OLD FRENCH SERIES · VOLUME 51

The Romance of Troy

Benoît de Sainte-Maure

Le Roman de Troie

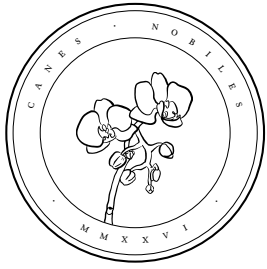
The Romance of Troy

Part One: Jason, Helen, and the First Battle

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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The Old French text follows L. Constans's text, Le Roman de Troie par Benoît de Sainte-Maure, publié d'après tous les manuscrits connus (Société des anciens textes français, Paris, 1904), t. I

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

The Romance of Troy is printed as Constans establishes it from all the known manuscripts, in the spelling he gives the poem; his verse paragraphs open on an indent, and the verse numbers in the margin, every fifth verse, run on through the poem's four parts. His square brackets supply a letter or word the manuscripts lack. This first part runs from the Golden Fleece and the first destruction of Troy to the first battle before the city.

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Prologue

I

Solomon teaches that knowledge must not be hidden, and the poet resolves to put a Latin history into French for those who cannot read the Latin. Homer, he says, was born more than a hundred years after the war and was nearly condemned at Athens for making gods fight men. Cornelius, Sallust's nephew, found at Athens the history of Dares, a Trojan who fought in the war and wrote each night what he saw that day. Benoît de Sainte-Maure will follow the Latin and add nothing to it, save, if he can, some good saying of his own.

Salemon nos enseigne e dit,
Solomon us teaches and says
e sil lit om en son escrit,
and so-it reads one in his writing
que nus ne deit son sen celer,
that any not ought his wisdom to-hide
ainz le deit om si demostrer
rather it ought one so to-show
que l'om i ait pro e honor,
that one there may-have profit and honor
qu'ensi firent li ancessor.
that-thus did the ancestors
Se cil qui troverent les parz
If those who found the parts
e les granz livres des set arz,
and the great books of-the seven arts
des philosophes les traitiez,
of-the philosophers the treatises
dont toz li monz est enseigniez,
whereof all the world is taught

se fussent teü, veirement
themselves had been-silent truly
vesquist li siegles folement:
would-have-lived the world foolishly
come bestes eüssons vie;
as beasts we-would-have-had life
que fust saveirs ne que folie
what were knowledge nor what folly
ne seüssons sol esguarder,
not we-would-know only to-regard
ne l'un de l'autre desevrer.
nor the-one from the-other to-sever
Remembré seront a toz tens
Remembered they-will-be at all times
e coneü par lor granz sens,
and known through their great wisdom
quar sciënce que est teüe
for knowledge which is kept-silent
est tost obliëe e perdue.
is soon forgotten and lost
Qui set e n'enseigne o ne dit
Who knows and not-teaches or not tells
ne puet muër ne s'entroblit;
not can help nor himself-forgets
e sciënce qu'est bien oïe
and knowledge which-is well heard
germe e florist e frutefie.
sprouts and flowers and fruits
Qui vueut saveir e qui entent,
Who wishes to-know and who attends

sacheiz de mieuz l'en est sovent.
know of better him-thereof is often
De bien ne puet nus trop oïr
Of good not can any too-much hear
ne trop saveir ne retenir;
nor too-much know nor retain
ne nus ne se deit atargier
nor any not himself ought to-delay
de bien faire ne d'enseignier;
of good doing nor of-teaching
e qui plus set, e plus deit faire:
and who more knows and more ought to-do
de ço ne se deit nus retraire.
of that not himself ought any to-withdraw
E por ço me vueil travaillier
And for that me I-wish to-toil
en une estoire comencier,
in a history to-begin
que de latin, ou jo la truis,
which from Latin where I it find
se j'ai le sen e se jo puis,
if I-have the sense and if I can
la voudrai si en romanz metre
it I-shall-wish so into romance to-put
que cil qui n'entendent la letre
that those who not-understand the letter
se puissent deduire el romanz:
themselves may delight in-the romance

mout est l'estoire riche e granz
very is the-history rich and great
e de grant uevre et de grant fait.
and of great work and of great deed
En maint sen avra l'om retrait,
In many-a sense will-have one recounted
saveir com Troie fu perie,
to-know how Troy was perished
mais la verté est poi oïe.
but the truth is little heard
Omers, qui fu clers merveillos
Homer who was clerk marvelous
e sages e esciëntos,
and wise and learned
escrist de la destrucion,
wrote of the destruction
del grant siege e de l'acheison
of-the great siege and of the-cause
por quei Troie fu desertee,
for which Troy was deserted
que onc puis ne fu rabitee.
that ever afterward not was reinhabited
Mais ne dist pas sis livres veir,
But not said at-all his book true
quar bien savons senz nul espeir
for well we-know without any doubt
qu'il ne fu puis de cent anz nez
that-he not was after of hundred years born
que li granz oz fu assemblez:
that the great host was assembled

n'est merveille s'il i faillit,
not-is marvel if-he there failed
quar onc n'i fu ne rien n'en vit.
for ever not-there he-was nor anything not-thereof saw
Quant il en ot son livre fait
When he thereof had his book made
e a Athenes l'ot retrait,
and at Athens it-had recounted
si ot estrange contençon:
so had strange contention
dampner le voustrent par reison,
to-condemn him they-wished by reason
por ço qu'ot fait les damedeus
for that that-he-had made the gods
combatre o les homes charneus.
fight with the men fleshly
Tenu li fu a desverie
Held to-him it-was for madness
e a merveillose folie
and for marvelous folly
que les deus come homes humains
that the gods as men human
faiseit combatre as Troïains,
he-made fight with-the Trojans
e les deuesses ensement
and the goddesses likewise
faiseit combatre avuec la gent;
he-made fight with the folk
e quant son livre reciterent,
and when his book they-recited

plusor por ço le refuserent.
many for that it rejected
Mais tant fu Omers de grant pris
But so-much was Homer of great worth
e tant fist puis, si com jo truis,
and so-much did afterward so as I find
que sis livres fu receüz
that his book was received
e en autorité tenuz.
and in authority held
Après lonc tens que ç'ot esté,
After long time that that-had been
que Rome ot ja piece duré,
that Rome had already while lasted
el tens Saluste le vaillant,
in-the time (of-)Sallust the valiant
que l'om teneit si a poissant,
whom one held so for powerful
a riche, a pro de haut parage
for rich for valiant of high lineage
e a clerc merveillos e sage,
and for clerk marvelous and wise
cil Salustes, ço truis lisant,
that Sallust that I-find reading
ot un nevo fortment sachant:
had a nephew greatly knowing
Cornelius ert apelez,
Cornelius he-was called
de letres sages e fondez.
in letters wise and grounded

De lui esteit mout grant parole:
Of him was very great word
a Athenes teneit escole.
at Athens he-held school
Un jor quereit en un aumaire
One day he-sought in a press
por traire livres de gramaire:
for to-draw-out books of grammar
tant i a quis e reversé
so-much there he-has sought and turned-over
qu'entre les autres a trové
that-among the others he-has found
l'estoire que Daire ot escrite,
the-history which Dares had written
en greque langue faite e dite.
in Greek tongue made and told
Icist Daires dont ci oëz
This Dares whereof here you-hear
fu de Troie norriz e nez;
was of Troy nurtured and born
dedenz esteit, onc n'en eissi
within he-was ever not-thence issued
desci que l'oz s'en departi;
until that the-host itself-thence departed
mainte proëce i fist de sei
many-a prowess there he-did of himself
e a asaut e a tornei.
both in assault and in tourney

