OLD FRENCH SERIES · VOLUME 50

The Romance of Thebes

Le Roman de Thèbes

The Romance of Thebes

Part Two: The Fall of Thebes

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

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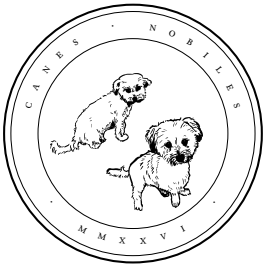

Volume 50 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows L. Constans's text, Le Roman de Thèbes, publié d'après tous les manuscrits (Société des anciens textes français, Paris, 1890), t. I, verses 5173–10230

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Artwork by Esther Steves

The Romance of Thebes is printed as Constans establishes it from all the manuscripts, in the spelling he gives the poem; his verse paragraphs open on an indent, and the verse numbers in the margin, every fifth row, run on through both volumes. His square brackets supply a letter or word the manuscripts lack, and his parentheses mark one the verse does not sound. This second part runs from the second battle before Thebes to the deaths of the brothers and the taking of the city.

CONTENTS

I · The Seven Gates 7
II · Two Brothers 27
III · Polynices Spared 47
IV · The Death of Ates 69
V · Ismene's Lament 84
VI · The Death of Tydeus 100
VII · The Body of Tydeus 115
VIII · Diomedes 134
IX · The Foraging 150
X · The Victuals Won 167
XI · Daire the Red 178
XII · The Tower Taken 198
XIII · The Judgment of Daire 220
XIV · The Ambush Laid 244
XV · The Death of Hippomedon 259
XVI · The Death of Parthenopaeus 278
XVII · Dorceus 293
XVIII · The Death of the Brothers 307
XIX · The Women of Argos 323
XX · Theseus Takes Thebes 346

The Seven Gates

I

Thebes has seven gates, and its counts lodge one to a street: Creon, the king himself, Haemon, Ypseus, Drias, Eurymedon, and Menoeceus each issue by his own gate, sixty-four thousand in all. The Greeks charge, and a tourney opens at every gate. Ypseus kills Melampus, and Parthenopaeus kills Meleager. The Theban foot-soldiers kill the Greeks' horses until Alexis leads a charge that slaughters them. A Theban knight armed only with lance and shield is spared by every Greek, and Alexis drives him through the ranks with a switch.

Sés contes ot, si com jo crei,
Six counts there-had so as I believe
en la cité estre le rei;
in the city besides the king
et si aveit set maistres rues
and so it-had seven main streets
et set portes et set eissues:
and seven gates and seven issues
chascuns sa rue ot herbergiee
each his street had lodged
des sés contes o sa maisniee,
of-the six counts with his household
et en la rue principal
and in the street principal
furent herbergié li reial;
were lodged the royal-ones
chascuns des set sa porte aveit
each of-the seven his gate had
et chascuns par sa porte eisseit.
and each through his gate issued

Des set portes et des barons
Of-the seven gates and of-the barons
poez ici oïr les nons.
you-can here hear the names
Ogige ot non la premeraine:
Ogygia had name the first
il la sornoment Hortolaine
they it surname Hortolaine
por les horz qui devers lé sont,
for the gardens which toward it are
que li borgeis es mareis font.
which the burghers in-the marshes make
Par cele porte en est eissuz
Through that gate thence is issued
Creon li vieuz et li chanuz:
Creon the old and the hoary
c'est li plus riches fors le rei,
it-is the most rich except the king
dez mile homes ot bien o sei.
ten thousand men he-had well with him
Neïste apèlent la seconde:
Neïste they-call the second
desoz ot une val parfonde,
below there-had a valley deep
ou aveit merveillos vergiers
where there-was marvelous orchards
et bos de pins et de loriers.
and woods of pines and of laurels
Par cele porte eissi li reis;
Through that gate issued the king

o lui eissirent plus de treis,
with him issued more than three
car, quant il fu fors en la plaigne,
for when he was out in the plain
vint mile sont en sa compaigne.
twenty thousand are in his company
La tierce ot non Omoloïde.
The third had name Omoloïde
Davant ot une piramide:
Before it-had a pyramid
li païsant l'apèlent Pile;
the country-folk it-call Pile
Cadmus i gést qui fist la vile.
Cadmus there lies who made the town
Iluec sont li arc trionfal
There are the arches triumphal
fait a lïeis et a esmal:
made with limestone and with enamel
ço est la porte del rivage,
that is the gate of-the shore
iluec conversent li evage;
there dwell the water-folk
tanz guarnemenz i veit on pendre,
so-many garments there sees one hang
les riches dras i sueut l'on vendre
the rich cloths there is-wont one to-sell
et Esclavons et Turs et Mors.
both Slavs and Turks and Moors
Emon s'en ést par cele fors;
Haemon himself-thence issues by that-one out

par cele porte eissi li cuens,
through that gate issued the count
et fu auques guarniz des suens:
and was somewhat furnished with-the his
quant il fu fors devers la mer,
when he was out toward the sea
sis puet on a sés mile esmer.
so-them can one at six thousand reckon
La quarte apèlent Propecie:
The fourth they-call Propecie
davant ot une praerie;
before it-had a meadow
un fossé i ot fait o clices,
a ditch there had made with hurdles
por torneier davant les lices.
for to-tourney before the lists
Par cele porte ést Ypseüs:
Through that gate issues Ypseus
dez mile homes ot bien et plus.
ten thousand men he-had well and more
Li torneis mut primes de ça:
The tourney moved first from here
cil i morut quil començа.
he there died who-it began
Electre ot non la quinte après
Electra had name the fifth after
et ne sostint pas mout grant fais:
and not bore at-all very great burden
petit de gent la puet guarnir,
little of folk it can garrison

car mout i fait mal avenir.
for much there does ill to-come
Par cele porte eissi Drianz,
Through that gate issued Drias
chevaliers proz et genz et granz,
knight valiant and noble and great
de proece aveit mout grant los:
of prowess he-had very great praise
cinc mile le sivent al dos.
five thousand him follow at-the back
La siste aveit non Ypsité,
The sixth had name Ypsité
et fu el cor de la cité,
and was in-the corner of the city
en un reduit, dejoste un mont;
in a nook beside a hill
une ève i cort desoz un pont.
a water there runs below a bridge
Une tor ot al pié del pué:
A tower there-had at-the foot of-the height
Eurimedon la tint en fué.
Eurymedon it held in fief
Eurimedon ot grant tenue:
Eurymedon had great holding
par cele porte fu s'eissue.
through that gate was his-issue
Entre sergenz et chevaliers,
Between sergeants and knights
eissirent o lui sés miliers;
issued with him six thousands

sés mile sont de fiére geste:
six thousand are of proud lineage
Capaneüs lor fist moleste
Capaneus to-them did harm
al premerain torneiement,
at-the first tourney
que prist sor eus l'envaiement.
which he-took upon them the-onset
Culmes ot non la setme porte:
Culmes had name the seventh gate
desus ot une tor mout forte;
above there-had a tower very strong
par cele porte dareraine
through that gate hindmost
vait on a Dircé la fontaine,
goes one to Dirce the fountain
et vait chacier en la forest
and goes to-hunt in the forest
li reis de Thèbes, quant li plaist.
the king of Thebes when him it-pleases
Meneceüs ést de la vile
Menoeceus issues from the town
par cele porte, et sont set mile.
through that gate and they-are seven thousand
Eissu en sont, si com mei semble,
Issued thence are so as me it-seems
seisante et quatre mile ensemble.
sixty and four thousand together

Li Greu brochent a granz galos:
The Greeks spur at great gallops
le fou font saillir des chaillos.
the fire they-make leap from-the flints
De ceus qui sont el premier chief
Of those who are in-the first head
puet l'on vint mile metre en brief,
can one twenty thousand put in letter
et dariére vint mout grant coe,
and behind came very great tail
ne finérent jusqu'a la doe:
not they-ended until to-the moat
plus de cent mile i vont ensemble;
more than hundred thousand there go together
tote la terre en crolle et tremble.
all the earth thereof shakes and trembles
Li uns a l'autre dit et jure
The one to the-other says and swears
«mar i avra guardé mesure:
ill there will-have kept measure
«Celui tendront a jumentier
Him they-will-hold for mare-rider
«qu'en portera escu entier.»
who-thence will-carry shield whole
Tuit s'eslaissent hardiement,
All themselves-launch boldly
vers eus prènent l'envaiement:
toward them they-take the-onset
a chascune porte par sei,
at each gate by itself

porreiz veeir espés tornei.
you-will-be-able to-see thick tourney
Melampus esteit dus de Baile:
Melampus was duke of Baile
une enseigne ot que fu de paile
a banner he-had which was of silk
et chevauche avant sa compaigne
and rides before his company
le trait d'un arc par la champaigne.
the shot of-a bow through the field
Un cheval ot ferrant oscur,
A horse he-had iron-gray dark
dont il ocist antan un Tur
whereon he killed last-year a Turk
de grant tenue, forment riche,
of great holding greatly rich
al tornei qui fu a Laliche:
at-the tourney which was at Laliche
isneaus esteit a grant merveille;
swift it-was to great marvel
coliére ot de porpre vermeille,
breast-strap it-had of purple red
et deriére d'un cendal jaune
and behind of-a sendal yellow
ot sor la crope plus d'une aune.
it-had on the crupper more than-an ell
Sor la cuésse porte sa lance;
On the thigh he-carries his lance

sor son hauberc ot conoissance
on his hauberk he-had device
de colors de dous pailes chiers
of colors of two silks dear
et entailliez par eschequiers;
and cut by checkers
d'ivuére ot escu demé blanc
of-ivory he-had shield half white
et demé roge come sanc.
and half red as blood
Ypseüs a sa porte estut:
Ypseus at his gate stood
vit le venir, pas ne se mut.
he-saw him to-come at-all not himself moved
Mout ot li cuens bone maisniee,
Very had the count good household
de bosoigne bien enseigniee:
in need well trained
en eus n'aveit point de desrei,
in them not-there-was point of disorder
onc ne fu gent de tal conrei.
ever not was folk of such array
Quant Melampus fu auques près,
When Melampus was somewhat near
Ypseüs broche a dreit eslais;
Ypseus spurs at straight gallop
li cuens embla le poindre as suens:
the count stole the charge from-the his
o le duc joinst entre les rens.
with the duke he-joined among the ranks

Chevalier sont bon ambedui,
Knights are good both
mais li dus faut, et cil fiert lui,
but the duke misses and he strikes him
et nel feri pas en l'escu,
and not-him struck at-all in the-shield
qui devers destre el pez a nu;
who toward right in-the breast at bare
son espié enz el cors li mist,
his spear in in-the body to-him he-put
onc li haubers ne s'escondist.
ever the hauberk not itself-refused
Ne pot aveir de mort guarant:
Not he-could have of death warrant
mort le trebuche del ferrant.
dead him he-throws from-the iron-gray
Agreüs ot del duc dolor:
Agreus had for-the duke grief
par ire point a un des lor,
in wrath he-spurs at one of-the theirs
en l'escu sa haste peceie;
in the-shield his shaft he-breaks
al torner qu'il fist en sa veie,
at-the turning which he-made in his way
Flegeon feri de l'espee,
Phlegeon he-struck with the-sword
que l'espaule li a sevree.
that the-shoulder to-him he-has severed
Amintas fu uns dus de Perse,
Amintas was a duke of Persia

d'icele pute gent averse:
of-that foul folk perverse
icil trait mieuz que hon que vive,
he shoots better than man that lives
car nule rien son trait n'eschive.
for any thing his shot not-escapes
Soz ciel n'aveit si bon archier:
Under heaven not-there-was so good archer
li reis de Thèbes l'ot mout chier.
the king of Thebes him-had very dear
De Flegeon forment li peise:
For Phlegeon greatly him it-weighs
une saiete a tant enteise.
an arrow at this he-draws
Mout fu tost de la corde eissue:
Very was soon from the string issued
Fedimus a mort en la rue.
Phedimus has killed in the street
Li darz fu entoschiez mout fort;
The dart was poisoned very strongly
Fedimus chiet de male mort;
Phedimus falls by evil death
por la plaie, por le venin,
for the wound for the venom
chiet del cheval morz el chemin.
falls from-the horse dead in-the road
Athamas broche de travers,
Athamas spurs from across
Iphin abat el champ envers;
Iphin he-fells in-the field on-his-back

a destrel fiert soz la mamèle,
at left he-strikes under the breast
mort le trebuche de la sèle.
dead him he-throws from the saddle
Li cuens prist par le champ son tor:
The count took through the field his turn
Argus encontra en l'estor,
Argus he-met in the-fight
mais il ot sa lance perdue,
but he had his lance lost
en son poign tint s'espee nue;
in his fist he-held his-sword bare
celui feri de tal vertu
him he-struck with such strength
que le chief fait voler del bu.
that the head he-makes fly from-the trunk
Ferès nen a o eus fiance:
Pheres not has with them trust
si feri Aban de sa lance
so he-struck Aban with his lance
que del cheval mort le cravante;
that from-the horse dead him he-throws
le conte trueve, a lui s'en vante.
the count he-finds to him himself-thereof boasts
Ion de Pise fu mout proz,
Ion of Pisa was very valiant
et fu el chief del renc desoz.
and was in-the head of-the rank below
En l'or d'un pré, joste une roche,
In the-edge of-a meadow beside a rock

Dapneus encontra de Sadoche:
Daphneus he-met of Sadoche
li uns vers l'autre a esporon
the one toward the-other at spur
par le pré brochent a bandon;
through the meadow they-spur at will
ambedui forment esporonent
both greatly spur
et es escuz granz cous se donent;
and in-the shields great blows themselves they-give
les hastes giétent mout grant crois
the shafts throw very great crack
et contre mont volent li trois.
and against up fly the pieces
Ja seit ço que Ion seit sengles,
Ever be that that Ion be single
granz cous done: rompent les cengles;
great blows he-gives they-break the girths
li laz ne tiénent le peitral;
the laces not hold the breast-strap
Dapneus trebuche del cheval,
Daphneus falls from-the horse
de son trossel tot le destrosse.
from his pack all him he-unpacks
D'ambes parz poignent a l'escosse.
From-both sides they-spur to the-rescue
Drianz fu par sa porte eissuz,
Drias was through his gate issued
et ot o sei cinc mile escuz.
and had with him five thousand shields

D'icele part li torneis mesle:
From-that side the tourney mingles
li geudon giétent mout grant gresle
the foot-soldiers throw very great hail
de saietes, de darz d'acier,
of arrows of darts of-steel
et ocient maint bon destrier.
and kill many-a good charger
Cil de l'ost sont mout volentif:
Those of the-host are very eager
ensemble brochent a estrif;
together they-spur in rivalry
de lor chevaus li Greu n'ont cure,
of their horses the Greeks not-have care
mais joindre puéssent a dreiture.
but to-join they-can at right
Devers la porte ou Drianz feire,
Toward the gate where Drias strikes
Parthonopeus fu en l'afaire:
Parthenopaeus was in the-affair
de cele part tint le tornei
from that side he-held the tourney
et ot grant gent d'Archaide o sei;
and had great folk of-Arcadia with him
toz eslaissiez apoignant vint,
all dashing spurring he-came
onques ainceis ne se retint
ever rather not himself he-held-back
tresque il joinst a un des lor,
until he joined with one of-the theirs

a un baron de grant valor:
with a baron of great worth
Meleagès ot non, ço crei,
Meleager he-had name that I-believe
parenz prochains esteit le rei.
kinsman near he-was (of-)the king
Il le feri de tal vertu,
He him struck with such strength
l'escu li a frait et fendu,
the-shield to-him he-has broken and split
l'auberc rompu et desmaillié,
the-hauberk broken and unmailed
par mé le cors li mist l'espié.
through midst the body to-him he-put the-spear
Cil chaï morz sempres a terre:
He fell dead at-once to earth
si li avint d'icele guerre.
so to-him it-befell from-that war
Drianz sist sor un cheval rous:
Drias sat on a horse red
broche vers eus et joint a dous;
he-spurs toward them and joins with two
l'un des dous a el champ ocis,
the-one of-the two he-has in-the field killed
et l'autre en meine a cheval pris.
and the-other thence he-leads on horse taken
Alexis ot un cheval brun,
Alexis had a horse brown
meillor de lui n'en i ot un:
better than it not-thereof there was one

d'Archaide fu, mout riches cuens.
of-Arcadia he-was very rich count
De loign s'estut et tint les suens,
From afar he-stood and held the his
nes laisse aler pas al tornei
not-them he-lets go at-all to-the tourney
jusque il veie bien por quei:
until he see well for what
auques sot de chevalerie,
somewhat he-knew of chivalry
ne vout rien perdre par folie.
not he-wished anything to-lose through folly
Des chevaus veit faire maçacre:
Of-the horses he-sees make massacre
li geudon i font mainte çacre,
the foot-soldiers there make many-a slaughter
et n'i ont guarde li geudon;
and not-there have guard the foot-soldiers
par le tornei vont a bandon:
through the tourney they-go at will
li Greu nes vuelent adeser,
the Greeks not-them wish to-touch
mout forment l'en prist a peser;
very greatly him-thereof it-took to weigh
les suens apèle, si lor dit:
the his he-calls so to-them says
«Veez, seignor, com nos ocit
See lords how us kills
«la gent de pié toz nos chevaus!
the folk on foot all our horses

«Cist damages est comunaus:
This harm is common
«Ne puet chevaus el champ durer.
Not can horse in-the field last
«Et qui porreit ço endurer?
And who could that endure
«Granz laiz est, se nos l'esguardon,
Great shame it-is if we it-regard
«que ço nos facent en pardon.
that that to-us they-do in impunity
«Vers la geude prenon le poindre,
Toward the foot-soldiery let-us-take the charge
«et n'i ait ja parlé del joindre;
and not-there be ever spoken of-the jousting
«n'i seit ja chevaliers requis,
not-there be ever knight sought
«ne des geudons ne seit uns pris;
nor of-the foot-soldiers not be one taken
«mais, qui quel tienge a vilenie,
but who that-it may-hold for villainy
«quil consivra, sempres l'ocie,
whom-he will-overtake at-once let-him-kill-him
«que li garçon en sus se traient
that the boys off aside themselves draw
«et nostre gent tant vile n'aient,
and our folk so cheap not-they-may-hold
«et dès ore mais se chastient
and from now on themselves they-may-correct
«que noz chevaus ne nos ocient.»
that our horses not to-us they-kill

A tant i broche et cil après:
At this there he-spurs and they after
sor la geude torna li fais;
on the foot-soldiery turned the burden
grant martire font de sergenz
great martyrdom they-make of sergeants
plus en ocient de cinc cenz;
more thereof they-kill than five hundred
li geudon sempres s'esperdiérent,
the foot-soldiers at-once lost-themselves
lor bones cotes i perdiérent,
their good coats there they-lost
car li chevalier les esbueillent
for the knights them disembowel
et li escuier les despueillent.
and the squires them strip
Li autre se traient ariére,
The others themselves draw back
car mout redotent la gent fiére:
for much they-dread the folk proud
onc tant come il al tornei furent,
ever so-long as they at-the tourney were
li geudon pués ne s'aparurent.
the foot-soldiers afterward not themselves-showed
Bon torneier dès ore i fait,
Good tourneying from now there it-makes
car onques pués d'arc n'i ot trait.
for ever afterward with-bow not-there had shot
Alexis forment les aproche:
Alexis greatly them approaches

ja sis enfes n'avra reproche
ever his child not-will-have reproach
de mauvaistié que il i face,
of wickedness which he there may-do
car il tint tote jor la place,
for he held all day the place
et si fist une gaberie
and so he-made a jest
que tindrent tuit a corteisie.
which held all for courtesy
Un chevalier ot dedenz nu,
A knight there-had within naked
qui n'ot ne mais lance et escu;
who not-had nor more-than lance and shield
escu et lance ot senglement,
shield and lance he-had singly
et n'ot plus autre guarnement.
and not-had more other armor
Forment s'abandone al tornei
Greatly himself-gives-up to-the tourney
et mout i fait parler de sei:
and much there makes speak of himself
trop bien le peüssent ocire,
too well him they-could kill
mais chascuns des Greus le revire;
but each of-the Greeks him turns-aside
il nel voleient pas tochier
they not-him wished at-all to-touch
ne de l'ocire estre bochier.
nor of him-to-kill to-be butcher

Alexis apèle un serjant,
Alexis calls a sergeant
si li fait coillir un verjant:
so to-him makes gather a switch
une feiz quant il s'abandone,
one time when he himself-gives-up
Alexis del verjant li done;
Alexis with-the switch to-him gives
entre les rens a dreit eslais
among the ranks at straight gallop
point cil avant, et il après;
spurs he forward and he after
il vait après et cil avant,
he goes after and he forward
par les rens le meine batant;
through the ranks him leads beating
cheval ot bon, tost vait soentre,
horse he-had good soon he-goes following
bien li bat le dos et le ventre,
well to-him he-beats the back and the belly
forment le fiert sor le cropon,
greatly him strikes on the crupper
si le chastie com clerjon.
so him chastises as schoolboy
Tuit le virent par le tornei,
All him saw through the tourney
l'uns a l'autre le mostre al dei;
the-one to the-other him shows with-the finger
par le tornei del gab se rient,
through the tourney at-the jest themselves they-laugh

d'ambedous parz: «Trés bien!» en dient:
from-both sides Very well thereof they-say
maint chevalier en ont envie
many-a knight thereof have envy
plus que d'autre chevalerie.
more than of-other chivalry

Two Brothers

II

Agenor, newly knighted, unhorses Alon and rescues his uncle Drias, who makes him his heir. Capaneus rides out, but the Thebans, remembering yesterday's rout, will not be drawn from their walls. A Greek knight unhorsed among the foot-soldiers is cut to pieces, and Capaneus, charging to avenge him, falls into a mire and wrenches his arm. Menoeceus captures the duke Pancras, Porphyrius unhorses Amphion and is shot dead by a crossbowman, and the prince of Aquileia lops off Palaemon's hand. Two Theban brothers, one serving Polynices, meet unknowing in the press, wound each other mortally, and die embracing.

Agenor esteit niés Driant,
Agenor was nephew (of-)Drias
et sist sor un cheval ferrant: 5470
and sat on a horse iron-gray
il ert adobez al matin,
he was dubbed in-the morning
en lui aveit mout gent meschin;
in him there-was very noble youth
cil fu bien al tornei le jor
he was well at-the tourney the day
et par la presse prist maint tor;
and through the press took many-a turn

mout i fist un grant vasselage,
much there he-did a great prowess
come toseaus de son aage,
as youth of his age
car davant set cenz chevaliers
for before seven hundred knights
entre les rens joinst toz premiers.
among the ranks he-joined all first
Entre les rens joinst o Alon
Among the ranks he-joined with Alon
et nel feri pas el talon,
and not-him struck at-all in-the heel
ainz le feri si en la chiére
rather him he-struck so in the face
par la crope l'abat ariére.
over the crupper him-he-throws-down back
Ales li a grant coup rendu:
Ales to-him has great blow returned
bien li a esfondré l'escu,
well to-him he-has staved-in the-shield
tot le li a frait et fendu;
all it to-him he-has broken and split
por poi ne l'a mort abatu.
for little not him-he-has dead thrown-down
As suens s'en retorne Agenor,
To-the his himself-thence returns Agenor
sin ameine le cheval sor:
so-thence he-leads the horse sorrel

onc ne remést tal en Espaigne
ever not remained such in Spain
ne si preisié en la compaigne.
nor so prized in the company
A l'escosse de son parent
To the-rescue of his kinsman
broche Drianz isnèlement,
spurs Drias swiftly
mais del cheval l'ont a pié mis,
but from-the horse him-they-have on foot put
car de treis lances l'ont requis.
for with three lances him-they-have sought
Agenor torne tost vers lui:
Agenor turns soon toward him
bien se defendent ambedui,
well themselves defend both
cil a pié et cil a cheval;
he on foot and he on horse
come sangler donent estal,
as boar they-give stand
Agenor del ferir ne cesse,
Agenor from-the striking not ceases
et sostint tant, il sous, la presse
and bore so-long he alone the press
que Drianz monte el cheval sor,
that Drias mounts on-the horse sorrel
pués trait l'espee o le pont d'or.
then he-draws the-sword with the pommel of-gold
Li niés o l'oncle s'entraïent:
The nephew with the-uncle each-other-help

del bien ferir pas ne s'oblient;
of-the well striking at-all not themselves-forget
granz los en avint al tosel,
great praise thereof befell to-the youth
come de chevalier novel;
as of knight new
et en reçut gent don le seir,
and thereof received noble gift the evening
car sis oncles en fist son heir:
for his uncle thereof made his heir
li reis le vit et si baron,
the king it saw and his barons
quant de s'onor li fist le don.
when of his-domain to-him he-made the gift
Eurimedon sa gent conreie:
Eurymedon his folk arrays
n'en i a un, s'il se desreie,
not-thereof there has one if-he himself breaks-rank
ne li ocie son cheval.
not to-him may-kill his horse
Al pié d'un pué fu en un val,
At-the foot of-a height he-was in a valley
et sa maisniee si chastie
and his household so chastises
que rien ne perde par folie.
that anything not they-lose through folly
Capaneüs de l'ost se part:
Capaneus from the-host himself parts
torneier vait de cele part.
to-tourney goes from that side

Tote sa gent a grant esforz
All his folk with great effort
sonent tabors et sonent corz:
sound drums and sound horns
el premier chief grant noise font.
in-the first head great noise they-make
Apoignant viénent par le mont
Spurring they-come over the hill
et descendent en la valee,
and go-down into the valley
a desrei brochent par la pree,
in disorder they-spur through the meadow
Capaneüs les guie avant
Capaneus them guides before
et sist en un cheval ferrant:
and sat on a horse iron-gray
ses enemis engeignier cuide,
his enemies to-trick he-thinks
as engeignier a mis s'estuide;
on-the tricking he-has put his-study
mout les voudreit forstraire loign.
much them he-would-wish to-draw-out far
Mais cil dedenz d'içо n'ont soign:
But those within of-this not-have care
remembre lor del grant damage
remembers to-them of-the great harm
que il reçurent par folage:
which they received through folly
mout grant damage hier i reçurent,
very great harm yesterday there they-received

car par desrei desconfit furent;
for through disorder discomfited they-were
de la cité trop s'esloigniérent,
from the city too-far themselves-they-distanced
et en la fuie mout perdiérent.
and in the flight much they-lost
Qui vout faire chevalerie
Who wished to-do chivalry
d'icele part n'en trova mie,
from-that side not-thereof found at-all
se en la geude ne l'ont quise:
if in the foot-soldiery not it-they-have sought
des chevaus i font grant ocise.
of-the horses there they-make great slaughter
Lucïens broche a esporon
Lucian spurs with spur
tant com l'on puet traire un bojon;
as-far as one can shoot a bolt
o Ponçon joinst de Meletant,
with Ponçon he-joined of Meletant
en mé le front fiert l'auferant;
in midst the brow he-strikes the-charger
et si com li chevaus beslive,
and so as the horse swerves
et Lucïens vers lui s'esbrive:
and Lucian toward him rushes
le cheval et le chevalier
the horse and the knight
abatié tot en mé l'erbier.
he-threw-down all in midst the-grass

Li sergent sont de totes parz:
The sergeants are from all sides
traient quarreaus et lancent darz,
they-shoot quarrels and they-hurl darts
[et] son cheval soz lui ocient:
and his horse under him they-kill
«Mar en ira,» entre eus s'escrient.
Ill thence he-will-go among them they-cry
A pié remést cil en la presse,
On foot remained he in the press
mais s'espee point ne lor laisse;
but his-sword at-all not to-them he-leaves
ja tant com se puésse defendre,
ever so-long as himself he-may defend
ne se laira as sergenz prendre.
not himself he-will-let to-the sergeants take
O le bon brant, que fu d'acier,
With the good blade which was of-steel
lor fist sempres un eschacier:
to-them he-made at-once a one-legged-man
a un autre trencha la main,
to an other he-cut the hand
le tierz feri si plein a plein
the third he-struck so full on full
que le trenchant de la lemèle
that the edge of the blade
li embatié en la cervèle.
to-him he-drove into the brain
Mais li sergent sor lui s'aïrent,
But the sergeants on him rage

de totes parz fort le detirent:
from all sides strongly him they-tear
entre vilains fait mal chaeir;
among villeins it-makes ill to-fall
de rien qu'il puéssent sorpoeir
of anything that-they could overpower
n'avront ja merci li vilain.
not-will-have ever mercy the villeins
Le chevalier ne pristrent sain:
The knight not they-took whole
piéce a piéce le detrenchiérent,
piece by piece him they-cut-up
si compaignon bien le vengiérent.
his companions well him avenged
Capaneüs ot mout grant ire,
Capaneus had very great wrath
quant vit son chevalier ocire:
when he-saw his knight to-kill
en haute voiz s'enseigne escrie
in high voice his-cry he-shouts
et ses homes o sei alie;
and his men with him allies
en haute voiz crie s'enseigne,
in high voice he-shouts his-cry
n'en i a un qui ja s'en feigne.
not-thereof there has one who ever himself-thence may-hold-back
Cil dedenz afichié se sont:
Those within fixed themselves are
desoz la tor, al chief del pont,
below the tower at-the head of-the bridge

tuit sont serré et bien estreit;
all are close and well tight
chascuns jure le deu ou creit
each swears the god where he-believes
por poor de perdre la vie
for fear to lose the life
n'i avra faite coardie.
not-there will-have done cowardice
Fient sei en lor forterece,
They-trust themselves in their fortress
car, se il lor torne a destrece,
for if it to-them turns to distress
dedenz le baille se coildront,
within the bailey themselves they-will-gather
ne ja de rien ne les crendront.
nor ever of anything not them they-will-fear
Capaneüs fu mout trenchis;
Capaneus was very cutting
toz a bandon entre eus s'est mis,
all at will among them himself-is put
toz premerains des suens desrenge:
all first of-the his he-breaks-rank
morz est, se sa honte ne venge.
dead he-is if his shame not he-avenges
Sa maisniee le siut après:
His household him follows after
trei mile en brochent a eslais.
three thousand thence spur at gallop
Capaneüs pas nes redote:
Capaneus at-all not-them dreads

o s'espee se fait sa rote,
with his-sword himself makes his road
que trenche bu, que trenche teste.
which cuts trunk which cuts head
Le jor eüssent male feste,
The day they-would-have-had evil feast
de ceus dedenz mout ocesist,
of those within many he-would-have-killed
se en la presse ne chaïst.
if in the press not he-had-fallen
Meine les o l'espee nue,
He-leads them with the-sword bare
mais en un destreit d'une rue
but in a narrow of-a street
sis chevaus chiet en terre franche:
his horse falls on earth soft
ne pot resordre, si estanche,
not it-could rise-again so it-founders
en un tai chiet sor son costé.
into a mire it-falls on its side
Ainz que l'en eüssent osté,
Before that him-thence they-had removed
ainceis que il fust del tai fors,
before that he were from-the mire out
ot malement le braz estors;
he-had badly the arm twisted
pués ne dona le jor colee
after not he-gave the day blow
de sa lance ne de s'espee.
with his lance nor with his-sword

Mais por ço pas ne se retiénent
But for that at-all not themselves hold-back
si compaignon, que tuit i viénent.
his companions for all there come
Par le pré est l'envaiement:
Through the meadow is the-onset
onc nel guerpirent de neient,
ever not-it they-abandoned in anything
issi com l'orent porparlé,
thus as it-they-had planned
jusqu'il en ont mout afolé.
until-they thence have many maimed
Meneceüs ést par sa porte:
Menoeceus issues by his gate
les suens esbaudist et conforte,
the his he-heartens and comforts
de bien ferir les amoneste;
to well strike them he-exhorts
remembre lor la fiére geste,
recalls to-them the proud lineage
le bon linage dont il sont.
the good lineage whereof they are
Il meïsmes, qui les somont,
He himself who them summons
joinst premerains avant eus toz,
joined first before them all
car il fu mout hardiz et proz.
for he was very bold and valiant
En un cheval d'Arabe sist,
On a horse of-Arabia he-sat

que li reis Daires li tramist:
which the king Darius to-him sent
il dui erent cosin germain,
they two were cousins german
car il esteit fiz de s'antain.
for he was son of his-aunt
Del cheval ne sét l'on prez dire,
Of-the horse not knows one worth to-say
car mout vait tost et bien se vire;
for very it-goes fast and well itself turns
et fu partiz par mé l'eschine:
and was parted through midst the-spine
l'un costé ot blanc come ermine,
the-one side it-had white as ermine
et l'autre tot neir come more.
and the-other all black as mulberry
Soz ciel n'a rien que o lui core;
Under heaven not-is thing which with it may-run
ço sachiez bien, ne bai ne brun,
that know well nor bay nor brown
tant viacier n'en i a un;
so swift not-thereof there has one
n'en i a un ne brun ne bai,
not-thereof there has one nor brown nor bay
que il ne giet mout tost el tai;
that it not may-throw very soon in-the mire
fous est qui plus isnel demande.
foolish is who more swift asks
Cil le rabine par la lande;
He it drives through the heath

Meneceüs le cheval point
Menoeceus the horse spurs
et o Pancrace avant eus joint,
and with Pancras before them joins
Pancraces fu dus de Roussie:
Pancras was duke of Russia
grant los ot de chevalerie;
great praise he-had of chivalry
riches hon fu de grant afaire;
rich man he-was of great affair
apoignant vint sor Pènevaire.
spurring he-came on Pènevaire
Ambedui brochent de grant brif:
Both spur with great force
l'uns a l'autre broche a estrif.
the-one to the-other spurs in rivalry
La ou il primes se trovérent,
There where they first themselves found
es escuz granz cous se donérent,
in-the shields great blows themselves they-gave
la ou li baron s'entrencontrent,
there where the barons each-other-meet
et escuz et haubers esfondrent.
both shields and hauberks they-stave-in
De vertu li baron se fiérent,
With strength the barons themselves strike
mais en char pas ne se tochiérent:
but in flesh at-all not themselves they-touched

des chevaus s'abatent ariére
from-the horses themselves-they-throw-down back
en la lande sor la bruiére,
on the heath upon the heather
et cil dedenz et cil de l'ost
and those within and those of the-host
a l'escosse poignent mout tost.
to the-rescue spur very soon
Sor eus fu mout grant la meslee,
On them was very great the melee
doné i ot mainte colee;
given there had many-a blow
mais la force est a ceus dedenz.
but the force is with those within
Meneceüs ne fu pas lenz:
Menoeceus not was at-all slow
isnèlement monte el cheval,
swiftly he-mounts on-the horse
le duc saisi par le nasal,
the duke he-seized by the nose-guard
vers la cité a tot s'en torne;
toward the city with all himself-thence turns
cil de l'ost en reméstrent morne.
those of the-host thence remained gloomy
Amphion mout forment se peine
Amphion very greatly himself strives
del bien ferir: ses pérs i meine.
of-the well striking his peers there he-leads
En son bon cheval mout se fie,
In his good horse much himself he-trusts

que fu buens por chevalerie:
which was good for chivalry
mout aveit avenant pareil
very there-was comely match
en lui et en son cheval teil,
in him and in his horse linden-colored
car li chevaus vait franchement
for the horse goes freely
et il le meine avenantment.
and he it leads comely
D'armes porter fu mout corteis,
Of-arms to-bear he-was very courtly
ja nes portast mieuz uns Franceis;
ever not-them would-bear better a Frenchman
lance levee, escu davant,
lance raised shield before
le cheval teil vait jambeiant;
the horse linden-colored goes prancing
et quant il fu près, si desserre,
and when he was near so he-lets-loose
a mout granz sauz porprent la terre.
in very great leaps takes the ground
De destre vit un Greu venir
From right he-saw a Greek to-come
et une enseigne grant tenir:
and a banner great to-hold
le Greu apèle l'on Porphyre,
the Greek calls one Porphyrius
et Amphion vers lui se vire.
and Amphion toward him himself turns

De la veie li Greus sailli,
From the way the Greek leapt
et Amphion a lui failli;
and Amphion at him missed
cil faut, et li Greus de travers
he misses and the Greek from across
Amphion fiert et giéte envers.
Amphion strikes and throws on-his-back
Dejoste ot un arbalestier,
Beside there-had a crossbowman
qui mout sot bien de son mestier:
who very knew well of his craft
il avise, destent et trait,
he aims stretches and shoots
Porphyre fiert. Cil giéte un brait,
Porphyrius he-strikes He throws a cry
et a morir pas ne demore,
and to die at-all not delays
car li granz cous mortaus l'acore.
for the great blow mortal him-slays
Sa lance ot Palemon perdue,
His lance had Palaemon lost
en son poign tint s'espee nue;
in his fist he-held his-sword bare
chevauche al prince d'Aquilee,
he-rides at-the prince of-Aquileia
qui fu de la, lance levee.
who was from there lance raised
Li princes ot grant cuer et riche:
The prince had great heart and rich

en la terre sa lance fiche.
in the earth his lance he-fixes
Ne fust pas egal la meslee
Not would-be at-all equal the melee
qu'il eüst lance et cil espee.
that-he might-have lance and he sword
L'espee trait, pués li cort sore:
The-sword he-draws then to-him runs over
josté furent en [mout] poi d'ore.
joined they-were in very little of-hour
Li princes fu de grant vertu:
The prince was of great strength
celui feri si en l'escu
him he-struck so in the-shield
que tot li fent et eschantèle,
that all to-him he-splits and chips
por poi ne l'abat de la sèle.
for little not him-he-throws-down from the saddle
Cil le refiert en l'eaume sus,
He him strikes-back on the-helmet above
tot un quartier en abat jus:
all a quarter thereof he-throws down
rét lui la barbe et le guernon,
he-shaves him the beard and the mustache
un poi l'entama el menton.
a little him-he-cut in-the chin
Si com li princes s'en depart,
So as the prince himself-thence departs
torna s'en de la destre part:
he-turned himself-thence from the right side

cil ot son cop levé a l'esme,
he had his blow raised at the-aim
et li princes le suen acesme;
and the prince the his readies
el braz le fiert, del poign l'afole,
in-the arm him he-strikes from-the fist him-he-maims
la main destre en la place vole,
the hand right in the place flies
de dous fréres assez enfanz
of two brothers enough children
qui s'entrocistrent fu dueus granz.
who each-other-killed was grief great
Mout erent proz de lor aage
Very were valiant for their age
et mout erent de grant parage:
and very were of great lineage
après le rei, en la cité
after the king in the city
n'aveit plus noble parenté.
not-there-was more noble kindred
Li ainz nez esteit de grant fei,
The first born was of great faith
Polinicès l'aveit o sei;
Polynices him-had with him
par son message l'ot somons:
by his message him-he-had summoned
por l'ostage et por les granz dons
for the-hostage and for the great gifts
que Polinicès li donot,
which Polynices to-him gave

de lui servir s'abandonot.
of him to-serve himself-he-gave-up
Li autres remést en maison,
The other remained in house
enfes senz barbe et senz guernon:
child without beard and without mustache
n'aveit mie plus de dous meis
not-there-was at-all more than two months
que l'aveit adobé li reis.
that him-had dubbed the king
Adobé l'aveit richement,
Dubbed him-he-had richly
mout valeient si guarnement:
much were-worth his armor
doné li aveit cheval gent,
given to-him he-had horse noble
bien valeit treis cenz mars d'argent;
well it-was-worth three hundred marks of-silver
sor le cheval ot gent conrei.
on the horse he-had noble array
Eissuz esteit fors al tornei:
Issued he-was out to-the tourney
or guardez quaus pechiez le chace!
now see which sins him hunt
Car son frére encontre en la place;
For his brother he-meets in the place
ne se conurent pas il dui:
not themselves knew at-all they two
il li chevauche et cil a lui.
he to-him rides and he to him

Si com l'aventure ert a estre,
So as the-adventure was to be
ambedui joignent devers destre;
both join toward right
a la jointe trop s'abandonent
at the joust too-much themselves-they-give-up
et es escuz granz cous se donent;
and in-the shields great blows themselves they-give
mout tost brochent et pas ne faillent;
very soon they-spur and at-all not they-miss
li hauberc rompent et desmaillent:
the hauberks break and unmail
ne sont tant serré ne tant fort
not are so close nor so strong
que les puéssent guarir de mort.
that them they-may protect from death
Par mé le cors a mort se fiérent
Through midst the body to death themselves they-strike
et des chevaus jus s'abatiérent.
and from-the horses down themselves-they-threw
A terre coneü se sont:
On ground known themselves they-are
li uns plaint l'autre, grant duel font;
the one laments the-other great grief they-make
chascuns plaint l'autre plus que sei,
each laments the-other more than himself
car mout érent de bone fei,
for very were of good faith
il s'entramoent a merveille.
they each-other-loved to marvel

De lor sanc fu l'erbe vermeille.
With their blood was the-grass red
Lor morz se pardonent et plorent,
Their deaths themselves they-forgive and weep
et tant com pueent por eus orent;
and so-much as they-can for them they-pray
li uns baise l'autre et embrace,
the one kisses the-other and embraces
ensemble muerent en la place.
together they-die in the place

Polynices Spared

III

Menoeceus finds his two nephews dead and carries them into the city. Creon hides men in the gardens, and his decoys draw Polynices and the Greeks into the ambush; the Greeks flee, leaving three hundred prisoners. Polynices, alone on a wounded horse, is caught by two brothers whom Eteocles disinherited; the elder will not take a ransom from his natural lord and lets him go. Adrastus meets Eteocles at a trench and drives the Thebans back. Ates unhorses a Greek before Ismene's eyes, Haemon jousts with Tydeus, and Tydeus, his horse wounded, mounts again and meets Ates.

