you what will-you-say
quant au jor du juise irez?
when to-the day of-the judgment you-will-go
Devant Dieu que porrez respondre?
Before God what will-you-be-able to-answer
Quar lors ne se porront repondre
For then not themselves will-be-able to-hide
ne gent clergies ne gent laies,
neither people clerical nor people lay
et Diex vos monsterra ses plaies!
and God to-you will-show his wounds

Se il vos demande la terre
If he you asks the land
ou por vos vout la mort soferre,
where for you he-wished the death to-suffer
que direz vos? Je ne sai quoi.
what will-say you I not know what
Li plus hardi seront si coi
The most bold will-be so quiet
qu'on les porroit penre a la main:
that-one them could take at the hand
et nos n'avons point de demain,
and we not-have a-whit of morrow
quar li termes vient et aproche
for the term comes and approaches
que la morz nos clorra la boche.
that the death to-us will-close the mouth
Ha, Antioche! terre sainte!
Ah Antioch land holy
Com ci a dolereuse plainte
How here has sorrowful lament
quant tu n'as mes nus Godefroiz!
when thou not-hast more any Godfreys
Li feus de charité est froiz
The fire of charity is cold
en chascun cuer de crestien:
in each heart of Christian
ne jone home ne ancien
neither young man nor old
n'ont por Dieu cure de combatre.
not-have for God care of fighting

Assez se porroit ja debatre
Much themselves could already debate
et Jacobins et Cordeliers,
both Jacobins and Cordeliers
qu'il trovassent nus Angeliers,
before-they might-find any Angeliers
nus Tancrez ne nus Bauduins;
any Tancreds nor any Baldwins
aincois leront aus Beduins
rather they-will-leave to-the Bedouins
maintenir la terre absolue,
to-hold the land absolved
qui par defaut nos est tolue;
which by default from-us is taken
et Diex l'a ja d'une part arse,
and God it-has already on-one side burned
d'autre part vienent cil de Tharse,
on-other side come those of Tarsus
et Coramin et Chenillier
and Khwarazmians and Chenilliers
revendront por tot escillier;
will-come-again for wholly to-ravage
ja ne sera qui la desfande.
ever not will-be who it may-defend
Se mes sires Giefroiz demande
If my lord Geoffrey asks
secors, si quiere qui li face,
succor so he-may-seek who to-him may-do
que je n'i voi nule autre trace;
for I not-there see any other trace

quar com plus en sermoneroie
for as more thereof I-would-preach
et plus l'afere enpireroie!
and more the-affair I-would-worsen
Cis siecles faut; qui bien fera
This world fails who good will-do
apres la mort le trovera.
after the death him will-find

La Complainte de Constantinoble

IX · THE COMPLAINT OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Constantinople is lost, the Morea waits for the same blow, and the Tartars come from the other side. Had the pennies given to the friars gone to the Holy Land, it would have had fewer enemies. Acre must widen its cemetery. Chivalry, which came from Greece to France, is dwindling, and the king favors men in white and gray over his knights. If war came, France would be left to the beguines, and Geoffrey of Sargines will get no more help.

Sospirant por l'umain lignage
Sighing for the-human lineage
et penssis au cruel domage
and pensive at-the cruel damage
qui de jor en jor i avient,
which from day to day there happens
vos vueil descovrir mon corage,
to-you I-wish to-uncover my heart
que ne sai autre laborage;
for not I-know other labor
du plus parfont du cuer me vient.
from-the most deep of-the heart to-me it-comes

Je sai bien, et bien m'en sovient,
I know well and well me-thereof remembers
que tot a avenir covient
that all to happen behooves
quanqu'ont dit li prophete sage:
whatever-have said the prophets wise
or porroit estre se devient
now could be if-it happens
que la foiz qui foible devient
that the faith which weak becomes
porroit changer nostre langage.
could change our language

Nos en sons bien entré en voie,
We thereon are well entered on way
n'i a si fol qui ne le voie,
not-there has so foolish who not it may-see
quant Constantinoble est perdue,
when Constantinople is lost
et la Moree se r'avoie
and the Morea itself prepares
a recevoir tele escorfroie
to receive such blow
dont sainte Yglise est esperdue.
by-which holy Church is distraught
Qu'el cors a petit d'atendue
For-in-the body has little of-expectation
quant il a la teste fendue!
when it has the head split

Je ne sai que plus vos diroie.
I not know what more to-you I-would-say
Se Jhesu-Criz ne fet aiue
If Jesus-Christ not makes aid
a la sainte terre absolue,
to the holy land absolved
bien li ert esloignie joie.
well to-her will-be removed joy

D'autre part vienent li Tartere,
From-other side come the Tartars
que l'en fera mes a tart tere,
whom one will-make henceforth at late be-silent
qu'on n'avoit cure d'aler querre:
whom-one not-had care of-going to-seek
Diex gart Jasphes, Acre, Cesere!
God may-guard Jaffa Acre Caesarea
Autre secors ne lor puis fere,
Other succor not to-them I-can do
que je ne sui mes hom de guerre.
for I not am henceforth man of war
Ha, Antioche, sainte terre,
Ah Antioch holy land
qui tant costastes a conquerre
who so-much cost to conquer
ainz qu'on vos peust a nos trere!
before that-one you might to us draw

Qui des ciex cuide ovrir la serre,
Who of-the heavens thinks to-open the lock
coment puet tel dolor soferre?
how can such sorrow suffer
S'il a Dieu, c'est donc par contrere?
If-he has God this-is then by contrary

Isle de Cret, Corse et Sezile,
Isle of Crete Corsica and Sicily
Chypre, douce terre et douce isle,
Cyprus sweet land and sweet isle
ou tuit avoient recovrance,
where all had recourse
quant vos serez en autrui pile,
when you will-be in other's pillage
li rois tendra deca concile
the king will-hold on-this-side council
coment Aiouls s'en vint en France,
how Aiol himself-thence came into France
et fera nueve remanance
and will-make new remaining
a cels qui font nueve creance,
for those who make new belief
novel Dieu et nueve evangile;
new God and new gospel

et lera semer par dotance
and will-let sow through fear
ypocrisie sa semance
hypocrisy her seed
qui est dame de ceste vile.
who is lady of this town

Se li denier que l'en a mis
If the pennies that one has put
en cels qu'a Dieu se font amis
into those who-to God themselves make friends
fussent mis en la terre sainte,
had-been put into the land holy
ele en eust mains d'anemis
she thereof might-have-had fewer of-enemies
et mains tost s'en fust entremis
and less soon himself-thereof might-have meddled
cil qui l'a ja brisie et frainte.
he who her-has already broken and shattered
Mes trop a tart en faz la plainte,
But too at late thereof I-make the lament
qu'ele est ja si forment enpainte
for-she is already so greatly pushed
que ses pooirs n'est mes demis:
that her power not-is more half

de legier sera mes atainte
from lightly will-be henceforth reached
quant sa lumiere est ja estainte
when her light is already quenched
et sa cire devient remis.
and her wax becomes melted

De la terre Dieu qui enpire,
Of the land (of-)God which worsens
sire Diex, que porront or dire
lord God what will-be-able now to-say
li rois et li cuens de Poitiers?
the king and the count of Poitiers
Diex resuefre novel martire.
God suffers-again new torment
Or facent large cimetire
Now may-make wide cemetery
cil d'Acre qu'il lor est mestiers:
those of-Acre for-it to-them is need
toz est plains d'erbe li sentiers
wholly is full of-grass the path
qu'on soloit batre volentiers
which-one was-wont to-beat willingly
por ofrir l'ame en leu de cire;
for to-offer the-soul in place of wax

et Diex n'a mes nus cuers entiers
and God not-has more any hearts entire
ne la terre n'a nus rentiers,
nor the land not-has any rent-payers
aincois se torne a desconfire.
rather itself turns to undoing

Jherusalem, ahi, ahi!
Jerusalem ah ah
Com t'a blecié et esbahi
How thee-has wounded and dismayed
vaine gloire, qui toz maus brace,
vain glory which all ills brews
et cil qui seront envai,
and those who will-be invaded
si charront la ou cil chai
so will-fall there where that-one fell
qui par orgueil perdi sa grace!
who by pride lost his grace
Or du fuir! La morz les chace
Now of-the fleeing The death them chases
qui lor fera de pié eschace;
which to-them will-make of foot stilt
tart crieront: «Trahi! trahi!»
late they-will-cry Betrayed betrayed

Qu'ele a ja entesé sa mace,
For-she has already raised her mace
ne jusqu'au ferir ne menace:
nor until-the striking not threatens
lors harra Diex qui le hai.
then will-hate God who him hated

Or est en tribulacion
Now is in tribulation
la terre de promission,
the land of promise
a pou de gent tote esbahie:
with few of people all dismayed
sire Diex! porquoi l'oblion,
lord God why it-we-do-forget
quant por nostre redempcion
when for our redemption
i fu la chars de Dieu trahie?
there was the flesh of God betrayed
L'en lor envoia en aie
One to-them sent in aid
une gent despite et haie,
a people despised and hated
et ce fu lor destruction.
and this was their destruction

Du roi durent avoir lor vie;
From-the king they-ought have their life
li rois ne l'a pas assovie,
the king not it-has at-all fulfilled
or guerroient sa nacion.
now they-make-war-on his nation

L'en sermona por la croiz prendre,
One preached for the cross to-take
que l'en cuida paradis vendre
for one thought paradise to-sell
et livrer de par l'apostole:
and to-deliver on behalf-of the-pope
l'en pot bien le sermon entendre,
one could well the sermon hear
mes a la croiz ne vout nus tendre
but to the cross not wished anyone to-hold-out
la main por piteuse parole.
the hand for piteous word
Or nos desfent on la carole,
Now us forbids one the carol
que c'est ce qui la terre afole,
for this-is this which the land destroys
ce nos vuelent li frere aprendre;
this us wish the friars to-teach

mes faussetez, qui partot vole,
but falseness which everywhere flies
qui crestiens tient a escole,
which Christians holds at school
fera la sainte terre rendre.
will-make the holy land be-surrendered

Que sont li denier devenuz
What are the pennies become
qu'entre Jacobins et Menuz
that-between Jacobins and Minors
ont receuz de testament
have received by testament
de bougres por loiaus tenuz
from heretics for loyal held
et d'useriers viex et chenuz
and from-usurers old and white-haired
qui se muerent soudainement?
who themselves die suddenly
Et de clers aussi fetement
And from clerks also likewise
dont il ont grant aunement,
of-which they have great gathering
dont li oz Dieu fust maintenuz?
by-which the host (of-)God might-be maintained

Mes il en font tot autrement,
But they thereof do all otherwise
qu'il en font lor grant fondement,
for-they thereof make their great foundation
et Diex remaint la outre nuz.
and God remains there beyond bare

De Gresce vint chevalerie
From Greece came chivalry
premierement d'ancesserie,
first of-ancestry
si vint en France et en Bretaingne;
so it-came into France and into Brittany
grant piece i a esté chierie,
great while there it-has been cherished
or est a mesnie escherie,
now is with household dwindled
que nus n'est tels qui la retiengne.
for anyone not-is such who her may-retain
Mort sont Ogiers et Charlemaine:
Dead are Ogier and Charlemagne
or s'en voist, que plus n'i remaingne,
now herself-thence she-may-go for more not-there she-may-remain
loiautez est morte et perie;
loyalty is dead and perished

c'estoit sa monjoie et s'ensaingne,
this-was her war-cry and her-ensign
c'estoit sa dame et sa compaingne
this-was her lady and her companion
et sa mestre herbregerie.
and her master lodging

Coment amera sainte Yglise
How will-love holy Church
qui cels n'aime par qu'on la prise?
who those not-loves through whom-one her prizes
Je ne voi pas en quel maniere:
I not see at-all in what manner
li rois ne fet droit ne justise
the king not does right nor justice
a chevaliers, ainz les desprise,
to knights rather them despises
et ce sont cil par qu'ele est chiere,
and these are those through whom-she is dear
fors tant qu'en prison fort et fiere
except so-much that-in prison strong and fierce
met l'un avant et l'autre arriere,
he-puts the-one before and the-other behind
ja tant n'iert hauz hom a devise;
ever so not-will-be high man at wish

en leu de Naimon de Baviere
in place of Naimes of Bavaria
tient li rois une gent dobliere
holds the king a people double
vestuz de robe blanche et grise.
clothed with robe white and gray

Tant faz je bien savoir le roi,
So-much make I well know the king
s'en France sorsist uns desroi,
if-in France should-arise a disorder
(terre ne fu si orfeline,)
land not was so orphaned
que les armes et le conroi,
that the arms and the equipment
et le conseil et tot l'erroi
and the counsel and all the-gear
lessast on sor la gent beguine.
might-leave one upon the people beguine
Lors si veist l'en biau covine
Then so might-see one fair company
de cels qui France ont en sesine
of those who France have in seisin
ou il n'a mesure ne roi;
where it not-has measure nor order

sel savoient gent tartarine,
if-it knew people Tartar
ja por paor de la marine
ever for fear of the sea
ne lesseroient cest enroi.
not they-would-leave this array

Li rois qui paiens asseure
The king who pagans assures
pensse bien ceste encloeure,
thinks well this snare
por ce tient il si pres son regne;
for this holds he so close his realm
tels a alé simple aleure
such-one has gone simple pace
qui tost li iroit l'ambleure
who soon to-him would-go the-amble
sor le destrier a lasche resne.
upon the war-horse at slack rein
Corte folie [s'] est plus saine
Short folly so is more healthy
que longue de fol conseil plaine.
than long of foolish counsel full
Or se tiengne en sa teneure;
Now himself he-may-keep in his holding

s'outre mer n'eust fet estraine,
if-beyond sea not-he-had made gift
de lui miex en vausist li raine,
of himself better thereof would-have-been-worth the realm
s'en fust la terre plus seure.
so-thereof would-have-been the land more secure

Mes sires Giefrois de Sargines,
My lord Geoffrey of Sargines
je ne voi mes deca nus signes
I not see henceforth on-this-side any signs
que l'en desormes vos secore.
that one henceforth you may-succor
Li cheval ont mal es eschines
The horses have ill in-the backbones
et li riche home en lor poitrines;
and the rich men in their breasts
que fet Diex, qui nes pas acore?
what does God who not-them at-all kills
Encor vendra tot a tenz l'ore
Still will-come all in time the-hour
que li maufé noir come more
that the devils black as Moor
les tendront en lor desciplines!
them will-hold in their disciplines

Cels apeleront Chanteplore,
Those will-call Sing-Weep
et sanz sejor lor corront sore
and without rest to-them will-run upon
qui lor liront longues matines.
who to-them will-read long matins

La Novele Complainte d'Outre-Mer

X · THE NEW COMPLAINT OF THE HOLY LAND

Sighing for the Holy Land, he warns that God is a judge strong, wise, and knowing, and death certain while its hour is not. He calls on the kings of France, England, and Sicily, the counts of Flanders, Burgundy, and Nevers, the tourneyers, and the young squires who wrong poor maidens. Prelates should send poor knights overseas. Knights, burghers, and executors are each shown their sin, and he ends with a prayer to the Trinity and the saints.

Por l'anui et por le damage
For the-vexation and for the damage
que je voi en l'umain lignage
that I see in the-human lineage
m'estuet mon penssé descovrir:
me-behooves my thought to-uncover
en sospirant m'estuet ovrir
in sighing me-behooves to-open
la boche por mon voloir dire
the mouth for my wish to-say
com hom corociez et plains d'ire.
as man angered and full of-wrath

Quant je pens a la sainte terre
When I think of the holy land
que pecheor doient requerre
which sinners ought seek
ainz qu'il aient passé jonesce,
before that-they may-have passed youth
et jes voi entrer en viellesce,
and I-them see enter into old-age
et puis aler de vie a mort,
and then go from life to death
et pou en voi qui s'en amort
and few thereof I-see who themselves-thereto incline
a enpenre la sainte voie,
to undertake the holy way
ne fere par quoi Diex les voie:
nor to-do by which God them may-see
s'en sui iriez par charité;
so-thereof I-am angered by charity
quar sainz Pols dist par verité:
for saint Paul says in truth
«Tuit sons uns cors en Jhesu-Crit,»
All we-are one body in Jesus-Christ
dont je vos monstre par l'escrit
whereof I to-you show by the-writing
que li uns est membres de l'autre,
that the one is member of the-other
et nos sons aussi com li viautre
and we are just as the hounds
qui se combatent por un os:
who themselves fight for a bone

plus en deisse, mes je n'os.
more thereof I-would-say but I not-dare
Vos qui avez senz et savoir,
You who have sense and knowledge
entendre vos faz et savoir
to-understand you I-make and to-know
que de Dieu sont bien averies
that by God are well fulfilled
les paroles des prophecies.
the words of-the prophecies
En croiz morut por noz mesfez
On cross he-died for our misdeeds
que nos et autres avons fez;
which we and others have done
ne morra plus, ce est la voire,
not will-die more this is the truth
or poons soz noz piauz acroire.
now we-can upon our skins borrow
Voirs est que David nos recorde,
True is that David to-us recalls
Diex est plains de misericorde;
God is full of mercy
mes vez ci trop grant restrainture.
but see here too great restriction
Il est juges plains de droiture,
He is judge full of uprightness
il est juges forz et poissanz,
he is judge strong and powerful
et sages et bien conoissanz,
and wise and well knowing

juges: que on ne puet plessier,
judge whom one not can bend
ne l'en ne puet sa cort plessier;
nor one not can his court bend
forz: li forz fols est qui s'esforce
strong the strong fool is who himself-strives
a ce que il vainque sa force;
at this that he may-vanquish his strength
poissanz: que riens ne li eschape,
powerful for anything not him escapes
por quoi? qu'il a tot soz sa chape;
for what that-he has all under his cloak
sages: qu'on non puet decevoir,
wise for-one not can deceive
ce puet chascuns aparcevoir;
this can each perceive
conoissanz: qu'il conoist la chose
knowing for-he knows the thing
avant que li hom la propose,
before that the man it proposes
qui doit aler devant tel juge
who ought go before such judge
sanz trover recet ne refuge;
without finding retreat nor refuge
s'il a tort, paor doit avoir,
if-he has wrong fear he-ought have
s'il a en lui senz ne savoir.
if-he has in him sense or knowledge
Prince, baron, tornoieor,
Princes barons tourneyers

et vos autre sejorneor,
and you other idlers
qui tenez a ese le cors,
who hold at ease the body
quant l'arme sera mise fors,
when the-soul will-be put out
quel ostel porra ele prendre,
what lodging will-be-able she to-take
sauriiez le me vos aprendre?
would-you-know it me you to-teach
Je ne le sai pas, Diex le sache!
I not it know at-all God it may-know
Mes trop me plaing de vostre outrage,
But too-much myself I-complain of your outrage
quant vos ne poussez a la fin
when you not think of the end
et au pelerinage fin
and of-the pilgrimage fine
qui l'arme pecheresse afiné
which the-soul sinful refines
si qu'a Dieu la rent pure et fine.
so that-to God her it-renders pure and fine
Prince premier qui ne savez
Princes first who not know
combien de terme vos avez
how-much of term you have
a vivre en ceste mortel vie,
to live in this mortal life
que n'avez vos de l'autre envie,
why not-have you of the-other desire

qui sanz fin est por joie fere?
which without end is for joy to-make
Que n'entendez a vostre afere,
Why not-attend-you to your affair
tant com de vie avez espace?
as-long as of life you-have space
N'atendez pas que la morz face
Not-wait at-all that the death may-make
de l'arme et du cors desevrance:
of the-soul and of-the body separation
ci auroit trop dure atendance,
here would-have too hard waiting
quar li termes vient durement,
for the term comes hard
que Diex tenra son jugement.
that God will-hold his judgment
Quant li plus juste d'Adam né
When the most just of-Adam born
auront paor d'estre dampné,
will-have fear of-being damned
ange et archange trembleront,
angels and archangels will-tremble
les lasses armes que feront?
the weary souls what will-they-do
Quel part se porront els repondre,
Which way themselves will-be-able they to-hide
qu'a Dieu nes estuisse respondre,
that-to God not-them may-behoove to-answer

quant il a le monde en sa main
when he has the world in his hand
et nos n'avons point de demain?
and we not-have a-whit of morrow
Rois de France, rois d'Angleterre,
King of France king of-England
qu'en jonesce devez conquerre
who-in youth ought conquer
l'onor du cors, le preu de l'ame
the-honor of-the body the profit of the-soul
ainz que li cors soit soz la lame,
before that the body may-be under the slab
sanz espargnier cors et avoir,
without sparing body and having
s'or volez paradis avoir
if-now you-wish paradise to-have
si secorez la Terre-Sainte
so succor the Holy-Land
qui est perdue a ceste enpainte,
which is lost at this assault
qui n'a pas un an de recors,
which not-has at-all a year of recourse
s'en l'an meismes n'a secors;
if-in the-year very not-it-has succor
et s'ele est a voz tenz perdue,
and if-she is in your times lost
a cui tenz ert ele rendue?
in whose time will-be she restored

Rois de Sezile, par la grace
King of Sicily by the grace
de Dieu, qui vos dona espace
of God who to-you gave space
de conquerre Puille et Sezile,
of conquering Apulia and Sicily
remembre vos de l'Evangile
remember you of the-Gospel
qui dist: Qui ne let pere et mere,
which says Who not leaves father and mother
fame et enfanz et suers et frere,
wife and children and sisters and brother
possessions et manandies,
possessions and dwellings
qu'il n'a pas avoec lui parties.
that-he not-has at-all with him shares
Baron, qu'avez vos enpenssé?
Barons what-have you in-mind
Seront james par vos tencé
Will-be ever by you defended
cil d'Acre qui sont en balance
those of-Acre who are in balance
et de secorre en esperance?
and of succor in hope
Cuens de Flandres ou de Bergoingne,
Count of Flanders or of Burgundy

cuens de Nevers, com grant vergoingne
count of Nevers how great shame
de perdre la terre absolue
to lose the land absolved
qui a voz tenz nos iert tolue!
which in your times from-us will-be taken
Et vos autre baron ensemble,
And you other barons together
qu'en dites vos? que il vos semble?
what-thereof say you what it to-you seems
Savez vos honte si aperte,
Know you shame so open
com de sofrir si lede perte?
as of suffering so ugly loss
Tornoieor, vos qui alez
Tourneyers you who go
en yver et vos enjalez
in winter and yourselves freeze
querre places a tornoier,
to-seek places to tourney
vos ne poez miex foloier.
you not can better play-the-fool
Vos despendez senz et reson,
You spend sense and reason
vostre tenz et vostre seson,
your time and your season
et le vostre et l'autrui en tasche;
and the yours and the-other's in task

le noiel lessiez por l'escraffe
the kernel you-leave for the-husk
et paradis por vaine gloire.
and paradise for vain glory
Avoir deussiez en memoire
To-have you-ought in memory
mon seignor Joffroi de Sergines,
my lord Geoffrey of Sargines
qui fu tant bons et fu tant dignes
who was so good and was so worthy
qu'en paradis est coronez
that-in paradise he-is crowned
com sages et bien ordenez,
as wise and well ordered
et le comte Huede de Nevers
and the count Eudes of Nevers
dont l'en ne puet chanson ne vers
of-whom one not can song nor verse
dire se bon non et loial
say except good not and loyal
et bien loé en cort roial.
and well praised in court royal
A cels deussiez penre essemple,
From those you-ought take example
et Acres secorre et le Temple.
and Acre to-succor and the Temple
Jone escuier au poil volage,
Young squires with-the hair fickle
trop me plaing de vostre folage,
too-much myself I-complain of your folly

qu'a nul bien fere n'entendez.
for-to any good to-do not-you-attend
Ne de rien ne vos amendez,
Nor in anything not yourselves you-amend
si fustes filz a maint preudome,
so you-were sons to many-a worthy-man
(tels com jes vi je les vos nome)
such as I-them saw I them to-you name
et vos estes musart et nice:
and you are dolts and simple
que n'entendez a vostre office;
for not-you-attend to your office
de veoir preudome avez honte.
to see worthy-man you-have shame
Vostre esprevier sont trop plus donte
Your sparrowhawks are much more tame
que vos n'iestes, c'est veritez;
than you are this-is truth
quar tel i a, quant le getez,
for such there has when it you-throw
sor le poing aporte l'aloe:
upon the fist brings the-lark
honiz soit qui de lui se loe,
shamed be who of him himself praises
se n'est Diex ne vostre pays;
if not-is God nor your country
li plus sages est fols nays.
the most wise is fool born
Quant vos devez aucun bien fere,
When you ought some good do

qu'a aucun bien vos doie trere,
that-to some good you ought draw
si le fetes tot autrement,
so it you-do all otherwise
quar vos tolez vilainement
for you take-away churlishly
povres puceles lor honors;
poor maidens their honors
quant ne pueent avoir seignors,
when not they-can have lords
lors si devienent du grant nombre:
then so become of-the great number
c'est uns pechiez qui vos encombre.
this-is a sin which you encumbers
Voz povre voisins sozmarchiez,
Your poor neighbors you-undersell
aussi bien a leanz marchiez
just as-well at within-there you-market
vendre voz blez et vostre aumaille
to-sell your grains and your cattle
com cele autre povre pietaille.
as that other poor foot-folk
Tote gentilesce esfaciez;
All nobility you-efface
il ne vos chaut que vos faciez
it not to-you matters what you may-do
tant que vieillesce vos esface,
until that old-age you may-efface
que ridee vos est la face,
for wrinkled to-you is the face

que vos iestes vieil et chenu
for you are old and white-haired
por ce qu'il vos seroit tenu
for this that-it to-you would-be held
a gilemer du parenté,
to cheating of-the kinship
non pas par vostre volenté,
not at-all by your will
s'estes chevalier lez la coche
if-you-are knights beside the hearth
que vos dotez un pou reproche;
for you fear a little reproach
mes se vos amissiez honor
but if you loved honor
et dotissiez la deshonor
and feared the dishonor
et amissiez vostre lignage,
and loved your lineage
vos fussiez et preudome et sage.
you would-be both worthy-men and wise
Quant vostre tenz avez vescu,
When your time you-have lived
qu'ainz paiens ne vit vostre escu,
for-ever pagan not saw your shield
que devez demander celui
what ought-you ask of-him
qui sacrefice fist de lui?
who sacrifice made of himself
Je ne sai quoi, se Diex me voie,
I not know what so God me may-see

quant vos ne tenez droite voie.
when you not hold straight way
Prelat, clerc, chevalier, borjois,
Prelates clerks knights burghers
qui trois semaines por un mois
who three weeks for a month
lessiez aler a vostre guise
let go at your guise
sanz servir Dieu et sainte Eglise,
without serving God and holy Church
dites, savez vos en quel livre
say know you in what book
l'en trueve combien l'en doit vivre?
one finds how-long one ought live
Je ne sai, je non puis trover;
I not know I not-it can find
mes je vos puis par droit prover
but I to-you can by right prove
que quant li hom comence a nestre
for when the man begins to be-born
en cest siecle a il pou a estre,
in this world has he little to be
ne ne set quant partir en doit;
nor not knows when depart thence he-ought
la riens qui plus certaine soit
the thing which most certain may-be
si est que morz nos corra sore:
so is that death on-us will-run upon
la mains certaine si est l'ore.
the least certain so is the-hour

Prelat aus palefroiz norrois,
Prelates on-the palfreys Norse
qui bien savez par quel norrois
who well know by what arrogance
li filz Dieu fu en la croiz mis
the son (of-)God was on the cross put
por confondre ses anemis,
for to-confound his enemies
vos sermonez aus gens menues
you preach to-the people common
et aus povres vielles chenues
and to-the poor old-women white-haired
qu'els soient plaines de droiture.
that-they may-be full of uprightness
Maugré els font eles penance,
Despite them do they penance
qu'eles ont sanz pain assez paine,
for-they have without bread plenty pain
et si n'ont pas la pance plaine.
and so not-have at-all the belly full
N'aiez paor; je ne di pas
Not-have fear I not say at-all
que vos mevez isnelepas
that you may-move at-once
por la sainte terre desfendre;
for the holy land to-defend

mes vos poez entor vos prendre
but you can around you take
assez de povres gentilz homes
plenty of poor noble men
qui ne mainent somiers ne somes,
who not lead pack-horses nor loads
qui doient et n'ont de qu'il paient,
who owe and not-have of what-they may-pay
et lor enfant de faim s'esmaient;
and their children from hunger themselves-dismay
a cels donez de vostre avoir
to those give of your having
dont par tenz porrez pou avoir,
of-which in time you-will-be-able little to-have
ses envoiez outre la mer
so-them send beyond the sea
et vos fetes a Dieu amer.
and yourselves make by God be-loved
Montrez par boche et par essemple
Show by mouth and by example
que vos amez Dieu et le Temple.
that you love God and the Temple
Clerc a ese et bien sejorné,
Clerks at ease and well rested
bien vestu et bien sejorné
well clothed and well rested
du patrimoine au Crucefi,
from-the patrimony of-the Crucified
je vos promet et vos afi,
I to-you promise and to-you affirm

se vos failliez Dieu orendroit,
if you fail God now
qu'il vos faudra au fort endroit.
that-he you will-fail at-the strong place
Vos serez forjugié en cort,
You will-be condemned in court
ou la riegle faut qui or cort:
where the rule fails which now runs
por ce te faz que tu me faces,
for this to-thee I-do that thou to-me mayest-do
non pas por ce que tu me haces.
not at-all for this that thou me mayest-hate
Diex vos fet bien; fetes li donc
God to-you does good do to-him then
de cors, de cuer et d'arme don,
of body of heart and of-soul gift
si ferez que preu et que sage.
so you-will-do as valiant and as wise
Or me dites quel avantage
Now me tell what advantage
vos puet fere vostres tresors
to-you can do your treasure
quant l'arme iert partie du cors?
when the-soul will-be parted from-the body
Li executor le retienent
The executors it retain
jusqu'a tant qu'a lor fin revienent,
until-to so-much that-to their end they-come-back
chascuns son eage a son tor:
each his age in his turn

c'est maniere d'executor,
this-is manner of-executor
ou il avient par mescheance
or it happens by mischance
qu'il en donent por reparlance
that-they thereof give for renown
vingt pere de solers ou trente:
twenty pairs of shoes or thirty
or est sauve l'arme dolente.
now is saved the-soul sorrowful
Chevaliers de plez et d'assises,
Knights of pleas and of-assizes
qui par vos fetes voz justices,
who by yourselves do your justices
sanz jugement aucunes foiz,
without judgment some times
tot i soit seremenz ou foiz,
all there may-be oath or faith
cuidiez vos toz jors ainsi fere?
think you all days thus to-do
A un chief vos covient il trere.
To an end you behooves it to-draw
Quant la teste est bien avinee
When the head is well wined
au feu delez la cheminee,
at-the fire beside the chimney
si vos croisiez sanz sermoner;
so yourselves you-cross without preaching

donc verriiez granz colps doner
then you-would-see great blows give
sor le sozdant et sor sa gent:
upon the sultan and upon his people
forment les alez damagant.
greatly them you-go damaging
Quant vos vos levez au matin,
When you yourselves raise in-the morning
s'avez changié vostre latin,
so-you-have changed your Latin
que gari sont tuit li blecié
for healed are all the wounded
et li abatu redrecié.
and the felled raised-up
Li un vont au lievres chacier
The ones go to-the hares to-hunt
et li autre vont porchacier;
and the others go to-hunt
cil penront un mallart ou deus,
those will-take a mallard or two
quar de combatre n'est pas jeus.
for of fighting not-is at-all game
Par vos fetes voz jugemenz
By yourselves you-make your judgments
qui sera vostres dampnemenz,
which will-be your damnation
se li jugemenz n'est loiaus,
if the judgment not-is loyal
bons et honestes et feaus.
good and honest and faithful

Qui plus vos done, si a droit:
Who most to-you gives so has right
ce fetes que Diex ne voudroit.
this you-do which God not would-wish
Ainsi definez vostre vie,
Thus you-end your life
et lors que li cors se devie,
and then when the body itself departs
si trueve l'arme tant a fere,
so finds the-soul so-much to do
que je ne porroie retrere,
that I not could recount
quar Diex vos rent la fausseté
for God to-you renders the falseness
par jugement; quar achaté
by judgment for bought
avez enfer et vos l'avez;
you-have hell and you it-have
quar ceste chose bien savez:
for this thing well you-know
Diex rent de tot le guerredon,
God renders of all the reward
soit biens, soit maus, il en a don.
be-it good be-it ill he thereof has gift
Riche borjois d'autrui sustance,
Rich burghers of-other's substance
qui fetes Dieu de vostre pance,
who make God of your belly

li povre Dieu chiez vos s'aunent
the poor (of-)God at you themselves-gather
qui de faim muerent et geunent
who of hunger die and fast
por atendre vostre gragan,
for to-await your leavings
dont il n'ont pas a grant lagan;
of-which they not-have at-all at great plenty
et vos entendez au mestier
and you attend to-the trade
qui aus armes n'eust mestier;
which to-the souls not-would-have use
vos savez que morir covient,
you know that to-die behooves
mes je ne sai s'il vos sovient
but I not know if-it to-you remembers
que l'uevre ensuit l'ome et la fame;
that the-work follows the-man and the woman
s'il a bien fet, bien en a l'arme,
if-he has well done good thereof has the-soul
et nos trovons bien en escrit:
and we find well in writing
tot va fors l'amor Jhesu-Crit.
all goes except the-love (of-)Jesus-Christ
Mes de ce n'avez vos que fere.
But of this not-have you what to-do
Vos entendez a autre afere;
You attend to other affair
je sai tote vostre atendue:
I know all your expectation

du blé amez la grant vendue
of-the grain you-love the great sale
et chier vendre de ci au tenz,
and dear to-sell from here to-the time
sor letre ou sor plege ou sor nanz,
upon letter or upon pledge or upon securities
vil acheter et vendre chier,
cheap to-buy and to-sell dear
et uzerer et gent trichier,
and to-practice-usury and people to-cheat
et fere d'un deable deus
and to-make of-a devil two
por ce que enfers est trop seus.
for this that hell is too alone
Jusqu'a la mort ne faut la guerre,
Until-to the death not fails the war
et quant li cors est mis en terre
and when the body is put into earth
et l'en est a l'ostel venuz,
and one is to the-house come
ja puis n'en iert contes tenuz,
ever after not-thereof will-be account held
quant li enfant sont lor seignor.
when the children are their lords
Vez ci conqueste a grant honor
See here conquest with great honor
au bordel ou en la taverne:
at-the brothel or in the tavern
qui plus tost puet, plus ci governe.
who most soon can most here governs

Cil qui lor doit si lor demande;
He who to-them owes so to-them asks
paier covient ce qu'on comande.
to-pay behooves that which-one commands
Tels marchiez font com vos eustes,
Such bargains they-make as you had
quant en vostre autorité fustes.
when in your authority you-were
Chascuns en prent, chascuns en oste.
Each thereof takes each thereof removes
Enz ostels pluet, s'en vont li oste,
Into-the houses it-rains themselves-thence go the hosts
les terres demorent en friche,
the lands remain in fallow
s'en sont li home estrange riche.
so-thereof are the men strange rich
Cil qui lor doit paier nes daingne,
He who to-them owes to-pay not-them deigns
aincois covient que l'en en daingne
rather behooves that one thereof may-deign
l'une moitié por l'autre avoir.
the-one half for the-other to-have
Vez ci la fin de vostre avoir.
See here the end of your having
La fins de l'arme est tote aperte:
The end of the-soul is wholly open
bien est qui li rant sa deserte.
well is who to-her renders her desert
Mestre d'outre mer et de France,
Masters beyond sea and of France

du Temple par le Dieu poissance,
of-the Temple by the God's power
frere Guillaume de Biaugeu,
brother William of Beaujeu
or poez veoir le biau jeu
now you-can see the fair game
de quoi li siecles set servir.
of what the world knows-how to-serve
Il n'ont cure de Dieu servir
They not-have care of God to-serve
por conquerre saint paradis,
for to-conquer holy paradise
com li preudome de jadiz,
as the worthy-men of formerly
Godefroiz, Briemons, Tancrez.
Godfrey Bohemond Tancred
Ja n'iert lor ancres aancrez
Ever not-will-be their anchors anchored
en mer por la nef rafreschir.
in sea for the ship to-refresh
De ce se vuelent il franchir.
Of this themselves wish they to-free
Ha, bone gent! Diex vos secore!
Ah good people God you may-succor
Que de la mort ne savez l'ore.
For of the death not you-know the-hour
Recomanciez novele estoire,
Begin-again new story
quar Jhesu-Criz, li rois de gloire,
for Jesus-Christ the king of glory

vos vuet avoir, et maugré vostre;
you wishes to-have and despite yours
soviengne vos que li apostre
may-remember to-you that the apostles
n'orent pas paradis por pou:
not-had at-all paradise for little
or vos remembre de saint Pou,
now to-you may-remember of saint Paul
qui por Dieu ot copé la teste.
who for God had cut the head
Por noiant n'en fet l'en pas feste,
For nothing not-thereof makes one at-all feast
et si savez bien que sainz Peres
and so you-know well that saint Peter
et sainz Andreuz, qui fu ses freres,
and saint Andrew who was his brother
furent por Dieu en la croiz mis.
were for God on the cross put
Por ce fu Diex lor bons amis
For this was God their good friend
et li autre saint aussiment.
and the other saints likewise
Que vos iroie plus rimant?
Why to-you would-I-go more rhyming
Nus n'a paradis s'il n'a paine;
Anyone not-has paradise if-he not-has pain
por c'est cil sages qui s'en paine.
for this-is he wise who himself-thereof strives

Or prions au roi glorieus
Now let-us-pray to-the king glorious
et a son chier fil precieus
and to his dear son precious
et au saint-esperit ensemble,
and to-the holy-spirit together
en cui tote bontez s'asemble,
in whom all goodness itself-assembles
et a la precieuse dame
and to the precious lady
qui est saluz de cors et d'arme,
who is salvation of body and of-soul
a toz sainz et a totes saintes
to all saints and to all women-saints
qui por Dieu orent paines maintes,
who for God had pains many
qu'il nos otroit sa joie fine.
that-he to-us may-grant his joy fine
Rutebues son sarmon define.
Rutebeuf his sermon ends

La Desputizons dou Croisié et dou Descroisié

XI · THE DEBATE OF THE CRUSADER AND THE NONCRUSADER

Riding near Saint Remy's day, the poet strays from his road and, by a hedge, overhears four knights in an orchard, two of them in debate. The crusader urges the cross and the hardship of the Holy Land; the other answers that he can win God at home, keep his children, and sleep well, that God is in France, and that the sea is deep. The crusader answers each excuse with death, and the other, vanquished, takes the cross in the name of God.