En lui aveit clerc merveillos
In him there-was clerk marvelous
e des set arz esciëntos:
and in-the seven arts learned
por ço qu'il vit si grant l'afaire
for that that-he saw so great the-affair
que ainz ne puis ne fu nus maire,
that before nor after not was any greater
si voust les faiz metre en memoire:
so he-wished the deeds to-put in memory
en grezeis en escrist l'estoire.
in Greek thereof he-wrote the-history
Chascun jor ensi l'escriveit
Each day thus it-he-wrote
come il o ses ieuz le veeit.
as he with his eyes it saw
Tot quant qu'il faiseient le jor
All how-much that-they did the day
o en bataille o en estor,
or in battle or in fight
tot escriveit la nuit après
all he-wrote the night after
icist que jo vos di Darès:
this-one whom I to-you tell Dares
onc por amor ne s'en voust taire
ever for love not himself-thence he-wished to-be-silent
de la verté dire e retraire.
of the truth to-tell and to-recount
Por ço, s'il ert des Troïens,
For that if-he was of-the Trojans

ne s'en pendi plus vers les suens,
not himself-thence leaned more toward the his
ne mais que vers les Grezeis fist:
nor more than toward the Greeks he-did
de l'estoire le veir escrist.
of the-history the truth he-wrote
Lonc tens fu sis livres perduz,
Long time was his book lost
qu'il ne fu trovez ne veüz;
that-it not was found nor seen
mais a Athenes le trova
but at Athens it found
Cornelius, quil translata:
Cornelius who-it translated
de greu le torna en latin
from Greek it he-turned into Latin
par son sen e par son engin.
by his sense and by his skill
Mout en devons mieuz celui creire
Much thereof we-ought better him to-believe
e plus tenir s'estoire a veire
and more to-hold his-history for true
que celui qui puis ne fu nez
than him who after not was born
de cent anz o de plus assez,
by hundred years or by more enough
qui rien n'en sot, içe savon,
who anything not-thereof knew this we-know
se par oïr le dire non.
except by hearing it to-say not

Ceste estoire n'est pas usee,
This history not-is at-all worn
n'en guaires lieus nen est trovee:
nor-in much places not is found
ja retraite ne fust ancore,
ever recounted not it-would-be yet
mais Beneeiz de Sainte More
but Benoît of Sainte Maure
l'a contrové e fait e dit
it-has composed and made and told
e o sa main les moz escrit,
and with his hand the words written
ensi tailliez, ensi curez,
so cut so trimmed
ensi asis, ensi posez,
so set so placed
que plus ne meins n'i a mestier.
that more nor less not-there has need
Ci vueil l'estoire comencier:
Here I-wish the-history to-begin
le latin sivrai e la letre,
the Latin I-shall-follow and the letter
nule autre rien n'i voudrai metre,
any other thing not-there I-shall-wish to-put
s'ensi non com jol truis escrit.
except-so not as I-it find written

Ne di mie qu'aucun bon dit
Not I-say at-all that-some good saying
n'i mete, se faire le sai,
not-there I-may-put if to-do it I-know
mais la matire en ensivrai.
but the matter thereof I-shall-follow

The Story Foretold

II

The poet sets out what the book will tell: Peleus and Jason, the Fleece won through Medea, the first destruction of Troy and Laomedon's death, Priam's rebuilding, Antenor's embassy, Paris's taking of Helen, the unheeded prophecies, the Greek fleet and its leaders' portraits, Achilles at Delphi, Tenedos, Mysia, the embassy of Ulysses and Diomedes, the landing and the siege, Hector killing Patroclus, Briseida passing from Troilus to Diomedes, Andromache's dream, and Hector's death at Achilles' hand and his tomb without equal.

Dirai vos donc e a briés moz
I-shall-tell to-you then and in brief words
de queus faiz iert li livres toz
of what deeds will-be the book all
e de quei i voudrai traitier.
and of what there I-shall-wish to-treat
Sempres ici al comencier
At-once here at-the beginning
vos parlerai de Peleüs,
to-you I-shall-speak of Peleus
qui bien vesqui cent anz e plus.
who well lived hundred years and more

Gente femme ot, dame Thetis:
Noble wife he-had lady Thetis
ensi ot non, ço m'est a vis.
thus she-had name that to-me-is at opinion
D'icez dous fu Achillès nez,
Of-these two was Achilles born
qui mout fu proz e renomez.
who very was valiant and renowned
Adonc vos redirai après
Then to-you I-shall-tell-again after
coment Jason e Herculès,
how Jason and Hercules
par engin e par traïson,
by cunning and by treason
alerent querre la Toison;
went to-seek the Fleece
com Medea par son saveir
how Medea by her knowledge
la lor fist conquerre e aveir.
it to-them made conquer and have
Puis dirai par quel acheison
Then I-shall-tell by what cause
il craventerent Ylion
they crashed-down Ilion
e tote Troie, en iceus anz
and all Troy in those years
que ancor n'esteit guaires granz;
that yet not-was much great
com Laomedon fu ocis,
how Laomedon was killed

qui reis e sire ert del païs.
who king and lord was of-the country
Si orreiz com faitierement,
So you-will-hear how fashioned
après icest destruiement,
after this destruction
la refonda Prianz li reis,
it refounded Priam the king
qui mout fu sages e corteis;
who very was wise and courtly
come el fu grant, come el fu lee
how it was great how it was wide
e de quel gent el fu poplee;
and with what folk it was peopled
com li conseil furent puis pris
how the counsels were then taken
a dant Hector e a Paris
by lord Hector and by Paris
de querre Esiona lor ante;
to seek Hesione their aunt
come Antenor, le riche cante,
how Antenor the rich count
l'ala en Grece demander.
her-went into Greece to-demand
Après orreiz dire e conter
After you-will-hear say and tell
com danz Paris en espleita,
how lord Paris thereof achieved
qui dame Heleine en amena,
who lady Helen thence led

e com li temples fu brisiez,
and how the temple was broken
ou mil homes ot detrenchiez;
where thousand men he-had cut-down
les noces e l'assemblement,
the weddings and the-assembly
cui compararent mainte gent.
which paid-for many-a folk
Après orreiz les prophecies,
After you-will-hear the prophecies
que pas ne voustrent estre oïes
which at-all not wished to-be heard
ne creües ne tant ne quant,
nor believed nor so-much nor how-much
dont puis mesavint a Priant;
whereof after ill-befell to Priam
qu'Agamennon e Menelaus,
how-Agamemnon and Menelaus
e Telamon e Aïaus,
and Telamon and Ajax
Palamedès e Ulixès,
Palamedes and Ulysses
li dus d'Athene e Achillès,
the duke of-Athens and Achilles
e cent riche rei e preisié
and hundred rich kings and prized
vindrent sor Troïens irié
came upon Trojans angered
par mer o navei grant e fier:
by sea with fleet great and proud

onc mais tant riche chevalier
ever more so-many rich knight
ne furent josté ainz ne puis,
not were assembled before nor after
ensi com j'en l'Estoire truis.
so as I-thereof the-Story find
Le nombre orreiz de la navie
The number you-will-hear of the fleet
e coment el fu establie;
and how it was established
les façons e les contenances,
the fashions and the bearings
les mors, les teches, les semblances
the manners the qualities the likenesses
des reis, des princes, des danzeles
of-the kings of-the princes of-the young-ladies
e des dames e des puceles.
and of-the ladies and of-the maidens
S'orreiz parler d'un grant concire
So-you-will-hear speak of-a great council
e al quel om livra l'empire
and to-the which one delivered the-empire
e la seignorie de toz;
and the lordship of all
e com danz Achillès li proz
and how lord Achilles the valiant
ala en Delfon al respons,
went into Delphi to-the answer
la ou il vit les visions;
there where he saw the visions

e com Calcas o lui s'en vint,
and how Calchas with him himself-thence came
qui dist puis quant qu'il lor avint;
who told after how-much that-it to-them befell
e come Agamennon li reis
and how Agamemnon the king
sacrefia veant Grezeis
sacrificed seeing Greeks
por l'orage faire cesser
for the-storm to-make cease
qui lor toleit mer a passer.
which from-them took-away sea to cross
Après orreiz de Tenedon
After you-will-hear of Tenedos
coment fu pris e coment non;
how it-was taken and how not
l'eirre que fist danz Achillès
the-journey which made lord Achilles
e Telephus, fiz Herculès,
and Telephus son (of-)Hercules
sor ceus de Mese, qu'il venquirent,
against those of Mysia whom-they conquered
e coment il se combatirent;
and how they themselves fought
com Telephus ot le païs,
how Telephus had the country
quant reis Teütrans fu ocis.
when king Teuthras was killed