Meneceüs rot fait son tor
Menoeceus again-had made his turn
et se refu mis en l'estor.
and himself again-was put in the-fight
En l'or d'un bos, joste un meslier,
In the-edge of-a wood beside a medlar
geseient mort li chevalier.
lay dead the knights

Meneceüs vait cele part,
Menoeceus goes that way
conut les del premier reguart:
knew them at-the first look
il erent fil de sa seror.
they were sons of his sister
Duel ot grant, onc nen ot maior;
Grief he-had great ever not he-had greater
de ses nevoz fu mout marriz,
for his nephews he-was very grieved
car il les ot soéf norriz:
for he them had gently nurtured
il les aveit toz jorz amez,
he them had all days loved
por poi ne chiet sor eus pasmez;
for little not he-falls on them swooned
mais sa maisniee le conforte.
but his household him comforts
Al n'i ot plus: les cors en porte;
Else not-there had more the bodies thence he-carries
ses dous nevoz desarmer fait
his two nephews to-disarm he-makes
et de lor dos les haubers trait.
and from their backs the hauberks draws
Dui escuier sor palefreiz
Two squires on palfreys
les en portent es cols toz freiz:
them thence carry on-the necks all fresh

les cors ont genz et escheviz
the bodies they-have noble and slender
et sont vestu de dous samiz;
and are clothed in two samites
d'un paile sont andui chaucié;
with-a silk are both shod
davant sont un poi estaucié;
before they-are a little cropped
detrés gést la cheveleüre
behind lies the hair
longue et bloie vers la ceinture;
long and blond toward the girdle
sor les espaules vont li crin,
on the shoulders go the locks
li chief lor pendiérent enclin,
the heads to-them hung bowed
et sembloent trop franches choses:
and they-seemed very noble things
li sans vermeuz resaut par poses,
the blood red spurts by pauses
li palefrei, qui erent blanc,
the palfreys which were white
ont les costez vermeuz del sanc.
have the sides red with-the blood
La oïssiez et cri et plor,
There you-would-have-heard both cry and weeping
car d'eus esguarder est dolor:
for of-them to-look-on is grief

cil qui les cors en veit porter
he who the bodies thence sees carry
por rien ne se puet conforter;
for anything not himself can comfort
ne puet aveir tant dur corage
not can have so hard heart
que il ne plort d'icel damage.
that he not may-weep for-that harm
Creon li vieuz et li veisos
Creon the old and the wily
sist en un cheval liart ros:
sat on a horse dapple roan
armes ot a guise de France,
arms he-had in fashion of France
heaume et hauberc, escu et lance;
helmet and hauberk shield and lance
et fu uns lons, uns granz, uns maigres,
and was a tall-one a great-one a lean-one
en bataille hardiz et aigres.
in battle bold and keen
Bien sot fol engeignier et tondre:
Well he-knew fool to-trick and to-shear
ses homes fait es horz repondre
his men he-makes in-the gardens hide
desoz les oliviers foilluz;
below the olive-trees leafy
n'en pareit heaumes ne escuz.
not-thereof appeared helmets nor shields
Set cenz en fait eissir al plain:
Seven hundred thereof he-makes issue to-the plain

n'en i a un fol ne vilain;
not-thereof there has one foolish nor villein
bien sont duét de chevalerie.
well are trained in chivalry
Cil vont comencier la folie,
They go to-begin the folly
et il la comencent mout tost,
and they it begin very soon
la ou il truevent ceus de l'ost;
there where they find those of the-host
la ou truevent ceus de lor guerre,
there where they-find those of their war
chascuns en met le suen a terre.
each thence puts the his to earth
Bien reüsent les Greus ariére
Well they-drive-back the Greeks back
et abatent par la poudriére;
and fell through the dust
meinent les a desconfiture
they-lead them to discomfiture
par le champ la grant aleüre,
through the field the great pace
quant Polinicès les socort:
when Polynices them succors
il i perdra ainz que s'en tort.
he there will-lose before that himself-thence he-turn
Il aveit maisniee reial,
He had household royal
josté i sont maint bon vassal;
joined there are many-a good vassal

maint chevalier de mainte terre
many-a knight of many-a land
sont a lui venu por conquerre,
are to him come for to-conquer
de mainte terre i sont venu:
from many-a land there are come
n'en i a un vieil ne chanu.
not-thereof there has one old nor hoary
Cil le servent améement,
They him serve lovingly
et il lor donot largement.
and he to-them gave largely
La ou il ses enemis trueve,
There where he his enemies finds
n'en i a un que il n'esmueve:
not-thereof there has one whom he not-may-move
un en abat en mé la veie,
one thereof he-fells in midst the way
prent lui et en l'ost l'en enveie.
he-takes him and in the-host him-thence sends
Cil metent lor dos en tresait
Those put their back in haste
et tornent s'en a lor aguait.
and turn themselves-thence to their ambush
Qui veïst Greus poindre et brochier,
Who might-have-seen Greeks spur and prick
par puéz et par vaus derochier!
through heights and through vales to-tumble
Ferant, batant les vont al dos,
Striking beating them they-go at-the back

jusque dedenz les ont enclos.
until within them they-have enclosed
A tant cil saillent des vergiers,
At this those leap from-the orchards
et ne semblérent pas bergiers:
and not seemed at-all shepherds
tant heaume veïssiez a flors
so-many helmet you-would-have-seen with flowers
et tant escu peint de colors,
and so-many shield painted with colors
tant cheval gras et aplaignié,
so-many horse fat and groomed
de tante guise entreseignié.
of so-many fashion blazoned
Les enseignes flotent el vent,
The banners float in-the wind
graisles i sonent plus de cent.
trumpets there sound more than hundred
Il n'i ot plus: les lances baissent
It not-there had more the lances they-lower
et a travers a eus s'eslaissent.
and at across at them themselves-launch
Quant Greu veient que n'en iert al,
When Greeks see that not-thereof will-be else
vers eus virent come vassal.
toward them they-turn as vassal
Polinicès toz premiers vire,
Polynices all first turns

car il ot en son cuer grant ire
for he had in his heart great wrath
de son frére quil desherite:
of his brother who-him disinherits
a un d'eus en rent tal merite,
to one of-them thence he-renders such reward
qu'il a trové en mé le renc,
whom-he has found in midst the rank
faussa lui l'auberc jazerenc,
he-pierced him the-hauberk jazerant
que il teneient a mout fort;
which they held for very strong
el champ l'abat del cheval mort.
in-the field him-he-fells from-the horse dead
Si compagnon ne targent mie,
His companions not delay at-all
tost refurent a la folie:
soon again-they-were at the folly
as premiers cous les hastes froissent,
at-the first blows the shafts they-shatter
et li escu fendent et croissent;
and the shields split and crack
as espees li Greu en viénent
with-the swords the Greeks thereof come
et mout grant piéce le champ tiénent.
and very great while the field they-hold
Forment endurérent treis torz,
Greatly they-endured three turns
et fu bien feruz li estorz;
and was well struck the fight

al quart nel porent mais sofrir,
at-the fourth not-it they-could more suffer
si lor estuet le champ guerpir.
so to-them it-behooves the field to-abandon
Li Greu s'en fuient a eslais,
The Greeks themselves-thence flee at gallop
mais, ço sachiez, n'en pueent mais,
but that know not-thereof they-can more
car la force est a ceus dedenz,
for the force is with those within
qui ont pris d'eus plus de treis cenz.
who have taken of-them more than three hundred
Polinicès d'eus se depart,
Polynices from-them himself parts
toz sous s'en torne a une part;
all alone himself-thence turns to one side
par un val, joste une sapeie,
through a valley beside a fir-wood
fors de la rote se desveie,
out of the troop himself strays
car il crent mout et forment dote
for he fears much and greatly dreads
la grant flote que vait la rote.
the great throng which goes the route
Dui frére l'ont aperceü
Two brothers him-have perceived
et mout l'ont tost aconseü,
and very him-have soon overtaken
car sis chevaus del chaut estanche,
for his horse from-the heat founders

qui navrez fu desoz la hanche.
which wounded was below the haunch
Li dui frére l'ont retenu,
The two brothers him-have held
et lor en fust bien avenu,
and to-them thereof would-have well befallen
sel vousissent mener al rei;
if-him they-had-wished to-lead to-the king
mais il ne lor porta onc fei,
but he not to-them bore ever faith
ainceis les desherite a tort:
rather them he-disinherits at wrong
sor mer lor tout un chastel fort;
on sea from-them he-takes a castle strong
un chastel fort lor tout sor mer,
a castle strong from-them he-takes on sea
ne onques jor nes pot amer,
nor ever day not-them he-could love
et por lor grant chevalerie
and for their great chivalry
Etioclès lor porte envie.
Eteocles to-them bears envy
Li ainz nez dit al joveignor:
The first born says to-the younger
«Se je cestui mein mon seignor,
If I this-one lead my lord
«il n'avra mais cure de guerre:
he not-will-have more care of war
«Chacera nos pués de sa terre,
He-will-hunt us then from his land

«car se, come il est angoissos,
for if as he is anguished
«ne puet nul bien dire de nos,
not can any good say of us
«ne sai jo mais qual mal nos face,
not know I more what ill to-us he-may-do
«se de tot en tot ne nos chace.
if from all in all not us he-hunts
«Se cist ne fust qu'est eissillos,
If this-one not were who-is exiled
«tant fust et fiers et orgoillos
so-much he-were both proud and haughty
«le meillor home de son regne
the best man of his realm
«ne preisast il pas une femne;
not would-prize he at-all a woman
«se nos cestui lui menïon,
if we this-one to-him should-lead
«nos et autres confondrïon.
us and others we-would-confound
«Mieuz est que l'en laisson aler,
Better it-is that him-thence we-let go
«et preion lui del bien celer.»
and let-us-pray him of-the well concealing
Polinicès poor aveit:
Polynices fear had
lor corage pas ne saveit.
their heart at-all not he-knew

Bèlement lor comence a dire
Fairly to-them he-begins to say
por Deu nel meingent a martire:
for God not-him they-lead to martyrdom
«Car une rien poez saveir
For one thing you-can know
«que ne porrai por nul aveir
that not I-shall-be-able for any wealth
«envers mon frére a plait venir,
toward my brother to plea to-come
«se une feiz me puet tenir:
if one time me he-can hold
«Il n'avra ja de mei merci.
He not-will-have ever on me mercy
«Mais laissiez mei hostagier ci:
But let me give-hostage here
«Del doner ne serrai eschars,
Of-the giving not I-shall-be stingy
«donerai vos déz mile mars,
I-shall-give you ten thousand marks
«que ja nus hon mot n'en savra,
that ever any man word not-thereof will-know
«fors solement quis recevra.»
except only who-them will-receive
Li ainz nez a dit al menor:
The first born has said to-the younger
«Jo fereie grant deshonor,
I would-do great dishonor
«se de mon seignor natural,
if from my lord natural

«qui onques jor ne me fist mal,
who ever day not to-me did ill
«preneie aveir por raençon;
I-took wealth for ransom
«mis heirs en avreit retraçon,
my heirs thereof would-have reproach
«car bien conois que sis hon fui,
for well I-know that his man I-was
«quant d'ambes dous m'onor reçui,
when from-both two my-domain I-received
«et jo et li autre baron,
both I and the other barons
«de cinc jornees environ.
of five days'-journeys around
«Li aveirs m'avreit grant mestier:
The wealth to-me-would-have great need
«Se j'aveie d'or un sestier,
If I-had of-gold a measure
«a grant baudor le despendreie,
in great joy it I-would-spend
«jusqu'a un meis doné l'avreie;
until a month given it-I-would-have
«jo en dorreie maint conrei
I thereof would-give many-a equipment
«as chevaliers qui sont o mei,
to-the knights who are with me
«et fereie en mout larges dons:
and would-make thereof very large gifts
«Ne m'en remanreit uns mangons.
Not to-me-thereof would-remain a mancus

«Mais, beaus frére, ja Deu ne place
But fair brother ever God not may-please
«que por aveir cele rien face
that for wealth that thing I-may-do
«dont me rogisse en cort la face,
whereof to-me may-redden in court the face
«n'a mon seignor ja tort en face.
nor-to my lord ever wrong thereof I-may-do
«Mieuz est et mout plus avenant
Better it-is and much more seemly
«que s'en auge senz covenant:
that himself-thence he-may-go without covenant
«Se li reis m'en met a raison,
If the king me-thereof puts to account
«dreit l'en tendrai en sa maison.
right him-thereof I-shall-hold in his house
«Bien me porrai vers lui defendre
Well myself I-shall-be-able toward him to-defend
«que ne li ai son frére a rendre,
that not to-him I-have his brother to render
«car sis hon fui par bone fei,
for his man I-was by good faith
«par le congié meïsme al rei;
by the leave self of-the king
«mais sin pren aveir por prison
but if-thereof I-take wealth for prison
«[et vers le rei faz traïson],
and toward the king I-do treason

«donc j'ai consenti son damage
then I-have consented his harm
«por aveir, non par homenage,
for wealth not by homage
«l'aveir me puet il primes querre
the-wealth from-me can he first seek
«et pués me chacier de sa terre.»
and then me to-hunt from his land
Il n'i ot plus: aler l'en laissent
It not-there had more to-go him-thence they-let
et envers dous autres s'eslaissent.
and toward two others themselves-launch
Fors des rues, près d'un estanc,
Out of-the streets near of-a pond
joste un bel pré flori mout blanc,
beside a fair meadow flowered very white
a la fontaine del ciprès,
at the fountain of-the cypress
s'en est eissuz Etioclès:
himself-thence is issued Eteocles
homes ot bien vint mile et plus.
men he-had well twenty thousand and more
Contre eus vient li reis Adrastus.
Against them comes the king Adrastus
Tot ensement joste li reis
All likewise jousts the king
com se fust uns bachelers freis.
as if he-were a bachelor fresh
Par les prez ot une trenchiee,
Through the meadows there-had a trench

la gent dedenz i est rengiee:
the folk within there is ranged
contre l'ost le fossé passérent;
against the-host the ditch they-crossed
ço sachiez bien, mout s'afolérent,
that know well much they-acted-madly
car ja desconfit ne fussant,
for ever discomfited not they-would-have-been
se le fossé ne passissant.
if the ditch not they-had-crossed
Cil dedenz sont trop presonços,
Those within are too presumptuous
et cil de l'ost furent veisos:
and those of the-host were wily
poi a poi se traient en sus,
little by little themselves they-draw in up
et cil les sivent plus et plus;
and those them follow more and more
li fol plus et plus les parçurent,
the fools more and more them perceived
et cil de l'ost plus et plus crurent:
and those of the-host more and more grew
pués que lor force fu venue,
after that their force was come
onc pués ne fu rène tenue;
ever afterward not was rein held
grant piéce les meinent a lait,
great while them they-lead in ugliness
onc en la fuie n'ot tor fait.
ever in the flight not-had turn made

Etioclès en la champaigne
Eteocles in the field
perdié le mieuz de sa compaigne;
lost the best of his company
mais, por perte que il i face,
but for loss which he there may-make
ne lor vout onc laissier la place.
not to-them he-wished ever to-leave the place
Emon eissi par la riviére.
Haemon issued by the river
Compaignie ot hardie et fiére:
Company he-had bold and proud
en bosoigne se desmesurent,
in need themselves they-exceed-measure
tost comencent et bien endurent;
soon they-begin and well endure
bien endurent et tost comencent,
well they-endure and soon begin
de joindre avant li plusor tencent.
of joining before the most strive
Ates eissi o sa maisniee
Ates issued with his household
devers eus, a cele feiee.
toward them at that time
Il amot la seror le rei:
He loved the sister (of-)the king
por lé comença le tornei.
for her he-began the tourney
Por la pucèle, que l'esguarde,
For the maiden who-him watches

joint o dous Greus sus en l'anguarde:
he-joins with two Greeks up in the-vanguard
l'un en abat, l'autre s'en fuit,
the-one thence he-fells the-other himself-thence flees
d'ambes dous parz le virent tuit.
from-both two sides him saw all
Tolomés ot un cheval neir,
Ptolemy had a horse black
d'icel cheval vos dirai veir:
of-that horse to-you I-shall-say truth
Arabiz fu, d'outre le flun,
Arab it-was from-beyond the river
engendrez d'ive et de neitun.
begotten of-mare and of sea-spirit
El cheval neir Tolomés sist,
On-the horse black Ptolemy sat
vers ceus dedenz le poindre prist;
toward those within the charge he-took
issi come il broche a travers,
thus as he spurs at across
abat Flori, le duc d'Avers,
he-fells Flori the duke of-Avers
et de meïsme cel eslais
and from same that gallop
joint o Jugurte de Rohais.
he-joins with Jugurtha of Edessa
Emon sist en un cheval bai:
Haemon sat on a horse bay
il ot le cuer legier et gai,
he had the heart light and gay

et sa maisniee, que fu gente,
and his household which was noble
en bosoigne dotee et crente.
in need dreaded and feared
D'estre al tornei bien les somont,
To-be at-the tourney well them he-summons
mais n'estuet pas, car il le font.
but not-it-behooves at-all for they it do
Emon toz premiers se desreie,
Haemon all first himself breaks-rank
il meïsmes lor mostre veie;
he himself to-them shows way
vers Tydeüs point par le sable:
toward Tydeus he-spurs through the sand
ço sachiez [bien], ne fu pas fable.
that know well not it-was at-all fable
En l'escu li dona ital
In the-shield to-him he-gave such
por poi nel mist jus del cheval;
for little not-him he-put down from-the horse
mais Tydeüs a lui failli,
but Tydeus at him missed
sis chevaus en travers sailli:
his horse thence across leapt
ne fust li chevaus estorçous,
not were the horse shying
mout fust fort la joste des dous.
very would-be strong the joust of-the two
Emon se crent et tost s'en torne,
Haemon himself fears and soon himself-thence turns

environ lui pas ne sojorne.
around him at-all not he-stays
Tydeüs ot mout grant pesance:
Tydeus had very great sorrow
onc ne failli mais de sa lance;
ever not missed more with his lance
le cheval poinst par ire pleine,
the horse he-spurred in wrath full
a Antenor joinst de Sardeine;
with Antenor he-joined of Sardinia
Tydeüs l'abat en l'areine
Tydeus him-fells in the-sand
et le cheval en destre en meine.
and the horse on right-hand thence leads
Tydeüs ot un son cosin,
Tydeus had a his cousin
un lonc, un graisle, un gent meschin:
a tall-one a slim-one a noble youth
Afran l'apèlent par son non.
Afran him-they-call by his name
Entre les rens point a bandon,
Among the ranks he-spurs at will
vers un des lor Afran chevauche.
toward one of-the theirs Afran rides
En la geude cil se rechauche:
Into the foot-soldiery he himself thrusts-back
lance baissiee a esporon
lance lowered at spur
le siut Afran par le sablon;
him follows Afran through the sand

en la geude après lui s'enclot,
in the foot-soldiery after him himself-encloses
mais onques pués torner n'en pot.
but ever afterward to-turn thence not-he-could
Tydeüs veit que li serjant
Tydeus sees that the sergeants
ont pris Afran qu'il amot tant:
have taken Afran whom-he loved so-much
o chevaliers plus de dous cenz
with knights more than two hundred
le vait escorre a ceus dedenz.
him goes to-rescue from those within
Entre les rens Tydeüs broche,
Among the ranks Tydeus spurs
mais al pué, deriére une roche,
but at-the height behind a rock
son cheval li navre uns geudons
his horse to-him wounds a foot-soldier
d'un dart molu jusqu'as penons:
with-a dart sharpened up-to-the feathers
li chevaus fu navrez el flanc,
the horse was wounded in-the flank
a grant vertu vuée le sanc.
with great strength it-empties the blood
Tydeüsést fors de la presse,
Tydeus issues out of the press
a pié descent, le cheval laisse.
on foot he-descends the horse he-leaves

Uns danseaus amenot de l'ost
A youth led from the-host
un arabi qui cort mout tost:
an Arab which runs very fast
il l'apèle; cil le li livre
he him-calls he it to-him delivers
isnel, aate et bien delivre.
swift ready and well free
Il monte par l'estreu senestre,
He mounts by the-stirrup left
et li enfes li tint le destre.
and the child to-him held the right
Les menuz sauz, quant il fu sus,
The small leaps when he was up
le vait porsaillant Tydeüs,
it goes leaping-along Tydeus
et si come il defors champeie,
and so as he outside fights-in-the-field
Aton encontre en mé sa veie.
Ates he-meets in midst his way

The Death of Ates

IV

Ates, fifteen and beautiful, rides out without his hauberk to show himself. Tydeus, pitying him, will not fight, but Ates calls the pity cowardice and strikes, and Tydeus, meaning only to touch his shield, strikes him in the breast. Ates forgives him, and Tydeus, weeping, has him carried into the city. On the tower Ismene and Antigone have been teasing each other about their lovers, and Ismene tells a dream of Ates's mother. The bier comes, Ismene faints, and Jocasta brings her to Ates, who dies with his eyes on her. His death ends the day's fighting.

Ates fu uns meschins bien granz,
Ates was a youth well great
et neporquant n'ot que quinze anz.
and nevertheless not-had but fifteen years
Cheveus ot un poi cres et blons,
Hair he-had a little curly and blond
sor les espaules auques lons,
on the shoulders somewhat long
et ot son chief estreit bendé
and had his head tight bound
d'une bende d'un vert cendé.
with-a band of-a green sendal
Les ueuz ot clérs, rianz et vairs,
The eyes he-had bright laughing and gray
de gaieté pleins et despers:
of gaiety full and lively
et ot la face assez plus blanche
and had the face enough more white
que n'est la neif desor la branche;
than not-is the snow upon the branch

sor la blanchor, par grant conseil,
on the whiteness with great counsel
ot nature assis del vermeil:
had nature set of-the red
ço est color que mout m'agree,
that is color which much me-pleases
blanchor de vermeil coloree.
whiteness with red colored
La face ot pleine et le menton:
The face he-had full and the chin
n'i ot ne barbe ne guernon;
not-there had nor beard nor mustache
mout fu graisles par la ceinture
very he-was slender at the girdle
et ot bien grant la forcheüre;
and had well great the fork
d'un samit fu vestuz en langes,
in-a samite he-was clothed in shirts
et as poinz ot estreites manches;
and at-the wrists had tight sleeves
estreit chauciez del meillor paile
tight shod with-the best silk
que l'on puet trover en Thessaile;
that one can find in Thessaly
uns esporons a or desus:
a spurs of gold above
bien valeient mil souz et plus.
well were-worth thousand sous and more

Sor un cheval sist de Castèle
On a horse he-sat of Castile
qui plus tost cort que arondèle,
which more fast runs than swallow
espee ceinte, escu al col,
sword girt shield at-the neck
mais d'une rien le tiegn por fol,
but for-one thing him I-hold for fool
que l'auberc traist par legerie,
that the-hauberk he-drew-off through levity
car mout ot fait chevalerie:
for much he-had done chivalry
issi vueut champeier defors
thus he-wishes to-fight-in-the-field outside
et par le champ monstrer son cors.
and through the field to-show his body
Par le champ point lance levee:
Through the field he-spurs lance raised
une enseigne ot en son fermee.
a banner he-had at-the top fastened
Tydeüs trueve: nel revire,
Tydeus he-finds not-him turns-aside
vers lui chevauche par grant ire.
toward him he-rides in great wrath
Tydeüs desarmé le vit:
Tydeus disarmed him saw
guenchi li a et si s'en rit;
swerved from-him he-has and so himself-thence laughs
desarmé et enfant le veit,
disarmed and child him he-sees

pitié en ot et si ot dreit:
pity thereof he-had and so had right
«Ne m'en avient,» fait il, «vergoigne,
Not to-me-thereof befalls says he shame
«se te guenchis d'este bosoigne,
if thee I-swerve from-this need
«car en tei plusors choses vei
for in thee many things I-see
«por quei ne vueil pas joindre o tei.
for which not I-wish at-all to-join with thee
«Desmesuréement iés beaus
Beyond-measure thou-art fair
«et desarmez iés et toseaus,
and disarmed thou-art and a-youth
«et si serras mout proz, ço crei,
and so thou-wilt-be very valiant that I-believe
«quant chevauchier osas vers mei:
when to-ride thou-dared toward me
«Por ço ne te vueil pas ocire,
For that not thee I-wish at-all to-kill
«t'amie en avreit duel et ire.
thy-beloved thereof would-have grief and wrath
«Trop te hastes de porter lance:
Too-much thee thou-hastenest of bearing lance
«En autre jou use t'enfance:
In other game use thy-childhood
«En chambres iés oncore buens,
In chambers thou-art yet good
«de tei combatre n'est pas tens.»
of thee to-fight not-is at-all time

Ates respont: «Or oi folie:
Ates answers Now I-hear folly
«Ceste pitié est coardie.»
This pity is cowardice
A tant broche: tal coup li done
At this he-spurs such blow to-him he-gives
que Tydeüs tot en estone;
that Tydeus all thereof he-stuns
l'escu si li joste a la temple
the-shield so to-him he-jousts at the temple
que bien li fait hurter ensemble.
that well to-him he-makes knock together
Tydeüs veit que l'estuet joindre:
Tydeus sees that him-behooves to-join
en l'escu le cuide un poi poindre,
in the-shield him he-thinks a little to-prick
mais ne pot amoier sa main,
but not he-could steady his hand
el pez le feri tot a plein.
in-the breast him he-struck all at full
Cil chaï, por le coup mortal,
He fell for the blow mortal
sor l'erbe fresche del cheval.
on the-grass fresh from-the horse
Tydeüs fait grant duel et plore:
Tydeus makes great grief and weeps
«A! Deus,» fait il, «en com male hore
Ah God says he in how evil hour
«icest enfant encontrai hué!
this child I-met today

«Nel vousisse por tot mon fué,
Not-it I-would-have-wished for all my fief
«que l'eüsse d'arme adesé.»
that him-I-had with-weapon touched
A merveille l'en a pesé.
At marvel him-thereof it-has weighed
Ates de l'angoisse se pasme;
Ates from the-anguish himself swoons
quant il revint, forment se blasme.
when he came-back greatly himself he-blames
A celui pardone sa mort:
To him he-forgives his death
bien sét qu'il n'i aveit nul tort:
well he-knows that-he not-there had any wrong
«Ne plorer ja,» fait il, «amis:
Not weep ever says he friend
«Jo meïsmes me sué ocis,
I myself myself am killed
«mais içe m'est mout granz conforz
but this to-me-is very great comfort
«que par grant hardement sué morz;
that through great boldness I-am dead
«ne sué pas ocis par guaraut,
not I-am at-all killed by rascal
«mais par celui qui cent en vaut,
but by him who hundred thereof is-worth
«et par celui pert jo la vie
and by him lose I the life
«qui est flor de chevalerie.»
who is flower of chivalry

Tydeüs ses cheveus esrache,
Tydeus his hair tears-out
por poi de duel toz vis n'esrage.
for little from grief all alive not-he-goes-mad
Sa lance giéte en mé la lande,
His lance he-throws in midst the heath
al vif deable la comande;
to-the living devil it he-commends
son cheval ne voust onc baillier,
his horse not he-wished ever to-take
ainz le laisse tot estraier.
rather it he-lets all stray
Joste un fossé, en un vergier,
Beside a ditch in an orchard
érent cinc bacheler legier:
were five bachelors light
Tydeüs plorant les apèle,
Tydeus weeping them calls
d'Aton lor dit freide novèle:
of-Ates to-them says cold news
«Portez,» fait il, «la enz cest cors,
Carry says he there in this body
«que nel manjucent chien ça fors.»
that not-it may-eat dogs here outside
Et cil i sont tost acoru,
And they there are soon run-up
si l'en portent sor son escu:
so him-thence they-carry on his shield
grant est la plaie, forment saigne,
great is the wound greatly it-bleeds

el sanc vermeil trestoz se baigne;
in-the blood red all himself bathes
sa face, qu'aveit fresche et tendre,
his face which-he-had fresh and tender
nen ot color ne mais que cendre.
not had color nor more than ash
Ysmeine esteit o sa seror
Ismene was with her sister
a mont as estres de la tor:
to up at-the galleries of the tower
d'Aton ne fait pas petit plait
of-Ates not makes at-all little speech
ne des proeces que il fait.
nor of-the prowesses which he does
L'autre revit assez le jor
The-other saw-again enough the day
Parthonopeus joindre en l'estor:
Parthenopaeus to-join in the-fight
a val le conut el sablon,
to below him she-knew in-the sand
car une coe de poon
for a tail of peacock
ot en l'eaume lacié deriére,
he-had on the-helmet laced behind
et quant il point par la riviére,
and when he spurs through the river-bank
la plume al vent s'espant et uevre
the plume to-the wind itself-spreads and opens
et de deriére tot le cuevre.
and from behind all him covers

De lor amis joent et rient,
Of their lovers they-play and laugh
de lor proeces contrarient,
of their prowesses they-contend
car chascune, en le suen espeir,
for each in the her hope
en cuide le meillor aveir.
thence thinks the best to-have
Antigoné dist a Ysmeine:
Antigone said to Ismene
«Tu pues parler de teste saine,
Thou canst speak with head sound
«car Aton baises et acoles
for Ates thou-kissest and embracest
«et tote jor a lui paroles;
and all day to him thou-speakest
«jo ne pués pas al mien parler,
I not can at-all to-the mine speak
«ne lui baisier ne acoler;
nor him to-kiss nor to-embrace
«ja nel porrai veeir, chaitive,
ever not-him I-shall-be-able to-see wretched
«se de ça non par ceste eschive.
except from here not through this loophole
— Ne morra ja,» fait cele, «envie:
Not will-die ever says she envy
«Jo ne vos tol le vostre mie.
I not from-you take the yours at-all

«Se jo faz o le mien mon aise
If I do with the mine my ease
«et cele chose que mei plaise,
and that thing which me may-please
«por quei vos semblereit ço mal?
for what to-you would-seem that ill
«Ja ferïez vos autretal.
Now would-do you the-same
«D'un songe sué mout esfreïe:
From-a dream I-am very frightened
«Deus doint qu'en bone hore le die!
God grant that-in good hour it I-may-tell
«Hué matin, quant jo me dormeie,
Today morning when I myself slept
«la mére Aton plorer veeie;
the mother (of-)Ates to-weep I-saw
«pués me diseit: «Mon fil me ren:
then to-me she-said My son to-me render
««Se ja ne l'ai, perdrai le sen.»
If ever not him-I-have I-shall-lose the sense
«A tant totes parz le quereie,
At this all sides him I-sought
«mais por rien trover nel poeie.»
but for anything to-find not-him I-could
Si come parloent ensemble,
So as they-spoke together
tal freor ot que tote tremble:
such shudder she-had that all she-trembles

a tant par la cité est sors
at this through the city is risen
li criz des femnes et li plors,
the cry of-the women and the weeping
car, pués qu'Ates en la vile entre,
for after that-Ates into the town enters
grant torbe vait criant soentre:
great crowd goes crying following
les dames et la gent menue
the ladies and the folk small
crient et braient par la rue.
cry and wail through the street
Ysmeine se reguarde ariére,
Ismene herself looks back
a val vit aporter la biére:
to below she-saw to-bring the bier
d'Aton se crent qu'ele ot mout chier,
for-Ates herself she-fears whom-she had very dear
pasmee chiet sor le planchier.
fainted she-falls on the floor
Sa suer entre ses braz la tint;
Her sister between her arms her held
a chief de piéce, quant revint,
at end of while when she-came-back
isnèlement a val en vait,
swiftly to below thence she-goes
come desvee crie et brait:
as mad she-cries and wails

ele devine en son corage
she divines in her heart
son grant duel et son grant damage.
her great grief and her great harm
Sa suer la sostient et la porte
Her sister her supports and her carries
et mout doucement la conforte;
and very sweetly her comforts
mais del conforter nen est lous,
but of-the comforting not is place
car el ne l'aime pas a jous.
for she not him-loves at-all in jest
Soz l'olivier le navré posent,
Under the-olive the wounded-one they-set
ceus qui plorent environ chosent;
those who weep around they-scold
areient le: sovent se pasme;
they-address him often himself swoons
la langue li oignent de basme;
the tongue to-him they-anoint with balm
o un coutel les denz desjoignent,
with a knife the teeth they-unjoin
la langue de basme li oignent.
the tongue with balm to-him they-anoint
Içо le fist parler un poi,
This him made speak a little
mais çо cui chaut? Ne parla joi.
but that who cares Not he-spoke joy

Preié lor a a quauque peine
Prayed to-them he-has with whatever pain
que li ameingent tost Ysmeine:
that to-him they-may-lead soon Ismene
Ysmeine li est en la boche;
Ismene to-him is in the mouth
l'amor de lé al cuer li toche;
the-love of her to-the heart him touches
il demande sovent Ysmeine,
he asks often Ismene
et Jocaste la li ameine:
and Jocasta her to-him leads
«Amis,» fait ele, «vei t'espose,
Friend says she see thy-bride
«la chaitive, la dolorose!»
the wretched the sorrowful
Uevre les ueuz, si l'a veüe,
He-opens the eyes so her-he-has seen
a tant l'anme est del cors eissue.
at this the-soul is from-the body issued
Iluec ot duel, mais il fu granz,
There there-had grief but it was great
et de vieuz homes et d'enfanz,
both of old men and of-children
qui sor le cors crient et braient:
who over the body cry and wail
les proeces Aton retraient;
the prowesses (of-)Ates they-recount
plaignent sa forme et son aage,
they-lament his form and his age

sa proece et son vasselage.
his prowess and his valor
Une leuee fu Ysmeine
A league-while was Ismene
morte, senz fun et senz aleine.
dead without breath and without wind
De lé poez oïr merveille:
Of her you-can hear marvel
nen ot, ne ne veit, ne ne ceille,
not she-hears nor not sees nor not winks
ne ne se muet mais que la pierre;
nor not herself moves more than the stone
vert esteit come fueille d'ierre;
green she-was as leaf of-ivy
point de color n'ot en sa face;
point of color not-had in her face
plus esteit freide que n'est glace.
more she-was cold than not-is ice
El col li truevent une veine
In-the neck to-her they-find a vein
que li bateit a quauque peine:
which to-her beat with whatever pain
sa mére et sa suer la remuent,
her mother and her sister her move
les autres dames lor aiuent,
the other ladies them help
en une chambre l'ont portee,
into a chamber her-they-have carried
un lét ont fait, enz l'ont posee.
a bed they-have made in her-they-have set

Cil qui retornent al tornei
Those who return to-the tourney
la mort Aton noncent le rei:
the death (of-)Ates announce (to-)the king
quant li reis ot qu'Ates est morz,
when the king hears that-Ates is dead
— ço ert li mieuz de son esforz, —
that was the best of his force
des ueuz plore, del cuer sospire:
from-the eyes he-weeps from-the heart he-sighs
n'est pas merveille s'il ot ire.
not-is at-all marvel if-he had wrath
Un poindre prist par mé l'areine,
A charge he-took through midst the-sand
avant sei les suens en ameine:
before himself the his thence he-leads
remés est li torneis mais hué,
remained is the tourney more today
car dès ore torne a enué;
for from now it-turns to annoyance
por ço remést que tuit sont las
for that it-remained that all are weary
et por la nuét, que vespre ert bas;
and for the night for evening was low
mais s'en volez oïr la veire,
but if-thereof you-wish to-hear the truth
la mort Aton depart la feire.
the death (of-)Ates parts the fair

Ismene's Lament

v

Eteocles and the whole court mourn Ates, and his hundred knights lament his largess and declare they cannot go home without him. Ismene is kept from the body, then brought to it, and laments over him all night: she was given to him but never his wife, and she curses the one who killed him and the smith who forged the weapon. The poets of the city bury him with great honor, and Eteocles frees his prisoners and five hundred serfs. Ismene asks for an abbey and becomes a nun, and a hundred maidens take the veil with her.

Li reis est tristes et ploros
The king is sad and tearful
et giéte sospirs doloros;
and throws sighs sorrowful
pués qu'oï de mort la novèle,
after that-be-heard of death the news
a peines pot ester en sèle;
with pains he-could stand in saddle
ço est granz dueus que li reis fait,
that is great grief which the king makes
vers Aton sont tuit si refrait.
toward Ates are all his crushed
Et nel di del rei solement,
And not-it I-say of-the king only
tuit li autre font ensement:
all the others do likewise
plorent seriant et chevalier,
weep sergeants and knights
plorent danzel et escuier;
weep youths and squires

un sol home n'a en la cort
a single man not-there-is in the court
qui por l'amor Aton ne plort.
who for the-love (of-)Ates not may-weep
Ates ot amené o sei
Ates had brought with him
cent chevaliers en son conrei:
hundred knights in his array
cil érent del mieuz de sa terre,
they were of-the best of his land
meillors de ceus n'estoveit querre.
better than those not-it-behooved to-seek
Cil font duel, tal n'oïstes faire
They make grief such not-you-heard to-make
ne par boche d'ome retraire;
nor by mouth of-man to-tell
cil font grant duel a desmesure:
they make great grief beyond measure
lor vies héent, n'en ont cure,
their lives they-hate not-thereof have care
ainz dient que trop ont vescu,
rather they-say that too-much they-have lived
pués que lor seignor ont perdu.
after that their lord they-have lost
De davant lui ne se remuent,
From before him not themselves they-move
ainceis se pasment et se tuent,
rather themselves they-faint and themselves kill
et lor seignor regretent fort,
and their lord they-lament strongly

que veient iluec gesir mort.
whom they-see there to-lie dead
Pasmé gésent el pavement,
Fainted they-lie on-the pavement
si se complaignent franchement:
so themselves they-lament nobly
«Ates, sire, douce jovente,
Ates lord sweet youth
«bèle chiére, fresche, rovente,
fair face fresh ruddy
«beaus sire, pués que tu iés morz,
fair lord after that thou art dead
«qui tendra mais les granz esforz?
who will-hold more the great efforts
«Tu donoes les guarnemenz,
Thou gavest the arms
«les fuéz et les granz chasemenz;
the fiefs and the great holdings
«tu teneies la grant maisniee,
thou heldest the great household
«tu la faiseies baude et liee,
thou it madest bold and glad
«car tu donoes les conreiz,
for thou gavest the equipments
«donoes muls et palefreiz,
thou-gavest mules and palfreys
«armes, freseaus et covertors,
arms bridles and coverlets
«et beaus levriers et genz ostors;
and fair greyhounds and noble goshawks

«tu donoes les chevaus gras,
thou gavest the horses fat
«or et argent et riches dras.
gold and silver and rich cloths
«Ti chevalier érent joios:
Thy knights were joyful
«Onc jor n'en fu uns sofraitos.
Ever day not-thereof was one needy
«Tu donoes les granz aveirs,
Thou gavest the great riches
«tu faiseies toz lor voleirs,
thou didst all their wishes
«tu amoes les chevaliers,
thou lovedst the knights
«tu les teneies forment chiers;
thou them heldest greatly dear
«qui te servi n'en repentié:
who thee served not-thereof repented
«Onc sofraite o tei ne sentié.
Ever want with thee not felt
«Onc ne fu hon de ta proece,
Ever not was man of thy prowess
«ne qui eüst si grant largece;
nor who might-have so great largess
«tu éres sages de conseil,
thou wast wise of counsel
«tu aveies un gent pareil,
thou hadst a noble match

«proece et sen, qu'est mout sauvage
prowess and sense which-is very rare
«envers home de ton aage,
toward man of thy age
«et de pro d'ome començaille.
and of valiant of-man beginning
«De tei puet l'on dire senz faille,
Of thee can one say without fail
«se tu vesquisses un poi plus,
if thou had-lived a little more
«tu sormontasses reis et dus.
thou would-have-surpassed kings and dukes
«Desavanciez estes, beaus sire:
Cut-off-before-your-time you-are fair lord
«Nos en avon et duel et ire.
We thereof have both grief and wrath
«Mout nos laissiez sofraitos hué:
Very us you-leave needy today
«Nos n'avon ci terre ne fué,
We not-have here land nor fief
«et neienz est mais del retor
and nothing is more of-the return
«en la nostre terre a nul jor;
into the our land on any day
«ja del retor n'estuet parler,
ever of-the return not-behooves to-speak
«quant n'i poon o tei aler.
when not-there we-can with thee go

«Com verrïon ja mais senz tei
How would-we-see ever more without thee
«ne la reïne ne le rei?
nor the queen nor the king
«Aler nos estuet autre part,
To-go us behooves other way
«car la avon nos grant reguart.»
for there have we great fear
La gent Aton plore et guaimente
The folk (of-)Ates weeps and laments
et en tal guise se demente.
and in such fashion themselves bewails
Ysmeine est en la chambre enclose,
Ismene is in the chamber enclosed
et resperi a chief de pose.
and revived at end of while
Sa mére la fait bien tenir:
Her mother her makes well to-hold
pas ne la laisse al cors venir,
at-all not her lets to-the body come
car de tant com plus le verreit,
for by so-much as more him she-would-see
sor le cors plus se pasmereit;
over the body more herself would-faint
mais ele nel pot endurer,
but she not-it could endure
mout fort començа a jurer,
very strongly began to swear

se ja nel veit, sempres morra
if ever not-him she-sees at-once she-will-die
et de duel sis cuers partira.
and from grief her heart will-break
A tant sa mére aler la laisse:
At this her mother to-go her lets
uns chevaliers depart la presse
a knight parts the press
et dui la meinent a la biére;
and two her lead to the bier
ele descuevre un poi la chiére;
she uncovers a little the face
pale la vit et senz color.
pale it she-saw and without color
Ysmeine en ot al cuer dolor:
Ismene thereof had at-the heart grief
par la chiére l'ève li cole,
over the face the-water to-her flows
del peliçon moille la gole,
of-the fur-robe wets the collar
cent feiz li baise de randon
hundred times to-him she-kisses in rush
les ueuz, la face et le menton;
the eyes the face and the chin
al cors piuement se complaint
to-the body piteously herself laments
et son grant duel iluec refraint:
and her great grief there repeats
«Ates, beaus sire, tu ne m'oz?
Ates fair lord thou not me-hearest

«Uevre tes ueuz, por quei les cloz?
Open thy eyes for what them closest
«Ço est Ysmeine que parole.
That is Ismene who speaks
«Maleüree, com sué fole!
Ill-starred how I-am foolish
«Il ne m'entent ne ne me veit,
He not me-hears nor not me sees
«en la biére le sent tot freit.
in the bier him I-feel all cold
«Morz iés, Ates, ço est damages,
Dead thou-art Ates that is harm
«mar fu veüz tis vasselages;
ill was seen thy prowess
«avant tes jorz gés morz ici:
before thy days thou-liest dead here
«A l'anme face Deus merci!
To the-soul may-do God mercy
«Morz iés, Ates, tot veirement,
Dead thou-art Ates all truly
«mout as poi usé ton jovent.
very hast little used thy youth
«Ces tuens beaus ueuz, car ja nes uevres,
These thy fair eyes for ever not-them thou-openest
«ore les mangeront coluevres;
now them will-eat serpents
«tis cors et ta bèle faiture
thy body and thy fair form
«tornera mais en porreture.
will-turn more into rottenness

«A! Mort, com iés poesteïve!
Ah Death how thou-art powerful
«Rien n'est hué el monde que vive
Anything not-is today in-the world that lives
«que tu n'aies en ta baillie,
that thou not-may-have in thy power
«et quant tei plaist tous lé la vie.
and when thee it-pleases thou-takest-away it the life
«D'amer beivre le monde abeivres,
With-bitter drink the world thou-waterest
«ceus qui s'entraiment tu deseivres:
those who each-other-love thou separatest
«Grant duel a qui son ami pert,
Great grief has who his friend loses
«joie del ségle a duel revert.
joy of-the world to grief returns
«Briéve joie ai eü de tei,
Brief joy I-have had of thee
«lons iert li dueus, si com jo crei;
long will-be the grief so as I believe
«ja n'avrai mais joie en ma vie,
ever not-I-shall-have more joy in my life
«jo plorerai mais, qui que rie.
I shall-weep more who ever may-laugh
«Et n'est merveille, se jo plor,
And not-is marvel if I weep
«car perdu ai mon bon seignor:
for lost I-have my good lord
«Seignor aveie a mon talant,
Lord I-had to my desire