L'autrier entor la Saint Remi
The-other-day around the Saint Remy
chevauchoie por mon afere,
I-was-riding for my affair
penssis, quar trop sont agrami
pensive for too-much are grieved
la gent dont Diex a plus a fere,
the people with-whom God has most to do
cil d'Acre, qui n'ont nul ami,
those of-Acre who not-have any friend
ce puet on bien por voir retrere,
this can one well for true recount
et sont si pres lor anemi
and are so near their enemies
qu'a eus pueent lancier et trere.
that-at them they-can hurl and shoot

Tant fui penssis a ceste chose
So-much I-was pensive at this thing
que je desvoiai de ma voie,
that I strayed from my way
com cil qu'a lui meismes chose,
as he who-to him himself chides
por le pensser que j'i avoie.
for the thinking that I-there had
Une meson fort et bien close
A house strong and well closed
trovai, dont je riens ne savoie,
I-found of-which I anything not knew
et s'estoit la dedenz enclose
and so-was there within enclosed
une gent que je demandoie.
a people whom I sought

Chevaliers i avoit tels quatre
Knights there had such four
qui bien sevent parler francois.
who well know-how to-speak French
Sopé orent, si vont esbatre
Supped they-had so go to-amuse-themselves
en un vergier delez le bois.
in an orchard beside the wood
Je ne me vols sor eus enbatre,
I not myself wished upon them to-intrude

que ce me dist uns hom cortois:
for this to-me said a man courteous
tels cuide compaignie esbatre
such-one thinks company to-amuse
qui la toust, c'est or sanz gabois.
who it may-take-away this-is now without jest

Li dui lessent parler les deus
The two let speak the two
et je les pris a escoter,
and I them took to listen
qui lez la haie fui toz seus,
who beside the hedge was all alone
si descent por moi acoter.
so I-dismount for myself to-lean
Si distrent entre gas et jeus
So they-said between jests and games
tels moz com vos m'orrez conter.
such words as you me-will-hear tell
Siecles i fu nomez et Dieus:
World there was named and God
de ce pristrent a desputer.
of this they-took to dispute

Li uns d'eus avoit la croiz prise,
The one of-them had the cross taken
li autres ne la voloit prendre.
the other not it wished to-take
Or estoit de ce lor enprise,
Now was of this their undertaking
que li croisiez voloit aprendre
that the crusader wished to-teach
a celui qui pas ne desprise
to him who at-all not despises
la croiz, ne la main n'i vuet tendre,
the cross nor the hand not-there wishes to-hold-out
qu'il la preist, par sa mestrise,
that-he it might-take by his mastery
se ses senz se puet tant estendre.
if his sense itself can so-much stretch

Dit li croisiez premierement:
Says the crusader first
«Enten a moi, biaus dolz amis;
Attend to me fair sweet friend
tu ses molt bien entierement
thou knowest very well entirely
que Diex en toi le senz a mis,
that God in thee the sense has put

dont tu conois apertement
by-which thou knowest openly
bien de mal, amis d'anemis.
good from ill friends from-enemies
Se tu en œvres sagement
If thou thereby workest wisely
[si] t'en est tes loiers promis.
so to-thee-thereof is thy reward promised

«Tu vois et parcois et entens
Thou seest and perceivest and understandest
le meschief de la sainte terre.
the hardship of the holy land
Por qu'est de proesce vantanz
Why is of prowess boasting
qui le leu Dieu let en tel guerre?
who the place (of-)God leaves in such war
S'uns hom pooit vivre cent anz
If-a man could live hundred years
ne puet il tant d'onor conquerre
not can he so-much of-honor conquer
com se il est bien repentanz
as if he is well repentant
d'aler le sepulchre requerre.»
of-going the sepulcher to-seek

Dit li autres: «J'entens molt bien
Says the other I-understand very well
por quoi vos dites tels paroles.
for why you say such words
Vos me sermonez que le mien
You me preach that the mine
doingne au coc et puis si m'envole.
I-may-give to-the cock and then so myself-fly-off
Mes enfanz garderont li chien
My children will-guard the dogs
qui demorront en la parole.
which will-remain in the word
L'en dit: Ce que tu tiens, si tien!
One says That which thou holdest so hold
Ci a bon mot de bone escole.
Here has good word of good school

Cuidiez vos or que la croiz preingne
Think you now that the cross I-may-take
et que je m'en voise outre mer,
and that I myself-thence may-go beyond sea
et que les cent soudees deingne
and that the hundred pay I-may-deign
por quarante cenz reclamer?
for forty hundred to-claim

Je ne cuit pas que Diex enseingne
I not think at-all that God teaches
que l'en le doie ainsi semer:
that one it ought thus sow
qui ainsi seme pou i veingne,
who thus sows little there may-come
quar l'en les devroit asemer.»
for one them ought reckon

«Tu naquis de ta mere nuz,
Thou wast-born of thy mother bare
dit li croisiez, c'est chose aperte:
says the crusader this-is thing open
or ies jusqu'a cel tenz venuz
now thou-art until-to that time come
que ta chars est bien recoverte.
that thy flesh is well covered
Qu'est Diex jusqu'alors devenuz
What-is God till-then become
qu'a cent dobles rent la deserte?
who-at hundred doubles renders the desert
Bien iert por mescheanz tenuz
Well will-be for luckless held
qui fera si vilaine perte.
who will-make so churlish loss

L'en puet or paradis avoir
One can now paradise to-have
ligierement! Diex en ait lous!
lightly God thereof may-have praise
Assez plus, ce poez savoir,
Much more this you-can know
l'acheta sainz Pere et sainz Pous,
it-bought saint Peter and saint Paul
qui de si precieus avoir
who with so precious having
com furent la teste et li cous
as were the head and the neck
l'aquistrent, ce tenez a voir;
it-acquired this hold for true
icist dui firent deus biaus cous.»
these two made two fair strokes

Dit cil qui de croisier n'a cure:
Says he who of crossing not-has care
«Je voi merveilles d'une gent
I see marvels of-a people
qui assez suefrent paine dure
who plenty suffer pain hard
en amasser un pou d'argent;
in amassing a little of-silver
puis vont a Rome ou en Esture,
then go to Rome or to Asturias

ou vont autre voie enchargant:
or go other way loading
tant vont cerchant bone aventure,
so-much go seeking good adventure
qu'il n'ont baesse ne sergent.
that-they not-have maid nor sergeant

L'en puet molt bien en cest pais
One can very well in this country
gaaignier Dieu sanz grant damage;
win God without great damage
vos irez outre mer lais
you will-go beyond sea there
qu'a folie avez fet homage.
for-to folly you-have done homage
Je di que cil est fols nais
I say that that-one is fool born
qui se mest en autrui servage,
who himself puts in other's servitude
quant Dieu puet gaaignier cais
when God he-can win here
et vivre de son heritage.»
and live of his heritage

«Tu dis si grant abusion
Thou sayest so great folly
que nus ne la porroit descrire,
that anyone not it could describe
qui vuels sanz tribulation
who wishest without tribulation
gaaignier Dieu por ton biau rire;
to-win God for thy fair laughter
dont orent fole entention
then had foolish intention
li saint qui sofrirent martire
the saints who suffered martyrdom
por venir a redempcion?
for to-come to redemption
Tu dis ce que nus ne doit dire.
Thou sayest that which anyone not ought say

Encor n'est pas digne la poingne
Still not-is at-all worthy the pain
que nus hom puisse soutenir
that any man can sustain
a ce qu'a la joie sovraine
at this that-to the joy sovereign
puisse ne ne doie venir;
he-may-be-able nor not may-be-bound to-come

par ce se rendent tuit cil moine
by this themselves render all those monks
qu'a tel joie puissent venir.
that-to such joy they-may come
L'en ne doit pas doter essoine
One not ought at-all fear trouble
qu'on ait por Dieu jusqu'au fenir.» 120
that-one may-have for God until-the end

«Sire, qui des croiz sermonez,
Lord who of-the crosses preach
resofrez moi que je deslas.
suffer-in-turn me that I unlace
Sermonez ces hauz coronez,
Preach these high tonsured-ones
ces granz doiens et ces prelaz,
these great deans and these prelates
cui Diex est toz abandonez 125
to-whom God is wholly given-over
et du siecle toz li solaz;
and of-the world all the solaces
cis jeus est trop mal ordenez
this game is too ill ordered
que toz jors nos metez es laz.
for all days us you-put in-the snares

Clerc et prelat doivent vengier
Clerks and prelates ought avenge
la honte Dieu, qu'il ont sa rente.
the shame (of-)God for-they have his rent
Il ont a boivre et a mengier,
They have to drink and to eat
si ne lor chaut s'il pluet ou vente.
so not to-them matters if-it rains or blows
Siecles est toz en lor dangier;
World is wholly in their power
s'il vont a Dieu par tele sente
if-they go to God by such path
fol sont s'il la vuelent changier,
fools they-are if-they it wish to-change
quar c'est de totes la plus gente.»
for this-is of all the most comely

«Lesse clers et prelaz ester
Leave clerks and prelates to-stand
et te pren garde au roi de France
and thyself take heed to-the king of France
qui por paradis conquester
who for paradise to-conquer
vuet metre le cors en balance
wishes to-put the body in balance
et ses enfanz a Dieu prester;
and his children to God to-lend

li preuz n'est pas en esmaiance:
the valiant not-is at-all in dismay
tu vois qu'il se vuet aprester
thou seest that-he himself wishes to-make-ready
et fere ce dont a toi tance.
and to-do that of-which with thee he-contends

Molt a or meillor demorer
Much has now better dwelling
li rois el roiaume que nos,
the king in-the kingdom than we
qui de son cors vuet honorer
who with his body wishes to-honor
celui que por Seignor tenons,
him whom for Lord we-hold
qu'en croiz se lessa devorer.
who-on cross himself let devour
Se de lui servir ne penons,
If of him to-serve not we-take-pains
helas, trop aurons a plorer,
alas too-much we-shall-have to weep
que trop fole vie menons!»
for too foolish life we-lead

«Je vuel entre mes voisins estre
I wish among my neighbors to-be
et moi deduire et solacier;
and myself to-amuse and to-solace
vos irez outre la mer pestre
you will-go beyond the sea to-feed
qui poez grant fes enbracier.
who can great burden embrace
Dites le soudant vostre mestre
Tell the sultan your master
que je pris pou son menacier:
that I prize little his threatening
s'il vient deca, mal me vit nestre,
if-he comes on-this-side ill me he-saw be-born
mes lai ne l'irai pas chacier.
but there not him-I-shall-go at-all to-chase

Je ne faz nul tort a nul home,
I not do any wrong to any man
nus hom ne fet de moi clamor;
any man not makes of me complaint
je couche tost et tieng grant some,
I lie-down soon and hold great sleep
et tieng mes voisins a amor.
and hold my neighbors in love
Si croi, par saint Pere de Rome,
So I-believe by saint Peter of Rome

qu'il me vaut miex que je demor,
that-it to-me is-worth better that I may-remain
que de l'autrui porter grant some
than of the-other's to-carry great load
dont je seroie en grant cremor.»
of-which I would-be in great fear

«Decai bees a ese vivre,
On-this-side thou-gapest at ease to-live
ses tu se tu vivras assez?
knowest thou if thou wilt-live enough
Di moi se tu ses en quel livre
Tell me if thou knowest in what book
certains vivres soit compassez.
certain living may-be measured
Manjue et boif et si t'enivre,
Eat and drink and so thyself-get-drunk
que mauves est de pou lassez;
for bad-man is from little wearied
tuit sont un, saches a delivre,
all are one know for certain
et vie d'ome et oez quassez.
both life of-man and eggs broken

Las toi, dolent! la morz te chace,
Wretched thee sorrowful the death thee chases
qui tost t'aura lacié et pris;
which soon thee-will-have laced and taken
desus ta teste tient sa mace:
above thy head holds her mace
viex et jones prent a un pris.
old and young she-takes at one price
Tantost a fet de pié eschace,
At-once she-has made of foot stilt
et tu as tant vers Dieu mespris!
and thou hast so-much toward God misdone
Au moins ensui un pou la trace
At-the least follow a little the track
par quoi li bon ont los et pris.»
by which the good have praise and prize

«Sire croisiez, merveilles voi;
Lord crusader marvels I-see
molt vont outre mer gent menue,
much go beyond sea people common
sage, large, de grant aroi,
wise generous of great array
de bien metable covenue,
of well fitting conduct
et bien i font, si com je croi,
and well there do so as I believe

dont l'arme est por meillor tenue:
by-which the-soul is for better held
si ne valent ne ce ne quoi
so not are-worth neither this nor what
quant ce vient a la revenue.
when this comes to the return

Se Diex est nule part el monde,
If God is any where in-the world
il est en France, c'est sanz dote;
he is in France this-is without doubt
ne cuidiez pas qu'il se reponde
not think at-all that-he himself hides
entre gent qui ne l'aiment gote.
among people who not him-love a-whit
Et vostre mer est si parfonde
And your sea is so deep
qu'il est bien droiz que la redote;
that-it is well right that it I-dread
j'aing miex fontaine qui soronde
I-love better fountain which overflows
que cele qu'en esté s'esgote.»
than that which-in summer itself-drains

«Tu ne redotes pas la mort,
Thou not dreadest at-all the death
si ses que morir te covient,
so thou-knowest that to-die thee behooves
et tu dis que la mer t'amort!
and thou sayest that the sea thee-bites
Si fete folie dont vient?
So made folly whence comes
La mauvistiez qu'en toi s'amort
The wickedness which-in thee itself-bites
te tient a l'ostel se devient;
thee holds at the-house if-it happens
que feras se la morz te mort
what wilt-thou-do if the death thee bites
que ne ses que li tenz devient?
for not thou-knowest what the time becomes

Li mauves deca demorront
The wicked on-this-side will-remain
que ja nus bons n'i demorra;
for ever any good not-there will-remain
com vaches en lor liz morront,
as cows in their beds they-will-die
buer iert nez qui dela morra;
happily will-be born who beyond will-die
james recovrer ne porront:
ever to-recover not they-will-be-able

face chascuns miex qu'il porra,
may-do each better as-he will-be-able
lor peresce en la fin plorront
their sloth in the end they-will-weep
et s'il muerent nus nes plorra.
and if-they die anyone not-them will-weep

Aussi com par ci le me taille,
Just as by here it to-me cuts
cuides foir d'enfer la flame
thou-thinkest to-flee of-hell the flame
et acroire et metre a la taille
and to-borrow and to-put at the tally
et fere de la char ta dame.
and to-make of the flesh thy lady
A moi ne chaut coment qu'il aille,
To me not matters how that-it may-go
mes que li cors puist sauver l'ame,
but that the body may save the-soul
ne de prison ne de bataille
nor of prison nor of battle
ne de lessier enfanz ne fame.»
nor of leaving children nor wife

«Biaus sire chiers, que que dit aie,
Fair lord dear what that said I-may-have
vos m'avez vaincu et maté;
you me-have vanquished and checkmated
a vos m'acort, a vos m'apaie,
to you myself-I-agree to you myself-I-make-peace
que vos ne m'avez pas flaté.
for you not me-have at-all flattered
La croiz preng sanz nule delaie,
The cross I-take without any delay
si doing a Dieu cors et chaté;
so I-give to God body and goods
quar qui faudra a cele paie
for who will-fail at that pay
mauvesement aura graté.
badly will-have scratched

En non du haut roi glorieus
In name of-the high king glorious
qui de sa fille fist sa mere,
who of his daughter made his mother
qui par son sanc esprecieus
who by his blood precious
nos osta de la mort amere,
us took-away from the death bitter

sui de moi croizier curieus
I-am of myself to-cross eager
por venir a la joie clere;
for to-come to the joy clear
quar qui a s'ame est oblieus
for who to his-soul is forgetful
bien est resons qu'il le compere. 240
well is reason that-he it may-pay-for

Li Diz de la Voie de Tunes

XII · THE WAY TO TUNIS

Saints and martyrs won paradise by suffering, and no man enters it through the delights of the flesh. The king of France leaves sweet France for the voyage, and with him the count of Poitiers, Philip, the count of Artois, the count of Nevers, and King Thibaut of Navarre. Those who stay behind are cowards and will be worse tomorrow. He prays the King who led the three kings to Bethlehem to lead the crusaders against the sultan.

De coroz et d'anui, de plor et d'amistié
Of wrath and of-vexation of weeping and of-friendship
est tote la matiere dont je trais mon ditié:
is all the matter whence I draw my poem
qui n'a pitié en soi, bien a Dieu fors getié,
who not-has pity in himself well has God out thrown
vers Dieu ne doit trover amor ne amistié.
toward God not ought find love nor friendship

Evangelistre, apostre, martyr et confessor
Evangelists apostles martyrs and confessors
por Jhesu-Crit sofrirent de la mort la pressor:
for Jesus-Christ suffered of the death the press
or vos i gardez bien, qui estes successor,
now yourselves there guard well who are successors
qu'on n'a pas paradis sanz martyre plusor.
for-one not-has at-all paradise without martyrdom many

Onques en paradis n'entra nus fors par paine,
Ever into paradise not-entered anyone except through pain
por c'est il fols chetis qui por l'arme ne paine.
for this-is he fool wretch who for the-soul not takes-pains
Cuidiez que Jhesu-Criz en paradis nos maine
Think-you that Jesus-Christ into paradise us leads
por norrir en delices la char qui n'est par saine?
for to-nourish in delights the flesh which not-is at-all healthy

Saine n'est ele pas, de ce ne dot je point;
Healthy not-is she at-all of this not doubt I at-all
or est chaude, or est froide, or est soez, or point.
now she-is hot now she-is cold now she-is soft now she-stings
Ja n'iert en un estat ne en un certain point:
Ever not-will-she-be in one state nor in one certain point
qui sert Dieu de tel char maine il bien s'arme a point?
who serves God with such flesh leads he well his-soul to point

A point la maine il bien, a cele grant fornese,
To point her leads he well to that great furnace
qui est du puiz d'enfer ou ja nus n'aura ese.
which is of-the pit of-hell where ever anyone not-will-have ease
Bien se gart qui i va, bien se gart qui i plese,
Well himself may-guard who there goes well himself may-guard whom there it-pleases
que Diex ne morra plus por nule arme mauvese.
for God not will-die more for any soul wicked

Diex dist en l'Evangile: «Se li preudom seust
God said in the-Gospel If the worthy-man knew
a quel ore li lerres son suel chaver deust,
at what hour the thief his threshold dig ought
il veillast por la criente que du larron eust,
he would-watch for the fear that of-the thief he-would-have
si bien qu'a son pooir de rien ne li neust.»
so well that-to his power in anything not him he-might-harm

Aussi ne savons nos quant Diex dira: «Venez!»
So-too not know we when God will-say Come
Qui lors ert mal garniz, molt iert mal asenez;
Who then will-be ill furnished much will-be ill provided
quar Diex li sera lors com lions forsenez:
for God to-him will-be then as lion maddened
vos ne vos prenez garde, qui les respiz prenez.
you not yourselves take heed who the respites take

Li rois ne le prent pas, cui douce France est tote,
The king not it takes at-all whose sweet France is wholly
qui tant par aime l'arme que la mort n'en redote,
who so much loves the-soul that the death not-thereof he-dreads
ainz va par mer requerre cele chiennaille glote:
rather goes by sea to-seek that dog-pack gluttonous
Jhesu-Criz, par sa grace, si gart lui et sa rote.
Jesus-Christ by his grace so may-guard him and his troop

Prince, prelat, baron, por Dieu prenez ci garde;
Princes prelates barons for God take here heed
France est si grasse terre, n'estuet pas qu'on la larde.
France is so fat land not-behooves at-all that-one her may-lard
Or la vuet cil lessier qui la maintient et garde
Now her wishes he to-leave who her maintains and guards
por l'amor de celui qui tot a en sa garde.
for the-love of him who all has in his guard

Desormes se deust li preudom sejorner
Henceforth himself ought the worthy-man rest
et tote s'atendue a sejor atorner:
and all his-expectation to rest to-turn
or vuet de douce France et partir et torner;
now wishes from sweet France both to-part and to-turn
Diex le doint a Paris a joie retorner!
God him may-grant to Paris with joy to-return

Et li cuens de Poitiers, qui un pueple soztient
And the count of Poitiers who a people sustains
et qui en douce France si bien le sien leu tient
and who in sweet France so well the his place holds
que quinze jors vaut miex li leus par ou il vient,
that fifteen days is-worth better the place by where he comes
il s'en va outre mer, que riens ne le detient.
he himself-thence goes beyond sea for anything not him detains

Plus aime Dieu que home qui enprent tel voiage,
More loves God than man who undertakes such voyage
qui est li soverains de tot pelerinage,
which is the sovereign of all pilgrimage
le cors metre a essil et mer passer a nage
the body to-put to exile and sea to-pass by sailing
por amor de celui qui le fist a s'ymage.
for love of him who it made in his-image

Et mes sires Phelipes et li bons cuens d'Artois,
And my lord Philip and the good count of-Artois
et li cuens de Nevers, qui sont preu et cortois,
and the count of Nevers who are valiant and courteous
refont en lor venue a Dieu biau serventois:
make-in-turn in their coming to God fair serventois
chevalier qui ne suit ne pris pas un nantois;
knight who not follows not I-prize at-all a nantois

li bons rois de Navarre qui let si bele terre
the good king of Navarre who leaves so fair land
que ne sai ou plus bele puisse on trover ne querre
that not I-know where more fair could one find nor seek
(mes hom doit tot lessier por l'amor Dieu conquerre:
but man ought all leave for the-love (of-)God to-conquer
cil voiages est clefs qui paradis desserre)
this voyage is key which paradise unlocks

ne prent pas garde a chose qu'il ait eu a fere,
not takes at-all heed of thing that-he may-have had to do
s'a il assez eu et anui et contrere;
so-has he plenty had both vexation and trouble
mes si com Diex trova saint Andreu debonere,
but so as God found saint Andrew gracious
trueve il le roi Thiebaut douz et de bon afere.
finds he the king Thibaut sweet and of good affair

Et li dui fil le roi et lor cosins germains,
And the two sons (of-)the king and their cousin german
ce est li cuens d'Artois qui n'est mie du mains,
this is the count of-Artois who not-is at-all of-the least
revont bien enz deserz laborer de lor mains,
go-in-turn well into-the deserts to-labor with their hands
quant par mer vont requerre Sarrazins et Coumains.
when by sea they-go to-seek Saracens and Cumans

Tot soit qu'a moi bien fere soient tardif et lant,
All be-it that-to me well to-do they-may-be tardy and slow
si ai je de pitié por eus le cuer dolant;
so have I of pity for them the heart sorrowful
mes ce me reconforte (qu'iroie je celant?)
but this me comforts why-would-I-go I hiding
qu'en lor venues vont en paradis volant.
that-in their comings they-go into paradise flying

Sainz Jehans eschiva compaignie de gent,
Saint John shunned company of people
en sa venue fist de sa char son sergant,
in his coming he-made of his flesh his servant
plus ama les deserz que or fin ne argent,
more he-loved the deserts than gold fine nor silver
qu'orgueuls ne l'i alast sa vie damagant.
for-pride not him-there might-go his life damaging

Bien doit amer le cors qui en puet Dieu servir,
Well ought love the body who therewith can God serve
qu'il en puet paradis et honor deservir;
for-he thereby can paradise and honor deserve
trop par aime son ese qui let l'arme aservir,
too much loves his ease who lets the-soul be-enslaved
qu'en enfer sera serve par son fol messervir.
for-in hell she-will-be slave by his foolish ill-service

Vez ci molt biau sermon: li rois va outre mer
See here very fair sermon the king goes beyond sea
por celui roi servir ou il n'a point d'amer.
for that king to-serve where it not-has a-whit of-bitterness
Qui ces deus rois voldra et servir et amer,
Who these two kings will-wish both to-serve and to-love
croise soi, voist apres: mieus ne puet il semer.
may-cross himself may-go after better not can he sow

Ce dit cil qui por nos ot assez honte et let:
This says he who for us had plenty shame and outrage
«N'est pas dignes de moi qui por moi tot ne let.
Not-is at-all worthy of me who for me all not leaves
Qu'apres moi vuet venir, croise soi, ne delet!»
Who-after me wishes to-come may-cross himself not may-delay
Qui apres Dieu n'ira, mal fu norriz de let.
Who after God not-will-go ill was nourished with milk

Vavassor, bacheler plain de grant non-savoir,
Vavasors bachelors full of great not-knowing
cuidiez vos par deca pris ne honor avoir?
think you by on-this-side prize nor honor to-have
Vos vos lerez morir et porrir vostre avoir,
You yourselves will-let die and rot your having
et se vos vos morez, Diex nou quiert ja savoir.
and if you yourselves die God not-it seeks ever to-know

Dites, avez vos pleges de vivre longuement?
Say have you pledges of living long
Je voi aucun riche home fere mesonnement;
I see some rich man make house-building
quant il a assovi trestot entierement,
when he has finished wholly entirely
si li fet on un autre de petit costement.
so to-him makes one an other of little cost

Ja coarz n'enterra en paradis celestre,
Ever coward not-will-enter into paradise celestial
si n'est nus si coarz qui bien n'i vousist estre,
so not-is anyone so cowardly who well not-there would-wish to-be
mes tant dotent mesese et a guerpir lor estre
but so-much they-fear discomfort and to quit their dwelling
qu'il en adossent Dieu et metent a senestre.
that-they thereof turn-their-back-on God and put to left

Des lors que li hom net a il petit a vivre;
From then that the man is-born has he little to live
quant il a quarante ans, or en a mains ou livre,
when he has forty years now thereof he-has less in-the book
quant il doit servir Dieu si s'aboivre et enivre:
when he ought serve God so himself-soaks and gets-drunk
ja ne se prendra garde tant que morz le delivre.
ever not himself will-take heed until that death him frees

Or est morz; qu'a il fet qu'au siecle a tant esté?
Now is-he dead what-has he done who-in-the world has so-long been
Il a destruiz les biens que Diex li a presté;
He has destroyed the goods that God to-him has lent
de Dieu ne li sovint ne yver ne esté:
of God not to-him remembered neither winter nor summer
il aura paradis, se il l'a conquesté.
he will-have paradise if he it-has conquered

Fols est qui contre mort cuide trover desfense,
Fool is who against death thinks to-find defense
des biaus, des forz, des sages fet la morz sa despense:
of-the fair of-the strong of-the wise makes the death her expense
la morz mort Absalon et Salomon et Sanse;
the death bit Absalom and Solomon and Samson
de legier despit tot qu'ades a morir pense.
from lightly despises all who-always to die thinks

Et vos a quoi pensez qui n'avez nul demain,
And you at what think who not-have any morrow
et qui a nul bien fere ne volez metre main?
and who to any good to-do not wish to-put hand
Se hom va au mostier vos dites: «Je remain.»
If man goes to-the minster you say I remain
A Dieu servir du vostre iestes vos droit Romain.
At God serving of-the yours are you right Romans

Se hom va au mostier, la n'avez vos que fere;
If man goes to-the minster there not-have you what to-do
n'est pas toz d'une piece, tost vos porroit maufere:
not-is at-all all of-one piece soon you could harm
a cels qui i vont dites qu'aillors avez a fere;
to those who there go you-say that-elsewhere you-have to do
sanz oir messe sont maint biau serf enbiere.
without hearing mass are many-a fair stag on-the-bier

Vos vos moquez de Dieu tant que vient a la mort,
You yourselves mock of God so-much that it-comes to the death
si li criez merci lors que li mors vos mort
so to-him you-cry mercy then when the bite you bites
et une consciance vos reprent et remort,
and a conscience you reproves and bites-again
si n'en sovient nului tant que la morz le mort.
so not-thereof remembers to-anybody until that the death him bites

Gardez dont vos venistes et ou vos revendroiz;
Consider whence you came and where you will-come-back
Diex ne fet nului tort, n'est nus juges si droiz.
God not does to-anybody wrong not-is any judge so right
Il est sires de loiz et s'est mestres de droiz;
He is lord of laws and so-is master of rights
toz jors le troverez droit juge en toz endroiz.
all days him you-will-find right judge in all places

Li besoins est venuz qu'il a mestier d'amis;
The need is come that-he has need of-friends
il ne quiert que le cuer de quanqu'en vos a mis.
he not seeks but the heart of whatever-in you he-has put
Qui le cuer li aura et doné et promis,
Who the heart to-him will-have both given and promised
de recovoir son regne s'iert molt bien entremis.
of receiving his realm so-will-be very well engaged

Li mauves demorront, nes covient pas eslire,
The wicked will-remain not-them behooves at-all to-choose
et s'il sont hui mauves il seront demain pire;
and if-they are today wicked they will-be tomorrow worse
de jor en jor iront de roiaume en empire,
from day to day they-will-go from kingdom to empire
se nos nes retrovons si n'en ferons que rire.
if we not-them find-again so not-thereof we-shall-do but laugh

Li Rois qui les trois rois en Belleem conduit,
The King who the three kings into Bethlehem led
conduie toz croisiez qui a movoir sont duit,
may-lead all crusaders who to moving are trained
qu'oster au soudant puissent la joie et [le] deduit,
that-to-take-away from-the sultan they-may the joy and the delight
si que bones en soient et notes et conduit!
so that good thereof may-be both notes and conductus

Li Diz de Puille

XIII · THE POEM OF APULIA

He sings of Apulia and Charles, king of Sicily, once count of Anjou and Provence, the king of France's brother, who puts his body in the balance for his soul. Life is short and paradise must be won while it can be. Saint Andrew knew its worth when he went to the cross, and this world is a field of battle where men fight with wine. He praises the count of Poitiers for helping his brother, and warns prelates not to grumble at paying the tithe.

Cil Damediex qui fist air, feu et terre et mer,
That Lord-God who made air fire and earth and sea
et qui por nostre mort senti le mors amer,
and who for our death felt the bite bitter
il doint saint paradis qui tant fet a amer
he may-give holy paradise which so-much makes to love
a toz cels qui orront mon dit sanz diffamer!
to all those who will-hear my poem without defaming

De Puille est la matiere que je vueil comencier
Of Apulia is the matter which I wish to-begin
et du roi de Cezile, que Diex puisse avancier!
and of-the king of Sicily whom God may advance
Qui voldra els sainz ciels semance semancier
Who will-wish in-the holy heavens seed to-sow
voise aidier au bon roi qui tant fet a prisier.
may-go to-help the good king who so-much makes to prize

Li bons rois estoit cuens d'Anjou et de Provance,
The good king was count of-Anjou and of Provence
et s'estoit filz de roi, freres au roi de France.
and so-was son of king brother to-the king of France
Bien pert qu'il ne vuet pas fere Dieu de sa pance,
Well appears that-he not wishes at-all to-make God of his belly
quant por l'arme sauver met le cors en balance.
when for the-soul to-save he-puts the body in balance

Or prenez a ce garde, li gros et li menu,
Now take to this heed the great and the small
que puis que nos sons né et au siecle venu,
that since that we are born and into-the world come
s'avons nos pou a vivre, c'ai je bien retenu,
so-have we little to live this-have I well retained
bien avons mains a vivre quant nos somes chenu.
well we-have less to live when we are white-haired

Conquerons paradis quant le poons conquerre;
Let-us-conquer paradise when it we-can conquer
n'atendons mie tant meslee soit la serre.
not-let-us-wait at-all so-long tangled may-be the lock
L'arme a tantost son droit que li cors est en terre:
The-soul has at-once its right that the body is in earth
quant sentance est donee noians est de plus querre.
when sentence is given nothing is of more to-seek

Diex done paradis a toz ses biens voillanz:
God gives paradise to all his good wishers
qui aidier ne li vuet bien doit estre dolanz.
who to-help not him wishes well ought be sorrowful
Trop a contre le roi d'Yaumonz et d'Agoulanz:
Too-many he-has against the king of-Eaumont and of-Agolant
il a non li rois Charles; or li faut des Rollanz.
he has name the king Charles now to-him lacks of-the Rolands

Sainz Andreus savoit bien que paradis valoit
Saint Andrew knew well what paradise was-worth
quant por crucefier a son martire aloit.
when for to-crucify to his martyrdom he-went
N'atendons mie tant que la morz nos aloit,
Not-let-us-wait at-all until that the death us may-strike
quar bien serions mort, se tels dons nos failloit.
for well we-would-be dead if such gift to-us failed

Cil siecles n'est pas siecles, ainz est chanz de bataille,
This world not-is at-all world rather is field of battle
et nos nos combatons a vins et a vitaille.
and we ourselves fight with wines and with victuals
Aussi prenons le tenz com par ci le me taille,
So-too we-take the time as by here it to-me cuts
s'acreons sor noz armes et metons a la taille.
so-we-borrow upon our souls and put on the tally

Quant venra au paier coment paiera l'arme
When it-will-come to-the paying how will-pay the-soul
quant li cors selon Dieu ne moissone ne same?
when the body according-to God not reaps nor sows
Se garanz ne li est Diex et la douce Dame,
If warrant not to-it is God and the sweet Lady
gesir les covenra en parmenable flame.
to-lie them will-behoove in everlasting flame

Pecheor vont a Rome querre confession
Sinners go to Rome to-seek confession
et lessent tot ensemble avoir et mansion;
and leave all together having and dwelling
se n'ont fors penitance, ci a confusion,
if not-have except penance here has confusion
voisent un pou avant, s'auront remission.
let-them-go a little forward so-they-will-have remission

Bien est fols et mauves qui tel voie n'enprent
Well is fool and wicked who such way not-undertakes
por eschiver le feu qui tot ades enprent.
for to-shun the fire which all always kindles
Povre est sa consciance quant ele non reprent,
Poor is his conscience when she not-him reproaches
pou prise paradis quant a ce ne se prent.
little he-prizes paradise when to this not himself he-takes

Gentils cuens de Poitiers, Diex et sa douce mere
Noble count of Poitiers God and his sweet mother
vos doint saint paradis et la grant joie clere!
to-you may-give holy paradise and the great joy clear
Bien li avez montré loial amor de frere,
Well to-him you-have shown loyal love of brother
ne vos a pas tenu covoitise la vere.
not you has at-all held covetousness the true

Bien i metez le vostre, bien l'i avez ja mis;
Well there you-put the yours well it-there you-have already put
bien monstrez au besoing que vos iestes amis:
well you-show at-the need that you are friend
se chascuns endroit soi s'en fust si entremis,
if each in-respect-of himself himself-thereof had so busied
ancor oan eust Charles mains d'anemis.
still this-year would-have Charles fewer of-enemies

Prions por le roi Charle, c'est por nos maintenir,
Let-us-pray for the king Charles this-is for us to-maintain
por Dieu et sainte Eglise s'est mis au covenir.
for God and holy Church himself-has put to-the covenant
Or prions Jhesu-Crit que il puist avenir
Now let-us-pray Jesus-Christ that he may attain
a ce qu'il a enpris, et son ost maintenir.
to this that-he has undertaken and his host to-maintain

Prelat, ne grociez mie du disiesme paier,
Prelates not grumble at-all about-the tithe to-pay
mes priez Jhesu-Crit qu'il pense d'apaier,
but pray Jesus-Christ that-he may-think of-appeasing
quar se ce n'a mestier, sachiez sanz delaier,
for if this not-has use know without delaying
l'en penra a meismes, si porrez abaier.
one will-take at very-same so you-will-be-able to-bark

La Chansons de Puille

XIV · THE SONG OF APULIA

Whoever would give his soul health should hear of Apulia: God has thrown open his realm, his preachers offer it to us, and every misdeed is pardoned by the cross. The young must answer to God for the strength he lent them. At the Judgment the false hearts that seem humble will be damned, and the riches of clerks and prelates are a ditch's shadow. He calls on the vavasors and the count of Blois to take the cross.

Qu'a l'arme vuet doner santé
Who-to the-soul wishes to-give health
oie de Puille l'errement;
may-hear of Apulia the-course
Diex a son regne abandoné,
God has his realm thrown-open
li sien le nos vont presentant
the his-own it to-us go presenting
qui de la terre ont sarmoné.
who of the land have preached

Quanques nos avons meserré
Whatever we have misdone
nos iert par la croiz pardoné:
to-us will-be by the cross pardoned
ne refusons pas tel present.
not let-us-refuse at-all such present

Jone gent, qu'avez enpensé?
Young people what-have-you in-mind
De quoi vos irez vos vantant?
Of what you will-go you boasting
Quant vos serez en vieil aé
When you will-be in old age
qu'irez vos a Dieu reprovant
what-will-go you to God reproaching
de ce que il vos a doné
for this that he to-you has given
cuer et force et vie et santé?
heart and strength and life and health
Vos li avez le cuer osté,
You from-him have the heart taken
c'est ce qu'il vuet tant seulement.
this-is that which-he wishes so-much only

Au siecle ne sons que presté
In-the world not are-we but lent
por veoir vostre esforcement;
for to-see your effort
nos n'avons yver ne esté
we not-have winter nor summer
dont aions asseurement;
of-which we-may-have assurance
si avons ja grant piece esté,
so have-we already great while been
et que i avons conquesté,
and what there have-we conquered
dont l'arme ait nule seurté?
of-which the-soul may-have any security
Je n'i voi fors desperement.
I not-there see except despair

Or ne soions desesperé,
Now not let-us-be despairing
crions merci hardiement,
let-us-cry mercy boldly
quar Diex est plains de charité
for God is full of charity
et piteus jusqu'au jugement;
and merciful until-the judgment

mes lors aura il tost conté
but then will-have he soon told
un conte plain de grant durté:
a tale full of great hardness
«Venez, li bon, a ma cité,
Come the good to my city
alez, li mal, a dampnement.»
go the evil to damnation

Lors seront li faus cuer dampné
Then will-be the false hearts damned
qui en cest siecle font semblant
who in this world make seeming
qu'il soient plain d'umilité
that-they may-be full of-humility
et si bon qu'il n'i faut noiant,
and so good that-it not-there lacks anything
et il sont plain d'iniquité;
and they are full of-iniquity
mes le siecle ont si enchanté
but the world they-have so enchanted
qu'on n'ose dire verité
that-one not-dares to-say truth
ce qu'on i voit apertement.
that which-one there sees openly

Clerc et prelat qui auné
Clerks and prelates who gathered
ont l'avoir et l'or et l'argent,
have the-having and the-gold and the-silver
l'ont il de lor loial chaté?
it-have they of their loyal goods
Lor peres en ot il avant?
Their father thereof had he before
Et lorsque il sont trespassé,
And when they are passed-away
l'avoir que il ont amassé
the-having that they have amassed
et li ombres d'un viel fossé
and the shadow of-an old ditch
ces deus choses ont un semblant.
these two things have one seeming

Vassor qui estes a l'osté,
Vavasors who are at the-house
et vos li bacheler errant,
and you the bachelors errant
n'aiez pas tant le siecle amé,
not-have at-all so-much the world loved

ne soiez pas si non-sachant
not be at-all so not-knowing
que vos perdez la grant clarté
that you may-lose the great brightness
des ciels qui est sanz oscurté.
of-the heavens which is without darkness
Or verra l'en vostre bonté:
Now will-see one your goodness
prenez la croiz, Diex vos atant.
take the cross God you awaits

Cuens de Blois, bien avez erré
Count of Blois well you-have wandered
par deca au tornoiement:
by on-this-side at-the tourneying
Diex vos a le pooir presté,
God to-you has the power lent
ne savez combien longuement.
not you-know how-much long
Montrez li se l'en savez gré,
Show to-him if him-thereof you-know thanks
quar trop est plains de niceté
for too-much is full of simpleness
qui por un pou de vanité
who for a little of vanity
lera la joie qui ne ment.
will-leave the joy which not lies

De la Descorde de l'Université et des Jacobins

XV · THE DISCORD OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE JACOBINS

Envy has sown discord at Paris between the University and the Jacobins, who preach peace and make war for a chair. When they came into the world they lodged with Humility and were pure, but Pride has led them to overturn the University that founded them with books and bread. A wolf in a round cape would look like a priest, and Reynard girt with a cord is no cleaner. For their debt he would not pay an apple peel.

Rimer m'estuet d'une descorde
To-rhyme me-behooves of-a discord
qu'a Paris a semé Envie
that-at Paris has sown Envy
entre gent qui misericorde
among people who mercy
sermonent et honeste vie.
preach and honest life
De foi, de pais et de concorde
Of faith of peace and of concord
est lor langue molt replenie,
is their tongue very replenished
mes lor maniere me recorde
but their manner to-me recalls
que dire et fere n'i soit mie.
that saying and doing not-there may-be at-all

Sor Jacobins est la parole
Upon Jacobins is the word
que je vos vueil conter et dire,
which I to-you wish to-tell and to-say
quar chascuns de Dieu nos parole
for each of God to-us speaks
et si desfent coroz et ire;
and so forbids wrath and anger
et c'est la riens qui l'ame afole,
and this-is the thing which the-soul ruins
qui la destruit et qui l'enpire:
which her destroys and which her-worsens
or guerroient por une escole
now they-make-war for a school
ou il vuelent a force lire.
where they wish by force to-read

Quant Jacobin vindrent el monde,
When Jacobins came into-the world
s'entrerent chiez Humilité:
so-they-entered at Humility's
lors estoient et net et monde
then they-were both clean and pure
et s'amoient divinité;
and so-they-loved divinity
mes Orguels, qui toz biens esmonde,
but Pride who all goods prunes

i a tant mis iniquité
there has so-much put iniquity
que par lor grant chape roonde
that by their great cloak round
ont versé l'Université.
they-have overturned the-University

Chascuns d'els deust estre amis
Each of-them ought be friend
l'Université voirement,
of-the-University truly
quar l'Universitez a mis
for the-University has put
en els tot le bon fondement,
into them all the good foundation
livres, deniers, pains et demis;
books pence loaves and halves
mes or lor rendent malement,
but now to-them they-render badly
quar cels destruit li anemis
for those destroys the enemy
qui plus l'ont servi longuement.
who most him-have served long

Miex lor venist, si com moi membre,
Better to-them might-come so as to-me remembers
qu'alevez ne s'eussent pas:
that-raised-up not themselves-had at-all
chascuns a son pooir desmembre
each to his power dismembers
la mesnie saint Nicholas,
the household (of-)saint Nicholas
l'Université ne s'i membre
the-University not herself-there remembers
qu'il ont mise du trot au pas,
for-they have put-her from-the trot to-the walk
quar tel herberge on en la chambre
for such lodges one in the chamber
qui le seignor gete du cas.
who the lord throws from-the house

Jacobin sont venu el monde
Jacobins are come into-the world
vestu de robe blanche et noire;
clothed in robe white and black
tote bontez en els abonde,
all goodness in them abounds
ce puet quiconques voldra croire;
this can whoever will-wish believe
se par l'abit sont net et monde,
if by the-habit they-are clean and pure

vos savez bien, ce est la voire,
you know well this is the truth
s'uns lous avoit chape roonde
if-a wolf had cloak round
si resambleroit il provoire.
so would-resemble he priest

Se lor œvre ne se concorde
If their work not itself accords
a l'abit qu'amer Dieu devise,
with the-habit which-to-love God prescribes
au recorder aura descorde
at-the recounting will-have discord
devant Dieu au jor du juise;
before God at-the day of-the judgment
quar se Renarz caint une corde
for if Reynard girds a cord
et vest une cotele grise,
and puts-on a coat gray
n'en est pas sa vie mains orde:
not-thereof is at-all his life less foul
rose est bien sor espine assise.
rose is well upon thorn set

Il pueent bien estre preudome,
They can well be worthy-men
ce vueil je bien que chascuns croie;
this wish I well that each may-believe
mes ce qu'il pledoient a Rome
but this that-they plead at Rome
l'Université, m'en desvoie.
the-University me-thence leads-astray
Des Jacobins vos di la some:
Of-the Jacobins to-you I-say the sum
por riens que Jacobins acroie,
for anything that Jacobins may-borrow
la peleure d'une pome
the peel of-an apple
de lor dete ne paieroie.
of their debt not I-would-pay

Li Diz de l'Université de Paris

XVI · THE POEM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS

He rhymes of a quarrel at Paris among the arts students, not the worthy old masters. A poor peasant's son is sent to Paris on the price of an acre or two of land, and there he idles in the streets and wears out his robe. In Lent they put on hauberks for hair shirts, and three or four set four hundred scholars fighting and close the University. A true scholar's life is as fit as any order's; this one loses his goods and his time and shames his friends.

Rimer me covient d'un contenz
To-rhyme me behooves of-a quarrel
ou l'en a mainz divers contenz
where one has many diverse money
despendu et despendera:
spent and will-spend
ja siecles n'en amendera.
ever world not-thereof will-amend
Li clerc de Paris la cité
The clerks of Paris the city
(je di de l'Université;
I say of the-University
nomeement li arcien,
namely the arts-masters
non pas li preudoms ancien)
not at-all the worthy-men ancient
ont enpris un contenz ensemble.
have undertaken a quarrel together
Ja biens n'en venra, ce me semble,
Ever good not-thereof will-come this to-me seems

ainz en venra maus et anuiz,
rather thereof will-come ills and vexations
et vient ja de jors et de nuiz.
and comes already by days and by nights
Est or ce bien chose fesant?
Is now this well thing fitting
Li filz d'un povre paisant
The son of-a poor peasant
venra a Paris por apenre;
will-come to Paris for to-learn
quanques ses peres porra penre,
whatever his father will-be-able to-take
en un arpant ou deus de terre,
in an acre or two of land
por pris et por honor conquerre,
for prize and for honor to-conquer
baillera trestot a son fil
will-hand wholly to his son
et il en remaint a escil.
and he thereof remains in ruin
Quant il est a Paris venuz
When he is to Paris come
por fere a quoi il est tenuz
for to-do to what he is bound
et por mener honeste vie,
and for to-lead honest life
si bestorne la prophetie.
so he-turns-upside-down the prophecy

Gaaing de soc et d'areure
Gain of plowshare and of-plowing
nos convertit en armeure;
us it-converts into armor
par chascune rue regarde
through each street he-looks
ou voie la bele musarde.
where he-may-see the fair idler
Partot regarde, partot muse;
Everywhere he-looks everywhere he-idles
ses argenz faut, et sa robe use:
his silver fails and his robe wears-out
or est tot au recomancier.
now is all at-the beginning-again
Ne fet or bon ci semancier
Not makes now good here to-sow
en quaresme, que l'en doit fere
in Lent when one ought do
chose qui a Dieu doie plere.
thing which to God ought please
En lieu de heres, haubers vestent
In place of hair-shirts hauberks they-put-on
et boivent tant que il s'entestent,
and drink so-much that they themselves-addle
si font bien li trois ou li quatre
so make well the three or the four
quatre cenz escoliers combatre
four hundred scholars fight
et cesser l'Université:
and cease the-University

n'a ci trop grant aversité.
not-has here too great adversity
Diex, ja n'est il si bone vie,
God ever not-is it so good life
qui de bien fere auroit envie,
who of good to-do would-have desire
com ele est de droit escolier.
as it is of right scholar
Il ont plus paine que colier,
They have more pain than porter
por que il vuelent bien aprendre;
for that they wish well to-learn
il ne pueent pas bien entendre
they not can at-all well attend
a seoir assez a la table.
to sitting enough at the table
Lor vie est aussi bien metable
Their life is just-as well fitting
com de nule religion.
as of any religious-order
Por quoi let on sa region
For why leaves one his region
et va en estrange pais,
and goes into strange country
et puis si devient fols nais,
and then so becomes fool born
quant il i doit aprendre senz?
when he there ought learn sense

Si pert son avoir et son tenz,
So he-loses his having and his time
et s'en fet a ses amis honte,
and so-thereof makes to his friends shame
mes il ne sevent qu'onors monte.
but they not know what-honor amounts

Les Ordres de Paris

XVII · THE ORDERS OF PARIS

He rhymes on the orders that have taken Paris. The Barred friars live beside the Beguines, whose order is light, since a Beguine may leave it to marry. The Jacobins have Paris and Rome, the Cordeliers are corded to the Lady of mercy, and the Sack friars live on one man. The king lodges three hundred blind men and keeps many daughters, the Trinitarians ransom captives, and the Carthusians and the Guillemites draw near the town.