Puis vos dirai come Ulixès
Then to-you I-shall-tell how Ulysses
e sis compainz Diomedès
and his companion Diomedes
alerent porter le message
went to-carry the message
e requerre dreit de l'outrage
and to-demand right for the-outrage
qui en Grece aveit esté faiz,
which in Greece had been done
e les rampones e les laiz
and the taunts and the insults
qu'il oïrent que dit lor fu,
which-they heard that said to-them was
e quant qu'il i ot respondu;
and how-much that-he there had answered
e com Palamedès revint,
and how Palamedes came-back
cil qui l'empire ot puis e tint.
he who the-empire had after and held
Après orreiz com faitement
After you-will-hear how fashioned
josterent Greu lor parlement,
assembled Greeks their parley
com li conseil furent doné
how the counsels were given
d'aler aseeir la cité;
of-going to-besiege the city
s'orreiz des riches reis parler,
so-you-will-hear of-the rich kings speak

e l'un après l'autre nomer,
and the-one after the-other to-name
qui la vindrent vers Greus guarnir
who there came toward Greeks to-defend
e les batailles maintenir;
and the battles to-maintain
com les nes furent establies,
how the ships were established
la grant estoire e les navies;
the great fleet and the navies
coment Proteselaus li proz
how Protesilaus the valiant
corut o cent nes avant toz;
ran with hundred ships before all
com li autre vindrent après
how the others came after
o cent mil chevaliers e mais;
with hundred thousand knights and more
des Troïens, quis recoillirent
of-the Trojans who-them received
e qui les porz lor defendirent;
and who the ports to-them forbade
com par force e par estoveir
how by force and by necessity
s'i logierent sempres le seir.
themselves-there they-lodged at-once the evening
S'orreiz com Troie fu asise,
So-you-will-hear how Troy was besieged
que de dis anz ne fu puis prise,
that in ten years not was afterward taken

e la merveille e la dolor,
and the marvel and the grief
la bataille e le fier estor
the battle and the fierce fight
ou Hector ocist Patroclus
where Hector killed Patroclus
e bien mil chevaliers e plus;
and well thousand knights and more
e s'orreiz come il fu navrez
and so-you-will-hear how he was wounded
e chierement puis comparez;
and dearly afterward paid-for
e com fu morz Cassibilant,
and how was dead Cassibilant
qui sis frere ert e fiz Priant,
who his brother was and son (of-)Priam
e com sor Greus tornast li maus,
and how upon Greeks would-have-turned the ill
ne fust Telamon Aïaus,
not had-been Telamon Ajax
qui a Hector se combateit,
who with Hector himself fought
quant l'uns l'autre ne conoisseit.
when the-one the-other not knew
S'orreiz des triuës qu'il requistrent,
So-you-will-hear of-the truces which-they requested
qu'il s'entredonerent e pristrent;
which-they each-other-gave and took

le duel qu'Achillès demena
the grief which-Achilles led
de Patroclus que trop ama;
for Patroclus whom too-much he-loved
com Cassandra, la fille al rei,
how Cassandra the daughter of-the king
remist ceus dedenz en esfrei
put-again those within into alarm
par ses parfonz devinemenz
by her deep divinations
e par ses prophetizemenz.
and by her prophesyings
Adonc vos redirai après
Then to-you I-shall-tell-again after
com faitement Palamedès
how fashioned Palamedes
fu plaignanz de la seignorie,
was complaining of the lordship
de la princé, de la maistrie
of the principate of the mastery
qu'Agamennon ot sor Grezeis
which-Agamemnon had over Greeks
desor son vié e sor son peis.
against his forbidding and against his weight
La bataille que après vint,
The battle which after came
que mout redura puis e tint,
which very lasted after and held
dirai en ordre mot a mot,
I-shall-tell in order word by word

e ço que chascuns i fist tot;
and that which each there did all
com Greu en orent le peior
how Greeks thereof had the worse
par la force e par la vigor
by the force and by the vigor
d'Ector le pro, le merveillos,
of-Hector the valiant the marvelous
sor toz hardi e vertuös;
above all bold and mighty
com li conseil refurent pris
how the counsels were-again taken
de lui, coment il fust ocis.
on him how he might-be killed
Puis orreiz la quarte bataille,
Then you-will-hear the fourth battle
la grant peine e la grant travaille
the great pain and the great travail
que il traistrent o ceus dedenz,
which they bore with those within
dont il i ot treis mil sanglenz;
whereof it there had three thousand bloody
com faitement li rei poissant
how fashioned the kings powerful
qui estoënt devers Priant
who were toward Priam
josterent o ceus cors a cors
jousted with those body to body
qui plus preisié erent defors;
who most prized were outside

coment li reis Thoas fu pris,
how the king Thoas was taken
qu'Ector trencha le nes del vis;
whom-Hector cut the nose from-the face
qu'en voust li reis Prianz puis faire,
what-thereof wished the king Priam after to-do
quil comanda rompre e detraire;
who-him commanded to-break and to-tear
come Antenor e Eneas
how Antenor and Aeneas
Troïlus e Polidamas
Troilus and Polydamas
furent en Chambre de Beautez,
were in Chamber of Beauties
ou assez furent sermonez
where enough they-were preached
e amonestez de bien faire.
and exhorted of well doing
Après porreiz oïr retraire
After you-will-be-able to-hear recount
d'un orage, d'un grant, d'un fier,
of-a storm of-a great of-a fierce
qui les tentes fist trebuchier,
which the tents made tumble
les tres de paile e de samiz.
the pavilions of silk and of samites
Après reconte li Escriz
After recounts the Writing
com fu de la quinte assemblee,
how it-was of the fifth assembly

que par grant ire fu jostee.
which with great wrath was joined
Si vos dirai tot a devise
So to-you I-shall-tell all in order
com fu morz li reis de Larise,
how was dead the king of Larissa
com fu morz Almenis li reis,
how was dead Almenis the king
uns des plus hauz de l'ost Grezeis;
one of-the most high of the-host Greek
e com fu morz Epistrophus
and how was dead Epistrophus
e sis frere reis Scedius,
and his brother king Schedius
e des autres reis set o dis,
and of-the other kings seven or ten
qui mout esteient de grant pris.
who very were of great worth
Après porreiz oïr retraire
After you-will-be-able to-hear recount
come i vint puis le Saietaire,
how there came after the Sagittary
e sa semblance e ço qu'il fist,
and his likeness and that which-he did
e com Diomedès l'ocist.
and how Diomedes him-killed
S'orreiz après de Galatee,
So-you-will-hear after of Galatea
com por lui sorst aspre meslee:
how for it rose harsh melee

c'ert li chevaus Hector l'eslit,
this-was the horse (of-)Hector the-chosen
qui son peis valeit d'or recuit;
which its weight was-worth of-gold refined
come Antenor fu pris le jor,
how Antenor was taken the day
dont Troïen orent dolor;
whereof Trojans had grief
com la bataille defina,
how the battle ended
que l'endemain recomença
which the-next-day began-again
pesme e cruël, orrible e male,
most-wicked and cruel horrible and evil
dont set mile remestrent pale.
whereof seven thousand remained pale
Après orreiz dire e conter
After you-will-hear say and tell
com Greu s'en voustrent retorner,
how Greeks themselves-thence wished to-return
e com Calcas par son saveir
and how Calchas by his knowledge
les fist a force remaneir.
them made by force remain
Puis dirai com faitierement
Then I-shall-tell how fashioned
erent tuit livré a torment
they-were all delivered to torment
de la puör des cors porriz,
by the stench of-the bodies rotted

qui n'esteient enseveliz;
which not-were buried
com triuës lor covint requerre
how truces them behooved to-request
por eus ardeir e metre en terre;
for them to-burn and to-put in earth
com Diomedès i ala
how Diomedes there went
e Ulixès, que mout ama;
and Ulysses whom much he-loved
com Dolon les prist en conduit
how Dolon them took in conduct
endreit hore de mie nuit;
right hour of mid night
com la triuë fu de treis meis
how the truce was of three months
mal gré Hector e sor son peis;
ill will (of-)Hector and against his weight
com li cors furent amassé
how the bodies were amassed
e come en furent grant li ré;
and how thereof were great the pyres
com refu pris li parlemenz
how was-again taken the parley
de ceus defors a ceus dedenz;
of those outside with those within
com Thoas fu quites de joie
how Thoas was quit with joy
por Antenor le vieil de Troie,
for Antenor the old of Troy

coment Calcas li devinere
how Calchas the diviner
e li tres sages augurere
and the very wise augur
requist sa fille e demanda,
requested his daughter and asked
que aveit non Briseïda,
who had name Briseida
que Troïlus aveit amee,
whom Troilus had loved
e com Prianz li a quitee;
and how Priam to-him has released
e come Hector e Achillès,
and how Hector and Achilles
oiant mil chevaliers e mais,
hearing thousand knights and more
s'entraatirent cors a cors;
each-other-challenged body to body
mais cil dedenz e cil defors
but those within and those outside
ne lor voustrent pas consentir.
not to-them wished at-all to-consent
Après porreiz avant oïr
After you-will-be-able further to-hear
com la fille Calcas la proz
how the daughter (of-)Calchas the valiant
eissi de Troie veant toz,
issued from Troy seeing all