«n'avrai mais tal en mon vivant.
not-I-shall-have more such in my living
«Donee te fui juefne tose:
Given to-thee I-was young girl
«Tu m'amoes come t'espose,
Thou me-lovedst as thy-bride
«et jo t'amai come plus poi,
and I thee-loved as most I-could
«mais onc o tei a faire n'oi.
but ever with thee to do not-I-had
«Beaus sire douz, tu me diseies
Fair lord sweet thou me saidst
«qu'après le siége m'en menreies;
that-after the siege me-thence thou-wouldst-lead
«quant la guerre fust afinee,
when the war were ended
«m'en menasses en ta contree:
me-thence thou-wouldst-lead into thy country
«Ja mais ta terre ne verras,
Ever more thy land not thou-wilt-see
«ne mei ne autre n'i menras.
nor me nor other not-there thou-wilt-lead
«A! com morra de duel tis pére!
Ah how will-die of grief thy father
«Car tu n'aveies mais nul frére,
For thou not-hadst more any brother
«ne il nen aveit mais nul heir,
nor he not had more any heir
«en tei aveit tot son espeir.
in thee he-had all his hope

«De ta mére que porrai dire?
Of thy mother what shall-I-be-able to-say
«Assez avra tot tens mais ire;
Enough she-will-have all time more wrath
«ja, a nul jor que ele vive,
ever on any day that she lives
«n'avra mais joie la chaitive.
not-will-have more joy the wretched
«Quant soleies o mei joer,
When thou-wert-wont with me to-play
«plus de cent feiz t'oï loer
more than hundred times thee-I-heard to-praise
«une seror que tu aveies,
a sister whom thou hadst
«tant proz, tant gente ne saveies:
so valiant so noble not thou-knewest
«A! com grant duel avra ta suer!
Ah how great grief will-have thy sister
«Ja n'avra mais joie en son cuer.
Ever not-will-have more joy in her heart
«A grant duel et a grant desrei
To great grief and to great disorder
«lor tornera la mort de tei.
to-them will-turn the death of thee
«Mal seit de l'anme que t'ocist
Ill be to the-soul which thee-killed
«et del févre qui l'arme fist!
and to-the smith who the-weapon made

«Car en grant duel a mis ta gent
For into great grief he-has put thy folk
«et mei sor toz, cui plus en tent.»
and me above all whom more thereof it-touches
Si se complaint al cors Ysmeine
So herself laments to-the body Ismene
et tote nuét ital duel meine.
and all night such grief she-leads
Le cors del duc a grant honor
The body of-the duke with great honor
guardent li grant et li menor;
watch the great and the lesser
li reis se sist et li baron
the king himself sat and the barons
o chandelabres environ:
with candelabra around
a travail veillent la nuét tote,
in toil they-watch the night all
onc n'i dormirent la nuét gote.
ever not-there they-slept the night drop
Al matin, après hore prime,
In-the morning after hour prime
li jorz s'esclaire et chiet la frime.
the day itself-clears and falls the hoarfrost
Tuit li poète de la vile
All the poets of the town
s'assemblent et sont bien dui mile:
themselves-assemble and are well two thousand

vestent daumaires et tuniques
they-put-on dalmatics and tunics
et portent chasses et reliques;
and carry shrines and relics
portent textes et philatéres
they-carry texts and phylacteries
et encensiers et ardanz céres;
and censers and burning tapers
ardent encens et timiame.
they-burn incense and thymiama
Li maistre d'eus comande l'anme;
The master of-them commends the-soul
pués a un temple iluec defors
then to a temple there outside
a grant honor portent le cors.
with great honor they-carry the body
Li ossèques grant piéce dure:
The obsequies great while lasts
par ordre font et o grant cure
in order they-make and with great care
chanter respons et leçons lére,
to-sing responses and lessons to-read
pués l'enterrent el cimetére;
then him-they-bury in-the cemetery
mais ainz que fust el sarcueu mis,
but before that he-were in-the coffin put
delivra li reis toz les pris,
freed the king all the prisoners

et ainz que fust li cors coverz,
and before that were the body covered
franchi li reis cinc cenz cuiverz.
enfranchised the king five hundred serfs
Ysmeine chiet as piez le rei,
Ismene falls at-the feet (of-)the king
mais il l'en drece tost vers sei.
but he her-thence raises soon toward himself
Demanda lé: «Que vueus tu, suer?
He-asked her What wishest thou sister
«Tot quant que tei vendra a cuer,
All how-much that to-thee will-come to heart
«tot te ferai, n'en aies dote:
all to-thee I-shall-do not-thereof have doubt
«Se vueus m'onor, si la pren tote.
If thou-wishest my-domain so it take all
— Frére,» fait ele, «n'en vueil mie,
Brother says she not-thereof I-wish at-all
«mais jo vueil mais changier ma vie:
but I wish more to-change my life
«None serrai, vivrai soz régle,
Nun I-shall-be I-shall-live under rule
«car n'ai mais cure d'icest ségle.
for not-I-have more care for-this world
«De tes rentes sol tant me livre
Of thy rents only so-much to-me deliver
«que cent femnes en puéssent vivre.
that hundred women thereof may live
«Ates t'ama mout en sa vie,
Ates thee-loved much in his life

«fai ci por lui une abeïe;
make here for him an abbey
«tant te servi Ates par fei
so-much thee served Ates by faith
«que le cors a perdu por tei.
that the body he-has lost for thee
«Por tei traist Ates mainte peine,
For thee bore Ates many-a pain
«a s'anme done iceste estreine:
to his-soul give this gift
«Aumosne en avras et grant los,
Alms thereof thou-wilt-have and great praise
«se s'anme a ja par tei repos.»
if his-soul has ever through thee rest
Li reis li done mout granz fuéz,
The king to-her gives very great fiefs
de vin chascun an sés cenz muéz,
of wine each year six hundred measures
et tant de molins et de forz
and so-many of mills and of ovens
pain en avront assez toz jorz;
bread thereof they-will-have enough all days
terre demeine a cent charrues,
land demesne for hundred plows
en la cité dous maistres rues,
in the city two main streets
et le flun o la pescherie,
and the river with the fishery
et environ la praierie:
and around the meadowland

se li baillis defors n'en triche,
if the bailiffs outside not-thereof cheat
dedenz avra vivre mout riche.
within she-will-have living very rich
De la pitié que ont d'Ysmeine,
From the pity which they-have for-Ismene
plorent contor, plorent demeine,
weep counts weep lords
plorent tuit cil qui iluec sont,
weep all those who there are
et povre et riche grant duel font;
both poor and rich great grief make
et por l'amor de la pucèle
and for the-love of the maiden
se velérent en la chapèle
themselves veiled in the chapel
cent pucèles de son aage,
hundred maidens of her age
totes de prez et de parage.
all of worth and of lineage

The Death of Tydeus

VI

Next day Eteocles rides out with ten companions, magnificently armed and mounted on Blanchenue, the white horse his beloved Galatea sent him from Nubia. The ten are described one by one, among them a Jew, an Englishman, and a lord riding Bucephalus's sire. Tydeus meets them at the ford with nine of his own. He breaks the king's hauberk and the king carries off his shield, but Menalippus, hidden in the reeds, shoots Tydeus through the thigh. His companions take the archer's head, and Tydeus dies in the meadow while Adrastus grieves.

L'endemain après relevee
The-next-day after the-afternoon
li reis vout eissir en la pree:
the king wished to-issue into the meadow
de ses compagnons somont dez
of his companions he-summons ten
de grant parage et de grant prez.
of great lineage and of great worth
Mais ainz que il en eissist fors,
But before that he thence issued out
en adoba li reis son cors
thereof armed the king his body
des meillors armes que il ot
with-the best arms which he had
et que il onques trover pot.
and which he ever to-find could
Il met un hauberc en son dos
He puts a hauberk on his back
qui n'est trop graisles ne trop gros:
which not-is too slender nor too thick

bien fu serrez, menu mailliez,
well it-was close finely mailed
et mout legiers et bien tailliez.
and very light and well cut
Il fu forgiez ja mout a dis:
It was forged already very it-has days
en un des fluns de Paradis
in one of-the rivers of Paradise
fu la ferreüre tempree
was the ironwork tempered
et par set feiz fut tresgetee;
and by seven times was cast-through
a lui forgier ot mout bon maistre,
at it forging there-had very good master
qui l'a vestu seürs puet estre,
who it-has put-on sure can be
ne le n'estuet pas aveir dote
nor him not-behooves at-all to-have doubt
que ja de sanc perde une gote.
that ever of blood he-may-lose a drop
Pués a ceint une bone espee,
Then he-has girt a good sword
en Babilone fu trovee;
in Babylon it-was found
trovee fu en Babilone,
found it-was in Babylon
en un chier sarcueu de sardone:
in a dear coffin of sardonyx
si com dit li briés et la letre,
so as says the brief and the letter

Ninus i gést, qui l'i fist metre.
Ninus there lies who it-there made to-put
Vermeuz et indes fu li branz,
Red and blue was the blade
nus rasoirs ne fu si trenchanz;
any razor not was so cutting
d'or fut li poinz, li heuz d'ivuére:
of-gold was the pommel the hilt of-ivory
rien n'en entame que ne muére.
anything not-thereof it-cuts that not may-die
D'ermin ot entreseign bendé
Of-ermine he-had device banded
de longues bendes de cendé;
with long bands of sendal
un heaume ot lacié tot vermeil,
a helmet he-had laced all red
que mout reluist contre soleil.
which very shines against sun
Bien i aveit d'or dous cenz onces;
Well there there-was of-gold two hundred ounces
el son ot assis dous jagonces
in-the top it-had set two jacinths
et el mé lou une ametiste;
and in-the midst place an amethyst
environ desoz en la liste,
around below in the border
aveit bericles et sardones
there-was beryls and sardonyxes
et topaces et calcedones,
and topazes and chalcedonies

et aveit davant el nasal
and there-was before on-the nose-guard
un escharboncle et un cristal.
a carbuncle and a crystal
Pués li ameinent Blanchenue,
Then to-him they-lead Blanchenue
que li tramist l'autr'ier sa drue:
which to-him sent the-other-day his beloved
Galatea ot non s'amie
Galatea had name his-beloved
et fu fille al rei de Nubie.
and was daughter to-the king of Nubia
Blanchenue esteit chevaus genz,
Blanchenue was horse noble
et fu tant blans com fins argenz,
and was as white as fine silver
quarrez, espès, destre comez,
square thick right maned
en son païs bien renomez.
in its country well renowned
Gros ot le col, bien fait le chief,
Thick it-had the neck well made the head
le pez espes, le selier brief;
the breast thick the back short
et larges fu desoz grant masse,
and broad it-was below great mass
et la crope ot roonde et grasse,
and the crupper it-had round and fat
les piez copez, les jambes plates.
the feet clipped the legs flat

Mout fu isneaus et bien aates,
Very it-was swift and well ready
de corre loign ot mout grant los,
of running far it-had very great praise
et ot un poi combré le dos:
and had a little arched the back
de tant i fait meillor seeir.
by so-much there it-makes better to-sit
Li chevaus fait bien a veeir:
The horse makes well to see
nus hon nel veit que bien ne die
any man not-it sees that well not may-say
qu'onc ne vit tant gent en sa vie.
that-ever not he-saw so noble in his life
D'or est li freins, d'argent la sèle,
Of-gold is the bridle of-silver the saddle
de paile chier est la sorsèle.
of silk dear is the saddle-cloth
Li reis mist la main a l'arçon:
The king put the hand on the-saddle-bow
l'estreu ne tindrent pas garçon,
the-stirrup not held at-all boys
ainceis le tindrent quatre conte;
rather it held four counts
en Blanchenue li reis monte.
on Blanchenue the king mounts
Le son grant escu d'olifant
The his great shield of-ivory
li aportérent dui enfant,
to-him brought two children

peint d'azur o un blanc chantel,
painted with-azure with a white quarter
la bocle d'or faite a neiel.
the boss of-gold made in niello
Se cil qui fist l'escu ne ment,
If he who made the-shield not lies
une liste i ot d'orpiment
a border there had of-orpiment
et claveaus d'or fin trente et treis;
and nails of-gold fine thirty and three
la guige fu tote d'orfreis.
the strap was all of-orphrey
Davant ot fait par gaberie
Before he-had made through jest
peindre les jambes de s'amie,
paint the legs of his-beloved
et dejoste ot un coup mout grant,
and beside it-had a blow very great
qui ne fu pas pris en fuiant.
which not was at-all taken in fleeing
Uns chevaliers l'escu li tent:
A knight the-shield to-him holds-out
li reis le prist, al col le pent.
the king it took at-the neck it he-hangs
Haste porte grosse de fraisne:
Shaft he-carries thick of ash
n'a en Saissoigne si grant Saisne
not-there-is in Saxony so great Saxon
cui el ne fust a porter grief,
to-whom it not were to carry grievous

mais a lui ert ele assez lief;
but to him was it enough light
dous penons verz i ot entors.
two pennons green there had around
Issi armez s'en eissi fors.
Thus armed himself-thence he-issued out
O lui eissi Salaciel,
With him issued Salaciel
uns Jüeus des fiz Israel;
a Jew of-the sons (of-)Israel
et chevaucha un cheval grisle,
and rode a horse gray
que uslague traistrent d'une isle:
which outlaws drew from-an island
a Thèbes pristrent port par vent,
at Thebes they-took port by wind
et al rei en firent present.
and to-the king thereof made present
Diogenès, li dus de Sur,
Diogenes the duke of Tyre
sist el cheval ferrant oscur
sat on-the horse iron-gray dark
qui fu a l'amirail emblez:
which was from the-emir stolen
dous muéz vaut de deniers comblez.
two measures it-is-worth of pennies heaped
Teucer i ot, povre pelos,
Teucer there had poor hairy-one
qui mout fu bien chevaleros;
who very was well knightly

n'en i ot ja nul tant manier:
not-thereof there had ever any so skilled
vers lui sont li autre eschacier.
toward him are the others one-legged
Hermagoras de Salemine
Hermagoras of Salamis
ot un cheval blanc come hermine;
had a horse white as ermine
toz fu coverz jusqu'a l'orteil
all it-was covered as-far-as the-toe
d'un cendal detrenchié vermeil.
with-a sendal slashed red
Petreüs, li cuens de Marseille
Petreus the count of Marseille
ot un cheval bon a merveille,
had a horse good to marvel
car plus ert blans que nule[s] flors,
for more it-was white than any flowers
isneaus fu et de bones mors.
swift it-was and of good manners
Agrippa fu cuens de Sezile:
Agrippa was count of Sicily
por proece fu en la vile;
for prowess he-was in the town
en la vile se fu enclos
in the town himself was enclosed
por chevalerie et por los.
for chivalry and for praise
Il ot un mout riche cheval,
He had a very rich horse

qui fu pére al bon Bucifal,
which was father to-the good Bucephalus
que Alixandre tint maint jor,
which Alexander held many-a day
par cui venqui maint grant estor.
through which he-won many-a great fight
Polidorus, cil de Cesaire
Polydorus he of Caesarea
sist en un corant dromadaire;
sat on a running dromedary
covert l'ot d'une porpre bise:
covered it-he-had with-a purple gray
nel donast por tot l'or de Frise.
not-it he-would-give for all the-gold of Frisia
Un en i ot, Nestor ot non,
One thereof there had Nestor had name
enfes senz barbe et senz guernon:
child without beard and without mustache
Adrastus l'ot desherité
Adrastus him-had disinherited
et de son regne fors geté;
and from his realm out thrown
a Thèbes esteit ça venuz,
to Thebes he-was here come
al rei fu mout privez et druz;
to-the king he-was very intimate and dear
de traire esteit mout forment proz:
of shooting he-was very greatly valiant
por ço l'amot li reis sor toz.
for that him-loved the king above all

Un cheval ot isnel et gent,
A horse he-had swift and noble
ou il dona son peis d'argent.
for-which he gave his weight of-silver
Carioz ert dus de Corinte,
Carioz was duke of Corinth
un escu ot que mout retinte,
a shield he-had which much rang
car cent eschiéles i ot d'or,
for hundred bells there had of-gold
li reis l'aveit en son tensor:
the king it-had in his treasury
el liart sist d'Esclavonie,
on-the dapple he-sat of-Slavonia
qui fu buens por chevalerie.
which was good for chivalry
Un en i ot qi fu Engleis,
One thereof there had who was English
Godriche ot non, proz et corteis:
Godric had name valiant and courtly
bon chevalier ot en Godriche,
good knight there-had in Godric
et si aveit conrei mout riche;
and so he-had array very rich
n'i a un de si grant conrei,
not-there has one of so great array
fors solement le cors le rei.
except only the body (of-)the king

Frein ne sèle ne esporon
Bridle nor saddle nor spur
n'aveit Godriche se d'or non;
not-had Godric except of-gold not
sor Arondel sist de Nicole,
on Arondel he-sat of Lincoln
qui plus tost cort qu'oiseaus ne vole.
which more fast runs than-bird not flies
O iceus dez que vos acont,
With those ten whom to-you I-tell
s'en ést li reis par mé le pont.
himself-thence issues the king through midst the bridge
Les dames de la vile vont
The ladies of the town go
as terriers et as murs a mont:
to-the earthworks and to-the walls to up
por eus veeir montent es tors.
for them to-see they-mount into-the towers
En l'ost est li tomoutes sors
In the-host is the tumult risen
que fors sont eissu cil dedenz,
that out are issued those within
et Tydeüs ne fu pas lenz:
and Tydeus not was at-all slow
montez esteit par aventure,
mounted he-was by chance
de l'ost eissi grant aleüre;
from the-host he-issued great pace
el bon cheval sist de Gascoigne,
on-the good horse he-sat of Gascony

qui tost le porte a la bosoigne;
which soon him carries to the need
par l'ost montent si compaignon,
through the-host mount his companions
qui le sivent a esporon.
who him follow at spur
Venuz est apoignant li reis
Come is spurring the king
desi qu'al gué, jostel mareis;
from-so-far as-to-the ford beside-the marsh
le gué ot porpris Tydeüs
the ford had occupied Tydeus
a sei disme, n'en i ot plus;
with himself tenth not-thereof there had more
outre l'ève, al gué de la ronce,
beyond the-water at-the ford of the bramble
li dez jostérent o les onze.
the ten jousted with the eleven
Chaïrent en devers le rei,
Fell thereof toward the king
jo ne sai bien, o quatre o trei;
I not know well or four or three
mais il en ont deschevauchié
but they thereof have unhorsed
des autres bien l'une meitié.
of-the others well the-one half
Tydeüs et li reis jostérent,
Tydeus and the king jousted
es escuz granz cous se donérent.
in-the shields great blows themselves they-gave

Tydeüs a le rei feru
Tydeus has the king struck
par son la bocle de l'escu;
on top the boss of the-shield
empeint le bien de grant vertu,
he-drives him well with great strength
tot son hauberc li a rompu:
all his hauberk to-him he-has broken
se li cous alast bien a dreit,
if the blow had-gone well at right
le rei laissast el champ tot freit;
the king he-would-have-left in-the field all cold
mais li cous s'en eschampa fors,
but the blow itself-thence escaped out
si ne le consiut pas el cors.
so not him reaches at-all in-the body
Li reis a feru Tydeüs
The king has struck Tydeus
en la pène d'azur desus.
in the fur of-azure above
Haste ot reide, pas ne fu torte:
Shaft he-had stiff at-all not was crooked
le bon escu del col li porte.
the good shield from-the neck him he-carries
Un serjant ot devers le rei,
A sergeant there-had toward the king
qui se fu repost el rosei:
who himself was hidden in-the reed-bed
cil aveit non Menalippus,
he had name Menalippus

a mort a navré Tydeüs;
to death has wounded Tydeus
mout sot bien traire et arc ot fort,
very he-knew well to-shoot and bow had strong
Tydeüs a navré a mort.
Tydeus he-has wounded to death
El braon le fiert a travers,
In-the thigh-muscle him he-strikes at across
les veines li trenche et les ners:
the veins to-him he-cuts and the sinews
il pert le sanc, li cuers li ment,
he loses the blood the heart to-him fails
sor l'erbe fresche a pié descent.
on the-grass fresh on foot he-descends
Bien le firent si compaignon,
Well him did his companions
car le chief pristrent del garçon.
for the head they-took from-the boy
En mé le pré Tydeüs gést,
In midst the meadow Tydeus lies
par la plaie li sans li ést.
through the wound the blood to-him issues
En l'ost montent: apoignant viénent,
In the-host they-mount spurring they-come
sor Tydeüs tuit se retiénent.
over Tydeus all themselves hold
Cil dedenz se traient en sus:
Those within themselves draw in up
mout sont joios de Tydeüs;
very are joyful at Tydeus

cil dedenz en joent et rient,
those within thereof play and laugh
et cil de l'ost plorent et crient.
and those of the-host weep and cry
Tydeüs est de la mort près,
Tydeus is to the death near
car tot le sanc vuée a eslais;
for all the blood he-empties at gallop
il pert le sanc et la color,
he loses the blood and the color
sor l'erbe muert a grant dolor.
on the-grass he-dies with great grief
Li reis ot duel, onc n'ot greignor:
The king had grief ever not-had greater
Tydeüs plaint et sa valor,
Tydeus he-laments and his valor
sa proece et son vasselage
his prowess and his valor
et sa largece et son barnage;
and his largess and his baronage
et neporuec de sa pesance
and nevertheless of his sorrow
ne fist mie trop grant monstrance,
not made at-all too great show
car tuit s'esmaient por le mort.
for all are-dismayed for the dead-one
Mais li reis est de grant confort:
But the king is of great comfort

plus sage home ne sai del rei;
more wise man not I-know than-the king
bien conforte sa gent et sei.
well he-comforts his folk and himself

The Body of Tydeus

VII

Polynices returns from his siege engines, laments his companion, recalling the embassy and the fifty ambushers, and tries to kill himself, but Adrastus stops him. Eteocles leads a sortie to seize the body and feed it to the dogs. Adrastus rouses the Greeks, and Polynices and Eteocles clash without result. Hippomedon guards the body with five hundred men on foot and seven hundred horse, and his close order costs the king's scouts heavily.

Polinicès del bos repaire,
Polynices from-the wood returns
ou il faiseit ses engienz faire:
where he made his engines to-make
dous berfreiz et perriéres quatre
two siege-towers and catapults four
faiseit il faire as murs abatre.
made he make the walls to-throw-down
De loign ot les plors et les criz:
From afar he-hears the weeping and the cries
de la noise fu esfreïz;
from the noise he-was frightened
apoignant vint par mé le pré
spurring he-came through midst the meadow
la ou érent josté li Gré;
there where were gathered the Greeks

novèle oï que li fu male,
news he-heard which to-him was evil
car le cors vit sanglent et pale.
for the body he-saw bloody and pale
Li chevalier et li baron
The knights and the barons
grant duel faiseient environ:
great grief made around
quant le conut, sor lui se pasme;
when him he-knew over him himself swoons
se il fait duel, nus ne l'en blasme;
if he makes grief any not him-thereof blames
Polinicès fait duel estrange,
Polynices makes grief strange
sovent tert ses ueuz o sa manche;
often wipes his eyes with his sleeve
des ueuz plore, del cuer sospire,
from-the eyes he-weeps from-the heart he-sighs
car il ot au cuer mout grant ire;
for he had at-the heart very great wrath
sospire et plore mout forment
he-sighs and weeps very greatly
et le regrète doucement:
and him laments sweetly
«Compaign,» fait il, «vos estes morz:
Companion says he you are dead
«Se après vos vif, ço est torz;
If after you I-live that is wrong
«pués vostre mort ne dei plus vivre,
after your death not I-ought more to-live

«car ne porreit nus clers escrivre
for not could any clerk write
«les granz ahanz ne les sofraites
the great toils nor the wants
«que vos avez por m'amor traites.
which you have for my-love borne
«Vos m'estïez charnaus amis,
You to-me-were fleshly friend
«et m'avïez toz tens pramis
and to-me-had all time promised
«que vos me rendrïez ma terre:
that you to-me would-render my land
«Ore estes morz por le conquerre.
Now you-are dead for it to-conquer
«Vos en traïez les ahanz,
You thereof bore the toils
«les periz et les enuéz granz,
the perils and the troubles great
«et me faisïez reposer,
and me made to-rest
«et solïez forment choser,
and were-wont greatly to-scold
«quant jo voleie chevauchier;
when I wished to-ride
«car vos m'avïez itant chier
for you me-had so dear
«ne volïez que mal traisisse,
not wished that ill I-should-bear
«ne que de rien m'entremeïsse.
nor that in anything myself-I-should-meddle

«Quant vous aler por m'onor querre,
When I-wished to-go for my-domain to-seek
«ainz que meüe fust la guerre,
before that moved were the war
«vos l'oïstes, si m'en chosastes,
you it-heard so me-thereof scolded
«et pas aler ne m'i laissastes,
and at-all to-go not me-there let
«que mis frére ne m'oceïst,
that my brother not me-should-kill
«et jo crei bien qu'il le feïst:
and I believe well that-he it would-do
«Se de mei fust poesteïs,
If of me he-were master
«ja n'en alasse le jor vis.
ever not-thence I-would-have-gone the day alive
«Vos alastes al fier message,
You went on-the proud embassy
«feïstes i grant vasselage;
did there great prowess
«car en la sale, en la grant cort,
for in the hall in the great court
«tuit l'oïrent, n'i ot si sort:
all it-heard not-there had so deaf
«Parjure clamastes le rei
Perjured you-called the king
«et l'apelastes de sa fei.
and him-you-challenged by his faith
«Quant en deüstes revenir,
When thence you-had-to come-back

«en traïson vos vout mordrir,
in treason you he-wished to-murder
«et fist somondre chevaliers
and made summon knights
«jusqu'a cinquante proz et fiers:
until-to fifty valiant and proud
«Par autre veie chevauchiérent,
By other way they-rode
«en un destreit si s'embuschiérent.
in a narrow so themselves-ambushed
«Feïstes i mout grant esforz,
You-made there very great effort
«laissastes i cinquante morz;
you-left there fifty dead
«toz cinquante les oceïstes,
all fifty them you-killed
«ne mais un sol qu'en trameïstes;
nor more-than one single whom-thence you-sent
«a un en laissastes la vie
to one thereof you-left the life
«por conter la chevalerie.
for to-tell the chivalry
«Par vos et par vostre conduit
Through you and through your conduct
«sont icist baron josté tuit.
are these barons gathered all
«Hon ne fu de vostre travail,
Man not was of your toil
«vos avïez tot l'ost en bail;
you had all the-host in charge

«les forriers guardïez le jor,
the foragers you-guarded the day
«sovent prenïez grant estor:
often you-took great fight
«Ne querïez autre delét,
Not you-sought other delight
«ne ja ne geüssiez en lét.
nor ever not you-would-lie in bed
«Quant en Grece primes venimes,
When into Greece first we-came
«por les hostaus nos mespresimes;
for the lodgings us we-mistook
«a Arges, al perron reial,
at Argos at-the stone royal
«nos combatimes por l'ostal.
we fought for the-lodging
«Li reis l'oï de son palaiz
The king it-heard from his palace
«entre nos mist concorde et paiz:
between us put concord and peace
«Onc pués n'amastes sor mei ren,
Ever afterward not-you-loved above me anything
«ne frére ne cosin germen.
nor brother nor cousin german
«Pués vostre mort vivre ne quier.»
After your death to-live not I-seek
A tant a trait le brant d'acier:
At this he-has drawn the blade of-steel
par mé le cors s'en vout ferir,
through midst the body himself-thence he-wished to-strike

quant li reis le li cort tolir;
when the king it from-him runs to-take
li reis a l'espee saisie
the king has the-sword seized
et prée lui que ne s'ocie.
and prays him that not himself-he-kill
Tuit li chevalier le confortent
All the knights him comfort
et de la presse fors le portent;
and from the press out him carry
de la presse le portent fors
from the press him they-carry out
et l'esloignent de sor le cors.
and him-they-distance from on the body
Li reis de Thèbes trés bien sot
The king of Thebes very well knew
as criz et as plors que il ot,
by-the cries and by-the weeping which he heard
bien le sot as plors et as criz
well it he-knew by-the weeping and by-the cries
que Tydeüs esteit feniz.
that Tydeus was ended
Mout li fist mal cil en sa vie:
Very to-him did ill he in his life
ore en pense grant felonie,
now thereof he-thinks great felony
car as Greus vout le cors tolir,
for from-the Greeks he-wished the body to-take
que nel peüssent sevelir;
that not-it they-might bury

mangier le vueut faire a mastins
to-eat him he-wishes to-make to mastiffs
et a voutoirs et a corbins;
and to vultures and to ravens
après sa mort s'en vueut vengier
after his death himself-thence he-wishes to-avenge
et a mastins faire mangier,
and to mastiffs to-make eat
car graignor duel cil en avront,
for greater grief they thereof will-have
quant as chiens mangier le verront.
when to-the dogs to-eat him they-will-see
Cil dedenz adobé se sont
Those within armed themselves are
et s'en éssent tuit a un front:
and themselves-thence issue all at one front
as portes veïssiez tal presse!
at-the gates you-would-have-seen such press
Vers ses homes li reis s'engresse;
Toward his men the king himself-urges
riant lor dit: «Bien nos estait:
laughing to-them he-says Well for-us it-stands
«Menalippus a fait gent trait;
Menalippus has made noble shot
«a un cop a mort Tydeüs:
at one blow has killed Tydeus
«Veez le cors gesir la jus.
See the body to-lie there below
«Qui de mei vueut aveir gent don,
Who from me wishes to-have noble gift

«ore le pré et le somon
now him I-pray and him summon
«que del cors tolir nos penon,
that of-the body taking us we-strive
«car, se aporter l'en poon
for if to-carry it-thence we-can
«par force et par envaïson,
by force and by onset
«a ceus de l'ost grant duel feron.
to those of the-host great grief we-shall-make
«N'avrai mais joie, se le mort
Not-I-shall-have more joy if the dead
«ne lor tol tot et ne l'en port.»
not from-them I-take all and not it-thence carry
A tant cil laissent chevaus corre
At this those let horses run
et se peinent del cors escorre.
and themselves strive of-the body to-rescue
Cil de l'ost grant duel demenoent,
Those of the-host great grief led
li plusor sor lui se pasmoent,
the most over him themselves fainted
quant virent venir ceus dedenz:
when they-saw to-come those within
Adrastus del monter n'est lenz,
Adrastus of-the mounting not-is slow
il ne fu pas lenz del monter.
he not was at-all slow of-the mounting
«Laissiez,» fait il, «le duel ester:
Let says he the grief be

«Venir veez voz enemis,
To-come you-see your enemies
«qui Tydeüs vos ont ocis:
who Tydeus for-you have killed
«Qui duel avra, or i parra,
Who grief will-have now there it-will-appear
«hardiement les requerra.
boldly them he-will-attack
«Vostre grant duel vengiez ici:
Your great grief avenge here
«Del bien ferir n'aiez merci;
Of-the well striking not-have mercy
«guardez ne seiez esclenchier
take-care not be sparing
«del ferir ne del detrenchier.»
of-the striking nor of-the cutting-up
Polinicès se pasme et plore,
Polynices himself swoons and weeps
mais li reis li est coruz sore:
but the king to-him is run over
«Laissiez,» fait il, «ester le plor,
Let says he be the weeping
«se tu as de sa mort dolor,
if thou hast of his death grief
«venge le vers ceus qui mort l'ont
avenge him on those who dead him-have
«et qui entre eus grant joie en font;
and who among them great joy thereof make

«guart que la joie et la baudor
take-care that the joy and the mirth
«lor faces torner en tristor.
to-them thou-make turn into sadness
«Tu le deis vengier es estors,
Thou him oughtest to-avenge in-the fights
«sa femne deit plorer toz jorz:
his wife ought to-weep all days
«Femne et enfant deivent plorer,
Wife and child ought to-weep
«et chevaliers granz cous doner.
and knights great blows to-give
«Mainte gente chevalerie
Many-a noble chivalry
«a fait cist por tei en sa vie;
has done this-one for thee in his life
«por ta guerre et por sa grant fei
for thy war and for his great faith
«est morz li ber, ço peise mei:
is dead the baron that weighs me
«Or refai guerre por s'amor,
Now again-make war for his-love
«non por terre ne por honor.
not for land nor for domain
«Se te voleient t'onor rendre,
If thee they-wished thy-domain to-render
«ne la devreies tu mais prendre,
not it oughtest thou more to-take

«jusque sa mort aies vengiee
until his death thou-may-have avenged
«et ta guerre bien avengiee.»
and thy war well brought-to-end
Polinicès a quauque peine
Polynices with whatever pain
se conforte del duel qu'il meine;
himself comforts of-the grief which-he leads
a quauque peine se conforte,
with whatever pain himself he-comforts
monte el cheval, que tost le porte:
he-mounts on-the horse which soon him carries
mout sont dolent il et li reis,
very are sorrowful he and the king
mais hué ferront granz cous maneis.
but today they-will-strike great blows forthwith
Li autre ferront ensement:
The others will-strike likewise
le rei sivent hardiement;
the king they-follow boldly
hardiement sivent le rei,
boldly they-follow the king
car il comence le tornei.
for he begins the tourney
O Creon a joint Adrastus,
With Creon has joined Adrastus
et si l'a mis del cheval jus:
and so him-he-has put from-the horse down
se ne li fust Creon escos,
if not from-him were Creon rescued

sempres le feïst del chief blos.
at-once him he-would-make of-the head bare
Cil de l'ost dient en grezeis:
Those of the-host say in Greek
«Ja ne deüst veillir li reis:
Ever not ought to-grow-old the king
«Veez com legiérement joint!
See how lightly he-joins
«Bien eslaissiez est et bien point.»
Well dashing he-is and well he-spurs
Polinicès joint o son frére:
Polynices joins with his brother
mar fussent il onc né de mére,
ill were they ever born of mother
car mout s'entreportent grant ire
for much each-other-bear great wrath
et mout se vueulent entrocire.
and much themselves wish to-kill-each-other
N'ert encore venue l'ore:
Not-was yet come the-hour
li dui frére se corent sore;
the two brothers each-other run over
mout s'entrefiérent volentiers,
much each-other-strike willingly
n'i a escu qui torge entiers;
not-there is shield which may-turn whole
li escu sont bien enfondré,
the shields are well staved-in
mais li hauberc sont bien serré,
but the hauberks are well close

li hauberc sont serré et fort,
the hauberks are close and strong
qui les guarissent bien de mort.
which them protect well from death
Lor maisniee s'est entre eus mise:
Their household itself-is between them put
colee i ot donee et prise;
blow there had given and taken
mainte gente chevalerie
many-a noble chivalry
ot fait sempre en la praierie;
had done at-once in the meadowland
d'ambedous parz est grant la gent,
from-both sides is great the folk
bien i reluist or et argent.
well there shines gold and silver
Tuit s'espandirent par la pree,
All themselves-spread through the meadow
que mout esteit et longe et lee:
which very was both long and wide
une grant live et plus, ço crei,
a great league and more that I-believe
durent bien li renc del tornei;
lasted well the ranks of-the tourney
cil qui érent el cor senestre
those who were in-the horn left
ne sévent que font cil del destre.
not know what do those of-the right
Polinicès est o le rei:
Polynices is with the king

plus crent il de lui que de sei.
more fears he for him than for himself
Onc ne departirent le jor,
Ever not they-parted the day
li uns guarda l'autre en l'estor:
the one guarded the-other in the-fight
par le tornei ensemble vont,
through the tourney together they-go
en la grant presse ensemble sont;
in the great press together they-are
il et li reis ensemble poignent,
he and the king together spur
il et li reis ensemble joignent.
he and the king together join
El cor senestre esteit li reis,
In-the horn left was the king
ou joint sovent et fiert maneis,
where he-joins often and strikes forthwith
Ypomedon el destre a val:
Hippomedon in-the right to below
en l'ost n'aveit meillor vassal.
in the-host not-there-was better vassal
Ypomedon est de ça jus,
Hippomedon is from here down
le cors guarde de Tydeüs.
the body he-guards of Tydeus
La veïssiez granz torbes corre
There you-would-have-seen great crowds run
de ceus dedenz al cors escorre:
of those within to-the body to-rescue

li reis de Thèbes mout se peine,
the king of Thebes much himself strives
al cors escorre grant gent meine,
to-the body rescue great folk he-leads
al cors tolir meine grant torbe;
to-the body taking he-leads great crowd
Ypomedon le li destorbe;
Hippomedon it from-him binders
Ypomedon le li defent,
Hippomedon it from-him defends
granz colees i done et prent;
great blows there he-gives and takes
de granz colees i fait change:
of great blows there he-makes exchange
pieç'a n'oïstes si estrange.
long-since not-you-heard so strange
Ypomedon ot grant maisniee,
Hippomedon had great household
de bataille bien enseigniee;
for battle well trained
il sont bien mil et plus, ço cuit,
they are well thousand and more that I-think
de sa terre natural tuit:
of his land natural all
nul de ceus n'estuet sooner
any of those not-behooves to-urge
por granz cous sofrir et doner.
for great blows to-suffer and to-give
Descendre en fait l'une meitié,
Dismount thence he-makes the-one half

bien en a mis cinc cenz a pié;
well thereof he-has put five hundred on foot
bien en sont cinc cent descendu:
well thereof are five hundred dismounted
as vos le cors mais desfendu.
see you the body more defended
Si come il cuident et il dient,
So as they think and they say
ne lor toudront, se nes ocient;
not from-them they-will-take-away if not-them they-kill
ne lor toudront, ço cuit, mais hué,
not from-them they-will-take-away that I-think more today
ainz en perdront de sanc un mué.
rather thereof they-will-lose of blood a measure
Ypomedon sot de conrei:
Hippomedon knew of array
il ot esté en maint esfrei.
he had been in many-a alarm
Geude a faite de chevaliers,
Foot-troop he-has made of knights
de bachelers, des plus legiers;
of bachelors of-the most light
set cenz en ot bien a cheval:
seven hundred thereof he-had well on horse
cil sont chevalier natural,
they are knights natural
bacheler sont et gent legiére:
bachelors they-are and folk light
n'a en l'ost compaigne tant fiére,
not-there-is in the-host company so proud

tant seit crente ne tant dotee,
so-much be feared nor so-much dreaded
ne que tant bien seit conreée.
nor that so well be arrayed
Cil dedenz espandu se sont:
Those within spread themselves are
par le tornei proeces font,
through the tourney prowesses they-do
et n'en sont remés o le rei
and not-thereof are remained with the king
que dui mile, si com jo crei.
but two thousand so as I believe
O tant de gent com li reis ot,
With as-much of folk as the king had
les empressa tant com plus pot;
them he-pressed so-much as most he-could
et ne lor lut pas torneier
and not to-them it-was-allowed at-all to-tourney
ne traverser ne champeier:
nor to-cross nor to-fight-in-the-field
de dreit joignent tuit a un front,
from straight they-join all at one front
les compaignes jostees sont.
the companies joined are
Quant les lances lor sont faillies,
When the lances to-them are failed
traient les espees forbies:
they-draw the swords furbished
la veïssiez aspre vespree,
there you-would-have-seen harsh evening

mainte colee i ot donee,
many-a blow there had given
et mainte en i veïssiez prendre,
and many-a thereof there you-would-have-seen take
le cors tolir et fort defendre.
the body to-take and strongly to-defend
N'aveit mie grant gent li dus,
Not-had at-all great folk the duke
li reis en aveit assez plus;
the king thereof had enough more
mais cil l'aveit mieuz ordenee,
but he it-had better ordered
de bataille mieuz conreée.
for battle better arrayed
Des coreors, qui vont avant,
Of-the scouts who go before
i feit li reis perte mout grant;
there makes the king loss very great
grant perte i firent li reial,
great loss there made the royal-ones
car li chevalier a cheval,
for the knights on horse
si come il joignent, les desrochent;
so as they join them break-up
li armé de pié les acrochent:
the armed on foot them hook
ceus prènent, et qui chiet des lor,
those they-take and who falls of-the theirs
il le socorent de vigor.
they him succor with vigor

Diomedes

VIII

Eteocles sends a released prisoner to tell Hippomedon falsely that Adrastus is captured. Hippomedon rides to the rescue, and the Thebans carry off Tydeus's body, which five hundred serfs drag with a rope in sight of the host. Eteocles refuses to sell it to Tydeus's men of Calydon, who resolve to go home. Capaneus warns that their leaving would break the host, and Adrastus keeps them by promising to send Tydeus's infant son, his own grandson, to Tydeus's old father. That child is Diomedes, who later fights Aeneas at Troy.