En nom de Dieu l'esperité
In name of God the-spirit
qui tribles est en unité
who triple is in unity
puisse je comancier a dire
may I begin to say
ce que mes cuers m'a endité;
that which my heart to-me-has dictated
et se je di la verité,
and if I say the truth
nus ne m'en doit tenir a pire.
anyone not me-thereof ought hold for worse

Je ai comancié ma matire
I have begun my matter
sor cest siecle qu'ades enpire,
upon this world which-always worsens
ou refroidier voi charité;
where to-cool I-see charity
aussi s'en vont sanz avoir mire
so themselves-thence go without having physician
la ou li diables les tire
there where the devil them draws
qui Dieu en a desherité.
who God thereof has disinherited

Par maint samblant, par mainte guise
By many-a seeming by many-a guise
font cil qui n'ont ovraingne aprise
do those who not-have work learned
par qu'il puissent avoir chevance;
by which-they may have means
li un vestent cotele grise
the ones put-on coat gray
et li autre vont sanz chemise,
and the others go without shirt
si font savoir lor penitance.
so they-make know their penance
Li autre par fausse samblance
The others by false seeming
sont seignor de Paris en France,
are lords of Paris in France

si ont ja la cité porprise.
so have already the city seized
Diex gart Paris de mescheance
God may-guard Paris from mischance
et la gart de fausse creance,
and her may-guard from false belief
qu'ele n'a garde d'estre prise.
for-she not-has fear of-being taken

Li Barré sont pres des Beguines;
The Barred are near the Beguines
sept-vint en ont a lor voisines,
seven-score of-them they-have for their neighbors
ne lor faut que passer la porte,
not to-them lacks but to-pass the gate
que par auctoritez devines,
for by authorities divine
par examples et par doctrines
by examples and by doctrines
que li uns d'eus a l'autre porte,
which the one of-them to the-other carries
n'ont pooir d'aler voie torte.
not-have power of-going way crooked
Honeste vie les deporte
Honest life them amuses
par jeunes, par desciplines,
by fasts by disciplines

et li uns d'els l'autre conforte:
and the one of-them the-other comforts
qui tel vie a ne s'en resorte,
who such life has not himself-thence may-withdraw
quar il n'a pas gete sanz signes.
for he not-has at-all throw without signs

L'ordre aus Beguines est legiere,
The-order of-the Beguines is light
si vos dirai en quel maniere:
so to-you I-shall-tell in what manner
l'en s'en ist bien por mari prendre;
one himself-thence goes-out well for husband to-take
d'autre part qui besse la chiere
on-other side who lowers the face
et a robe large et pleniere,
and has robe wide and full
si est Beguine sanz li rendre,
so is Beguine without herself to-give
si ne lor puet on pas desfendre
so not to-them can one at-all forbid
qu'eles n'aient de la char tendre
that-they not-may-have of the flesh tender
s'eles ont un pou de fumiere;
if-they have a little of smoke

se Diex lor voloit por ce rendre
if God to-them wished for this to-render
la joie qui est sanz fin prendre,
the joy which is without end to-take
sainz Loranz l'acheta trop chiere.
saint Lawrence it-bought too dear

Li Jacobin sont si preudome
The Jacobins are so worthy-men
qu'il ont Paris et si ont Rome,
that-they have Paris and so have Rome
et si sont roi et apostole,
and so are king and pope
et de l'avoir ont il grant some,
and of the-having have they great sum
et qui se muert, s'il ne les nome
and who himself dies if-he not them names
por executors, s'ame afole,
for executors his-soul destroys
et sont apostre par parole.
and are apostles by word
Buer fu tels gent mise a escole:
Happily was such people put to school
nus n'en dit voir, qu'on ne l'asome;
anyone not-thereof says truth that-one not him-fells

lor haine n'est pas frivole:
their hatred not-is at-all frivolous
je qui redot ma teste fole
I who fear-for my head foolish
ne vos di plus mes qu'il sont home.
not to-you say more but that-they are men

Se li Cordelier por la corde
If the Cordeliers for the cord
pueent avoir la Dieu acorde,
can have the God's accord
buer sont de la corde encordé.
happily they-are with the cord corded
La dame de misericorde,
The lady of mercy
ce dient il, a els s'acorde,
this say they with them herself-accords
dont ja ne seront descordé;
whence ever not they-will-be discorded
mes l'en m'a dit et recordé
but one me-has told and recounted
que tels monstre au digne cors Dé
that such-one shows to-the worthy body (of-)God
samblant d'amor qui s'en descorde.
seeming of-love who himself-thence discords

N'a pas granment que concordé
Not-has at-all greatly that concorded
fu par un d'els et acordé
was by one of-them and accorded
uns livres dont je me descorde.
a book from-which I myself discord

L'ordre des Sas est povre et nue,
The-order of-the Sacks is poor and bare
et si parest si tart venue
and so much-is so late come
qu'a enviz seront sostenu;
that-with difficulty they-will-be sustained
se Diex ot tel robe vestue
if God had such robe put-on
come il portent parmi la rue,
as they wear through the street
bien ont son habit retenu:
well they-have his habit retained
de ce lor est bien avenu.
of this to-them is well happened
Par un home sont sostenu;
By a man they-are sustained
tant come il vivra Diex aiue!
as-long as he will-live God may-aid

Se morz le fet de vie nu,
If death him makes of life bare
voisent la dont il sont venu:
let-them-go there whence they are come
si voist chascuns a la charrue.
so may-go each to the plow

Li rois a mis en un repere,
The king has put in a lodging
mes je ne sai pas por quoi fere,
but I not know at-all for what to-do
trois cenz aveugles rote a rote.
three hundred blind-men row by row
Parmi Paris envoit trois pere:
Through Paris he-sends three pairs
tote jor ne finent de brere
all day not cease of bawling
aus trois cenz qui ne voient gote.
to-the three hundred who not see a-whit
Li uns sache, li autres bote,
The one pulls the other pushes
si se donent mainte sacote,
so themselves they-give many-a jolt
qu'il n'i a nul qui lor esclere.
for-it not-there has any who for-them may-light

Se feus i prent, ce n'est pas dote,
If fire there takes this not-is at-all doubt
l'ordre sera brulee tote:
the-order will-be burned wholly
s'aura li rois plus a refere.
so-will-have the king more to redo

Diex a nom de filles avoir,
God has name of daughters to-have
mes je ne puis onques savoir
but I not can ever know
que Diex eust fame en sa vie.
that God had wife in his life
Se vos creez mensonge a voir
If you believe lie for true
et la folie por savoir,
and the folly for knowledge
de ce vos quit je ma partie.
of this to-you quit I my part
Je di que ordres n'est ce mie,
I say that order not-is this at-all
ainz est baraz et tricherie
rather is fraud and trickery
por la fole gent decevoir.
for the foolish people to-deceive

Hui i vient, demain se marie;
Today there comes tomorrow herself marries
li lignages sainte Marie
the lineage (of-)saint Mary
est hui plus granz qu'il n'ere ersoir.
is today more great than-it was last-night

Li rois a filles a plenté
The king has daughters in plenty
et s'en a si grant parenté
and so-thereof has so great kindred
que nus ne l'oseroit atendre:
that anyone not it-would-dare to-await
France n'est pas en orfenté.
France not-is at-all in orphanhood
Se Diex me doint bone santé,
So God to-me may-give good health
ja ne li covient terre vendre,
ever not to-her behooves land to-sell
por paor de l'autre desfendre:
for fear of the-other to-defend
quar li rois des filles engendre,
for the king of-the daughters engenders
et ses filles refont auté.
and his daughters make-in-turn likewise

Ordre l'apelent Alixandre
Order her-call Alexander
si qu'apres ce qu'il sera cendre
so that-after this that-he will-be ash
sera cenz ans de lui chanté.
will-be hundred years of him sung

La Trinité pas ne despris;
The Trinity at-all not I-despise
de ce qu'ont auné et pris
of this that-they-have gathered and taken
envoient le tiers a mesure
they-send the third by measure
outre mer raembre les pris.
beyond sea to-ransom the captives
Se ce font que j'en ai apris,
If this they-do which I-thereof have learned
ci a charitez nete et pure;
here has charity clean and pure
ne sai s'il partent a droiture.
not I-know if-they share with uprightness
Je voi deca les pomiaus luire
I see on-this-side the knobs shine
des manoirs qu'il ont entrepris.
of-the manors which-they have undertaken

S'il font dela tel fornesture,
If-they do beyond such furnishing
bien œvrent selonc l'escripture,
well they-work according-to the-scripture
si n'en doivent estre repris.
so not-thereof they-ought be reproached

Li Vaus des escoliers m'enchante
The Val of-the scholars me-enchants
qui quierent pain et si ont rante
who seek bread and so have rent
et vont a cheval et a pié.
and go on horse and on foot
L'Universitez la dolante
The-University the sorrowful
qui se complaint et se demante,
who herself complains and herself laments
trueve en els petit d'amistié,
finds in them little of-friendship
s'a ele d'els eu pitié;
so-has she of-them had pity
mes il se sont bien aquitié
but they themselves are well acquitted
de ce que l'escripture chante:
of this that the-scripture sings

«Quant l'en a mauves respitié,
When one has wicked-man respited
trueve l'en puis l'anemistié,
finds one then the-enmity
quar li maus fruiz ist de male ente.»
for the bad fruit issues from bad graft

Cil de Chartreuse sont molt sage,
Those of Chartreuse are very wise
quar il ont lessié le boschage
for they have left the woodland
por aprochier la bone vile;
for to-approach the good town
ici ne voi je point d'outrage:
here not see I a-whit of-outrage
ce n'estoit pas lor heritage
this not-was at-all their heritage
d'estre toz jors en itel pile.
of-being all days in such heap
Nostre creance torne a guile,
Our belief turns to trickery
mensonge devient Evangile,
lie becomes Gospel
nus n'est mes saus sanz beguinage;
anyone not-is henceforth saved without beguinage

preudom n'est creuz en concile,
worthy-man not-is believed in council
ne que deus genz contre deus mile:
any-more than two people against two thousand
a ci dolor et grant damage.
has here sorrow and great damage

Tant com li Guillemin esturent
As-long as the Guillemites stayed
la ou li grant preudome furent
there where the great worthy-men were
ca en arrier come renclus,
here in back-time as recluses
itant servirent Dieu et crurent;
so-long they-served God and believed
mes maintenant qu'il se recrurent,
but now that-they themselves gave-up
si ne les dut on croire plus.
so not them ought one believe more
Issu s'en sont come conclus;
Issued themselves-thence they-are as shut-in
or gart uns autres le renclus,
now may-guard an other the recluse
qu'il en ont bien fet ce qu'il durent;
for-they thereof have well done that which-they ought

de Paris sont un pou ensus:
from Paris they-are a little away
s'aprocheront de plus en plus;
so-they-will-approach from more into more
c'est la resons por qu'il s'esmurent.
this-is the reason for which-they themselves-stirred

Des Ordres

XVIII · ON THE ORDERS

The refrain: pious frauds and Beguins have shamed the world. The Preachers dress simply and hoard parisis, the Minors keep hold of wealth, the Trinitarians have made nags of asses, the Barred friars are fat and square, and the Sack friars have made the wick dear. The king keeps seven score daughters in enclosure, the Beguines do under wide robes what he will not say, the blind grope through their house, and his love for the Guillemites waits till Tuesday.

Du siecle vueil chanter
Of-the world I-wish to-sing
que je voi enchanter;
which I see enchant
tels venz porra venter
such wind will-be-able to-blow
qu'il n'ira mie ainsi.
that-it not-will-go at-all thus
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Tant d'ordres avons ja,
So-many of-orders have-we already
ne sai qui les sonja,
not I-know who them dreamed
aint Diex tel gent? Non ja,
may-love God such people No ever
ne ne sont si ami.
nor not they-are his friends
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Frere Predicator
Brothers Preachers
sont de molt simple ator,
are of very simple attire
et s'ont en lor destor,
and so-have in their recess
sachiez, maint parisi.
know many-a parisis
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Et li Frere menu
And the Brothers small
nos r'ont si pres tenu
us in-turn-have so close held
que il ont retenu
that they have retained
de l'avoir autresi.
of the-having likewise
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Qui ces deus n'obeist
Who these two not-obeys
et qui ne lor gehist
and who not to-them confesses
quanques il onques fist,
whatever he ever did
tels bougres ne nasqui.
such heretic not was-born
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Assez dient de bien,
Enough they-say of good
ne sai s'il en font rien;
not I-know if-they thereof do anything
qui lor done du sien
who to-them gives of-the his-own
tel preudome ne vi.
such worthy-man not I-saw
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Cil de la Trinité
Those of the Trinity
ont grant fraternité,
have great fraternity
bien se sont aquité:
well themselves they-have acquitted
d'asnes ont fet roncins.
of-asses they-have made nags
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Et li Frere Barré
And the Brothers Barred
resont cras et quarré,
are-in-turn fat and square
ne sont pas enserré:
not are at-all shut-in
je les vi mercredi.
I them saw Wednesday
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Nostre Frere Sachier
Our Brothers Sackers
ont lumignon fet chier.
have wick made dear
Chascuns samble vachier
Each seems cowherd
qui ist de son mesni.
who goes-out of his house
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Set vins filles ou plus
Seven score daughters or more
a li rois en reclus;
has the king in enclosure
onques mes cuens ne dus
ever before count nor duke
tant n'en engenui.
so-many not-thereof engendered
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Beguines avons mont
Beguines we-have a-heap
qui larges robes ont;
who wide robes have
desoz les robes font
beneath the robes they-do
ce que pas ne vos di.
that which at-all not to-you I-say
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

L'ordre des non voianz
The-order of-the not seeing
tels ordre est bien noianz,
such order is well nothing
il tastent par leanz:
they grope through within-there
«Quant venistes vos ci?»
When came you here
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Li frere Guillemin,
The brothers Guillemites
li autre frere Hermin
the other brothers Hermits
m'amor lor atermin:
my-love to-them I-postpone
jes amerai mardi.
I-them shall-love Tuesday
Papelart et Beguin
Pious-frauds and Beguins
ont le siecle honi.
have the world shamed

Des Jacobins

XIX · ON THE JACOBINS

He marvels at what the world is becoming. Pride, Covetousness, Avarice, and Envy hold the stakes, Charity goes and Largesse dies, and Humility has left the world. The Jacobins came pure and asked only a little straw; now they have built palaces from bequests and are money changers and good fishers. A rough habit may hide a felon heart, as the rosebush pricks and the rose is soft, and a tonsure is not an order.

Seignor, molt me merveil que cist siecles devient
Lords much myself I-marvel what this world becomes
et de ceste merveille trop sovent me sovient,
and of this marvel too often to-me remembers
si qu'en moi merveillant a force me covient
so that-in myself marveling by force me behooves
fere un dit merveilleus qui de merveille vient.
to-make a poem marvelous which from marvel comes

Orgueil et Covoitise, Avarisce et Envie
Pride and Covetousness Avarice and Envy
ont bien lor enviaus sor cels qui sont en vie;
have well their stakes upon those who are in life
bien voient envieus que lor est la renvie,
well see envious that to-them is the raise
quar Charitez s'en va et Larguesce devie.
for Charity herself-thence goes and Largesse dies

Humilitez n'est mes en cest siecle terrestre,
Humility not-is more in this world earthly
puis qu'ele n'est en cels ou ele deust estre.
since that-she not-is in those where she ought be
Cil qui onques n'amerent son estat ne son estre
Those who ever not-loved her state nor her being
bien sai que de legier la metront a senestre.
well I-know that from lightly her will-put at left

Se cil amassent pais, pacience et acorde
If those loved peace patience and accord
qui font semblant d'amer foi et misericorde,
who make seeming of-loving faith and mercy
je ne recordasse hui ne descort ne descorde,
I not would-recount today neither dissension nor discord
mes je vueil recorder ce que chascuns recorde.
but I wish to-recount that which each recounts

Quant Frere Jacobin vindrent premier el monde,
When Brothers Jacobin came first into-the world
s'estoient par semblant et pur et net et monde.
so-they-were by seeming both pure and clean and spotless
Grant piece ont or esté si com l'eve parfonde,
Great while they-have now been so as the-water deep
qui sanz corre tornoie entor a la roonde.
which without running turns around in the round

Premier ne demanderent qu'un pou de repostaille,
First not they-asked but-a little of hiding-place
atot un pou d'estrain ou de chaume ou de paille.
with a little of-litter or of thatch or of straw
Le non Dieu sermonoient a la povre pietaille;
The name (of-)God they-preached to the poor foot-folk
mes or n'ont mes que fere d'ome qui a pié aille.
but now not-have more what to-do with-man who on foot may-go

Tant ont eu deniers et de clers et de lais,
So-much they-have had pence both from clerks and from laymen
et d'execucions, d'aumosnes et de lais,
and from-executions from-alms and from bequests
que de basses mesons ont fet si granz palais
that from low houses they-have made so great palaces
qu'uns hom lance sor fautre i feroit un eslais.
that-a man lance on rest there would-make a charge

Ne vont pas apres Dieu tels genz le droit sentier,
Not go at-all after God such people the right path
ainz Diex ne vout avoir tonel sor son chantier,
rather God not wished to-have cask upon his trestle
ne denier l'un sor l'autre ne blé ne pain entier;
nor penny the-one upon the-other nor grain nor loaf entire
et cil sont changeor qui vindrent avant ier.
and those are money-changers who came before yesterday

Je ne di pas ce soient li Frere Prescheor,
I not say at-all this may-be the Brothers Preachers
aincois sont une gent qui sont bon pescheor,
rather they-are a people who are good fishers
qui prennent tel poisson dont il sont mangeor:
who take such fish of-which they are eaters
l'en dit, lechierres leche, mes il sont mordeor.
one says licker licks but they are biters

Por l'amor Jhesu-Christ lessierent la chemise
For the-love (of-)Jesus-Christ they-left the shirt
et pristrent povreté, quar l'ordre estoit promise;
and took poverty for the-order was promised
mes il ont povrete glosee en autre guise:
but they have poverty glossed in other guise
Humilité sermonent qu'il ont en terre mise.
Humility they-preach which-they have into earth put

Je croi bien des preudomes i ait a grant plenté,
I believe well of-the worthy-men there may-be in great plenty
mes cil ne sont oi fors tant qu'il ont chanté;
but those not are heard except so-much that-they have sung
quar tant i a orgueil des orguilleus enté
for so-much there has pride of-the proud grafted
que li preudome en sont sorpris et enchanté.
that the worthy-men thereof are overtaken and enchanted

Honiz soit qui james croira por nule chose
Shamed be who ever will-believe for any thing
que desoz simple abit n'ait mauvestié enclose;
that beneath simple habit not-may-have wickedness enclosed
quar tels vest rude robe ou felons cuers repose:
for such-one puts-on rough robe where felon heart rests
li rosiers est poignanz et s'est soez la rose.
the rosebush is pricking and so-is soft the rose

Il n'a en tot cest mont ne bougre ne herite,
It not-has in all this world neither Bulgar nor heretic
ne fort popelicant vaudois ne sodomite,
nor strong Paulician Waldensian nor sodomite
se il vestoit l'abit ou papelarz s'abite,
if he put-on the-habit where pious-fraud himself-dwells
qu'on ne le tenist ja a saint ou a hermite.
that-one not him might-hold ever for saint or for hermit

He, Diex! com vendront or tart a la repentance,
Ah God how will-come now late to the repentance
s'entre cuer et habit a point de dessevrance!
if-between heart and habit has a-whit of separation
Fere lor covendra trop dure penitance:
To-do to-them will-behoove too hard penance
trop par aime le siecle qui par ce s'i avance.
too much loves the world who by this himself-there advances

Divinité, qui est science esperitable,
Divinity which is science spiritual
ont il torné le dos et s'en sont conestable;
have they turned the back and so-thereof are constable
chascuns cuide estre apostres quant il siet a la table;
each thinks to-be apostle when he sits at the table
mes Diex vout ses apostres de vie plus metable.
but God wished his apostles of life more fitting

Cil Diex qui par sa mort vout la mort d'enfer mordre
That God who by his death wished the death of-hell to-bite
me vueille, s'il li plest, a son amor amordre:
me may-wish if-it him pleases to his love to-bait
bien sai qu'est granz corone, mes je ne sai qu'est ordre,
well I-know what-is great tonsure but I not know what-is order
quar il font trop de choses qui molt font a remordre.
for they do too-many of things which much make to regret

Li Diz des Cordeliers

XX · THE POEM OF THE CORDELIERS

He praises the Franciscans, sons of kings and counts become barefoot Minors, whose saint bore the five wounds, and plays on the cord, the name Minor, and E and O. An abbess quarreled with them, and at the bishop's word they left a fair house for a place of sin. Like physicians they belong where the wounded are, yet the abbess would banish them, and Sir Ytier, who bought his kin beasts with Church goods, would rather eat leaves.

Seignor, or escoutez, que Diex vos soit amis!
Lords now hear that God to-you may-be friend
S'orrez des Cordeliers coment chascuns a mis
So-you-will-hear of-the Cordeliers how each has put
son cors a grant martire contre les anemis,
his body to great martyrdom against the enemies
qui sont plus de cent foiz le jor a nos tramis.
who are more than hundred times the day to us sent

Or escoutez avant dont ces genz sont venu: 5
Now hear first whence these people are come
fil a roi et a conte sont menor devenu,
sons to king and to count are minor become
qu'au siecle estoient gros, or sont ici venu,
who-in-the world were great now are here come
qu'il sont caint de la corde et s'ont tuit lor pié nu.
for-they are girt with the cord and so-have all their feet bare

Il pert bien que lor ordre nostre Sires ama,
It appears well that their order our Lord loved
quant sainz Francois transi Jhesu-Crist reclama,
when saint Francis passing Jesus-Christ called-on
en cinq leus, ce m'est vis, le sien cors entama:
in five places this to-me-is seeming the his body he-pierced
a ce doit on savoir que Jhesu-Criz s'ame a.
by this ought one know that Jesus-Christ his-soul has

Au jor du jugement devant la grant assise,
At-the day of-the judgment before the great assize
que Jhesu-Criz penra de pecheors justice,
when Jesus-Christ will-take of sinners justice
sainz Francois aura ceus qui seront a sa guise:
saint Francis will-have those who will-be at his guise
por ce sont Cordelier la gent que je miex prise.
for this are Cordeliers the people whom I best prize

En la corde s'encordent cordee a trois cordons,
In the cord themselves-they-cord corded with three strands
a la corde s'acordent dont nos descorderons.
to the cord themselves-they-accord from-which we shall-discord
La descordance acordent des maus que recordons,
The discordance they-accord of-the ills which we-recall
en lor lit se decordent por ce que nos tortons.
in their bed themselves they-uncord for this that we twist

Chascuns de nos se tort de bien fere sanz faille,
Each of us himself twists from good doing without fail
chascuns d'eus s'en detort et est en grant bataille;
each of-them himself-thence untwists and is in great battle
nos nos fesons grant tort ***
we ourselves do great wrong (lacuna)
quant chascuns de nos dort chascuns d'eus se travaille.
when each of us sleeps each of-them himself toils

La corde senefie, la ou li neu sont fet,
The cord signifies there where the knots are made
que le maufé desfient et lui et tot son fet;
that the devil they-defy both him and all his deed
cil qui en eus se fie, si mal et si mesfet
those who in them themselves trust so ill and so misdone
seront, n'en dotez mie, depecié et desfet.
will-be not-thereof doubt at-all torn-to-pieces and undone

Menor sont apelé li Frere de la corde;
Minors are called the Brothers of the cord
Menor vient au premier, chascuns d'eus s'i acorde,
Minor comes at-the first each of-them himself-there accords
que l'ame vuet sauver ainz que la morz l'amorde
that the-soul he-wishes to-save before that the death her-may-bite
et l'ame de chascun qu'a lor acort s'acorde.
and the-soul of each who-to their accord herself-accords

E senefie plaint, par E se doit on plaindre,
E signifies lament by E himself ought one lament
par E fu ame en plaint, Eve fit ame plaindre.
by E was soul in lament Eve made soul lament
Quant vint filz dame a point, ne sofri point le poindre,
When came son (of-)lady to point not suffered at-all the stinging
mes a ame desjoint dont Eve la fist joindre.
but to soul disjoined whence Eve her made join

Par eve en esté va et en yver par glace,
By water in summer she-goes and in winter by ice
nus piez por sa viande qu'ele quiert et porchace.
bare feet for her food which-she seeks and pursues
Ainsi font li Menor, Diex gart que nois ne glace,
Thus do the Minors God may-guard that snow nor ice
que ne chiet enpechié qui ne faille a sa grace.
that not falls hindered who not may-fail of his grace

[Et] cest roons en O a enmi une espace,
And this round in O has amid a space
et roons est li cors; dedenz a une place,
and round is the body within has a place
tresor i a, c'est l'ame, que li maufez menace.
treasure there has this-is the-soul which the devil threatens
Diex gart le cors et l'ame, maufez mal ne li face!
God may-guard the body and the-soul devil ill not to-it may-do

Devant l'espicerie vendent de lor espices,
Before the-spicery they-sell of their spices
ce sont saintes paroles en quoi il n'a nus vices:
these are holy words in which it not-has any vices
tote lor a fet tort et teles aupelices
all to-them has done wrong and such fleecings
les ont si peliciez qu'entrer n'osent es lices.
them have so fleeced that-to-enter not-they-dare into-the lists

La beasse qui cloche la cloche du clochier
The abbess who limps the bell of-the belfry
fist devant li venir, qui la veist clochier.
made before her come who her might-see limp
Ainz qu'ele venist la la covint molt lochier,
Before that-she might-come there her behooved much to-totter
la porte en fist porter cele qui n'ot Dieu chier.
the door thereof had carried she who not-held God dear

La beasse qu'est torte lor a fet molt grant tort;
The abbess who-is crooked to-them has done very great wrong
encore est coreciee se fromages estort.
still is angered if cheeses she-twists
A l'apostole alerent li droit contre le tort,
To the-pope went the right against the wrong
li droiz n'ot point de droit ne la torte n'ot tort.
the right not-had a-whit of right nor the crooked not-had wrong

L'apostoles lor vost sor ce doner sentence,
The-pope to-them wished upon this to-give sentence
quar il set bien que fame de pou volentiers tance;
for he knows well that woman for little willingly quarrels
ainz manda s'il pooit estre sanz mesestance,
rather he-sent if-it could be without discord
l'evesques lor feist la avoir demorance.
the-bishop to-them might-make there to-have dwelling

L'evesques ot consoil par trois jors ou par quatre,
The-bishop had counsel for three days or for four
mes fames sont noiseuses, ne pot lor noise abatre
but women are quarrelsome not he-could their noise abate
et vit que chascun jor les covenoit combatre;
and saw that each day them behooved to-fight
si juga que alassent en autre leu esbatre.
so he-judged that they-might-go into other place to-play

Dortor et refretor avoient, bele yglise,
Dormitory and refectory they-had fair church
vergiers, preals et troilles, trop biau leu a devise;
orchards meadows and arbors exceedingly fair place at wish
or dit la laie gent que c'est par covoitise
now says the lay people that this-is through covetousness
qu'il ont ce leu lessié et autre place prise.
that-they have this place left and other place taken

Se cil leus fust plus biaus de celui qu'il avoient,
If that place were more fair than that which-they had
si le poist on dire, mes la fole gent voient
so it could one say but the foolish people see
que lor leus lessent cil qui desvoiez avoient
that their place leave those who astray had
por oster le pechié que en tel leu savoient.
for to-remove the sin which in such place they-knew

En ce leu fesoit on pechié et grant ordure;
In this place did one sin and great filth
a l'oster ont eu mainte parole dure,
at the-removing they-have had many-a word hard
mes Jhesu-Criz li rois qui toz jors regne et dure
but Jesus-Christ the king who all days reigns and lasts
ci conduise celui qui les i fit conduire.
here may-lead him who them there made lead

La coe du cheval desfent la beste tote,
The tail of-the horse defends the beast whole
et c'est li plus vils membres, et la moche la dote;
and this-is the most vile member and the fly it fears
nos avons iex es testes, et si ne veons gote.
we have eyes in-the heads and so not see a-whit
* * *
(lacuna)

se partot avoit eve, tiex buvroit qui a soi;
if everywhere had water such-one would-drink who has thirst
vos veez, li navrez vuet le mire lez soi,
you see the wounded wishes the physician beside him
et nos qui sons navré chacun jor endroit soi,
and we who are wounded each day in-place himself
n'avons cure du mire, ainz nos morons de soi.
not-have care of-the physician rather ourselves we-die of thirst

La deust estre mire la ou sont li plaié,
There ought be physician there where are the wounded
quar par les mires sont li navré apaié.
for by the physicians are the wounded appeased
Menor sont mire et nos sons par els apaié,
Minors are physicians and we are by them appeased
por ce sont li Menor en la vile avoié.
for this are the Minors into the town sent

Ou miex de la cité doivent tel gent venir,
Where best of the city ought such people come
quar ce qui est oscur, font il cler devenir.
for that which is dark make they clear become
Et si font les navrez en santé revenir;
And so they-make the wounded into health come-back
or la vuet la beasse de la vile banir.
now her wishes the abbess from the town to-banish

Et mes sires Ytiers, qui refu nez de Rains,
And my lord Ytier who in-turn-was born of Reims
ainz dit que mangeroit aincois fueilles et rains,
rather says that he-would-eat rather leaves and branches
que fussent enz esglises confessor por meriens
than might-be in-the churches confessors for timber
et que d'aler a paie auroit lassé les rains.
and that of-going to pay he-would-have wearied the loins

Bien le deust sofrir, mes sire Ytiers li prestres,
Well it ought suffer my lord Ytier the priest
parenz a et parentes mariez a grant festes;
kinsmen he-has and kinswomen married with great feasts
des biens de sainte Yglise lor a achetez bestes:
from-the goods of holy Church for-them he-has bought beasts
li biens esperitiex est devenuz terrestres.
the good spiritual is become earthly

Des Beguines

XXI · ON THE BEGUINES

Whatever a Beguine says, hear only good. Her speech is prophecy; if she laughs it is good company, if she weeps devotion, if she sleeps she is in rapture, and if she dreams it is a vision. If she marries, that is her way of life, since her vow is not for life. This year she weeps and prays, and this year she will take a husband; now she is Martha, now Mary. Say only good of her, for the king would not allow otherwise.

En riens que Beguine die
In anything that Beguine may-say
n'entendez tuit se bien non;
not-hear all except good not
tot est de religion
all is of religion
quanque l'en trueve en sa vie.
whatever one finds in her life
Sa parole est prophecie;
Her word is prophecy
s'ele rit, c'est compaignie;
if-she laughs this-is company
s'el plore, devocion;
if-she weeps devotion
s'ele dort, ele est ravie;
if-she sleeps she is ravished
s'el songe, c'est vision;
if-she dreams this-is vision
s'ele ment, non creez mie.
if-she lies not believe at-all

Se Beguine se marie
If Beguine herself marries
s'est sa conversacion;
so-is her way-of-life
ses veuz, sa prophecion
her vows her profession
n'est pas a tote sa vie.
not-is at-all for all her life
Cest an plore et cest an prie,
This year she-weeps and this year she-prays
et cest an penra baron.
and this year she-will-take husband
Or est Marthe, or est Marie;
Now she-is Martha now she-is Mary
or se garde, or se marie;
now herself she-keeps now herself she-marries
mes n'en dites se bien non:
but not-thereof say except good not
li Rois nel sofferroit mie.
the King not-it would-suffer at-all

Des Regles

XXII · ON THE RULES

Since the truth must be silenced, he describes those who have quit the world and give paradise to the rich who feed them, as the fox plays dead to catch the birds. If paradise is had so cheaply, Saint Paul was cheated and Luke, James, and Peter were fools to be martyred. The prelates, the second rule, let the good man of Saint-Amour be banished without judgment. The friars gather round the dying rich for their testaments and befriend holy Church to subject it.

Puis qu'il covient verité tere,
Since that-it behooves truth to-silence
de parler n'ai je mes que fere:
of speaking not-have I more what to-do
verité ai dite en mainz leus,
truth I-have said in many places
or est li dires perilleus
now is the saying perilous
a cels qui n'aiment verité,
for those who not-love truth
qui ont mis en auctorité
who have put into authority
tels choses que metre n'i doivent.
such things as put not-there they-ought
Aussi nos painent et decoivent
So-too us they-trouble and deceive
com li gorpils fet les oisiaus.
as the fox does the birds
Savez que fet li damoisiaus?
Know-you what does the young-lord

En terre rouge se toeille,
In earth red himself he-rolls
le mort fet et la sorde oreille;
the dead he-plays and the deaf ear
si vienent li oisel des nues,
so come the birds from-the clouds
et il aime molt lor venues,
and he loves much their comings
quar il les ocist et afole.
for he them kills and destroys
Aussi vos di a brief parole,
So-too to-you I-say in brief word
cil nos ont mort et afolé
those us have killed and destroyed
qui paradis ont acolé.
who paradise have embraced
A cels le donent et delivrent
To those it they-give and deliver
qui les aboivrent et enivrent,
who them give-drink and make-drunk
et qui lor engressent les pances
and who for-them fatten the bellies
d'autrui chatels, d'autrui substances,
of-other's goods of-other's substances
qui sont, espoir, bougre parfet,
who are perhaps heretics perfect
et par paroles et par fet,
both by words and by deed
ou userier mal et divers,
or usurers evil and perverse

dont el sautier nos dit li vers
of-whom in-the psalter to-us says the verse
qu'il sont ja dampné et perdu.
that-they are already damned and lost
Or ai le senz trop esperdu,
Now I-have the sense too distraught
s'autres paradis porroit estre
if-other paradise could be
que cil qui est le roi celestre,
than that which is the king's celestial
quar a celui ont il failli
for at that-one have they failed
dont en la fin sont mal bailli.
whence in the end they-are ill handled
Qui porroit paradis avoir
Who could paradise have
apres la mort por son avoir,
after the death for his having
bon feroit embler et tolir;
good would-be to-steal and to-rob
mes il les covendra boillir
but it them will-behoove to-boil
ou puis d'enfer sanz ja reembre:
in-the pit of-hell without ever to-redeem
tel mort doit l'en doter et criembre.
such death ought one fear and dread
Bien sont or mort et avuglé,
Well are now dead and blinded
bien sont or fol et desjuglé,
well are now foolish and bewildered

s'ainsi se cuident delivrer.
if-thus themselves they-think to-deliver
Au mains sera Diex au livrer
At-the least will-be God at-the delivering
de paradis, qui que le vende.
of paradise who that it may-sell
Je ne cuit que sainz Pieres rende
I not think that saint Peter may-render
oan les cles de paradis;
this-year the keys of paradise
et il i metent dis et dis.
and they there put ten and ten
Cels qui vivent d'autrui chaté,
Those who live of-other's goods
ne l'ont or bien cist achaté.
not it-have now well these bought
S'on a paradis por si pou,
If-one has paradise for so little
je tieng por bareté saint Pou,
I hold for cheated saint Paul
et si tieng por fol et por nice
and so I-hold for fool and for simple
saint Luc, saint Jaque de Galice,
saint Luke saint James of Galicia
qui s'en firent martirier,
who themselves-thereby had martyred
et saint Piere crucefier!
and saint Peter crucified
Bien pert qu'il ne furent pas sage,
Well appears that-they not were at-all wise

se paradis est d'avantage;
if paradise is of-surplus
et cil s'i rementi forment
and he himself-there lied-again greatly
qui dist que paine ne torment
who said that pain nor torment
ne sont pas digne de la grace
not are at-all worthy of the grace
que Diex par sa pitié nos face.
that God by his pity to-us may-do
Or avez la premiere riegle
Now you-have the first rule
de cels qui ont guerpi le siecle.
of those who have quit the world
La seconde vos dirai gié:
The second to-you shall-tell I
nostre prelat sont enragié,
our prelates are enraged
si sont decrestistre et devin.
so are decretists and divines
Je di por voir, non pas devin,
I say for true not at-all I-guess
qui por paor a mal se ploie,
who for fear to evil himself bends
et a malfetor se soploie,
and to evildoer himself submits
et por amor verité lesse:
and for love truth leaves
qui a ces deus choses se plesse,
who to these two things himself bends

si maint bone vie en cest monde,
even-if may-lead good life in this world
qu'il a failli a la seconde.
that-he has failed at the second
Je vi jadis, si com moi samble,
I saw formerly so as to-me seems
vingt et quatre prelat ensamble,
twenty and four prelates together
qui par acort bon et leal,
who by accord good and loyal
et par conseil fin et feal
and by counsel fine and faithful
firent de l'Université,
made of the-University
qui est en grant aversité,
which is in great adversity
et des Jacobins bone acorde.
and of-the Jacobins good accord
Jacobin rompirent la corde:
Jacobins broke the cord
ne fu lors bien nostre creance,
not was then well our belief
et nostre loi en grant balance,
and our law in great balance
quant les prelaz de sainte Yglise
when the prelates of holy Church
desmentirent toz en tel guise?
they-gave-the-lie all in such guise
N'orent il lors assez vescu,
Not-had they then enough lived

quant l'en lor fist des boches cu,
when one of-them made of-the mouths ass
qu'onques puis n'en firent clamor?
that-ever since not-thereof made-they complaint
Le preudome de Saint-Amor,
The worthy-man of Saint-Amour
por ce qu'il sermonoit le voir
for this that-he preached the truth
et le disoit par estovoir
and it said by necessity
firent tantost semondre a Rome,
they-had at-once summoned to Rome
quant la corz le trova preudome,
when the court him found worthy-man
sanz mauvestié, sanz vilain cas.
without wickedness without churlish case
Sainte Yglise, qui tel clerc as,
Holy Church who such clerk hast
quant tu le lessas escillier
when thou him didst-let be-exiled
te peus tu miex avillier?
thyself canst thou better debase
Et fu baniz sanz jugement:
And he-was banished without judgment
ou cil qui a droit juge ment,
or he who by right judges lies
ou encor en prendra venjance;
or still thereof will-take vengeance
et si cuit bien que ja comance.
and so I-think well that already he-begins

La fins du siecle est mes prochiene:
The end of-the world is henceforth near
encor est ceste gent si chiene!
still is this people so doggish
Quant un riche home vont entor,
When a rich man they-go around
seignor de chastel ou de tor,
lord of castle or of tower
ou userier ou clerc trop riche,
or usurer or clerk too rich
qu'il aiment miex grant pain que miche,
for-they love better great loaf than small-loaf
si sont tuit seignor de leenz:
so they-are all lords of within-there
ja n'enterront clerc ne lai enz
ever not-will-enter clerk nor layman in
qu'il nes truisent en la meson;
that-they not-them may-find in the house
a ci granz seignors sanz reson.
has here great lords without reason
Quant maladie ces genz prent
When sickness these people takes
et conscience les reprent,
and conscience them reproaches
et anemis les haste fort
and enemy them hastens strongly
qui ja les voudroit trover mort,
who already them would-wish to-find dead

lors si metent lor testament
then so they-put their testament
sor cele gent, que Diex ament.
upon that people whom God may-amend
Puis qu'il sont sesi et vestu,
Since that-they are seized and invested
la montance d'un seul festu
the amount of-a single straw
n'en donront ja puis por lor ame:
not-thereof they-will-give ever after for their soul
ainsi requeut qui ainsi same.
thus reaps who thus sows
Sanz avoir curor ont l'avoir,
Without having cure they-have the-having
et li curez n'en puet avoir
and the curate not-thereof can have
s'a paine non du pain por vivre,
except-with pain not of-the bread for to-live
ne achater un petit livre
nor to-buy a little book
ou il puisse dire complies;
where he may say compline
et cil en ont pances enplies,
and those thereof have bellies filled
et bibles et sautiers glosez,
and bibles and psalters glossed
que l'en voit cras et reposez.
whom one sees fat and rested
Nus ne puet savoir lor covaine,
Anyone not can know their covenant

je n'en sai qu'une seule vaine:
I not-thereof know but-a single vein
il vuelent fere lor voloir,
they wish to-do their will
cui qu'en doie li cuers doloir;
whose that-thereof ought the heart grieve
il ne lor chaut, mes qu'il lor plese,
it not to-them matters provided that-it them may-please
qui qu'en ait paine ne mesese.
who that-thereof may-have pain or discomfort
Quant chiez povre provoire vienent,
When to-the-house-of poor priest they-come
ou pou sovent la voie tienent,
where little often the way they-hold
s'il n'i a riviere ou vignoble,
if-it not-there has river or vineyard
lors sont si cointe et sont si noble,
then they-are so elegant and are so noble
qu'il samble que ce soient roi.
that-it seems that these may-be kings
Or covient por els grant aroi
Now behooves for them great array
dont li povres hom est en trape;
whereby the poor man is in trap
s'il devoit engagier sa chape,
if-he had-to pledge his cloak
si covient il autre viande
so behooves it other food
que l'Escripture ne comande.
than the-Scripture — commands

S'il ne sont peu sanz defaut,
If-they not are fed without default
se li prestres de ce defaut,
if the priest in this defaults
il ert tenuz a mauves home,
he will-be held for wicked man
s'il valoit saint Piere de Rome;
if-he were-worth saint Peter of Rome
puis lor covient laver les james.
then for-them behooves to-wash the legs
Or i a unes simples fames
Now there has some simple women
qui ont envelopé les cols
who have wrapped the necks
et sont barbees come cols,
and are wimpled like necks
qu'a ces saintes genz vont entor;
who-to these holy people go around
qu'eles cuident au premier tor
for-they think at-the first turn
tolir saint Piere sa baillie;
to-take-from saint Peter his office
et riche fame est mal baillie
and rich woman is ill handled
qui n'est de tel corroie cainte:
who not-is with such belt girt
qui est plus bele, s'est plus sainte.
who is more fair so-is more holy
Je ne di pas que plus en facent,
I not say at-all that more thereof they-may-do

mes il samble que pas nes hacent;
but it seems that at-all not-them they-hate
et sainz Bernarz dist, ce me samble:
and saint Bernard says this to-me seems
«Converser home et fame ensamble
To-converse man and woman together
sanz plus ovrer selonc nature,
without more to-work according-to nature
c'est vertuz si nete et si pure
this-is virtue so clean and so pure
(ce tesmoingne bien li escriz)
this witnesses well the writing
com de ladre fist Jhesu-Criz.»
as of Lazarus did Jesus-Christ
Or ne sai je ci sus qu'entendre.
Now not know I here above what-to-understand
Je voi si l'un vers l'autre tendre
I see so the-one toward the-other to-tend
qu'en un chaperon a deus testes,
that-in one hood has two heads
et il ne sont angles ne bestes.
and they not are angels nor beasts
Amis se font de sainte Yglise,
Friends themselves make of holy Church
por ce que en plus bele guise
for this that in more fair guise
puissent sainte Yglise sozmetre,
they-may holy Church subject
et por ce nos dit ci la letre:
and for this to-us says here the letter

«Nule dolor est plus fervant
No sorrow is more fervent
qu'ele est de l'anemi servant.»
than-it is of the-enemy serving
Ne sai que plus briefment vos die:
Not I-know what more briefly to-you I-may-say
trop sons en pereilleuse vie.
too-much we-are in perilous life

Renart le Bestourné

XXIII · REYNARD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Reynard is dead and Reynard is alive, and he reigns. He is lord of all King Noble's goods and has done his will in Constantinople. Noble thinks his salvation comes from Reynard, and dismisses his beasts so that they cannot come to his feasts. His council is Reynard, Roonel the dog, Isengrim, and Bernard the ass, who have no mercy. The beasts wish the Ounce would come, and Rutebeuf cares only that it go ill.