le duel qu'el fist al desevrer
the grief which-she made at-the parting
e com la preia puis d'amer
and how her prayed after of-loving
en l'ost defors Diomedès.
in the-host outside Diomedes
De ço vos traiterai adès,
Of that to-you I-shall-treat always
come o son pere fu marrie
how with her father she-was grieved
por sa mauté, por sa folie,
for his malice for his folly
des Troïens qu'il ot guerpiz;
of-the Trojans whom-he had abandoned
s'orreiz ses respons e ses diz.
so-you-will-hear her answers and her sayings
Après dirai le grant tornei,
After I-shall-tell the great tourney
la grant bataille e le desrei
the great battle and the disorder
qu'Ector i fait, qui toz les veint;
which-Hector there makes who all them conquers
come il l'ont puis ploré e plaint
how they him-have after wept and lamented
de ço qu'il fu griefment navrez;
for that that-he was grievously wounded
s'orreiz la Chambre de Beautez,
so-you-will-hear the Chamber of Beauties
que de labastre fu bastie,
which of alabaster was built

e coment el fu establie.
and how it was established
Iluec orreiz enchantemenz,
There you-will-hear enchantments
tresgiez e merveillos e genz,
wonders and marvelous and noble
si granz com cuers puet porpenser:
so great as heart can think
mout le fera buen escouter.
very it will-make good to-listen
Donc vos dirai la fine amor
Then to-you I-shall-tell the fine love
e la destrece e la dolor
and the distress and the grief
que sofri li fiz Tydeüs
which suffered the son (of-)Tydeus
puis por l'amie Troïlus.
after for the-beloved (of-)Troilus
Puis orreiz la bataille oitaine,
Then you-will-hear the battle eighth
que plus dura d'une semaine.
which more lasted than-a week
Puis vos dirai la verité
Then to-you I-shall-tell the truth
d'une estrange mortalité
of-a strange mortality
que en l'ost fu une feiee,
which in the-host was one time

e saveir com fu esmaiee
and to-know how was dismayed
la femme Hector, Andromacha,
the wife (of-)Hector Andromache
des forz songes qu'ele sonja;
by-the strong dreams which-she dreamed
e le devié e la dolor
and the forbidding and the grief
qu'ele fist d'Ector son seignor
which-she made for-Hector her lord
qu'il nen eissist a la bataille:
that-he not might-issue to the battle
de part les deus li dist senz faille,
on behalf the gods to-him said without fail
s'il i alot, n'en vendreit vis,
if-he there went not-thence he-would-come alive
qu'il i sereit le jor ocis.
that-he there would-be the day killed
Puis vos dirai les granz dolors
Then to-you I-shall-tell the great griefs
qu'en ot sa mere e ses sorors.
which-thereof had his mother and his sisters
Adonc porreiz oïr avant
Then you-will-be-able to-hear further
com nel laissa eissir Priant, —
how not-him let issue Priam
n'en pot aveir de lui consence, —
not-thereof he-could have from him consent
e com la bataille comence;
and how the battle begins

com li reis de Frise fu pris,
how the king of Frisia was taken
qui a grant peine en estorst vis;
who with great pain thence escaped alive
com Troïen orent le jor
how Trojans had the day
de la bataille le peior;
of the battle the worse
com li Bastart s'i aïderent,
how the Bastards themselves-there helped
qui le jor trop i endurerent;
who the day too-much there endured
come Hector navra Achillès
how Hector wounded Achilles
e com cil le rocist après.
and how he him killed-again after
Après orreiz le fier damage
After you-will-hear the fierce harm
qu'en orent cil de son lignage;
which-thereof had those of his lineage
com Troïen sont a duel mis
how Trojans are to grief put
par les portaus de marbre bis;
by the gates of marble gray
com reis Mennon, ço savons nos,
how king Memnon that know we
torna contre Achillès toz sous.
turned against Achilles all alone

S'orreiz les dueus, les fiers, les granz
So-you-will-hear the griefs the fierce the great
cui d'Ector fait li reis Prianz,
which for-Hector makes the king Priam
Paris sis frere e Troïlus,
Paris his brother and Troilus
Eneas e Deïphebus;
Aeneas and Deiphobus
com fu de lui ensevelir,
how it-was of him burying
del cors embasmer e vestir.
of-the body embalming and clothing
Parlerai de la sepouture,
I-shall-speak of the tomb
que trop fu riche senz mesure:
which too was rich without measure
ja, quant ele vos iert retraite,
ever when it to-you will-be recounted
ne direiz mais que tel fust faite.
not you-will-say more that such were made

The Fall Foretold

III

The poet's outline runs on to the war's end: Palamedes' quarrel over Agamemnon's command, the deaths of Deiphobus and Palamedes, Achilles' love for Polyxena and his refusal to fight, Briseida's faithlessness to Troilus, Achilles killing Troilus and dying by Hecuba's plot, Pyrrhus, Penthesilea, the betrayal of Priam, the Palladium and the horse, the burning of Troy, Polyxena beheaded at Achilles' tomb, and the Greeks' returns: Agamemnon murdered and avenged, Ulysses' seven years of toil, and Ulysses killed by his own son Telegonus.

Après orreiz la descordance,
After you-will-hear the discord
la tençon, la malevoillance
the quarrel the ill-will
que Palamedès comença,
which Palamedes began
qui Agamennon desposa:
who Agamemnon deposed
par son porchaz e par ses diz
by his scheming and by his sayings
fu de la princé dessaisiz.
he-was of the principate dispossessed
Puis orreiz le complaignement
Then you-will-hear the lament
que reis Prianz fait a la gent
which king Priam makes to the folk
d'Ector son fil, que Greu ont mort,
of-Hector his son whom Greeks have killed
e li tolent son regne a tort;
and from-him take his realm at wrong

s'orreiz come il le vait vengier
so-you-will-hear how he him goes to-avenge
a l'espee trenchant d'acier:
with the-sword cutting of-steel
mout fist le jor parler de sei,
very he-made the day speak of himself
tot le pris ot de cel tornei.
all the prize he-had of that tourney
Del rei Sarpedon le vaillant
Of-the king Sarpedon the valiant
e de Telepolon le grant
and of Tlepolemus the great
vos conterai le fier estor
to-you I-shall-tell the fierce fight
e qui en fu le sordeior;
and who thereof was the worse
après porreiz oïr maneis
after you-will-be-able to-hear forthwith
come i fu morz li reis Perseis,
how there was dead the king Persian
com Troïen estre lor gré
how Trojans against their will
furent le jor del champ torné.
were the day from-the field turned
Adonc porreiz oïr avant
Then you-will-be-able to-hear further
com faitement le rei Persant
how fashioned the king Persian
en ont en son païs porté,
thence they-have into his country carried

e come il l'ont plaint e ploré
and how they him-have lamented and wept
e enterré a grant hautece.
and buried with great highness
Puis parlerai d'une destrece,
Then I-shall-speak of-a distress
d'une chierté que en l'ost fu,
of-a dearth which in the-host was
e come il furent socoru;
and how they were succored
de l'aniversaire, del grant,
of the-anniversary of-the great
que d'Ector fist le rei Priant,
which for-Hector made the king Priam
des sacrefises qu'il i fait
of-the sacrifices which-he there makes
e com danz Achillès i vait;
and how lord Achilles there goes
come il aama la pucele
how he loved the maiden
Polixena, que tant ert bele;
Polyxena who so-much was fair
come il en voust l'ost faire aler,
how he thereof wished the-host to-make go
tant fu de li sorpris d'amer;
so-much he-was by her surprised of-loving
qu'en respondi li reis Thoas,
what-thereof answered the king Thoas
qui ço ne teneit mie a gas,
who that not held at-all for jest

ne nel refist Menesteüs,
nor not-it did-again Menestheus
cil qui d'Athene ert sire e dus.
he who of-Athens was lord and duke
Après orreiz la descordance
After you-will-hear the discord
e l'ire e la malevoillance
and the-wrath and the ill-will
qu'a ceus de l'ost a Achillès,
which-to those of the-host has Achilles
qui jure que ja n'avront mais
who swears that ever not-they-will-have more
nul jor de lui socors n'aïe:
any day from him succor nor-help
a ses homes viee e chastie
to his men he-forbids and chastises
que uns toz sous, por rien qu'il oie,
that one all alone for anything that-he may-hear
ne seit noisanz a ceus de Troie;
not be harmful to those of Troy
e si porreiz oïr conter
and so you-will-be-able to-hear tell
com laissa armes a porter.
how he-left arms to bear
La dozime bataille iert grant,
The twelfth battle will-be great
que li Livres retrait avant,
which the Book recounts forward
si com Resa, li reis d'Aresse,
so as Rhesus the king of-Larissa