Li reis de Thèbes vit trés bien
The king of Thebes saw very well
que par force n'i fera rien;
that by force not-there he-will-do anything
apeler fait un chevalier
to-call he-makes a knight
que il ot pris des Greus l'autr'ier:
whom he had taken of-the Greeks the-other-day
ostagiez esteit par retor,
hostage he-was for return
mais il fu quites icel jor.
but he was quit that day
Li reis le vit, si l'apela:
The king him saw so him-called
«Va mei,» fait il, «a ceus de la.
Go for-me says he to those of there
«Di lor que cil desconfit sont
Say to-them that those discomfited are
«qui la torneient de d'a mont:
who there tourney from of up

«Li reis est pris, et Greu s'en vont;
The king is taken and Greeks themselves-thence go
«se nel socorent, perdu l'ont.
if not-him they-succor lost him-they-have
«Assez lor porras faire acreire,
Enough to-them thou-wilt-be-able to-make believe
«car bien semblera chose veire.
for well it-will-seem thing true
«Se il se remuent por tei,
If they themselves move for thee
«jo te quiterai de ta fei;
I thee shall-quit of thy faith
«et se tu vueus remaindre o mei,
and if thou wishest to-remain with me
«retendrai tei, si com jo dei,
I-shall-retain thee so as I ought
«et te dorrai mout grant conrei;
and thee shall-give very great equipment
«o se ço non, d'iço me crei,
or if that not of-this me believe
«par les dous ueus dont jo te vei,
by the two eyes whereby I thee see
«ne verras mais oan tornei,
not thou-wilt-see more this-year tourney
«ainz vivras mais a male lei,
rather thou-wilt-live more at evil law
«assez avras et fain et sei.»
enough thou-wilt-have both hunger and thirst
A tant cil point le palefrei,
At this he spurs the palfrey

semblant fait que vienge del rei;
semblance he-makes that he-come from-the king
del rei vient, si come il afie;
from-the king he-comes so as he affirms
Ypomedon apèle et crie;
Hippomedon he-calls and cries
Ypomedon sovent apèle:
Hippomedon often he-calls
dire li vueut pesant novèle.
to-say to-him he-wishes heavy news
Ypomedon est en la presse,
Hippomedon is in the press
ou il ne fine ne ne cesse:
where he not ends nor not ceases
ceus dedenz ocist et abat
those within he-kills and fells
et hardiement se combat:
and boldly himself fights
cil vient avant, plore et sospire,
he comes forward weeps and sighs
et ses cheveus arrache et tire:
and his hair tears and pulls
«Sire», fait il, «que fais tu ci?
Lord says he what doest thou here
«Aies, por Deu, del rei merci;
Have for God on-the king mercy
«laisse les morz, aiue as vis,
leave the dead help the living
«car cil de la ont le rei pris;
for those of there have the king taken

«aies, por Deu, merci del rei,
have for God mercy on-the king
«que il ont pris a cel tornei;
whom they have taken at that tourney
«aiue al rei, a ton seignor,
help to-the king to thy lord
«de cui tu tiens tote t'onor:
from whom thou holdest all thy-domain
«Se ne te hastes del socorre,
If not thee thou-hastenest of-the succoring
«tu n'i porras ja mais escorre;
thou not-there wilt-be-able ever more to-rescue
«sel laisses mener a la gent,
if-him thou-lettest lead to the folk
«del socorre iert ja mais neient.»
of-the succoring will-be ever more nothing
Ypomedon ot la novèle,
Hippomedon hears the news
poez saveir ne li fu bèle;
you-can know not to-him was fair
bien creit içо que cil li conte,
well he-believes this which he to-him tells
car il esteit fiz a un conte
for he was son to a count
et des mieuz nez homes de Grece:
and of-the best born men of Greece
sis pére esteit cuens de Melece.
his father was count of Miletus
Ypomedon as suens escrie,
Hippomedon to-the his cries

toz ses homes a sei alie:
all his men to himself allies
«Mieuz vueil,» fait il, «perdre la vie
Better I-wish says he to-lose the life
«que Grece seit issi honie;
than Greece be thus shamed
«mieuz vueil estre pris o le rei
better I-wish to-be taken with the king
«que il l'en meinent ja senz mei.»
than they him-thence lead ever without me
Le cors comande a ceus de pié;
The body he-commends to those on foot
si com cil lui ot enseignié,
so as he him had shown
o ceus que il ot a cheval,
with those whom he had on horse
se mist li ber par mé un val.
himself put the baron through midst a valley
Par le val vait celéement,
Through the valley he-goes secretly
et fist i mout grant hardement,
and did there very great boldness
car chevaliers n'ot que set cenz,
for knights not-he-had but seven hundred
et trespassa toz ceus dedenz.
and went-past all those within
Tant come il chace la folie,
So-long as he chases the folly
Etioclès pas ne s'oblie:
Eteocles at-all not himself-forgets

a toz ses homes quiert aiue,
to all his men he-seeks help
et sa gent li est mout creüe;
and his folk to-him is much grown
le cors toli par poesté,
the body he-took by power
si l'en porta en la cité.
so it-thence he-carried into the city
Cil de Thèbes mout s'en glorient
Those of Thebes much themselves-thereof glory
et sor le cors joent et rient;
and over the body play and laugh
les femnes forment le maudient
the women greatly him curse
et de pitié plorent et crient:
and from pity weep and cry
remembre lor de lor amis
remembers to-them of their friends
que Tydeüs lor a ocis;
whom Tydeus to-them has killed
li dueus comence a remembrer:
the grief begins to remember
le cors vuelent tot desmembrer.
the body they-wish all to-dismember
A grant force l'escost li reis
With great force him-rescued the king
et as femnes et as borgeis;
both from-the women and from-the burghers
a cinc cenz sers li reis le livre:
to five hundred serfs the king him delivers

s'il le perdent, n'en pueent vivre.
if-they him lose not-thereof they-can live
Li serf s'en vont a une part,
The serfs themselves-thence go to one side
traïnent le o une hart.
they-drag him with a rope
Cil de l'ost le veient d'un mont:
Those of the-host him see from-a hill
poez saveir grant duel en ont;
you-can know great grief thereof they-have
quant il le virent traïner
when they him saw to-drag
et a grant honte demener,
and with great shame to-handle
dolent en sont, nel quier retraire;
sorrowful thereof they-are not-it I-seek to-recount
grant duel font, ne pueent al faire.
great grief they-make not they-can else do
Li franc baron de Calidone,
The noble barons of Calydon
qui érent de son patremone,
who were of his patrimony
si home lige natural,
his men liege natural
cil font duel, onc n'oïstes tal.
they make grief ever not-you-heard such
Al rei trametent un message,
To-the king they-send a messenger
un chevalier mout proz et sage:
a knight very valiant and wise

préent lui que le cors lor rende;
they-pray him that the body to-them he-render
se ço ne vueut, si le lor vende.
if that not he-wishes so it to-them he-may-sell
Aveir en puet mout grant tensor:
To-have thereof he-can very great treasure
peseront lui dez feiz a or,
they-will-weigh him ten times in gold
et li dorront son bon cheval,
and to-him will-give his good horse
en tote Grece n'a ital.
in all Greece not-is such
De lor aveir li reis n'ot cure:
Of their wealth the king not-had care
ne laira al cors sepouture,
not he-will-allow to-the body burial
ne nel laira en terre metre,
nor not-it will-allow in earth to-put
por rien que li sachent prametre.
for anything which to-him they-may-know to-promise
Il n'i ot plus: li mes s'en torne,
It not-there had more the messenger himself-thence turns
le respons dit; cil en sont morne.
the answer he-says they thereof are gloomy
Al bien matin sont esveillié
In-the early morning they-are awakened
et furent tuit apareillié;
and were all prepared
al rei sont alé congié querre,
to-the king are gone leave to-seek

car aler vuelent en lor terre:
for to-go they-wish into their land
il n'estoient pas de s'onor,
they not-were at-all of his-domain
en l'ost érent o lor seignor;
in the-host they-were with their lord
il est morz, vuelent s'en torner:
he is dead they-wish themselves-thence to-turn
n'ont mais iluec a sojorner.
not-have more there to stay
Mil et cinc cent furent et plus
Thousand and five hundred were and more
en la compaigne Tydeüs:
in the company (of-)Tydeus
ensemble vinrent a cheval
together came on horse
jusque davant le tréf reial;
until before the tent royal
dolent et trist et tuit pensif,
sorrowful and sad and all pensive
et descendirent soz un if.
and dismounted under a yew
Del tréf eissi contre eus li reis;
From-the tent issued against them the king
iluec refu li dueus toz freis:
there again-was the grief all fresh
contre le rei li baron plorent,
before the king the barons weep
contre val les lairmes lor corent;
along down the tears to-them run

plorent et plaignent lor damage,
they-weep and lament their harm
por poi de duel ne vont en rage.
for little of grief not they-go into rage
Li reis esprent d'ires et art:
The king is-kindled with-wraths and burns
por poi que li cuers ne li part;
for little that the heart not to-him breaks
de son ami grant duel aveit,
for his friend great grief he-had
et ot pitié de ceus que veit;
and had pity for those whom he-sees
uns si granz deus li est venuz
a so great grief to-him is come
ja chaïst, se ne fust tenuz.
already he-would-have-fallen if not he-were held
Li seneschaus parole al rei:
The seneschal speaks to-the king
congié prent as suens et a sei.
leave he-takes for-the his and for himself
Capaneüs cele part vait,
Capaneus that way goes
a une part le rei atrait;
to one side the king he-draws
a ceus dit: «Atendez un poi:
to those he-says Wait a little
«Ne s'est li reis conseilliez joi.
Not himself-is the king counseled still
«Sire,» fait il, «dirai tei veir,
Lord says he I-shall-tell thee truth

«si com jo cuit et jo espeir:
so as I think and I hope
«Se s'en vont, tu iés confonduz,
If themselves-thence they-go thou art confounded
«et as tes homes toz perduz.
and hast thy men all lost
«Nostre gent est mout esbahie,
Our folk is very dismayed
«car perdu ont mout grant aïe;
for lost they-have very great help
«cil de la sont asseüré,
those of there are reassured
«et li nostre tuit esguaré:
and the ours all distraught
«Se cist s'en vont si freschement,
If these themselves-thence go so freshly
«et li autre tot ensement;
and the others all likewise
«dira l'on que nes pues tenir
will-say one that not-them thou-canst hold
«et que tu vueus t'ost departir.
and that thou wishest thy-host to-disband
«Se entre nos liéve une bruide,
If among us rises a rumor
«mout par est fous cil qui ço cuide
very much is mad he who that thinks
«que mais puéssent estre tenu:
that more they-can be held
«Por neient serron ça venu;
For nothing we-shall-be here come

«a grant honte et a grant desrei
with great shame and with great disorder
«nos en verreiz torner, ço crei.
us thence you-will-see turn that I-believe
«La enz ont grant chevalerie,
There in they-have great chivalry
«mout ont grant gent et bien hardie:
very they-have great folk and well bold
«Ne cuit, si Deus me beneïe,
Not I-think so God me may-bless
«que vos en torgiez senz folie.
that you thence may-turn without folly
«Tant com li dueus et li damages
So-long as the grief and the harm
«est freis, mout serra granz folages,
is fresh very will-be great folly
«s'en laissiez aler ceste gent:
if-thence you-let go this folk
«Done lor pro or et argent
Give to-them plenty gold and silver
«et retien les en ta maisniee,
and retain them in thy household
«tant com ta gent est esmaiee;
so-long as thy folk is dismayed
«quant li siéges iert afermez
when the siege will-be confirmed
«et nostre dueus iert amermez,
and our grief will-be lessened
«ça avant entre qu'a dous meis,
here forward between until two months

«que li dueus ne serra tant freis:
that the grief not will-be so fresh
«Se ne vuelent o tei ester,
If not they-wish with thee to-stay
«donc s'en porront mout bien aler.»
then themselves-thence they-will-be-able very well to-go
Li reis dit: «Bien poez saveir
The king says Well you-can know
«ja n'i remaindront por aveir:
ever not-there they-will-remain for wealth
«Riche home sont et averos
Rich men they-are and wealthy
«et del torner mout desiros.
and of-the turning very desirous
«En autre sen les estuet fraindre
In other way them it-behooves to-bend
«et par engiegn faire remaindre.»
and by cunning make to-remain
Li reis nes vout plus demorer;
The king not-them wished more to-delay
a eus vient, comence a plorer:
to them he-comes begins to weep
«Seignor,» fait il, «plorer poon:
Lords says he to-weep we-can
«N'est merveille se nos ploron;
Not-is marvel if we weep
«jo de mon gendre ai grant dolor,
I for my son-in-law have great grief
«et vos de vostre chier seignor.
and you for your dear lord

«Fait a Deus son comandement:
Done has God his command
«En lui n'a mais recovrement.
In him not-is more recovery
«De son pére sué mout dolanz,
For his father I-am very grieved
«qui est frages, vieuz et crollanz:
who is frail old and trembling
«Pués que la mort son fil orra,
After that the death (of-)his son he-will-hear
«poez saveir de duel morra,
you-can know of grief he-will-die
«car il n'aveit heir que cestui
for he not-had heir but this-one
«qui s'onor tenist après lui.
who his-domain might-hold after him
«Mais Tydeüs a un enfant
But Tydeus has a child
«de ma fille, petit tetant:
by my daughter little suckling
«Dorrai le lui, seit qui li port,
I-shall-give it him be-it who it-to-him may-carry
«et fera lui mout grant confort;
and it-will-make him very great comfort
«quant il avra assez duel fait,
when he will-have enough grief made
«iluec serront tuit si refrait,
there will-be all his crushed
«et a tot guari se tendra,
and in all healed himself he-will-hold

«quant de son fil un heir avra.
when of his son an heir he-will-have
«Jo trametrai por l'enfant tost,
I shall-send for the-child soon
«et vos estez tanz dis en l'ost;
and you be so-many days in the-host
«et ço sachiez qu'o grant aveir
and that know that-with great wealth
«vos livrerai mon petit heir;
to-you I-shall-deliver my little heir
«l'aveir et l'enfant de par mei
the-wealth and the-child on behalf me
«presentereiz a vostre rei.
you-will-present to your king
«Par vos li vueil preier et dire
Through you to-him I-wish to-pray and to-say
«que por son fil ne me port ire:
that for his son not to-me he-bear wrath
«Mei est damages, a lui maire;
To-me is harm to him greater
«retor l'en faz tal com pués faire,
return him-thereof I-make such as I-can do
«et quant vos partireiz de mei,
and when you will-part from me
«jol vos di bien en dreite fei,
I-it to-you say well in right faith
«a chascun par sei senglement
to each by himself singly
«dorrai del mien mout largement.»
I-shall-give of-the mine very largely

Ne vos en quier faire lonc plait,
Not to-you thereof I-seek to-make long plea
si come il dist, et cil l'ont fait:
so as he said and they it-have done
ariére tornent, si descendent,
back they-turn so they-dismount
et le tosel en l'ost atendent.
and the youth in the-host they-await
De l'enfant vos di une rien:
Of the-child to-you I-say one thing
mout restora son pére bien;
very he-restored his father well
car, pués que il vint en aage,
for after that he came into age
mout par fu de grant vasselage;
very much he-was of great prowess
chevaleries fist adès
chivalries he-did always
et aveit non Diomedès;
and had name Diomedes
en l'ost de Troie fu defors,
in the-host of Troy he-was outside
et se combatié cors a cors
and himself fought body to body
o Eneas, qui fu mout proz,
with Aeneas who was very valiant
fors Hector li mieudre de toz:
except Hector the best of all

se cil nen eüst ajutore,
if he not-had had help
Diomedès fust la victore.
Diomedes would-have-been the victory

The Foraging

IX

Adrastus makes Hippomedon the host's captain, and he keeps watch, guards the foragers, and gives generously. Famine grips the camp, and Bulgar guides lead Hippomedon and a thousand knights across a wasteland to a rich land beyond the mountains by the Danube. Spies tell Eteocles, and Faramond, the count of that land, promises to take the foragers captive. He crosses the river with three thousand men to lie in wait. Hippomedon's scouts see them and warn him that the enemy is the stronger.

Por ses barons Adrastus mande,
For his barons Adrastus sends
d'une chose conseil demande:
of-a thing counsel he-asks
pués que cil a perdu la vie
after that he has lost the life
qui l'ost aveit tote en baillie,
who the-host had all in charge
le qual porra en son lou metre:
the which he-will-be-able in his place to-put
un d'eus en covient entremetre,
one of-them thereof it-behooves to-undertake

qui tot le fais prenge sor sei
who all the burden may-take upon himself
del chadeler après le rei.
of-the leading after the king
D'Ypomedon le loent tuit:
Of-Hippomedon it counsel all
il ont le mieuz eslét, ço cuit,
they have the best chosen that I-think
car proz est et de grant parage,
for valiant he-is and of great lineage
por mal sofrir de bon aage,
for ill to-suffer of good age
et bien duez de chevalerie.
and well trained in chivalry
A lui ont livré la baillie:
To him they-have delivered the charge
préent lui que dès ore mais
they-pray him that from now more
del chadeler prenge le fais;
of-the leading he-may-take the burden
soz le rei l'avront a chadaine.
under the king him-they-will-have as captain
Cil l'otreia a quauque peine.
He it-granted with whatever pain
Ypomedon ne s'asseüre,
Hippomedon not himself-rests-secure
de l'ost a pris sor sei grant cure:
of the-host he-has taken on himself great care

issi fait faire l'eschauguaite
thus he-makes make the-watch
que onc pués n'en i ot sofraite.
that ever afterward not-thereof there had want
Li baron l'eschauguaite font,
The barons the-watch make
chascune nuét il les somont;
each night he them summons
chevaliers fait veillier set cenz,
knights he-makes watch seven hundred
que nes sozprengent cil dedenz,
that not-them may-surprise those within
et il meïsmes o eus veille
and he himself with them watches
et les conforte et les conseille:
and them comforts and them counsels
onc ne fu hon cui meins enuét
ever not was man whom less it-may-irk
l'auberc vestu veillier la nuét.
the-hauberk donned to-watch the night
Le jor vait guarder les forriers,
The day he-goes to-guard the foragers
et al torner vient toz deriers;
and at-the turning he-comes all last
quant il sont bien chargié et las,
when they are well loaded and weary
après se met al petit pas.
after himself he-puts at-the little pace
Larges fu mesuréement:
Generous he-was measuredly

espïer fait privéement
to-spy he-makes privately
li qual ont sofraite d'aveir;
the which have want of-wealth
et pués, quant il le puet saveir,
and then when he it can know
tant lor done, si lor socort
so-much to-them he-gives so them succors
qu'a grant honor sont en la cort;
that-in great honor they-are in the court
quant ne lor puet doner de sei,
when not to-them he-can give of himself
il le prent del tensor le rei.
he it takes from-the treasury (of-)the king
De grant franchise se porpense:
Of great nobility himself he-bethinks
solonc l'esforz et la despense,
according-to the-effort and the expense
a chascun jor le rei somont
at each day the king he-urges
que largement as barons dont;
that largely to-the barons he-may-give
par largece et par vasselage,
through largess and through prowess
de l'endurer les acorage.
of the-enduring them he-encourages
Mout a grant piéce l'ost duré.
Very has great while the-host lasted
D'ambedous parz sont aduré:
From-both sides they-are hardened

cil de l'ost de la vile prendre,
those of the-host of the town to-take
cil de la vile del defendre.
those of the town of-the defending
Grant est la gent, guaste est la terre,
Great is the folk wasted is the land
loign lor estuet vitaille querre:
far them behooves victuals to-seek
de treis granz jornees, senz faille,
for three great days'-journeys without fail
ne pueent il trover vitaille.
not can they find victuals
Destreite est mout la gent menue,
Distressed is very the folk small
destreit sont cil de grant tenue,
distressed are those of great holding
car ne pueent preer ne prendre,
for not they-can plunder nor take
et poi truevent vitaille a vendre.
and little they-find victuals to sell
Ypomedon est mout ainsos
Hippomedon is very anxious
de l'ost, qu'il veit si sofraitos;
for the-host which-he sees so needy
plore, ne s'en pot astenir:
he-weeps not himself-thence he-could abstain
les Bogres fait a sei venir.
the Bulgars he-makes to himself come

Ypomedon parole as Bogres
Hippomedon speaks to-the Bulgars
et pramet lor del suen granz logres;
and promises them of-the his great rewards
il lor pramet de son tensor
he to-them promises of his treasure
set muls chargiez d'argent et d'or:
seven mules loaded with-silver and with-gold
meingent lui en terre pleniére,
let-them-lead him into land plenteous
ou la vitaille ne seit chiére,
where the victuals not be dear
car il sévent bien le regné,
for they know well the realm
com li home qui en sont né;
as the men who in-it are born
se il nel font, jure mout fort
if they not-it do he-swears very strongly
sempres serront livré a mort.
at-once they-will-be delivered to death
Cil ont poor de perdre vie:
Those have fear to lose life
«Bien loign,» font il, «près de Rossie,
Well far say they near of Russia
«desor Danube, lez la rive,
upon Danube beside the bank
«a une terre plenteïve;
there-is a land plenteous
«mais devers nos a granz montaignes.
but toward us there-is great mountains

«Outre les monz sont granz les plaignes:
Beyond the mountains are great the plains
«La terre i est bien guaaigniee
The land there is well tilled
«et coutivee et aplaigniee;
and cultivated and leveled
«iluec est li forz vins theseis
there is the strong wine Thasian
«et li bons fromenz de mareis;
and the good wheat of marsh
«li fromenz est quarrez et gros
the wheat is square and thick
«et des vignes sont grant li clos;
and of-the vines are great the enclosures
«tal sont li vergier que nos tuit
such are the orchards that we all
«i porrïon vivre de fruit;
there could live on fruit
«iluec a granz guaaigneries
there there-is great farms
«et granz torbes de porcheries;
and great herds of pig-farms
«es prez a grant plenté d'aumaille.
in-the meadows there-is great plenty of-cattle
«N'ont créme que l'on les assaille,
Not-they-have fear that one them may-attack
«car l'entree est de ça si forte
for the-entry is from here so strong
«que il n'i a que une porte:
that it not-there has but one gate

«Se vos poez dedenz embatre,
If you can within to-plunge
«vivre en porreiz treis meis o quatre.»
to-live there you-will-be-able three months or four
Ypomedon mout s'esbaudist
Hippomedon much rejoices
et as Bogres en riant dist:
and to-the Bulgars in laughing said
«Se vos me dites d'içe veir,
If you to-me tell of-this truth
«jo vos dorrai assez aveir.»
I to-you shall-give enough wealth
Sa maisniee fait apeler,
His household he-makes to-call
comande lor tost enseler,
he-commands them soon to-saddle
et fait par l'ost soner ses corz.
and makes through the-host sound his horns
O sei meine bien grant esforz:
With him he-leads well great force
mil chevaliers conreez meine,
thousand knights arrayed he-leads
ne vendra mais de la semaine.
not he-will-come more of the week
Qui les veïst par l'ost bougier!
Who them might-have-seen through the-host stir
Li plusor laissent lor mangier;
The most leave their eating
par les herberges s'entrapèlent,
through the lodgings each-other-call

muls et chameuz mout tost ensèlent.
mules and camels very soon they-saddle
De l'ost eissi mout grant frapaille
From the-host issued very great rabble
por aler querre la vitaille.
for to-go to-seek the victuals
Ypomedon prée le rei
Hippomedon prays the king
que de l'ost prenge grant conrei,
that of the-host he-take great care
ceus qui remainent tienge et guart
those who remain he-may-hold and guard
que il n'en augent nule part.
that they not-thence may-go any way
O les Bogres se met en veie,
With the Bulgars himself he-puts on way
davant sa gent toz les enveie.
before his folk all them he-sends
Par le guast fait mal chevauchier:
Through the waste it-makes ill to-ride
qui pain i ot, si l'ot mout chier;
who bread there had so it-had very dear
en lor rote rien ne trovérent,
in their route anything not they-found
se içо non que il portérent.
except this not which they carried
Cinc jorz chevauchent a martire:
Five days they-ride in martyrdom
n'i veïssiez joer ne rire,
not-there you-would-have-seen play nor laugh

car li plusor de fain se pasment,
for the most from hunger themselves swoon
lor conduit maudient et blasment:
their guide they-curse and blame
chier avront vitaille achatee,
dear they-will-have victuals bought
ainceis que il l'aient trovee.
before that they it-may-have found
Li Bogre mout les asseürent,
The Bulgars much them reassure
dient lor que cel jor endurent:
they-say to-them that that day they-endure
l'endemain avront fait lor cors,
the-next-day they-will-have made their course
et de vitaille avront socors;
and of victuals they-will-have succor
al matin le socors plevissent.
in-the morning the succor they-pledge
Par la rote mout s'esbaudissent:
Through the route much they-take-heart
ne corneront la recreüe,
not they-will-sound the retreat
pués que si près avront aiue.
after that so near they-will-have help
Li Bogre orent de l'ost grant créme,
The Bulgars had of the-host great fear
del lonc eire qui les aféme:
from-the long journey which them starves
se il faillent a la vitaille,
if they fail at the victuals

as chiés perdre n'avra ja faille.
at-the heads to-lose not-will-have ever fail
Ypomedon celéement
Hippomedon secretly
ont apelé a parlement:
they-have called to parley
«Sire,» font il, «o vos parlon
Lord say they with you we-speak
«de cest afaire ou nos alon,
of this affair where we go
«et si vos en diron ja veir:
and so to-you thereof we-shall-say now truth
«Se cele gent le puet saveir,
If that folk it can know
«s'en oent un sol mot tentir,
if-thereof they-hear a single word to-sound
«ne vos en queron pas mentir,
not to-you thereof we-seek at-all to-lie
«a l'entree davant vendront,
at the-entry before they-will-come
«la contree vos defendront
the country to-you they-will-forbid
«as montaignes et as destreiz,
at-the mountains and at-the narrows
«que ja mais le pié n'i metreiz.
that ever more the foot not-there you-will-put
«Chevauchiez,» font il, «tote nuét;
Ride say they all night
«se vos veilliez, ne vos enuét;
if you watch not you may-irk

«par bien matin, ainz hore prime,
by early morning before hour prime
«o la neulee et o la frime,
with the mist and with the hoarfrost
«la montaigne trespasseron,
the mountain we-shall-cross
«celeement enz enterron.»
secretly in we-shall-enter
Ne vos en quier faire lonc plait:
Not to-you thereof I-seek to-make long plea
si come il dient, cil l'ont fait.
so as they say those it-have done
La nuét chevauchent a la lune;
The night they-ride by the moon
al matin pluet, li jors s'embrune:
in-the morning it-rains the day itself-darkens
celeement passent l'entree,
secretly they-pass the-entry
si s'espandent par la contree.
so themselves-they-spread through the country
La veïssiez terre eissillier,
There you-would-have-seen land to-lay-waste
gent afoler et desveier:
folk to-maim and to-drive-mad
quant que veient, tot vuelent prendre,
how-much that they-see all they-wish to-take
mais on lor cuide mout chier vendre.
but one to-them thinks very dear to-sell

Li reis de Thèbes bien le sot,
The king of Thebes well it knew
car en l'ost ses espies ot:
for in the-host his spies he-had
qual hore que cil de l'ost murent,
which hour that those of the-host moved
et les espies al rei furent:
and the spies at-the king were
de la chierté que l'ost afaime
of the dearth which the-host starves
dient novèles que mout aime:
they-say news which much he-loves
«Sire,» font il, «en longe terre
Lord say they into far land
«sont alé por vitaille querre.»
are gone for victuals to-seek
Il demande ou, et cil li dient;
He asks where and they to-him say
li reis en dote et cil l'afient.
the king thereof doubts and they it-affirm
D'icele terre i fu li cuens
Of-that land there was the count
o cinc cenz chevaliers des suens:
with five hundred knights of-the his
isnèlement li reis l'apèle,
swiftly the king him-calls
et si li conte la novèle.
and so to-him tells the news
Cil esteit cuens de Valfeconde,
He was count of Valfeconde

si l'apeloent Faramonde:
so him-they-called Faramond
«Getez mei,» fait il, «en un for,
Throw me says he into an oven
«se ne sué davant al retor:
if not I-am before at-the return
«Ma terre me pueent guaster,
My land to-me they-can lay-waste
«mais ne se porront tant haster
but not themselves they-will-be-able so-much to-hasten
«que je nes ataigne, ço cuit;
that I not-them may-overtake that I-think
«ne torneront pas en l'ost tuit,
not they-will-return at-all into the-host all
«car il serront afardeillié,
for they will-be burdened
«nos del ferir apareillié;
we for-the striking prepared
«a un trespas que j'eslirai
at a pass which I-shall-choose
«cuit bien que jes desconfirai.»
I-think well that I-them shall-discomfit
Il demande par ou il vont,
He asks by where they go
et quis chadèle, qual gent ont.
and who-them leads which folk they-have
Cil dient: «Par Landeflorie;
Those say By Landeflorie
«Ypomedon a non quis guie:
Hippomedon has name who-them guides

«Mil chevaliers ont bien senz faille,
Thousand knights they-have well without fail
«et mout est grant l'autre rascaille.»
and very is great the-other rabble
Faramondes a dit al rei:
Faramond has said to-the king
«Jes vos rendrai toz pris, ço crei.
I-them to-you shall-render all taken that I-believe
«Bailliez mei chevaliers treis mile,
Give me knights three thousand
«eneveis eistrai de la vile:
this-very-evening I-shall-issue from the town
«Ja cil de l'ost mot n'en savront,
Ever those of the-host word not-thereof will-know
«ne mon eire n'apercevront.
nor my journey not-they-will-perceive
«Par cel pont devers la valee,
By that bridge toward the valley
«m'en passerai outre en la pree,
myself-thence I-shall-pass beyond into the meadow
«si que cele ève, que cort tost,
so that that water which runs fast
«serra barre entre nos et l'ost.
will-be barrier between us and the-host
«A treis jornees sus a mont,
At three days'-journeys up to up
«la reporrai passer senz pont.»
it I-shall-be-able-again to-pass without bridge

Li reis laisse le conseillier
The king leaves the counseling
et fait sa gent apareillier.
and makes his folk to-prepare
Par le pont eissirent la nuét,
Over the bridge they-issued the night
treis mile sont de guerre duét;
three thousand they-are in war trained
Faramondes fu lor conduiz,
Faramond was their guide
qui sot les pas et les reduiz;
who knew the passes and the nooks
et al tiers jor, al gué d'Alan,
and at-the third day at-the ford of-Alan
passérent l'ève senz chalan;
they-crossed the-water without barge
outre l'ève, lez le rivage,
beyond the-water beside the bank
se herbergiérent en l'erbage.
themselves they-lodged in the-grass
Par cele veie s'en repaire
By that way himself-thence returns
Ypomedon de son afaire:
Hippomedon from his affair
cinc lives vont davant les guardes,
five leagues go before the guards
cil nen orent somiers ne fardes;
they not had sumpters nor packs

il vient après o la grant rote
he comes after with the great troop
de vitaille chargiee tote.
of victuals loaded all
Les anguardes, des bos ou furent,
The vanguards from-the woods where they-were
ceus a val es prez aperçurent:
those to below in-the meadows perceived
tindrent sei et si les esmérent
they-held themselves and so them reckoned
et a lor gent pués retornérent.
and to their folk then returned
Ypomedon dient senz faille
Hippomedon they-say without fail
l'endemain avra la bataille;
the-next-day he-will-have the battle
a lui le dient en segrei
to him it they-say in secret
tot bèlement et senz esfrei:
all fairly and without alarm
«Une rien,» fait il, «bien savon:
One thing says he well we-know
«Graignor gent ont que nos n'avon;
Greater folk they-have than we not-have
«lor compaigne est plus defensable;
their company is more defensible
«por ço, n'en volon faire fable.»
for that not-thereof we-wish to-make fable

The Victuals Won

X

Hippomedon's barons refuse an old Bulgar's advice to slip away by night, and the camp prepares to fight. At dawn Hippomedon arrays a thousand archers beside his knights and has the boys drag branches behind them. The archers do great harm, and the cloud of dust makes the Thebans believe the whole Greek host has come. They flee, and many drown at the ford. Hippomedon brings the victuals back to a starving camp, Adrastus rides out to meet him, and seven hundred prisoners are paraded in shackles.

Ypomedon ses barons mande,
Hippomedon his barons summons
des herberges ést en la lande;
from-the lodgings he-issues into the heath
o eus parole a une part,
with them he-speaks to one side
et non a guise de coart:
and not in guise of coward
«Ne sai,» fait il, «qual gent menue
Not I-know says he what folk small
«noz guardes ont aperceüe:
our guards have perceived
«Païsant sont de la montaigne,
Country-folk they-are of the mountain
«qui sont descendu en la plaigne
who are descended into the plain
«por esclignier nostre chemin
for to-spy-out our road
«et nos tolir aucun roncin.
and from-us to-take some nag

«Ne tot creire ne tot mescreire:
Not all to-believe nor all to-disbelieve
«Par matinet tenon nostre eire,
By early-morning let-us-hold our journey
«de noz armes apareillié,
with our arms prepared
«del combatre tuit conseillié;
of-the fighting all advised
«apreston nos del bien ferir,
let-us-ready ourselves for-the well striking
«o del bien veintre o del morir.»
or for-the well conquering or for-the dying
Un Bogre ot a conseil venu,
A Bulgar had to counsel come
sage et corteis, vieil et chanu:
wise and courtly old and hoary
«Se vos,» fait il, «me creïez,
If you says he me would-believe
«tot autre conseil prendrïez;
all other counsel you-would-take
«se vos plaiseit, par autre veie
if you it-pleased by other way
«a sauveté vos en menreie.
to safety you thence I-would-lead
«Chevauchon anuét a la lune,
Let-us-ride tonight by the moon
«et si nos feron en Valbrune:
and so us we-shall-make into Valbrune
«Li mont sont haut, li val parfont;
The hills are high the valleys deep

«nos n'i crendrïon tot le mont.»
we not-there would-fear all the world
Li baron dient non feront,
The barons say not they-will-do
ja lor veie ne changeront,
ever their way not they-will-change
ja ne feront issi grant faille:
ever not they-will-make thus great failing
foïr par créme de bataille;
to-flee for fear of battle
et dient, qual que Deus le face,
and they-say which that God it may-make
demain serront o eus en place.
tomorrow they-will-be with them in place
Li conseuz part, descendre vont;
The council parts to-dismount they-go
par les herberges crier font
through the lodgings to-cry they-make
bien sachent et seient certain
well may-they-know and be certain
la bataille avront l'endemain.
the battle they-will-have the-next-day
Par l'ost oïrent la novèle
Through the-host they-heard the news
de combatre, mout lor fu bèle:
of fighting very to-them it-was fair
del combatre bien s'apareillent,
of-the fighting well themselves-they-prepare
les eschauguaites forment veillent;
the watches greatly watch

guaitent sei de lor enemis,
they-guard themselves from their enemies
que ne seient la nuét sozpris.
that not they-be the night surprised
Ypomedon est en sa tente,
Hippomedon is in his tent
a ceus engeignier met s'entente;
on those tricking he-puts his-mind
issi veilla cele nuét tote
thus he-watched that night all
que il onques n'i dormi gote;
that he ever not-there slept drop
onques la nuét dormir ne pot,
ever the night to-sleep not he-could
car par les guardes trés bien sot
for by the guards very well he-knew
que cil de la graignor gent ont,
that those of there greater folk have
meins travaillié et plusor sont.
less wearied and more they-are

Al bien matin, quant l'aube criéve,
In-the early morning when the-dawn breaks
Ypomedon de son lét liéve;
Hippomedon from his bed rises
as baniers fait crier par l'ost
to-the banner-bearers he-makes cry through the-host
que il s'adobent et cel tost,
that they themselves-arm and that soon

tuit s'adobérent par matin
all themselves-armed in-the morning
et se mistrent en lor chemin:
and themselves put on their road
ainz que se meïssent en veie,
before that themselves they-put on way
Ypomedon bien les conreie,
Hippomedon well them arrays
car toz josta les escuiers,
for all he-gathered the squires
et trova i bien mil archiers.
and found there well thousand archers
Ceus a mis a sa main senestre:
Those he-has put at his hand left
as enemis trairont de destre;
at-the enemies they-will-shoot from right
bons chevaus et isneaus lor baille
good horses and swift to-them he-gives
por traire avant en la bataille,
for to-shoot forward in the battle
et as autres fait coillir branches
and to-the others he-makes gather branches
et traïner joste lor hanches.
and drag beside their haunches
Bien loign les fait aler deriére,
Well far them he-makes go behind
car il firent mout grant poudriére,
for they made very great dust
car d'eus i ot mout grant compaigne,
for of-them there had very great company

et s'arengiérent par la plaigne:
and themselves-ranged through the plain
de ci qu'al ciel la poudre en vait;
from here as-far-as-the sky the dust thence goes
bien semble que grant gent i ait.
well it-seems that great folk there may-be
Li chevalier adobé sont,
The knights armed are
bien loign avant ensemble vont;
well far forward together they-go
conreé vont li chevalier,
arrayed go the knights
et dejoste sont li archier:
and beside are the archers
la compaigne fu bèle et fiére,
the company was fair and proud
bien resemblérent gent guerriére.
well they-resembled folk warlike
De ceus de la ne dei pas taire:
Of those of there not I-ought at-all to-be-silent
la lor compaigne fu mout maire;
the their company was much greater
mout fu maire la lor compaigne,
much was greater the their company
conreé vont par la champaigne;
arrayed they-go through the field
tuit vont conreé de bataille,
all go arrayed for battle
chier cuident vendre la vitaille;
dear they-think to-sell the victuals

la vitaille cuident chier vendre,
the victuals they-think dear to-sell
car les forriers cuident toz prendre;
for the foragers they-think all to-take
a force vont par le païs
in force they-go through the country
por encontrer lor enemis.
for to-meet their enemies
Les compaignes s'apruisment tant
The companies approach so-much
que les guardes qui vont davant
that the guards who go before
se comenciérent a mesler,
themselves began to mingle
li un les autres a ruser.
the ones the others to drive-back
Içe fu entre tierce et prime,
This was between tierce and prime
que li soleuz abat la frime:
when the sun beats-down the hoarfrost
clérs est li jorz, la plaigne est bèle,
bright is the day the plain is fair
bien verdeie l'erbe novèle.
well greens the-grass new
Les compaignes iluec jostérent,
The companies there jousted
de granz colees se donérent;
with great blows themselves they-gave

mais li archier qui de ça sont
but the archers who from here are
a ceus de la mout grant mal font,
to those of there very great ill make
car, si com cil viénent al joindre,
for so as those come to-the joining
li mil archier ont pris lor poindre:
the thousand archers have taken their charge
a descovert ensemble traient
in open together they-shoot
et chevaliers et chevaus plaient.
and knights and horses they-wound
Ypomedon ot poi de gent,
Hippomedon had little of folk
a grant force vers eus se tent:
with great force toward them himself he-holds
nes poüst mais longes sofrir,
not-them he-could more long to-suffer
sempres li estoüst foïr,
at-once him would-have-behooved to-flee
quant cil virent la grant poudriére
when those saw the great dust
que li garçon muevent deriére.
which the boys stir behind
La poudre fu desmesuree,
The dust was beyond-measure
cuident que l'ost seit ci jostee:
they-think that the-host be here joined

içо les mist en tal esfrei
this them put in such alarm
que tuit s'en tornent a desrei,
that all themselves-thence turn in disorder
tuit s'en tornent vers lor contree.
all themselves-thence turn toward their country
Mout fu la plaigne longe et lee;
Very was the plain long and wide
bèle veie ont, rien nes destorbe,
fair way they-have anything not-them hinders
ne fossez, ne raïz, ne corbe.
nor ditches nor ravines nor curve
Cist enchaucent, cil de la fuient,
These pursue those of there flee
par la plaigne li cheval bruient;
through the plain the horses roar
el foïr cil de la se fient,
in-the fleeing those of there themselves trust
lor esporons pas n'i oblient,
their spurs at-all not-there they-forget
et cil de ça ferant les meinent,
and those from here striking them lead
de l'abatre forment se peinent.
of the-throwing-down greatly themselves strive
Qui ne sot la veie tenir,
Who not knew the way to-hold
o ne pot al gué avenir,
or not could to-the ford to-come
d'un des dous ne se pot defendre:
from-one of-the two not himself could defend

o neia, o se laissa prendre.
or he-drowned or himself let take
Les dous parz en ot bien que pris,
The two parts thereof there-had well what taken
que neiez, que a glaive ocis.
what drowned what by sword killed
Ypomedon pas ne sojorne:
Hippomedon at-all not stays
son eschiec cueut et a l'ost torne.
his booty he-gathers and to the-host turns
En l'ost aveit mout grant famine:
In the-host there-was very great famine
poi i aveit de la farine;
little there there-was of the flour
le pain vendeit on a or fin,
the bread sold one for gold fine
le quartier un marabotin;
the quarter a maravedi
viveient i a grant dolor,
they-lived there in great grief
auquant orent mué color;
some had changed color
li povre home, de la fainvale,
the poor men from the hunger
erent engrot, crocé et pale;
were sickly bent and pale
mout en esteit pensis li reis.
much thereof was pensive the king
Ypomedon fist que corteis:
Hippomedon did as courtly

messages tramist avant sei
messengers he-sent before himself
as novèles conter le rei.
to-the news to-tell (to-)the king
En l'ost sont venu li message:
In the-host are come the messengers
al rei et a tot son barnage
to-the king and to all his baronage
content et a la gent menue
they-tell and to the folk small
la chose come ert avenue.
the thing as it-was befallen
Doble joie ont: de la vitaille,
Double joy they-have of the victuals
et l'autre fu de la bataille.
and the-other was of the battle
Contre sa gent eissi li reis
Toward his folk issued the king
et li barnages des Grezeis:
and the baronage of-the Greeks
li reis chevauche o grant barnage
the king rides with great baronage
par la prée, lez le rivage.
through the meadow beside the bank
Grant joie ot la ou s'encontrérent,
Great joy there-had there where each-other-they-met
et a grant joie en l'ost tornérent:
and with great joy into the-host they-turned

astes vos l'ost bien replenie
behold you the-host well replenished
et de vitaille bien guarnie.
and with victuals well furnished
L'endemain font joster lor pris,
The-next-day they-make gather their prisoners
set cenz en ont en buies mis,
seven hundred thereof they-have in shackles put
et resemble barnage grant,
and it-resembles baronage great
quant il vont par l'ost tintenant.
when they go through the-host clinking

Daire the Red

XI

Polynices treats a captured young knight kindly and sends him to ask his father, Daire the Red, to yield his tower in Thebes. Daire will not betray the king even for his son, though his wife argues that they are all forsworn already, but he promises the tower if the king denies him right, and sends Polynices a gold cup, a falcon, and a greyhound. When Pecheneg envoys offer Eteocles help in return for the March, Daire advises against giving it up and urges peace with Polynices, since the war is wasting the realm.