Renarz est morz, Renarz est vis,
Reynard is dead Reynard is alive
Renarz est orz, Renarz est vils,
Reynard is foul Reynard is vile
et Renarz regne;
and Reynard reigns
Renarz a molt regné el regne,
Reynard has much reigned in-the realm
bien i chevauche a lasche regne,
well there he-rides at slack rein
col estendu.
neck stretched-out

L'en le devoit avoir pendu
One him ought have hanged
si com je l'avoie entendu,
so as I it-had heard
mes non a voir:
but not has in-truth
par tenz le porrez bien savoir.
in time it you-will-be-able well to-know
Il est sires de tot l'avoir
He is lord of all the-having
mon seignor Noble,
(of-)my lord Noble
et de la Brie et du vignoble.
and of the Brie and of-the vineyard
Renarz fist en Constantinoble
Reynard did in Constantinople
bien ses aviaus,
well his pleasures
et en cases et en caviaus.
and in houses and in cellars
N'i lessa vaillant deus naviaus
Not-there he-left worth two turnips
l'empereor,
(of-)the-emperor
ainz en fist povre pecheor;
rather of-him made poor sinner
par pou ne le fist pescheor
by little not him he-made fisher
dedenz la mer.
within the sea

Ne doit l'en bien Renart amer,
Not ought one well Reynard love
qu'en Renart n'a fors que l'amer;
for-in Reynard not-has except that the-bitter
c'est sa droiture.
this-is his right
Renarz a molt grant noreture;
Reynard has very great nurture
molt en avons de sa nature
much thereof we-have of his nature
en ceste terre.
in this land
Renarz porra movoir tel guerre
Reynard will-be-able to-stir such war
dont molt bien se porroit sofferre
of-which very well itself could do-without
la regions.
the region
Mes sires Nobles li lyons
My lord Noble the lion
cuide que sa sauvacions
thinks that his salvation
de Renart viengne.
from Reynard may-come
Non fet voir; de Dieu li soviengne;
Not does truly of God to-him may-remember
aincois dot qu'il ne l'en aviengne
rather I-fear that-it — to-him-thence may-come
domage et honte.
damage and shame

Se Nobles savoit que ce monte
If Noble knew what this amounts
et les paroles que l'en conte
and the words that one tells
parmi la vile,
through the town
dame Raimbors, dame Poufile,
lady Raimbors lady Poufile
qui de lui tienent lor concile,
who of him hold their council
ca dis, ca vint,
here ten here twenty
et dient qu'onques mes n'avint
and say that-ever more not-happened
n'onques a franc cuer ne sovint
nor-ever to noble heart not remembered
de tel jeu fere:
of such game to-do
bien li deust membrer de Daire
well to-him ought remember of Darius
que li sien firent a mort trere
whom the his-own made to death draw
par s'avarisce.
through his-avarice
Quant j'oi parler de si let vice,
When I-hear speak of so ugly vice

par foi, toz li cuers m'en herice
by faith all the heart to-me-thence bristles
de duel et d'ire
with grief and with-wrath
si fort que je ne sai que dire;
so strongly that I not know what to-say
quar je voi roiaume et empire
for I see kingdom and empire
trestot ensamble.
wholly together
Que dites vos? que il vos samble?
What say you what it to-you seems
Quant mes sires Nobles dessamble
When my lord Noble disperses
totes ses bestes,
all his beasts
qu'il ne pueent metre lor testes
that-they not can put their heads
aus bons jors ne aus bones festes
on-the good days nor at-the good feasts
en sa meson,
in his house
et si n'i set nule reson
and so not-there knows any reason
fors qu'il dote de la seson
except that-he fears of the season
que n'enchierisse;
that not-it-may-grow-dear
mes ja de ceste annee n'isse,
but ever from this year not-he-may-go-out

ne mes costume n'establisse
nor more custom not-he-may-establish
qui ce brassa!
who this brewed
Quar trop vilain fet enbraca:
For too churlish deed he-embraced
Roniaus li chiens le porchaca
Roonel the dog it pursued
avoec Renart.
with Reynard
Nobles ne set engin ne art
Noble not knows trick nor art
ne qu'uns des asnes de Senart
any-more than-one of-the asses of Sénart
qui busche porte;
who firewood carries
il ne set pas de qu'est sa porte.
he not knows at-all of what-is his gate
Por ce fet mal qui li enorte
For this does ill who to-him exhorts
se tot bien non.
except all good not
Des bestes orrez ci le non
Of-the beasts you-will-hear here the name
qui de mal fere ont le renon
who of ill to-do have the renown
toz jors eu.
all days had
Molt ont grevé, molt ont neu;
Much they-have grieved much they-have harmed

aus seignors en est mescheu
to-the lords thereof is gone-ill
et il s'en passent.
and they themselves-thence pass
Assez emblent, assez amassent;
Plenty they-steal plenty they-amass
c'est merveilles qu'il ne se lassent.
this-is marvel that-they not themselves tire
Or entendez
Now hear
com Nobles a les iex bendez,
how Noble has the eyes bandaged
et se ses oz estoit mandez
and if his host were summoned
par bois, par terre,
through wood through land
ou porroit il trover ne querre
where could he find nor seek
en qui il se fiast de guerre
in whom he himself might-trust of war
se mestiers iere?
if need were
Renarz porteroit la baniere,
Reynard would-carry the banner
Roniaus qu'a toz fet lede chiere
Roonel who-to all makes ugly face
feroit la bataille premiere,
would-make the battle first
o soi nului.
with himself nobody

Bien vos puis dire de celui:
Well to-you I-can say of him
ja nus n'aura honor de lui
ever anyone not-will-have honor of him
de par servise.
by way-of service
Quant la chose seroit enprise,
When the thing would-be undertaken
Ysengrins, que chascuns desprise,
Isengrim whom each despises
l'ost conduiroit,
the-host would-lead
ou se devient, il s'enfuiroit.
or if-it happens he would-flee
Bernarz l'asnes les deduiroit
Bernard the-ass them would-amuse
o sa grant croiz.
with his great cross
Cil quatre sont fontaine et doiz,
These four are fountain and channel
cil quatre ont l'otroi et la voiz
these four have the-grant and the voice
de tot l'osté.
of all the-house
La chose gist sor tel costé
The thing lies on such side
qu'onques rois de bestes n'ot té
that-ever king of beasts not-had such
le bel aroi.
the fair array

Cist sont bien mesnie de roi;
These are well household of king
il n'aiment noise ne desroi
they not-love noise nor disorder
ne grant murmure.
nor great murmur
Quant mes sires Nobles pasture,
When my lord Noble pastures
chascuns s'en ist de sa pasture,
each himself-thence goes-out from his pasture
nus n'i remaint;
anyone not-there remains
par tenz ne saurons ou il maint.
in time not we-shall-know where he dwells
Ja autrement ne se demaint
Ever otherwise not himself he-may-conduct
por querre avoir,
for to-seek having
qu'il en porra assez avoir,
for-he thereof will-be-able plenty to-have
et cil ont assez de savoir
and those have plenty of knowledge
qui font son conte.
who make his account
Bernarz gete, Renarz mesconte,
Bernard throws Reynard miscounts
ne conoissent honor de honte;
not know honor from shame
Roniaus abaie,
Roonel barks

et Ysengrins pas ne s'esmaie;
and Isengrim at-all not himself-dismays
le seel porte tropt qu'il paie,
the seal he-carries too-much that-he pays
gart chascuns soi:
may-guard each himself
Ysengrins a un fil o soi
Isengrim has a son with himself
qu'a toz jors de mal fere soi,
who-has all days of ill to-do thirst
s'a non Primaut;
so-has name Primaut
Renarz un qui a non Grimaut.
Reynard one who has name Grimaut
Pou lor est coment ma rime aut,
Little to-them is how my rhyme may-go
mes que mal facent,
but that ill they-may-do
et que toz les bons us esfacent.
and that all the good customs they-may-efface
Diex lor otroit ce qu'il porchacent!
God to-them may-grant that which-they pursue
S'auront la corde;
So-they-will-have the rope
lor ovraingne bien s'i acorde,
their work well itself-there accords
quar il sont sanz misericorde
for they are without mercy
et sanz pitié,
and without pity

sanz charité, sanz amistié.
without charity without friendship
Mon seignor Noble ont tuit getié
My lord Noble they-have all thrown
de bons usages:
from good usages
ses ostels samble uns reclusages.
his house seems a hermitage
Assez font paier de musages
Plenty they-make pay of idlings
et d'avaloingnes
and of-delays
a ces povres bestes lontaingnes
to these poor beasts distant
a cui il font molt granz essoingnes.
to whom they make very great hindrances
Diex les confonde
God them may-confound
qui sires est de tot le monde!
who lord is of all the world
Et je r'otroi que l'en me tonde
And I in-turn-grant that one me may-shear
se maus n'en vient;
if ill not-thereof comes
quar d'un proverbe me sovient
for of-a proverb to-me remembers
que l'en dit: Tot pert qui tot tient;
which one says All loses who all holds
c'est a bon droit.
this-is with good right

La chose gist sor tel endroit
The thing lies on such place
que chascune beste voudroit
that each beast would-wish
que venist l'Once.
that might-come the-Ounce
Se Nobles cropoit a la ronce
If Noble crouched at the bramble
de mil n'est pas un qui en gronce,
of thousand not-is at-all one who thereof may-grumble
c'est voirs sanz faille:
this-is true without fail
l'en senesche guerre et bataille,
one forebodes war and battle
il ne m'en chaut, mes que bien n'aille.
it not to-me-thence matters but that well not-it-may-go

Du Pharisian

XXIV · ON THE PHARISEE

He complains of Hypocrisy, cousin german of Heresy, so great a lady that she will send many a soul to hell. She has bailiffs, provosts, mayors, and judges, and her chests are full; Justinian and Gratian are her sergeants. Her people wear simple wool and are crueler than lions. The vixen came into the kingdom and found brother William, brother Robert, and the rest, and her coming makes ready for Antichrist.

Seignor qui Dieu devez amer,
Lords who God ought love
en cui amor n'a point d'amer,
in whose love not-has a-whit of-bitterness
qui Jonas garda en la mer,
who Jonah guarded in the sea
par grant amor,
by great love
les trois jors qu'il i fist demor,
the three days that-he there made stay
a vos toz faz je ma clamor
to you all make I my complaint
d'Ypocrisie,
of-Hypocrisy
cosine germaine Heresie,
cousin german (of-)Heresy
qui bien a la terre sesie;
who well has the land seized

tant est grant dame
so-much she-is great lady
qu'ele en enfer metra mainte ame.
that-she into hell will-put many-a soul
Maint home a mis et mainte fame
Many-a man she-has put and many-a woman
en sa prison:
in her prison
molt l'aime on et molt la prise on;
much her-loves one and much her prizes one
ne puet avoir los ne pris hom
not can have praise nor prize man
s'il ne l'onore:
if-he not her-honors
honorez est qu'a li demore,
honored is who-with her dwells
grant honor a, ne garde l'ore;
great honor he-has not waits the-hour
sanz honor est qui li cort sore
without honor is who her runs upon
en brief termine.
in brief term
Gesir soloit en la vermine:
To-lie she-was-wont in the vermin
or n'est mes hom qui ne l'encline
now not-is more man who not her-bows-to
ne bien creanz,
nor well believing
ainz est bougres et mescreanz.
rather is heretic and misbeliever

Ele a ja fet toz recreanz
She has already made all recreant
ses averseres.
her adversaries
Ses anemis ne prise gueres,
Her enemies not she-prizes much
qu'ele a baillis, provos et meres
for-she has bailiffs provosts and mayors
et si a juges,
and so has judges
et de deniers plaines ses huges,
and of pence full her chests
si n'est citez ou n'ait refuges
so not-is city where not-she-may-have refuges
a grant plenté;
in great plenty
partot fet mes sa volenté:
everywhere she-does henceforth her will
ne la retient Nonostenté
not her retains Notwithstanding
n'autre justise;
nor-other justice
le siecle governe et justise.
the world she-governs and judges
Resons est quanqu'ele devise,
Reason is whatever-she prescribes
soit maus, soit biens.
be-it ill be-it good
Ses serjanz est Justiniens,
Her sergeant is Justinian

et toz canons et Graciens.
and all canons and Gratian
Je qu'en diroie?
I what-thereof would-say
Bien puet lier et si desloie.
Well she-can bind and so unties
S'en un mauves leu ensailloie,
If-in a bad place I-leaped
ne puet el estre.
not can it-else be
Or vos vueil dire de son estre,
Now to-you I-wish to-tell of her being
qui sont si seignor et si mestre
who are her lords and her masters
parmi la vile:
through the town
Diex les devise en l'Evangile,
God them describes in the-Gospel
qui n'est de barat ne de guile,
which not-is of fraud nor of trick
ainz est certaine:
rather is certain
granz robes ont de simple laine,
great robes they-have of simple wool
et si sont de simple covaine;
and so are of simple covenant
simplement chascuns se demaine.
simply each himself conducts
Color ont simple et pale et vaine,
Color they-have simple and pale and empty

simple viere,
simple face
et sont cruel et deputere
and are cruel and wicked
vers cels a cui il ont afere
toward those with whom they have to-do
plus que lyon
more than lion
ne liepart, n'escorpion.
nor leopard nor-scorpion
N'i a point de relegion,
Not-there has a-whit of religion
c'est sanz mesure;
this-is without measure
itel gent, ce dist l'Escripture,
such people this says the-Scripture
nos metront a desconfiture;
us will-put to discomfiture
quar verité,
for truth
pitié et foi et charité
pity and faith and charity
et larguesce et humilité
and largesse and humility
ont ja sozmise;
they-have already subjected
et maint postiau de sainte Yglise,
and many-a pillar of holy Church
dont li uns plesse et l'autres brise,
of-which the one bends and the-other breaks

ce voit on bien,
this sees one well
contre li ne valent mes rien.
against her not avail henceforth anything
Les plusors fist de son merrien,
The most she-made of her timber
si l'obeissent,
so her-obey
nos engingnent et Dieu traissent;
us they-deceive and God betray
s'il fust en terre, il l'oceissent,
if-he were on earth they him-would-kill
quar il ocient
for they kill
la gent qui vers els s'umelient.
the people who toward them themselves-humble
Assez font el que il ne dient;
Plenty they-do else than they — say
prenez i garde.
take there heed
Ypocrisie la renarde,
Hypocrisy the vixen
qui defors oint et dedenz larde,
who outside anoints and within lards
vint ou roiaume;
came into-the kingdom
tost ot trové frere Guillaume,
soon she-had found brother William
frere Robert et frere Aliaume,
brother Robert and brother Aliaume

frere Giefroi,
brother Geoffrey
frere Lambert, frere Lanfroi;
brother Lambert brother Lanfroi
n'estoit pas lors de tel esfroi,
not-she-was at-all then of such fright
mes or s'esfroie.
but now she-frightens
Tel cuide on qu'au lange se froie
Such-one thinks one that-in-the wool himself may-rub
qu'autre chose a soz la corroie,
who-other thing has under the belt
si com je cuit;
so as I think
n'est pas tot or quanque reluit.
not-is at-all all gold whatever shines
Ypocrisie est en grant bruit;
Hypocrisy is in great clamor
tant a ovré,
so-much she-has worked
tant se sont li sien aovré,
so-much themselves are the her-own wrought
que par engin ont recovré
that by trick they-have recovered
grant part el monde.
great part in-the world

N'est mes nus tels qui la responde
Not-is henceforth anyone such who her may-answer
que maintenant ne le confonde
that at-once not him she-may-confound
sanz jugement;
without judgment
et par ce veez plainement
and by this you-see plainly
que c'est contre l'avenement
that this-is toward the-advent
a Antecrist.
of Antichrist
Ne croient pas le droit escrit
Not they-believe at-all the right writing
de l'Evangile Jhesu-Crist,
of the-Gospel (of-)Jesus-Christ
ne ses paroles:
nor his words
en leu de voir dient frivoles,
in place of truth they-say frivolities
et mensonges vaines et voles
and lies vain and flighty
por decevoir
for to-deceive
la gent et por apercevoir
the people and for to-perceive
s'a piece voudront recevoir
if-in while they-will-wish to-receive
celui qui vient,
him who comes

que par tel gent venir covient;
for by such people to-come behooves
quar il vendra, bien me sovient,
for he will-come well to-me remembers
par ypocrites;
by hypocrites
les prophecies sont escrites:
the prophecies are written
or vos ai ge tels genz descrites.
now to-you have I such people described

PRAISES AND LAMENTS

De Mes sire Gefroy de Sargines

XXV · ON MY LORD GEOFFREY OF SARGINES

Monks seek the soul's good and the world the body's honor, but Geoffrey of Sargines has both. Rutebeuf would take his soul above any other's and choose him from all the knights of France. Gentle at home and fierce in arms, he went overseas with his liege lord and stayed with the king through good and ill. At Jaffa he makes war on the Saracens, and his men fight only with him. Rutebeuf prays for him.

Qui de loial cuer et de fin
Who with loyal heart and with fine
finement jusques en la fin
finely until into the end
a Dieu servir defineroit,
to God serving would-end

qui son tenz i afineroit
who his time there would-finish
finement devroit definer
finely ought end
et de legier vers Dieu finer.
and from lightly toward God settle
Qui le sert de pensee fine,
Who him serves with thought fine
cortoisement en la fin fine,
courteously in the end ends
et por ce se sont rendu maint
and for this themselves are professed many
qu'envers celui qui lasus maint
that-toward him who up-there dwells
puissent finer cortoisement.
they-may settle courteously
S'en vont li cors honteusement,
Themselves-thence go the bodies shamefully
ce di je por relegieus,
this say I for religious
que chascuns d'els n'est pas prieus,
for each of-them not-is at-all prior
et li autre r'ont geté fors
and the others in-turn-have thrown out
le preu des ames por le cors,
the profit of-the souls for the body
qui rien plus ne vuelent conquerre,
who anything more not wish to-conquer
fors le cors honorer sor terre.
except the body to-honor upon earth

Ainsi est partie la riegle
Thus is divided the rule
de cels d'ordre et de cels du siecle;
of those of-order and of those of-the world
mes qui porroit en lui avoir
but who could in himself have
tant de proesce et de savoir
so-much of prowess and of knowledge
que l'ame fust et nete et monde
that the-soul might-be both clean and pure
et li cors honorez el monde,
and the body honored in-the world
ci auroit trop bel avantage;
here would-have exceedingly fair advantage
mes de cels n'en sai je qu'un sage
but of those not-thereof know I but-one wise
et cil est plains des Dieu doctrines.
and that-one is full of-the God's doctrines
Mes sires Giefroiz de Sargines
My lord Geoffrey of Sargines
a non li preudom que je nome,
has name the worthy-man whom I name
et si le tienent a preudome
and so him hold for worthy-man
empereor et roi et conte
emperors and kings and counts
assez plus que je ne vos conte.
much more than I — to-you tell

Toz autres ne pris deus espeches
All others not I-prize two spices
envers lui, quar ses bones teches
toward him for his good qualities
font bien partot a reprochier.
make well everywhere to recall
De ses teches vos vueil tochier
Of his qualities to-you I-wish to-touch
un pou selonc ce que j'en sai;
a little according-to that which I-thereof know
quar qui me metroit a l'essai
for who me would-put to the-test
de changier ame por la moie,
of exchanging soul for the mine
et je a l'eslire venoie,
and I to the-choosing came
de toz cels qui orendroit vivent,
of all those who now live
qui por lor ame au siecle estrivent,
who for their soul in-the world strive
tant quierent pain trestot deschaus
so-much they-seek bread wholly unshod
par les granz froiz et par les chaus,
through the great colds and through the heats
ou vestent here et caingnent corde,
or put-on hair-shirt and gird cord
ou plus facent que ne recorde,
or more may-do than — I-recount

si penroie ainz l'ame de lui
so I-would-take rather the-soul of him
plus tost, je cuit, que la nului.
more soon I think than that of-nobody
D'endroit du cors vos puis je dire
In-respect of-the body to-you can I say
que qui me metroit a l'eslire
that who me would-put to the-choosing
l'un des bons chevaliers de France
one of-the good knights of France
ou du roiaume, a ma creance,
or of-the kingdom to my belief
ja autre de lui n'esliroie.
ever other than him not-I-would-choose
Je ne sai que plus vos diroie,
I not know what more to-you I-would-say
tant est preudom, si com moi samble,
so-much he-is worthy-man so as to-me seems
qui a ces deus choses ensamble,
who has these two things together
valor de cors et bonté d'ame.
valor of body and goodness of-soul
Garanz li soit la douce dame,
Warrant to-him may-be the sweet lady
quant ele du cors partira,
when she from-the body will-part
qu'ele sache quel part ira,
that-she may-know which way she-will-go
et le cors ait en sa baillie,
and the body she-may-have in her keeping

et le maintiengne en bone vie!
and it may-maintain in good life
Quant il estoit en cest pais
When he was in this country
(que ne soie por fols nais
that not I-may-be for fool born
de ce que je le lo tenuz),
for this that I him praise held
n'i estoit jones ne chenuz
not-there was young nor white-haired
qui tant peust des armes fere.
who so-much could of-the arms do
Douz et cortois et debonere
Sweet and courteous and gracious
le trovoit l'en en son ostel;
him found one in his house
mes aus armes autre que tel
but at-the arms other than such
le trovast li siens anemis
him might-find the his enemy
puis qu'il s'i fust meslez et mis.
since that-he himself-there might-be mixed and put
Molt amoit Dieu et sainte yglise;
Much he-loved God and holy church
si ne vousist en nule guise
so not he-would-wish in any guise
envers nului, foible ne fort,
toward anybody weak nor strong
a son pooir mesprendre a tort.
at his power to-misdo at wrong

Ses povres voisins ama bien:
His poor neighbors he-loved well
volentiers lor donoit du sien,
willingly to-them he-gave of-the his-own
et si donoit en tel maniere
and so gave in such manner
que miex valoit la bele chiere
that better was-worth the fair face
qu'il fesoit au doner le don
that-he made at-the giving the gift
que li dons. Icist bons preudom
than the gift This good worthy-man
preudome crut et honora,
worthy-man believed and honored
n'ainz entor lui ne demora
nor-ever around him not remained
faus losengiers puis qu'il le sot,
false flatterer since that-he it knew
quar qui ce fet, jel tieng a sot.
for who this does I-him hold for fool
Ne fu mesliz ne mesdisanz,
Not was quarrelsome nor slanderous
ne vanterres ne despisanz.
nor boaster nor despising
Ainz que j'eusse raconté
Before that I-might-have recounted
sa grant valor ne sa bonté,
his great valor nor his goodness
sa cortoisie ne son sens,
his courtesy nor his sense

torneroit a anui, ce pens.
would-turn to vexation this I-think
Son seignor lige tint si chier
His lord liege he-held so dear
qu'il ala avoec lui vengier
that-he went with him to-avenge
la honte Dieu outre la mer:
the shame (of-)God beyond the sea
tel preudome doit l'en amer.
such worthy-man ought one love
Avoec le roi demora la,
With the king he-remained there
avoec le roi mut et ala,
with the king he-moved and went
avoec le roi prist bien et mal:
with the king he-took good and ill
l'en n'a pas toz jors tenz igal;
one not-has at-all all days weather equal
ainz por paine ne por dolor
rather for pain nor for sorrow
ne coroca son Sauveor:
not angered his Savior
tot prist en gré quanqu'il sofri;
all he-took in liking whatever-he suffered
l'ame et le cors a Dieu ofri.
the-soul and the body to God he-offered
Ses conseus fu bons et entiers
His counsel was good and entire
tant come il fu poinz et mestiers,
as-long as it was point and need

ne ne chanja por esmaier.
nor not changed for dismaying
De legier devra Dieu paier,
From lightly will-have-to God pay
quar il le paie chascun jor.
for he him pays each day
A Jasphes, ou il fet sejor,
At Jaffa where he makes stay
s'il est sejor de guerroier,
if-it is rest from making-war
la vuet il son tenz enploier:
there wishes he his time to-employ
felon voisin et envieus,
felon neighbor and envious
et cruel et contralieus
and cruel and contrary
le truevent la gent sarrazine,
him find the people Saracen
quar de guerroier ne les fine.
for of making-war not them he-ceases
Sovent lor fet grant envaie,
Often to-them he-makes great attack
que sa demore i est haie.
for his stay there is hated
Des or croi je bien cest latin:
From now believe I well this Latin
mals voisins done mal matin.
bad neighbor gives bad morning
Son cors lor presente sovent,
His body to-them he-presents often

mes il a trop petit covent.
but he has too little company
Se petiz est, petit s'esmaie,
If small it-is little himself-dismays
quar li paierres qui bien paie
for the payer who well pays
les puet bien sanz dote paier,
them can well without doubt pay
que nus ne se doit esmaier
for anyone not himself ought dismay
qu'il n'ait corone de martir
that-he not-may-have crown of martyr
quant du siecle devra partir;
when from-the world he-will-have-to part
et une riens les reconforte,
and one thing them comforts
que puis qu'il sont fors de la porte,
for since that-they are outside of the gate
et il ont mon seignor Giefroi,
and they have my lord Geoffrey
nus d'els n'ert ja puis en esfroi,
anyone of-them not-will-be ever after in fright
ainz vaut li uns au besoin quatre;
rather is-worth the one at-the need four
mes sanz lui ne s'osent combatre.
but without him not themselves-dare to-fight
Par lui jostent, par lui guerroient,
By him they-joust by him they-make-war

james sanz lui ne se verroient
ever without him not themselves would-see
en bataille ne en estor,
in battle nor in fray
qu'il font de lui chastel et tor;
for-they make of him castle and tower
a lui s'asenent et ralient,
to him they-direct-themselves and rally
quar c'est lor estandarz, ce dient;
for this-is their standard this they-say
c'est cil qui du champ ne se muet,
this-is he who from-the field not himself moves
el champ le puet trover qui vuet;
in-the field him can find who wishes
ne ja por fes que il sostiengne
nor ever for burden that he may-sustain
ne partira de la besoingne,
not will-depart from the business
quar il set bien, de l'autre part,
for he knows well of the-other part
se de sa partie se part,
if from his party himself parts
ne puet estre que sa partie
not can be that his party
ne soit tost sanz lui departie.
not may-be soon without him dispersed

Sovent assaut et va en proie
Often he-assaults and goes on raid
sor cele gent qui Dieu ne proie
upon that people who God not prays
ne aime ne sert ne aore
nor loves nor serves nor adores
si com cil qui ne garde l'ore
just as he who not waits the-hour
que Diex en face son voloir.
that God thereof may-do his will
Por Dieu fet molt son cors doloir:
For God he-makes much his body to-grieve
ainsi suefre sa penitance,
thus he-suffers his penance
de mort chascun jor en balance.
of death each day in balance
Or prions donques a celui
Now let-us-pray then to him
qui refuser ne set nului
who to-refuse not knows-how anybody
qui le vuet prier et amer,
who him wishes to-pray and to-love
qui por nos ot le mors amer
who for us had the bite bitter
de la mort vilaine et amere,
of the death churlish and bitter

en cele garde qu'il sa mere
in that keeping in-which-he his mother
comanda a l'evangelistre
commended to the-evangelist
son droit mestre et son droit menistre,
his right master and his right minister
le cors de cel preudome gart
the body of that worthy-man he-may-guard
et l'ame recoive a sa part.
and the-soul may-receive at his side

Amen.
Amen

De Mestre Guillaume de Saint-Amour

XXVI · ON MASTER WILLIAM OF SAINT-AMOUR

He calls on prelates, princes, and kings to hear the wrong done to master William, banished without judgment. If the pope can exile a man from another's land, the king is lord of nothing, and if the king did it, it is a sin. The University and the Dominicans had made peace through the prelates, the king swore to hold it, and William was exiled without breaking it. He asks that William be heard and dares any death for it.

Oiez, prelat et prince et roi,
Hear prelates and princes and kings
la desreson et le desroi
the unreason and the disorder
qu'on a fet a mestre Guillaume:
that-one has done to master William

l'en l'a bani de cest roiaume;
one him-has banished from this kingdom
a tel tort ne morut mes hom.
at such wrong not died ever man
Qui escille home sanz reson,
Who exiles man without reason
je di que Diex qui vit et regne
I say that God who lives and reigns
le doit escillier de son regne.
him ought exile from his realm
Qui droit refuse, guerre quiert;
Who right refuses war seeks
et mestre Guillaumes requiert
and master William asks
droit et reson sanz guerre avoir.
right and reason without war to-have
Prelat, je vos faz a savoir
Prelates I to-you make to know
que tuit en estes avillié.
that all thereby are debased
Mestre Guillaume ont escillié
Master William have exiled
ou li rois ou li apostoles.
either the king or the pope
Or vos dirai a briez paroles
Now to-you I-shall-tell in brief words
que se l'apostoles de Rome
that if the-pope of Rome
puet escillier d'autrui terre home,
can exile from-other's land man

li sires n'a nient en sa terre,
the lord not-has anything in his land
qui la verité vuet enquerre.
who the truth wishes to-inquire
Se li rois dit en tel maniere,
If the king says in such manner
qu'escillié l'ait par la priere
that-exiled him-he-may-have through the prayer
qu'il ot de la pape Alixandre,
that-he had of the pope Alexander
ci poez novel droit aprendre;
here you-can new right learn
mes je ne sai coment a non,
but I not know how it-has name
qu'il n'est en droit ne en canon;
for-it not-is in law nor in canon
quar rois ne se doit pas mesfere
for king not himself ought at-all misdo
por chose qu'on li sache fere.
for thing that-one to-him may-know-how to-do
Se li rois dist qu'escillié l'ait,
If the king said that-exiled him-he-may-have
ci a tort et pechié et lait,
here has wrong and sin and ugliness
qu'il n'afiert a roi ne a conte,
for-it not-befits to king nor to count
s'il entent que droiture monte,
if-he understands what uprightness amounts

qu'il escille home qu'on ne voie
that-he may-exile man whom-one not may-see
que par droit escillier le doie;
that by right exile him he-ought
et se il autrement le fet,
and if he otherwise it does
sachiez de voir qu'il se mesfet.
know of truth that-he himself misdoes
Se cil devant Dieu li demande,
If he before God to-him asks
je ne respont pas de l'amande.
I not answer at-all for the-fine
Li sanz Abel requist justise
The blood (of-)Abel asked justice
quant la persone fu ocise.
when the person was killed
Por ce que vos veez a plain
For this that you may-see in plain
que je n'ai pas tort se le plain,
that I not-have at-all wrong if him I-lament
et que ce soit sanz jugement
and that this may-be without judgment
qu'il suefre cest escillement,
that-he suffers this exile
je le vos monstre a iex voianz.
I it to-you show to eyes seeing
Ou droiz est torz et voirs noianz.
Where right is wrong and truth nothing

Bien avez oi la descorde
Well you-have heard the discord
(ne covient pas que la recorde)
not behooves at-all that it I-may-recall
qui a duré tant longuement
which has lasted so long
— sept ans toz plains entierement —
seven years all full entirely
entre la gent Saint-Dominique
between the people (of-)Saint-Dominic
et cels qui lisent de logique.
and those who read of logic
Assez i ot pro et contra:
Plenty there had pro and contra
l'uns l'autre sovent encontra,
the-one the-other often met
alant et venant a la cort.
going and coming to the court
Li droit aus clers firent la cort,
The rights of-the clerks made the court
quar cil i firent lor voloir,
for those there did their will
cui qu'en deust li cuers doloir,
whose that-thereof ought the heart grieve
d'escomenier et d'assoudre;
of-excommunicating and of-absolving
cui blez ne faut, sovent puet moudre.
whom grain not fails often can grind
Li prelat sorent cele guerre,
The prelates knew that war

si comencerent a requerre
so began to ask
l'université et les freres
the-university and the friars
qui sont de plus de quatre meres,
who are of more than four mothers
qu'il lor lessassent la pes fere.
that-they to-them might-let the peace to-make
Et guerre si doit molt desplere
And war so ought much displease
a gent qui pes et foi sermonent
to people who peace and faith preach
et qui les bons examples donent,
and who the good examples give
par parole et par fet ensamble.
by word and by deed together
Si come a lor œvre me samble,
So as to their work to-me seems
il s'acorderent a la pes,
they themselves-agreed to the peace
sanz comencier guerre james;
without beginning war ever
ce fu fiancé a tenir
this was pledged to hold
et seelé por sovenir.
and sealed for remembering
Mestre Guillaumes au roi vint,
Master William to-the king came
la ou des genz ot plus de vint,
there where of-the people had more than twenty

si dist: «Sire, nos sons en mise
so said Lord we are in arbitration
par le dit et par la devise
by the word and by the device
que li prelat deviseront:
that the prelates will-devise
ne sai se cil la briseront.»
not I-know if those it will-break
Li rois jura: «En non de mi!
The king swore In name of me
Il m'auront tot a anemi
They me-will-have wholly for enemy
s'il la brisent, sachiez sanz faille;
if-they it break know without fail
je n'ai cure de lor bataille!»
I not-have care of their battle
Li mestres parti du pales,
The master departed from-the palace
ou assez ot et clers et les,
where plenty had both clerks and laymen
sanz ce qu'ainz puis ne mesfeist,
without this that-ever after not he-might-misdo
ne la pes pas ne desfeist,
nor the peace at-all not might-undo
si l'escilla sanz plus veoir.
so him-exiled without more to-see
Doit cis escillemenz seoir?
Ought this exile sit
Nenil, qui a droit jugeroit,
No who by right would-judge

qui droiture et s'ame ameroit.
who uprightness and his-soul would-love
S'or fesoit li rois une chose
If-now did the king a thing
que mestre Guillaumes propose
that master William proposes
a fere, voir ce que il conte,
to make true that which he tells
que l'oissent et roi et conte
that-it might-hear both king and count
et prince et prelat tot ensamble,
and prince and prelate all together
s'il dit riens qui verité samble,
if-he says anything which truth seems
sel face l'en, ou autrement
so-it may-do one or otherwise
mainte ame ira a dampnement;
many-a soul will-go to damnation
s'il dit chose qui face a tere,
if-he says thing which may-make to be-silent
a enmurer ou a desfere,
to wall-up or to undo
mestre Guillaumes du tot s'ofre
master William of-the all himself-offers
et otroie s'il ne se suefre.
and grants if-he not himself refrains
Ne dites pas que ce requiere
Not say at-all that this he-may-ask
por venir el roiaume arriere;
for to-come into-the kingdom back

mes s'il dist riens qu'aus ames vaille,
but if-he said anything which-to-the souls may-avail
quant il aura dit si s'en aille,
when he will-have said so himself-thence he-may-go
et vos aiez sor sa requeste
and you may-have upon his request
conscience pure et honeste.
conscience pure and honest
Et vos tuit qui le dit oez,
And you all who the poem hear
quant Diex se monstrera cloez,
when God himself will-show nailed
que c'ert au jor du grant juise,
for this-will-be at-the day of-the great judgment
por lui demandera justise,
for him he-will-ask justice
et vos sor ce que je raconte
and you upon that which I recount
si en aurez paor et honte.
so thereof will-have fear and shame
Endroit de moi vos puis je dire,
In-respect of me to-you can I say
je ne redot pas le martire
I not dread at-all the martyrdom
de la mort d'ou qu'ele me viengne,
of the death from-where that-she to-me may-come
s'ele me vient por tel besoingne.
if-she to-me comes for such business

De Mestre Guillaume de Saint-Amour

XXVII · THE COMPLAINT OF MASTER WILLIAM OF SAINT-AMOUR

Holy Church speaks: her people are killed and betrayed for the truth, and her father is imprisoned in his own land. She calls on the arts masters, decretists, physicians, and lawyers to see master William exiled to Saint-Amour while no one speaks for him. Pity, Charity, and Friendship are dead, and Hypocrisy, Vain Glory, False Seeming, and Envy rule. Fortune is her stepmother, and she prays Christ to receive William.

«Vos qui alez parmi la voie
You who go through the way
arrestez vos, et chascuns voie
stop yourselves and each may-see
s'il est dolors tels com la moie,»
if-there is sorrow such as the mine
dist Sainte Yglise.
says Holy Church
«Je fui sor ferme pierre assise;
I was upon firm rock set
la pierre esgrume et fent et brise,
the rock crumbles and splits and breaks
et je chancele.
and I totter
Tel gent se font de ma querele
Such people themselves make of my quarrel
qui me metent en la berele;
who me put into the strife

les miens ocient
the mine they-kill
sanz ce que pas ne me desfient,
without this that at-all not me they-defy
ainz sont a moi, si come il dient,
rather they-are to me so as they say
por miex confondre.
for better to-confound
Por ce font il ma gent repondre,
For this make they my people hide
que nus a els n'ose respondre
that anyone to them not-dares to-answer
ne mes que sire.
nor more but lord
Assez pueent chanter et lire,
Plenty they-can sing and read
mes molt a entre fere et dire;
but much has between doing and saying
c'est la nature;
this-is the nature
li diz est douz et l'uevre dure:
the saying is sweet and the-work hard
n'est pas tot or quanqu'on voit luire.
not-is at-all all gold whatever-one sees shine
Ahi! Ahi!
Ah Ah

Com sont li mien mort et trahi
How are the mine dead and betrayed
et por la verité hai
and for the truth hated
sanz jugement!
without judgment
Ou cil qui a droit juge ment,
Either he who by right judges lies
ou il en auront vengement,
or they thereof will-have vengeance
combien qu'il tart;
how-much that-it may-be-late
com plus cove li feus, plus art.
as more broods the fire more it-burns
Li mien sont tenu por musart,
The mine are held for dolts
et jel compere;
and I-it pay-for
pris ont Cesar, pris ont Saint Pere,
taken they-have Caesar taken they-have Saint Peter
et s'ont enprisoné mon pere
and so-have imprisoned my father
dedenz sa terre.
within his land
Cil ne le vont gueres requerre
Those not him go much to-seek
por qui il comenca la guerre
for whom he began the war
qu'on nes percoive.
so-that-one not-them may-perceive

N'est mes nus qui le ramentoive;
Not-is more anyone who it may-recall
s'il fist folie, si la boive.
if-he did folly so it he-may-drink
He, arcien!
Ah arts-masters
Decretistre, fisicien,
Decretists physicians
et vos la gent Justinien
and you the people (of-)Justinian
et autre preudome ancien,
and other worthy-men ancient
coment sofrez en tel lien
how suffer-you in such bond
mestre Guillaume,
master William
qui por moi fist de teste hiaume?
who for me made of head helmet
Or est fors mis de cest roiaume
Now is out put from this kingdom
li bons preudom
the good worthy-man
qui mist cors et vie a bandon!
who put body and life at abandon
Fet l'avez de Chastel Landon.
Done it-you-have of Château Landon
La moquerie
The mockery
me vendez, par sainte Marie.
me you-sell by saint Mary

J'en doi plorer, qui que s'en rie;
I-thereof ought weep who that himself-thereat may-laugh
je n'en puis mes.
I not-thereof can more
Se vos estes bien et en pes,
If you are well and in peace
bien puet passer avrils ne mes.
well can pass April or May
S'il encharja por moi tel fes
If-he loaded for me such burden
je li enorte
I him exhort
que jus le mete ou il le porte,
that down it he-may-put or he it may-carry
que ja n'ert nus qui l'en deporte,
for ever not-will-be anyone who him-thereof may-relieve
ainz i morra,
rather there he-will-die
et li aferes demorra.
and the affair will-remain
Face du miex que il porra,
He-May-do of-the best that he will-be-able
je n'i voi plus;
I not-there see more
por voir dire l'a l'en conclus.
for truth to-say him-has one shut-in
Or est en son pais reclus,
Now he-is in his country enclosed
a Saint-Amor,
at Saint-Amour

et nus ne fet por lui clamor.
and anyone not makes for him complaint
Or i puet fere lonc demor,
Now there he-can make long stay
que je l'i les,
for I him-there leave
que veritez a fet son les
for truth has made her bequest
ne l'ose dire clers ne les:
not it-dares to-say clerk nor layman
morte est Pitiez,
dead is Pity
et Charitez et Amistiez;
and Charity and Friendship
fors du regne les ont getez
out of-the realm them have thrown
Ypocrisie,
Hypocrisy
et Vaine-Gloire et Tricherie,
and Vain-Glory and Trickery
et Faus-Samblanz et dame Envie
and False-Seeming and lady Envy
qui tot enflame.
who all inflames
Savez porquoi? Chascune est dame,
Know-you why Each is lady
qu'on dote plus le cors que l'ame;
for-one fears more the body than the-soul

et d'autre part
and on-other part
nus clers a provende n'a part,
any clerk in prebend not-has share
n'a dignité que l'en depart,
nor-in dignity that one distributes
s'il n'est des lor.
if-he not-is of-the theirs
Faus-Samblanz et Morte-Color
False-Seeming and Dead-Color
enportent tot; a ci dolor
carry-off all has here sorrow
et grant contrere.
and great trouble
Li douz, li franz, li debonere,
The sweet the noble the gracious
cui l'en soloit toz les biens fere,
to-whom one was-wont all the goods to-do
sont en espace;
are in abeyance
et cil qui ont fauve la face,
and those who have sallow the face
qui sont de la devine grace
who are of the divine grace
plain par defors,
full by outside
cil auront Dieu et les tresors
those will-have God and the treasures
qui de toz maus gardent les cors.
who from all ills guard the bodies

Sachiez de voir,
Know of truth
molt a sainte chose en avoir
much has holy thing in having
quant tels genz le vuelent avoir
when such people it wish to-have
qui sanz dotance
who without doubt
ne feroient por tote France
not would-do for all France
jusqu'au remors de consciance.
until-the remorse of conscience
Mes de celui
But of him
me plaing qui ne trueve nului,
myself I-complain who not finds anybody
tant ait esté amez de lui,
so-much he-may-have been loved by him
qui le requiere;
who him may-seek
si me complaing en tel maniere:
so myself I-lament in such manner
ha, fortune! chose legiere,
ah fortune thing light
qui oins devant et poins derriere,
who anointest before and stingest behind
come es marrastre!
how thou-art stepmother
Clergié, come estes mi fillastre!
Clergy how you-are my stepsons

Oblié m'ont prelat et pastre;
Forgotten me-have prelates and pastors
chascuns m'esloingne,
each me-removes
a pou lor est de ma besoingne:
to little to-them is of my need
sejorner l'estuet en Borgoingne,
to-sojourn him-behooves in Burgundy
mat et confus.
checkmated and confounded
D'iluec ne se movra il plus,
From-there not himself will-move he more
ainz i sera ce soreplus
rather there he-will-be this surplus
qu'il a a vivre,
that-he has to live
que ja n'ert nus qui l'en delivre,
for ever not-will-be anyone who him-thence may-free
escorpions, serpenz et guivre
scorpions serpents and vipers
l'ont assailli;
him-have assailed
par lor assaut l'ont mal bailli,
by their assault him-have ill handled
et tuit mi droit li sont failli,
and all my rights to-him are failed
qu'il tret avant.
that-he draws forward
Il aurait pes, de ce me vant,
He would-have peace of this myself I-boast

s'il voloit jurer par covant
if-he wished to-swear by covenant
que voirs fust fable,
that truth were fable
et droiz fust torz et Diex deable,
and right were wrong and God devil
et fors du senz fussent resnable,
and out of-the sense were reasonable
et noirs fust blanz;
and black were white
mes por tant puet user son tenz,
but for so-much he-can spend his time
en tel estat, si com je pens,
in such state so as I think
que ce deist,
that this he-would-say
ne que jusques la mesfeist,
nor that until there he-would-misdo
coment que la chose preist;
how that the thing might-take
quar ce seroit
for this would-be
desloiautez, n'il nel feroit,
disloyalty nor-he not-it would-do
ce sai je bien; miex ameroit
this know I well better he-would-love
estre enmurez,
to-be walled-up
ou desfez ou desfigurez,
or undone or disfigured

n'il n'ert ja si desmesurez,
nor-be not-will-be ever so measureless
que Diex nel vuet:
for God not-it wishes
or soit ainsi come estre puet.
now be-it thus as to-be it-can
Encor est Diex la ou il suet,
Still is God there where he is-wont
ce sai ge bien;
this know I well
je ne me desconfort de rien.
I not myself discomfort in anything
Paradis est de tel merrien
Paradise is of such timber
qu'on ne l'a pas
that-one not it-has at-all
por Dieu flater eneslepas;
for God to-flatter at-once
ainz covient maint felon trespas
rather behooves many-a felon passage
au cors sofferre.
to-the body to-suffer
Por cheminer parmi la terre,
For journeying through the land
por les bones viandes querre,
for the good foods to-seek
n'est on pas sainz;
not-is one at-all saint
s'il muert por moi, s'ert de moi plains.
if-he dies for me so-he-will-be by me lamented

Voir dires a costé a mainz
True saying has cost to many
et costera;
and will-cost
mes Diex, qui est et qui sera,
but God who is and who will-be
s'il vuet, en pou d'ore fera
if-he wishes in little of-hour will-make
cest bruit remaindre:
this noise to-cease
l'en a veu remanoir graindre.
one has seen to-cease greater
Qui verra deus cierges estaindre,
Who will-see two candles quench
lors si verra
then so will-see
coment Jhesu-Criz overra
how Jesus-Christ will-work
qui maint orguilleus a terre a
who many-a proud-man to earth has
plessié et mis.
bent and put
Se il est por moi sanz amis,
If he is for me without friends
Diex s'ert en pou d'ore entremis
God himself-will-be in little of-hour meddled
de lui secorre
of him to-succor
or lera donc fortune corre,
now will-let then fortune run

qu'encontre li ne puet acorre;
for-against her not can run
c'est or la some.
this-is now the sum
Ou a il nul si vaillant home,
Where has it any so valiant man
qui por l'apostoile de Rome
who for the-pope of Rome
ne por le Roi
nor for the King
ne vout desreer son erroi,
not wished to-derange his course
ainz en a soffert le desroi
rather thereof has suffered the disorder
de perdre honor?
of losing honor
L'en l'apeloit mestre et seignor,
One him-called master and lord
et de toz mestres le greignor
and of all masters the greatest
seignor et mestre,
lord and master
li enfanz que vos verrez nestre
the children whom you will-see be-born
vos feront encore herbe pestre
you will-make still grass to-graze
se il devienent
if they become
de cels qui ensamble se tienent,
of those who together themselves hold

et s'il vivent qui les sostienent
and if-they live who them sustain
que j'ai descrit.
whom I-have described
Or prions donques Jhesu-Crist
Now let-us-pray then Jesus-Christ
que celui mete en son escrit
that him he-may-put in his writing
et en son regne
and in his realm
la ou les siens conduit et maine
there where the his-own he-leads and guides
et si l'en prit la soveraine
and so him-thereof may-pray the sovereign
Virge Marie,
Virgin Mary
qu'avant que il perde la vie
that-before that he may-lose the life
soit sa volentez acomplie.»
may-be his will accomplished

Amen.
Amen

La Complainte du Conte Huede de Nevers

XXVIII · THE COMPLAINT OF COUNT EUDES OF NEVERS

Death has taken Eudes, count of Nevers, flower of his lineage. He was a knight as soon as he could bear arms, and the best men wished to be like him. His death has stripped Acre of a dreaded banner. He left his towns to die in God's service and chose to be counted among the poorest; his heart is at Citeaux, his body overseas. Rutebeuf mourns him with Count John and lord Erard and calls on the king, the barons, and the tourneyers to help Acre.