vers Troïens point e eslaisse.
toward Trojans spurs and dashes
Puis dirai com Deïphebus
Then I-shall-tell how Deiphobus
l'ocist, veant mil Greus e plus,
him-killed seeing thousand Greeks and more
e com Telamon Aïaus
and how Telamon Ajax
i ert sor toz come vassaus;
there was above all as vassal
coment Palamedès li reis,
how Palamedes the king
qui sire e maistre ert des Grezeis,
who lord and master was of-the Greeks
ocist le jor Deïphebus,
killed the day Deiphobus
e Paris lui: ne vesqui plus.
and Paris him not he-lived more
Adonc vos dirai a dreiture
Then to-you I-shall-tell at right
com fu de la desconfiture,
how it-was of the discomfiture
des paveillons qui furent pris
of-the pavilions which were taken
e del feu qui fu es nes mis,
and of-the fire which was in-the ships put
come els fussent arses le jor
how they would-have-been burned the day
tot senz defense e senz retor,
all without defense and without return

ne fust Telamon Aïaus,
not had-been Telamon Ajax
qu'i perdi mil de ses vassaus.
who-there lost thousand of his vassals
Après dirai com faitement
After I-shall-tell how fashioned
li fiz Heber, cui Trace apent,
the son (of-)Heber to-whom Thrace belongs
vint el tref Achillès iriez,
came into-the tent (of-)Achilles angered
toz decoupez e detrenchiez;
all hacked and cut-up
come il le laidenge e folie,
how he him reviles and insults
por ço que il ne lor aïe;
for that that he not them helps
come il chiet morz, veant ses ieuz;
how he falls dead seeing his eyes
e cil par est si pleins d'orguieuz
and he very-much is so full of-pride
qu'il n'i guarde ne ne l'en chaut.
that-he not-there looks nor not him-thereof matters
S'orreiz com la bataille faut,
So-you-will-hear how the battle fails
com Deïphebus est plorez
how Deiphobus is wept
e de toz plainz e regretez,
and by all lamented and mourned
e reis Sarpedon autresi,
and king Sarpedon likewise

e com li Greu resont marri
and how the Greeks again-are grieved
de lor prince Palamedès:
for their prince Palamedes
ja hom si grant duel n'orra mais.
ever man so great grief not-will-hear more
Après orreiz del grant concire,
After you-will-hear of-the great council
la o josta tot lor empire,
there where gathered all their empire
e come Agamennon li reis,
and how Agamemnon the king
par l'esguart comun des Grezeis,
by the-judgment common of-the Greeks
refu esliz a emperere,
again-was chosen as emperor
sor l'ost princes e comandere.
over the-host prince and commander
Puis orreiz del trezime estor,
Then you-will-hear of-the thirteenth fight
com Troïlus le veint le jor,
how Troilus it wins the day
e si refist il l'endemain,
and so did-again he the-next-day
bien nos en fait Daires certain:
well us thereof makes Dares certain
après i rot triuës donees,
after there again-had truces given
que bien furent aseürees.
which well were assured

S'orreiz coment Diomedès,
So-you-will-hear how Diomedes
Nestor li vieuz e Ulixès
Nestor the old and Ulysses
alerent Achillès preier
went Achilles to-pray
qu'as batailles lor vienge aidier,
that-at-the battles to-them he-may-come to-help
mais n'i porent nul bien trover:
but not-there they-could any good find
por ço s'en cuiderent raler.
for that themselves-thence they-thought to-go-back
Mais danz Calcas li devinere
But lord Calchas the diviner
e li tres sages augurere,
and the very wise augur
par son sen e par son saveir,
by his sense and by his knowledge
les a trestoz faiz remaneir.
them has all made remain
Après reconte li Escriz
After recounts the Writing
com rajosta li fereïz,
how gathered-again the slaughter
li doloros e li mortaus,
the grievous and the mortal
ou morurent mil bons vassaus,
where died thousand good vassals
ou Troïlus li genz, li proz,
where Troilus the noble the valiant

d'ambedous parz les venqui toz;
from-both sides them conquered all
come il navra Diomedès
how he wounded Diomedes
par mi le cors de plain eslais,
through mid the body with plain gallop
e si come il le rampona
and so as he him taunted
por s'amie Briseïda:
for his-beloved Briseida
li reproche furent mout lait
the reproaches were very foul
e en mainz lieus dit e retrait.
and in many places told and recounted
Adonc orreiz com faitement
Then you-will-hear how fashioned
la fille Calcas se repent
the daughter (of-)Calchas herself repents
por ço qu'ele a d'amor boisié,
for that that-she has in-love deceived
fausé e menti e trichié.
falsified and lied and cheated
Après orreiz le parlement
After you-will-hear the parley
que Greu firent comunaument
which Greeks made in-common
d'Achillès requerre e somondre,
of-Achilles to-request and to-summon
mais ne lor voust nul bien respondre:
but not to-them he-wished any good to-answer

desor son vié e sor son peis,
against his forbidding and against his weight
lor bailla ses Mirmidoneis.
to-them he-gave his Myrmidons
Mais Troïlus, le pro, le sage,
But Troilus the valiant the wise
mout sovent lor i fait damage,
very often to-them there does harm
sovent lor fait les cors sanglenz:
often to-them makes the bodies bloody
de c'est Achillès mout dolenz
of this-is Achilles very sorrowful
e mout ainsos e mout iriez,
and very anxious and very angered
quar trop se veit endamagiez.
for too-much himself he-sees damaged
Puis dirai le definement
Then I-shall-tell the end
de la bataille e del content;
of the battle and of-the contention
com Troïlus fu desarmez
how Troilus was disarmed
dedenz la Chambre de Beautez,
within the Chamber of Beauties
ou sa mere fist si grant duel
where his mother made so great grief
que morte fust mil feiz son vuel.
that dead she-would-be thousand times her will

Après orreiz come il se claime
After you-will-hear how he himself complains
de la fille Calcas que aime
of the daughter (of-)Calchas who loves
son enemi pesme e mortal:
his enemy most-wicked and mortal
as puceles en dit grant mal.
to-the maidens thereof he-says great ill
Après porreiz oïr conter
After you-will-be-able to-hear tell
come Achillès muert por amer,
how Achilles dies for loving
qui conseil ne confort n'en trueve,
who counsel nor comfort not-thereof finds
ne n'est si hardiz qu'il se mueve
nor not-is so bold that-he himself may-move
ne que il nuise as Troïens.
nor that he may-harm to-the Trojans
Adonc orreiz qu'en poi de tens
Then you-will-hear that-in little of time
i rot bataille grant e fiere
there again-had battle great and fierce
tel dont trei mil jurent en biere:
such whereof three thousand lay on bier
Antilogus le pro, le bel,
Antilochus the valiant the fair
i geta mort Brun le Gemel.
there threw dead Brun the Twin

Donc vos dirai, quant Troïlus
Then to-you I-shall-tell when Troilus
i vint, que Greus ne se tint plus.
there came that Greek not himself held more
Adonc orreiz come Achillès
Then you-will-hear how Achilles
ne pot sofrir n'atendre mais:
not could suffer nor-wait more
armé l'en estut eissir fors
armed him-thence behooved to-issue out
e por mort defendre son cors.
and from death to-defend his body
Donc porreiz merveilles oïr
Then you-will-be-able marvels to-hear
de ço qu'il fist a l'avenir,
of that which-he did at the-coming
come en l'estor dis e novain
how in the-fight ten and ninth
ocist Troïlus de sa main
he-killed Troilus with his hand
par le grant esforz de sa gent:
by the great effort of his folk
bien vos sera retrait coment.
well to-you it-will-be recounted how
Tot en ordre dit vos sera
All in order told to-you it-will-be
la vie cui meine Ecuba:
the life which leads Hecuba
por ses fiz qui sont mort se muert,
for her sons who are dead herself she-dies

s'orreiz quel engin el porquiert:
so-you-will-hear what trick she seeks
en traïson, quar n'en puet mais,
in treason for not-thereof she-can more
fait tot detrenchier Achillès.
she-makes all cut-up Achilles
Li granz esmais e li deshaiz,
The great dismay and the displeasure
e li granz dueus qui en fu faiz,
and the great grief which thereof was made
vos sera toz contez e diz,
to-you will-be all told and said
e com chascuns s'en fust partiz,
and how each himself-thence would-have parted
ne fust Calcas, qui prist respons
not had-been Calchas who took answer
e qui lor fist par ses sermons
and who them made by his sermons
querre Pirron, qui mout fu proz,
seek Pyrrhus who much was valiant
qui d'armes les venqui puis toz.
who in-arms them conquered after all
Donc vient la bataille mortaus;
Then comes the battle mortal
s'orreiz coment reis Aïaus
so-you-will-hear how king Ajax
ocist Paris e Paris lui:
killed Paris and Paris him
ensi finerent ambedui.
thus ended both