En la prise ot pris un danzel,
In the taking there-had taken a youth
qui chevaliers ert de novel:
who knight was of new
forment le regretot sis pére,
greatly him lamented his father

et tote jor plorot sa mére;
and all day wept his mother
mout l'aveient chier ambedui,
much him-they-had dear both
car il n'aveient fil que lui.
for they not-had son but him
Polinicès bien le conut,
Polynices well him knew
honora le si come il dut;
honored him so as he ought
il l'onora, si l'ot mout chier,
he him-honored so him-had very dear
dedens son tréf le fist couchier,
within his tent him he-made lie
o sei le fist beivre et mangier
with himself him he-made drink and eat
et se pena del losengier:
and himself strove of-the flattering
forment le voust a sei atraire,
greatly him he-wished to himself to-draw
car mout en cuida son pro faire.
for much thereof he-thought his profit to-make
Un jor apela le prison,
One day he-called the prisoner
par sei sol l'a mis a raison:
by himself alone him-he-has put to account
«Amis,» fait il, «entre que ci
Friend says he while that here
«ai de vos eü grant merci:
I-have on you had great mercy

«Jo vos ai guardé de bien vivre;
I you have guarded with good living
«a vostre talent tot delivre
at your will all free
«vos ai laissié aler le jor;
you I-have let go the day
«onc guarder ne vos fis un dor:
ever to-guard not you I-made a span
«Le jor alez par vostre fei
The day you-go on your faith
«et repairiez la nuét a mei;
and return the night to me
«jo vos faz gesir en bon lét
I you make lie in good bed
«et faire tot vostre delét.
and make all your delight
«Onques ne vos en quis aveir,
Ever not you thereof I-sought to-have
«si m'en devez grant gré saveir.
so to-me-thereof you-ought great thanks to-know
«Se d'une rien me volez creire,
If in-one thing me you-wish to-believe
«nostre amor iert certaine et veire.
our love will-be certain and true
— Sire,» fait il, «ço sachiez bien,
Lord says he that know well
«en terre n'a icele rien
on earth not-there-is that thing
«que jo ne feïsse por vos:
which I not would-do for you

«Ne seiez ja de ço dotos.»
Not be ever of that doubtful
Polinicès li giéte un ris,
Polynices to-him throws a laugh
son braz li a sor le col mis:
his arm to-him he-has on the neck put
«Se pués,» fait il, «m'onor conquerre,
If I-can says he my-domain to-conquer
«dous itanz vos dorrai de terre
two such to-you I-shall-give of land
«que ne tindrent vostre ancessor;
as not held your ancestors
«mais livrez mei ça vostre tor.
but deliver me here your tower
— Laissiez mei,» fait il, «ostagier,
Let me says he give-hostage
«car n'ai tant privé messagier
for not-I-have so intimate messenger
«cui jo osasse iço recreire.»
whom I might-dare this to-entrust
Cil s'ostaja et tint son eire;
He himself-pledged and held his journey
il s'ostage, sa veie tient,
he himself-pledges his way he-holds
a son pére en la cité vient.
to his father into the city he-comes
Tuit si parent grant joie en ont
All his kin great joy thereof have
et qui ainz ainz contre lui vont;
and who first first toward him go

contre son fil la mére acort,
toward her son the mother runs
ne puet muer qu'ele ne plort;
not she-can help that-she not may-weep
mout tendrement la mére plore
very tenderly the mother weeps
et cent feiz le baise en poi d'ore:
and hundred times him kisses in little of-hour
«Beaus fiz,» fait ele, «ço me dites:
Fair son says she that to-me say
«Estes vos ostagiez o quites?»
Are you hostaged or quit
Cil respont: «Je sué par ostage,
He answers I am on hostage
«ma fei lor ai laissié en guage;
my faith to-them I-have left in pledge
«je sué ostagiez par retor:
I am hostaged for return
«N'i pués ester que un sol jor.»
Not-there I-can stay but one single day
Quant ot que l'estuet retorner
When she-hears that him-behooves to-return
et que plus ne puet sojorner:
and that more not he-can stay
«Ceste joie,» fait ele, «est briéve.»
This joy says she is brief
Pasmee chiet, sis fiz l'en liéve.
Swooned she-falls her son her-thence raises
O son pére fu cil le seir:
With his father was he the evening

de s'aquitance ot grant espeir,
of his-release he-had great hope
car sis pére fort l'asseüre,
for his father strongly him-reassures
si come il dit et come il jure,
so as he says and as he swears
tot quant que il en porra faire
all how-much that he thereof will-be-able to-do
fera por lui de prison traire.
he-will-do for him from prison to-draw
L'endemain, quant orent mangié,
The-next-day when they-had eaten
a son pére quiert cil congié,
of his father seeks he leave
dit que l'estuet torner arriére
he-says that him-behooves to-turn back
en la prison que mout est fiére.
into the prison which very is harsh
Il fu mauduéz: plore et sospire,
He was ill-starred he-weeps and sighs
et dit lor que la mort desire:
and says to-them that the death he-desires
«Mieuz voudreit morir,» ço lor dit,
Better he-would-wish to-die that to-them he-says
«que issi vivre come il vit.»
than thus to-live as he lives
Sa mére plore, crie et brait;
His mother weeps cries and wails
sis pére a une part le trait:
his father to one side him draws

«Jo ai,» fait il, «mout grant tensor
I have says he very great treasure
«de pailes et d'argent et d'or:
of silks and of-silver and of-gold
«Va, si le pren et tot li livre,
Go so it take and all to-him deliver
«mais laissent t'en venir delivre;
but let-them-let thee-thence come free
«torne ariére, si les engégne,
turn back so them trick
«a dez mile mars te barguégne:
at ten thousand marks thee bargain
«Se t'en laissent venir por tant,
If thee-thence they-let come for so-much
«ta raençon ne prez un guant.»
thy ransom not I-prize a glove
Cil respont: «Por neient le dites,
He answers For nothing it you-say
«ja por aveir ne serrai quites.
ever for wealth not I-shall-be quit
«Polinicès mout s'en afiche,
Polynices much himself-thereof fixes
«que entrez sué en fole briche
that entered I-am into foolish trap
«se en vostre tor nel metez;
if into your tower not-him you-put
«mais donc serrai sempres quitez.»
but then I-shall-be at-once quit
Li pére dist: «Ço com puet estre?
The father said That how can be

«Jo ai juré de ma main destre
I have sworn with my hand right
«sor les reliques nostre rei
on the relics our king
«que jo li guart et li port fei:
that I to-him guard and to-him bear faith
«Ja por tei ne por ta prison
Ever for thee nor for thy prison
«ne comencerai traïson;
not I-shall-begin treason
«beaus fiz,» fait il, «ja Deu ne place
fair son says he ever God not may-please
«que ja por tei traïson face!»
that ever for thee treason I-may-do
La mére est al conseil venue,
The mother is to-the counsel come
et la parole a entendue;
and the speech has heard
oï que, por la tor livrer,
she-heard that for the tower to-deliver
poeient lor fil delivrer:
they-could their son free
«Sire,» fait ele, «nel deis dire,
Lord says she not-it thou-oughtest say
«por tor laissier ton fil ocire.
for tower to-leave thy son to-kill
«Li aveirs que nos amasson
The wealth which we may-amass
«que nos vaudra, se lui perdon?
what to-us will-avail if him we-lose

«Ne de la tor ne de l'aveir
Neither of the tower nor of the-wealth
«n'ai cure, se perdon nostre heir.
not-I-have care if we-lose our heir
— Nel di pas,» fait il, «por la tor,
Not-it I-say at-all says he for the tower
«mais por la fei de mon seignor:
but for the faith of my lord
«Mout le fereie laidement
Very it I-would-do foully
«et mei menreie malement,
and myself would-conduct badly
«fereie grant desleauté,
I-would-do great disloyalty
«se traïsseie la cité.
if I-betrayed the city
— D'içø,» fait ele, «n'ai jo cure,
Of-this says she not-have I care
«car vers l'autre estes tuit parjure,
for toward the-other you-are all perjured
«qui jurastes par anz l'onor,
who swore by years the-domain
«li baron et li vavasor.
the barons and the vavasors
«Se pués jurastes a cestui,
If then you-swore to this-one
«parjurastes vos vers celui,
you-forswore yourselves toward that-one

«et, si com jo cuit, mieuz vendreit
and so as I think better would-be-worth
«sairement qui est faiz a dreit
oath which is made in right
«guarder et tenir leaument
to-guard and to-hold loyally
«que cel qui est faiz malement.
than that which is made badly
— Ja n'en quier,» dist cil, «escu prendre
Ever not-thereof I-seek said he shield to-take
«por mei de parjure defendre:
for me from perjury to-defend
«Parjurer nos estuet vers l'un,
To-forswear ourselves behooves toward the-one
«car juré avon a chascun.
for sworn we-have to each
«Quant de dous maus estuet l'un faire,
When of two ills it-behooves the-one to-do
«al meins hontos se deit on traire:
to-the least shameful himself ought one to-draw
«De toz les blasmes que l'on fait,
Of all the blames which one does
«traïson tient l'on al plus lait.
treason holds one for-the most foul
«Mieuz vueil o toz mentir ma fei
Better I-wish with all to-belie my faith
«que mon seignor traïr par mei:
than my lord to-betray by myself
«Se mei estuet o toz pechier,
If me it-behooves with all to-sin

«nel me puet on si reprochier.
not-it to-me can one so reproach
«Graignors homes i a de mei:
Greater men there there-are than me
«N'en serrai ja blasmez, ço crei.»
Not-thereof I-shall-be ever blamed that I-believe
Cil fu sages, si ot des jorz,
He was wise so he-had of-the days
et ot esté en maintes corz;
and had been in many-a courts
le vis ot fier et le chief ros,
the face he-had proud and the head red
de parole fu engeignos:
of speech he-was cunning
«Torne,» fait il, «en ta prison.
Turn says he into thy prison
«Jo metrai le rei a raison:
I shall-put the king to account
«Se me pués prendre a acheison
If myself I-can take at occasion
«que jo n'i face traïson,
that I not-there may-do treason
«manderai tei par un guiton,
I-shall-send thee by a page
«liverrai tei ceste maison;
I-shall-deliver thee this house
«se a mon dreit ne m'i pués prendre,
if by my right not myself-there I-can take
«en vain parlon de la tor rendre.
in vain we-speak of the tower to-render

«Ma cope porte o tei d'or fin,
My cup carry with thee of-gold fine
«cele ou a peint el fonz un pin:
that where there-is painted in-the bottom a pine
«En la cope a set mars et plus,
In the cup there-is seven marks and more
«cinc el covercle de desus.
five in-the lid from above
«Pren mon levrier et mon faucon,
Take my greyhound and my falcon
«a Polinicès en fai don;
to Polynices thereof make gift
«tot le presente a ton seignor,
all it present to thy lord
«qui t'a porté si grant honor.
who to-thee-has borne so great honor
«Jusqu'al tierz jor manderai tei
Until-the third day I-shall-send-word thee
«que troverai ça o le rei.»
what I-shall-find here with the king
Cil a pris la cope d'or fin,
He has taken the cup of-gold fine
si s'en torne o le montassin,
so himself-thence turns with the mountain-falcon
et fait mener a l'escuier
and makes lead to the-squire
par la chaeine le levrier;
by the chain the greyhound

a Polinicès en l'ost torne
to Polynices into the-host he-turns
et fait chiére marrie et morne.
and makes face grieved and gloomy
Polinicès veit le prison,
Polynices sees the prisoner
qui li aporte le faucon;
who to-him brings the falcon
le levrier en après esguarde:
the greyhound thereof after he-looks-at
«Ci a,» fait il, «mout bèle guarde:
Here there-is says he very fair keeping
«Jusqu'a dous meis, je vos plevis,
Until-to two months I to-you pledge
«ne serreiz mais en prison mis.
not you-will-be more in prison put
— Sire,» dist il, «vostre merci.
Lord said he your mercy
«Un guarnement avon ici:
An ornament we-have here
«Cent mars d'argent vaut, que ne mente.»
Hundred marks of-silver it-is-worth that not I-may-lie
A tant la cope li presente.
At this the cup to-him he-presents
Cil prent la cope, l'uevre mire:
He takes the cup the-work admires
nus hon n'en sét la façon dire.
any man not-thereof knows the fashion to-say
Si com dit li livre d'Estace,
So as says the book of-Statius

li pomeaus en fu d'un topace:
the knob thereof was of-a topaz
onques nus hon ne vit son pér,
ever any man not saw its peer
ne si bien assis ne tant clér.
nor so well set nor so bright
Polinicès en fait grant plait:
Polynices thereof makes great speech
n'a guarnement que tant chier ait,
not-has ornament which so-much dear he-may-have
plus por le presenter al rei
more for it to-present to-the king
que por le retenir a sei.
than for it to-retain to himself
A une part a celui trait,
To one side has him drawn
demande lui que il a fait.
asks him what he has done
Li vallez fu tant simple chose
The young-man was so simple thing
que il pas mentir ne li ose:
that he at-all to-lie not to-him dares
«Sire,» fait il, «jol vos dirai,
Lord says he I-it to-you shall-tell
«de rien ne vos en mentirai:
in anything not to-you thereof I-shall-lie
«A mon pére alai senz dotance,
To my father I-went without doubt
«parlai o lui de m'aquitance,
I-spoke with him of my-release

«si com vos m'avïez loé
so as you me-had advised
«et jo aveie ça trové.
and I had here found
«Il respondié ja Deu ne place
He answered ever God not may-please
«que il por mei traïson face,
that he for me treason may-do
«mais le rei metra a raison:
but the king he-will-put to account
«Se se puet prendre a acheison
If himself he-can take at occasion
«que il ne face traïson,
that he not may-do treason
«dont vos liverra sa maison;
then to-you he-will-deliver his house
«se a son dreit ne s'i puet prendre,
if by his right not himself-there he-can take
«en vain parlon de la tor rendre.»
in vain we-speak of the tower to-render
Il demande: «Com le savron?
He asks How it shall-we-know
«Le message quant en avron?
The message when thereof shall-we-have
— Jusqu'al tierz jor,» fait cil, «beaus sire,
Until-the third day says he fair lord
«vos en savrai la verté dire.»
to-you thereof I-shall-know the truth to-say

L'endemain vait sis pére a cort:
The-next-day goes his father to court
le rei fera, ainz que s'en tort,
the king he-will-make before that himself-thence he-turn
trist et marri, car tal rien mut
sad and grieved for such thing moved
par quei entre eus grant ire crut.
through which between them great wrath grew
Li reis conseille en son vergier;
The king counsels in his orchard
a lui viénent trei messagier:
to him come three messengers
Pinçonart ont tramis le rei
Pechenegs have sent (to-)the king
treis barons corteis de lor lei,
three barons courtly of their law
et parolent li trei message
and speak the three messengers
par drugemant en lor langage;
through interpreter in their language
des Pinçonarz offrent l'aïe
of-the Pechenegs they-offer the-help
al rei et a sa compaignie:
to-the king and to his company
«Amenront lui vint mile escuz,
They-will-bring him twenty thousand shields
«ja n'iert mais par Greus confonduz,
ever not-will-he-be more by Greeks confounded
«mais rende lor tote la marche,
but let-him-render to-them all the march

«dès Dinoe tresqu'a Usarche,
from Dinoe as-far-as Usarche
«que sis pére conquist a tort,
which his father conquered at wrong
«et il la tient après sa mort.»
and he it holds after his death
Li reis a la parole oïe:
The king has the speech heard
forment li agree l'aïe:
greatly to-him pleases the-help
a lor hostal torner les fait,
to their lodging to-turn them he-makes
et il prent conseil de cel plait:
and he takes counsel of that plea
«Seignor,» fait il, «qu'en loez vos?»
Lords says he what-thereof counsel you
Premiers parla Daires li Ros:
First spoke Daire the Red
ço fu li pére le prison,
that was the father (of-)the prisoner
qui le rei vout metre a raison,
who the king wished to-put to account
et fut mout riches vavasors:
and was very rich vavasor
«Trop quiérent,» fait il, «granz socors.
Too-much they-seek says he great succors
«Mout devez la marche aveir chiére,
Very you-ought the march to-have dear
«car la terre est bone et pleniére,
for the land is good and plenteous

«de chevaliers bien plenteïve;
of knights well plenteous
«la gent est forment guerreïve.
the folk is greatly warlike
«C'est l'entree de vostre terre:
It-is the-entry of your land
«Quant Pinçonart ont o vos guerre,
When Pechenegs have with you war
«en toz tens par icele entree
in all times through that entry
«suelent guaster vostre contree.
they-are-wont to-lay-waste your country
«Vostre pére en traist mainte peine,
Your father thereof bore many-a pain
«ainz qu'il l'eüst en son demeine;
before that-he it-had in his demesne
«mout s'en pena, ainz qu'il l'eüst
very himself-thereof he-strove before that-he it-had
«et que sire clamez en fust;
and that lord called thereof he-were
«et mainte freide matinee
and many-a cold morning
«en traist li ber par la gelee,
thereof bore the baron through the frost
«et en reçut mainte colee
and thereof received many-a blow
«et dona mainte de s'espee.
and gave many-a with his-sword
«Se la rendez legiérement,
If it you-render lightly

«n'i avreiz mais recovrement;
not-there you-will-have more recovery
«jo vos plevis mais a nul jor
I to-you pledge more on any day
«de la Marche n'avreiz retor.
of the March not-you-will-have return
«Pinçonart sévent guaster terre,
Pechenegs know to-lay-waste land
«volentiers vont por preie querre,
willingly they-go for prey to-seek
«mais il n'estont joi en l'estor:
but they not-stand ever in the-fight
«Ja n'i prendront que sol un tor.
Ever not-there they-will-take but only one turn
«Ja vers Greus por lor compaignie
Ever toward Greeks for their company
«n'avreiz bataille mieuz fornie:
not-you-will-have battle better furnished
«Quant en avreiz josté vint mile
When thereof you-will-have gathered twenty thousand
«o ceus qui sont en ceste vile,
with those who are in this town
«n'avreiz vos pas tale compaigne
not-will-have you at-all such company
«que se combate o Greus en plaigne.
that itself may-fight with Greeks in plain
«Fort vile avon por la tenir:
Strong town we-have for it to-hold
«N'i estuet autre gent venir;
Not-there behooves other folk to-come

«grant gent avon por la defendre:
great folk we-have for it to-defend
«Ja ne covient la Marche rendre.
Ever not it-is-fitting the March to-render
«Mais laissiez ester toz ces plaiz,
But let be all these pleas
«o vostre frére faites paiz:
with your brother make peace
«Vos confondez lui et il vos,
You confound him and he you
«faites en plaiz maus et grevos;
you-make thereof pleas evil and grievous
«n'avez veisin, por ceste guerre,
not-you-have neighbor for this war
«cui ne laissiez de vostre terre;
to-whom not you-leave of your land
«mout en perdez de vostre honor,
much thereof you-lose of your domain
«si com tindrent vostre ancessor;
so as held your ancestors
«chascuns en a sa peleüre,
each thereof has his strip
«coment qu'il prenge n'ont pués cure.
however that-it may-take not-they-have then care
«Chauf devient l'on en peil pelant:
Bald becomes one in hair plucking
«Vos avïez honor mout grant,
You had domain very great
«mout vos soleit on jadis crembre,
much you was-wont one formerly to-fear

«or vos estuet assez raembre.
now you behooves enough to-ransom
«Laissiez ester ceste riote,
Let be this quarrel
«en autre lai tornez la rote;
into other way turn the troop
«o vostre frére faites fin:
with your brother make end
«Tuit vos serront sempres aclin.»
All to-you will-be at-once bowed

The Tower Taken

XII

Eteocles accuses Daire of seeking his son's release and refuses to yield anything. When Daire speaks of perjury, the king gives him leave to do his worst, and when he presses, strikes him with a staff. Daire sends word to Polynices through his son, and that night seven hundred Greeks scale his tower. Eteocles' engineer undermines and burns the tower until it falls, and Daire is brought before the king, who means to burn him. Otes insists on a judgment, and the barons, some of them Daire's kin, withdraw, where Otes urges them to seek a respite.

Al rei ne plaist pas cist conseuz.
To-the king not pleases at-all this counsel
De mautalent devint vermeuz:
From ill-temper he-became red
«Bien sai,» fait il, «por quei le dites:
Well I-know says he for what it you-say
«Por vostre fil, quin serreit quites.
For your son who-thence would-be quit

«A sort et a mu contez fable,
To deaf and to mute you-tell fable
«vos paroles semez en sable:
your words you-sow in sand
«Debatuz vos estes en vain.
Struggled yourself you-have in vain
«Bien savrïez par autrui main
Well you-would-know by other-person's hand
«le serpent traire del boisson:
the serpent to-draw from-the bush
«Cuidiez que ne vos conoisson?
Think-you that not you we-know
«Bien savrïez humer ueus mous;
Well you-would-know to-suck eggs soft
«mais jo ne sué mie tant fous
but I not am at-all so foolish
«que por le fil d'un vavasor
that for the son of-a vavasor
«face partie de m'onor:
I-may-make part of my-domain
«D'al le raembreiz vos, ço crei,
With-else him you-will-ransom you that I-believe
«que de m'onor ne que de mei.
than with my-domain nor than with me
«Li argenz vos avra mestier,
The silver to-you will-have need
«dont vos avez plus d'un sestier:
whereof you have more than-a measure
«Se vostre fil volez aveir,
If your son you-wish to-have

«raembreiz le de vostre aveir.»
you-will-ransom him with your wealth
Daires respont: «Jol di por mei
Daire answers I-it say for me
«et por ces autres que ci vei,
and for these others whom here I-see
«por noz fiz et por noz parenz,
for our sons and for our kin
«dont i a pris plus de set cenz.
whereof there there-is taken more than seven hundred
«Pris sont et mort en vostre afaire:
Taken are and dead in your affair
«Bien devrïez por eus plait faire,
Well you-ought for them plea to-make
«auques por eus et plus por vos,
somewhat for them and more for you
«et por vostre frére et por nos;
and for your brother and for us
«car li jurames senz enjan
for to-him we-swore without deceit
«que il avreit l'onor son an,
that he would-have the-domain his year
«et por nos geter de parjure,
and for us to-throw from perjury
«li devez rendre sa dreiture.»
to-him you-ought to-render his right
Li reis eschaudist de corage,
The king heats of heart
por poi d'ire ne vient en rage;
for little from-wrath not he-comes into rage

quant oï parler del parjure,
when he-heard speak of-the perjury
de mautalent se desmesure:
from ill-temper himself he-exceeds-measure
en sa main tint un retrois brief,
in his hand he-held a staff short
ferir le vout par mé le chief.
to-strike him he-wished through midst the head
Sa mére le chose par boche.
His mother him scolds by mouth
Li reis se tient que pas nel toche:
The king himself holds that at-all not-him he-may-touch
«Fui de ci,» fait il, «davant mei.
Flee from here says he before me
«Mout iés ore de bone fei!
Very thou-art now of good faith
«Por la créme de tes deniers,
For the fear of thy pennies
«dont tu as bien dous muéz entiers,
whereof thou hast well two measures whole
«as tu anuét içe songié.
hast thou tonight this dreamed
«D'une rien te doins plein congié:
Of-one thing to-thee I-give full leave
«Congié te doins de mei mal faire;
Leave to-thee I-give of me ill to-do
«dehait ait qui t'en quiert retraire!
curse have who thee-thence seeks to-draw-back
«Ros enriévres, de pute fei,
Red cruel-one of foul faith

«fai quant que puez, et jo l'otrei.»
do how-much that thou-canst and I it-grant
Cele parole a cil oïe,
That word has he heard
et ço sachiez pas ne l'oblie:
and that know at-all not it-he-forgets
il la cuide bien avengier
he it thinks well to-fulfill
et sa honte briefment vengier.
and his shame shortly to-avenge
Li reis s'iraist et tence fort,
The king grows-angry and quarrels strongly
et si sét bien que il a tort;
and so knows well that he has wrong
mais quant a dreit ne se puet prendre,
but when by right not himself can take
par tençon vueut son tort defendre.
by quarrel he-wishes his wrong to-defend
Otes le chose et le chastie,
Otes him scolds and him chastises
que ne die al baron folie.
that not he-may-say to-the baron folly
Li reis respont: «Jo qu'en pués mais?
The king answers I what-thereof can more
«Qual merveille se jo m'irais?
What marvel if I me-anger
«Cist vassaus a tort o mei tence:
This vassal at wrong with me quarrels
«Qui avreit si grant patience,
Who would-have so great patience

«quant l'on de parjure l'apèle,
when one of perjury him-calls
«ne fust marriz d'ital novèle?
not would-be grieved at-such news
«Dit que parjure somes tuit,
He-says that perjured we-are all
«et ne dit veir, si com jo cuit:
and not says truth so as I think
«Par voz loz ofri a mon frére
By your counsels I-offered to my brother
«partie de l'onor son pére;
part of the-domain (of-)his father
«quant jo li ofri la partie,
when I to-him offered the part
«refusa la, n'en coilli mie;
he-refused it not-thereof he-took at-all
«mais par orgueil et par posnee
but through pride and through boasting
«est entrez en nostre contree,
is entered into our country
«et ameine gent d'autre terre
and leads folk of-other land
«por mei prendre et por vos conquerre.
for me to-take and for you to-conquer
«Se por mei n'en avez pesance,
If for me not-thereof you-have sorrow
«cui vos avez norri d'enfance,
whom you have nurtured from-childhood
«seveaus chascun en peist por sei,
at-least each thereof may-weigh for himself

«car, par la fei que jo vos dei,
for by the faith which I to-you owe
«se il nos puet prendre par force,
if he us can take by force
«ne cuit que ja piez en estorce;
not I-think that ever foot thence may-escape
«ço sachiez vos tot veirement,
that know you all truly
«ociront nos premiérement,
they-will-kill us first
«des femnes feront lor talanz,
of-the women they-will-do their wills
«chaitis en menront les enfanz.
captive thence they-will-lead the children
— Sire,» dist Daires, «par ma fei,
Lord said Daire by my faith
«a tort vos marrissez vers mei.
at wrong you yourself-grieve toward me
«Ço que vos di, nel di por mal,
That which to-you I-say not-it I-say for ill
«ainceis vos doins conseil leal.
rather to-you I-give counsel loyal
«Volon que vos [vos] amendeiz
We-wish that you yourself may-amend
«d'iço dont estes enchaeiz:
of-this whereof you-are fallen
«En tote ceste compaignie
In all this company
«n'a chevalier ja m'en desdie.
not-there-is knight ever me-thereof may-gainsay

«O vostre frére joveignor
With your brother younger
«feïstes plait de ceste honor;
you-made plea of this domain
«se il le plait vueut refuser
if he the plea wishes to-refuse
«et de la vieille fin sevrer,
and from the old end to-sever
«tuit nos devon o vos tenir
all we ought with you to-hold
«et bien l'en deit mal avenir;
and well him-thereof ought ill to-befall
«se volez faire plait sor plait
if you-wish to-make plea upon plea
«et ço laissier que ainz fu fait,
and that to-leave which before was done
«se lui ne plaist, pas nel prendra,
if him not pleases at-all not-it he-will-take
«a la vieille fin se tendra.
to the old end himself he-will-hold
«Et savez en vostre corage
And you-know in your heart
«ne fumes pas fors de l'ostage.»
not we-were at-all out of the-hostage
Ceste parole le rei griéve:
This word the king grieves
d'ire s'estent et en piez liéve;
from-wrath himself-stretches and on feet rises
Daire fiert el chief d'un retrois:
Daire he-strikes on-the head with-a staff

la colee dona grant crois.
the blow gave great crack
Entre eus se metent li baron,
Between them themselves put the barons
le rei tiénent tot environ,
the king they-hold all around
fors de la cort Daire conduient:
out of the court Daire they-conduct
il et li suen mout tost s'en fuient.
he and the his very soon themselves-thence flee
Daires s'en vait en sa maison:
Daire himself-thence goes into his house
vers le rei cuide aveir raison
toward the king he-thinks to-have right
de lui mal faire, se li leist,
of him ill to-do if to-him it-be-allowed
se li puet faire que li peist;
if to-him he-can do what to-him may-weigh
il cuidereit aveir grant dreit,
he would-think to-have great right
se onques vengier se poeit.
if ever to-avenge himself he-could
Un messagier en l'ost tramet
A messenger into the-host he-sends
et a son fil grant bien pramet;
and to his son great good promises
mande que partiz est del rei,
he-sends-word that parted he-is from-the king
ne li deit hué mais nule fei:
not to-him he-owes today more any faith

ore est prèz de la tor livrer
now he-is ready of the tower to-deliver
por lui de prison delivrer.
for him from prison to-free
Li messages en vait en l'ost,
The messenger thence goes into the-host
qui al fil Daire le dist tost. 8060
who to-the son (of-)Daire it said soon
Cil demande: «Coment ço fu?
He asks How that was
— Par ma fei, sire, il l'a feru.
By my faith lord he him-has struck
— Et mis pére nel referi?
And my father not-him struck-back
— Nen il, car donc l'eüst honi.
Not he for then him-he-would-have shamed
«Il n'i aveit gent amenee 8065
He not-there had folk brought
«par qui peüst faire meslee:
through whom he-might make melee
«Cil plaiz ne va pas igaument,
That plea not goes at-all equally
«doner un coup por raveir cent.»
to-give a blow for to-have-back hundred
Li vaslez pas ne s'oblia:
The youth at-all not himself-forgot
a Polinicès le conta, 8070
to Polynices it he-told

que sis pére est partiz del rei
that his father is parted from-the king
et ne li deit mais nule fei:
and not to-him owes more any faith
«Or est prèz de la tor livrer
Now he-is ready of the tower to-deliver
«por mei de prison delivrer.
for me from prison to-free
«S'or volez raveir vostre terre,
If-now you-wish to-have-back your land
«apareilliez vos de la guerre.
prepare yourselves for the war
«En la tor a mout grant plenté,
In the tower there-is very great plenty
«assez i a et char et blé,
enough there there-is both meat and grain
«et mil muéz de vin Moleneis:
and thousand measures of wine (of-)Moleneis
«Onc ne but tal ne cuens ne reis.
Ever not drank such nor count nor king
«Un parc a joste la maison:
A park there-is beside the house
«Mout est pleniers de veneison,
Very it-is full of venison
«de cers, de bises et de dains
of stags of hinds and of fallow-deer
«et de sanglers et de ferains.
and of boars and of wild-beasts
«Mis pére a mout bèle richeise:
My father has very fair riches

«Al rei de Thèbes mout en peise;
To-the king of Thebes much thereof weighs
«mais n'a guaires qu'il li monstra
but not-it-is much that-he to-him showed
«que de s'amor cure nen a,
that of his-love care not he-has
«car qui conoist home felon,
for who knows man felon
«se il pués ante en sa maison,
if he then frequents in his house
«se maus l'en vient, ço est a dreit
if ill him-thence comes that is by right
«et que la honte soe seit.»
and that the shame his be
Polinicès pas ne s'oblie:
Polynices at-all not himself-forgets
de sa gent prist une partie.
of his folk he-took a part
La nuét, quant il fist bien oscur,
The night when it made well dark
s'aproismiérent senz noise al mur;
they-approached without noise to-the wall
par eschales sont sus monté,
by ladders they-are up mounted
de lor armes tuit conreé;
with their arms all arrayed
ainz quel seüssent cil dedenz,
before that-it might-know those within
en i ot bien plus de set cenz.
thereof there had well more than seven hundred

Des autres tors que delez furent,
From-the other towers which beside were
davant le jor les aperçurent;
before the day them they-perceived
des autres tors crient les guaites:
from-the other towers cry the watchmen
«Franc chevalier,» font il, «que faites?
Noble knights say they what do-you
«Levez, levez, adobez vos,
Rise rise arm yourselves
«car traï somes a estros;
for betrayed we-are at once
«traï nos a Daires li ros,
betrayed us has Daire the red
«cil de l'ost sont ça enz o nos.»
those of the-host are here in with us
Par la vile s'adobent tuit,
Through the town themselves-arm all
et la cité fremist et bruit;
and the city trembles and roars
a la tor Daire tuit en vont:
to the tower (of-)Daire all thence go
bien sont dui mile el premier front;
well are two thousand in-the first front
sempres s'ajostent a la tor,
at-once themselves-gather at the tower
si l'assaillent par grant vigor.
so it-they-assail with great vigor
Cil de la tor fort se defendent,
Those of the tower strongly themselves defend

cil d'a val crient que se rendent:
those from below cry that themselves they-render
toz les cuident par force prendre,
all them they-think by force to-take
cil sont bien guarni del defendre.
those are well furnished for-the defending
Il se peinent de grant folie,
They themselves strive with great folly
car par force nes prendront mie;
for by force not-them they-will-take at-all
et de lor gent grant perte font:
and of their folk great loss they-make
assez en tuent cil d'a mont;
enough thereof kill those from above
par ces places crient et huent,
through these squares they-cry and hoot
et cil d'a mont assez en tuent.
and those from above enough thereof kill
A tant l'aube fu esclarcie,
At this the-dawn was brightened
la tor fu bien de gent guarnie:
the tower was well with folk furnished
lancent et traient par ces places,
they-hurl and shoot through these squares
et essaient trés bien lor braces.
and try very well their arms
En grant pensé est li reis mis,
In great thought is the king put
quant o sei veit ses enemis,
when with himself he-sees his enemies

et de ses homes a grant créme:
and of his men he-has great fear
bien sét que sa gent pas ne l'éme:
well he-knows that his folk at-all not him-loves
mout sont dolent de lor contree,
much they-are sorrowful for their country
que par la guerre est desertee;
which through the war is deserted
crent que Daires ait lor consence
he-fears that Daire may-have their consent
et que par eus içо comence.
and that through them this begins
Mais il ot un engigneor,
But he had an engineer
qui dit que li prendra la tor.
who says that for-him he-will-take the tower
Et dist li reis: «Com faitement?
And said the king How fashioned
«Bien a vint piez de fondement:
Well it-has twenty feet of foundation
«Por neient t'en entremetreies,
For nothing thee-thereof thou-wouldst-meddle
«car a nul jor ne la prendreies.»
for on any day not it thou-wouldst-take
Si fist il, veirement la prist:
So did he truly it he-took
oïr poez qual engegn fist.
to-hear you-can what engine he-made

Foant ala desoz la terre
Digging he-went below the earth
al fondement de la tor querre;
to-the foundation of the tower to-seek
quant ot le fondement trové,
when he-had the foundation found
tant pica qu'il l'ot estroé.
so-much he-picked that-he it-had pierced
Li engigniéres fu mout proz:
The engineer was very valiant
le fondement chava desoz,
the foundation he-dug below
et ficha taluz en après,
and fixed props there after
por sostenir desoz le fais;
for to-sustain below the burden
o vif argent et o estope,
with quick silver and with tow
le fou grezeis desoz lor tope;
the fire Greek below them he-stuffs
quant ot mis le fou es taluz,
when he-had put the fire in-the props
par dedesoz est fors eissuz.
by beneath he-is out issued
Ceus de la tor en haut apèle,
Those of the tower on high he-calls
ja lor dira freide novèle:
already to-them he-will-say cold news
«Se n'en éssent isnèlement,
If not-thence they-issue swiftly

«tuit sont ja mort, et il ne ment.»
all are already dead and he not lies
Li talu ardent, la tor fent;
The props burn the tower splits
cil s'en éssent, li reis les prent.
those themselves-thence issue the king them takes
La tor chaï en dous meitiez,
The tower fell in two halves
car desoz li failli li piez.
for below it failed the foot
Daire meinent davant le rei
Daire they-lead before the king
pris et leié et mis par sei.
taken and bound and put by himself
«A! vieuz traïtre,» dist li reis,
Ah old traitor said the king
«jo vos ardrai sempres maneis,
I you shall-burn at-once forthwith
«et si ferai venter la cendre,
and so I-shall-make winnow the ash
«car tal fin deit traïtre prendre.»
for such end ought traitor to-take
Daires dist: «Bien le poez faire,
Daire said Well it you-can do
«la vostre force est ore maire;
the your force is now greater
«mais n'a home en vostre maison
but not-there-is man in your house
«qui me provast de traïson:
who me might-prove of treason

«Ainceis provereie al plus fort
Rather I-would-prove on-the most strong
«que vos eüstes vers mei tort.
that you had toward me wrong
«Jo vos conseilloe par fei,
I you counseled by faith
«solonc le siécle que jo vei:
according-to the world which I see
«Vos me feristes d'un baston,
You me struck with-a staff
«sanglenz en fui jusqu'al talon;
bloody thereof I-was until-the heel
«donastes mei congié por veir
you-gave me leave for truth
«de vos mal faire a mon poeir;
of you ill to-do at my power
«jo l'engeignai al mieuz que soi,
I it-contrived at-the best that I-knew
«cuidai le faire, mais ne poi.»
I-thought it to-do but not I-could
Mout fu la cort grant et pleniére,
Very was the court great and full
onc Daires n'i baissa la chiére;
ever Daire not-there lowered the face
et neporquant n'a en sa vie
and nevertheless not-has in his life
seürté, de rien ne se fie;
surety in anything not himself he-trusts

ne vers le rei merci ne crie,
nor toward the king mercy not he-cries
car bien conoist sa felonie.
for well he-knows his felony
Forment est li reis de grant ire:
Greatly is the king of great wrath
Daire vueut livrer a martire;
Daire he-wishes to-deliver to martyrdom
ardeir le vueut en un bordel.
to-burn him he-wishes in a hut
Otes l'entent: ne li fu bel.
Otes it-hears not to-him was fair
Par les rens vient davant le rei:
Through the ranks he-comes before the king
«Sire,» fait il, «entent a mei.
Lord says he attend to me
«Jugier le fai premiérement
Judge him make first
«et justicier par jugement:
and execute by judgment
«Haïne et blasme en avrïez,
Hatred and blame thereof you-would-have
«se senz esguart si l'ocïez.»
if without judgment so him-you-killed
Li reis apèle ses barons
The king calls his barons
l'un avant l'autre par lor nons,
the-one before the-other by their names

les plus sages de la cité
the most wise of the city
et de plus grant nobileté:
and of more great nobility
«Seignor», fait il, «dites m'en dreit,
Lords says he say me-thereof right
«de cest mien traïtor reveit,
of this mine traitor open
«saveir qual justice en ferai:
to-know what justice thereof I-shall-do
«Ferai le pendre, o se l'ardrai?
I-shall-make him hang or if him-I-shall-burn
«A vos le vueil faire jugier
By you it I-wish to-make judge
«en qual guise m'en dei vengier.»
in what guise me-thereof I-ought to-avenge
Li baron liévent al dreit dire,
The barons rise to-the right to-say
li plusor ont al cuer grant ire.
the most have at-the heart great wrath
Daires esteit de grant parage:
Daire was of great lineage
auquant furent de son lignage;
some were of his lineage
assez ot amis en la cort
enough he-had friends in the court
qui crément que a mal li tort;
who fear that to ill to-him it-may-turn
ainz que il ésse de la place,
before that he may-issue from the place

crément que li reis le desface.
they-fear that the king him may-undo
Fors de la sale vont as estres
Out of the hall they-go to-the galleries
et ont fait ovrir les fenestres,
and have made open the windows
pués s'assiéent el pavement
then themselves-sit on-the pavement
et parolent del jugement.
and speak of-the judgment
As estres ot mout grant tomoute:
At-the galleries there-had very great tumult
tuit parolent, Otes escoute.
all speak Otes listens
En son cuer prist a porpenser
In his heart he-took to bethink
coment porreit Daire tenser,
how he-could Daire protect
et reparla al chief de pose:
and spoke-again at-the end of while
«Bien sachiez,» fait il, «une chose:
Well know says he one thing
«Se vos jugiez Daire a ocire,
If you judge Daire to to-kill
«de mal talent est mout mis sire:
of ill temper is very my lord
«Si com jo cuit en mon viaire,
So as I think in my face
«vos verreiz sempres morir Daire.
you will-see at-once die Daire

«Granz dueus iert de Daire le Ros,
Great grief will-be of Daire the Red
«se il est ocis entre nos:
if he is killed among us
«Il est de nostre norreture
He is of our nurture
«et par lignage et par nature.
both by lineage and by nature
«Jusqu'a demain respét queron
Until-to tomorrow respite let-us-seek
«del jugement que nel façon:
of-the judgment that not-it we-may-make
«Li reis tandis s'apaiera
The king meanwhile will-be-appeased
«et s'ire li refreidera;
and his-wrath to-him will-cool
«demain nos rajosteron ci,
tomorrow ourselves we-shall-reassemble here
«et de Daire querron merci.
and for Daire we-shall-seek mercy
«Se ço laisson jusqu'al matin,
If that we-leave until-the morning
«donc en porron mieuz querre fin;
then thereof we-shall-be-able better to-seek end
«car ore n'i vei jo pas lou,
for now not-there see I at-all place
«tant com l'ire est o tot le fou.»
so-long as the-wrath is with all the fire

The Judgment of Daire

XIII

Eteocles refuses Creon's plea for respite. In the council Otes argues that the king's blow and his leave freed Daire from treason, while Creon holds that a vassal must seek right before turning on his lord, and that Daire deserves death. Jocasta counsels mercy, and Antigone brings Daire's daughter, whom the king loves. Eteocles yields to the barons' counsel, and Creon mocks him for yielding to a girl. Daire owns his folly but denies treason, gives hostages, and has his fief back. In the Greek camp the host wants Daire's son hanged, and Polynices sends him free into Thebes.