La morz qui toz jors cels aproie
The death who all days those preys-upon
qui plus sont de bien fere en voie
who most are of good doing on way
me fet descovrir mon corage
me makes uncover my heart
por l'un de cels que plus amoie
for one of those whom most I-loved
et que miex resambler voudroie
and whom better to-resemble I-would-wish
qu'ome qui soit de nul langage.
than-man who may-be of any language
Huedes ot nom, preudome et sage,
Eudes had name worthy-man and wise
cuens de Nevers au fier corage,
count of Nevers with-the proud heart
que la morz a pris en sa proie.
whom the death has taken into her prey

C'estoit la flors de son lignage:
This-was the flower of his lineage
de sa mort est plus granz damage
of his death is more great damage
que je dire ne vos porroie.
than I to-say — to-you could

Morz est li cuens! Diex en ait l'ame!
Dead is the count God thereof may-have the-soul
Sainz Jorges et la douce dame
Saint George and the sweet lady
vuellent prier le sovrain mestre
may-wish to-pray the sovereign master
qu'en cele joie qui n'entame,
that-into that joy which not-wounds
sanz redoter l'infernal flame,
without dreading the-infernal flame
mete le bon conte a sa destre!
he-may-put the good count at his right
Et il i doit par reson estre,
And he there ought by reason be

qu'il lessa son leu et son estre
for-he left his place and his being
por cele glorieuse jame
for that glorious gem
qui a nom la joie celestre:
which has name the joy celestial
mieudres de li ne porra nestre,
better than him not will-be-able to-be-born
mien esciant, de cors de fame.
to-my knowledge of body of woman

Li cuens fu tantost chevaliers
The count was at-once knight
com il en fu poinz et mestiers,
as he thereto was point and need
qu'il pot les armes endurer;
that-he could the arms endure
puis ne fu voie ne sentiers
then not was way nor path
ou il n'alast molt volentiers
where he not-might-go very willingly
se l'en s'i pot aventurer;
if one himself-there could venture
si vos puis bien dire et jurer
so to-you I-can well say and swear
s'il peust son droit tenz durer
if-he could his right time last
qu'onques ne fu mieudres terriers,
that-ever not was better landholder

tant se seust amesurer
so-much himself he-would-know-how to-measure
aus bons et les faus forjurer,
to-the good and the false to-forswear
aus uns dolz et aus autres fiers.
to-the ones sweet and to-the others fierce

Ce pou qu'aus armes fu en vie,
This little that-at-the arms he-was in life
tuit li bon avoient envie
all the good had desire
de lui resambler de maniere;
of him to-resemble in manner
se Diex n'amast sa compaignie,
if God not-had-loved his company
n'eust pas Acre desgarnie
not-would-have at-all Acre stripped
de si redotee baniere.
of so dreaded banner
La morz a mis l'afere arriere
The death has put the-affair back
d'Acre, dont nus mestiers n'en iere:
of-Acre whereof any need not-thereof was
la terre en remaint esbahie;
the land thereof remains dismayed

ci a mort delireuse et fiere,
here has death grievous and fierce
que nus hom n'en fet bele chiere,
for any man not-thereof makes fair face
fors cele pute gent haie.
except that vile people hated

La terre plaine de noblesce,
The land full of nobility
de charité et de largesce,
of charity and of largesse
tant avez fet vilaine perte!
so-much you-have made shameful loss
Se morte ne fust gentilesce
If dead not had-been nobility
et vaselages et proesce,
and vassalage and prowess
vos ne fussiez pas si deserte.
you not would-be at-all so deserted
Hai, hai! gent mal aperte!
Ah ah people ill skilled
La porte des ciels est overte,
The gate of-the heavens is open
ne reculez pas por peresce:
not draw-back at-all for sloth

en brief tenz l'a or Diex offerte
in brief time it-has now God offered
au bon conte par sa deserte,
to-the good count by his desert
qu'il l'a conquise en sa jonesce.
for-he it-has conquered in his youth

Ne fist mie de sa croix pile
Not made at-all of his cross pile
si com font sovent tel dis mile,
so as do often such ten thousand
qui la prenent par grant faintise;
who it take by great feigning
ainz a fet selonc l'Evangile,
rather has done according-to the-Gospel
qu'il a maint borc et mainte vile
for-he has many-a borough and many-a town
lessié por morir en servise
left for to-die in service
celui seignor qui tot justise.
of-that lord who all judges
Et Diex li rent en bele guise
And God it-to-him renders in fair guise
(ne cuidiez pas que ce soit guile),
not think at-all that this may-be trick

qu'il fet granz vertus a devise:
for-he does great miracles at wish
bien pert que Diex a s'arme prise
well appears that God has his-soul taken
por metre en son roial concile.
for to-put in his royal council

Encor fist li cuens a sa mort,
Still did the count at his death
qu'avec les plus povres s'amort:
that-with the most poor himself-he-bound
des plus povres vot estre el conte.
of-the most poor he-wished to-be in-the reckoning
Quant la morz un tel home mort,
When the death a such man bites
que doit qu'ele ne se remort
what is-it that-she not herself bites-again
de mordre si tost un tel conte?
for biting so soon a such count
Quar qui la verité nos conte,
For who the truth to-us tells

je ne cuit pas que james monte
I not think at-all that ever may-mount
sor nul cheval feble ne fort
upon any horse feeble nor strong
nus hom qui tant ait doté honte,
any man who so-much may-have feared shame
ne miex seust que honors monte:
nor better might-know what honor amounts
n'a ci dolor et desconfort?
not-has here sorrow and discomfort

Li cuers le conte est a Citiaus,
The heart (of-)the count is at Cîteaux
et l'arme lasus en sainz ciaus,
and the-soul up-there in holy heavens
et li cors en gist outre mer.
and the body thereof lies beyond sea
Cist departirs est bons et biaus;
This parting is good and fair
ci a trois precieus joiaus
here has three precious jewels
que tuit li bon doivent amer:
which all the good ought love
lasus els cieus fet bon semer,
up-there in-the heavens makes good to-sow
n'estuet pas la terre femer
not-behooves at-all the earth to-dung
ne ne s'i puet repestre oisiaus.
nor not itself-there can feed bird

Quant por Dieu se fist entamer,
When for God himself he-had pierced
que porra Diex sor lui clamer
what will-be-able God upon him to-claim
quant il jugera bons et maus?
when he will-judge good and evil

Ha, cuens Jehan! biaus tres dolz sire!
Ah count John fair very sweet lord
De vos puisse on tant de bien dire
Of you may one so-much of good say
com l'en puet du conte Huede fere,
as one can of-the count Eudes do
qu'en lui a si bele matire
for-in him has so fair matter
que Diex s'en puet joer et rire
that God himself-thereof can sport and laugh
et sainz paradis s'en resclere!
and holy paradise itself-thereof brightens
A itel fin fet il bon trere
To such end makes it good to-draw
que l'en n'en puet nul mal retrere:
that one not-thereof can any ill recount
tel vie fet il bon eslire.
such life makes it good to-choose

Dolz et pitos et debonere
Sweet and merciful and gracious
le trovoit l'en en tot afere:
him found one in all affair
sages est qu'en ses fez se mire.
wise is who-in his deeds himself mirrors

Mes sire Erart, Diex vos maintiengne
My lord Erard God you may-maintain
et en bone vie vos tiengne,
and in good life you may-keep
qu'il est bien mestiers en la terre!
for-it is well need in the land
Que s'il avient que tost vos preingne,
For if-it happens that soon you it-may-take
je dot li pais ne remaingne
I fear the country — may-remain
en grant dolor et en grant guerre.
in great sorrow and in great war
Com li cuers el ventre vos serre,
How the heart in-the belly to-you tightens
quant Diex a mis si tost en serre
when God has put so soon under lock
le conte a la dotee enseingne.
the count with the dreaded ensign

Ou porrez tel compaignon querre?
Where will-you-be-able such companion to-seek
En France ne en Angleterre
In France nor in England
ne cuit pas qu'on le vos enseingne.
not I-think at-all that-one him to-you may-show

Ha, rois de France! rois de France!
Ah king of France king of France
Acre est tote jor en balance;
Acre is all day in balance
secorez la, qu'il est mestiers!
succor her for-it is need
Servez Dieu de vostre sostance:
Serve God with your substance
ne fetes plus ci remenance,
not make more here remaining
ne vos ne li cuens de Poitiers.
neither you nor the count of Poitiers
Diex vos i verra volentiers,
God you there will-see willingly
quar toz est herbuz li sentiers
for wholly is grassy the path
qu'on suet batre por penitance.
which-one is-wont to-beat for penance

Qu'a Dieu sera amis entiers,
Who-to God will-be friend entire
voist destorber ces charpentiers
may-go to-hinder these carpenters
qui destorbent nostre creance.
who hinder our belief

Chevalier, que fetes vos ci?
Knights what do you here
Cuens de Blois, sire de Couci,
Count of Blois lord of Coucy
cuens de Saint-Pol, fiz au bon Hue,
count of Saint-Pol son of-the good Hugh
bien avez avant les cors ci.
well you-have before the bodies here
Coment querrez a Dieu merci,
How will-you-seek of God mercy
se la morz en voz liz vos tue?
if the death in your beds you kills
Vos veez la terre absolue
You see the land absolved
qui a voz tenz nos ert tolue,
which in your times from-us will-be taken
dont j'ai le cuer triste et marri.
whereof I-have the heart sad and grieved

La morz ne fet nule estandue,
The death not makes any delay
ainz fiert a massue estandue;
rather strikes with club stretched-out
tost fet nuit de jor esclarci.
soon makes night from day brightened

Tornoieor, vos qu'atendez,
Tourneyers you what-do-you-await
qui la terre ne desfendez
who the land not defend
qui est a vostre creator?
which is to your creator
Vos avez bien les iex bandez
You have well the eyes bandaged
quant vers Dieu ne vos desfendez
when toward God not yourselves you-defend
n'en vos ne metez nul ator!
nor-in yourselves not put any array
Pou dotez la parfonde tor
Little you-fear the deep tower
dont li prison n'ont nul retor,
whence the prisoners not-have any return
ou par paresse descendez.
where through sloth you-descend

Ci n'a plus ne guanche ne tor;
Here not-has more neither swerve nor turn
quant la morz vos va si entor,
when the death you goes so around
a Dieu cors et arme rendez.
to God body and soul render

Quant la teste est bien avinee,
When the head is well wined
au feu, delez la cheminee,
at-the fire beside the chimney
si nos croisons de plain esles;
so ourselves we-cross at full gallop
et quant vient a la matinee,
and when it-comes to the morning
si est ceste voie finee.
so is this way ended
Tel costume a et clers et les,
Such custom has both clerk and layman
et quant il muert et fet son les,
and when he dies and makes his bequest
si let sales, mesons, pales
so leaves halls houses palaces
a dolor, a fort destinee.
to sorrow to strong destiny

La s'en va ou n'a nul reles;
There himself-thence he-goes where not-has any release
de l'avoir r'est-il bone pes
of the-having in-turn-is-there good peace
quant gist morz desus l'echinee.
when he-lies dead upon the-spine

Or prions au Roi glorieus
Now let-us-pray to-the King glorious
qui par son sanc esprecieus
who by his blood precious
nos osta de destruction,
us took-away from destruction
qu'en son regne delicieus,
that-in his realm delicious
qui tant est dolz et gracieus
which so-much is sweet and gracious
facions la nostre mansion,
we-may-make the our dwelling
et que par grant devocion
and that by great devotion
aillions en cele region
we-may-go into that region
ou Diex sofri la mort crueus.
where God suffered the death cruel

Qui let en tel confusion
Who leaves in such confusion
la terre de promission,
the land of promise
pou est de s'arme curieus.
little is of his-soul careful

C'est la Complainte dou Roi de Navarre

XXIX · THE COMPLAINT OF THE KING OF NAVARRE

Pity bids him lament King Thibaut of Navarre, whose death has thrown his kingdom and county into turmoil. Wars met him when he came to his land, yet no man led so clean a life. Navarre, Brie, Champagne, Troyes, and Provins have lost their cloak. At Tunis he was first out and last back, fed the hungry, and kept the watch like a wall. Rutebeuf wishes King Henry his brother's virtues and prays that Thibaut have a place among the martyrs.

Pitiez a complaindre m'enseingne
Pity to lament me-teaches
d'un home qui avoit sor Seine
of-a man who had upon Seine
et sor Marne maintes mesons;
and upon Marne many houses
mes a tel bien ne vint mes hons
but to such good not came ever man
com il venist, ne fust la morz
as he would-have-come not had-been the death
qui en sa venue l'amort.
who in his coming him-bit
C'est li rois Thiebauz de Navarre.
This-is the king Thibaut of Navarre

Bien a sa morz mis en auvarre
Well has his death put in turmoil
tot son roiaume et sa conté
all his kingdom and his county
por les biens qu'on en a conté.
for the goods that-one thereof has told
Quant li rois Thiebauz vint a terre,
When the king Thibaut came to land
il fut assez qui li mut guerre
it was plenty who on-him moved war
et qui molt li livra entente,
and who much to-him delivered attack
si que il n'ot oncle ne tante
so that he not-had uncle nor aunt
qui le cuer n'en eust plain d'ire;
who the heart not-thereof might-have full of-wrath
mes je vos puis jurer et dire
but I to-you can swear and say
que s'il fust son eage en vie,
that if-he had-been his age in life
de li sambler eust envie
of him to-resemble would-have-had desire
li mieudres qui orendroit vive,
the best who now may-live
que vie si nete et si vive
for life so clean and so lively
ne mena nus qui soit ou monde.
not led anyone who may-be in-the world

Large, cortois et net et monde
Generous courteous and clean and pure
et bon aus chans et a l'osté,
and good at-the fields and at the-house
tel le nos a la morz osté.
such him to-us has the death taken
Ne croi que mieudres crestiens,
Not I-believe that better Christian
ne jones hom ne anciens,
nor young man nor old
remainsist la jornee en l'ost;
remained the day in the-host
si ne croi mie que Diex l'ost
so not I-believe at-all that God him-may-take-away
d'avoec les sainz, ainz l'i a mis,
from-with the saints rather him-there has put
qu'il a toz jors esté amis
for-he has all days been friend
a sainte Eglise et a gent d'ordre.
to holy Church and to people of-order
Molt en fet la morz a remordre
Much thereof makes the death to bite-again
qui si gentil morcel a mors;
who so noble morsel has bitten
pieca ne mordi plus haut mors;
long-ago not bit more high bite
james n'iert jors que ne s'en plaingne
ever not-will-be day that not herself-thereof may-complain
Navarre et Brie et [la] Champaingne,
Navarre and Brie and the Champagne

Troie, Provins et li dui Bar,
Troyes Provins and the two Bars
perdu avez vostre tabar,
lost you-have your tabard
c'est a dire vostre secors.
this-is to say your succor
Bien fustes fondé en decors,
Well you-were founded in decline
quant tel seignor avez perdu;
when such lord you-have lost
bien en devez estre esperdu.
well thereof you-ought be distraught
Morz desloiaus qui riens n'entans
Death disloyal who anything not-understandest
se le lessasses soissante ans
if him thou-hadst-left sixty years
ancor vivre par droit aage,
still to-live by right age
lors en preisses le paage
then thereof thou-mightst-take the toll
si n'en peust pas tant chaloir;
so not-thereof might at-all so-much matter
or estoit venuz a valoir.
now he-was come to worth
N'as tu fet grant descovenue
Not-hast thou done great mishap
quant tu l'as mort en sa venue,
when thou him-hast killed in his coming
morz desloiaus, morz de putere?
death disloyal death of baseness

De toi blasmer ne me puis tere
From thee to-blame not myself I-can silence
quant il me sovient des biens fez
when it to-me remembers of-the good deeds
que il a devant Tunes fez,
that he has before Tunis done
ou il a mis avoir et cors!
where he has put having and body
Li premiers issuz estoit fors
The first issued he-was out
et retornoit li darreniers.
and returned the last
Ne prenoit pas garde aus deniers
Not he-took at-all heed to-the pence
n'aus garnisons qu'il despendoit;
nor-to-the provisions that-he spent
mes savez a qu'il entendoit,
but know-you to what-he attended
a viseter les bones genz.
to visiting the good people
Au mangier estoit droiz serjenz,
At-the eating he-was right servant
apres mangier estoit compains
after eating he-was companion
de totes bones teches plains,
of all good qualities full
pers aus barons, aus povres peres,
peer to-the barons to-the poor father
et aus moiens compains et freres,
and to-the middling companion and brother

bons en conseil et bien meurs,
good in counsel and well mature
aus armes vistes et seurs,
at-the arms quick and sure
si qu'en tot l'ost n'avoit son per.
so that-in all the-host not-had his peer
Deus foiz le jor fesoit tremper
Two times the day he-had soaked
por repestre les familleus.
for to-feed the famished
Qui deist qu'il fust orgueilleus
Who might-say that-he was proud
et il le veist au mangier,
and he him might-see at-the eating
il se tenist por mensongier.
he himself would-hold for liar
Sa bataille estoit bone et forz,
His battle was good and strong
quar ses semblanz et ses efforz
for his seeming and his efforts
donoit aus autres hardiesce.
gave to-the others boldness
Onques home de sa jonesce
Ever man of his youth
ne vit nus contenir si bel,
not saw anyone bear-himself so fair
en guet, en estor, en cembel.
in watch in fray in skirmish
Qui l'ot en Champaingne veu,
Who him-had in Champagne seen

en Tunes l'ot desconeu:
in Tunis him-had unknown
qu'au besoing conoist l'en preudome;
for-at-the need knows one worthy-man
et vos savez, ce est la some,
and you know this is the sum
qui en pes est en son pais
who in peace is in his country
tenuz seroit por fols nais
held would-be for fool born
s'il s'aloit aus paroiz combatre.
if-he went to-the walls to-fight
Par ceste reson vueil abatre
By this reason I-wish to-strike-down
vilonie, s'on l'en a dite,
churlishness if-one him-thereof has said
que sa vaillance l'en aquite.
for his valor him-thereof acquits
Quant l'aguet fesoit a son tor,
When the-watch he-made in his turn
tot aussi come en une tor
all just as in a tower
estoit chascuns asseuréz,
was each assured
quar toz li oz estoit murez:
for all the host was walled
lors estoit chascuns a seur,
then was each at secure
quar li siens guez valoit un mur.
for the his watch was-worth a wall

Quant il estoient retorné,
When they were returned
si trovoit l'en tot atorné
so found one all prepared
tables et blanches napes mises;
tables and white cloths put
tant avoit laianz de reprises
so-much he-had within-there of leavings
donees si cortoisement
given so courteously
et roi de tel contenement,
and king of such bearing
qu'a ese sui quant le recorde,
that-at ease I-am when it I-recall
por ce que chascuns s'en descorde
for this that each himself-thence discords
et que chascuns le me tesmoingne
and that each it to-me witnesses
de cels qui virent la besoingne,
of those who saw the business
que n'en truis contrere nului
that not-thereof I-find contrary anybody
que tot ce ne soit voirs de lui.
that all this not may-be true of him
Roi Hanrris, freres au bon roi,
King Henry brother to-the good king
Diex mete en vos si bon aroi
God may-put in you so good array
com en roi Thiebaut vostre frere!
as in king Thibaut your brother

Ja fustes vos de si bon pere!
Indeed were you of so good father
Que vos iroie delaiant
Why to-you would-I-go delaying
ne mes paroles porloignant?
nor my words prolonging
A Dieu et au siecle plesoit
To God and to-the world pleased
quanque li rois Thiebauz fesoit:
whatever the king Thibaut did
fontaine estoit de cortoisie;
fountain he-was of courtesy
toz biens i ert sanz vilonie,
all goods there were without churlishness
si com j'ai oi et apris
so as I-have heard and learned
de mestre Jehan de Paris,
from master John of Paris
qui l'amoit de si bone amor
who him-loved with so good love
com preudons puet amer seignor.
as worthy-man can love lord
Vos ai la matiere descrite
To-you I-have the matter described
qu'en trois jors ne seroit pas dite.
which-in three days not would-be at-all told
Mes sire Erars de Valeri,
My lord Erard of Valery

a cui onques ne s'aferi
to whom ever not himself-compared
nus chevaliers de loiauté,
any knight in loyalty
Diex par vos si l'avoit fet tel
God through you so him-had made such
que mieudres n'i est demorez
that better not-there is remained
et au loing fust tant honorez.
and at-the far might-be so-much honored
Prions au Pere glorieus
Let-us-pray to-the Father glorious
et a son chier Fil precieus
and to his dear Son precious
et le Saint Esperit ensamble
and the Holy Spirit together
en cui tote bontez s'asamble,
in whom all goodness itself-assembles
et la douce Vierge pucele
and the sweet Virgin maiden
qui de Dieu fu mere et ancele
who of God was mother and handmaid
qu'avec les sainz martirs li face
that-with the holy martyrs to-him he-may-make
en paradis et leu et place.
in paradise both place and room

La Complainte dou Conte de Poitiers

XXX · THE COMPLAINT OF THE COUNT OF POITIERS

Who loves God takes Christ's side as his shield, and so did Alfonse, count of Poitiers and Toulouse, who held his land in peace and did Rutebeuf much good. He loved God, the Church, the orders, knights, and the poor, gave without being asked, never spoke an unworthy word, and swore no oath stronger than By Saint Garie. God tried him with sickness like Job. He went overseas with the king and died on the road back from Tunis.

Qui aime Dieu et sert et dote,
Who loves God and serves and fears
volentiers sa parole escote,
willingly his word listens
ne crient maladie ne mort
not fears sickness nor death
qu'a lui de cuer amer s'amort;
who-to him of heart to-love himself-binds
temptacions li samble vent
temptations to-him seem wind
qu'il a bon escu par devant;
for-he has good shield in front
c'est le costé son criator
this-is the side (of-)his creator
qui por nos entra en l'estor
who for us entered into the-fray
de tote tribulacion
of all tribulation
sanz doter persecucion;
without fearing persecution

de son costé fet il son hiaume,
of his side makes he his helmet
qu'il desire le Dieu roiaume,
for-he desires the God's kingdom
et s'en fet escu et ventaille
and so-thereof makes shield and visor
et blanc haubert a doble maille;
and white hauberk with double mail
et si met le cors en present
and so puts the body in present
por celui qui le fes pesent
for him who the burden heavy
vout sofrir de la mort amere.
wished to-suffer of the death bitter
De legier lesse pere et mere
From lightly he-leaves father and mother
et fame et enfanz et sa terre,
and wife and children and his land
et met por Dieu le cors en guerre,
and puts for God the body in war
tant que Diex de cest siecle l'oste;
until that God from this world him-takes-away
lors puet savoir qu'il a bon hoste,
then he-can know that-he has good host
et lors recoit il son merite,
and then receives he his merit
que Diex et il sont quite et quite.
for God and he are quit and quit

Ainsi fut li cuens de Poitiers
Thus was the count of Poitiers
qui toz jors fut bons et entiers:
who all days was good and entire
chevaucha cest siecle terrestre
he-rode this world earthly
et mena paradis en destre.
and led paradise at right-hand
Veu avez com longuement
Seen you-have how long
a tenu bel et noblement
has held fairly and nobly
li cuens la conté de Tholose,
the count the county of Toulouse
que chascuns resambler golose
whom each to-resemble craves
par son sanc et par sa largesce,
by his blood and by his largesse
par sa vigor, par sa proesce,
by his vigor by his prowess
qu'onques n'i ot contenz ne guerre,
for-ever not-there had quarrel nor war
ainz a tenu en pes sa terre:
rather he-has held in peace his land
por ce qu'il me fist tant de biens
for this that-he to-me did so-much of goods
vos vueil retrere un pou des siens.
to-you I-wish to-recount a little of-the his

Vos savez et devez savoir
You know and ought know
le commencement de savoir:
the beginning of knowledge
si est qu'on doit avoir paor
so is that-one ought have fear
de corecier son sauveor,
of angering his savior
et lui de tot son cuer amer,
and him with all his heart to-love
qu'en s'amitié n'a point d'amer,
for-in his-friendship not-has a-whit of-bitterness
en s'amitié n'a fin ne fons.
in his-friendship not-has end nor bottom
Tant l'ama li bons cuens Anfons,
So-much him-loved the good count Alfonse
que ne croi qu'onques en sa vie
that not I-believe that-ever in his life
pensast un rain de vilonie.
he-might-think a branch of churlishness
Se por amer Dieu de cuer fin
If for to-love God with heart fine
du bercuel jusques en la fin
from-the cradle until into the end
et por sainte Eglise onorer,
and for holy Church to-honor
et por Jhesu-Crist aorer
and for Jesus-Christ to-adore
en totes les temptacions,
in all the temptations

et por amer religions
and for to-love religious-orders
et chevaliers et povre gent
and knights and poor people
ou il a mis or et argent,
where he has put gold and silver
qu'onques ne fina en sa vie,
for-ever not he-ceased in his life
se por c'est arme en ciels ravie,
if for this-is soul into heavens ravished
dont i est ja l'arme le conte,
then there is already the-soul (of-)the count
ou plus ot bien que ne vos conte.
where more had good than — to-you I-tell
Ce que je vi puis je bien dire:
That which I saw can I well say
onques ne le vi si plain d'ire
ever not him I-saw so full of-wrath
qu'onques li issist de sa boche
that-ever to-him might-issue from his mouth
chose qui tornast a reproche,
thing which might-turn to reproach
mes biaus moz, bons enseignemenz.
but fair words good teachings
Li plus granz de ses seremenz
The most great of his oaths
si estoit: Par sainte Garie!
so was By holy Garie

Miraors de chevalerie
Mirror of chivalry
fu il, tant com il a vescu.
was he as-long as he has lived
Molt orent en lui bon escu
Much had in him good shield
li povre preudome de pris.
the poor worthy-men of prize
Sire Diex! ou estoit ce pris
Lord God where was this taken
qu'il lor donoit sanz demander?
that-he to-them gave without asking
Nes covenoit pas truander
Not-them behooved at-all to-beg
ne fere parler a nului:
nor to-make speak to anybody
ce qu'il fesoit fesoit de lui
that which-he did he-did of himself
et donoit si cortoisement
and gave so courteously
selonc chascun contenement
according-to each bearing
que nus ne l'en pooit reprandre.
that anyone not him-thereof could reproach
L'en nos a parlé d'Alixandre,
One to-us has spoken of-Alexander
de sa largesce, de son senz,
of his largesse of his sense
et de ce qu'il fist a son tenz:
and of this that-he did in his time

s'en pot chascuns s'il vout mentir
so-thereof could each if-he wished to-lie
ne nos ne l'osons desmentir,
nor we not him-dare give-the-lie
quar nos n'estions pas adonc;
for we not-were at-all then
mes se, por bonté ne por don,
but if for goodness or for gift
a preudons le regne celestre,
has worthy-man the realm celestial
li cuens Anfons i doit bien estre.
the count Alfonse there ought well be
Tant ot en son cuer de pitié,
So-much he-had in his heart of pity
de charité et d'amistié
of charity and of-friendship
que nus nel vos porroit retrere.
that anyone not-it to-you could recount
Qui porroit totes ces mors trere
Who could all these manners draw
el cuer a un riche jone home
into-the heart of a rich young man
l'en en feroit bien un preudome.
one thereof would-make well a worthy-man
Bons fu aus bons et bons conforz,
Good he-was to-the good and good comfort
maus aus mauves et terriers forz,
evil to-the wicked and landholder strong

qu'il lor rendoit sanz demorance
for-he to-them rendered without delay
lonc le pechié la penitance.
according-to the sin the penance
Et il le conurent si bien
And they him knew so well
qu'onques ne li mesfirent rien.
that-ever not to-him misdid-they anything
Diex le tenta par maintes foiz
God him tempted by many times
por conoistre quels est sa foiz;
for to-know what is his faith
si conoist il et cuer et cors
so knows he both heart and body
et par dedanz et par defors.
and by within and by without
Job le trova en paciance
Job him found in patience
et saint Abraham en fiance;
and saint Abraham in trust
ainz n'ot fors maladie ou paine,
ever not-he-had except sickness or pain
s'en dut estre s'arme plus saine.
so-thereof ought be his-soul more healthy
Outre mer fu en sa venue,
Beyond sea he-was in his coming
ou molt fist bien sa covenue
where much he-did well his part
avec son bon frere le Roi.
with his good brother the King

Plus bel hostel, plus bel aroi
More fair house more fair array
ne tint princes enpres son frere;
not held prince after his brother
ne fist pas honte a son bon pere,
not he-did at-all shame to his good father
ainz montra bien que preudons iere
rather he-showed well that worthy-man he-was
de foi, de semblant, de maniere.
of faith of seeming of manner
Or l'a pris Diex en son voiage
Now him-has taken God in his voyage
ou plus haut point de son aage,
at-the most high point of his age
que s'on, en ceste region,
for if-one in this region
feist roi par election
might-make king by election
et roi orendroit i fausist,
and king now there might-fail
ne sai prince qui le vausist.
not I-know prince who him would-be-worth
Li vilains dist: «Tost vont noveles,
The churl says Soon go news
voire, les bones et les beles;
truly the good and the fair
mes qui male novele porte,
but who bad news carries
tot a tenz vient il a la porte,
all in time comes he to the gate

et si i vient il tote voie.»
and so there comes he all way
Tost fu seu que en la voie
Soon was known that on the way
de Tunes, en son revenir,
of Tunis in his return
vout Diex le conte detenir.
wished God the count to-detain
Tost fu seu et ca et la,
Soon it-was known both here and there
partot la renomee ala,
everywhere the renown went
partot en fu fez li servises
everywhere thereof was done the service
en chapeles et en esglises.
in chapels and in churches
Partiz est li cuens de cest siecle
Departed is the count from this world
qui tant maintint des bons la riegle.
who so-much maintained of-the good the rule
Je di por voir, non pas devin,
I say for true not at-all guessing
que Tolozain et Poitevin
that Toulousans and Poitevins
n'auront james meillor seignor
not-will-have ever better lord
(aussi bon l'ont il) et greignor.
as good him-have they and greater

Tant fist li cuens en cestui monde
So-much did the count in this world
qu'avec lui l'a Diex net et monde.
that-with him him-has God clean and pure
Ne croi que priier en coveingne:
Not I-believe that to-pray thereof it-may-behoove
prions li de nos li soveingne.
let-us-pray him of us to-him may-remember

De Mon seigneur Anseau de l'Isle

XXXI · ON MY LORD ANSEAU DE L'ISLE

Angered, he would curse the death that is always biting, which has bitten so hard that Valmondois is thrown out of order. Death has taken Anseau, one of the best men in the world, and broken the strong seal of L'Isle. Fortune is blind, raising the poor man and bringing down the valiant one; the wheel turns. A worthy man ought to live forever. He remembers Anseau's hunting with his hounds and prays God give his soul paradise.

Iriez, a maudire la mort
Angered to curse the death
me voudrai desormes amordre,
myself I-shall-wish henceforth to-apply
qui ades a mordre s'amort,
who always to bite herself-binds
qui ades ne fine de mordre;
who always not ceases of biting

de jor en jor, ca et la, mort
from day to day here and there bites
cels dont le siecle fet remordre:
those for-whom the world makes to-bite-again
je di que si grant mors a mort
I say that so great bite she-has bitten
que Valmondois a geté d'ordre.
that Valmondois she-has thrown out-of-order

Valmondois est de valor monde;
Valmondois is of valor bare
bien en est la valors mondee,
well thereof is the valor pruned
quar la morz qui les bons esmonde,
for the death who the good prunes
par qui larguesce est esmondee,
by whom largesse is pruned
a or pris l'un des bons du monde.
has now taken one of-the good of-the world
Las, com ci a male estondee!
Alas how here has evil clearing
De France a osté une esponde:
From France she-has taken-away a bank
de cele part est afondee.
on that side it-is foundered

Avoec les sainz soit mise en cele
With the saints may-be put in heaven
l'ame de mon seignor Ansel,
the-soul of my lord Anseau
quar Diex, qui ses amis ensele,
for God who his friends seals
l'a trové et fin et feel;
him-has found both fine and faithful
mes la morz, qui les bons flaele,
but the death who the good scourges
a aporté felon flael;
has brought felon scourge
a l'Isle forz letres saele,
at L'Isle strong letters seals
osté en a le fort seel.
taken-away thereof she-has the strong seal

Je di, fortune est nonvoianz,
I say fortune is not-seeing
je di, fortune ne voit gote,
I say fortune not sees a-whit
ou en son senz est desvoianz;
or in her sense is straying
les uns atret, les autres bote.
the ones she-draws the others she-thrusts

Li povres hom, li mescheanz
The poor man the luckless
monte si haut, chascuns le dote;
mounts so high each him fears
li vaillanz hom devient noianz;
the valiant man becomes nothing
ainsi va sa maniere tote.
thus goes her manner wholly

Tost est uns hom en son la roe;
Soon is a man on top-of the wheel
chascuns le sert, chascuns l'onore,
each him serves each him-honors
chascuns l'aime, chascuns l'aroe;
each him-loves each him-praises
mes ele torne en petit d'ore,
but she turns in little of-hour
que li serviz chiet en la boe
so-that the served falls into the mud
et li servanz li corent sore;
and the servants on-him run upon
nus ne tent au lever la poe:
anyone not holds-out at-the rising the paw
en cort terme a non chanteplore.
in short term he-has name sing-weep

Toz jors deust uns preudom vivre
All days ought a worthy-man live
se morz eust senz ne savoir;
if death had sense or knowledge
s'il fust morz, si deust revivre,
if-he were dead so he-ought live-again
ice doit bien chascuns savoir,
this ought well each know
mes morz est plus fiere que guivre
but death is more fierce than viper
et si plaine de non-savoir,
and so full of not-knowing
que des bons le siecle delivre
that of-the good the world she-frees
et aus mauves lest vie avoir.
and to-the wicked leaves life to-have

Qui remire la bele chace
Who looks-again-at the fair chase
que fere soliiez jadis,
that to-make you-were-wont formerly
lez voz braches entrer en trace
beside your hounds to-enter on track
ca cinq, ca sept, ca neuf, ca dis,
here five here seven here nine here ten
(n'est nus cui li cuers mal n'en face),
not-is anyone to-whom the heart ill not-thereof may-do

ne por ame nul bien jadis,
nor for soul any good formerly
Dieu pri que vos otroit sa grace,
God I-pray that to-you he-may-grant his grace
et doinst a l'ame paradis.
and may-give to the-soul paradise

COMIC PIECES

De Brichemer

XXXII · ON BRICHEMER

He rhymes of Brichemer, who makes sport of him. He must love him, since no one is so generous: he has made the poet rich with promises and will make him a pastry from the wheat he will sow. Brichemer is gentle, courteous, and of great array, but the poet can draw nothing from him but promises and must wait as the Bretons wait for their king. He asks only that the promise be written into Brichemer's will.

Rimer m'estuet de Brichemer
To-rhyme me-behooves of Brichemer
qui de moi se joe a la briche;
who of me himself sports at the trick
endroit de moi jel doi amer,
in-respect of me I-him ought love
je ne le truis eschars ne chiche;
I not him find stingy nor niggardly
n'a si large jusqu'outre mer,
not-has so generous as-far-as-beyond sea
quar de promesse m'a fet riche:
for with promise me-has made rich

du fromant qu'il fera semer
of-the wheat that-he will-have sown
me fera ancoan flamiche.
for-me he-will-make this-year flamiche
Brichemers est de bel afere,
Brichemer is of fair affair
n'est pas uns hom plains de desroi:
not-is at-all a man full of disorder
douz et cortois et debonere
sweet and courteous and gracious
le trueve on et de grant aroi;
him finds one and of great array
je n'en puis fors promesse trere,
I not-thereof can except promise draw
je n'i voi mes autre conroi.
I not-there see more other provision
Autel atente m'estuet fere
Such waiting me-behooves to-make
com li Breton font de lor roi.
as the Bretons make for their king
Ha, Brichemer, biaus tres douz sire,
Ah Brichemer fair very sweet lord
paié m'avez cortoisement,
paid me-you-have courteously
quar vostre borse n'en enpire,
for your purse not-thereby worsens
ce voit chascuns apertement;
this sees each openly

un pou de chose vos vueil dire
a little of thing to-you I-wish to-say
qui n'est pas de grant costement:
which not-is at-all of great cost
ma promesse fetes escrire,
my promise make be-written
si soit en vostre testament.
so it-may-be in your testament

Li Diz des Ribaux de Greive

XXXIII · THE RIBALDS OF THE GRÈVE

Ribalds, now you are in for it: the trees are stripping their branches, and you have no robe at all, so your haunches will be cold. How good doublets and furred surcoats would be now! In summer you go so trim and in winter so bent; your shoes need no grease, since your heels are your soles. The black flies have stung you all summer, and now the white ones of the snow will sting you again.

Ribaut, or estes vos a point:
Ribalds now are you at point
li arbre despoillent lor branches,
the trees strip their branches
et vos n'avez de robe point,
and you not-have of robe at-all
si en aurez froit a vos hanches,
so thereof you-will-have cold at your haunches
quel vos fussent or li porpoint
how to-you would-be now the doublets
et li sorcot forré a manches.
and the surcoats furred with sleeves

Vos alez en esté si joint,
You go in summer so trim
et en yver alez si cranche,
and in winter go-you so bent
vostre soler n'ont mestier d'oint,
your shoes not-have need of-grease
vos fetes de voz talons planches.
you make of your heels planks
Les noires mouches vos ont point,
The black flies you have stung
or vos repoinderont les blanches.
now you will-sting-again the white

La Desputoison de Challot et du Barbier

XXXIV · THE DEBATE OF CHARLOT AND THE BARBER

Going early toward Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois, the poet meets Charlot and the barber trading insults. Charlot is called a false convert, a pimp, and a man of every law; the barber is called a leper with no razor or basin and told to go back overseas and show some prowess. They call on Rutebeuf, who has known them ten years, to judge the better, and he chooses the less bad: Charlot is worth nothing, and the barber serves good people well.