Retraiz vos iert li dueus Heleine:
Recounted to-you will-be the grief (of-)Helen
mais jo ne cuit que rien humaine
but I not think that thing human
feïst onques si angoissos,
made ever so anguished
si pesme ne si doloros.
so most-wicked nor so sorrowful
Le monde orreiz trestot descrire,
The world you-will-hear all describe
e retraire e conter e dire
and recount and tell and say
coment il est n'en quel mesure,
how it is nor-in what measure
ço qu'om en trueve en escriture.
that which-one thereof finds in writing
Donc vos iert l'uevre recontee,
Then to-you will-be the-work recounted
com faitement Panthesilee
how fashioned Penthesilea
vint a socorre la cité,
came to succor the city
mais sa proëce e sa bonté
but her prowess and her goodness
compararent mout li Grezeis,
paid-for very the Greeks
ainz que passassent li dui meis.
before that might-pass the two months

De li porreiz oïr conter
Of her you-will-be-able to-hear tell
qu'en tot le mont n'ot onc sa per.
that-in all the world not-had ever her peer
Dit vos sera come el define
Told to-you it-will-be how she ends
e la grant eve ou l'om traïne
and the great water where one drags
son cors a duel e a pechié.
her body to grief and to sin
Après orreiz del grant traitié
After you-will-hear of-the great treatise
que fait Ditis d'ore en avant:
which makes Dictys from-now on forward
com l'om traïst le rei Priant;
how one betrayed the king Priam
coment li traïtor ovrerent,
how the traitors worked
qui la traïson porparlerent,
who the treason plotted
qui il furent, come orent non;
who they were how they-had name
qui embla le Palladion;
who stole the Palladium
com li chevaus fu estabiiz
how the horse was established
e el temple Minerve ofriz;
and in-the temple (of-)Minerva offered

come en fu arse la cité
how thereof was burned the city
e Ylion jus craventé,
and Ilion down crashed
e Prianz li reis detrenchiez,
and Priam the king cut-up
dont fu granz dueus e granz pechiez.
whereof was great grief and great sin
S'orreiz la grant ocision
So-you-will-hear the great slaughter
et la fiere destrucion:
and the fierce destruction
ja ne direiz que tel fust faite,
ever not you-will-say that such were made
quant el vos iert dite e retraite;
when it to-you will-be told and recounted
s'orreiz quin fu menez chaitis
so-you-will-hear who-thence was led captive
e ceus qui en estorstrent vis.
and those who thence escaped alive
La meslee e la contençon
The melee and the contention
que refu del Palladion
which again-was over-the Palladium
vos sera contee par diz,
to-you will-be told by sayings
e com Telamon fu mordriz;
and how Telamon was murdered

come Ulixès, sor cui fu mis
how Ulysses on whom it-was put
s'en est de nuit alez fuitis.
himself-thence is by night gone fugitive
S'orreiz com fu rendue Heleine
So-you-will-hear how was rendered Helen
a son seignor a mout grant peine;
to her lord with very great pain
com Polixena la pucele,
how Polyxena the maiden
la fille al rei Priant, la bele,
the daughter to-the king Priam the fair
fu puis al tombel decolee
was after at-the tomb beheaded
d'Achillès, qui tant l'ot amee:
of-Achilles who so-much her-had loved
ço fu granz dueus e grant dolor;
that was great grief and great sorrow
puis le compararent plusor.
after it paid-for many
Bien est que l'acheison oiez
Well it-is that the-cause you-may-hear
por qu'Eneas fu eissilliez;
for which-Aeneas was exiled
coment li Greu s'en repairierent
how the Greeks themselves-thence returned
e coment il reperillierent;
and how they perished-again
come il alerent a dolor,
how they went to grief

coment furent mort li plusor;
how were dead the most
come Agamennon fu mordriz
how Agamemnon was murdered
e com le venja puis sis fiz
and how him avenged after his son
de sa mere demeinement,
on his mother himself
assez orreiz vos bien coment.
enough you-will-hear you well how
Conté vos sera les ahanz
Told to-you will-be the toils
que Ulixès sofri set anz;
which Ulysses suffered seven years
d'Antenor, come il espleita
of-Antenor how he achieved
de sa cité, que il fonda.
of his city which he founded
De Pirrus, le fil Achillès,
Of Pyrrhus the son (of-)Achilles
qui assez fu fel e engrès,
who enough was felon and fierce
porreiz saveir come il l'en prist
you-will-be-able to-know how it to-him-thereof took
de ses dous oncles, qu'il ocist,
from his two uncles whom-he killed
e com rocist lui Orestès
and how killed-again him Orestes
por sa femme lonc tens après;
for his wife long time after

come Andromacha la vaillant
how Andromache the valiant
en remest grosse d'un enfant,
thence remained pregnant with-a child
cui li fiz Hector fist puis rei
whom the son (of-)Hector made after king
trestot avant qu'il ne fist sei;
all before that-he not made himself
les songes qu'Ulixès sonja,
the dreams which-Ulysses dreamed
que ja nus hom mais teus n'orra;
that ever any man more such not-will-hear
coment sis fiz Telegonus,
how his son Telegonus
qui l'aveit quis treis meis e plus,
who him-had sought three months and more
l'ocist puis par mesaventure,
him-killed after by misadventure
ensi com retrait l'Escriture.
thus as recounts the-Writing
Les uevres que ci sont nomees
The works which here are named
sont el Livre si recontees
are in-the Book so recounted
qu'a tote rien iert a plaisir,
that-to all thing it-will-be to pleasure
e mout les fera buen oïr.
and very them it-will-make good to-hear

Peleus and Jason

IV

Peleus, a rich king of Greece, fears that his nephew Jason, son of his brother Aeson, will grow great enough to take his land. Knowing that no one who has sought the Fleece of Colchis has come back alive, he praises Jason before his court and promises him the kingdom if he wins it. Jason accepts gladly. Argus builds the ship Argo, the best knights of Greece offer to sail, and Jason sets out in spring with Hercules. Within a week they put in at the harbor of Simois near Troy, and rest there two days.

Peleüs fu uns riches reis,
Peleus was a rich king
mout proz, mout sages, mout corteis:
very valiant very wise very courtly
par Grece alot sa seignorie
through Greece went his lordship
e del regne ot mout grant partie;
and of-the realm he-had very great part
sa terre teneit quitement
his land he-held freely
bien e en pais e sagement.
well and in peace and wisely
Icist reis aveit un suen frere,
This king had a his brother
fil de son pere e de sa mere:
son of his father and of his mother
Eson ert par non apelé;
Aeson he-was by name called

en Pelopene la cité
in Penelope the city
ne sai s'ert reis o cuens o dus,
not I-know if-he-was king or count or duke
quar li Livres ne m'en dit plus.
for the Book not to-me-thereof says more
Icist Eson un fil aveit
This Aeson a son had
qui Jason apelez esteit,
who Jason called was
de grant beauté e de grant pris
of great beauty and of great worth
e de grant sen, si com jo truis.
and of great sense so as I find
Grant force aveit e grant vertu,
Great force he-had and great strength
par maint regne fu coneü;
through many-a realm he-was known
mout fu corteis e genz e proz
very he-was courtly and noble and valiant
e mout esteit amez de toz;
and very was loved by all
mout por demenot grant noblece
very much he-led great nobility
e mout amot gloire e largece;
and very loved glory and largess
trop ert de lui grant reparlance,
too-much was of him great talk

e tant aveit fait dès enfance
and so-much he-had done from childhood
que mout ert coneüz sis nons
that very was known his name
par terres e par regions.
through lands and through regions
Quant ço vit li reis Peleüs
When that saw the king Peleus
que Jason montot plus e plus
that Jason rose more and more
e que chascun jor s'essauçot,
and that each day himself-raised
dotanz en fu, paor en ot
fearful thereof he-was fear thereof he-had
que tant creüst, que tant montast
that so-much he-might-grow that so-much he-might-rise
que de la terre le getast,
that from the land him he-might-throw
et crient que, s'il vit longement,
and he-fears that if-he lives long
qu'il ne l'en laissera neient.
that-he not him-thereof will-leave anything
Mout a grant dote Peleüs
Very has great dread Peleus
que le regne ne li laist plus;
that the realm not to-him he-may-leave more
quar, se il s'en vueut entremetre,
for if he himself-thereof wishes to-meddle
bien l'en porra del tot fors metre.
well him-thence he-will-be-able from-the all out to-put