Ceste parole tuit otreient,
This word all grant
et les cinc d'eus al rei enveient:
and the five of-them to-the king they-send
préent lui que jusqu'al demen
they-pray him that until-the morrow
respét lor doinst, si fera ben.
respite to-them he-may-give so he-will-do well
Li reis est mout d'içe eschis
The king is very of-this averse
et de mautalent toz trenchis:
and from ill-temper all cutting
«Por neient,» fait il, «vos lassez:
For nothing says he you weary-yourselves
«Par mé le dreit vos en passez,
Through midst the right you thence pass
«car ja jor ne dorrai respét
for ever day not I-shall-give respite
«del grant lait et del grant despét
of-the great insult and of-the great spite

«que icist traïtre m'a fait,
which this traitor to-me-has done
«ne ja n'en escouterai plait.
nor ever not-thereof I-shall-hear plea
«Vos volez que respét li doinge,
You wish that respite to-him I-may-give
«pués preiereiz que li pardoinge:
then you-will-pray that to-him I-may-pardon
«Jugiez le mei solonc les leis,
Judge him to-me according-to the laws
«car jo serrai autresi freis
for I shall-be likewise fresh
«dès qu'a un an com jo or sué.
from until-to a year as I now am
«De besanz ne prendreie un mué
Of bezants not I-would-take a measure
«que jo n'en prenge vengement,
that I not-thereof may-take vengeance
«et j'en sai bien le jugement
and I-thereof know well the judgment
«que jugiérent nostre ancessor:
which judged our ancestors
«En bordel ardeir traïtor.»
In hut to-burn traitor
Creon li dist: «Si fereiz, sire:
Creon to-him said So you-will-do lord
«Ne vos laissiez veintre a vostre ire;
Not yourself let conquer by your wrath
«conseil creez, si fereiz ben:
counsel believe so you-will-do well

«Respét donez jusqu'al demen.»
Respite give until-the morrow
Li reis jure quant que il sét
The king swears how-much that he knows
que ja nul jor n'avra respét.
that ever any day not-he-will-have respite
Creon fu plus fiers que leon;
Creon was more proud than lion
il a le rei mis a raison:
he has the king put to account
en la vile ot Creon grant gent;
in the town had Creon great folk
riches hon fu d'or et d'argent.
rich man he-was of-gold and of-silver
Li reis et il érent parent,
The king and he were kin
por ço parla seürement:
for that he-spoke surely
«Mout hé,» fait il, «enriévreté
Very I-hate says he cruelty
«et sorfait en grant poesté.
and excess in great power
«Deus maudie enriévre seignor,
God may-curse cruel lord
«car ja bien ne tendra honor:
for ever well not he-will-hold domain
«Tuit le héent et povre et riche,
All him hate both poor and rich
«quant d'enriévreté trop s'afiche.
when to-cruelty too-much himself-fixes

«Sire,» fait il, «a mei enten.
Lord says he to me attend
«Bachelers, qui nen a grant sen,
Bachelor who not has great sense
«de sages homes conseil creie:
of wise men counsel may-believe
«Astes le vos mis en la veie;
See him you put on the way
«qui ne sét ne ne se conseille,
who not knows nor not himself counsels
«se il mesfait, n'est pas merveille.»
if he misdoes not-is at-all marvel
Li reis escote la parole;
The king listens-to the word
contre lui liéve, si l'acole.
toward him he-rises so him-embraces
Li reis le prist a acoler;
The king him took to embrace
riant li dist: «Laissiez m'ester,
laughing to-him said Let me-be
«car ne laireie por la vie
for not I-would-leave for the life
«ne feïsse ceste folie.»
not I-should-do this folly
Cil s'en tornent, as estres vont:
Those themselves-thence turn to-the galleries go
de lor veisin grant pesance ont;
of their neighbor great sorrow they-have
grant pesance ont de lor veisin,
great sorrow they-have of their neighbor

quant n'i truevent respét ne fin.
when not-there they-find respite nor end
Otes demande: «Avez respét?
Otes asks Have-you respite
— Nenil, por veir, jusqu'a la nuét.
No for truth until-to the night
— Por Deu,» dist il, «or[e] aiez paiz,
For God said he now have peace
«car [de] noise faire est granz laiz.
for of noise to-make is great shame
«Li un(s) les autres parler laissent
The one the others to-speak let
«tot bèlement et si se taisent,
all fairly and so themselves be-silent
«et cil qui a parler n'i ont
and those who to speak not-there have
«o(i)ent que li autre di[r]ont.»
hear what the others will-say
Al jugement sont tuit assis,
At-the judgment they-are all seated
n'i a celui ne seit pensis;
not-there is he not be pensive
une piéce sont tuit taisant,
a while they-are all silent
que nus n'i vout parler avant.
for any not-there wished to-speak first
Alis sot mout de jugement,
Alis knew much of judgment
si a parlé premiérement:
so he-has spoken first

«Guardez se ceste mesprison,
See if this misdeed
«que Daires fist, est traïson.
which Daire did is treason
«Se lui jugiez a traïtor
If him you-judge for traitor
«por ço que il livra sa tor,
for that that he delivered his tower
«se Deus,» fait il, «me beneïe,
if God says he me may-bless
«n'a dreit en membre ne en vie;
not-has right in limb nor in life
«mais se nos l'en poon defendre,
but if we him-thence can defend
«il n'i perdra vie ne membre:
he not-there will-lose life nor limb
«En merci seit vers son seignor
In mercy let-him-be toward his lord
«de son aveir et de s'onor.»
of his wealth and of his-domain
Otes prist Alis par la main:
Otes took Alis by the hand
«Ne parlez pas,» fait il, «en vain.
Not speak at-all says he in vain
«Se traïson fist vers le rei,
If treason he-did toward the king
«bien savon qu'il n'a dreit en sei;
well we-know that-he not-has right in himself

«mais jo par dreit et par raison
but I by right and by reason
«le defendrai de traïson.
him shall-defend from treason
«Li reis laidi mout son baron,
The king insulted much his baron
«quant le feri de son baston,
when him he-struck with his staff
«et li dona, ç'oï retraire,
and to-him gave this-I-heard tell
«tot plein congié de li mal faire:
all full leave of him ill to-do
«Se cil le fist come il ainz pot,
If he it did as he soonest could
«pués que il le congié en ot,
after that he the leave thereof had
«vie ne membre n'a forfait,
life nor limb not-has forfeited
«ne traïson n'i a pas fait.»
nor treason not-there has at-all done
Creon li vieuz et li antis
Creon the old and the ancient
de jugement fu bien apris:
of judgment was well taught
en la cort se drece en estant,
in the court himself raises in standing
en sa main destre tint son guant.
in his hand right he-held his glove
De raison fu bien dotrinez:
Of reason he-was well taught

«Seignor,» dist il, «or m'escoutez.
Lords said he now me-hear
«Mal fait qui a son escïent
Ill does who at his knowledge
«consent un mauvais jugement.
consents a wicked judgment
«Otes a dit sa volenté,
Otes has said his will
«et nos l'avon tuit escoté;
and we it-have all heard
«mais, par la fei que jo vos dei,
but by the faith which I to-you owe
«issi,» fait il, «pas ne l'otrei.
thus says he at-all not it-I-grant
«Se li reis son baron laidi,
If the king his baron insulted
«Daires se tot et le sofri,
Daire himself was-silent and it suffered
«ne le rei a raison ne mist,
nor the king to account not put
«ne de ço dreit ne li requist;
nor of that right not of-him required
«ne li reis dreit ne li vea,
nor the king right not to-him refused
«ne il le rei ne desfia.
nor he the king not defied
«Il ert ses hon et li reis sire:
He was his man and the king lord
«Por tençon ne por un poi d'ire,
For quarrel nor for a little of-wrath

«ne deüst pas, ço m'est vis, querre
not he-ought at-all that to-me-is opinion to-seek
«com sis sire perdist sa terre,
how his lord might-lose his land
«ne certes issi freschement
nor certainly thus freshly
«querre son desheritement;
to-seek his disinheriting
«dreit deüst ofrir et dreit prendre,
right he-ought to-offer and right to-take
«et pués quarante jorz atendre;
and then forty days to-wait
«dreit deüst querre et dreit ofrir,
right he-ought to-seek and right to-offer
«et pués quarante jorz sofrir.
and then forty days to-suffer
«Se li reis dreit ne li feïst,
If the king right not to-him had-done
«ainceis que il li forsfeïst,
before that he to-him might-forfeit
«une rien peüst il bien faire:
one thing could he well do
«De son service sei retraire;
From his service himself to-withdraw
«mais se li reis ot vers lui tort,
but if the king had toward him wrong
«ne deüst pas querre sa mort.
not he-ought at-all to-seek his death

«Sa mort quist il, quant il ot mis
His death sought he when he had put
«sor lui ses mortaus enemis,
upon him his mortal enemies
«que volentiers l'oceïssant,
who willingly him-would-have-killed
«se il baillier le poïssant.
if they to-have him could
«De dreit ne deit on pas mentir,
Of right not ought one at-all to-lie
«ne traïson ja consentir:
nor treason ever to-consent
«Daires en fist grant felonie,
Daire thereof did great felony
«forsfait i a et membre et vie,
forfeited there he-has both limb and life
«et ne cuit pas que ça enz ait
and not I-think at-all that here in there-be
«cui plus en peist que a mei fait;
whom more thereof may-weigh than to me it-does
«mais por amor n'en mentirai
but for love not-thereof I-shall-lie
«del jugement que jo ferai.»
of-the judgment which I shall-make
Otes dit: «N'ai cure d'amor,
Otes says Not-I-have care of-love
«pués qu'ele torne a deshonor:
after that-it turns to dishonor

«Hon qui aime un autre par fei
Man who loves an other by faith
«ne li vueut mal plus que a sei;
not to-him wishes ill more than to himself
«se vos l'amissez de neient,
if you him-loved in anything
«ne feïssez tal jugement.
not you-would-make such judgment
«Sire Creon, amendez i,
Lord Creon amend there
«que jo ne l'otrei pas issi.
for I not it-grant at-all thus
«Se mis sire me tout ma terre
If my lord from-me takes my land
«o mon aveir, dreit en dei querre,
or my wealth right thereof I-ought to-seek
«o atendre, se il nel fait,
or to-wait if he not-it does
«quarante jorz avant forsfait;
forty days before forfeit
«mais pués que il mon cors ferra,
but after that he my body will-strike
«dahé ait quil desfiera!
curse have who-him will-defy
«Il nen a pués nul dreit en mei,
He not has then any right in me
«car il me ment iluec sa fei.
for he to-me belies there his faith
«D'aveir dreit et de coup venjance:
For-wealth right and for blow vengeance

«Trés bien se guart pués de ma lance.
Very well himself may-he-guard then from my lance
«Ne sai dreit prendre de colee
Not I-know right to-take for blow
«se la venjance non d'espee.»
except the vengeance not of-sword
Tandis com il issi contendent
While as they thus contend
et cil de la cort les atendent,
and those of the court them await
Jocaste parole o le rei
Jocasta speaks with the king
a une part mout en secrei:
to one side very in secret
«Fiz,» fait ele, «mieuz vaut mesure
Son says she better is-worth measure
«que jugemenz ne que dreiture.
than judgments nor than right
«Cest felon a dreit destruireies,
This felon by right thou-wouldst-destroy
«mais trop grant damage i avreies:
but too great harm there thou-wouldst-have
«Il a parenz quil vengeront,
He has kin who-him will-avenge
«et vengier assez le porront.
and to-avenge enough him they-will-be-able
«Tes enemis veiz davant tei,
Thy enemies thou-seest before thee
«et, par la fei que jo te dei,
and by the faith which I to-thee owe

«une nuét ça enz les metront:
one night here in them they-will-put
«Se il pueent, ja n'i faudront.
If they can ever not-there they-will-fail
«Fai plait o lui, et si me crei;
Make plea with him and so me believe
«seürté doinst de porter fei.»
surety let-him-give of bearing faith
As paroles que dit sa mére,
At-the words which says his mother
Antigoné vint a son frére;
Antigone came to her brother
Antigoné, la suer le rei,
Antigone the sister (of-)the king
la fille Daire meine o sei.
the daughter (of-)Daire leads with herself
Savez qual fu la fille Daire?
Know-you what was the daughter (of-)Daire
Bel ot le cors et le viaire,
Fair she-had the body and the face
la face fresche et coloree,
the face fresh and colored
boche petite et bien mollee;
mouth little and well molded
lévres grossetes par mesure,
lips plumpish by measure
por bien baisier les fist nature;
for well kissing them made nature
ueuz vairs rianz et amoros,
eyes gray laughing and loving

granz dueus est quant il sont ploros;
great grief it-is when they are tearful
char blanche, pleine, tendre et mole,
flesh white full tender and soft
simple vout et douce parole.
simple face and sweet speech
Mout fu graisle par la ceinture,
Very she-was slender at the girdle
et fu de meiéne estature:
and was of middle stature
ne fu trop grant ne trop petite;
not she-was too tall nor too little
et vestue ot un eschafite:
and clothed she-had an eschafite
ço est uns pailes de colors
that is a silk of colors
menuement ovrez a flors;
finely worked with flowers
et ot sor ses espaules mis
and she-had on her shoulders put
l'afublail d'un fres mantel gris.
the-clasp of-a fresh mantle gray
Cheveus ot lons, deugiez et sors
Hair she-had long fine and blond
et environ son chief entors:
and around her head wrapped
n'ot cure de s'apareillier,
not-she-had care of herself-adorning
et ne s'en deit on merveillier,
and not oneself-thereof ought one marvel

car mout ot grant duel la pucèle,
for very had great grief the maiden
et en son duel si fu mout bèle.
and in her grief so she-was very fair
Chiére morne vait humblement
Face gloomy she-goes humbly
et plora mout avenantment;
and wept very comely
de plorer ot moillié le vis:
from weeping she-had wetted the face
sis plors vaut d'autre femne ris.
her weeping is-worth of-other woman laughter
Et sa chiére et sa contenance
And her face and her bearing
fait a maint home grant pesance:
makes to many-a man great sorrow
n'en i a un pitié n'en ait,
not-thereof there has one pity not-thereof may-have
qui veit le duel que ele fait.
who sees the grief which she makes
Li reis l'amot et senz mesure,
The king her-loved and without measure
mais ele ert vers le rei trop dure;
but she was toward the king too harsh
il l'aime plus que rien que vive,
he her-loves more than thing that lives
mais ele est vers lui trop eschive.
but she is toward him too averse

Li reis la veit vers sei venir:
The king her sees toward himself to-come
avisonques se pot tenir
scarcely himself he-could hold
d'aler encontre et de li rire;
from-going toward and of her smiling
quant il la vit, mout refrainst s'ire:
when he her saw much he-checked his-wrath
s'il se peüst asseürer,
if-he himself might reassure
sempres alast a lé parler.
at-once he-would-have-gone to her to-speak
Jocaste sozrist vers le rei:
Jocasta smiled toward the king
«Fiz,» fait ele, «n'as dreit en tei,
Son says she not-hast right in thee
«nen as dreit en chevalerie,
not hast right in chivalry
«se d'icesté ne fais t'amie.
if of-this-one not thou-makest thy-beloved
«Veïs onques tant bèle tose,
Sawest-thou ever so fair girl
«si bèle ne si vergondose?
so fair nor so modest
«Rent lui son pére et seit t'amie,
Render her her father and let-her-be thy-beloved
«si feras mout grant corteisie.»
so thou-wilt-do very great courtesy

Al rei est bel et si s'en rit
To-the king it-is fair and so himself-thereof laughs
d'içо que sa mére li dit.
at-this which his mother to-him says
Les pucèles viénent avant
The maidens come forward
et ambedous viénent plorant;
and both come weeping
as piez le rei, el pavement,
at-the feet (of-)the king on-the pavement
chieent et plorent tendrement:
they-fall and weep tenderly
l'une quiert merci de son pére,
the-one seeks mercy for her father
et l'autre en prée mout son frére.
and the-other thereof prays much her brother
Vers sa seror li reis se torne,
Toward his sister the king himself turns
que est por l'autre triste et morne:
who is for the-other sad and gloomy
«Suer,» fait il, «ja savez vos ben
Sister says he already know you well
«que toz jorz l'ai preiee en ven:
that all days her-I-have prayed in vain
«De lé merci aveir ne dei,
Of her mercy to-have not I-ought
«car el ne l'ot onques de mei.»
for she not it-had ever of me
Cele dist: «Ore estes desus,
She said Now you-are above

«ore ne l'enchauciez ja plus;
now not her-press ever more
«aiez merci entre vos dous,
have mercy between you two
«vos de lé et ele de vous.»
you on her and she on you
La pucèle le li otreie:
The maiden it to-him grants
«Ne sai,» fait il, «com vos en creie.»
Not I-know says he how you thereof I-may-believe
Jocaste dit: «Ço iert bien fait:
Jocasta says That will-be well done
«Jo vos sué pleiges d'icest fait.»
I to-you am pledge of-this deed
Et por ço nel dit ele mie
And for that not-it says she at-all
que en lé ait nule folie,
that in her there-be any folly
— mout est bone femne Jocaste
very is good woman Jocasta
et bien aumosniére et bien chaste,
and well almsgiving and well chaste
— mais Daire vout guarir de mort:
but Daire she-wished to-save from death
qui l'en blasmereit avreit tort.
who her-thereof would-blame would-have wrong
A une part esteit li reis
To one side was the king
ou il parlot o eles treis:
where he spoke with them three

li bacheler, li soudeier
the bachelors the soldiers
de Daire vont merci preier;
of Daire go mercy to-pray
de la pucèle pitié ont
for the maiden pity they-have
et por lé tuit al rei en vont;
and for her all to-the king thence go
de Daire crient merci tuit,
for Daire cry mercy all
il la troveront bien, ço cuit.
they it will-find well that I-think
Al rei plot mout cele preiére,
To-the king pleased much that prayer
neporquant fait marrie chiére,
nevertheless he-makes grieved face
car il vueut mout celer le plait
for he wishes much to-hide the plea
que la pucèle o lui a fait.
which the maiden with him has made
De la merci se fait guaignart,
Of the mercy himself makes miserly
et neporquant si li est tart;
and nevertheless so to-him it-is late
tart li est que merci li face:
late to-him it-is that mercy to-him he-may-do
peise lui de la tendre face
weighs him of the tender face
qu'il veit moilliee de plorer.
which-he sees wet with weeping

Ne vos en quier plus demorer:
Not to-you thereof I-seek more to-delay
a qualque peine lor otreie
with some pain to-them he-grants
que le conseil des barons creie.
that the counsel of-the barons he-may-believe
As jugeors uns mes en vait,
To-the judges a messenger thence goes
qui lor dit com li reis a fait:
who to-them says how the king has done
grant joie en orent li plusor,
great joy thereof had the most
et beneïssent lor seignor,
and bless their lord
qui pardone si grant forfait:
who pardons so great forfeit
n'i a celui plus chier ne l'ait.
not-there is he more dear not him-may-have
Creon lor dist: «Nel quier celer,
Creon to-them said Not-it I-seek to-hide
«mout est fous sens de bacheler:
very is foolish sense of bachelor
«Jol vos di,» fait il, «por le rei,
I-it to-you say says he for the king
«qui escondist et vos et mei;
who refused both you and me
«il escondist et mei et vos,
he refused both me and you
«onc rien ne vout faire por nos,
ever anything not he-wished to-do for us

«neïs respét n'en vout doner:
not-even respite not-thereof he-wished to-give
«Or le li a fait pardoner
Now it to-him has made pardon
«la preiére d'une meschine.
the prayer of-a damsel
«Ne jo nel di pas por haïne,
Nor I not-it say at-all for hatred
«que mout forment bel ne me seit
that very greatly fair not to-me may-be
«dont li reis a laissié son dreit;
that the king has left his right
«mais tot içо, se lui pleüst,
but all this if him had-pleased
«por ses barons faire deüst.»
for his barons to-do he-ought
Otes dit: «Issi vait d'amie,
Otes says Thus goes of-beloved
«d'amors et de chevalerie.
of-loves and of chivalry
«Se vos le tenez a folie,
If you it hold for folly
«il le tient a grant corteisie.»
he it holds for great courtesy
Al rei repairent li baron,
To-the king return the barons
de Daire tiénent la raison:
of Daire they-hold the plea
vait avant, offre seürté,
he-goes forward offers surety

toz les barons de la cité.
all the barons of the city
Daires estut devant le rei,
Daire stood before the king
ses amis ot dejoste sei:
his friends he-had beside himself
«Si Deus,» fait il, «me beneïe,
So God says he me may-bless
«bien conois que jo fiz folie,
well I-know that I did folly
«tal rien fiz que faire ne dure,
such thing I-did as to-do not lasts
«issi avint ore aventure:
thus befell now adventure
«Por ço me tenez en destreit,
For that me you-hold in straits
«et si avez auques de dreit.
and so you-have somewhat of right
«Sem pardonez ceste folie,
If-me you-pardon this folly
«metre me poez en tolie
to-put me you-can in roll
«o toz les plus feaus amis
with all the most faithful friends
«que avreiz tant com serreiz vis:
whom you-will-have so-long as you-will-be alive
«Folie fiz, si com vos di,
Folly I-did so as to-you I-say
«mais de traïson m'escondi;
but of treason myself-I-clear

«de traïson, de felonie
of treason of felony
«sué prez que ci enz m'escondie.»
I-am ready that here in myself-I-clear
Creon dist que contrarios:
Creon said as contrary-one
«Autre se combatra por vos.»
Another himself will-fight for you
Nus nen entent que il vueut dire,
Any not understands what he wishes to-say
fors sol li reis, qu'en ot grant ire,
except only the king who-thereof had great wrath
car il dist de la fille Daire.
for he spoke of the daughter (of-)Daire
Li reis abaissa son viaire,
The king lowered his face
si s'embroncha en son mantel:
so himself-hid in his mantle
poez saveir ne li fu bel.
you-can know not to-him was fair
Se solement fussent il dui,
If only they-had-been they two
mout volentiers tençast o lui;
very willingly he-would-have-quarreled with him
mais il ne vueut en cort tencier,
but he not wishes in court to-quarrel
ne ceste parole essaucier.
nor this word to-raise

Tuit li baron l'ont tant preié
All the barons him-have so-much prayed
que le plait lor a otreié:
that the plea to-them he-has granted
de fei porter hostages prent
of faith bearing hostages he-takes
et a Daire tot son fué rent.
and to Daire all his fief renders
En l'ost font duel de lor amis, 8585
In the-host they-make grief for their friends
qui en la tor sont mort et pris;
who in the tower are dead and taken
li fiz Daire en est mout haïz:
the son (of-)Daire thereof is very hated
dient que il les a traïz,
they-say that he them has betrayed
et vuelent por la traïson
and wish for the treason
a forches pendre le prison. 8590
on gallows to-hang the prisoner
Al premier chief vint mile sont:
At-the first head twenty thousand are
al tréf Polinicès en vont;
to-the tent (of-)Polynices thence go
par force vuelent celui prendre
by force they-wish him to-take
et desfaire o a forches pendre.
and to-undo or on gallows to-hang

Uns chevaliers qui ot non Ponce
A knight who had name Ponce
a Polinicès tost le nonce.
to Polynices soon it announces
Polinicès que frans hon fist:
Polynices what noble man did
sor son cheval le vaslet mist;
on his horse the youth he-put
sor le cheval, qui vaut cent livres,
on the horse which is-worth hundred pounds
a la cité s'en vait delivres.
to the city himself-thence goes free

The Ambush Laid

XIV

Hippomedon proposes a ruse: the Greeks will pretend to break camp, thirty thousand knights will lie in ambush in the forest of Malpertus, and he will lead a rear guard of twenty thousand to draw the Thebans out. Capaneus asks to be in the ambush, Hippomedon undertakes to summon the barons, and Adrastus gladly agrees. That night Parthenopaeus, Capaneus, the count of Amyclae, Meleager, Minos of Crete, Agenor, Laertes, Pyrrhus, Palaemon, Antenor of Troy, and the African prince Salamander ride out and hide where Tydeus once fought the fifty.

Cil de l'ost et cil dedenz sont
Those of the-host and those within are
grant piéce que ne se forsfont;
great while that not themselves forfeit
et neporquant pas ne s'entrement,
and nevertheless at-all not each-other-love

mais mout se héent et se crement.
but much themselves hate and themselves fear
Ypomedon pas ne repose:
Hippomedon at-all not rests
porpense, engégne aucune chose;
he-bethinks contrives some thing
vers ceus dedenz est en aguait
toward those within he-is in ambush
come il lor face grant forsfait;
how he to-them may-do great harm
mout se porpense en son corage
much himself he-bethinks in his heart
com lor puésse faire damage.
how to-them he-may do harm
Conseil en vait prendre o le rei:
Counsel thereof he-goes to-take with the king
Capaneon en meine o sei.
Capaneus thence he-leads with himself
Cil descendent a l'estendart,
Those dismount at the-standard
le rei traient a une part.
the king they-draw to one side
Ypomedon premiers parole:
Hippomedon first speaks
«Cist sojorz,» fait il, «nos afole.
This stay says he us maddens
«Trop longement avon ci sis,
Too long we-have here sat
«et mout i avon poi conquis;
and very there we-have little conquered

«trop somes en estrange terre,
too-much we-are in strange land
«quant nos n'i poon rien conquerre.
when we not-there can anything conquer
«Ja ceste vile ne prendron,
Ever this town not we-shall-take
«ne par ester nes destreindron;
nor by staying not-them we-shall-constrain
«vos nes porreiz ja afamer,
you not-them will-be-able ever to-starve
«car navire lor vient par mer,
for fleet to-them comes by sea
«que lor aporte assez vitaille:
which to-them brings enough victuals
«N'ont créme que l'on les assaille.
Not-they-have fear that one them may-assail
«Nos nen entron en mer salee:
We not enter into sea salt
«N'i avon barge ne galee;
Not-there we-have barge nor galley
«par mer ne fu pas nostre veie,
by sea not was at-all our way
«mais par les deserz de Nemeie.
but through the deserts of Nemea
«Ceste grant ève d'Ismenos
This great water of-Ismenos
«les a de l'autre part enclos;
them has from the-other side enclosed
«outre cel pont, es praeries,
beyond that bridge in-the meadowlands

«la paissent les granz vacheries;
there graze the great herds
«par la garenne et par la sable,
through the warren and through the sand
«la est la terre guaaignable:
there is the land arable
«De la vient li blez et li vins.
From there comes the grain and the wine
«A muls, a chameuz, a roncins,
With mules with camels with nags
«par mé cel pont, noz ueuz veiant,
through midst that bridge our eyes seeing
«viénent tuit trossé et amblant;
they-come all packed and ambling
«nos veon le blé amasser,
we see the grain to-amass
«et ne poon l'ève passer.
and not we-can the-water cross
«Ceste vile n'est pas assise:
This town not-is at-all besieged
«Ja par force ne serra prise;
Ever by force not will-be taken
«ja rien ne lor porron forsfaire,
ever anything not to-them we-shall-be-able to-misdo
«se nes poon ça defors traire;
if not-them we-can here outside to-draw
«mais jo vos sai bien enseignier
but I you know well to-teach
«com nos les porron engeignier.
how we them shall-be-able to-trick

«Eneveis, quant il fera cler,
This-evening when it will-make clear
«faites cez chevaliers armer:
make these knights arm
«Trente mile serront et plus,
Thirty thousand they-will-be and more
«si s'embuschent en Malpertus;
so themselves-ambush in Malpertus
«et li autre qui remandront
and the others who will-remain
«par matin lor armes prendront;
in morning their arms will-take
«a toz faites lor armes prendre,
to all make their arms take
«as escuiers les trés destendre,
to-the squires the tents unpitch
«et faites crier par cele host
and make cry through that host
«que lor somiers chargent mout tost.
that their sumpters they-load very soon
«Avant s'en augent li somier,
Forward themselves-thence may-go the sumpters
«et deriére li chevalier;
and behind the knights
«la geude se mete en l'estree,
the foot-troop itself may-put on the-road
«de bataille bien conreee.
for battle well arrayed
«La enz a grant chevalerie,
There in there-is great chivalry

«et si est mout vers nos marrie;
and so it-is much toward us grieved
«li reis est orgoillos et fiers,
the king is proud and haughty
«de son corage mout legiers:
of his heart very light
«De chevaliers grant force avra,
Of knights great force he-will-have
«sachiez que il nos porsivra;
know that he us will-pursue
«içe sachiez tot a estros,
this know all at once
«sempres serront el champ o nos.
at-once they-will-be in-the field with us
«Mais jo ferai l'ariére guarde,
But I shall-make the-rear guard
«n'i avra jumentier ne farde:
not-there will-have mare-rider nor pack
«Vint mile serron d'esleture,
Twenty thousand we-shall-be of-choice
«des chevaliers bons par nature;
of-the knights good by nature
«si nos lairons bien aprochier
so us we-shall-let well approach
«et bien laidir et embronchier.
and well insult and bow-down
«Par cele fei que jo vos dei,
By that faith which I to-you owe
«ja n'i avra point de desrei,
ever not-there will-have point of disorder

«ja n'i avra un trestor fait,
ever not-there will-have a turn made
«jusque nos veon nostre aguait.
until we see our ambush
«Cil qui el bos s'embuscheront
Those who in-the wood themselves-will-ambush
«de la noise se guarderont:
from the noise themselves will-guard
«Bien se metent el bos parfont,
Well themselves let-them-put in-the wood deep
«en la valee, soz le mont;
in the valley under the hill
«et ne lor chaut trop tost saillir,
and not to-them it-matters too soon to-leap
«que il ne nos facent faillir;
that they not us may-make fail
«bien laissent enchaucier la rote
well let-them-let pursue the troop
«et venir la grant flote tote;
and come the great throng all
«si se metent li trente mile
so themselves let-them-put the thirty thousand
«a lor encontre vers la vile.
at their meeting toward the town
«O ço que nos bien les ferron
With that that we well them shall-strike
«qui l'ariére guarde feron,
who the-rear guard shall-make

«ne cuit que ja piez en estorce,
not I-think that ever foot thence may-escape
«car il n'avront pas vers nos force.»
for they not-will-have at-all toward us force
Capaneüs d'icest afaire
Capaneus of-this affair
ne se vout targier ne retraire:
not himself wished to-delay nor to-withdraw
«Ço sachiez,» fait il, «veirement,
That know says he truly
«jo serrai en l'embuschement:
I shall-be in the-ambush
«Celeement face li reis
Secretly may-make the king
«ses barons somondre eneveis.»
his barons summon this-evening
Ypomedon dist: «Jo n'i fail:
Hippomedon said I not-there fail
«Sor mei metez icest travail;
On me put this toil
«icest travail sor mei recueil,
this toil on me I-take-up
«jes somondrai, qui fairel sueil.
I-them shall-summon who to-do-it am-wont
— Seignor,» dist li reis, «bien savez
Lords said the king well you-know
«que n'ai dous barons tant privez
that not-I-have two barons so intimate
«com vos m'estes, ne cui tant creie.
as you to-me-are nor whom so-much I-may-believe

«Par vos comenz iceste veie;
By you begins this way
«faites le si com mieuz savreiz:
do it so as best you-will-know
«Grant los et grant pro en avreiz;
Great praise and great profit thereof you-will-have
«vos i avreiz mout grant honor,
you there will-have very great honor
«de bien aidier vostre seignor.
of well helping your lord
«Vos l'avez bien fait jusque ci:
You it-have well done until here
«Jo vos en rent mout grant merci.
I to-you thereof render very great thanks
«D'icest afaire vos penez,
Of-this affair yourselves strive
«et le fais sor vos en prenez,
and the burden on you thereof take
«car la besoigne bien m'agree,
for the business well me-pleases
«si com vos l'avez porparlee.»
so as you it-have planned
La nuét vint, et cil a somons
The night came and he has summoned
d'icest afaire les barons.
of-this affair the barons
Il s'aprestent de chevauchier:
They themselves-prepare for riding
montent, si s'en vont embuschier.
they-mount so themselves-thence go to-ambush

Il en i vait taus dez o plus:
They thereof there go such ten or more
chascuns est reis o cuens o dus.
each is king or count or duke
Parthonopeus o sa compaigne,
Parthenopaeus with his company
que mout est fiére et mout grifaigne,
which very is proud and very fierce
s'en ést premiers: cinc mile sont,
himself-thence issues first five thousand they-are
et sachiez que genz conreiz ont;
and know that noble arrays they-have
qui veit lor conreiz puet bien dire
who sees their arrays can well say
que n'est pas mauvais hon li sire.
that not-is at-all wicked man the lord
Capaneüs eissi après,
Capaneus issued after
d'icest afaire ot tot le fais:
of-this affair he-had all the burden
trei mile sont de gent hardie
three thousand they-are of folk bold
et bien duét de chevalerie.
and well trained in chivalry
Li cuens d'Amicles est eissuz,
The count of-Amyclae is issued
et nen ot que dous mile escuz;
and not had but two thousand shields

mais cil dui mile o lor seignor
but those two thousand with their lord
valent quatre mile des lor.
are-worth four thousand of-the theirs
Meleager d'Amphigenie,
Meleager of-Amphigenia
nobles dus de grant seignorie,
noble duke of great lordship
— cosins germains esteit le rei
cousin german he-was (of-)the king
— gente compaigne meine o sei;
noble company leads with himself
trei mile sont de grant bobance,
three thousand they-are of great pomp
tuit armé a guise de France.
all armed in fashion of France
Li reis de Crète esteit le seir
The king of Crete was the evening
venuz en l'ost o grant poeir.
come into the-host with great power
Ne teneit del rei fué ne terre,
Not he-held of-the king fief nor land
mais il li tramist socors querre:
but he to-him sent succor to-seek
cil estoit sis amis d'enfance
he was his friend from-childhood
par sairement et par fiance,
by oath and by pledge
et ne vout aveir vers lui tort;
and not he-wished to-have toward him wrong

por lui socorre et por deport
for him to-succor and for sport
s'apareilla li reis mout tost,
himself-prepared the king very soon
o grant compaigne vint en l'ost.
with great company he-came into the-host
Li reis de Crète ot non Minos,
The king of Crete had name Minos
de hardement ot mout grant los;
of boldness he-had very great praise
mout fu proz et ot gent le cors,
very he-was valiant and had noble the body
o ceus de Crète en eissi fors:
with those of Crete thence he-issued out
sés mile sont de fiére geste,
six thousand they-are of proud lineage
la ou il vont passe tempeste.
there where they go passes tempest
D'Anuques fu cuens Agenor,
Of-Anuques was count Agenor
d'or et d'argent ot grant tensor,
of-gold and of-silver he-had great treasure
de chevauchier ne fu pas lenz:
of riding not was at-all slow
cil en mena mil et cinc cenz.
he thence led thousand and five hundred
Laertes de Lacedemone
Laertes of Lacedaemon
por sa plaie ne quist essone,
for his wound not sought excuse

ainceis leva a qualque peine:
rather he-rose with some pain
mil chevaliers conreez meine.
thousand knights arrayed he-leads
Pirrus esteit uns cuens palaiz
Pyrrhus was a count palatine
et des justices et des plaiz:
and of-the justices and of-the pleas
mil chevaliers ot et non plus,
thousand knights he-had and not more
sis fiz cinc cenz Tritolemus.
his son five hundred Triptolemus
Après ceus eissi Palemon,
After those issued Palaemon
qui tint Carmin et tint Azon,
who held Carmin and held Azon
riches dus et de grant parage.
rich duke and of great lineage
Maisniee ot tote d'un aage,
Household he-had all of-one age
de bachelers, de gent legiére:
of bachelors of folk light
as cous doner serra premiére.
at-the blows giving it-will-be first
Trei mile sont gent senz mesure:
Three thousand are folk without measure
por eus combatre d'al n'ont cure.
for themselves to-fight of-else not-they-have care
Antenor ot non cil de Troie.
Antenor had name he of Troy

Une gent ot charnue et bloie:
A folk he-had fleshy and blond
en l'ost sont n'a guaires venu,
in the-host they-are not-it-is much come
bien ont l'afaire maintenu.
well they-have the-affair maintained
Darz trenchanz ont et a lons bès, 8785
Darts cutting they-have and with long beaks
haubers ne lor fera ja fais;
hauberks not to-them will-make ever burden
hobeleor sont a travers,
skirmishers they-are at across
hastes ont forz et trenchanz fers.
shafts they-have strong and cutting irons
Doi mile sont, mout engeignos
Two thousand they-are very cunning
por chevaliers faire terros. 8790
for knights to-make terrified
D'Aufrique i ot un fil a rei,
Of-Africa there had a son of king
d'icele gent de pute lei:
of-that folk of foul law
o sei ot dous mile Amoraives
with himself he-had two thousand Almoravids
por torneier cointes et saives;
for tourneying elegant and wise
por servir le rei passa mer: 8795
for to-serve the king he-crossed sea
Salemandre l'oï nomer.
Salamander him-I-heard name

Cil rest alez en cest afaire
He again-is gone in this affair
por les trente mile parfaire.
for the thirty thousand to-complete
Cil chevauchiérent a la lune,
Those rode by the moon
si s'embuschiérent en Valbrune,
so themselves-ambushed in Valbrune
en la forest de Malpertus,
in the forest of Malpertus
ou se combatié Tydeüs,
where himself fought Tydeus
la ou il les cinquante ocist,
there where he the fifty killed
fors un que a Thèbes tramist:
except one whom to Thebes he-sent
al matin la neule les mueille,
in-the morning the mist them wets
que chiet des arbres soz la fueille.
which falls from-the trees under the leaf

The Death of Hippomedon

XV

The Greeks strike camp, and the Thebans pour out in pursuit. Eteocles' horse stumbles on a rock and throws him, twisting his foot, and he must ride a palfrey. The ambush breaks out behind the Thebans, and Hippomedon's rear guard turns on them. The Thebans flee into a ford swollen by a flood and drown in their armor, and Adrastus routs Eteocles in the meadow. Pursuing too far into the deep water, Hippomedon's horse tires, and he drowns with it.

Cil de l'ost par matin levérent;
Those of the-host in morning rose
lor armes pristrent, si s'armérent.
their arms they-took so themselves-armed
Li escuier les trés destendent,
The squires the tents unpitch
et a l'eissir tuit s'entratendent; 8810
and at the-issuing all each-other-await
les somiers chargent a leisir,
the sumpters they-load at leisure
pués encomencent a eissir.
then they-begin to issue
Ypomedon remést ariére:
Hippomedon remained behind
l'ariére guarde fu mout fiére;
the-rear guard was very proud
vint mile font l'ariére guarde, 8815
twenty thousand make the-rear guard
n'i remést escuier ne farde.
not-there remained squire nor pack

Onc ne fu taus chevalerie,
Ever not was such chivalry
si esléte ne si fornie:
so chosen nor so furnished
heaumes, haubers ont et cropiéres
helmets hauberks they-have and cruppers
et entreseinz de mil maniéres.
and devices of thousand manners
Li jorz fu beaus et clers et genz:
The day was fair and bright and noble
reluist li ors et li argenz,
shines the gold and the silver
et reflambeie la champaigne
and flames-again the field
et li costaus de la montaigne.
and the slopes of the mountain
La champaigne fu longe et lee.
The field was long and wide
L'ariére guarde est ordenee:
The-rear guard is ordered
es quatre eschiéles de Rollant,
in-the four squadrons of Roland
dont cil jogleor vont chantant,
whereof those minstrels go singing
ne fu tant bèle ne tant riche:
not was so fair nor so rich
quil direit, tendreit l'on a briche.
who-it would-say would-hold one for jest
De l'ost vait avant la frapaille,
Of the-host goes forward the rabble

li reis après o sa bataille.
the king after with his battle
Quatre compaignes ot arriére,
Four companies there-had behind
que vont chevauchant la riviére;
which go riding the river-bank
en chascune cinc mile sont:
in each five thousand are
le petit pas après s'en vont.
the little pace after themselves-thence go
En l'une vait Polinicès,
In the-one goes Polynices
Ypomedon en l'autre après;
Hippomedon in the-other after
en la tierce cil d'Aquilone
in the third those of-Aquilone
et li baron de Calidone;
and the barons of Calydon
en la quarte cil de Miceines.
in the fourth those of Mycenae
Les compaignes vont mout prochaines:
The companies go very near
coste a coste vont par la pree,
side by side they-go through the meadow
l'une de l'autre un poi sevree.
the-one from the-other a little separated
L'ost s'en vait, cil dedenz les veient:
The-host itself-thence goes those within them see
de premier a peine le creient,
at first with pain it they-believe

mais li faiz lor en dist la veire
but the deed to-them thereof said the truth
des herberges, qui lor fist creire.
of-the lodgings which them made believe
En la cité grant noise sort:
In the city great noise rises
a son hostal chascuns en cort;
to his lodging each thence runs
armérent sei com il ainz porent,
they-armed themselves as they soonest could
et sachiez que mout grant gent orent.
and know that very great folk they-had
N'atendirent onques conrei,
Not-they-awaited ever array
ainz enchauciérent a desrei;
rather they-pursued in disorder
li reis point après as tenir,
the king spurs after them to-hold
et quant il le virent venir,
and when they him saw to-come
qui ainz ainz poignent une live,
who first first spur a league
que ja li reis nes aconsive.
that ever the king not-them may-overtake
Li reis ot cheval merveillos:
The king had horse marvelous
fors de rote saut en l'erbos;
out of troop it-leaps into the-grass

par le champ vait esporonant
through the field he-goes spurring
por aconsivre ceus d'avant;
for to-overtake those of-before
a grant espleit le cheval broche,
with great speed the horse he-spurs
mais il s'açope a une roche.
but it stumbles at a rock
Li chevaus chiet et li reis vole:
The horse falls and the king flies
se ne chaïst en terre mole
if not he-had-fallen on earth soft
et il chaïst en dur chemin,
and he had-fallen on hard road
toz fust tuez li reis en fin.
all would-be killed the king in end
Pesanz armes aveit li reis,
Heavy arms had the king
et li chevaus, qui esteit freis,
and the horse which was fresh
de grant bruit alot senz mesure:
with great noise went without measure
se il chaïst en terre dure,
if he had-fallen on earth hard
par cele fei que jo vos dei,
by that faith which I to-you owe
ja ne traisist son pié a sei.
ever not he-would-have-drawn his foot to himself
En un molenc, joste un mareis,
On a marshy-patch beside a marsh

sor l'erbe drue chiet li reis,
on the-grass thick falls the king
et li autre qui après viénent,
and the others who after come
tuit ensemble sor lui se tiénent.
all together around him themselves hold
Il ont fait le rei desarmer,
They have made the king disarm
et son pié li firent charmer.
and his foot to-him made charm
Li reis aveit le pié estors,
The king had the foot twisted
freschement le li traist uns Mors.
freshly it to-him set a Moor
Tot desarmé firent le rei
All disarmed they-made the king
monter desor un palefrei:
mount upon a palfrey
a grant force sa gent chaèle,
with great force his folk he-rallies
a grant peine se tint en sèle,
with great pain himself he-held in saddle
car mout a le pié esloissié
for much he-has the foot dislocated
et le cors de chant tot froissié.
and the body from falling all bruised
Le petit pas vont et estreit;
The little pace they-go and close
li reis les a bien en destreit:
the king them has well in check

n'en i a un, tant se desreit,
not-thereof there has one so-much himself may-break-rank
se li reis en travers le veit,
if the king in across him sees
que il li giet un sol reguart,
that he to-him may-throw a single look
de traire ariére que se tart.
of drawing back that himself he-may-delay
Cil avant sont bien eslongié:
Those before are well distanced
de l'enchaucier sont mout coitié.
of the-pursuing they-are very eager
L'aguait passent, ne s'aperçurent:
The-ambush they-pass not themselves-perceived
cil les fuient, si come il durent.
those them flee so as they ought
Cil qui sont en l'embuschement
Those who are in the-ambush
se tiénent mout celeement;
themselves hold very secretly
lor baate ont en un haut pin,
their watchman they-have in a high pine
qui veit ceus qui vont le chemin.
who sees those who go the road
Il a choisi ceus et esguarde
He has spied those and watches
qui aprochent l'ariére guarde,
who approach the-rear guard
et lor dit que, a son espeir,
and to-them says that by his reckoning

dez mile sont, et il dit veir:
ten thousand they-are and he says truth
ne veit pas ceus qui sont ariére,
not he-sees at-all those who are behind
qui le pas viénent la riviére,
who the pace come the river-bank
car il sont dous lives et plus
for they are two leagues and more
bien ariére outre Malpertus:
well behind beyond Malpertus
«Sailliez,» fait il, «car n'en voi mais.»
Leap says he for not-thereof I-see more
Et il desrengent a un fais:
And they break-rank at one burden
del bos éssent, de la montaigne
from-the wood they-issue from the mountain
apoignant viénent par la plaigne;
spurring they-come through the plain
poignent, brochent et s'esdemetent,
they-spur prick and themselves-hurl
el chemin après eus se metent.
on-the road after them themselves they-put
Quant sorent li enchauceor
When knew the pursuers
que cil nen érent pas des lor,
that those not were at-all of-the theirs
idonc a tart por fol se tindrent,
then too late for fools themselves they-held
dont il a tal desrei ça vindrent.
whereby they in such disorder here came

Ypomedon venir les vit;
Hippomedon to-come them saw
bien les conut, as suens le dit:
well them he-knew to-the his it says
«Tornez,» fait il, «li nostre viénent.»
Turn says he the ours come
Et il o ceus maneis se tiénent:
And they toward those forthwith themselves hold
de maintenant les vont ferir,
from now-at-once them they-go to-strike
mais cil nes porent pas sofrir,
but those not-them could at-all suffer
car fiérent les de maintenant
for strike them from now-at-once
et cil deriére et cil devant.
both those behind and those before
A l'ève fuient que est près:
To the-water they-flee which is near
Ypomedon les siut après.
Hippomedon them follows after
Iluec soleit un gué aveir,
There was-wont a ford to-be
cil le deveient bien saveir:
those it ought well to-know
qui bien puet foïr enz en entre,
who well can flee in into-it enters
Ypomedon se fiert soentre.
Hippomedon himself throws following
Jusqu'en mé le gué bien guaérent,
Until-in midst the ford well they-forded

mais le parfont iluec trovérent:
but the deep there they-found
une cretine ert donc venue,
a flood was then come
par quei l'ève ert issi creüe.
through which the-water was thus grown
Quant li guez lor faut, li premier
When the ford to-them fails the first
comenciérent tuit a neier.
began all to drown
Tornent as Greus, vont les ferir:
They-turn to-the Greeks go them to-strike
ne vuelent laidement morir,
not they-wish foully to-die
mieuz vuelent morir al defendre,
better they-wish to-die in-the defending
et colees doner et prendre,
and blows to-give and to-take
que fuïr et neier es ondes,
than to-flee and to-drown in-the waves
que il trovérent si parfondes.
which they found so deep
Tuit li vint mile en l'ève entrérent,
All the twenty thousand into the-water entered
li trente mile s'arestérent.
the thirty thousand themselves-stopped
Ypomedon le gué ne dote;
Hippomedon the ford not dreads
l'ariére guarde i entra tote.
the-rear guard there entered all