L'autrier un jor joer m'aloie
The-other-day one day to-play I-was-going
devers l'Aucerrois Saint-Germain,
toward the-Auxerrois Saint-Germain
plus matin que je ne soloie,
more early than I — was-wont
que ne lief pas volentiers main.
for not I-rise at-all willingly early

Si vi Charlot en mi ma voie
So I-saw Charlot in middle-of my way
qui le barbier tint par la main,
who the barber held by the hand
et bien monstroient tote voie
and well they-showed all way
qu'il n'erent pas cosin germain.
that-they not-were at-all cousins german

Il se disoient vilonie
They to-each-other said churlishness
et si getoient gas de voir.
and so threw jests of truth
«Charlot, tu vas en compaignie
Charlot thou goest in company
por crestienté decevoir;
for Christendom to-deceive
c'est trahison et felonie,
this-is treason and felony
ce puet chascuns apercevoir.
this can each perceive
La toie lois soit la honie:
The thy law may-be there shamed
tu n'en as point, au dire voir.»
thou not-thereof hast at-all at-the saying true

— «Barbier, foi que doi la banlive
Barber faith that I-owe the banlieue
ou vos avez vostre repere,
where you have your dwelling
vos avez une gote vive
you have a gout live
james n'iert jors qu'il ne vos pere.
ever not-will-be day that-it not to-you may-appear
Sainz Ladres a rompu la trive,
Saint Lazarus has broken the truce
si vos a feru el viere;
so you has struck in-the face
por ce que cist maus vos eschive
for this that this ill you shuns
ne requerrez mes saintuere.»
not you-will-seek more shrine

— «Charlot, foi que doi sainte Jame,
Charlot faith that I-owe saint James
vos avez oan fame prise:
you have this-year wife taken
est ce selonc la loi esclame
is this according-to the law proclaimed
que Kayfas vos a aprise?
that Caiaphas to-you has taught
Vos creez autant Nostre Dame,
You believe as-much Our Lady

ou virginitez n'est maumise,
in-whom virginity not-is ill-put
com je croi qu'uns asnes ait ame;
as I believe that-an ass may-have soul
vos n'amez Dieu ne sainte Yglise.»
you not-love God nor holy Church

— «Barbier sanz rasoir, sanz cisailles
Barber without razor without shears
qui ne ses rooignier ne rere,
who not knowest-how to-trim nor to-shave
tu n'as ne bacins ne toailles
thou not-hast neither basins nor towels
ne de quoi chaufer eve clere.
nor of what to-heat water clear
Il n'est riens nee que tu vailles,
It not-is anything born that thou mayest-be-worth
fors a dire parole amere;
except at saying word bitter
s'outre mer fus, encor i ailles,
if-beyond sea thou-wast still there thou-mayest-go
et fai proesce qu'il i pere.»
and do prowess that-it there may-appear

— «Charlot, tu as totes tes lois:
Charlot thou hast all thy laws
tu es juys et crestien,
thou art Jew and Christian
tu es chevaliers et borjois,
thou art knight and burgher
et quant tu vues clers arcien.
and when thou wishest clerk arts-master
Tu es maqueriaus chascun mois,
Thou art pimp each month
ce dient bien li ancien;
this say well the ancients
tu fes sovent par ton gabois
thou makest often by thy jesting
joindre deus cus a un lien.»
to-join two asses at one bond

— «Barbier, or est li tenz venuz
Barber now is the time come
de mal parler et de mesdire,
of ill speaking and of slandering
et vos serez aincois chenuz
and you will-be rather white-haired
que vos lessiez ceste matire;
than you may-leave this matter
mes vos morrez povres et nuz,
but you will-die poor and bare

quar vos devenez de l'empire;
for you become of the-empire
se sui por maqueriaus tenuz,
if I-am for pimp held
l'en vos retient a va-li-dire.»
one you retains as go-tell-him

— «Charlot, Charlot, biaus douz amis,
Charlot Charlot fair sweet friend
tu te fes aus enfanz le roi;
thou thyself makest of-the children (of-)the king
se tu i es, qui t'i a mis?
if thou there art who thee-there has put
Tu i es autant come a moi.
Thou there art as-much as at me
De sambler fols t'es entremis,
Of seeming foolish thou-hast meddled
mes, par les iex dont je te voi,
but by the eyes with-which I thee see
tels t'a argent en paume mis
such-one to-thee-has silver in palm put
qui est assez plus fols de toi.»
who is much more foolish than thee

— «Barbier, or vienent les groiseles;
Barber now come the gooseberries
li groiselier sont borjoné,
the gooseberry-bushes are budded
et je vos raport les noveles
and I to-you bring-back the news
qu'el front vos sont li borjon né.
that-in-the forehead to-you are the buds born
Ne sai se ce seront ceneles
Not I-know if these will-be haws
qui ce vis ont avironé:
which this face have surrounded
els seront vermeilles et beles
they will-be red and fair
avant que l'en ait moissoné.»
before that one may-have harvested

— «Ce n'est mie meselerie,
This not-is at-all leprosy
Charlot, aincois est gote rose,
Charlot rather it-is gout rosy
foi que je doi Sainte Marie
faith that I owe Saint Mary
que vos n'amez de nule chose.
for you not-love of any thing
Vos creez miex en juierie,
You believe better in Jewry

qui la verité dire en ose,
who the truth to-say thereof dares
qu'en celui qui par seignorie
than-in him who by lordship
a la porte d'enfer desclose.»
has the gate of-hell unclosed

— «Et nequedent se Rustebues,
And nevertheless if Rutebeuf
qui nos conoist passé dis ans,
who us knows past ten years
voloit dire deus motés nues,
wished to-say two little-words naked
mes qu'au dire fust voir disanz,
provided that-at-the saying he-might-be truth saying
ne contre toi, ne a mon oes,
nor against thee nor to my use
mes por le voir se fust mis anz,
but for the truth himself he-might-have put therein
je le vueil bien se tu le vues,
I it wish well if thou it wishest
que le meillor soit eslisanz.»
that the better he-may-be choosing

— «Seignor, par la foi que vos doi,
Lords by the faith that to-you I-owe
je ne sai le meillor eslire;
I not know the better to-choose
le mains pior, si com je croi,
the less worse so as I believe
vos eslirai je bien du pire:
to-you shall-choose I well of-the worse
Charloz ne vaut ne ce ne quoi,
Charlot not is-worth neither this nor what
qui la verité en vuet dire;
who the truth thereof wishes to-say
il n'a ne creance ne foi
he not-has neither belief nor faith
ne qu'uns chiens qui charoingne tire.
any-more than-a dog who carrion drags

Li barbiers conoist bone gent,
The barber knows good people
et si les sert et les honore,
and so them serves and them honors
et met en els cors et argent,
and puts in them body and silver
paine de servir d'ore en ore;
pains of serving from-hour to hour
si set son mestier bel et gent,
so he-knows his trade fair and comely

se besoins li recoroit sore,
if need upon-him ran upon
et s'a en lui si bel sergent
and so-has in him so fair servant
que com plus vit et plus colore.»
that as more he-lives and more he-colors

De Frere Denise

XXXV · BROTHER DENISE

The habit does not make the hermit. A noble maiden vowed to virginity asks a Franciscan, brother Simon, to help her into religion, and he has her cut her hair, dress as a young man, and join his house as brother Denise. He leads her through the country until a knight's lady sees she is a woman, hears her confession, and shames the friar, who must pay four hundred pounds toward her marriage. She marries a knight who had once sought her.

Li abiz ne fet pas l'ermite;
The habit not makes at-all the-hermit
s'uns hom en hermitage abite
if-a man in hermitage dwells
et il en a les dras vestuz,
and he thereof has the clothes put-on
je ne pris mie deus festus
I not prize at-all two straws
son abit ne sa vesteure,
his habit nor his clothing
s'il ne maine vie aussi pure
if-he not leads life just-as pure
come ses abiz nos demonstre;
as his habit to-us shows

mes maintes genz font bele monstre
but many people make fair show
et merveilleus samblant qu'il vaillent:
and marvelous seeming that-they may-be-worth
il samblent les arbres qui faillent,
they seem the trees which fail
qui furent trop bel au florir.
which were exceedingly fair at-the flowering
Bien devroient tels genz morir
Well ought such people die
a grant dolor et a grant honte.
with great sorrow and with great shame
Uns proverbes dist et raconte
A proverb says and recounts
que tot n'est pas or qu'on voit luire;
that all not-is at-all gold that-one sees shine
por ce m'estuet ainz que je muire
for this me-behooves before that I may-die
fere un flabel d'une aventure
to-make a fabliau of-an adventure
de la plus bele creature
of the most fair creature
que l'en puisse trover ne querre
that one could find nor seek
de Paris jusqu'en Engleterre;
from Paris as-far-as-into England
vos dirai coment il avint.
to-you I-shall-tell how it happened

Granz gentiz homes plus de vint
Great noble men more than twenty
l'avoient a fame requise;
her-had to wife asked
mes ne voloit en nule guise
but not she-wished in any guise
avoir ordre de mariage,
to-have order of marriage
ainz a fet de son pucelage
rather she-has made of her maidenhood
veu a Dieu et a Nostre Dame.
vow to God and to Our Lady
La pucele fu gentiz fame;
The maiden was noble woman
chevaliers ot esté ses pere,
knight had been her father
mere avoit, mes n'ot suer ne frere.
mother she-had but not-had sister nor brother
Molt s'entr'amoient, ce me samble,
Much each-other-loved this to-me seems
la pucele et la mere ensamble.
the maiden and the mother together
Freres Menors leanz hantoient,
Brothers Minor within-there frequented
tuit cil qui par illuec passoient:
all those who by there passed
or avint qu'uns en i hanta
now happened that-one thereof there frequented
qui la damoisele enchanta,
who the damsel enchanted

si vos dirai en quel maniere.
so to-you I-shall-tell in what manner
La pucele li fist proiere
The maiden to-him made prayer
que il sa mere requeist
that he her mother might-ask
qu'en relegion la meist,
that-into religion her he-might-put
et il li dist: «Ma douce amie,
and he to-her said My sweet friend
se mener voliiez la vie
if to-lead you-wished the life
saint Francois, come nos feson,
(of-)saint Francis as we do
vos ne porriiez par reson
you not could by reason
faillir que vos ne fussiez sainte.»
fail that you not would-be saint
Et cele qui ja fu atainte
And she who already was caught
et conquise et mate et vaincue,
and conquered and checkmated and vanquished
si tost come ele ot entendue
so soon as she had heard
la reson du Frere Menor,
the reason of-the Brother Minor
si dist: «Se Diex me doinst honor,
so said So God to-me may-give honor

si grant joie avoir ne porroie
so great joy to-have not I-could
de nule riens come j'auroie
from any thing as I-would-have
se de vostre ordre pooie estre.
if of your order I-could be
De bone ore me fist Diex nestre
In good hour me made God be-born
se g'i pooie estre rendue!»
if I-there could be professed
Quant li freres ot entendue
When the brother had heard
la parole a la damoisele,
the word of the damsel
si li a dit: «Gentil pucele,
so to-her has said Noble maiden
se me doinst Diex s'amor avoir,
so to-me may-give God his-love to-have
se de voir pooie savoir
if of truth I-could know
qu'en nostre ordre entrer vousissiez,
that-into our order to-enter you-would-wish
et que sanz fausser peussiez
and that without falsifying you-could
garder vostre virginité,
keep your virginity
sachiez en fine verité
know in fine truth
qu'en nostre ordre bien vos metroie.»
that-into our order well you I-would-put

Et la pucele li otroie
And the maiden to-him grants
qu'el gardera son pucelage
that-she will-keep her maidenhood
trestoz les jors de son eage.
all the days of her age
Atant li Freres la recut;
Thereupon the Brother her received
par sa guile cele decut
by his trick that-one deceived
qui a barat n'i entendi;
who to fraud not-there attended
desus s'ame li desfendi
upon her-soul to-her he-forbade
qu'a riens son conseil ne deist,
that-to anyone his counsel not she-might-tell
mes si ceelement feist
but so secretly she-might-have
coper ses beles treces blondes
cut her fair tresses blond
que ja ne le seust li mondes
that ever not it might-know the world
et feist rere estanceure
and might-have shaved tonsure
et preist tele vesteure
and might-take such clothing
come a jone home covendroit
as to young man would-befit

et qu'en tel guise venist droit
and that-in such guise she-might-come straight
en un leu dont il ert custodes.
into a place of-which he was custodian
Cil qui estoit plus faus qu'Erodes
He who was more false than-Herod
s'en part atant et li met terme;
himself-thence parts thereupon and to-her puts term
et cele a ploré mainte lerme
and she has wept many-a tear
quant de li departir le voit.
when from her to-depart him she-sees
Cil qui la glose li devoit
He who the gloss to-her ought
fere entendre de la lecon
make understand of the lesson
l'a mise en male sospecon.
her-has put in evil suspicion
Male mort le praingne et ocie!
Evil death him may-take and kill
Cele tient tot a prophesie
She holds all for prophecy
quanques cil li a sermoné;
whatever he to-her has preached
cele a son cuer a Dieu doné;
she has her heart to God given
cil r'a fet du sien autel don
he in-turn-has made of-the his such gift
qui bien l'en rendra guerredon.
who well him-thereof will-render reward

Molt par est contrere sa pense
Very much is contrary his thought
au bon penser ou ele pense;
to-the good thought where she thinks
molt est lor pensee contrere;
much is their thought contrary
quar cele pense a li retrere
for she thinks to herself to-withdraw
et oster de l'orgueil du monde,
and to-remove from the-pride of-the world
et cil, en qui pechié soronde,
and he in whom sin overflows
qui toz art du feu de luxure,
who wholly burns with-the fire of lust
a mis sa pensee et sa cure
has put his thought and his care
a la pucele acompaignier
to the maiden to-accompany
au baing ou il se vuet baignier,
at-the bath where he himself wishes to-bathe
ou il s'ardra, se Diex n'en pense,
where he himself-will-burn if God not-thereof thinks
que ja ne li fera desfense,
for ever not to-him she-will-make defense
ne ne li saura contredire
nor not to-him will-know-how to-gainsay
chose que il li veuille dire.
thing that he to-her may-wish to-say
A ce va li Freres pensant,
At this goes the Brother thinking

et ses compains en trespassant,
and his companion in passing
qui s'esbahist qu'il ne parole,
who himself-astonishes that-he not speaks
li a dite ceste parole:
to-him has said this word
«Ou pensez vos, frere Symon?»
Where think you brother Simon
— «Je pens, fet il, a un sermon,
I think says he of a sermon
au meillor que je pensasse onques.»
of-the best that I might-have-thought ever
Et cil respont: «Or pensez donques!»
And he answers Now think then
Frere Symons ne puet desfense
Brother Simon not can defense
metre en son cuer que il ne pense
put in his heart that he not may-think
a la pucele qui demore,
of the maiden who remains
et cele desirre molt l'ore
and she desires much the-hour
qu'ele soit cainte de la corde;
that-she may-be girt with the cord
sa lecon en son cuer recorde
her lesson in her heart she-recalls
que li Freres li a donee.
that the Brother to-her has given

Dedenz trois jors s'en est emblee
Within three days herself-thence she-is stolen
de la mere qui la porta,
from the mother who her bore
qui forment s'en desconforta.
who greatly herself-thereof distressed
Molt fu a malese la mere,
Much was at unease the mother
qui ne savoit ou sa fille ere;
who not knew where her daughter was
grant dolor en son cuer demaine
great sorrow in her heart she-leads
trestoz les jors de la semaine,
all the days of the week
en plorant regrete sa fille;
in weeping she-mourns her daughter
mes cele n'i done une bille,
but she not-there gives a marble
ainz pense de li esloignier;
rather she-thinks of herself to-remove
ses biaus crins a fet rooignier:
her fair hairs she-has had cut
come vallez fu estancie
as valet she-was tonsured
et fu de bons housiaus chaucie
and was with good boots shod
et de robe a home vestue
and with robe of man clothed
qui estoit par devant fendue:
which was in front split

bien sambloit jone home de chiere,
well she-seemed young man of face
et vint en itele maniere
and came in such manner
la ou cil li ot terme mis.
there where he to-her had term put
Li Freres, que li anemis
The Brother whom the enemy
contraint et semont et argue
constrains and summons and urges
ot grant joie de sa venue.
had great joy of her coming
En l'ordre la fist recevoir,
Into the-order her he-had received
bien sot ses freres decevoir.
well he-knew-how his brothers to-deceive
La robe de l'ordre li done
The robe of the-order to-her he-gives
et li fist fere grant corone;
and for-her had made great tonsure
puis la fist au moustier venir.
then her made to-the minster come
Bel et bien s'i sot contenir
Fairly and well herself-there she-knew-how to-conduct
et en cloistre et dedenz moustier,
both in cloister and within minster
et ele sot tot son sautier
and she knew all her psalter
et fu bien de chanter aprise:
and was well in singing taught

o les autres chante en l'eglise
with the others she-sings in the-church
molt bel et molt cortoisement;
very fairly and very courteously
molt se contient honestement.
much herself she-conducts honestly
Or ot damoisele Denise
Now had damsel Denise
quanqu'ele volt a sa devise.
whatever-she wished at her wish
Onques son non ne li muerent;
Ever her name not to-her they-changed
frere Denise l'apelerent.
brother Denise her-they-called
Frere Denise molt amerent
Brother Denise much loved
tuit li freres qui leenz erent;
all the brothers who within-there were
mes plus l'amoit freres Symons.
but most her-loved brother Simon
Sovent se metoit es limons,
Often himself he-put in-the shafts
com cil qui n'en ert pas retrez,
as he who not-thereof was at-all withdrawn
et il s'i amoit miex qu'ens trez:
and he himself-there loved better than-in traces
molt ot en lui bon limonier.
much had in him good shaft-horse

Vie menoit de pautonier
Life he-led of rogue
et ot lessié vie d'apostre.
and had left life of-apostle
A cele aprist sa patrenostre,
To her he-taught his paternoster
qui volentiers la retenoit.
which willingly it retained
Parmi le pais la menoit;
Through the country her he-led
n'avoit d'autre compaignon cure,
not-had of-other companion care
tant qu'il avint par aventure
until that-it happened by chance
qu'il vindrent chiez un chevalier
that-they came at-the-house-of a knight
qui ot bons vins en son celier,
who had good wines in his cellar
qui volentiers lor en dona;
who willingly to-them thereof gave
et la dame s'abandona
and the lady gave-herself-up
a regarder frere Denise:
to looking-at brother Denise
sa chiere et son samblant avise,
her face and her seeming she-observes
aparceue s'est la dame
perceived herself-has the lady
que freres Denise estoit fame.
that brother Denise was woman

Savoir vuet se c'est voirs ou fable;
To-know she-wishes if this-is true or fable
quant l'en ot fet oster la table,
when one had had removed the table
la dame, qui bien fu aprise,
the lady who well was taught
prist par la main frere Denise.
took by the hand brother Denise
A son seignor prist a sorrire,
At her lord she-took to smile
en sorriant li dist: «Biaus sire,
in smiling to-him said Fair lord
alez vos la defors esbatre,
go you there outside to-amuse-yourself
et fesons deus parz de nos quatre;
and let-us-make two parts of us four
frere Symon o vos menez,
brother Simon with you lead
frere Denise est assenez
brother Denise is assigned
de ma confession oir.»
of my confession to-hear
Lors n'ont talent d'els esjoir;
Then not-have desire of-themselves to-rejoice
li Cordelier dedenz Pontoise
the Cordeliers within Pontoise
vousissent estre; molt lor poise
would-wish to-be much to-them it-weighs
que la dame de ce parole;
that the lady of this speaks

ne lor plot pas ceste parole,
not to-them pleased at-all this word
quar paor ont d'apercevance.
for fear they-have of-discovery
Freres Symons vers li s'avance,
Brother Simon toward her himself-advances
puis li dist quant de li s'apresse:
then to-her said when to her he-draws-near
«Dame, a moi vos ferez confesse,
Lady to me you will-make confession
quar cil freres n'a pas licence
for this brother not-has at-all license
de vos enjoindre penitence.»
of you to-enjoin penance
Et ele respondi: «Biaus sire,
And she answered Fair lord
a celui vueil mes pechiez dire
to that-one I-wish my sins to-tell
et de confession parler.»
and of confession to-speak
Lors la fet en sa chambre aler,
Then her she-makes into her chamber go
et puis clot l'uiz et bien le ferme,
and then closes the-door and well it shuts
o li frere Denise enferme,
with her brother Denise she-shuts-in
puis li a dit: «Ma douce amie,
then to-her has said My sweet friend

qui vos conseilla tel folie
who you counseled such folly
d'entrer en tel relegion?
of-entering into such religious-order
Si me doinst Diex confession
So to-me may-give God confession
quant l'ame du cors partira,
when the-soul from-the body will-part
que ja pis ne vos en sera
that ever worse not to-you thereof will-be
se vos la verité m'en dites.
if you the truth to-me-thereof tell
Si m'ait li Sainz Esperites,
So me-may-help the Holy Spirit
bien vos poez fier en moi.»
well you can trust in me
Et cele qui ot grant esmoi,
And she who had great dismay
au miex qu'el puet de ce s'escuse;
at-the best that-she can of this herself-excuses
mes la dame la fist concluse
but the lady her made confounded
par les resons qu'el li sot rendre,
by the reasons that-she to-her knew-how to-render
si que plus ne s'i pot desfendre.
so that more not herself-there she-could defend
A genillons merci li crie,
On knees mercy to-her she-cries

jointes mains li requiert et prie
joined hands her she-asks and prays
qu'el ne li face fere honte;
that-she not to-her may-make do shame
trestot de chief en chief li conte
wholly from end to end to-her she-tells
que il la trest de chiez sa mere,
that he her drew from at-the-house-of her mother
et puis li conta qui ele ere,
and then to-her told who she was
si que riens ne li a celé.
so that anything not from-her she-has hidden
La dame a le frere apelé,
The lady has the brother called
puis li dist devant son seignor
then to-him said before her lord
si grant honte qu'onques greignor
so great shame that-ever greater
ne fu mes a nul home dite:
not was more to any man said
«Faus papelarz, faus ypocrite,
False pious-fraud false hypocrite
fausse vie menez et orde.
false life you-lead and foul
Qui vos pendroit a vostre corde
Who you would-hang by your cord
qui est en tant de leus noee,
which is in so-many of places knotted
il auroit fet bone jornee.
he would-have done good day's-work

Tels genz font bien le siecle pestre
Such people make well the world feed
qui par dehors samblent bons estre
who by outside seem good to-be
et par dedenz sont tuit porri!
and by within are all rotten
La norrice qui vos norri
The nurse who you nourished
fist molt mauvese norreture,
made very bad nurture
qui si tres bele creature
who so very fair creature
avez a si grant honte mise!
you-have to so great shame put
Itels ordre, par saint Denise,
Such order by saint Denis
n'est mie biaus ne bons ne genz.
not-is at-all fair nor good nor comely
Vos desfendez aus bones genz
You forbid to-the good people
et les danses et les caroles,
both the dances and the carols
vieles, tabors et citoles
viols tabors and citoles
et toz deduiz de menestrez:
and all delights of minstrels
or me dites, sire haut rez,
now me tell lord high shaven
menoit sainz Francois tele vie?
led saint Francis such life

Bien avez honte deservie
Well you-have shame deserved
come faus traitres provez,
as false traitor proved
et vos avez molt bien trovez
and you have very well found
qui vos rendra vostre deserte!»
who to-you will-render your desert
Lors a une grant huche overte
Then she-has a great chest opened
por metre le frere dedenz;
for to-put the brother within
et freres Symons tot adenz
and brother Simon all face-down
lez la dame se crucefie;
beside the lady himself crucifies
et li chevaliers s'umelie,
and the knight himself-humbles
qui de franchise ot le cuer tendre.
who of nobility had the heart tender
Quant celui vit en croiz estendre,
When him he-saw on cross stretched
si le lieve par la main destre:
so him lifts by the hand right
«Frere, fet il, volez vos estre
Brother says he wish you to-be
de cest afere toz delivres?
of this affair wholly delivered

Porchaciez tost quatre cenz livres
Procure soon four hundred pounds
a marier la damoisele.»
for to-marry the damsel
Quant li Freres ot la novele,
When the Brother had the news
onques n'ot tel joie en sa vie.
ever not-he-had such joy in his life
Lors a sa fiance plevie
Then he-has his pledge plighted
au chevalier des deniers rendre;
to-the knight of-the pence to-render
bien les rendra sanz gage vendre:
well them he-will-render without pledge to-sell
auques set ou il seront pris.
somewhat he-knows where they will-be taken
Atant s'en part, congié a pris.
Thereupon himself-thence he-parts leave he-has taken
La dame, par sa grant franchise,
The lady by her great nobility
retint damoisele Denise,
retained damsel Denise
qu'onques de riens ne l'esfroia,
for-ever in anything not her-frightened
mes molt doucement li proia
but very sweetly her she-prayed
qu'ele fust trestote seure,
that-she might-be wholly secure

que ja de nule creature
that ever by any creature
ne sera ses secrez seu
not will-be her secret known
ne qu'ele ait a home geu,
nor that-she may-have with man lain
aincois sera bien mariee;
rather she-will-be well married
choisisse en tote la contree
she-may-choose in all the country
celui que miex avoir voudroit,
him whom best to-have she-would-wish
ne mes qu'il fust de son endroit.
nor but that-he might-be of her station
Tant fist la dame envers Denise
So-much did the lady toward Denise
qu'ele l'a en bon penser mise;
that-she her-has in good thought put
ne la servi mie de lobes.
not her served at-all with tricks
Une de ses plus beles robes
One of her most fair robes
devant son lit li aporta,
before her bed to-her she-brought
a son pooir la conforta
to her power her comforted
com cele qui ne se faint mie.
as she who not herself feigns at-all

El li a dit: «Ma douce amie,
She to-her has said My sweet friend
ceste vestirez vos demain.»
this will-put-on you tomorrow
Ele meisme de sa main
She herself with her hand
la vest aincois qu'ele cochast,
her dresses before that-she might-lie-down
ne sofri qu'autres i tochast,
not suffered that-others there might-touch
quar priveement voloit fere
for privately she-wished to-do
et cortoisement son afere,
and courteously her affair
quar sage dame et cortoise ere.
for wise lady and courteous she-was
Priveement manda la mere
Privately she-sent-for the mother
Denise par un sien message.
(of-)Denise by a her messenger
Molt ot grant joie en son corage
Much she-had great joy in her heart
quant ele ot sa fille veue,
when she had her daughter seen
qu'ele cuidoit avoir perdue;
whom-she thought to-have lost

mes la dame li fist acroire
but the lady to-her made believe
et par droite verité croire
and by right truth believe
qu'ele ert aus Filles-Dieu rendue,
that-she was to-the Daughters-of-God professed
et qu'a une autre l'ot tolue
and that-from an other her-she-had taken
qui un soir leenz l'amena;
who one evening within-there her-brought
que por pou ne s'en forsena.
for for little not herself-thereof she-went-mad
Que vos iroie je disant
What to-you would-go I saying
ne lor paroles devisant?
nor their words recounting
Du rioter seroit neenz,
Of-the chattering would-be nothing
mes tant fu Denise leenz
but so-long was Denise within-there
que li denier furent rendu.
that the pence were rendered
Apres n'ont gueres atendu
After not-they-have much waited
qu'el fu a son gré assenee;
that-she was to her liking settled
a un chevalier fu donee
to a knight she-was given
qui l'avoit autrefoiz requise.
who her-had another-time asked

Or ot non madame Denise
Now she-had name my-lady Denise
et fu a molt plus grant honor
and was in much more great honor
qu'en abit de Frere Menor.
than-in habit of Brother Minor

Le Pet au Vilain

XXXVI · THE CHURL'S FART

Churls are fit for neither paradise nor hell. A churl lay dying, and a devil hung a leather sack at his backside, thinking the soul would leave that way. But the churl had eaten beef with garlic and hot broth, and his belly was tight as a string. He strained until a fart leaped into the sack, and in hell the devils resolved to bring no churl's soul again, since it must stink. Rutebeuf sends it to sing with the frogs or to Audigier's land.

En paradis l'esperitable
In paradise the-spiritual
ont grant part la gent charitable;
have great share the people charitable
mes cil qu'en els n'ont charité
but those who-in them not-have charity
ne senz ne bien ne verité,
nor sense nor good nor truth
si ont failli a cele joie,
so have failed at that joy
ne ne cuit que ja nus en joie
nor not I-think that ever anyone thereof may-rejoice
s'il n'a en lui pitié humaine.
if-he not-has in him pity human

Ce di je por la gent vilaine,
This say I for the people churlish
qu'onques n'amerent clerc ne prestre,
who-ever not-loved clerk nor priest
si ne cuit pas que Diex lor preste
so not I-think at-all that God to-them may-lend
en paradis ne leu ne place.
in paradise neither place nor room
Onques a Jhesu-Crist ne place
Ever to Jesus-Christ not it-may-please
que vilains ait herbergerie
that churl may-have lodging
avoec le fil sainte Marie,
with the son (of-)saint Mary
quar il n'est reson ne droiture,
for it not-is reason nor uprightness
ce trovons nos en Escripture,
this find we in Scripture
paradis ne pueent avoir
paradise not they-can have
por deniers ne por autre avoir;
for pence nor for other having
et a enfer r'ont il failli,
and at hell in-turn-have they failed
dont li maufé sont maubailli;
whereof the devils are ill-handled
si orrez par quel mesprison
so you-will-hear by what misdeed
il perdirent cele prison.
they lost that prison

Jadis fu uns vilains enfers;
Formerly was a churl sick
appareilliez estoit enfers
prepared was hell
por l'ame au vilain recevoir;
for the-soul of-the churl to-receive
ice vos di je bien por voir,
this to-you say I well for true
uns deables i est venuz
a devil there is come
par qui li droiz ert maintenuz.
by whom the right was maintained
Un sac de cuir au cul li pent
A sack of leather at-the ass to-him hangs
maintenant que leenz descent;
at-once that within-there he-descends
quar li maufez cuide sanz faille
for the devil thinks without fail
que l'ame par le cul s'en aille.
that the-soul by the ass itself-thence may-go
Mes li vilains, por garison,
But the churl for cure
avoit ce soir prise poison.
had that evening taken potion
Tant ot mangié bon buef as aus
So-much he-had eaten good beef with-the garlic
et du gras humé qui fu chaus,
and of-the fat broth which was hot
que la pance n'estoit pas mole,
that the belly not-was at-all soft

ainz li tent com corde a citole.
rather to-him strains as string on citole
N'a mes dote qu'il soit periz;
Not-has more fear that-he may-be perished
s'or puet poirre, si est gariz.
if-now he-can fart so he-is cured
A cest esfort forment s'esforce,
At this effort greatly himself-he-strives
a cest esfort met il sa force;
at this effort puts he his strength
tant s'esforce, tant s'esvertue,
so-much himself-he-strives so-much himself-he-exerts
tant se torne, tant se remue,
so-much himself he-turns so-much himself he-moves
qu'uns pez en saut qui se desroie,
that-a fart thereof leaps which itself runs-wild
le sac emplist et cil le loie;
the sack it-fills and he it ties
quar li maufez por penitance
for the devil for penance
li ot aus piez foulé la pance,
to-him had with-the feet trampled the belly
et l'en dit bien en reprovier
and one says well in proverb
que trop estraindre fet chiier.
that too-much to-squeeze makes shit
Tant ala cil qu'il vint a porte
So-far went he that-he came to gate
atot le pet qu'en sac aporte;
with the fart which-in sack he-carries

en enfer gete sac et tot
into hell he-throws sack and all
et li pez en sailli a bot.
and the fart thereof leaped at bounce
Estes vos chascun des maufez
Behold you each of-the devils
mautalenti et eschaufez
ill-tempered and heated
et maudient l'ame au vilain.
and they-curse the-soul of-the churl
Chapitre tindrent l'endemain
Chapter they-held the-next-day
et s'acordent a tel acort
and themselves-agree at such accord
que james nus ame n'aport
that ever any soul not-may-bring
qui de vilain sera issue;
which from churl will-be issued
ne puet estre qu'ele ne pue.
not can be that-she not may-stink
A ce s'acorderent jadis,
To this themselves-agreed formerly
qu'en enfer ne en paradis
that-into hell nor into paradise
ne puet vilains entrer sanz dote:
not can churl enter without doubt
oie avez la reson tote.
heard you-have the reason whole

Rustebues ne set entremetre
Rutebeuf not knows-how to-intervene
ou l'en puisse ame a vilain metre,
where one may soul of churl put
qu'ele a failli a ces deus regnes:
for-she has failed at these two realms
or voist chanter avoec les raines,
now she-may-go to-sing with the frogs
que c'est li mieudres qu'il i voie,
for this-is the best that-he there may-see
ou el tiengne droite la voie,
or she may-hold straight the way
por sa penitance alegier,
for her penance to-lighten
en la terre au pere Audegier:
into the land of-the father Audigier
c'est en la terre de Cocuce
this-is in the land of Cocuce
ou Audegiers chie en s'aumuce.
where Audigier shits in his-cap

Li Diz de l'Erberie

XXXVII · THE HERBALIST'S PATTER

A quack physician addresses the crowd in verse: he has served the lord of Cairo, crossed the sea, and brought stones and herbs from India; he cures fevers and deafness, and toothache with a salve of filth. Then in prose he speaks for his lady, Trot of Salerno, against the poor herbalists with their boxes: a sermon on worms, the virtue of mugwort, and his herbs sold for the coin of every town, steeped three days in wine and taken fasting for thirteen mornings.

Seignor qui ci estes venu,
Lords who here are come
petit et grant, jone et chenu,
small and great young and white-haired
il vos est trop bien avenu,
it to-you is exceedingly well happened
sachiez de voir;
know of truth
je ne vos vueil pas decevoir,
I not you wish at-all to-deceive
bien le porrez apercevoir
well it you-will-be-able to-perceive
ainz que m'en voise.
before that I-thence may-go
Aseez vos, ne fetes noise,
Sit-down you not make noise
si escotez, s'il ne vos poise.
so listen if-it not you may-weigh
Je sui uns mires;
I am a physician

si ai esté en mainz empires:
so I-have been in many empires
du Caire m'a tenu li sires
of-the Cairo me-has held the lord
plus d'un esté;
more than-a summer
lonc tenz ai avoec lui esté,
long time I-have with him been
grant avoir i ai conquesté.
great having there I-have conquered
Mer ai passee,
Sea I-have passed
si m'en reving par la Moree,
so myself-thence I-came-back by the Morea
ou j'ai fet molt grant demoree,
where I-have made very great stay
et par Salerne,
and by Salerno
par Burienne et par Biterne.
by Burienne and by Biterne
En Puille, en Calabre, en Luserne
In Apulia in Calabria in Lucera
ai herbes prises,
I-have herbs taken
qui de granz vertuz sont enprises:
which with great virtues are filled
sus quelque mal qu'el soient mises
upon whatever ill that-they may-be put
li maus s'enfuit.
the ill flees

Jusqu'a la riviere qui bruit
As-far-as-to the river which roars
du flun des pierres jor et nuit
of-the stream of-the stones day and night
fui pierres querre.
I-was stones to-seek
Prestres Jehans i a fet guerre,
Prester John there has made war
je n'osai entrer en la terre,
I not-dared to-enter into the land
je fui au port.
I was at-the port
Molt riches pierres en aport
Very rich stones thence I-bring
qui font resusciter le mort.
which make revive the dead
Ce sont ferrites
These are ferrites
et dyamanz et cresperites,
and diamonds and cresperites
rubiz, jagonces, marguerites,
rubies jacinths pearls
grenaz, stopaces,
garnets topazes
et tellagons et galofaces:
and tellagons and galofaces
de mort ne dotera menaces
of death not will-fear threats
cil qui les porte;
he who them carries

fols est se il se desconforte,
fool he-is if he himself discomforts
n'a garde que lievres l'en porte
not-has fear that hares him-thence may-carry
s'il se tient bien,
if-he himself holds well
si n'a garde d'aboi de chien
so not-has fear of-barking of dog
ne de reching d'asne ancien;
nor of braying of-ass ancient
s'il n'est coarz
if-he not-is coward
il n'a garde de totes parz.
he not-has fear from all sides
Carbonculus et garcelarz,
Carbuncles and garcelarz
qui sont tuit inde,
which are all indigo
herbes aport des deserz d'Inde
herbs I-bring from-the deserts of-India
et de la terre Lincorinde
and from the land Lincorinde
qui siet sor l'onde
which sits upon the-wave
els quatre parties du monde,
in-the four parts of-the world
si com il tient a la roonde.
just as it holds in the round
Or m'en creez.
Now me-thereof believe

Vos ne savez cui vos veez;
You not know whom you see
tesiez vos et si vos seez.
be-silent you and so yourselves sit
Vez m'erberie:
See my-herbery
je vos di, par sainte Marie,
I to-you say by saint Mary
que ce n'est mie freperie,
that this not-is at-all frippery
mes granz noblesce;
but great nobility
j'ai l'herbe qui les viz redresce
I-have the-herb which the pricks raises
et cele qui les cons estresce
and that which the cunts tightens
a pou de paine.
with little of pain
De totes fievres fors quartaine
Of all fevers except quartan
garis en mains d'une semaine,
I-cure in less than-a week
ce n'est pas faute;
this not-is at-all fault
et si garis de gote flautre:
and so I-cure of gout flautre
ja tant n'en iert basse ne haute,
ever so-much not-thereof will-be low nor high
tote l'abat.
wholly it-fells

Se la vaine du cul vos bat,
If the vein of-the ass you beats
je vos en garrai sanz debat,
I you thereof shall-cure without debate
et de la dent
and of the tooth
garis je trop apertement
cure I exceedingly openly
par un petitet d'oignement.
by a little-little of-ointment
Que vos dirai?
What to-you shall-I-say
Oez coment je confirai:
Hear how I shall-compound
du confire ne mentirai,
of-the compounding not I-shall-lie
c'est sanz riote.
this-is without quarrel
Prenez du sain de la marmote,
Take of-the lard of the marmot
de la merde de la linote
of the shit of the linnet
au mardi main
at-the Tuesday morning
et de la fueille du plantain
and of the leaf of-the plantain
et de l'estront de la putain
and of the-turd of the whore
qui soit bien vile,
who may-be well vile

et de la poudre de l'estrile,
and of the dust of the-currycomb
et du rouil de la faucile,
and of-the rust of the sickle
et de la laine,
and of the wool
et de l'escorce de l'avaine
and of the-husk of the-oats
pilé premier jor de semaine,
pounded first day of week
si en ferez
so thereof you-will-make
un amplastre: du juz lavez
a plaster of-the juice wash
la dent, l'amplastre meterez
the tooth the-plaster you-will-put
desus la joe.
upon the cheek
Dormez un pou, je le vos loe;
Sleep a little I it to-you advise
s'au lever n'i a merde ou boe,
if-at-the rising not-there has shit or mud
Diex vos destruie!
God you may-destroy
Escotez, s'il ne vos anuie,
Listen if-it not you vexes
ce n'est pas jornee de truie
this not-is at-all day's-work of sow
cui poez fere;
whom you-can do

et vos cui la pierre fet brere,
and you whom the stone makes bawl
je vos en garrai sanz contrere
I you thereof shall-cure without trouble
se j'i met cure.
if I-there put care
De foie eschauffé, de roture,
Of liver heated of rupture
garis je tost a desmesure
cure I soon beyond measure
a cui qu'il tort;
to whom that-it may-befall
et se vos savez home sort,
and if you know man deaf
fetes le venir a ma cort:
make him come to my court
ja iert toz sains;
already he-will-be wholly sound
onques a nul jor n'oy mains,
ever on any day not-be-heard less
se Diex me garist ces deus mains,
so God for-me may-keep these two hands
qu'il n'orra ja.
that-he not-will-hear ever
Or oez ce que m'encharja
Now hear that which to-me-charged
ma dame qui m'envoia ca.
my lady who me-sent here

Bele gent, je ne sui pas de ces povres preescheors ne de
Fair people I not am at-all of these poor preachers nor of
ces povres herbiers qui vont par devant ces mostiers, a ces
these poor herbalists who go by before these minsters with these
povres chapes maucosues, qui portent boistes et saches, et
poor capes ill-sewn who carry boxes and sacks and
si estendent un tapiz; quar tels vent poivre et comin et
so spread a carpet for such-one sells pepper and cumin and
autres espices, qui n'a pas autant de saches com il ont.
other spices who not-has at-all as-many of sacks as they have
Sachiez que de cels ne sui je pas; ainz sui a une dame
Know that of those not am I at-all rather I-am to a lady
qui a non madame Crote de Salerne, qui fet cuevre-chief
who has name my-lady Trot of Salerno who makes kerchief
de ses oreilles et li sorciz li pendent a chaaines d'argent
of her ears and the eyebrows to-her hang on chains of-silver
pardesus les espaules; et sachiez que c'est la plus sage dame
over the shoulders and know that this-is the most wise lady
qui soit enz quatre parties du monde. Ma dame si nos
who may-be in-the four parts of-the world My lady so us
envoie en diverses terres et en divers pais, en Puille, en
sends into diverse lands and into diverse countries into Apulia into
Calabre, en Tosquanne, en Terre de Labour, en Alemaingne,
Calabria into Tuscany into Land of Labor into Germany
en Soissoingne, en Gascoingne, en Espaingne, en Brie, en
into Saxony into Gascony into Spain into Brie into
Champaingne, en Borgoingne, en la forest d'Ardanne, por
Champagne into Burgundy into the forest of-Ardennes for
ocire les bestes sauvages et por trere les oignemenz, por
to-kill the beasts wild and for to-draw the ointments for

doner medecines a cels qui ont les maladies es cors. Ma
to-give medicines to those who have the sicknesses in-the bodies My
dame si me dist et comanda que, en quelque leu que je
lady so to-me said and commanded that in whatever place that I
venisse, que je deisse aucune chose si que cil qui fussent
might-come that I might-say some thing so that those who might-be
entor moi i preissent bon essample, et por ce qu'ele me
around me there might-take good example and for this that-she me
fist jurer sor sainz quant je me departi de li, je vos apanrai
made swear upon relics when I myself departed from her I you shall-teach
a garir du mal des vers se vos le volez oir. De par Dieu.
to cure of-the ill of-the worms if you it wish to-hear On behalf-of God
Aucuns me demandent dont li ver vienent. Je vos faz
Some to-me ask whence the worms come I to-you make
a savoir qu'il vienent de diverses viandes reschauffees,
to know that-they come from diverse foods reheated
et de ces vins enfustez et botez, si se congrient
and from these wines cask-tainted and turned so themselves breed
es cors par chalor et par humor; quar, si com dient
in-the bodies by heat and by humor for so as say
li philosophe, totes choses en sont criees, et por ce
the philosophers all things thereof are created and for this
si vienent li ver es cors qui montent jusqu'au cuer
so come the worms in-the bodies which mount until-to-the heart
et si font morir d'une maladie qu'on apele mort sobitaine.
and so make die of-a sickness that-one calls death sudden
Seigniez vos! Diex vos en gart toz et totes.
Cross yourselves God you thereof may-guard all-men and all-women