Mout ot vers lui le cuer felon,
Very he-had toward him the heart felon
ne ne faiseit se penser non,
nor not he-did except to-think not
saveir par com faite mesure
to-know by how made measure
porreit ja prendre engin e cure,
he-could ever take cunning and care
come il alast a male voë,
how he might-go to evil way
si que la terre ne fust soë
so that the land not were his
ne de rien nel poüst gregier.
nor in anything not-him could grieve
Mout se penot de l'engeignier,
Very himself strove of him-to-trick
ja seit ço que mout s'en celot
ever be that that much himself-thereof he-bid
ne nul semblant ne l'en mostrot.
nor any semblance not him-thereof he-showed
En icel tens, ço truis lisant,
In that time that I-find reading
avint une merveille grant
befell a marvel great
en l'isle de Colcos en mer,
in the-isle of Colchis in sea
ensi l'oï l'autr'ier nomer.
thus it-I-heard the-other-day name

La ot, ço set l'om, un mouton
There there-was that knows one a ram
qui tote aveit d'or la toison;
which all had of-gold the fleece
mais n'esteit rien de cel poëir,
but not-was anything of that power
ne par force ne par saveir,
nor by force nor by knowledge
qu'il seüst engeignier ne faire
that-he might-know to-contrive nor to-make
coment d'iluec le poüst traire.
how from-there it he-might draw
A rien n'esteit chose seüe
To anything not-was thing known
coment la Toison fust eüe,
how the Fleece might-be had
onques nus hom saveir nel pot;
ever any man to-know not-it could
e sacheiz bien teus la guardot,
and know well such it guarded
ja de l'aveir n'eüst envie
ever of the-having not-would-have desire
nus hom, qui n'en perdist la vie:
any man who not-thereof might-lose the life
maint s'i cuiderent essaier,
many-a themselves-there thought to-try
cui il n'en lut puis repairier.
to-whom it not-thence was-allowed after to-return

Peleüs fu de mal porpens:
Peleus was of ill thought
ne vit engin ne lieu ne tens
not he-saw cunning nor place nor time
com faitement poüst ovrer
how fashioned he-might work
de son nevo a mort livrer.
of his nephew to death to-deliver
Sis niés esteit, mout le dotot:
His nephew he-was much him he-feared
mais ne voleit pas ne n'osot
but not he-wished at-all nor not-dared
mostrer ne faire aucun semblant
to-show nor to-make any semblance
qu'il le haïst ne tant ne quant.
that-he him might-hate nor so-much nor how-much
Porpensa sei qu'il requerreit
He-bethought himself that-he would-seek
e en toz sens porchacereit
and in all senses would-pursue
coment Jason la en alast,
how Jason there thence might-go
si que ja mais ne retornast:
so that ever more not he-might-return
bien set, s'il l'i puet faire aler,
well he-knows if-he him-there can make go
ne l'estuet mais de lui doter,
not him-behooves more of him to-fear
ne del repairier n'a dotance,
nor of-the returning not-has doubt

ainz est de ço bien a fiance
rather is of that well in trust
que la iert sa fin, la morra
that there will-be his end there he-will-die
ne ja mais n'en repairera.
nor ever more not-thence will-return
Ne demora pas puis un meis
Not delayed at-all after a month
c'une grant feste fist li reis.
that-a great feast made the king
Grant fu la cort qu'il ajosta
Great was the court which-he gathered
e grant la gent qu'il assembla:
and great the folk which-he assembled
assez i ot contes e dus
enough there had counts and dukes
e chevaliers set cenz e plus.
and knights seven hundred and more
Jason i fu e Herculès,
Jason there was and Hercules
cil qui sostint maint pesant fais
he who sustained many-a heavy burden
e mainte grant merveille fist
and many-a great marvel did
e maint felon jaiant ocist
and many-a felon giant killed
e les bones iluec ficha,
and the pillars there fixed
ou Alixandre les trova:
where Alexander them found

ses granz merveilles e si fait
his great marvels and his deeds
seront a toz jorz mais retrait.
will-be at all days more recounted
Grant e pleniere fu la corz,
Great and full was the court
e quant ele ot duré set jorz,
and when it had lasted seven days
s'a li reis Jason apelé,
so-has the king Jason called
oiant toz l'a areisoné:
hearing all him-has addressed
«Oies, beaus niés» fait Peleüs,
Hear fair nephew says Peleus
«rien que seit vive n'aim jo plus
thing that be alive not-love I more
«com jo faz tei, ço saches bien,
as I do thee that know well
«mais mostrer te vueil une rien.
but to-show thee I-wish a thing
«Mout par iés beaus, proz e hardiz,
Very much art fair valiant and bold
«s'iés chevaliers granz e forniz;
so-art knight great and well-built
«mout as gent cors e grant vertu,
very hast noble body and great strength
«si t'iés en maint lieu combatu,
so thyself-art in many-a place fought
«toz jorz en as victoire eüe;
all days thereof hast victory had

«mainte chose t'est avenue,
many-a thing to-thee-is befallen
«dont tu te puez mout faire liez
whereof thou thyself canst much make glad
«e dont tu iés mout essauciez.
and whereof thou art very raised
«Nus n'est hui vis de ton aage
Any not-is today alive of thy age
«qui proëce ne vasselage
who prowess nor prowess
«ait envers tei de nule terre:
may-have toward thee of any land
«Trop par porras ancor conquerre.
Too much thou-wilt-be-able yet to-conquer
«Mout as grant pris e grant valor,
Very hast great worth and great valor
«mout as conquise grant honor,
very hast conquered great honor
«mais conquerre la puez mout maire.
but to-conquer it thou-canst much greater
«S'une chose poëies faire,
If-one thing thou-couldst do
«s'esteies si proz ne si os
if-thou-wert so valiant nor so bold
«que tu la Toison de Colcos,
that thou the Fleece of Colchis
«que de fin or est senz dotance
which of fine gold is without doubt
«e dont il est tel reparlance,
and whereof there is such talk

«poüsses par nul sen aveir,
couldst by any sense have
«ne par force ne par saveir,
nor by force nor by knowledge
«si avreies plus los conquis
so thou-wouldst-have more praise conquered
«que hom qui onc fust nez ne vis.
than man who ever were born nor alive
«E saches, sor les deus te[l] jur
And know on the gods to-thee-it I-swear
«e leiaument t'en faz seür,
and loyally thee-thereof I-make sure
«se tu la Toison puez aveir,
if thou the Fleece canst have
«de mon regne te ferai heir,
of my realm thee I-shall-make heir
«e a mon tens e a ma vie
and in my time and in my life
«t'en liverrai la seignorie:
to-thee-thereof I-shall-deliver the lordship
«De tot seras e maistre e sire;
Of all thou-wilt-be both master and lord
«ja ne voudras penser ne dire
ever not thou-wilt-wish to-think nor to-say
«cele chose que jo ne face,
that thing which I not may-do
«que bel te seit ne que te place.»
which fair to-thee be nor which thee may-please

Jason oï que li reis dist
Jason heard what the king said
e la pramesse qu'il li fist;
and the promise which-he to-him made
s'ot les granz biens qu'il li retrait
so-he-hears the great goods which-he to-him recounts
des granz proëces qu'il a fait.
of-the great prowesses which-he has done
Mout li fu bel e mout li plot,
Very to-him was fair and very to-him pleased
e mout grant joie en sei en ot;
and very great joy thereof in himself he-had
set qu'il a tant force e vigor
he-knows that-he has so-much force and vigor
e sen e proëce e valor
and sense and prowess and valor
que la Toison senz faille avra,
that the Fleece without fail he-will-have
dès que il s'en entremetra:
from that he himself-thereof will-meddle
ja ne sera en lieu si fort,
ever not it-will-be in place so strong
ço li est vis, ne l'en aport.
that to-him is opinion not it-thence he-may-carry
Grant cuer a e grant volenté
Great heart he-has and great will
d'aler en estrange regné
of-going into strange realm

e de veeir les regions
and of seeing the regions
dont a oï nomer les nons;
whereof he-has heard name the names
e mout voudreit faire tel rien
and very he-would-wish to-do such thing
que l'om li atornast a bien
that one to-him might-turn to good
e dont il essauçast son non.
and whereby he might-raise his name
La pramesse ot e le gran don
The promise he-hears and the great gift
que sis oncles li prameteit:
which his uncle to-him promised
nul mal engin n'i entendeit,
any ill cunning not-there he-understood
ainz cuidot bien certainement,
rather he-thought well certainly
senz nul autre decevement,
without any other deceit
que por son bien li loast faire;
that for his good to-him he-advised to-do
n'i entendeit mal ne contraire.
not-there he-understood ill nor contrary
Tot bonement li respondi:
All kindly to-him he-answered
«Sire», fait il, «vostre merci.
Lord says he your mercy
«Bien sai e vei, n'en dot de rien,
Well I-know and see not-thereof I-doubt in anything