Cil qui en l'embuschement furent
Those who in the-ambush were
le rei qui veneit aperçurent:
the king who came perceived
a esporon vers le rei poignent,
at spur toward the king they-spur
et li reial vers eus se joignent.
and the royal-ones toward them themselves join
Li reis a entendu l'esfrei:
The king has heard the-alarm
tost descendié del palefrei;
soon he-descended from-the palfrey
son cheval quiert: on li ameine;
his horse he-seeks one to-him leads
li reis est montez a grant peine.
the king is mounted with great pain
Ne li lut son hauberc vestir,
Not to-him it-was-allowed his hauberk to-don
ne il nel peüst pas sofrir:
nor he not-it could at-all suffer
la ou chaï, mout se bleça.
there where he-fell much himself he-hurt
Son escu prist, l'eaume laça.
His shield he-took the-helmet he-laced
Deriére ot une manche vaire,
Behind he-had a sleeve vair
que li tramist la fille Daire.
which to-him sent the daughter (of-)Daire

Il cuida sa gent conreer
He thought his folk to-array
et fereors avant sevrer,
and strikers forward to-sever
mais il ne font rien por seignor,
but they not do anything for lord
car josté sont li suen as lor.
for joined are the his with-the theirs
En la riviére, par la pree,
In the river-bank through the meadow
la bataille est mout aduree.
the battle is very hard
Joignent maneis: ces hastes froissent,
They-join forthwith these shafts shatter
et cil escu fendent et croissent;
and these shields split and crack
d'escuz veïssiez tante astèle,
of-shields you-would-have-seen so-many splinter
tant chevalier chaïr de sèle,
so-many knight to-fall from saddle
et tant grant coup doner a mort,
and so-many great blow to-give to death
et enfondrer tant hauberc fort.
and to-stave-in so-many hauberk strong
Cil de l'ost sont bien trente mile,
Those of the-host are well thirty thousand
et autretant cil de la vile:
and as-many those of the town
bien fust paregal la bataille,
well would-be equal the battle

ne sét on en cui fust la faille,
not knows one in whom would-be the failing
car afichié sont de ferir
for set they-are on striking
et n'ont corage de fuïr,
and not-have heart for fleeing
quant Adrastus vint le chemin,
when Adrastus came the road
qui amena mout grant traïn.
who brought very great train
Quant Adrastus jostez les veit,
When Adrastus joined them sees
le chemin broche a grant espleit.
the road he-spurs with great speed
Cil dedenz endurer nel porent,
Those within to-endure not-it could
car cil de l'ost trop grant gent orent:
for those of the-host too great folk had
contre un des lor en ont il set.
against one of-the theirs thereof they-have they seven
Ne vos en quier faire lonc plait:
Not to-you thereof I-seek to-make long plea
tornez s'en est Etioclès;
turned himself-thence is Eteocles
se il s'en fuit, il n'en puet mais.
if he himself-thence flees he not-thereof can more
A ceus de l'ost est l'aventure:
To those of the-host is the-adventure
il ont fait grant desconfiture.
they have made great discomfiture

De ceus qui en l'ève se mistrent
Of those who in the-water themselves put
vos dei dire qual veie pristrent.
to-you I-ought to-say which way they-took
D'ambesdous parz bien se combatent;
From-both sides well themselves they-fight
el gué, qui est granz, s'entrabatent;
in-the ford which is great each-other-throw-down
et cil de l'ost fort les requiérent,
and those of the-host strongly them attack
des espees maneis les fiérent:
with-the swords forthwith them strike
al joindre ont les lances perdues,
at-the joining they-have the lances lost
venu sont as espees nues.
come they-are to-the swords bare
Et cil dedenz bien se defendent,
And those within well themselves defend
por lor vies o eus contendent;
for their lives with them contend
chascuns se venge com plus puet,
each himself avenges as most he-can
quant veit que morir li estuet.
when he-sees that to-die him it-behooves
Par force et par grant vasselage,
By force and by great prowess
del gué les rusent al rivage,
from-the ford them they-drive to-the bank
et se il paregal fussant,
and if they equal had-been

bien cuit qu'il se defendissant;
well I-think that-they themselves would-have-defended
mais il n'i ot pas egal cople,
but it not-there had at-all equal match
car cil de l'ost furent al doble.
for those of the-host were at-the double
Neporquant, tant come il sont freis,
Nevertheless so-long as they are fresh
as armes sont o eus maneis;
at-the arms they-are with them forthwith
mais ne pueent pas longement
but not they-can at-all long
sofrir lor grant envaiement:
to-suffer their great onset
el champ se defendissent fort,
in-the field themselves they-would-have-defended strongly
mais la muerent de doble mort.
but there they-die of double death
Al gué veïssiez maint neier,
At-the ford you-would-have-seen many-a drown
morir de glaive et tresbuchier:
to-die by sword and to-stumble
cil qui estait i muert de plaie,
he who stands there dies from wound
cil qui fuit a noer essaie,
he who flees to swim tries
mais pués qu'il viénent al parfont,
but after that-they come to-the deep

li pesant hauberc que il ont
the heavy hauberks which they have
al fonz a val les chaitis traient
to-the bottom to below the wretches draw
senz socors que ja pués i aient.
without succor which ever then there they-may-have
Pués que il sont plongié la enz,
After that they are plunged there in
del resordre a mont est neienz:
of-the rising to up is nothing
al fonz a val l'ève les emble.
to-the bottom to below the-water them steals
A mont flotent hastes de tremble;
To up float shafts of aspen
la veit on floter entreseinz
there sees one float devices
et gonfanons et escuz peinz.
and gonfanons and shields painted
Li cheval ne sévent que facent,
The horses not know what they-may-do
car les rènes lor piez enlacent;
for the reins to-them the-feet entangle
plonjant vont a val o le cors,
plunging they-go to below with the body
iluec neient o lor seignors.
there they-drown with their lords
Ypomedon i veit sa joie:
Hippomedon there sees his joy
tant i crie que toz esroie;
so-much there he-cries that all he-grows-hoarse

abatant vait l'espee traite,
throwing-down he-goes the-sword drawn
tant en detrenche com lui haite.
so-many thereof he-cuts-down as to-him pleases
Il sist el cheval Tydeüs,
He sat on-the horse (of-)Tydeus
qui vaut cent livres d'or et plus:
which is-worth hundred pounds of-gold and more
onc taus chevaus ne nasqui d'ive,
ever such horse not was-born of-mare
poi prése noer une live;
little it-prizes to-swim a league
por noer une live pleine,
for to-swim a league full
ne li febleiera l'aleine.
not to-it will-weaken the-breath
Chevaus ne fu tant traie peine,
Horse not was so-much drawn pain
mais neporquant trop le demeine,
but nevertheless too-much him he-drives
car il ne prent autre mesure
for he not takes other measure
que se il fust en terre dure.
than if he were on earth hard
El vertuos cheval s'afie:
In-the mighty horse himself-he-trusts
par le gué vait come a navie.
through the ford he-goes as by ship

A ceus dedenz porte grant ire
To those within he-bears great wrath
et mout se peine d'eus ocire.
and much himself strives of-them to-kill
Qu'en direie? Tant le demeine
What-thereof would-I-say So-much it he-drives
que al cheval failli l'aleine.
that to-the horse failed the-breath
Li vilains dit: «Qui glaive fait
The villein says Who sword makes
senz dotance a glaive revait.»
without doubt to sword returns
O les autres l'estuet neier:
With the others him-behooves to-drown
onc n'en porta meillor loier.
ever not-thereof he-bore better wage
Ypomedon li proz, li sages,
Hippomedon the valiant the wise
i est neiez, ço est damages;
there is drowned that is harm
neiez est en l'ève parfonde:
drowned he-is in the-water deep
qui joie en a, Deus le confonde!
who joy thereof has God him may-confound
Dès que Deus fist primes le monde,
Since that God made first the world
ne neia mais taus hon en onde;
not drowned ever such man in wave
neiez est li chevaus o lui,
drowned is the horse with him

tant mar i furent ambedui.
so ill there were both
Soz la luiserne del soleil,
Under the light of-the sun
ne trovast on tant bon pareil 9070
not would-find one so good match
de chevalier ne de cheval,
of knight nor of horse
ne qui si bien fust paregal.
nor that so well were equal
D'iceus dedens nen estorst piez:
Of-those within not escaped foot
qui n'est ocis si est neiez.
who not-is killed so is drowned

The Death of Parthenopaeus

XVI

Eteocles loves Daire's daughter Salamandra and often rides out in secret to fight for her. Having boasted to her that he would fight unarmed, he rides out one day with Alexander and Drias, all three without hauberks, and meets Parthenopaeus and Dorceus, also unarmed. Antigone and Salamandra watch from a tower. Parthenopaeus spares the king and kills his horse, but Drias, against the king's command, runs him through. Eteocles grieves over him and binds his wound, and the dying Parthenopaeus asks him to free Dorceus, which he does.

Li reis est gais et amoros
The king is gay and amorous
de la fille Daire a estros;
of the daughter (of-)Daire at once
et cele fait bien a amer:
and she makes well to love
n'a tant bèle deça la mer,
not-there-is so fair this-side the sea
deça la mer nen a tant bèle;
this-side the sea not there-is so fair
Salemandre a non la pucèle.
Salamandra has name the maiden
Li reis ama mout Salemandre
The king loved much Salamandra
celeement et senz esclandre;
secretly and without scandal
il fu mout proz et por s'amie
he was very valiant and for his-beloved
fait mout sovent chevalerie.
does very often chivalry

Li reis ot mout grant hardement:
The king had very great boldness
eissir en sout priveement
to-issue thence he-was-wont privately
sei tierz, senz autre, a recelee,
himself third without other in hiding
et point vers l'ost lance levee;
and spurs toward the-host lance raised
lance levee vers l'ost point
lance raised toward the-host he-spurs
et amaneis o les Greus joint:
and forthwith with the Greeks joins
sovent i abat chevalier,
often there he-fells knight
si s'en retorne o le destrier.
so himself-thence returns with the charger
Salemandre conoist le rei
Salamandra knows the king
al cheval et a son conrei.
by-the horse and by his array
Del mur l'esguarde en la valee,
From-the wall him-she-watches in the valley
ço que il fait mout li agree:
that which he does much her pleases
quant sont priveement il dui,
when are privately they two
plus volentiers en joe o lui.
more willingly thereof she-plays with him

A un jor fist li reis s'eissue,
On a day made the king his-issue
et fu montez en Blanchenue,
and was mounted on Blanchenue
qui li fu tramis de Nubie:
which to-him was sent from Nubia
mout fu bons por chevalerie.
very it-was good for chivalry
Il ot heaume et escu et lance,
He had helmet and shield and lance
et d'une porpre ot conoissance,
and of-a purple he-had device
d'une porpre inde clavelee,
of-a purple indigo studded
menuement a or fresee.
finely with gold fringed
Legiérement fu a cheval:
Lightly he-was on horse
l'auberc ot laissié a l'ostal.
the-hauberk he-had left at the-lodging
Il s'esteit vantez a s'amie
He himself-had boasted to his-beloved
de hardement et d'estoutie,
of boldness and of-daring
que desarmez joindreit en l'ost:
that disarmed he-would-join in the-host
por un poi n'i fu assez tost.
for a little not-there it-was enough soon

Il s'en eissi par la posterne
He himself-thence issued by the postern
desoz la tor devers gualerne.
below the tower toward northwest
Dous chevaliers mena li reis,
Two knights led the king
et vont eschari par eus treis:
and go sparse by them three
l'un d'eus apèlent Alixandre,
the-one of-them they-call Alexander
cosins germains fu Salemandre;
cousin german he-was (of-)Salamandra
sis cosins fu, et por s'amor
her cousin he-was and for her-love
le tint li reis a grant honor;
him held the king in great honor
adobé l'ot novèlement
dubbed him-he-had newly
a grant joie mout richement.
with great joy very richly
Alixandres fu uns toseaus,
Alexander was a youth
et si sachiez qu'il fu mout beaus.
and so know that-he was very fair
Li reis l'amot, o sei le meine,
The king him-loved with himself him leads
de lui aloser mout se peine;
of him praising much himself strives
o sei le meine a la bosoigne,
with himself him he-leads to the need

et prée lui que bien i joigne.
and prays him that well there he-may-join
Si fist il, onc n'i fu blasmez:
So did he ever not-there he-was blamed
il i joinst bien toz desarmez.
he there joined well all disarmed
L'autre des dous ot non Drias:
The-other of-the two had name Drias
mout fu corteis et de bons gas;
very he-was courtly and of good jests
riches hon fu et de parage,
rich man he-was and of lineage
et si ot mout grant vasselage;
and so had very great prowess
bien fu duéz de chevalerie:
well he-was trained in chivalry
quant veit lou, ne s'en targe mie.
when he-sees place not himself-thence delays at-all
Soz ciel n'a home mieuz i poigne,
Under heaven not-is man better there may-spur
ne qui plus volentiers i joigne.
nor who more willingly there may-join
Granz fu et forz et vigoros,
Great he-was and strong and vigorous
chiére ot gavarde et le chief ros;
face he-had gaunt and the head red
de lance done grant colee,
with lance he-gives great blow
et, quant est a pié, de l'espee.
and when he-is on foot with the-sword

Ne sai home tant defensable:
Not I-know man so redoubtable
quil vos direit semblereit fable.
who-it to-you would-say it-would-seem fable
Cil dui eissirent o le rei,
These two issued with the king
et si vont desarmé tuit trei:
and so go disarmed all three
armé mout volentiers alassent,
armed very willingly they-would-have-gone
mais se il haubers i portassent,
but if they hauberks there had-carried
pués que li reis desarmez vait,
after that the king disarmed goes
il eüssent grant faille fait.
they would-have great failing made
Li reis est eissuz de la vile;
The king is issued from the town
as murs l'esguardent trei cent mile:
at-the walls him-watch three hundred thousand
chascuns vousist par bone fei
each would-have-wished by good faith
fors estre eissuz o son conrei;
outside to-be issued with his array
mais les portes sont bien serrees
but the gates are well locked
et bien closes et bien fermees;
and well closed and well shut
cerchent a mont et pués a val:
they-search to up and then to below

n'i puet hon eissir a cheval.
not-there can man issue on horse
Li reis vait poignant par la pree,
The king goes spurring through the meadow
une aventure a encontree,
an adventure he-has met
dont fu granz dueus et granz damages,
whereof was great grief and great harm
car morut en mout granz barnages
for died in very great baronage
cil qui estoit d'Archaide reis,
he who was of-Arcadia king
li proz, li sages, li corteis.
the valiant the wise the courtly
Parthonopeus, par aventure,
Parthenopaeus by chance
vint de vers l'ost grant aleüre;
came from toward the-host great pace
un compaignon ot et non plus,
one companion he-had and not more
et cil aveit non Dorceüs:
and he had name Dorceus
ceus de la vile escrier vont,
those of the town to-challenge they-go
et ço sachiez desarmé sont.
and that know disarmed they-are
Parthonopeus chevauche as treis.
Parthenopaeus rides at-the three
Avenant chose fist li reis:
Comely thing did the king

sei tierz ne vout joindre o les dous:
himself third not he-wished to-join with the two
«Drias,» fait il, «arestez vous;
Drias says he stop you
«cest tosel m'en laissiez mener
this youth me-thence let lead
«et de son mestier assener;
and to his craft to-direct
«Alixandre me laissiez duére:
Alexander me let lead
«Joindre l'estuet o vive o muére.»
To-join him-behooves or he-may-live or he-may-die
Drias s'areste et cil dui poignent,
Drias himself-stops and these two spur
et par tanz quanz egaument joignent.
and by so-many as-many equally join
Antigoné et Salemandre
Antigone and Salamandra
cosent al rei un cendal d'Andre,
sew for-the king a sendal of-India
et sont al mur en une tor
and are at-the wall in a tower
que l'on apèle Blancheflor:
which one calls Blancheflor
la cosent a une fenestre.
there they-sew at a window
A val guardent desor senestre:
To below they-look upon left

les chevaus oïrent henir
the horses they-heard neigh
et les vassaus virent venir,
and the vassals saw to-come
qui se chevauchent par la pree
who each-other ride through the meadow
a esperon lance levee.
at spur lance raised
Antigoné conut les reis:
Antigone knew the kings
d'ambesdous fu en grant sospeis;
of-both she-was in great anxiety
l'un vers l'autre vit chevauchier:
the-one toward the-other she-saw ride
ne sét le qual ele a plus chier,
not knows the which she has more dear
mais ço sét bien en son corage
but that knows well in her heart
ne remaindra senz son damage.
not it-will-remain without her harm
Salemandre crent mout del rei,
Salamandra fears much for-the king
por ço qu'il vait senz son conrei.
for that that-he goes without his array
Desarmez est, sin a grant creme:
Disarmed he-is so-thereof she-has great fear
nen est merveille, car mout l'eme.
not is marvel for much him-she-loves

Li dui rei sont josté ensemble:
The two kings are joined together
Antigoné de poor tremble.
Antigone with fear trembles
Etioclès fu vigoros,
Eteocles was vigorous
et si fu mout chevaleros;
and so was very knightly
hanste ot reide, le fer agu:
shaft he-had stiff the iron sharp
Parthonopeu fiert en l'escu;
Parthenopaeus he-strikes in the-shield
tant vilment li porte del col,
so vilely to-him he-carries-it from-the neck
com se ço fust un fueil de chol.
as if that were a leaf of cabbage
Parthonopeus nel vout ocire:
Parthenopaeus not-him wished to-kill
et l'escu et le cors revire,
both the-shield and the body he-turns
le cheval fiert en mé le front,
the horse he-strikes in midst the brow
l'un et l'autre abat en un mont.
the-one and the-other he-fells in a heap
Alixandres et Dorceüs
Alexander and Dorceus
s'entrabatent des chevaus jus;
each-other-throw-down from-the horses down
a pié sont en l'erbe florie:
on foot they-are in the-grass flowered

apresteni sei de l'eschermie.
they-ready themselves for the-fencing
Drias vit abatu le rei:
Drias saw thrown-down the king
«Ja mentirai,» fait il, «ma fei,
Now I-shall-belie says he my faith
«se jo ne socor mon seignor.»
if I not succor my lord
A tant broche le milsoudor;
At this he-spurs the costly-horse
la lance aloigne que il tint,
the lance he-levels which he held
Parthonopeu menaçant vint:
Parthenopaeus threatening he-came
«Se jo vos trués,» fait il, «en sèle,
If I you find says he in saddle
«jo vos ferrai desoz l'aissèle.»
I you shall-strike below the-armpit
Parthonopeus ne sét que face:
Parthenopaeus not knows what he-may-do
venir veit celui quil menace
to-come he-sees him who-him threatens
et il nen a escu ne lance,
and he not has shield nor lance
et li guenchirs li est viltance;
and the swerving to-him is baseness
qui que l'en tienge por coart,
who ever him-thereof may-hold for coward
guenchira lui, mais ço ert tart.
he-will-swerve-from him but that will-be late

Ne se vueut folement ocire:
Not himself he-wishes foolishly to-kill
a trop grant fais son cheval vire.
with too great burden his horse he-turns
L'erbe fu drue, as piez li lace,
The-grass was thick at-the feet it-him entangles
li chevaus chiet en mé la place.
the horse falls in midst the place
A tant Drias est avenuz,
At this Drias is arrived
et sor le rei s'est retenuz:
and over the king himself-is held
Etioclès en haut li crie
Eteocles on high to-him cries
que nel fiére ne ne l'ocie.
that not-him he-strike nor not him-kill
Si com Drias vint apoignant,
So as Drias came spurring
Parthonopeu fiert maintenant;
Parthenopaeus he-strikes at-once
a grant forfait et a grant tort,
with great outrage and with great wrong
par mé le pez le navre a mort.
through midst the breast him he-wounds to death
Vers Dorceon Drias en vait:
Toward Dorceus Drias thence goes
hanste ot fraite, s'espee trait,
shaft he-had broken his-sword he-draws
fiert l'en l'escu, tot le li fent;
he-strikes him-in the-shield all it to-him he-splits

Alixandres a pié le prent.
Alexander on foot him takes
Dorceon ont il pris tot sain:
Dorceus have they taken all whole
Alixandres prist de sa main
Alexander took from his hand
s'espee et par sa fei l'a mis;
his-sword and on his faith him-has put
a son cheval cort, si l'a pris.
to his horse he-runs so it-he-has taken
Li reis acorut al navré,
The king ran-up to-the wounded-one
qui gést envers en mé le pré:
who lies on-his-back in midst the meadow
de sanc est vermeille la place,
of blood is red the place
descoloree ot cil la face;
discolored had he the face
cil ot perdue la color,
he had lost the color
si se pasme de la dolor.
so himself swoons from the pain
Li reis acort la ou il jut,
The king runs-up there where he lay
a la face bien le conut:
by the face well him he-knew
il l'aveit veü maintes feiz
he him-had seen many-a times
as bosoignes et as destreiz.
in-the needs and in-the straits

Mout plaint li reis son vasselage
Much laments the king his prowess
et sa bonté et son aage;
and his goodness and his age
mout plaint li reis sa grant noblece
much laments the king his great nobility
et sa beauté et sa proece:
and his beauty and his prowess
«Bien me fust,» fait il, «avenu,
Well to-me would-be says he befallen
«se l'eüsse sain retenu;
if him-I-had sound retained
«se jo sain le peüsse prendre
if I sound him could take
«et sain le lor peüsse rendre,
and sound him to-them could render
«ma guerre en fust bien achevee
my war thereof would-be well achieved
«et ma terre bien aquitee,
and my land well acquitted
«car mout legiérement et tost
for very lightly and soon
«feïst icist retorner l'ost.»
would-make this-one return the-host
Li reis de Thèbes grant duel meine
The king of Thebes great grief leads
del gentil home qui tant peine.
for-the noble man who so-much suffers
Cil saigne mout por le grant chaut:
He bleeds much for the great heat

li reis trenche de son bliaut;
the king cuts of his tunic
d'une bende lie la plaie,
with-a band he-binds the wound
por retenir le sanc qui raie.
for to-retain the blood which streams
Quant l'ot leié, la plaie estanche,
When it-he-had bound the wound stanches
et cil se vire sor la hanche;
and he himself turns on the hip
quant fu estans, un poi revint
when it-was stanched a little he-came-back
et de pasmer un poi se tint.
and from fainting a little himself held
Uevre les ueuz et veit le rei;
He-opens the eyes and sees the king
plorer le vit forment sor sei:
weeping him he-saw strongly over himself
«Peser,» fait il, «vos deit de mei,
To-grieve says he you ought for me
«car jol vos di en dreite fei,
for I-it to-you say in right faith
«de la guerre feïsse paie,
of the war I-would-have-made peace
«se fusse pris senz mortal plaie;
if I-had-been taken without mortal wound
«jo acordasse bien cest mal,
I would-have-reconciled well this ill
«mais jo me muer, ne puet estre al.
but I myself die not can be else

«Pré vos d'icest mon compaignon
I-pray you for-this my companion
«que nel tengiez ja en prison:
that not-him you-hold ever in prison
«Bachelers est de ma maison,
Bachelor he-is of my house
«mout est povre sa raençon.»
very is poor his ransom
Nes s'il fust fiz l'empereor,
Not-even if-he were son (of-)the-emperor
li reis l'aquite por s'amor.
the king acquits for his-love

Dorceus

XVII

Parthenopaeus charges Dorceus with a message for his mother, to be broken gently: she should marry again to protect her lands, his treasure should go to his household, and his men should keep his name as their war cry, as the Arcadians still do. He dies, and Dorceus laments him. Drias has fled the king's anger. Eteocles, who had meant to give Parthenopaeus his sister, has the body buried with honor in Thebes. Adrastus, grieving, resolves to end the war, and the barons agree to fight the next day.

Sor lui se pasme Dorceüs;
Over him himself swoons Dorceus
plore et fait duel, il ne puet plus:
he-weeps and makes grief he not can more
«Dorceüs,» fait il, «ne plorer;
Dorceus says he not weep
«entent mei, tant com pués parler:
attend me so-long as I-can speak

«A ma mére tot dreit iras,
To my mother all straight thou-wilt-go
«freit message li porteras.
cold message to-her thou-wilt-carry
«Quant ele parlera o tei,
When she will-speak with thee
«se tu li dis come est de mei,
if thou to-her sayest how it-is of me
9305 «ele morra sempres, ço crei:
she will-die at-once that I-believe
«Di que navrez fui al tornei,
Say that wounded I-was at-the tourney
«et por iço a lé t'envei:
and for this to her thee-I-send
«Pré lé que ne meint duel por mei.
Pray her that not she-may-lead grief for me
«Son grant damage et sa grant ire
Her great harm and her great wrath
9310 «ne te chaut pas ensemble dire;
not thee matters at-all together to-say
«son grant duel ne li di ensemble,
her great grief not to-her say together
«petit et petit le li emble.
little and little it to-her steal
«Bien li pues son duel atemprer:
Well to-her thou-canst her grief temper
«Primes parole del navrer,
First speak of-the wounding

«ele devinera par sei
she will-divine by herself
«et son grant duel et son esfrei.
both her great grief and her alarm
«Mére,» fait il, «tu me deïs
Mother says he thou to-me saidst
«que ja n'en tornereie vis.
that ever not-thence I-would-return alive
«Quant me hastoe de venir,
When myself I-hastened to come
«tu me voleies retenir,
thou me wished to-hold-back
«mais ne fu chose destinee:
but not was thing destined
«O maisniee fiére et dotee,
With household proud and dreaded
«qui remaint hué mout esguaree,
which remains today very distraught
«quant eissi fors de ma contree,
when I-issued out of my country
«conveias mei une jornee,
thou-escortedst me a day's-journey
«nos partimes en une pree;
we parted in a meadow
«tu remansis iluec pasmee,
thou remainedst there fainted
«com cele que ert esguaree.
as she who was distraught

«Dorceüs, a ma mére di
Dorceus to my mother say
«que ele prenge tost mari.
that she may-take soon husband
«Ele a grant terre et grant honor:
She has great land and great domain
«Tricheront la li boiseor;
They-will-cheat her the deceivers
«li boiseor li feront guerre,
the deceivers on-her will-make war
«guasteront lé sovent sa terre.
they-will-waste for-her often her land
«Di lé que tost prenge seignor,
Say to-her that soon she-may-take lord
«rei o duc o riche contor:
king or duke or rich count
«N'a rei ne duc deci qu'a Troie
Not-there-is king nor duke from-here to Troy
«qui ne la prenge de grant joie.
who not her may-take with great joy
«Car ele est bèle, proz et sage
For she is fair valiant and wise
«et reïne de bas aage;
and queen of low age
«ele est par linage reïne
she is by lineage queen
«et est onquore mout mescine;
and is still very maiden
«ele est juefne, de grant parage,
she is young of great lineage

«por poi ne somes d'un aage:
for little not we-are of-one age
«Seize anz aveit quant ele m'ot,
Sixteen years she-had when she me-had
«onc ainceis aveir ne me pot;
ever before to-have not me she-could
«ne semble pas estre ma mére,
not she-seems at-all to-be my mother
«mais ma suer semble et jo sis frére.
but my sister she-seems and I her brother
«Ma maisniee salu par tei:
My household salute through thee
«Mon seneschal, que jo mout crei,
My seneschal whom I much believe
«di que departe mon tensor,
say that he-may-share my treasure
«a ma maisniee doinst mon or;
to my household let-him-give my gold
«mon or et mon vaissèlement
my gold and my plate
«a ma maisniee tot present.
to my household all present
«Mes danzeaus et mes escuiers
My youths and my squires
«richement face chevaliers:
richly let-him-make knights
«Bien lor ai doné en ma vie,
Well to-them I-have given in my life
«tant com jo ting chevalerie;
so-long as I held chivalry

«ore lor pré que ne m'oblient,
now them I-pray that not me-they-forget
«"Parthonopeus!" toz tens escrient,
Parthenopaeus all times let-them-cry
«quant il serront es granz bosoignes,
when they will-be in-the great needs
«es granz torneis et es granz poignes;
in-the great tourneys and in-the great charges
«a enseigne mon non lor lais,
for war-cry my name to-them I-leave
«et por m'amor le tiengent mais.»
and for my-love it let-them-hold ever
Si firent il et encor font:
So did they and still do
iceste enseigne en Archaide ont.
this war-cry in Arcadia they-have
Sor son cote li ber se liéve,
On his elbow the baron himself raises
mais sa plaie sempres s'escriéve.
but his wound at-once bursts-open
Dorceüs vit mort son seignor:
Dorceus saw dead his lord
duel fist, onc ne fist hon maior;
grief he-made ever not made man greater
mais neporquant un poi d'atente
but nevertheless a little of-hope
i cuide aveir: le cors esvente
there he-thinks to-have the body he-fans
o une lee manche hermine,
with a wide sleeve ermine

que Antigoné la meschine
which Antigone the maiden
li ot doné par druerie
to-him had given in love
le jor qu'ele devint s'amie.
the day that-she became his-beloved
Quatre escuz ot iluec par nombre:
Four shields there-had there by number
les dous en prist, si l'en fist ombre;
the two thereof he-took so him-thence made shade
despoilla sei d'un osterin,
he-stripped himself of-a silk-mantle
al chief li mist, qu'il ot enclin,
at-the head to-him he-put which-he had bowed
et la sorsèle d'un destrier,
and the saddle-cloth of-a charger
car il ne trueve autre oreillier.
for he not finds other pillow
Franchise a fait, mais ço que chaut?
Nobleness he-has done but that what matters
Cil ne sent mais ne freit ne chaut:
He not feels more nor cold nor heat
ne sent mais rien que cil li face,
not feels more anything which he to-him may-do
reiz est et freiz come une glace;
stiff he-is and cold as an ice
reiz est, mais sa color est blanche
stiff he-is but his color is white
et fresche plus que neif sor branche:
and fresh more than snow on branch

por ço atent Dorceüs vie;
for that awaits Dorceus life
mais quant trova la char freidie,
but when he-found the flesh cooled
donc sot trés bien que il est morz,
then knew very well that he is dead
que de lui mais n'est nus conforz.
that of him more not-is any comfort
Etioclès et Alixandre,
Eteocles and Alexander
qui cosins esteit Salemandre,
who cousin was (of-)Salamandra
veïssiez iluec grant duel faire,
you-would-have-seen there great grief make
lor cheveus desrompre et detraire.
their hair to-tear and to-pull
Drias s'en ert pieç'a fuïz:
Drias himself-thence was long-since fled
por son seignor, qui ert mariz,
for his lord who was angered
n'i osot ester ne atendre;
not-there dared stay nor wait
cremeit que il le feïst pendre,
he-feared that he him might-make hang
car ço sot bien que sor son vié
for that knew well that against his forbidding
l'aveit ocis el champ a pié.
him-he-had killed in-the field on foot
Il fist que sages del fuïr,
He did as wise-man of-the fleeing

car, se il le peüst tenir,
for if he him could hold
o se li reis pruef le trovast,
or if the king near him had-found
il l'oceïst o afolast.
he him-would-have-killed or maimed
Li reis fait duel, pas ne se feint:
The king makes grief at-all not himself feigns
Parthonopeu merveilles plaint.
Parthenopaeus marvels he-laments
A la parfin s'est escriez
At the end himself-is cried-out
Dorceüs, qui s'esteit pasmez;
Dorceus who himself-was fainted
de pasmeison est repairiez,
from fainting he-is returned
com hon desvez sailli en piez,
as man mad leapt to feet
son seignor prist a regreter,
his lord he-took to lament
que il soleit forment amer:
whom he was-wont greatly to-love
«Sire,» fait il, «que devendrai,
Lord says he what shall-I-become
«quant mais o vos ne parlerai?
when more with you not I-shall-speak
«Vostre mére, quant l'orra dire,
Your mother when it-she-will-hear say
«assez avra et duel et ire:
enough she-will-have both grief and wrath

«Ele perdra mout de s'onor,
She will-lose much of her-domain
«car ele n'a fil ne seignor;
for she not-has son nor lord
«vostre terre iert desheritee
your land will-be disinherited
«et sovent serra desrobee.
and often will-be robbed
«Sire, mar fu vostre bonté
Lord ill was your goodness
«et vostre grant nobileté,
and your great nobility
«vostre beauté, vostre proece,
your beauty your prowess
«et la vostre bèle richece,
and the your fair riches
«qu'aviez, sire, en vostre terre,
which-you-had lord in your land
«quant ça venistes por conquerre.
when here you-came for to-conquer
«La mort, que si vos a sozpris
The death which so you has surprised
«ci en cest estrange païs,
here in this strange country
«m'a malement desconforté:
me-has badly discomforted
«Ja ne verrai mais mon regné.»
Ever not I-shall-see more my realm
Dorceüs mout fort se demente;
Dorceus very strongly himself laments

plore, crie, plaint et guaimente;
he-weeps cries laments and wails
as poinz debat forment sa chiére,
with-the fists he-beats greatly his face
et prée Mort qu'ele le fiére.
and prays Death that-she him may-strike
Li reis en a et duel et ire
The king thereof has both grief and wrath
d'iço qu'il l'ot tant plaindre et dire.
at-this that-he him-hears so-much lament and say
Del plor et del guaimentement
Of-the weeping and of-the wailing
sont cil de Thèbes mout dolent:
are those of Thebes very sorrowful
apoignant viénent vers le cri
spurring they-come toward the cry
jusqu'al tornei tuit esbahi.
until-the tourney all dismayed
Li reis apèle ses barons:
The king calls his barons
«Seignor» fait il «qual la ferons?
Lords says he what there shall-we-do
«Ore est Parthonopeus ocis,
Now is Parthenopaeus killed
«qui deveit estre mis amis.
who ought to-be my friend
«Ma seror li cuidai doner:
My sister to-him I-thought to-give
«Dolor en ai, nel quier celer.
Grief thereof I-have not-it I-seek to-hide

«Drias l'a mort sor mon defens,
Drias him-has killed against my prohibition
«mais se jo pués, al mien porpens,
but if I can at-the my purpose
«ferai le pendre o afoler,
I-shall-make him hang or maim
«ardeir en fou o desmembrer.»
to-burn in fire or to-dismember
Cil respondent par avenant:
Those answer in fitting
«Beaus sire reis, laissiez a tant.
Fair lord king leave at this
«Se vos de lui estes dolenz,
If you for him are sorrowful
«car le faites porter la enz;
for him make carry there in
«faites li faire sepouture,
make for-him make burial
«se onc de lui eüstes cure.»
if ever of him you-had care
Li reis respont: «Ço est bien dreiz.»
The king answers That is well right
Cil descendent des palefreiz;
Those dismount from-the palfreys
il l'ont sor un escu posé,
they him-have on a shield set
si l'en portent en la cité.
so him-thence carry into the city

Le plus bel temple ont esguardé,
The most fair temple they-have looked-for
a grant honor l'ont enterré.
with great honor him-they-have buried
Uns mes en vait poignant en l'ost,
A messenger thence goes spurring into the-host
qui le nonça al rei mout tost.
who it announced to-the king very soon
Reis Adrastus, quant il l'oï,
King Adrastus when he it-heard
dolenz devint, onc ne fu si:
sorrowful became ever not was so
por poi de duel sis cuers ne part.
for little of grief his heart not breaks
Polinicès trait une part:
Polynices he-draws to-one side
«Amis,» fait il, «qual la feron?
Friend says he what there shall-we-do
«Se nos ore sor eus n'alon,
If we now upon them not-go
«se or ne finon ceste guerre,
if now not we-end this war
«ja mais ne devon tenir terre.»
ever more not we-ought to-hold land
Il a toz ses barons mandez,
He has all his barons summoned
conseil requiert a ses privez:
counsel he-requests of his intimates
«Seignor,» fait il, «conseilliez mei.
Lords says he counsel me

«Por Deu vos pré, otreiez mei
For God you I-pray grant me
«que nos a ceus nos combaton
that we with those us fight
«par cui cest grant damage avon:
through whom this great harm we-have
«Parthonopeu avon perdu,
Parthenopaeus we-have lost
«nos n'avïons meillor escu.
we not-had better shield
«Se vos le me loez ensi,
If you it to-me advise so
«ainz que trespast demain meidi,
before that may-pass tomorrow midday
«ferai ma gent apareillier:
I-shall-make my folk to-prepare
«A eus iron por torneier.»
To them we-shall-go for to-tourney
Entre eus dient comunement:
Among them they-say commonly
«Ço'n est li mieuz, nostre escïent:
This-thereof is the best our knowledge
«Fel seit qui ço refusera,
Felon be who that will-refuse
«tant com seit vis qui vos faudra.»
so-long as he-be alive who you will-fail

The Death of the Brothers

XVIII

At dawn the two hosts meet in the fields, and a great battle begins. Nestor kills Alexis and is killed by Alexis's nephew Agenor, whom Polynices then cuts down. The brothers meet: Polynices runs Eteocles through, and when he dismounts in pity to embrace him, the dying king stabs him under the hauberk. Both die. Adrastus leads an assault on the walls, where the defenders hurl stones on the ladders, and only Adrastus, Capaneus, and a wounded Greek survive. Adrastus sends the Greek home with the news.