Por la maladie des vers garir (a vos iex la veez, a vos piez
For the sickness of-the worms to-cure with your eyes it you-see with your feet
la marchiez!) la meillor herbe qui soit es quatre parties du
it you-tread the best herb which may-be in-the four parts of-the
monde, ce est l'armoise. Ces fames s'en seingnent le
world this is the-mugwort These women themselves-therewith gird the
soir de la Saint-Jehan, et en font chapiaus sor lor chiez,
evening of the Saint-John and thereof make garlands upon their heads
et dient que gote ne avertins ne les puet panre n'en chiez
and say that gout nor dizziness not them can take neither-in head
n'en braz n'en pié n'en main; mes je me merveil quant les
nor-in arm nor-in foot nor-in hand but I myself marvel when the
testes ne lor brisent et que li cors ne rompent parmi,
heads not to-them break and that the bodies not burst through
tant a l'erbe vertu en soi. En cele Champaingne ou je fui
so-much has the-herb virtue in itself In that Champagne where I was
nez l'apele l'en marreborc, qui vaut autant come la mere
born it-calls one marreborc which is-worth as-much as the mother
des herbes. De cele herbe panroiz trois racines, cinq fueilles
of-the herbs Of that herb you-will-take three roots five leaves
de sauge, nuef fueilles de plantaing. Batez ces choses en un
of sage nine leaves of plantain Beat these things in a
mortier de cuyvre, a un pestel de fer, desgeunez vos du
mortar of copper with a pestle of iron break-fast yourselves on-the
juz par trois matins: gariz serez de la maladie des vers.
juice for three mornings cured you-will-be of the sickness of-the worms
Or ostez les chaperons, tendez les oreilles, regardez mes
Now take-off the hoods hold-out the ears look-at my
herbes que ma dame envoie en cest pais et en ceste
herbs which my lady sends into this country and into this

terre; et por ce qu'ele vuet que li povres i puist aussi
land and for this that-she wishes that the poor there may as
bien avenir come li riches, ele me dist que j'en feisse
well attain as the rich she to-me said that I-thereof might-make
danree; quar tels a un denier en sa borse qui n'i
pennyworth for such-one has a penny in his purse who not-there
a pas cinq livres; et me dist et me comanda que je
has at-all five pounds and to-me said and to-me commanded that I
preisse un denier de la monoie qui corroit el pais et
might-take a penny of the money which ran in-the country and
en la contree ou je venroie: a Paris un parisi, a Orliens
in the region where I would-come at Paris a parisis at Orléans
un orlenois, a Estampes un estampois, a Bar un barrois,
an orléanais at Étampes an étampois at Bar a barrois
a Viane un vianois, a Clermont un clermondois, a Dyjon
at Vienne a viennois at Clermont a clermontois at Dijon
un dijonnois, a Mascon un masconois, a Tors un tornois,
a dijonnais at Mâcon a mâconnais at Tours a tournois
a Troies un treessien, a Rains un rencien, a Prouvins un
at Troyes a troyen at Reims a rémois at Provins a
provenoisien, a Amiens un moncien, a Arras un artisien,
provinois at Amiens an amiénois at Arras an artésien
a Mans un mansois, a Chartres un chartain, a Londres
at Le-Mans a manceau at Chartres a chartrain at London
en Aingleterre un esterlin; por du pain, por du vin a
in England a sterling for of-the bread for of-the wine for
moi, por du fain, por de l'avaine a mon roncin; quar
me for of-the hay for of the-oats for my nag for
tels qui autel sert d'autel doit vivre. Et je di que s'il
such-one who altar serves from-altar ought live And I say that if-he

estoit si povres, ou hons ou fame, qu'il n'eust que
were so poor either man or woman that-he not-might-have what
doner, venist avant: je li presteroie l'une de mes mains
to-give let-him-come forward I to-him would-lend one of my hands
por Dieu et l'autre por sa mere, ne mes que d'ui en
for God and the-other for his mother no more than from-today in
un an feist chanter une messe du Saint-Esperit, je
a year he-might-have sung a mass of-the Holy-Spirit I
di nomeement por l'arme de ma dame, qui cest mestier
say namely for the-soul of my lady who this trade
m'aprist, que je ne fasse ja trois pez que li quars ne soit
to-me-taught that I not may-do ever three farts that the fourth not may-be
por l'arme de son pere et de sa mere en remission de lor
for the-soul of her father and of her mother in remission of their
pechiez. Ces herbes vos ne les mangerez pas; quar il n'a
sins These herbs you not them will-eat at-all for it not-has
si fort buef en cest pays ne si fort destrier que s'il en
so strong ox in this country nor so strong war-horse that if-he thereof
avoit aussi gros com un pois sor la langue qu'il ne morust
had as big as a pea upon the tongue that-he not might-die
de male mort, tant sont forz et ameres; et ce qui est
of evil death so-much are-they strong and bitter and that which is
amer a la boche, si est bon au cuer. Vos les me metrez
bitter to the mouth so is good to-the heart You them to-me will-put
trois jors dormir en bon vin blanc; se vos n'avez blanc, si
three days to-sleep in good wine white if you not-have white so
prenez vermeil; se vos n'avez vermeil, prenez chastain; se vos
take red if you not-have red take chestnut if you
n'avez chastain, prenez de la bele yaue clere; quar tels a
not-have chestnut take of the fair water clear for such-one has

un puis devant son huis, qui n'a pas un tonel de vin en
a well before his door who not-has at-all a cask of wine in
son celier. Si vos en desgeunerez par treize matins; se
his cellar So yourselves thereon you-will-break-fast for thirteen mornings if
vos faillez a un, prenez autre; se vos i faillez le quart,
you fail at one take another if you there fail the fourth
prenez le quint; quar ce ne sont pas charaies. Et je vos di
take the fifth for these not are at-all charms And I to-you say
par la passion dont Diex maudist Corbitaz le juif qui forja
by the passion whereby God cursed Corbitaz the jew who forged
les trente pieces d'argent en la tor d'Abilant, a trois lieues
the thirty pieces of-silver in the tower of-Abilant at three leagues
de Jherusalem dont Diex fu venduz, que vos serez gariz de
from Jerusalem whereby God was sold that you will-be cured of
diverses maladies et de divers mahainz, de totes fievres sanz
diverse sicknesses and of diverse maimings of all fevers except
quartaine, de totes gotes sanz palazine, de l'enfleure du cors,
quartan of all gouts except palsy of the-swelling of-the body
de la vaine du cul s'ele vos debat; quar se mes peres et ma
of the vein of-the ass if-she you troubles for if my father and my
mere estoient ou peril de la mort et il me demandoient
mother were in-the peril of the death and they to-me asked
la meillor herbe que je lor peusse doner, je lor doneroie
the best herb that I to-them could give I to-them would-give
ceste. En tel meniere vens je mes herbes et mes oignemenz;
this-one In such manner sell I my herbs and my ointments
qui voldra si en preingne, qui ne voldra si les lest.
who will-wish so thereof may-take who not will-wish so them may-leave

De Charlot le Juif qui chia en la pel dou lievre

XXXVIII · CHARLOT THE JEW WHO SHAT IN THE HARE'S PELT

Whoever would trick a minstrel is often tricked himself. William the pantler of the count of Poitiers ran a horse to death chasing a hare and kept the pelt. At his cousin's wedding the minstrels were given masters to pay them, and Charlot drew William, who gave him only the pelt and swore it had cost him over a hundred sous. Charlot fouled it and brought it back, and William thrust his hand in. Who seeks fraud finds it.

Qui menestrel vuet engignier
Who minstrel wishes to-trick
molt en porroit mieus bargignier;
much thereof could better bargain
quar molt soventes foiz avient
for very oft times it-happens
que cil por engignié se tient
that he for tricked himself holds
qui menestrel engignier cuide,
who minstrel to-trick thinks
et s'en trueve sa borse vuide:
and so-thereof finds his purse empty
ne voi nului cui bien en chiee.
not I-see anybody to-whom good thereof may-befall
Por ce devroit estre estanchiee
For this ought be stanched
la vilonie qu'on lor fet,
the churlishness that-one to-them does
garson et escuier forfet,
grooms and squires wicked

et tel qui ne valent deus chienes.
and such who not are-worth two bitches
Por ce le di qu'a Avicennes
For this it I-say for-at Avicennes
avint, n'a pas un an entier,
happened not-has at-all a year entire
a Guillaume le penetier.
to William the pantler
Cil Guillaumes dont je vos conte
This William of-whom I to-you tell
qui est a mon seigneur le conte
who is to my lord the count
de Poitiers, chassoit l'autre jor
of Poitiers was-chasing the-other day
un lievre qu'il ert a sejor.
a hare for-he was at rest
Li lievres, qui les chiens dota,
The hare who the dogs feared
molt durement se desrota,
very hard himself ran-off
assez foi et longuement,
plenty he-fled and long
et cil le chassa durement;
and he it chased hard
assez corut, assez ala,
plenty he-ran plenty he-went
assez guenchi et ca et la;
plenty he-swerved both here and there

mes en la fin, vos di ge bien
but in the end to-you say I well
qu'a force le prirent li chien.
that-by force it took the dogs
Pris fu sire Coarz li lievres;
Taken was sir Coward the hare
mes li roncins en ot les fievres,
but the nag thereof had the fevers
et sachiez que mes ne les tremble;
and know that henceforth not them it-trembles
escorchiez en fu, ce me semble.
flayed thereof it-was this to-me seems
Or pot cil son roncin plorer
Now could he his nag weep
et metre la pel essorer;
and put the pelt to-dry
la pel, se Diex me doint salu,
the pelt so God to-me may-give salvation
costa plus qu'ele ne valu.
cost more than-it — was-worth
Or lesserons ester la pel,
Now we-shall-let stand the pelt
qu'il la garda et bien et bel
for-he it kept both well and fairly
jusqu'a ce tenz que vos orrez,
until-to this time that you will-hear
dont de l'oir vos esjorrez.
whereof of the-hearing you will-rejoice
Partot est bien chose comune,
Everywhere is well thing common

ce set chascuns, ce set chascune,
this knows each-man this knows each-woman
quant uns hom fet noces ou feste
when a man makes wedding or feast
ou il a genz de bone geste,
where it has people of good kind
li menestrel, quant il l'entendent,
the minstrels when they it-hear
qui autre chose ne demandent,
who other thing not ask
vont la, soit amont, soit aval,
go there be-it upward be-it downward
l'uns a pié, l'autres a cheval.
the-one on foot the-other on horse
Li cosins Guillaume en fist unes
The cousin (of-)William thereof made one
des noces qui furent comunes,
of-the weddings which were common
ou assez ot de bele gent,
where plenty had of fair people
dont molt li fu et bel et gent;
whereof much to-him was both fair and comely
ce ne sai je combien i furent:
this not know I how-many there were
assez mangerent, assez burent,
plenty they-ate plenty they-drank
assez firent et feste et joie.
plenty they-made both feast and joy
Je meismes, qui i estoie,
I myself who there was

ne vi pieca si bele fere,
not saw long-ago so fair to-do
ne qui autant me peust plere.
nor which as-much to-me could please
Se Diex de ses biens me reparte,
So God of his goods to-me may-share
n'est si granz cors qui ne departe:
not-is so great court which not may-part
la bone gent s'est departie,
the good people itself-has parted
chascuns s'en va vers sa partie.
each himself-thence goes toward his side
Li menestrel trestuit hosé
The minstrels all booted
s'en vindrent droit a l'esposé.
themselves-thence came straight to the-bridegroom
Nus n'i fu de parler laniers:
Anyone not-there was of speaking slow
«Donez nos mestres ou deniers,
Give us masters or pence
font il, qu'il est droiz et resons,
say they for-it is right and reason
s'ira chascuns en sa meson.»
so-will-go each into his house
Que vos iroie je disant
What to-you would-go I saying
ne mes paroles esloignant?
nor my words prolonging

Chascuns ot mestre, nes Challoz
Each had master even Challot
qui n'estoit pas molt biaus valloz.
who not-was at-all very fair valet
Challoz ot a mestre celui
Challot had for master him
cui li lievres fist tel anui.
to-whom the hare made such vexation
Ses letres li furent escrites,
His letters to-him were written
bien saelees et bien dites;
well sealed and well worded
ne cuidiez pas que je vos boiz.
not think at-all that I you deceive
Challoz en est venuz au bois,
Challot thence is come to-the wood
a Guillaume ses letres baille;
to William his letters he-hands
Guillaumes les recut sanz faille,
William them received without fail
Guillaumes les comance a lire,
William them begins to read
Guillaumes li a pris a dire:
William to-him has taken to say
«Challot, Challot, biaus douz amis,
Challot Challot fair sweet friend
vos estes ci a moi tramis
you are here to me sent
des noces mon cosin germain;
from-the wedding (of-)my cousin german

mes je croi bien, par saint Germain,
but I believe well by saint Germain
que vos cuit tel chose doner,
that you I-think such thing to-give
que que en doie gronsonner,
what that thereof ought grumble
qui m'a costé plus de cent souz,
which me-has cost more than hundred sous
se je soie de Dieu assouz.»
so I may-be by God absolved
Lors a apelé sa maignie,
Then he-has called his household
qui fu sage et bien enseignie,
which was wise and well taught
la pel d'un lievre rova querre,
the pelt of-a hare he-bade to-seek
por cui il fist maint pas de terre;
for which he made many-a step of land
cil l'aportent grant aleure
they it-bring great pace
et Guillaumes de rechief jure:
and William of again swears
«Charlot, se Diex me doint sa grace,
Charlot so God to-me may-give his grace
ne se Diex plus grant bien me face,
nor so God more great good to-me may-do
tant me costa com je te di.»
so-much to-me it-cost as I thee tell

— «L'en n'en auroit pas samedi,
One not-thereof would-have at-all Saturday
fet Charloz, autant au marchié,
says Charlot as-much at-the market
et s'en avez mainz pas marchié.
and so-thereof you-have many steps marched
Or voi je bien que marcheant
Now see I well that merchants
ne sont pas toz jors bien cheant.»
not are at-all all days well falling
La pel prent que cil li tendi;
The pelt he-takes which he to-him held-out
onques graces ne l'en rendi,
ever thanks not him-thereof he-rendered
quar bien savez, n'i ot de quoi.
for well you-know not-there had of what
Pensis le veissiez et quoi;
Pensive him you-would-see and quiet
pensis s'en est issuz la fuer,
pensive himself-thence he-is gone-out there outside
et si pense dedenz son cuer,
and so thinks within his heart
se il puet, qu'il li voudra vendre,
if he can that-he to-him will-wish to-sell
et il li vendi bien au rendre.
and he to-him sold well at-the rendering
Porpensez s'est que il fera,
Bethought himself-has what he will-do
et coment il li rendera.
and how he to-him will-render

Por li rendre la felonie,
For to-him to-render the felony
fist en la pel la vilonie —
he-did in the pelt the churlishness
vos savez bien ce que vuet dire.
you know well that which-it wishes to-say
Arrier vint et li dist: «Biaus sire,
Back he-came and to-him said Fair lord
se ci a riens, si le prenez!»
if here has anything so it take
— «Or as tu dit que bien senez?»
Now hast thou said as well sensible
— «Oil, foi que doi Nostre Dame.»
Yes faith that I-owe Our Lady
— «Je cuit c'est la coiffe ma fame
I think this-is the coif (of-)my wife
ou sa toaille ou son chapel;
or her towel or her garland
je ne t'ai doné que la pel.»
I not thee-have given but the pelt
Lors a boté sa main dedenz;
Then he-has thrust his hand within
ez vos l'escuier qui ot ganz
behold you the-squire who had gloves
qui furent punes et porri
which were stinking and rotten
et de l'ovrage mestre Horri.
and of the-work (of-)master Horri
Ensi fu deus foiz conchiez:
Thus he-was two times befouled

du menestrel fu espiez
by-the minstrel he-was spied-out
et du lievre fu mal bailliz,
and by-the hare he-was ill handled
que ses chevaus l'en fu failliz. 130
for his horse him-thence was failed
Rutebues dit, bien m'en sovient:
Rutebeuf says well to-me-thence remembers
«Qui barat quiert, baraz li vient.»
Who fraud seeks fraud to-him comes

De la dame qui fist trois tors entor le moustier

XXXIX · THE LADY WHO WENT THREE TIMES AROUND THE CHURCH

A squire's wife loved a priest, who bade her come to a grove at night. Her husband came home soaked, and she urged him to bed and went to the priest. He woke, found her gone, and searched for her; when she came back he took her by the tresses to cut them. She said she was with child and had been told to go three times around the church saying three paternosters, and he begged her pardon. A woman married to a fool has her wish.

Qui fame voudroit decevoir
Who woman would-wish to-deceive
je li faz bien apercevoir
I to-him make well perceive
qu'avant decevroit l'anemi,
that-sooner he-would-deceive the-enemy
le deable, au champ arrami.
the devil in-the field arrayed

Cil qui fame vuet justicier
He who woman wishes to-chastise
chascun jor la puet conbrisier,
each day her can break
et l'endemain r'est tote saine
and the-next-day in-turn-she-is wholly sound
por resofrir autre tel paine;
for to-suffer-again other such pain
mes quant fame a fol debonere,
but when woman has fool gracious
et ele a riens de lui afere,
and she has anything of him to-do
ele li dist tant de bellues,
she to-him says so-many of fibs
de truffes et de fanfelues,
of trifles and of nonsense
qu'ele li fet a force entendre
that-she him makes by force understand
que li ciels sera demain cendre:
that the sky will-be tomorrow ash
ainsi gaaingne la querele.
thus she-wins the quarrel
Jel di por une damoisele
I-it say for a damsel
qui ert fame a un escuier,
who was wife to a squire
ne sai chartain ou berruier.
not I-know of-Chartres or of-Berry
La damoisele, c'est la voire,
The damsel this-is the truth

estoit amie a un provoire.
was friend to a priest
Molt l'amoit cil et ele lui,
Much her-loved he and she him
et si ne lessast por nului
and so not she-would-leave for anybody
qu'ele ne feist son voloir,
that-she not might-do his will
cui qu'en deust li cuers doloir.
whose that-thereof ought the heart grieve
Un jor, au partir de l'eglise,
One day at-the leaving of the-church
ot li prestres fet son servise:
had the priest done his service
ses vestemenz let a ploier
his vestments he-leaves to fold
et si va la dame proier
and so goes the lady to-pray
que le soir en un boschet viengne,
that the evening into a grove she-may-come
parler li vuet d'une besoingne,
to-speak to-her he-wishes of-a business
ou je cuit que pou conquerroie
where I think that little I-would-conquer
se la besoingne vos nomoie.
if the business to-you I-named
La dame respondi au prestre:
The lady answered to-the priest
«Sire, vez me ci tote preste,
Lord see me here wholly ready

qu'or est il et poinz et seson:
for-now is it both point and season
aussi n'est pas cil en meson.»
also not-is at-all he in house
Or avoit en cele aventure,
Now had in that adventure
sanz plus itant de mespresure,
without more so-much of mishap
que les mesons n'estoient pas
that the houses not-were at-all
l'une lez l'autre a quatre pas;
the-one beside the-other at four paces
ainz i avoit, dont molt lor poise,
rather there had whereof much to-them it-weighs
le tierz d'une lieue francoise.
the third of-a league French
Chascune ert en un espinois
Each was in a thicket
com ces mesons de Gastinois;
as these houses of Gâtinais
mes li boschez que je vos nome
but the grove that I to-you name
estoit a cel vaillant preudome
was of that valiant worthy-man
qui saint Ernoul doit la chandoile.
who to-saint Arnoul owes the candle
Le soir, qu'il ot ja mainte estoile
The evening when-it had already many-a star
parant el ciel, si com moi samble,
appearing in-the sky so as to-me seems

li prestres de sa meson s'amble
the priest from his house himself-steals
et s'en vint el boschet seoir
and so-thence came into-the grove to-sit
por ce qu'on nel puisse veoir.
for this that-one not-him may see
Mes a la dame mesavint
But to the lady it-went-ill
que sire Ernous ses mariz vint
that sir Arnoul her husband came
toz moilliez et toz engelez;
all soaked and all frozen
ne sai dont ou il ert alez.
not I-know whence where he was gone
Por ce remanoir la covint,
For this to-remain her behooved
de son provoire li sovint,
of her priest to-her remembered
si se haste d'apareillier,
so herself hastens of-preparing
ne le vuet pas fere veillier:
not him wishes at-all to-make stay-awake
por ce n'i ot trois mez ne quatre.
for this not-there had three dishes nor four
Apres mangier petit esbatre
After eating little to-amuse-himself
le lessa, bien le vos puis dire.
him she-let well it to-you I-can say
Sovent li a dit: «Biaus douz sire,
Often to-him she-has said Fair sweet lord

alez gesir, si ferez bien.
go to-lie so you-will-do well
Veilliers grieve sor tote rien
Staying-awake grieves above all thing
a home quant il est lassez;
to man when he is tired
vos avez chevauchié assez.»
you have ridden enough
L'aler gesir tant li reproche
The-going to-lie so-much to-him she-reproaches
por pou le morcel en la boche
for little the morsel in the mouth
ne fet celui aler gesir,
not makes him go to-lie
tant a d'eschaper grant desir.
so-much she-has of-escaping great desire
Li bons escuiers i ala,
The good squire there went
qui sa damoisele apela,
who his damsel called
por ce que molt la prise et aime.
for this that much her he-prizes and loves
«Sire, fet ele, il me faut traime
Lord says she it to-me lacks weft
a une toile que je fes,
for a cloth which I make
et si me faut encor granz fes,
and so to-me lacks still great bundle
dont je ne me sai garde prendre,
whereof I not myself know heed to-take

et je n'en truis nes point a vendre;
and I not-thereof find even at-all to sell
par Dieu, si ne sai que j'en face.»
by God so not I-know what I-thereof may-do
— «Au deable soit tel filace,
To-the devil may-be such thread
dist li escuiers, com la vostre!
said the squire as the yours
Foi que je doi saint Pou l'apostre,
Faith that I owe saint Paul the-apostle
je voudroie qu'el fust en Saine.»
I would-wish that-it might-be in Seine
Atant se coche, si se saine,
Thereupon himself he-lies-down so himself he-crosses
et cele se part de la chambre.
and she herself parts from the chamber
Petit sejornerent si membre
Little rested her limbs
tant qu'el vint la ou cil l'atent,
until that-she came there where he her-awaits
li uns les braz a l'autre tent.
the one the arms to the-other holds-out
Iluec furent a grant deduit,
There they-were in great delight
tant qu'il fu pres de mienuit.
until that-it was near of midnight
Du premier some cil s'esveille,
From-the first sleep he himself-wakes

mes molt li vient a grant merveille
but much to-him comes to great marvel
quant il ne sent lez lui sa fame.
when he not feels beside him his wife
«Chamberiere, ou est vostre dame?»
Chambermaid where is your lady
— «Ele est la fors, en cele vile,
She is there outside in that town
chiez sa comere, ou ele file.»
at-the-house-of her gossip where she spins
Quant cil oi que la fors iere,
When he heard that there outside she-was
voirs est qu'il fist molt lede chiere,
true is that-he made very ugly face
son sorcot vest, si se leva,
his surcoat he-puts-on so himself he-rose
sa damoisele querre va.
his damsel to-seek he-goes
Chiez sa comere la demande,
At-the-house-of her gossip her he-asks
ne trueve qui reson l'en rande,
not he-finds who reason him-thereof may-render
qu'ele n'i avoit esté mie.
for-she not-there had been at-all
Ez vos celui en frenesie.
Behold you him in frenzy
Par delez cels qu'el boschet furent
By beside those who-in-the grove were
ala et vint, cil ne se murent,
he-went and came those not themselves moved

et quant il fu outre passez:
and when he was beyond passed
«Sire, fet ele, or est assez;
Lord says she now is enough
or covient il que je m'en aille:
now behooves it that I myself-thence may-go
vos orrez ja noise et bataille.»
you will-hear soon noise and battle
Fet li prestres: «Ice me tue
Says the priest This me kills
que vos serez ja trop batue;
that you will-be soon too beaten
onques de moi ne vos soviengne.»
ever of me not to-you may-remember
— «Danz prestres, de vos vos coviengne.»
Sir priest of you to-you it-may-behoove
Dist la damoisele en riant.
Said the damsel in laughing
Que vos iroie controvant?
What to-you would-go-I inventing
Chascuns s'en vint a son repere.
Each himself-thence came to his dwelling
Cil qui se jut ne se pot tere:
He who himself lay not himself could keep-silent
«Dame orde, vils pute provee,
Lady foul vile whore proven
vos soiez or la mal trovee!
you may-be now the ill found

Dist li escuiers. Dont venez?
Said the squire Whence come-you
Bien pert que por fol me tenez.»
Well appears that for fool me you-hold
Cele se tut et cil s'esfroie:
She herself kept-silent and he himself-frightens
«Voi por le sanc et por le foie,
See by the blood and by the liver
por la froissure, por la teste,
by the entrails by the head
ele vient d'avoec nostre prestre!»
she comes from-with our priest
Ensi dit voir, et si nel sot;
Thus he-says true and so not-it knew
cele se tut, si ne dist mot.
she herself kept-silent so not said word
Quant cil oit qu'el ne se desfent,
When he heard that-she not herself defends
par un petit d'iror ne fent,
for a little of-anger not he-splits
qu'il cuide bien en aventure
for-he thinks well by chance
avoir dit la verité pure.
to-have said the truth pure
Mautalenz l'argue et atise,
Ill-temper him-urges and stirs
sa fame a par les tresses prise;
his wife he-has by the tresses taken
por le trenchier son coutel tret:
for her to-cut his knife he-draws

«Sire, fet el, por Dieu atret,
Lord says she for God at-once
or covient il que je vos die
now behooves it that I to-you may-tell
(or orrez ja trop grant voisdie);
now you-will-hear soon too great cunning
j'aimasse miex estre en la fosse.
I-would-love better to-be in the pit
Voirs est que je sui de vos grosse,
True is that I am by you great
si m'enseigna l'en a aler
so me-taught one to go
entor le mostier sanz parler
around the minster without speaking
trois tors, dire trois patrenostres
three turns to-say three paternosters
en l'onor Dieu et ses apostres;
in the-honor (of-)God and his apostles
une fosse au talon feisse
a pit with-the heel I-should-make
et par trois jors i revenisse.
and for three days there I-should-come-back
S'au tierz jor overt la trovoie,
If-at-the third day open it I-found
c'estoit uns filz qu'avoir devoie,
this-was a son that-to-have I-was-to
s'ele estoit close, c'estoit fille.
if-it was closed this-was daughter
Or ne revaut tot une bille,
Now not is-worth all a marble

dist la dame, quanques j'ai fet;
said the lady whatever I-have done
mes, par saint Jaque, il ert refet,
but by saint James it will-be redone
se vos tuer m'en deviiez.»
if you to-kill me-thereby you-had-to
Atant s'est cil desavoiez
Thereupon himself-has he strayed
de la voie ou avoiez iere,
from the way where set-on-the-way he-was
si parla en autre maniere:
so he-spoke in other manner
«Dame, dist il, je que savoie
Lady said he I what knew
du voiage ne de la voie?
of-the voyage nor of the way
Se je seusse ceste chose,
If I had-known this thing
dont je a tort vos blasme et chose,
whereof I at wrong you blame and chide
je sui cil qui mot n'en deisse,
I am he who word not-thereof would-have-said
se je anuit de cest soir isse.»
if I tonight from this evening may-go-out
Atant se turent, si font pes,
Thereupon themselves kept-silent so they-make peace
que cil n'en doit parler james;
for he not-thereof ought speak ever
de chose que sa fame face,
of thing that his wife may-do

n'en orra noise ne menace.
not-thereof he-will-hear noise nor threat
Rustebues dist en cest fablel:
Rutebeuf says in this fabliau
quant fame a fol, s'a son avel.
when woman has fool so-she-has her wish

POEMS TO THE VIRGIN

L'Ave-Maria Rustebeuf

XL · RUTEBEUF'S HAIL MARY

Those with pure hearts must leave the world, since canons, clerks, kings, and counts care only for their bodies and the worms will eat them. He begins a salutation of the Lady, glossing the Hail Mary word by word: the queen who brought back Theophilus's charter from hell, the Lord's daughter and mother, blessed among women, rose and lily, whose son was crucified on Friday and rose on the third day. He prays her to plead for us at the Judgment.

A totes genz qui ont savoir
To all people who have knowledge
fet Rustebues bien a savoir
makes Rutebeuf well to know
et les semont:
and them summons
cels qui ont les cuers purs et mont
those who have the hearts pure and clean
doivent tuit deguerpir le mont
ought all quit the world
et deboter;
and push-away

quar trop covient a redoter
for too-much behooves to rave
les ordures a raconter
the filths to recount
que chascuns conte.
which each tells
C'est veritez que je vos conte:
This-is truth that I to-you tell
chanoine, clerc et roi et conte
canons clerks and kings and counts
sont trop aver,
are too avaricious
n'ont cure des ames sauver,
not-have care of-the souls to-save
mes les cors baignier et laver
but the bodies to-bathe and to-wash
et bien norrir;
and well to-nourish
quar il ne cuident pas morir
for they not think at-all to-die
ne dedenz la terre porrir;
nor within the earth to-rot
mes si feront,
but so they-will-do
que ja garde ne s'i prendront
for ever heed not themselves-thereto they-will-take
que tel morsel englotiront
that such morsel they-will-swallow
qui lor nuira,
which them will-harm

que la lasse d'ame cuira
that the weary of-soul will-cook
en enfer, ou ja nel lera
in hell where ever not-her will-leave
estez n'yvers.
summer nor-winter
Trop par sont les morsiaus divers
Too much are the morsels diverse
dont la char manjuent les vers
whereof the flesh eat the worms
et en pert l'ame.
and thereby loses the-soul
Un salu de la douce Dame,
A salutation of the sweet Lady
por ce qu'ele nos gart de blasme,
for this that-she us may-guard from blame
vueil comencier;
I-wish to-begin
quar en digne leu et en chier
for in worthy place and in dear
doit chascuns metre sanz tencier
ought each put without quarreling
cuer et pensee.
heart and thought
Ave, roine coronee,
Hail queen crowned
com de bone ore tu fus nee,
how in good hour thou wast born
qui Dieu portas!
who God borest

Theophilus reconfortas
Theophilus thou-comfortedst
quant sa chartre li raportas
when his charter to-him thou-broughtest-back
que l'anemis,
which the-enemy
qui de mal fere est entremis,
who of ill to-do is engaged
cuida avoir lacié et mis
thought to-have laced and put
en sa prison.
in his prison
Maria, si com nos lison,
Mary so as we read
tu li envoias garison
thou to-him sentest cure
de son malage,
of his sickness
qui deguerpi Dieu et s'ymage
who quit God and his-image
et si fist au deable homage
and so did to-the devil homage
par sa folor;
by his folly
et puis li fist a sa dolor
and then to-him made to his sorrow
du vermeil sanc de sa color
with-the red blood of his color
tel chartre escrire
such charter write

qui devisa tot son martire,
which described all his torment
et puis apres li estuet dire,
and then after to-him behooves to-say
par estovoir:
by necessity
par cest escrit fet a savoir,
by this writing makes to know
Theophilus ot, por avoir,
Theophilus had for having
Dieu renoié.
God renounced
Tant l'ot deables desvoié,
So-much him-had devil led-astray
que il estoit toz marvoié
that he was wholly maddened
par desperance;
by despair
et quant li vint en remembrance
and when to-him came in remembrance
de vos, Dame plesant et franche,
of you Lady pleasing and noble
sanz demorer
without delaying
devant vos s'en ala orer;
before you himself-thence he-went to-pray
de cuer comenca a plorer
from heart he-began to weep
et larmoier.
and to-shed-tears

Vos l'en rendistes tel loier
You him-thereof rendered such reward
quant de cuer l'oistes proier,
when from heart you-him-heard pray
que vos alastes,
that you went
d'enfer sa chartre raportastes,
from-hell his charter you-brought-back
de l'anemi le delivrastes
from the-enemy him you-freed
et de sa rote.
and from his troop
Gracia plena estes tote;
With-grace full you-are wholly
qui ce ne croit il ne voit gote
who this not believes he not sees a-whit
et le compere.
and it pays-for
Dominus, li sauveres pere,
The-Lord the savior father
fist de vos sa fille et sa mere;
made of you his daughter and his mother
tant vos ama,
so-much you he-loved
dame des angles vos clama:
lady of-the angels you he-called
en vos s'enclost, ainz n'entama
in you himself-enclosed yet not-he-wounded
vo dignité,
your dignity

n'en perdistes virginité.
not-thereby you-lost virginity
Tecum, par sa digne pité,
With-thee by his worthy pity
volt toz jors estre
he-wished all days to-be
lasus en la gloire celestre;
up-there in the glory celestial
donez le nos ainsinques estre
give it to-us thus to-be
lez son costé.
beside his side
Benedicta tu, qui osté
Blessed thou who taken
nos as del dolereus osté
us hast from-the sorrowful lodging
qui tant est ors,
which so-much is foul
qu'il n'est en cest siecle tresors
that-it not-is in this world treasure
qui nos peust fere restors
which us could make restoration
de la grant perte
of the great loss
par quoi Adanz fist la deserte.
by which Adam made the desert
Prie a ton fil qu'il nos en terde
Pray to thy son that-be us thereof may-wipe
et nos esleve
and us may-raise

de l'ordure qu'aporta Eve
from the-filth that-brought Eve
quant de la pome osta la seve;
when from the apple she-took the sap
par quoi tes fiz,
by which thy son
si com je sui certains et fiz,
so as I am certain and sure
sofri mort et fu crucefiz
suffered death and was crucified
au vendredi;
on-the Friday
c'est veritez que je vos di;
this-is truth that I to-you say
et au tierz jor, plus n'atendi,
and at-the third day more not-he-waited
resuscita;
he-rose-again
la Magdalene visita,
the Magdalene he-visited
de toz ses pechiez l'aquita
of all her sins her-he-acquitted
et la fist saine:
and her made healthy
de paradis est la fontaine.
of paradise she-is the fountain
In mulieribus et plaine
Among women and full
de seignorie:
of lordship

fols est qui en toi ne se fie.
fool is who in thee not himself trusts
Tu hez orgueil et felonie
Thou hatest pride and felony
sor tote chose;
above all thing
tu es li liz ou Diex repose,
thou art the lily where God rests
tu es rosiers qui porte rose
thou art rosebush which bears rose
blanche et vermeille;
white and red
tu as en ton saint chief l'oreille
thou hast in thy holy head the-ear
qui les desconseilliez conseille
which the distressed counsels
et met a voie;
and puts on way
tu as de solaz et de joie
thou hast of solace and of joy
tant que raconter n'en porroie
so-much that to-recount not-thereof I-could
la tierce part.
the third part
Fols est cil qui pense autre part
Fool is he who thinks other way
et plus est fols qui se depart
and more is fool who himself departs
de vostre acorde;
from your accord

quar honeste misericorde
for honest mercy
et pacience a vos s'acorde
and patience with you itself-accords
et abandone.
and yields
Hé, benoite soit la corone
Ah blessed be the crown
de Jhesu-Crist qui environe
of Jesus-Christ which encircles
le vostre chief.
the your head
Et benedictus de rechief
And blessed of again
fructus qui sofri grant meschief
the-fruit who suffered great hardship
et grant mesese,
and great distress
por nos geter de la fornese
for us to-throw from the furnace
d'enfer, qui tant par est punese,
of-hell which so much is stinking
lede et obscure.
ugly and dark
Hé, douce virge nete et pure!
Ah sweet virgin clean and pure
Totes fames, por ta figure,
All women for thy figure
doit l'en amer!
ought one love

Douce te doit l'en bien clamer,
Sweet thee ought one well call
quar en toi si n'a point d'amer
for in thee so not-has a-whit of-bitterness
n'autre durté;
nor-other hardness
chacié en as tote obscurté
chased thereof thou-hast all darkness
par la grace, par la purté
by the grace by the purity
ventris tui,
of-womb thy
tuit s'en sont deable fui,
all themselves-thence are devils fled
n'osent parler, quar amui
not-dare to-speak for silenced
sont lor solaz.
are their solaces
Quant tu tenis et acolas
When thou heldest and embracedst
ton chier fil, tu les afolas
thy dear son thou them destroyedst
et maumeis.
and ruinedst
Hé, biaus Pere qui me feis,
Ah fair Father who me madest
si com c'est voirs que tu deis,
so as this-is true that thou saidest
je sui t'ancele;
I am thy-handmaid

toi depri je, Virge pucele,
thee pray I Virgin maiden
prie a ton fil qu'il nos apele
pray to thy son that-he us may-call
au jugement,
at-the judgment
quant il fera si egrement
when he will-make so fiercely
tot le monde comunement
all the world commonly
trambler com fueille,
tremble as leaf
qu'a sa partie nos acueille!
that-to his side us he-may-welcome
Disons amen; qu'ainsi le vueille!
Let-us-say amen that-thus it he-may-wish

C'est de Nostre-Dame

XLI · ON OUR LADY

He must sing a song of the best lady who ever was or will be, whose sweet song cures all sorrow. He weeps his folly and his foolish life and cries her mercy. When sinners call her sweet name and say her Hail Mary, they need not fear the devil, and whoever weds such a Mary makes a good marriage. As the sun passes through glass without harming it, so the Virgin was a virgin in birth, in nursing, and in all her life.

Chanson m'estuet chanter de la meillor
Song me-behooves to-sing of the best
qui onques fu ne qui james sera;
who ever was nor who ever will-be
li siens douz chanz garit tote dolor,
the her sweet song cures all sorrow
bien ert gariz cui ele garira.
well will-be cured whom she will-cure

Mainte ame a garie,
Many-a soul she-has cured
huimes ne dot mie
from-today not I-fear at-all
que n'aie bon jor,
that not-I-may-have good day
quar sa grant dosor
for her great sweetness
n'est nus qui vos die.
not-is anyone who to-you may-tell

Molt a en li cortoisie et valor,
Much has in her courtesy and worth
bien et bonté et charité i a;
good and goodness and charity there has
com fols li cri merci de ma folor:
as fool to-her I-cry mercy for my folly
foloié ai, s'onques nus foloia.
played-the-fool I-have if-ever anyone played-the-fool
Si plor ma folie
So I-weep my folly
et ma fole vie,
and my foolish life
et mon fol senz plor,
and my foolish sense I-weep
et ma fole error
and my foolish error
ou trop m'entr'oblie.
where too-much myself-I-forget

Quant son douz non reclaiment pecheor
When her sweet name call-on sinners
et il dient son Ave-Maria,
and they say her Hail-Mary
n'ont puis dote du maufé tricheor,
not-have then fear of-the devil trickster
qui molt dote le bien que Marie a,
who much fears the good that Mary has

quar qui se marie
for who himself marries
en tele Marie,
to such Mary
bon mariage a:
good marriage has
marions nos la,
let-us-marry ourselves there
si aurons s'aie.
so we-shall-have her-aid

Molt l'ama cil qui de si haute tor
Much her-loved he who from so high tower
com li ciel sont descendi jusque ca.
as the heavens are descended as-far-as here
Mere et fille porta son creator,
Mother and daughter bore her creator
qui de noiant li et autres cria.
who from nothing her and others created
Qui de cuer s'escrie
Who from heart himself-cries-out
et merci li crie
and mercy to-her cries
merci trovera:
mercy will-find
ja nus n'i faudra
ever anyone not-there will-fail
qui de cuer la prie.
who from heart her prays

Si com l'en voit le soleil tote jor
So as one sees the sun all day
qu'en la verriere entre et ist et s'en va,
that-in the window enters and goes-out and itself-thence goes
ne l'enpire, tant i fiere a sejor,
not it-worsens so-much there it-strikes at rest
aussi vos di que onques n'enpira
so-too to-you I-say that ever not-was-impaired
la virge Marie.
the virgin Mary
Virge fu norrie,
Virgin she-was nourished
Virge Dieu porta,
Virgin God she-bore
Virge l'aleta,
Virgin him-she-suckled
Virge fu sa vie.
Virgin was her life

Le Miracle de Theophile

XLII · THE MIRACLE OF THEOPHILUS

Theophilus, stripped of his office by the bishop, goes to Salatin, who conjures the Devil. He becomes the Devil's man, seals a charter written in his own blood, and is restored, and turns on his fellow clerks Peter and Thomas. Then he repents before a chapel of Our Lady and prays her in twelve-line stanzas. She takes the charter back from Satan and returns it to him, and the bishop reads it to the people and they sing the Te Deum.