Al bien matin, quant l'aube criéve,
In-the early morning when the-dawn breaks
reis Adrastus de son lét liéve,
king Adrastus from his bed rises
et fait crier celeement
and makes cry secretly
que s'adobent isnèlement.
that they-arm swiftly
Li reis s'adobe tot premier,
The king himself-arms all first
ensemble o lui mil chevalier;
together with him thousand knights
par tote l'ost font ensement,
through all the-host they-do likewise
pués chevauchent serreement.
then they-ride closely
Sonent tabors, corz et buisines,
Sound drums horns and trumpets
merveillos graisles et troïnes:
marvelous clarions and trumps

des criz, des hus et des menees
from-the cries from-the shouts and from-the horn-calls
sonent li mont et les valees;
sound the hills and the valleys
de la noise que li Greu firent,
from the noise which the Greeks made
tuit cil dedenz s'en estormirent.
all those within thereof were-roused
Fors des rues, bien loign as chans,
Out of-the streets well far in-the fields
près un beau pré, lez uns estans,
near a fair meadow beside some ponds
a la fontaine del ciprès,
at the fountain of-the cypress
s'en est eissuz Etioclès:
himself-thence is issued Eteocles
homes ot bien vint mile o plus.
men he-had well twenty thousand or more
Contre lui vint reis Adrastus.
Against him came king Adrastus
Pués que les dous oz s'entrevirent,
After that the two hosts each-other-saw
grant semblant de combatre firent:
great semblance of fighting they-made
qui donc veïst l'ost estormir,
who then might-have-seen the-host to-stir
ces chevaliers aler, venir!
these knights to-go to-come

Chascuns criot son escuier
Each cried-to his squire
por ses armes apareillier;
for his arms to-prepare
lacent heaumes, vestent haubers,
they-lace helmets they-don hauberks
et traient fors ces trenchanz fers:
and draw out these cutting irons
qui donc veïst lacier penons
who then might-have-seen to-lace pennons
et enhaster ces gonfanons,
and fix-on-shafts these gonfanons
et chascun sa targe embracier
and each his targe to-grip
et estreindre son branc d'acier,
and to-clasp his blade of-steel
donc li membrast de fiére gent,
then him would-have-reminded of proud folk
qui de combatre ont fier talent.
who of fighting have proud desire
Donc veïssiez tal frois de lances
Then you-would-have-seen such crash of lances
et tantes riches conoissances:
and so-many rich devices
de la clarté de la compaigne
from the brightness of the company
en reluiseit tote la plaigne,
thereof shone all the plain

et quant li soleuz i fereit,
and when the sun there struck
trestoz li chans en reluiseit.
all the field thereof shone
Polinicès o sa maisniee,
Polynices with his household
que mout ert bien apareilliee,
which very was well prepared
tuit esteient monté par l'ost,
all were mounted through the-host
estreit chevauchiérent et tost:
close they-rode and fast
il esteient vint mile et plus:
they were twenty thousand and more
Polinicès esteit lor dus,
Polynices was their duke
que sis frére ot desherité
whom his brother had disinherited
et de son regne fors geté:
and from his realm out thrown
«Seignor,» fait il, «or i parra
Lords says he now there it-will-appear
«qui al bosoign bien i ferra:
who at-the need well there will-strike
«Qui de mei vuet tenir sa terre,
Who from me wishes to-hold his land
«ore vienge por la conquerre.»
now let-him-come for it to-conquer
A tant laissent chevaus aler,
At this they-let horses go

sor l'erbe el champ les font torner;
on the-grass in-the field them they-make turn
a l'aprochier baissent les fuz,
at the-approaching they-lower the shafts
pués s'entrefiérent as escuz:
then each-other-strike on-the shields
les hastes donérent grant crois,
the shafts gave great crack
contre mont en volent li trois;
against up thence fly the pieces
entre ceus defors et dedenz,
between those outside and within
en chaïrent plus de dous cenz,
thereof fell more than two hundred
al remonter des abatuz,
at-the remounting of-the thrown-down
donent granz cous o les branz nuz:
they-give great blows with the blades bare
la veïssiez gesir es plains
there you-would-have-seen lie on-the plains
tanz chevaus morz et tanz cors vains,
so-many horses dead and so-many bodies lifeless
tanz braz, tanz piez, tante coraille,
so-many arms so-many feet so-many entrails
tanz chiés coupez soz la ventaille.
so-many heads cut under the ventail
Grant fu la plainte et granz li plors,
Great was the lament and great the weeping

et grant la noise et les dolors
and great the noise and the pains
des navrez qui la se moreient,
of-the wounded who there themselves were-dying
et d'iceus qui se combateient.
and of-those who themselves were-fighting
Uns chevaliers, Nestor ot non,
A knight Nestor had name
fiz fu al duc de Chasteillon,
son he-was to-the duke of Chasteillon
chevalerie vint requerre,
chivalry came to-seek
por ço eissi fors de sa terre;
for that he-issued out of his land
mais n'ert venuz tant povrement
but not-he-was come so poorly
n'ait mil armez toz de sa gent.
not-he-may-have thousand armed all of his folk
Meschins esteit li dameiseaus,
Youth was the young-lord
n'ot que vint anz, fortment fu beaus:
not-he-had but twenty years greatly he-was fair
se il creïst en Deu poissance,
if he had-believed in God's power
plus beaus de lui ne portast lance.
more fair than him not would-have-borne lance
Blont ot le chief et lonc le vis,
Blond he-had the head and long the face
le nés bien fait et bien assis.
the nose well made and well set

Grant ot le cors et bien ossu,
Great he-had the body and well boned
graisles esteit par mé le bu.
slender he-was through midst the trunk
Dire vos dei de son conrei:
To-tell to-you I-ought of his array
meillor n'estuet porter a rei.
better not-behooves to-bear to king
Hauberc ot bon, menu maillié,
Hauberk he-had good finely mailed
dont li pan furent bien taillié;
whereof the skirts were well cut
un heaume aveit legier et fort,
a helmet he-had light and strong
bien le deüst guarir de mort;
well him it-ought to-protect from death
espee ot bone et bien trenchant,
sword he-had good and well cutting
en tote l'ost n'ot mieuz vaillant;
in all the-host not-had better worth
el destre poign porte sa lance,
in-the right fist he-carries his lance
mout fu de bèle contenance;
very he-was of fair bearing
d'ivuére aveit mout bon escu
of-ivory he-had very good shield
et sist sor un cheval crenu,
and sat on a horse long-maned
qui ert assez d'aate cors,
which was enough of-ready body

forz et isneaus et trestoz sors;
strong and swift and all sorrel
sa coverture ert d'un brun paile,
its covering was of-a brown silk
qui fu aportez de Thessaile:
which was brought from Thessaly
bien ert coverz de si qu'a terre.
well it-was covered from here to earth
Nestor le point, bien le desserre,
Nestor it spurs well it lets-loose
et Alexis repoint vers lui:
and Alexis spurs-again toward him
forment se coitent ambedui;
greatly themselves hasten both
brochent adès et esperonent,
they-spur always and prick
sor les escuz granz cous se donent.
on the shields great blows themselves they-give
Li cuens Nestor ne failli mie:
The count Nestor not missed at-all
del cors li fait partir la vie.
from-the body to-him he-makes depart the life
Sis niés le veit: ne l'araisone,
His nephew it sees not him-addresses
a descovert grant coup li done
in open great blow to-him he-gives
en mé le pez, soz la tetine,
in midst the breast under the nipple
que del cheval mort le sovine.
that from-the horse dead him he-lays

Polinicès, quant il le veit,
Polynices when he it sees
broche vers lui a grant espleit:
spurs toward him with great speed
Agenor fiert en l'eaume el son,
Agenor he-strikes on the-helmet at-the top
tot le fendié jusqu'a l'arçon.
all him he-split as-far-as the-saddle-bow
En mé les rens est tal la fole
In midst the ranks is such the press
qu'on n'i puet faire joste sole,
that-one not-there can make joust single
que ja seit proz ne renomee
which ever be valiant nor renowned
ne que ja seit d'autre sevree:
nor which ever be from-other separated
froissent hastes et escuz fendent,
they-shatter shafts and shields split
et cil archier forment destendent.
and those archers greatly let-loose
Polinicès el chief davant
Polynices in-the head before
ses chevaliers vait chadelant;
his knights goes leading
Etioclès de l'autre part
Eteocles from the-other side
conut le del premier esguart.
knew him at-the first look
Il s'entraloignent dous arpenz:
They each-other-distance two acres

ja iert li quaus que seit dolenz.
now will-be the which that may-be sorrowful
Andui muevent a esporon,
Both move at spur
granz cous se donent a bandon,
great blows themselves they-give at will
forment se coitent ambedui.
greatly themselves hasten both
Li reis failli, et cil fiert lui
The king missed and he strikes him
par mé le cors de son espié:
through midst the body with his spear
de Blanchenue l'abatié.
from Blanchenue him-he-threw-down
Polinicès, quant içe veit,
Polynices when this he-sees
que sis frére chaeiz esteit
that his brother fallen was
et que il ert a mort feruz,
and that he was to death struck
de son cheval est descenduz;
from his horse is descended
tost vait a lui et veit la plaie
soon he-goes to him and sees the wound
et le sanc vermeil qui fors raie.
and the blood red which out streams
Pitié en ot, ne puet muer
Pity thereof he-had not he-can help
que ne l'auge reconforter:
that not him-he-may-go to-comfort

par mé le cors son frére embrace,
through midst the body his brother he-embraces
les ueuz li baisa et la face,
the eyes to-him he-kissed and the face
pués si li dist: «Beaus sire frére,
then so to-him said Fair lord brother
«a male hore nos porta mére;
in evil hour us bore mother
«par vostre orgueil i estes morz,
through your pride there you-are dead
«de vos n'est mais nesuns conforz.»
of you not-is more any comfort
Etioclès fu mout iriez
Eteocles was very angered
et en son cuer mout esmaiez,
and in his heart very dismayed
et sét bien que l'estuet morir
and knows well that him-behooves to-die
et nus mires nel puet guarir;
and any physician not-him can heal
mout par fu pleins de felonie,
very much he-was full of felony
son frére vout tolir la vie:
his brother he-wished to-take-from the life
s'espee prist celeement,
his-sword he-took secretly
un poi se dreça bèlement,
a little himself raised fairly
del blanc hauberc leva les pans,
of-the white hauberk he-lifted the skirts

le brant d'acier li mist es flans.
the blade of-steel to-him put in-the flanks
Polinicès se sent feruz:
Polynices himself feels struck
a la terre s'est estenduz;
to the earth himself-is stretched
dist lui: «Frére, por quei m'as mort?
said to-him Brother for what me-hast killed
«Ço saches bien, fait l'as a tort:
That know well done it-hast at wrong
«Por la pitié que oi de tei
For the pity which I-had for thee
«descendi jo par bone fei;
descended I by good faith
«ore as finé ci nostre guerre,
now hast ended here our war
«ne jo ne tu n'avron la terre.»
nor I nor thou not-shall-have the land
Ne puet parler: reguardé l'a,
Not he-can speak looked him-he-has
iluec est morz, l'anme s'en va.
there he-is dead the-soul itself-thence goes
Cil comença a sanglotir:
He began to sob
vousist o non, l'estut morir.
he-might-wish or not him-it-behooved to-die
Mout par se sont entremaumis,
Very much themselves are each-other-mistreated
or se sont andui entrocis.
now themselves are both each-other-killed

Reis Adrastus, quant içо veit,
King Adrastus when this he-sees
que li frére sont jus chaeit
that the brothers are down fallen
et que il sont ambedui mort,
and that they are both dead
nus biens n'est mais qui le confort:
any good not-is more which him may-comfort
«Seignor,» fait il, «ne sai que die:
Lords says he not I-know what I-may-say
«Or ne me chaut mais de ma vie.
Now not me matters more of my life
«Se nos ore nes assaillon,
If we now not-them assail
«ja en nos vies nes prendron:
ever in our lives not-them we-shall-take
«Venez o mei a la cité,
Come with me to the city
«assaillon les par poesté.»
let-us-assail them by power
Il vait avant et cil après,
He goes forward and those after
ensemble poignent a eslais;
together they-spur at gallop
mais cil dedenz s'en vont foiant,
but those within themselves-thence go fleeing
çо qu'il pueent vont trestornant,
that which-they can they-go turning
et cil defors foiant les meinent,
and those outside fleeing them lead

de l'ocire forment se peinent.
of the-killing greatly themselves strive
Li Greu prenent l'envaiement,
The Greeks take the-onset
cil s'en tornent isnèlement
those themselves-thence turn swiftly
et dedenz s'en fuient mout tost.
and within themselves-thence flee very soon
Grant piéce chacent cil de l'ost,
Great while chase those of the-host
jusqu'as portes les vont chaçant,
until-to-the gates them they-go chasing
et sis fiérent demaintenant.
and so-them strike now-at-once
Cil de Thèbes se sont enz mis,
Those of Thebes themselves are in put
mais ainz en i ot mout ocis;
but before thereof there had many killed
sor eus ont les portes fermees
over them they-have the gates shut
et bien closes et bien serrees.
and well closed and well locked
Pués qu'il furent en la cité,
After that-they were in the city
ensemble sont al mur monté:
together they-are to-the wall mounted
portent pierres et peus aguz,
they-carry stones and stakes sharp
espiez et lances et escuz;
spears and lances and shields

environ vont par les entailles,
around they-go through the embrasures
et esguardent jus les batailles
and look-at down the battalions
que se peinent de l'assaillir; 9695
which themselves strive of the-assailing
mais cil desus les font morir.
but those above them make die
Cil montent sus [par] les eschales,
Those mount up by the ladders
cil lor rendent colees males.
those to-them render blows evil
Jus a val les font trebuchier:
Down to below them they-make tumble
qui chiet ne puet mais redrecier, 9700
who falls not can more rise-again
car de haut les font craventer
for from high them they-make crash
et l'un sor l'autre roeler.
and the-one on the-other roll
La veïssiez granz cous ferir
There you-would-have-seen great blows strike
et maint bon chevalier morir:
and many-a good knight die
cil d'a mont fortment se combatent 9705
those from above strongly themselves fight
et ocient les et abatent,
and kill them and throw-down
car il sont haut et cil sont bas;
for they are high and those are low

demaintenant fiérent el tas,
now-at-once they-strike in-the heap
jus les trebuchent a un fais,
down them they-tumble at one burden
mil en [i] muerent desconfès.
thousand thereof there die unconfessed
Cil qui sauf sont revont avant,
Those who safe are go-again forward
cil les refiérent maintenant,
those them strike-again at-once
mout les abatent, mout les griévent:
much them they-throw-down much them grieve
li abatu pas ne reliévent.
the thrown-down at-all not rise-again
D'iceus ne sai mais plus que dire,
Of-those not I-know more more what to-say
car tuit sont livré a martire.
for all are delivered to martyrdom
Et cil des murs de la cité
And those of-the walls of the city
de ceus defors ont tant tué,
of those outside have so-many killed
tant ont geté a grant esforz
so-many have thrown with great effort
que jusqu'a treis les ont toz morz:
that until-to three them they-have all killed
li uns des treis fu Adrastus,
the one of-the three was Adrastus
et li autre Capaneüs,
and the other Capaneus

et li tierz fu de Grece nez;
and the third was of Greece born
par mé le cors esteit nafrez.
through midst the body he-was wounded
«Sire,» fait cil, «jo m'en irai,
Lord says he I myself-thence shall-go
«males novèles porterai.»
evil news I-shall-carry
Dist Adrastus: «Va t'en, amis;
Said Adrastus Go thee-thence friend
«trestot reconte en mon païs.»
all recount in my country

The Women of Argos

XIX

The news reaches Argos, and the women mourn their husbands, sons, and brothers; three thousand die of grief. Adrastus's daughters, the widows of Tydeus and Polynices, mean to kill themselves, but the women resolve to walk barefoot to Thebes and bury their dead. Adrastus meets them on the road and tries to kill himself. As the women falter, the duke of Athens passes with a great army, and Adrastus begs his help. The duke sends to Creon, now king of Thebes, demanding the bodies, and Creon defies him.

Cil point et broche l'auferant,
He spurs and pricks the-charger
dreit a Arges en vient errant;
straight to Argos thence comes going
as dames dist freides novèles:
to-the ladies he-said cold news

sachiez que pas ne lor sont bèles;
know that at-all not to-them they-are fair
il lor porta ital message
he to-them carried such message
dont grant duel ont et grant damage:
whereof great grief they-have and great harm
«Que cil de l'ost sont tuit ocis
That those of the-host are all killed
«et que nus d'eus n'est remés vis,
and that any of-them not-is remained alive
«fors le rei et Capaneüs;
except the king and Capaneus
«il est tierz: n'i a remés plus.»
he is third not-there has remained more
Or ont les dames granz dolors,
Now have the ladies great griefs
quant ço oent de lor seignors
when that they-hear of their lords
qu'en bataille sont desconfit
that-in battle they-are discomfited
et tuit ocis, si come il dit:
and all killed so as he says
de poor forment s'esperissent
from fear greatly they-are-terrified
et del grant duel mout s'esmarissent.
and from-the great grief much are-dismayed
Par les rues de la cité,
Through the streets of the city
en font duel mout desmesuré:
thereof they-make grief very beyond-measure

les dames plaignent lor mariz,
the wives lament their husbands
et les méres plaignent lor fiz,
and the mothers lament their sons
et les serors plaignent lor fréres,
and the sisters lament their brothers
et les filles plaignent lor péres.
and the daughters lament their fathers
Crient et braient mout fortment,
They-cry and wail very strongly
ne pueent astenir neient
not they-can abstain at-all
de faire duel et de plorer
from making grief and from weeping
et de lor amis regreter:
and from their friends lamenting
tordent lor mains, froissent aneaus,
they-wring their hands break rings
croissent lor deiz que mout ont beaus,
crack their fingers which very they-have fair
rompent lor crins, batent lor chiéres,
they-tear their hair beat their faces
grant duel font en totes maniéres.
great grief they-make in all manners
Tal trei mile s'en i pasmérent,
Such three thousand themselves-thence there fainted
qui onques pués ne relevérent:
who ever afterward not rose-again
mortes sont les beneürees,
dead are the blessed-ones

les anmes ont des cors sevrees.
the souls they-have from-the bodies severed
Et celes que reméstrent vives
And those who remained alive
sont mout dolentes et chaitives:
are very sorrowful and wretched
tant ont crié et tant ont brait,
so-much they-have cried and so-much have wailed
et si grant duel ont iluec fait,
and so great grief have there made
que tant sont lasses de plorer
that so they-are weary of weeping
a peine pueent mot soner.
with pain they-can word to-sound
Des filles Adrastus le rei
Of-the daughters (of-)Adrastus the king
ne sai mesure ne conrei:
not I-know measure nor array
n'est merveille se grant duel font,
not-is marvel if great grief they-make
car grant conseil perdu i ont;
for great counsel lost there they-have
et ja sont ço les dous serors,
and now are these the two sisters
cui li reis dona a seignors
to-whom the king gave as lords
les dous vassaus que vit combatre
the two vassals whom he-saw fight
desoz l'arvol enz el theatre,
below the-vault in in-the theater

quant il les ala departir.
when he them went to-part
Mout les ama a retenir,
Much them he-loved to retain
car fil de rei érent andui
for sons of king were both
et por servir vindrent a lui.
and for to-serve came to him
A ces dous ses filles dona,
To these two his daughters he-gave
et ses honors lor otreia:
and his domains to-them granted
l'une dona a Tydeüs,
the-one he-gave to Tydeus
reis fu de Calidoine et dus;
king he-was of Calydon and duke
l'autre dona Polinicès,
the-other he-gave (to-)Polynices
qui frére esteit Etioclès.
who brother was (of-)Eteocles
Cil dui menérent les compaignes,
These two led the companies
qui sont a Thèbes mort as plaignes;
who are at Thebes dead on-the plains
cil dui furent en la bataille:
these two were in the battle
ocis sont ambedui senz faille.
killed are both without fail

Lor moilliers sont mout esguarees
Their wives are very distraught
por içо que d'eus sont sevrees:
for this that from-them they-are severed
plorent et claiment sei chaitives,
they-weep and call themselves wretched
duelent sei d'içо que sont vives;
grieve themselves at-this that they-are alive
n'en vuelent aveir mais confort,
not-thereof they-wish to-have more comfort
nule autre rien que sol la mort.
any other thing but only the death
Terme aveient pris de lor fin
Term they-had taken of their end
que s'oceïssent al matin,
that themselves-they-would-kill in-the morning
quant les dames de la cité
when the ladies of the city
un parlement ont ajosté:
a parley have assembled
ne poeient mais endurer,
not they-could more endure
conseil en vuelent demander
counsel thereof they-wish to-ask
as filles le rei Adrastus.
of-the daughters (of-)the king Adrastus
Par les degrez montérent sus,
By the steps they-mounted up
et quant eles sont assemblees,
and when they are assembled

a vint mile furent esmees.
at twenty thousand they-were reckoned
Un jor dura lor parlemenz
A day lasted their parley
d'iceles doleroses genz:
of-those sorrowful folk
en lor concile ont conseillié
in their council they-have counseled
qu'ensemble iront totes a pié
that-together they-will-go all on foot
dreit a Thèbes por les cors querre
straight to Thebes for the bodies to-seek
de lor amis et metre en terre.
of their friends and to-put in earth
Totes nuz piez, eschevelees,
All bare feet disheveled
en lor chemin en sont entrees.
on their road thence are entered
De femnes i aveit grant host,
Of women there there-was great host
mais eles n'aloent pas tost,
but they not-went at-all fast
car de l'errer n'érent aprises:
for of the-journeying not-they-were taught
les piez ont nuz, a duel sont mises.
the feet they-have bare in grief they-are put
Par les monz et par les valees,
Through the hills and through the valleys
en vont dolentes, esguarees.
thence go sorrowful distraught

Treis jorz aveient ja erré,
Three days they-had already journeyed
et un grant bos ont trespassé;
and a great wood have crossed
après cel bos truevent un plain
after that wood they-find a plain
mout bel et gent et mout lointain.
very fair and noble and very far-reaching
Li champ esteient bien herbos
The fields were well grassy
et li chemin soéf poudros:
and the roads softly dusty
idonc pristrent a espleitier
then they-took to hasten
et le lor eire a esforcier.
and the their journey to force
Mout ala bien ceste compaigne,
Very went well this company
tant com lor dura cele plaigne.
so-long as to-them lasted that plain
Quant eles orent trespassé
When they had crossed
le plain, qui mout lor vint a gré,
the plain which very to-them came to liking
bien loign avant ont esguardé.
well far ahead they-have looked
En un moncel, dejoste un pré,
On a mound beside a meadow

virent venir dous chevaliers
they-saw come two knights
a esporon sor lor destriers:
at spur on their chargers
li uns esteit reis Adrastus,
the one was king Adrastus
et li autre Capaneüs,
and the other Capaneus
qui veneient de la bataille,
who came from the battle
ou ont damage eü, senz faille,
where they-have harm had without fail
car tuit lor home i sont ocis,
for all their men there are killed
onc plus n'en ot eschapez vis,
ever more not-thereof had escaped alive
fors sol lui et son compaignon,
except only him and his companion
qui veneient a esporon.
who came at spur
Adrastus les choisi premier,
Adrastus them spied first
qui vit les dames blancheier.
who saw the ladies to-whiten
Dist li reis a Capaneüs:
Said the king to Capaneus
«Guardez en ces chemins la sus:
Look on these roads there above
«Veeir poez une blanchor,
To-see you-can a whiteness

«onques mais hon ne vit greignor.
ever more man not saw greater
«Sont ço oeilles, beaus amis,
Are these sheep fair friend
«dont si reluist toz cist païs?
whereof so shines all this country
«O sont meschines por baler,
Or are-they maidens for dancing
«que en cel plain viénent joer?»
who in that plain come to-play
Tant com li reis issi parlot,
So-long as the king thus spoke
vers les dames mout s'aproismot:
toward the ladies much he-approached
ses dous filles davant veneient,
his two daughters before came
que ja trés bien le conoisseient
who already very well him knew
as ueuz et a la barbe blanche,
by-the eyes and by the beard white
al vis et a la chiére franche.
by-the face and by the countenance noble
Idonc comencent a crier
Then they-begin to cry
et lor grant duel a demener;
and their great grief to lead
par tote l'ost font ensement,
through all the-host they-do likewise
mout font grant duel comunement.
very they-make great grief in-common

Quant li reis Adrastus ço veit,
When the king Adrastus that sees
qui ses filles bien conoisseit,
who his daughters well knew
al cuer l'en prent mout grant tristor,
to-the heart him-thereof takes very great sadness
si se pasme de la dolor.
so himself swoons from the grief
Quant redrece de pasmeison,
When he-rises from fainting
sei meïsme met a raison:
himself self he-puts to account
«Ahi!» fait il, «dolenz! chaitis!
Ah says he sorrowful wretched
«Ço est granz torz que jo sué vis.
That is great wrong that I am alive
«Por quei ne fui l'autr'ier ocis,
For what not was-I the-other-day killed
«la ou fui el chapleïz mis
there where I-was in-the slaughter put
«ou j'ai tote ma gent perdue?»
where I-have all my folk lost
Donc trait s'espee tote nue:
Then he-draws his-sword all bare
par mé le cors s'en vout ferir.
through midst the body himself-thence he-wished to-strike
Capaneüs li vait tolir;
Capaneus it-from-him goes to-take
del poign li a sachié l'espee,
from-the fist to-him has pulled the-sword

el chemin bien loign l'a getee.
on-the road well far it-has thrown
De duel tierce feiz s'esvani;
From grief third time he-swooned
ne se pot tenir, si chaï.
not himself could hold so he-fell
Des criz et del guaimentement
Of-the cries and of-the lamenting
des femnes, et del plorement
of-the women and of-the weeping
qu'eles faiseient o le rei,
which-they made with the king
ne vos en sai dire conrei:
not to-you thereof I-know to-say account
iluec la nuét se herberja
there the night himself lodged
o les dames qu'il encontra,
with the ladies whom-he met
tote nuét o eles parla,
all night with them he-spoke
si come il sot les conseilla;
so as he knew them he-counseled
en son chemin par main entra,
on his road in morning entered
ariére a Thèbes retorna.
back to Thebes returned
Les dames vueut o sei mener,
The ladies he-wishes with himself to-lead
car lor ocis lor vueut mostrer:
for their slain to-them he-wishes to-show

il les conduit par le sentier,
he them leads by the path
tot dreit, si come il vint l'autr'ier.
all straight so as he came the-other-day
L'ost des femnes mout alassot
The-host of-the women much wearied
et mout fortment afebleiot,
and very strongly weakened
que ne poeit aler avant
that not it-could go forward
ne mais errer ne tant ne quant.
nor more journey nor so-much nor how-much
Li reis s'en esmaia fortment,
The king himself-thereof dismayed strongly
quant vit remaindre si sa gent;
when he-saw to-remain so his folk
ne se saveit pro conseillier
not himself knew well to-counsel
d'iluec les femnes herbergier:
from-there the women to-lodge
guarda sor destre en une plaigne,
he-looked on right in a plain
si vit venir mout grant compaigne
so saw come very great company
de chevaliers et de geudons,
of knights and of foot-soldiers
de lances et de gonfanons.
of lances and of gonfanons

Mout luisent cil heaume environ
Very shine these helmets around
et cil escu peint a leon;
and these shields painted with lion
des espiez sont dreites les lances,
with-the spears are straight the lances
a toz a bèles conoissances:
at all there-are fair devices
trestote en reluist la contree,
all thereof shines the country
d'icele gent issi armee;
from-that folk thus armed
environ la terre fremist
around the earth trembles
et li païs en resplendist.
and the country thereof gleams
Mout par est forz qui sire en est,
Very much is strong who lord thereof is
et fiers et de bataille prest:
and proud and for battle ready
ço est li dus Atheniiens.
that is the duke Athenian
De paiens ne de chrestiiens,
Of pagans nor of Christians
de hautece ne de posnee,
of highness nor of pomp
ne fu mais tal gent assemblee
not was ever such folk assembled
com cist dus a ici jostee,
as this duke has here gathered

qui vait destruire une contree:
who goes to-destroy a country
il en alot sor un suen rei,
he thence went against a his king
qui li aveit menti sa fei.
who to-him had belied his faith
De lui deveit tenir s'onor,
From him he-ought to-hold his-domain
treü rendre come a seignor;
tribute to-render as to lord
ne voleit a sa cort venir
not he-wished to his court to-come
ne sa terre de lui tenir:
nor his land from him to-hold
por ço alot saisir sa terre,
for that he-went to-seize his land
lui meïsme prendre et conquerre;
him self to-take and to-conquer
honir le vout et desconfire,
to-shame him he-wished and to-discomfit
et metre en prison o ocire.
and to-put in prison or to-kill
Li dus chevauche fiérement
The duke rides proudly
et bien conduit s'ost et sa gent:
and well leads his-host and his folk
reis Adrastus, quant s'aproisma,
king Adrastus when he-approached
reconut lui, vers lui ala.
recognized him toward him went

Tost deguerpi sa compaignie;
Soon he-abandoned his company
al duc en vait, merci li crie.
to-the duke thence he-goes mercy to-him cries
Come il fu près, si descendié,
As he was near so he-dismounted
et vint corant vers lui a pié;
and came running toward him on foot
vers le duc cort isnèlement,
toward the duke he-runs swiftly
a ses piez chiet mout humilment.
at his feet falls very humbly
Quant a ses piez le vit li dus,
When at his feet him saw the duke
de son cheval descendié jus:
from his horse he-descended down
merveilla sei que il aveit,
he-marveled himself what he had
por ço que il nel conoisseit.
for that that he not-him knew
Reis Adrastus geseit a terre,
King Adrastus lay on earth
le duc teneit por merci querre;
the duke he-held for mercy to-seek
merci li criot humilment,
mercy to-him he-cried humbly
et si plorot mout tendrement:
and so wept very tenderly
«Sire,» fait il, «por Deu merci!
Lord says he for God mercy

«Ço sai, assez avez oï
That I-know enough you-have heard
«de l'ost et des granz assemblees,
of the-host and of-the great assemblies
«des batailles et des meslees,
of-the battles and of-the melees
«del damage qui a esté
of-the harm which has been
«d'iceus de Thèbes la cité,
of-those of Thebes the city
«de l'ocise de nos Grezeis:
of the-slaughter of our Greeks
«Tuit i sont ocis fors sol treis.
All there are killed except only three
«Uns en sué, las! maleürez!
One of-them I-am alas ill-starred
«Chiers sire, qui sué reis clamez.
Dear lord who am king called
«Dui frére furent acheison
Two brothers were cause
«d'icele grant ocision:
of-that great slaughter
«Polinicès, Etioclès,
Polynices Eteocles
«qui fil furent Edipodès.
who sons were (of-)Oedipus
«Por l'un li Greu se combatiérent;
For the-one the Greeks themselves fought

«por l'autre bien se defendiérent
for the-other well themselves defended
«cil de Thèbes, sis estormirent,
those of Thebes so-them roused
«des Grezeis grant damage firent.
of-the Greeks great harm made
«Mei tierz, sire, en sué eschapez:
Myself third lord thence I-am escaped
«De Grece sué reis coronez;
Of Greece I-am king crowned
«reis Adrastus me claime l'on.
king Adrastus me calls one
«Por Dieu, aidiez mei, gentiz hon;
For God help me noble man
«por Deu, aiez merci de mei:
for God have mercy on me
«Esguardez, sire, le por quei.
Regard lord the for what
«Guardez la sus en son cel mont,
Look there above on top that hill
«femnes i a que grant duel font:
women there there-are who great grief make
«Dolentes sont et esguarees,
Sorrowful they-are and distraught
«chaitives et maleürees,
wretched and ill-starred
«por lor amis, qui mort i sont;
for their friends who dead there are
«a grant esforz a Thèbes vont,
with great effort to Thebes they-go

«por eus veeir et enterrer
for them to-see and to-bury
«et sevelir et conreer,
and to-entomb and to-array
«que ne les manjucent oisel,
that not them may-eat birds
«chien ne leon, leu ne corbel.
dog nor lion wolf nor raven
«Cil de Thèbes ne lor lairont:
Those of Thebes not to-them will-allow
«Bien sai que il lor defendront.
Well I-know that they to-them will-forbid
«Por ço requier vostre bonté
For that I-request your goodness
«et vostre grant nobileté:
and your great nobility
«Rendez as dames lor amis,
Render to-the ladies their friends
«que cil de Thèbes ont ocis;
whom those of Thebes have killed
«vengiez les de lor enemis,
avenge them on their enemies
«merci aiez de nos chaitis.»
mercy have on us wretches
Li gentiz dus tot escota,
The noble duke all heard
en son cuer grant pitié en a:
in his heart great pity thereof he-has
par la main prist rei Adrastus,
by the hand he-took king Adrastus

de la terre le leva sus:
from the earth him he-raised up
«Sire reis,» fait il, «sus levez;
Lord king says he up rise
«tot vos otrei quant que querez:
all to-you I-grant how-much that you-seek
«Se ne vos rendent voz ocis,
If not to-you they-render your slain
«a grant eissil en serront mis.»
into great ruin thereof they-will-be put
Il apela dous chevaliers:
He called two knights
l'uns fu Girarz, l'autre Engeliers:
the-one was Girart the-other Engelier
«Seignor,» fait il, «avant venez,
Lords says he forward come
«mon message mout tost portez;
my message very soon carry
«al rei de Thèbes tost alez,
to-the king of Thebes soon go
«Creon le vieil, qu'est assotez.
Creon the old who-is besotted
«Dites lui qu'il renge maneis
Say to-him that-he may-render forthwith
«as dames les cors des Grezeis
to-the ladies the bodies of-the Greeks
«et laist enterrer bonement:
and may-let to-bury well
«Se il nes rent hastivement,
If he not-them renders hastily

«destruiz serra et sa citez,
destroyed he-will-be and his city
«il meïsme iert toz afolez.»
he himself will-be all maimed
Sire Adrastus dist li Grezeis:
Lord Adrastus said the Greek
«Est donc Creon de Thèbes reis?
Is then Creon of Thebes king
— O il,» fait li dus, «beaus amis,
Yes he says the duke fair friend
«par verité l'ont a rei mis;
in truth him-they-have to king put
«de Creon ont tuit esguardé
on Creon have all looked
«et de Thèbes l'ont rei clamé.»
and of Thebes him-they-have king called
Li messagier sont donc monté,
The messengers are then mounted
en lor chemin en sont entré.
on their road thence are entered
Tant ont erré a grant espleit
So-much they-have journeyed with great speed
a Thèbes vindrent trestot dreit;
to Thebes they-came all straight
le rei Creon orent trové,
the king Creon they-had found
lor message li ont conté.
their message to-him they-have told
Saluent le corteisement,
They-greet him courteously

après li dient lor talent:
after to-him they-say their will
«Reis, seiez saluez trés bien
King be greeted very well
«de part le duc Atheniien!
from part the duke Athenian
«Li nobles dus et li marchis
The noble duke and the marquis
«nos a ici a vos tramis,
us has here to you sent
«que vos li rengiez toz les cors
that you to-him may-render all the bodies
«des Grezeis qui gésent la fors:
of-the Greeks who lie there outside
«Sachiez, se tost ne li rendez,
Know if soon not to-him you-render
«lui et son host ici avrez;
him and his host here you-will-have
«vostre cité vos destruiront,
your city to-you they-will-destroy
«et vos meïsme afoleront.»
and you yourself will-maim
Li reis Creon quant l'entendié,
The king Creon when it-he-heard
mout durement s'en irasquié:
very harshly himself-thereof angered
«Vassal,» fait il, «alez vos en,
Vassal says he go you thence
«ainceis que jo perge mon sen:
before that I may-lose my sense

«Se hastivement n'en alez,
If hastily not-thence you-go
«ja i avreiz les chiés coupez;
now there you-will-have the heads cut
«jo vos ferai mout tormenter,
I you shall-make very torment
«toz vis ardeir o desmembrer.
all alive to-burn or to-dismember
«Dites le duc vostre seignor
Say to-the duke your lord
«nes avreit por tote s'onor,
not-them he-would-have for all his-domain
«les cors des Greus qui ci sont mort:
the bodies of-the Greeks who here are dead
«Encontre lui me tendrai fort.
Against him myself I-shall-hold strong
«Auge s'en guarder ses citez,
Let-him-go himself-thence to-guard his cities
«ses chasteaus et ses fermetez:
his castles and his strongholds
«Ceste tendrai bien contre lui;
This-one I-shall-hold well against him
«se il ça vient, pas ne m'en fui.»
if he here comes at-all not myself-thence I-flee

Theseus Takes Thebes

XX

The duke besieges Thebes, and the women of Argos breach the walls with mallets. Capaneus is killed by a stone while climbing, and the duke's men set the city on fire and pour in. The duke lays Thebes waste, takes Creon's head, and gives the women their dead. The two brothers' bodies will not rest in their graves, and even their pyres and ashes fight each other, so the duke seals their ashes together in one coffin. He returns to Athens, the women go home with Adrastus, and the poet warns against doing anything against nature.

Li messagier donc s'en tornérent;
The messengers then themselves-thence turned
al duc vindrent, si li contérent.
to-the duke they-came so to-him told
Li dus se prist a corocier,
The duke himself took to anger
et esflamber et esragier:
and to-blaze and to-rage
sa gent comande tost armer,
his folk he-commands soon to-arm
de bataille tost aprester;
for battle soon to-prepare
il s'en adoba toz premiers
he himself-thence armed all first
enz el mé lou des chevaliers.
in in-the midst place of-the knights
Par tote l'ost font ensement,
Through all the-host they-do likewise
pués chevauchent mout fiérement:
then they-ride very proudly

grant noise sort par la contree
great noise rises through the country
d'iceus qui cornent la menee.
of-those who horn the horn-call
Dreit a Thèbes mena son host
Straight to Thebes he-led his host
et de sa gent les murs enclost.
and with his folk the walls enclosed
Reis Adrastus après veneit,
King Adrastus after came
l'ost des femnes aconduiseit:
the-host of-the women he-conducted
totes o les Athenïens
all with the Athenians
se sont mises dedenz les rens.
themselves are put within the ranks
Li dus assaut mout vassaument
The duke assaults very valiantly
la cité o tote sa gent;
the city with all his folk
il meïsmes o un mouton
he himself with a ram
les murs quassot tot environ:
the walls shattered all around
donc veïssez femnes ramper,
then you-would-have-seen women climb
o mauz d'acier les murs fausser;
with mallets of-steel the walls breach
le mortier gratent trop fortment,
the mortar they-scrape very strongly

pertus i firent plus de cent;
holes there they-made more than hundred
ne lor chaleit quis oceïst,
not to-them mattered who-them might-kill
ne qui onques mal lor feïst:
nor who ever ill to-them might-do
mout se combateient fortment.
very themselves they-fought strongly
Grant pitié en aveient gent:
Great pity thereof had folk
por les femnes fortment ploroent,
for the women strongly they-wept
de l'assaillir mout se penoent.
of the-assailing much themselves strove
Capaneüs i est venuz,
Capaneus there is come
qui mout par esteit irascuz:
who very much was angered
«Ja Deus,» fait il, «nes en guarra,
Ever God says he not-them thence will-save
«ne un sol ne guarantira
nor a single not will-protect
«que nes façon des murs ruter.»
that not-them we-may-make from-the walls tumble
A mont les murs prist a ramper:
To up the walls he-took to climb
al ramper que il fist a mont,
at-the climbing which he made to up
une roche li vint al front,
a rock to-him came to-the brow

que si li a le chief quassé
which so to-him has the head shattered
que mort l'a jus acraventé.
that dead him-it-has down crashed
Li dus d'Atheines est mout proz:
The duke of-Athens is very valiant
la soe gent somont sor toz;
the his folk he-summons above all
hardiement les somoneit,
boldly them he-summoned
et tote l'ost esbaudisseit:
and all the-host heartened
«Que faites vos, seignor baron?
What do you lords barons
«Sachiez que la cité prendron.
Know that the city we-shall-take
«Alez avant, franc chevalier,
Go forward noble knights
«joste le mur, come guerrier.»
beside the wall as warriors
Et il si font hardiement
And they so do boldly
et li geudon comunement.
and the foot-soldiers in-common
Cil dedenz fortment se defendent,
Those within strongly themselves defend
et cil defors as prendre entendent.
and those outside to-the taking attend

Li dus se combat com leon
The duke himself fights as lion
et come chevalier mout bon;
and as knight very good
sa gent va bien esbaudissant
his folk he-goes well heartening
et ceus dedenz mout menaçant,
and those within much threatening
et son espié vait paumeiant,
and his spear goes brandishing
la more contre mont tornant;
the point against up turning
entente done a ceus dedenz
heed he-gives to those within
et a son host granz hardemenz.
and to his host great boldnesses
Les dames sont de l'autre part,
The ladies are from the-other side
de ceus dedenz n'ont nul reguart:
of those within not-have any regard
tant ont bechié et tant graté
so-much they-have dug and so-much scraped
que le fort mur ont esfondré;
that the strong wall they-have staved-in
devers eles ont fait pertus,
toward them they-have made hole
pleine perche escraventé jus.
full perch crashed down

Sor la tor uns arbalestiers
On the tower a crossbowman
s'en aperçut trestoz premiers,
himself-thereof perceived all first
si començа fort a huchier
so began strongly to shout
que mout sont près de l'aprochier:
that very they-are near of the-approaching
«Veez les murs escraventer
See the walls crash
«et ceus defors dedenz entrer!»
and those outside within enter
Li gentiz dus, quant l'entendié,
The noble duke when it-he-heard
dreit al pertus a fort tendié;
straight to-the hole with force headed
«le fou! le fou!» a crier prist,
the fire the fire to cry he-took
en la cité par tot le mist:
in the city through all it put
qui donc veïst les tors crever
who then might-have-seen the towers burst
et les hauz murs escraventer,
and the high walls crash
grant dolor en poüst aveir
great grief thereof he-could have
des granz tors que veïst chaeir.
of-the great towers which he-might-see fall
Li dus trestote l'eissilla,
The duke all it-laid-waste

les murs et les tors craventa;
the walls and the towers crashed
les homes fist emprisoner,
the men he-made imprison
comanda les bien a guarder:
commanded them well to guard
a Atheines les vueut mener
to Athens them he-wishes to-lead
o lui, quant s'en voudra torner.
with him when himself-thence he-will-wish to-turn
Toz ceus qui ne se voudrent rendre,
All those who not themselves wished to-render
sempres les comanda a prendre
at-once them he-commanded to take
et davant lui a desmembrer,
and before him to dismember
en fou ardeir o afoler.
in fire to-burn or to-maim
Li reis Creon ne se vout rendre:
The king Creon not himself wished to-render
davant sei en fist le chief prendre.
before himself thereof he-made the head take
As dames fist rendre les cors,
To-the ladies he-made render the bodies
qui porrisseient la defors:
which rotted there outside
les dames les ont mout plorez
the ladies them have much wept
et mout doucement regretez.
and very sweetly lamented

Li dus n'i vout plus demorer,
The duke not-there wished more to-stay
les cors comande a enterrer;
the bodies he-commands to bury
gentilment les a seveliz
nobly them has entombed
li dus, qui mout esteit gentiz;
the duke who very was noble
les dous fréres a fait mout querre,
the two brothers he-has made much seek
por eus veeir et metre en terre.
for them to-see and to-put in earth
Tant les ont quis qu'ils ont trovez,
So-long them they-have sought that-they them-have found
entre les autres cors meslez:
among the other bodies mingled
il lor fist faire sepouture
he for-them made make burial
et grant service a lor dreiture.
and great service at their right
En dous sarcueus posez les ont,
In two coffins set them they-have
avenantment enterré sont;
seemly buried they-are
mais ne se porent pas sofrir,
but not themselves could at-all suffer
onques terre nes pot tenir:
ever earth not-them could hold
desore terre sont trové,
upon earth they-are found

com se ne fussent enterré;
as if not they-were buried
iluec se voleient combatre
there themselves they-wished to-fight
li uns contre l'autre et abatre.
the one against the-other and to-fell
Cele merveille ont esguardé,
That marvel have looked-at
qui iluec érent assemblé.
who there were assembled
Li dus, qui mout se merveilla,
The duke who much himself marveled
les cors a ardeir comanda:
the bodies to burn commanded
en dous hauz monz porter les fist,
on two high hills to-carry them he-made
que l'uns a l'autre n'avenist.
that the-one to the-other not-might-come
Des que les cors as fous posérent,
As-soon that the bodies on-the fires they-set
li dui fou granz flambes getérent;
the two fires great flames threw
l'une vers l'autre fist semblant
the-one toward the-other made semblance
com se combatre vousissant.
as-if themselves to-fight they-wished
Quant li cors furent tuit en cendre,
When the bodies were all into ash
li dus les comanda a prendre,
the duke them commanded to take

en dous vaisseaus enseeler,
in two vessels to-seal
et pués les prist a esguarder,
and then them he-took to watch
saveir se il mais se movreient
to-know if they more themselves would-move
et se il mais se combatreient.
and if they more themselves would-fight
Li vaissel nes porent tenir,
The vessels not-them could hold
les poudres s'en voudrent eissir;
the dusts themselves-thence wished to-issue
l'une contre l'autre sailleient:
the-one against the-other leapt
granz semblanz ert qu'il se haeient.
great semblance was that-they themselves hated
Li nobles dus les esguarda
The noble duke them watched
et grant merveille li sembla:
and great marvel to-him seemed
les dous poudres comande oster
the two dusts he-commands to-remove
et en un sarcueu seeler.
and in one coffin to-seal
Ensemble furent aüné,
Together they-were gathered
por avengier lor destiné.
for to-fulfill their destiny
Quant les ot fait iluec serrer,
When them he-had made there lock

onc pués n'i vout plus demorer:
ever afterward not-there he-wished more to-stay
tote sa gent ot aünee,
all his folk he-had gathered
torner s'en vout en sa contree;
to-turn himself-thence he-wished into his country
o lui ses prisons en mena,
with him his prisoners thence he-led
jusqu'en Atheines ne fina.
until-in Athens not he-ended
Les dames s'en resont alees,
The ladies themselves-thence again-are gone
Adrastus les en a menees:
Adrastus them thence has led
lor bosoigne ont bien avengiee
their need they-have well achieved
a lor plaisir et espleitiee,
at their pleasure and accomplished
mais nequedent mout dolosérent
but nevertheless much they-grieved
et guaimentérent et plorérent
and lamented and wept
por la perte de lor amis
for the loss of their friends
qui a Thèbes furent ocis.
who at Thebes were killed
Mout en furent pués esguarees
Much thereof were then distraught
et dolentes en lor contrees;
and sorrowful in their countries

grant duel orent et grant plaint firent
great grief they-had and great lament made
toz jorz mais, tant come vesquirent.
all days more so-long as they-lived
De tal guise fina la guerre
In such guise ended the war
de Thèbes por le regne aquerre;
of Thebes for the realm to-acquire
si faitement fu achevee
so fashioned was achieved
la grant bataille renomee,
the great battle renowned
et des dous fréres li granz maus,
and of-the two brothers the great evil
qui fu tant pesmes et mortaus
which was so most-wicked and mortal
que deserte en fu la contree
that deserted thereof was the country
et eissilliee et deguastee.
and ravaged and laid-waste
Mout chaï peines et ahanz
Much fell pains and toils
et maudiçons sor les enfanz,
and curses on the children
que li pére lor destina
which the father to-them destined
et fortune lor otreia.
and fortune to-them granted
Por ço vos di: «Prenez en cure,
For that to-you I-say Take thereof care

«par dreit errez et par mesure;
by right go and by measure
«ne faciez rien contre nature,
not do anything against nature
«que ne vengiez a fin si dure.»
that not you-may-come to end so hard