[THEOPHILES.] Ahi, ahi! Diex, rois de gloire,
Ah ah God king of glory
tant vos ai eu en memoire,
so-much you I-have had in memory
tot ai doné et despendu,
all I-have given and spent
et tot ai aus povres tendu,
and all I-have to-the poor held-out
ne m'est remes vaillant un sac.
not to-me-is remained worth a sack
Bien m'a dit li evesque: Eschac!
Well me-has said the bishop Check
Et m'a rendu maté en l'angle;
And me-has rendered mated in the-corner
sanz avoir m'a lessié tot sangle.
without having me-has left all single
Or m'estuet il morir de fain,
Now me-behooves it to-die of hunger
se je n'envoi ma robe au pain.
if I not-send my robe for-the bread

Et ma mesnie que fera?
And my household what will-do
Ne sai se Diex les prestera.
Not I-know if God them will-lend
Diex! oil! qu'en a il a fere?
God yes what-thereof has he to do
En autre leu les covient trere,
Into other place them behooves to-draw
ou il me fet l'oreille sorde,
where he to-me makes the-ear deaf
qu'il n'a cure de ma falorde,
for-he not-has care of my idle-tale
et je li referai la moe.
and I to-him shall-make-in-turn the pout
Honiz soit qui de lui se loe!
Shamed be who of him himself praises
N'est riens qu'on por avoir ne face:
Not-is thing that-one for having not may-do
ne pris riens Dieu ne sa manace.
not I-prize anything God nor his threat
Irai je me noier ou pendre?
Shall-go I myself to-drown or to-hang
Je ne m'en puis pas a Dieu prendre,
I not myself-thence can at-all to God take
qu'on ne puet a lui avenir.
for-one not can to him attain

Ha! qui lor le porroit tenir
Ah who then him could hold
et bien batre a la retornee
and well beat at the return
molt auroit fet bone jornee;
much would-have done good day's-work
mes il s'est en si haut leu mis
but he himself-has in so high place put
por eschiver ses anemis,
for to-shun his enemies
qu'on n'i puet trere ne lancier.
that-one not-there can shoot nor hurl
Se or pooie a lui tancier
If now I-could with him contend
et [le] combatre et escremir,
and him fight and fence
la char li feroie fremir.
the flesh to-him I-would-make shudder
Or est lasus en son solaz;
Now he-is up-there in his solace
las chetis! et je sui es laz
alas wretch and I am in-the snares
de povreté et de sofrete!
of poverty and of want
Or est bien ma viele frete,
Now is well my viol broken
or dira l'en que je rasote:
now will-say one that I dote
de ce sera mes la riote.
of this will-be henceforth the jeering

Je n'oserai nului veoir,
I not-shall-dare anybody to-see
entre gent ne devrai seoir,
among people not I-shall-have-to sit
que l'en m'i monsterroit au doi.
for one me-there would-show with-the finger
Or ne sai je que fere doi.
Now not know I what do I-ought
Or m'a bien Diex servi de guile.
Now me-has well God served with trick

(Ici vient Theophiles a Salatin qui parloit au Deable quant
Here comes Theophilus to Salatin who spoke to-the Devil when
il voloit).
he wished

[SALATINS] Qu'est ce? qu'avez vos, Theophile?
What-is this what-have you Theophilus
Por le grant Dé! quel mautalent
For the great God what ill-temper
vos a fet estre si dolent?
you has made to-be so sorrowful
Vos soliiez si joiant estre.
You were-wont so joyful to-be
THEOPHILES PAROLE Qu'on m'apeloit seignor et mestre
For-one me-called lord and master
de cest pais, ce ses tu bien;
of this country this knowest thou well
or ne me lesse on nule rien!
now not me leaves one any thing

S'en sui plus dolenz, Salatin,
So-thereof I-am more sorrowful Salatin
quar en francois ne en latin
for in French nor in Latin
ne finai onques de proier
not I-ceased ever of praying
celui qu'or me vuet asproier,
him who-now me wishes to-harass
et qui me fet lessier si monde
and who me makes leave so bare
qu'il ne m'est remes riens el monde.
that-it not to-me-is remained anything in-the world
Or n'est nule chose si fiere
Now not-is any thing so fierce
ne de si diverse maniere
nor of so diverse manner
que volentiers ne la feisse,
that willingly not it I-would-do
par tel qu'a m'onor revenisse.
by such that-to my-honor I-might-come-back
Li perdres m'est honte et domages.
The losing to-me-is shame and damage
ICI PAROLE SALATINS Biaus sire, vos dites que sages,
Fair lord you say as wise
quar qui a apris la richesce,
for who has learned the richness

molt i a dolor et destresce
much there has sorrow and distress
quant l'en chiet en autrui dangier
when one falls into other's power
por son boivre et por son mengier.
for his drink and for his food
Trop i covient gros moz oir.
Too-much there behooves coarse words to-hear
THEOPHILES C'est ce qui me fet esbahir,
This-is this which me makes be-dismayed
Salatin, biaus tres douz amis;
Salatin fair very sweet friend
quant en autrui dangier sui mis
when into other's power I-am put
par pou que li cuers ne m'en crieve.
by little that the heart not to-me-thereof bursts
SALATINS Je sai or bien que molt vos grieve
I know now well that much it-you grieves
et molt en estes entrepris
and much thereof you-are distressed
come hom qui est de si grant pris;
as man who is of so great prize
molt en estes maz et pensis.
much thereof you-are checkmated and pensive

THEOPHILES Salatin frere, or est ainsis.
Salatin brother now it-is thus
Se tu riens pooies savoir
If thou anything couldst know
por quoi je peusse r'avoir
by which I might have-again
m'onor, ma baillie et ma grace,
my-honor my office and my grace
il n'est chose que je n'en face.
it not-is thing that I not-thereof may-do
SALATINS Voudriiez vos Dieu renoier
Would-wish you God to-renounce
celui que tant solez proier,
him whom so-much you-are-wont to-pray
toz ses sainz et totes ses saintes?
all his saints and all his women-saints
Et si devenissiez mains jointes
And so you-might-become hands joined
hom a celui qui ce feroit
man to him who this would-do
qui vostre honor vos renderoit;
who your honor to-you would-render
et plus honorez seriiez
and more honored you-would-be
s'a lui servir demoriiez,
if-at him serving you-remained
qu'onques jor ne peustes estre.
than-ever day — you-could be

Creez moi, lessiez vostre mestre.
Believe me leave your master
Qu'en avez vos entalenté?
What-thereof have you in-mind
THEOPHILES J'en ai trop bone volenté:
I-thereof have exceedingly good will
tot ton plesir ferai briefment.
all thy pleasure I-shall-do briefly
SALATINS Alez vos en seurement;
Go you thence securely
maugrez qu'il en puissent avoir
despite that-they thereof may have
vos ferai vostre honor r'avoir.
you I-shall-make your honor have-again
Revenez demain au matin.
Come-back tomorrow in-the morning
THEOPHILES Volentiers, frere Salatin.
Willingly brother Salatin
Cil Diex que tu crois et aores
That God whom thou believest and adorest
te gart, s'en ce propos demores.
thee may-guard if-in this purpose thou-remainest

(Or se despart Theophiles de Salatin et si pense que
Now himself departs Theophilus from Salatin and so thinks that
trop a grant chose en Dieu renoier et dist)
too-much has great thing in God renouncing and says
Ha, las! que porrai devenir?
Ah alas what I-shall-be-able to-become
Bien me doit li cors dessenir
Well me ought the body go-mad
quant il m'estuet a ce venir.
when it me-behooves to this to-come
Que ferai, las!
What I-shall-do alas
Se je reni saint Nicholas
If I renounce saint Nicholas
et saint Jehan et saint Thomas
and saint John and saint Thomas
et Nostre Dame,
and Our Lady
que fera ma chetive d'ame?
what will-do my wretched of-soul
Ele sera arse en la flame
She will-be burned in the flame
d'enfer le noir:
of-hell the black
la la covendra remanoir.
there her will-behoove to-remain
Ci aura trop hideus manoir,
Here will-have too hideous dwelling
ce n'est pas fable,
this not-is at-all fable

en cele flambe perdurable
in that flame everlasting
n'i a nule gent amiable,
not-there has any people amiable
aincois sont mal, qu'il sont deable,
rather they-are evil for-they are devils
c'est lor nature;
this-is their nature
et lor mesons r'est si obscure
and their house in-turn-is so dark
qu'on n'i verra ja soleil luire,
that-one not-there will-see ever sun shine
ainz est uns puiz toz plains d'ordure.
rather it-is a pit wholly full of-filth
La irai gié!
There shall-go I
Bien me seront li dé changié
Well to-me will-be the dice changed
quant por ce que j'aurai mengié
when for this that I-shall-have eaten
m'aura Diex issi estrangié
me-will-have God thus estranged
de sa meson;
from his house
et ci aura bone reson:
and here will-have good reason
si esbahiz ne fu mes hom
so dismayed not was ever man
com je sui, voir.
as I am truly

Or dit qu'il me fera r'avoir
Now he-says that-he me will-make have-again
et ma richesce et mon avoir;
both my richness and my having
ja nus n'en porra riens savoir:
ever anyone not-thereof will-be-able anything to-know
je le ferai.
I it shall-do
Diex m'a grevé, jel greverai;
God me-has grieved I-him shall-grieve
james jor ne le servirai,
ever day not him I-shall-serve
je li ennui.
I him vex
Riches serai se povres sui;
Rich I-shall-be if poor I-am
se il me het, je harrai lui:
if he me hates I shall-hate him
preingne ses erres
he-may-take his ways
ou il face movoir ses guerres.
or he may-make move his wars
Tot a en main et ciel et terres:
All he-has in hand both heaven and lands
je li claim quite,
I to-him declare quit
se Salatins tot ce m'aquite
if Salatin all this to-me-makes-good
qu'il m'a pramis.
which-he me-has promised

(Ici parole Salatins au Deable et dist:)
Here speaks Salatin to-the Devil and says
Uns crestiens s'est sor moi mis
A Christian himself-has upon me put
et je m'en sui molt entremis;
and I myself-thereof am much engaged
quar tu n'es pas mes anemis,
for thou not-art at-all my enemy
os tu, Sathanz?
hearest thou Satan
Demain vendra, se tu l'atans;
Tomorrow he-will-come if thou him-awaitest
je li ai promis quatre tanz:
I to-him have promised four times
aten le don;
await the gift
qu'il a esté molt grant preudom:
for-he has been very great worthy-man
por ce si a plus riche don.
for this so he-has more rich gift
Met li ta richesce a bandon.
Put to-him thy richness at abandon
Ne m'os tu pas?
Not me-hearest thou at-all
Je te ferai plus que le pas
I thee shall-make more than the pace
venir, je cuit,
come I think
et si vendras encore anuit,
and so thou-wilt-come still tonight

quar ta demoree me nuit;
for thy delay me harms
j'i ai beé.
I-there have gaped

(Ci conjure Salatins le Deable:)
Here conjures Salatin the Devil
bagahi laca bachahé,
bagahi laca bachahé
lamac cahi achabahé,
lamac cahi achabahé
karrelyos,
karrelyos
lamac lamec bachalyos,
lamac lamec bachalyos
cabahagi sabalyos,
cabahagi sabalyos
baryolas,
baryolas
lagozatha cabyolas,
lagozatha cabyolas
samahac et famyolas,
samahac and famyolas
harrahya.
harrahya

(Or vient li Deables qui est conjuré et dist:)
Now comes the Devil who is conjured and says

Tu as bien dit ce qu'il i a.
Thou hast well said that which-it there has

Cil qui t'aprist riens n'oblia,
He who thee-taught anything not-forgot

molt me travailles.
much me thou-troublest

SALATINS Qu'il n'est pas droiz que tu me failles
For-it not-is at-all right that thou me mayest-fail

ne que tu encontre moi ailles
nor that thou against me mayest-go

quant je t'apel.
when I thee-call

Je te faz bien suer ta pel.
I thee make well sweat thy skin

Veus tu oir un geu novel?
Wishest thou to-hear a game new

Un clerc avons
A clerk we-have

de tel gaaing com nos savons;
of such gain as we know

soventes foiz nos en grevons
oft times ourselves thereof we-grieve

por nostre afere.
for our affair

Que loez vos du clerc a fere
What advise you of-the clerk to do

qui se voudra ja vers ca trere?
who himself will-wish soon toward here to-draw

LI DEABLES Coment a non?
How has-he name
SALATINS Theophiles par son droit non.
Theophilus by his right name
Molt a esté de grant renon
Much he-has been of great renown
en ceste terre.
in this land
LI DEABLES J'ai toz jors eu a lui guerre,
I-have all days had with him war
qu'onques jor ne le poi conquerre.
for-ever day not him I-could conquer
Puis qu'il se vuet a nos offerre
Since that-he himself wishes to us to-offer
viengne en cel val,
he-may-come into that valley
sanz compaignie et sanz cheval;
without company and without horse
n'i aura gueres de travail,
not-there will-have much of trouble
c'est pres de ci.
this-is near from here
Molt aura bien de lui merci
Much will-have well of him mercy
Sathans et li autre nerci;
Satan and the other black-ones
mes n'apiaut mie
but not-he-may-call-on at-all
Jhesu le fil Sainte Marie:
Jesus the son (of-)Saint Mary

ne li ferions point d'aie.
not to-him we-would-do a-whit of-aid
De ci m'en vois.
From here myself-thence I-go
Or soiez vers moi plus cortois,
Now be toward me more courteous
ne me traveillier mes des mois
not me trouble more for months
(Va, Salatin)
Go Salatin
ne en ebrieu ne en latin.
neither in Hebrew nor in Latin

(Or revient Theophiles a Salatin)
Now comes-back Theophilus to Salatin
Or sui je venuz trop matin?
Now am I come too early
As tu riens fet?
Hast thou anything done
SALATINS Je t'ai basti si bien ton plet,
I thee-have built so well thy plea
quanques tes sires t'a mesfet
whatever thy lord to-thee-has misdone
t'amendera,
to-thee-will-amend
et plus forment t'onorera,
and more greatly thee-will-honor

et plus grant seignor te fera
and more great lord thee will-make
qu'onques ne fus.
than-ever — thou-wast
Tu n'es or pas si du refus
Thou not-art now at-all so of-the refusal
com tu seras encor du plus.
as thou wilt-be still of-the more
Ne t'esmaier:
Not thyself-dismay
va la aval sanz delaier.
go there down without delaying
Ne t'i covient pas Dieu proier
Not thee-there behooves at-all God to-pray
ne reclamer,
nor to-call-on
se tu veus ta besoingne amer.
if thou wishest thy business to-love
Tu l'as trop trové a amer,
Thou him-hast too-much found to bitter
qu'il t'a failli.
for-he thee-has failed
Mauvesement as or sailli;
Badly thou-hast now leaped
bien t'eust ore mal bailli
well thee-would-have now ill handled
se ne t'edasse.
if not thee-I-had-helped

Va t'en, que il t'atendent; passe
Go thee-thence for they thee-await pass
grant aleure;
great pace
de Dieu reclamer n'aies cure.
of God to-call-on not-have care
THEOPHILES Je m'en vois; Diex ne m'i puet nuire
I myself-thence go God not me-there can harm
ne riens edier,
nor at-all help
ne je ne puis a lui pledier.
nor I not can with him plead

(Ici va Theophiles au Deable, si a trop grant paor, et
Here goes Theophilus to-the Devil so has-he too great fear and
li Deables li dist:)
the Devil to-him says
Venez avant, passez grant pas;
Come forward pass great pace
gardez que ne resamblez pas
take-care that not you-resemble at-all
vilain qui va a offerande.
churl who goes to offering
Que vos vuet ne que vos demande
What you wishes nor what of-you asks
vostre sires? Il est molt fiers!
your lord He is very fierce

THEOPHILES Voire, sire. Il fu chanceliers;
Truly lord He was chancellor
si me cuide chacier pain querre.
so me he-thinks to-chase bread to-seek
Or vos vieng proier et requerre
Now to-you I-come to-pray and to-ask
que vos m'ediez a cest besoing.
that you me-may-help at this need
LI DEABLES Requiers m'en tu? THEOPHILES Oil. LI DEABLES Or joing
Askest me-thereof thou Yes Now join
tes mains, et si devien mes hon.
thy hands and so become my man
Je t'ederai outre reson.
I thee-shall-help beyond reason
THEOPHILES Vez ci que je vos faz homage,
See here that I to-you do homage
mes que je r'aie mon domage,
but that I again-may-have my damage
biaus sire, des or en avant.
fair lord from now in forward
LI DEABLES Et je te refaz un covant
And I to-thee make-in-turn a covenant
que te ferai si grant seignor
that thee I-shall-make so great lord
qu'on ne te vit oncques greignor.
that-one not thee saw ever greater
Et puis que ainsinques avient,
And since that thus it-happens

saches de voir qu'il te covient
know of truth that-it thee behooves
de toi aie letres pendanz
of thee I-may-have letters hanging
bien dites et bien entendanz;
well worded and well understanding
quar maintes genz m'en ont sorpris
for many people me-thereof have surprised
por ce que lor letres n'en pris:
for this that their letters not-thereof I-took
por ce les vueil avoir bien dites.
for this them I-wish to-have well worded
THEOPHILES Vez les ci, je les ai escrites.
See them here I them have written

(Or baille Theophiles les letres au Deable, et li Deables
Now hands Theophilus the letters to-the Devil and the Devil
li commande a ovrer ainsi:)
to-him commands to act thus
Theophile, biaus douz amis,
Theophilus fair sweet friend
puis que tu t'es en mes mains mis,
since that thou thyself-hast into my hands put
je te dirai que tu feras.
I to-thee shall-tell what thou wilt-do
James povre home n'ameras:
Ever poor man not-thou-wilt-love
se povres hom sorpris te proie,
if poor man surprised thee prays

torne l'oreille, va ta voie;
turn the-ear go thy way
s'aucuns envers toi s'umelie,
if-anyone toward thee himself-humbles
respon orgueil et felonie;
answer pride and felony
se povres demande a ta porte,
if poor-man asks at thy gate
si garde qu'aumosne n'en porte.
so take-care that-alms not-thence he-may-carry
Doucor, humilitez, pitiez
Sweetness humility pity
et charitez et amistiez,
and charity and friendship
jeune fere, penitance
fasting to-do penance
me metent grant duel en la pance.
to-me put great grief in the belly
Aumosne fere et Dieu proier,
Alms to-do and God to-pray
ce me repuet trop anoier;
this me in-turn-can too-much vex
Dieu amer et chastement vivre,
God to-love and chastely to-live
lors me samble serpent et guivre
then to-me seems serpent and viper
me menjue le cuer el ventre.
to-me eats the heart in-the belly

Quant l'en en la meson Dieu entre
When one into the house (of-)God enters
por regarder aucun malade,
for to-look-at some sick-man
lors ai le cuer si mort et fade
then I-have the heart so dead and faint
qu'il m'est avis que point n'en sente;
that-it to-me-is seeming that at-all not-thereof I-may-feel
cil qui fet bien si me tormente.
he who does good so me torments
Va t'en! tu seras seneschaus.
Go thee-thence thou wilt-be seneschal
Lai les biens et si fai les maus.
Leave the goods and so do the ills
Ne juge ja bien en ta vie,
Not judge ever well in thy life
que tu feroies grant folie
for thou wouldst-do great folly
et si feroies contre moi.
and so wouldst-do against me
THEOPHILES Je ferai ce que fere doi;
I shall-do that which do I-ought
bien est droiz vostre plesir face
well is right your pleasure I-may-do
puis que j'en doi r'avoir ma grace.
since that I-thereof ought have-again my grace

(Or envoie l'Evesque querre Theophile.)
Now sends the-Bishop to-seek Theophilus
Or tost! lieve sus, Pince-Guerre,
Now quick rise up Pinch-War
si me va Theophile querre,
so for-me go Theophilus to-seek
se li renderai sa baillie.
so to-him I-shall-render his office
J'avoie fet molt grant folie
I-had done very great folly
quant je tolue li avoie;
when I taken from-him it-had
que c'est li mieudres que je voie,
for this-is the best that I may-see
ice puis je bien por voir dire.
this can I well for true say

(Or respont Pince-Guerre:)
Now answers Pinch-War
Vos dites voir, biaus tres douz sire.
You say true fair very sweet lord

(Or parole Pince-Guerre a Theophile et Theophiles respont:)
Now speaks Pinch-War to Theophilus and Theophilus answers
Qui est ceenz? — Et vos qui estes?
Who is within And you who are
— Je sui uns clers. — Et je sui prestres.
I am a clerk And I am priest

Theophile, biaus sire chiers,
Theophilus fair lord dear
or ne soiez vers moi si fiers.
now not be toward me so fierce
Mes sires un pou vos demande;
My lord a little you asks
si r'aurez ja vostre provande,
so you-will-have-again soon your prebend
vostre baillie tote entiere.
your office wholly entire
Soiez liez, fetes bele chiere,
Be glad make fair face
si ferez et senz et savoir.
so you-will-do both sense and knowledge
THEOPHILES Deable i puissent part avoir!
Devils there may part have
J'eusse eue l'eveschié,
I-would-have had the-bishopric
et je l'i mis, si fis pechié.
and I him-there put so I-did sin
Quant il i fu, s'oi a lui guerre,
When he there was so-I-had with him war
si me cuida chacier pain querre.
so me he-thought to-chase bread to-seek
Tripot lirot por sa haine
Tripot lirot for his hatred
et por sa tencon qui ne fine!
and for his quarrel which not ends
J'i irai, s'orrai qu'il dira.
I-there shall-go so-I-shall-hear what-he will-say

PINCE-GUERRE Quant il vos verra, si rira
When he you will-see so he-will-laugh
et dira por vos essaier
and will-say for you to-test
le fist. Or vos revuet paier,
it he-did Now you wishes-again to-appease
et serez ami com devant.
and you-will-be friends as before
THEOPHILES Or disoient assez sovant
Now said plenty often
li chanoine de moi granz fables;
the canons of me great fables
je les rent a toz les deables.
I them render to all the devils

(Or se lieve l'Evesque contre Theophile et li rent sa
Now himself rises the-Bishop toward Theophilus and to-him renders his
dignité et dist:)
dignity and says
Sire, bien puissiez vos venir.
Lord well may you come
THEOPHILES Si sui je, bien me soi tenir:
So am I well myself I-knew-how to-hold
je ne sui pas cheuz par voie.
I not am at-all fallen by way
LI EVESQUES Biaus sire, de ce que j'avoie
Fair lord of this that I-had
vers vos mespris, jel vos ament,
toward you misdone I-it to-you amend

et si vos rent molt bonement
and so to-you I-render very well
vostre baillie: or la prenez,
your office now it take
quar preudom estes et senez,
for worthy-man you-are and sensible
et quanques j'ai si sera vostre.
and whatever I-have so will-be yours
THEOPHILES Ci a molt bone patrenostre,
Here has very good paternoster
mieudre assez qu'onques mes ne dis.
better much than-ever more — I-said
Desormes vendront dis et dis
Henceforth will-come ten and ten
li vilain por moi aorer,
the churls for me to-adore
et je les ferai laborer.
and I them shall-make labor
Il ne vaut rien qui l'en ne dote.
He not is-worth anything whom one not fears
Cuident il je n'i voie gote?
Think they I not-there may-see a-whit
Je lor serai fels et iros.
I to-them shall-be cruel and wrathful
LI EVESQUES Theophile, ou entendez vos?
Theophilus where attend you
Biaus amis, pensez de bien fere.
Fair friend think of good to-do
Vez vos ceenz vostre repere,
See you within-here your dwelling

vez ci vostre ostel et le mien:
see here your house and the mine
nos richesces et nostre bien
our riches and our good
si seront desormes ensamble;
so will-be henceforth together
bon ami serons, ce me samble:
good friends we-shall-be this to-me seems
tot sera vostre et tot ert mien.
all will-be yours and all will-be mine
THEOPHILES Par foi, sire, je le vueil bien.
By faith lord I it wish well

(Ici va Theophiles a ses compaignons tencier, premierement
Here goes Theophilus to his companions to-quarrel first
a un qui avoit non Pierres:)
with one who had name Peter
Pierres, veus tu oir novele?
Peter wishest thou to-hear news
Or est tornee ta roele,
Now is turned thy little-wheel
or t'est il cheu ambes as,
now to-thee-is it fallen double aces
or te tien a ce que tu as,
now thyself hold to this that thou hast
qu'a ma baillie as tu failli.
for-at my office hast thou failed

L'evesque m'en a fet bailli:
The-bishop me-thereof has made bailiff
si ne t'en sai ne gré ne graces.
so not thee-thereof I-know nor thanks nor graces
PIERRES RESPONT Theophile, sont ce manaces?
Theophilus are these threats
Des ier priai je mon seignor
Since yesterday prayed I my lord
que il vos rendist vostre honor,
that he to-you might-render your honor
et bien estoit droiz et resons.
and well it-was right and reason
THEOPHILES Ci avoit dures faoisons
Here had hard fashions
quant vos m'aviiez forjugié.
when you me-had condemned
Maugré vostres, or le r'ai gié:
Despite yours now it have-again I
oblié aviiez le duel.
forgotten you-had the grief
PIERRES Certes, biaus chers sire, a mon vuel
Certainly fair dear lord to my wish
fussiez vos evesques e[sl]us
might-be you bishop elected
quant nostre evesques fu feus;
when our bishop was dead
mes vos ne le vousistes estre,
but you not it wished to-be
tant dotiiez le roi celestre.
so-much you-feared the king celestial

(Or tence Theophiles a un autre:)
Now quarrels Theophilus with an other
Thomas! Thomas! or te chiet mal,
Thomas Thomas now to-thee falls ill
quant l'en me r'a fet seneschal;
when one me in-turn-has made seneschal
or leras tu le regiber
now wilt-leave thou the kicking
et le combatre et le riber.
and the fighting and the brawling
N'auras pior voisin de moi.
Not-thou-wilt-have worse neighbor than me
THOMAS Theophile, foi que vos doi,
Theophilus faith that to-you I-owe
il samble que vos soiez yvres.
it seems that you may-be drunk
THEOPHILES Or en serai demain delivres,
Now thereof I-shall-be tomorrow delivered
maugrez en ait vostre visages.
despite thereof may-have your face
THOMAS Par Dieu! vos n'estes pas bien sages:
By God you not-are at-all well wise
je vos aim tant et tant vos pris!
I you love so-much and so-much you prize
THEOPHILES Thomas! Thomas! ne sui pas pris:
Thomas Thomas not am-I at-all taken
encor porrai nuire et edier.
still I-shall-be-able to-harm and to-help

THOMAS Il samble vos volez pledier,
It seems you wish to-plead
Theophile; lessiez me en pes.
Theophilus leave me in peace
THEOPHILES Thomas! Thomas! je que vos fes?
Thomas Thomas I what to-you do
Encor vos plaindrez bien a tenz,
Still yourself you-will-complain well in time
si com je cuit et com je pens.
so as I think and as I think

(Ici se repent Theophiles et vient a une chapele de
Here himself repents Theophilus and comes to a chapel of
Nostre-Dame et dist:)
Our-Lady and says
Hé, las! chetis! dolenz! que porrai devenir?
Ah alas wretch sorrowful what I-shall-be-able to-become
Terre, coment me pues porter ne sostenir
Earth how me canst-thou carry nor sustain
quant j'ai Dieu renoié et celui voil tenir
when I-have God renounced and him I-wish to-hold
a seignor et a mestre qui toz maus fet venir?
for lord and for master who all ills makes come

Or ai Dieu renoié, ne puet estre teu,
Now I-have God renounced not can be silenced
si ai lessié le basme, pris me sui au seu.
so I-have left the balm taken myself am-I to-the elder
De moi a pris la chartre et le brief receu
From me he-has taken the charter and the letter received
maufez, se li rendrai de m'ame le treu.
devil so to-him I-shall-render of my-soul the tribute

Hé, Diex! que feras tu de cest chetif dolant
Ah God what wilt-do thou of this wretch sorrowful
de qui l'ame en ira en enfer le boillant
of whom the-soul thence will-go into hell the boiling
et li maufé l'iront a lor piez defolant?
and the devils her-will-go with their feet trampling
Ahi, terre, quar œvre, si me va engolant!
Ah earth now open so me go swallowing

Sire Diex, que fera cist dolenz esbahiz
Lord God what will-do this sorrowful dismayed-one
qui de Dieu et du monde est huez et haiz
who by God and by-the world is hooted and hated
et des maufez d'enfer engigniez et trahiz,
and by-the devils of-hell tricked and betrayed
dont sui je de trestoz chaciez et envaiz?
whence am I by all chased and assailed

Hé, las! com j'ai esté plains de grant nonsavoir,
Ah alas how I-have been full of great not-knowing
quant j'ai Dieu renoié por un petit d'avoir!
when I-have God renounced for a little of-having
Les richesces du monde que je voloie avoir
The riches of-the world which I wished to-have
m'ont geté en tel leu dont ne me puis r'avoir.
me-have thrown into such place whence not myself I-can recover

Sathan, plus de sept anz ai tenu ton sentier,
Satan more than seven years I-have held thy path
maus chanz m'ont fet chanter li vin de mon chantier:
evil songs me-have made sing the wines of my trestle
molt felonesse rente m'en rendront mi rentier,
very felon rent to-me-thereof will-render my rent-payers
ma char charpenteront li felon charpentier.
my flesh will-carpenter the felon carpenters

Ame doit l'en amer; m'ame n'ert pas amee.
Soul ought one love my-soul not-will-be at-all loved
N'os demander la Dame qu'ele ne soit dampnee.
Not-I-dare ask the Lady that-she not may-be damned
Trop a male semence en semoisons semee
Too-much has evil seed in sowings sown
de qui l'ame sera en enfer forsemee.
of whom the-soul will-be in hell out-sown

Ha, las! com fol bailli et com fole baillie!
Ah alas how foolish officer and how foolish office
Or sui je mal bailliz et m'ame mal baillie!
Now am I ill handled and my-soul ill handled
S'or m'osoie baillier a la douce baillie,
If-now myself-I-dared to-hand to the sweet keeper
j'i seroie bailliez et m'ame ja baillie.
I-there would-be handed and my-soul already handed

Ors sui et ordoiez doit aler en ordure;
Foul I-am and befouled ought go into filth
ordement ai ovré, ce set cil qui or dure
foully I-have worked this knows he who now lasts
et qui toz jors durra, s'en aurai la mort dure.
and who all days will-last so-thereof I-shall-have the death hard
Maufez, com m'avez mors de mauvese morsure.
Devil how me-you-have bitten with wicked bite

Or n'ai je remanance ne en ciel ne en terre.
Now not-have I abode neither in heaven nor in earth
Ha, las! ou est li leus qui me puisse sofferre?
Ah alas where is the place which me may suffer
Enfers ne me plest pas ou je me voil offerre,
Hell not me pleases at-all where I myself wished to-offer
paradis n'est pas miens, que j'ai au Seignor guerre.
paradise not-is at-all mine for I-have with-the Lord war

Je n'os Dieu reclamer ne ses sainz ne ses saintes,
I not-dare God to-call-on nor his saints nor his women-saints
las! que j'ai fet homage au deable mains jointes.
alas for I-have done homage to-the devil hands joined
Li maufez en a letres de mon anel enpraintes.
The devil thereof has letters with my ring imprinted
Richesce, mar te vi: j'en aurai dolors maintes.
Richness ill thee I-saw I-thereof shall-have sorrows many

Je n'os Dieu ne ses saintes ne ses sainz reclamer
I not-dare God nor his women-saints nor his saints to-call-on
ne la tres douce dame que chascuns doit amer.
nor the very sweet lady whom each ought love
Mes por ce qu'en li n'a felonie n'amer,
But for this that-in her not-has félony nor-bitterness
se je li cri merci nus ne m'en doit blasmer.
if I to-her cry mercy anyone not me-thereof ought blame

(C'est la proiere que Theophiles dist devant Nostre-Dame:)
This-is the prayer that Theophilus says before Our-Lady
Sainte roine bele,
Holy queen fair
glorieuse pucele,
glorious maiden
dame de grace plaine,
lady of grace full
par qui toz biens revele,
by whom all goods are-revealed

qu'au besoing vos apele
who-at-the need you calls
delivrez est de paine,
delivered he-is from pain
qu'a vos son cuer amaine
who-to you his heart leads
ou pardurable raine
in everlasting reign
aura joie novele;
will-have joy new
arosable fontaine
watering fountain
et delitable et saine,
both delightful and healthy
a ton fil me rapele!
to thy son me call-back

En vostre douz servise
In your sweet service
fu ja m'entente mise,
was once my-intent put
mes trop tost fui temptez
but too soon I-was tempted
par celui qui atise
by him who stirs
le mal et le bien brise.
the ill and the good breaks
Sui trop fort enchantez;
I-am too strongly enchanted

quar me desenchantez,
now me disenchant
que vostre volentez
for your will
est plaine de franchise,
is full of nobility
ou de granz orfentez
or with great orphanhoods
sera mes cors rentez
will-be my body rented
devant la fort justice.
before the strong justice

Dame Sainte Marie,
Lady Saint Mary
mon corage varie;
my heart change
ainsi que il te serve,
so that he thee may-serve
ou james n'ert tarie
or ever not-will-be dried
ma dolors ne garie,
my sorrow nor cured
ainz sera m'ame serve;
rather will-be my-soul slave

ci aura dure verve
here will-have hard caprice
s'ainz que la morz m'enerve
if-before that the death me-may-weaken
en vos ne se marie
in you not herself may-marry
m'ame qui vos enterve.
my-soul which you seeks
Sofrez li cors deserve,
Suffer the body may-make-amends
l'ame ne soit perie.
the-soul not may-be perished

Dame de charité
Lady of charity
qui par humilité
who by humility
portas nostre salu,
borest our salvation
qui toz nos as geté
who all us hast thrown
de duel et de vilté
from grief and from vileness
et d'enferne palu,
and from-infernal swamp
dame, je te salu!
lady I thee salute
Tes saluz m'a valu,
Thy salutation me-has availed

jel sai de verité;
I-it know of truth
gart qu'avoec Tentalu
guard that-with Tantalus
en enfer le jalu
in hell the jealous
ne praingne m'erité.
not may-take my-heritage

En enfer ert offerte
Into hell will-be offered
dont la porte est overte
whereof the gate is open
m'ame par mon outrage:
my-soul by my outrage
ci aura dure perte
here will-have hard loss
et grant folie aperte
and great folly open
se la praing herbregage.
if there I-take lodging
Dame, or te faz homage:
Lady now to-thee I-do homage

torne ton douz visage
turn thy sweet face
por ma dure deserte
for my hard desert
envers ton fil le sage;
toward thy son the wise
ne sofrir que mi gage
not suffer that my pledges
voisent a tel poverte.
may-go to such poverty

Si come en la verriere
So as into the window
entre et reva arriere
enters and goes back
li solaus que n'entame,
the sun which not-wounds
ainsinc fus virge entiere
thus thou-wast virgin entire
quant Diex, qui es ciex iere,
when God who in-the heavens was
fist de toi mere et dame.
made of thee mother and lady
Ha! resplandissanz jame,
Ah resplendent gem
tendre et piteuse fame,
tender and merciful woman
quar entent ma proiere,
now hear my prayer

que mon vil cors et m'ame
that my vile body and my-soul
de pardurable flame
from everlasting flame
rapelasses arriere.
thou-mightst-call back

Roine debonere,
Queen gracious
les iex du cuer m'esclere
the eyes of-the heart for-me-light
et l'obscurté esface,
and the-darkness efface
si qu'a toi puisse plere
so that-to thee I-may please
et ta volenté fere,
and thy will do
quar m'en done la grace;
now to-me-thereof give the grace
trop ai eu espace
too-much I-have had space
d'estre en obscure trace:
of-being on dark track

encor m'i cuident trere
still me-there think to-draw
li serf de pute estrace;
the slaves of vile lineage
dame, ja toi ne place
lady ever thee not it-may-please
qu'il facent tel contrere.
that-they may-do such vexation

En vilté, en ordure,
In vileness in filth
en vie trop obscure,
in life too dark
ai esté lonc termine;
I-have been long term
roine nete et pure,
queen clean and pure
quar me pren en ta cure
now me take into thy care
et si me medicine.
and so me medicine
Par ta vertu devine,
By thy virtue divine
qu'ades est enterine,
which-always is entire

fai dedenz mon cuer luire
make within my heart shine
la clarté pure et fine,
the brightness pure and fine
et les iex m'enlumine
and the eyes for-me-illumine
que ne m'en voi conduire.
for not myself-thence I-see to-guide

Li proierres qui proie
The preyer who preys
m'a ja mis en sa proie:
me-has already put into his prey
pris serai et preez;
taken I-shall-be and preyed-upon
trop asprement m'asproie.
too harshly me-be-harasses
Dame, ton chier fil proie
Lady thy dear son pray
que soie despreez;
that I-may-be unpreyed
dame, quar lor veez,
lady now to-them forbid
qui mes mesfez veez,
who my misdeeds see
que n'avoie a lor voie.
for not-I-might-go to their way

Vos qui lasus seez
You who up-there sit
m'ame lor deveez
my-soul to-them forbid
que nus d'els ne la voie.
that any of-them not her may-see

(Ici parole Nostre Dame a Theophile et dist:)
Here speaks Our Lady to Theophilus and says
Qui es tu, va, qui vas par ci?
Who art thou go who goest by here
[THEOPHILES.] Ha, Dame! aiez de moi merci!
Ah Lady have of me mercy
C'est li chetis
This-is the wretch
Theophiles, li entrepris
Theophilus the distressed
que maufé ont loié et pris.
whom devils have bound and taken
Or vieng proier
Now I-come to-pray
a vos, Dame, et merci crier
to you Lady and mercy to-cry
que ne gart l'ore qu'asproier
that not I-may-await the-hour that-to-harass
me viengne cil
me may-come he
qui m'a mis a si grant escil.
who me-has put to so great ruin

Tu me tenis ja par ton fil,
Thou me heldest once for thy son
roine bele!
queen fair
NOSTRE DAME PAROLE: Je n'ai cure de ta favele;
I not-have care of thy chatter
va t'en, is fors de ma chapele.
go thee-thence go out of my chapel
THEOPHILES PAROLE: Dame, je n'ose.
Lady I not-dare
Flors d'eglentier et lis et rose
Flower of-eglantine and lily and rose
en qui li fils Dieu se repose
in whom the son (of-)God himself rests
que ferai gié?
what shall-do I
Malement me sent engagié
Badly myself I-feel pledged
envers le maufé enragié.
toward the devil enraged
Ne sai que fere.
Not I-know what to-do
James ne finirai de brere,
Ever not I-shall-cease of bawling
Virge, pucele debonere,
Virgin maiden gracious
dame honoree,
lady honored
bien sera m'ame devoree,
well will-be my-soul devoured

qu'en enfer sera demoree
for-in hell she-will-be lodged
avoec Cahu.
with Cahu
NOSTRE DAME Theophile, je t'ai seu
Theophilus I thee-have known
ca en arriere a moi eu.
here in back-time to me had
Saches de voir,
Know of truth
ta chartre te ferai r'avoir,
thy charter thee I-shall-make have-again
que tu baillas par nonsavoir:
which thou handedst through not-knowing
je la vois querre.
I it go to-seek

(Ici va Nostre Dame prendre la chartre Theophile.)
Here goes Our Lady to-take the charter (of-)Theophilus
Sathan, Sathan! es tu en serre?
Satan Satan art thou in lock
S'es or venuz en ceste terre
So-thou-art now come into this land
por comencier a mon clerc guerre,
for to-begin with my clerk war
mar le pensas.
ill it thou-thoughtest

Rent la chartre que du clerc as,
Render the charter which of-the clerk thou-hast
quar tu as fet trop vilain cas.
for thou hast done too churlish case
SATHAN PAROLE: Je la vos rande!
I it to-you may-render
J'aim miex assez que l'en me pende.
I-love better much that one me may-hang
Ja li rendi je sa provande
Already to-him rendered I his prebend
et il me fist de lui ofrande,
and he to-me made of himself offering
sanz demorance,
without delay
de cors et d'ame et de sostance.
of body and of-soul and of substance
NOSTRE DAME Et je te foulerai la pance.
And I thee shall-trample the belly

(Ici aporte Nostre Dame la chartre a Theophile.)
Here brings Our Lady the charter to Theophilus
Amis, ta chartre te raport.
Friend thy charter to-thee I-bring-back
Arivez fusses a mal port
Arrived thou-wouldst-be at evil port
ou il n'a solaz ne deport;
where it not-has solace nor delight
a moi entent:
to me attend

va a l'evesque et plus n'atent;
go to the-bishop and more not-wait
de la chartre li fai present,
of the charter to-him make present
et qu'il la lise
and that-he it may-read
devant le pueple en sainte Yglise,
before the people in holy Church
que bone gent n'en soit sorprise
that good people not-thereby may-be caught
par tel barate.
by such fraud
Trop aime avoir qui si l'achate;
Too-much loves having who so it-buys
l'ame en est et honteuse et mate.
the-soul thereby is both shameful and checkmated
THEOPHILES Volentiers, Dame:
Willingly Lady
bien fusse morz de cors et d'ame;
well I-would-be dead of body and of-soul
sa paine pert qui ainsi same,
his pain loses who thus sows
ce voi je bien.
this see I well

(Ici vient Theophiles a l'Evesque et li baille sa chartre
Here comes Theophilus to the-Bishop and to-him hands his charter
et dist:)
and says
Sire, oiez moi! Por Dieu merci!
Lord hear me For God mercy
Quoi que j'aie fet, or sui ci.
Whatever that I-may-have done now am-I here
Par tenz sauroiz
In time you-will-know
de quoi j'ai molt esté destroiz;
of what I-have much been distressed
povres et nus, megres et froiz
poor and bare lean and cold
fui par defaute.
I-was through want
Anemis, qui les bons assaute
Enemy who the good assaults
ot fet a m'ame geter faute
had made to my-soul throw fault
dont morz estoie.
whereby dead I-was

La Dame qui les siens avoie
The Lady who the hers sets-on-the-way
m'a desvoié de male voie
me-has turned from evil way
ou avoiez
where set-on-the-way
estoie et si forvoiez
I-was and so led-astray
qu'en enfer fusse convoiez
that-into hell I-would-be conveyed
par le deable,
by the devil
que Dieu, le pere esperitable,
for God the father spiritual
et tote ovraingne charitable
and all work charitable
lessier me fist.
to-leave me he-made
Ma chartre en ot de quanqu'il dist;
My charter thereof he-had of whatever-he said
seelé fu quanqu'il requist;
sealed was whatever-he asked
molt me greva,
much me it-grieved
par pou li cuers ne me creva.
by little the heart not to-me burst
La Virge la me raporta,
The Virgin it to-me brought-back
qu'a Dieu est mere,
who-to God is mother

la cui bonté est pure et clere;
the whose goodness is pure and clear
si vos vueil proier com mon pere,
so you I-wish to-pray as my father
qu'el soit leue,
that-it may-be read
qu'autre gent n'en soit deceue
that-other people not-thereby may-be deceived
qui n'ont encore aperceue
who not-have yet perceived
tel tricherie.
such trickery

(Ici list l'Evesque la chartre et dist:)
Here reads the-Bishop the charter and says
Oiez, por Dieu le fil Marie,
Hear for God the son (of-)Mary
bone gent, si orrez la vie
good people so you-will-hear the life
de Theophile
of Theophilus
qui anemis servi de guile.
whom enemy served with trick

Aussi voir come est Evangile
As true as is Gospel
est ceste chose;
is this thing
si vos doit bien estre desclose.
so to-you ought well be disclosed
Or escotez que vos propose:
Now listen to-what to-you I-propose

A toz cels qui verront ceste letre comune
To all those who will-see this letter common
fet Sathan a savoir que ja torna fortune,
makes Satan to know that once turned fortune
que Theophiles ot a l'evesque rancune,
that Theophilus had to the-bishop rancor
ne li lessa l'evesque seignorie nesune.
not to-him left the-bishop lordship any

Il fu desesperez quant l'en li fist l'outrage;
He was despairing when one to-him did the-outrage
a Salatin s'en vint qui ot el cors la rage,
to Salatin himself-thence he-came who had in-the body the rage
et dist qu'il li feroit molt volentiers homage,
and said that-he to-him would-do very willingly homage
se rendre li pooit s'onor et son domage.
if to-render to-him he-could his-honor and his damage

Je le guerroiai tant com mena sainte vie,
I him made-war so-long as he-led holy life
qu'onques ne poi avoir desor lui seignorie.
that-ever not I-could have over him lordship
Quant il me vint requerre, j'oi de lui grant envie,
When he to-me came to-seek I-had of him great desire
et lors me fist homage, si r'ot sa seignorie.
and then to-me he-did homage so in-turn-had his lordship

De l'anel de son doit seela ceste letre,
With the-ring of his finger he-sealed this letter
de son sanc l'a escrite, autre enque n'i fist metre,
with his blood it-he-has written other ink not-there he-had put
ainz que je me vousisse de lui point entremetre
before that I myself would-wish of him at-all to-meddle
ne que je le feisse en dignité remetre.
nor that I him might-make into dignity put-back

Issi ovra icil preudom.
Thus worked this worthy-man
Delivré l'a tot a bandon
Delivered him-has wholly at abandon
la Dieu ancele;
the God's handmaid
Marie, la virge pucele,
Mary the virgin maiden
delivré l'a de tel querele:
delivered him-has from such quarrel

chantons tuit por ceste novele.
let-us-sing all for this news
Or levez sus!
Now rise up
Disons: Te Deum laudamus!
Let-us-say Thee God we-praise