«que m'onor volez e mon bien;
that my-honor you-wish and my good
«haute chose me prametez:
high thing to-me you-promise
«Granz merciz vos en rent e grez;
Great thanks to-you thereof I-render and gratitude
«la irai jo, quant bel vos est,
there shall-go I when fair to-you it-is
«mout volentiers, vez m'en tot prest.
very willingly see me-thereof all ready
«Ja n'en quier plus lonc sojor faire:
Ever not-thereof I-seek more long stay to-make
«Se Deus me guarist de contraire,
If God me protects from mishap
«o mei s'en vendra la Toison:
with me itself-thence will-come the Fleece
«Ja n'iert si guardez li mouton.»
Ever not-will-be so guarded the ram
A guari se tient Peleüs:
In safety himself holds Peleus
mander e querre fait Argus.
to-summon and to-seek he-makes Argus
Engeigniere fu buens provez,
Engineer he-was good proved
li plus tres sages qui fust nez:
the most very wise who were born
l'om ne saveit soz ciel son per.
one not knew under heaven his peer
Ne qui si bien seüst ovrer.
Nor who so well might-know to-work

Quant li reis l'ot a sei mandé,
When the king him-had to himself summoned
preié li a e comandé
prayed him he-has and commanded
c'une nef seit faite e hastee,
that-a ship be made and hastened
fort e siglant e atornee
strong and sailing and fitted
a endurer un fort torment
to endure a strong storm
e un orage e un grant vent.
and a tempest and a great wind
Argus respont: «Jusqu'a un meis,
Argus answers Until-to a month
«o, se devient, bien tost anceis,
or if it-befalls well soon before
«iert si aprestee la nef,
will-be so readied the ship
«nen iert a dire mast ne tref.»
not will-be to say mast nor sail
Cil se pena de la nef faire,
He himself strove of the ship making
qui mout en sot bien a chief traire:
who very thereof knew well to end to-draw
bele fut mout e grant e fort,
fair it-was very and great and strong
e bien furent garni li bort.
and well were furnished the sides
Ço vuelent dire li plusor,
That wish to-say the most

mais jo nel truis mie en l'autor,
but I not-it find at-all in the-author
que ço fu la premiere nef
that that was the first ship
ou onques ot sigle ne tref,
where ever there-had sail nor canvas
ne que primes corut par mer.
nor which first ran through sea
Cil qu'i osa premiers entrer,
He who-there dared first to-enter
ço fu Jason, ço est cuidé,
that was Jason that is thought
mais n'en truis mie autorité.
but not-thereof I-find at-all authority
Cil ot la nef apareilliee
He had the ship prepared
e bien cloëe e chevilliee
and well nailed and pegged
e encordee de funains;
and roped with cables
e governauz i ot e reins,
and rudders there had and oars
veiles, utages e hobens,
sails stays and shrouds
e forz chaables e granz drens.
and strong cables and great hawsers
N'i ot rien plus que aprester:
Not-there had anything more than to-ready

dès or puet om o li sigler
from now can one with her sail
par mi la mer a hautes veiles
through mid the sea with high sails
e al soleil e as esteiles.
both by-the sun and by-the stars
La novele fu ja alee
The news was already gone
par Grece et par mi la contree
through Greece and through mid the country
que Peleüs li reis faiseit
that Peleus the king made
une nef faire a grant espleit,
a ship to-make with great speed
en que Jason deveit entrer,
in which Jason ought to-enter
qui en Colcos voleit sigler,
who into Colchis wished to-sail
quar aveir cuide la toison
for to-have he-thinks the fleece
que de fin or est el mouton.
which of fine gold is on-the ram
Li plus pro e li plus vaillant
The most valiant and the most valiant
e cil qui plus erent aidant,
and those who most were helpful
plus redoté, plus coneü,
most dreaded most known
en sont dreit a Jason venu:
thence are straight to Jason come

ofert, pramis e dit li ont
offered promised and said to-him they-have
qu'ensemblement o lui iront.
that-together with him they-will-go
E il trestoz les en mercie,
And he all them thereof thanks
e doucement lor dit e prie
and sweetly to-them says and prays
que, quant il avreit bon orage
that when he would-have good weather
e il verreient son message,
and they would-see his message
apareillié fussent e prest
prepared they-might-be and ready
de venir la ou la nef est.
to come there where the ship is
Ensi li ont tuit otreié:
Thus to-him have all granted
après ont pris de lui congié.
after they-have taken from him leave

Quant vint contre le tens novel,
When came toward the time new
que doucement chantent oisel,
that sweetly sing birds
que la flor pert e blanche e bele,
that the flower appears both white and fair
e l'erbe est vert, fresche e novele;
and the-grass is green fresh and new

quant li vergier sont gent flori
when the orchards are nobly flowered
e de lor fueilles revesti,
and with their leaves reclothed
l'aure douce vente soëf,
the-breeze sweet blows softly
lors fist Jason traire sa nef
then made Jason draw his ship
dedenz la mer, ne tarja plus.
into the sea not he-delayed more
Argo ot non del non Argus:
Argo it-had name from-the name Argus
Argus l'aveit faite e ovree,
Argus it-had made and worked
por Argus fu Argo nomee.
for Argus it-was Argo named
Guarnir la fist Peleüs bien:
Furnish it made Peleus well
ne lor defailleit nule rien
not to-them failed any thing
de quant que lor esteit mestier.
of how-much that to-them was need
Venu furent li chevalier
Come were the knights
e tuit si autre compaignon:
and all his other companions
en la nef entrent a bandon.
into the ship they-enter at will
Ensemble o eus vait Herculès,
Together with them goes Hercules

qui parenz ert Jason mout près.
who kin was (of-)Jason very near
Li venz corut devers la terre,
The wind ran from-toward the land
qui la nef tost del port desserre;
which the ship soon from-the port unloosens
la veile ont fait el mast drecier.
the sail they-have made on-the mast to-raise
Bon vent orent e dreiturier,
Good wind they-had and straight
donc comencierent a sigler
then they-began to sail
par mi la transe de la mer.
through mid the crossing of the sea
Tant ont siglé a veile pleine,
So-much they-have sailed with sail full
ainz que trespassast la semaine,
before that might-pass the week
ariverent as porz de Troie
they-arrived at-the ports of Troy
a grant leece e a grant joie:
with great gladness and with great joy
el havre de Simoënta
in-the haven of Simois
sai bien que la nef ariva.
I-know well that the ship arrived
Fors s'en eissirent ambedui,
Out themselves-thence issued both
Jason e Herculès o lui,
Jason and Hercules with him

e tuit lor autre compaignon:
and all their other companions
grant joie meinent el sablon.
great joy they-lead on-the sand
Lor eve douce ont refreschiee,
Their water sweet they-have refreshed
que la mer aveit empeiriee;
which the sea had worsened
sor le rivage el bel gravier
on the shore on-the fair gravel
ont fait conreer lor mangier.
they-have made prepare their meal
Dous jorz aveient sojorné,
Two days they-had stayed
quar auques esteient lassé;
for somewhat they-were weary
n'aveient mie grant corage
not-they-had at-all great heart
de faire el païs lonc estage,
of making in-the country long stay
mais mout lor ert e buen e bel
but very to-them was both good and fair
de reposer en lieu novel
of resting in place new
e d'auques sojorner lor cors.
and of-somewhat resting their bodies
Tuit esteient de la nef fors:
All were from the ship out

mal ne damage ne faiseient
ill nor harm not they-did
en la contree ou il esteient.
in the country where they were

Laomedon and Colchis

V

Laomedon, king of Troy, fears the Greek knights and sends a count to order them out of his land at once, on pain of death. Jason protests that they meant no harm, and Hercules swears to return within three years whether Laomedon likes it or not. They sail to Colchis, where King Aeetes receives them with honor in the city of Jaconites. He sends for his daughter Medea, learned in astronomy, necromancy, and enchantment. She sees Jason, falls in love with him at once, and longs to have him as husband.

Reis de Troie Laomedon
King of Troy Laomedon
a oï dire que Jason
has heard say that Jason
ert arivez e Herculès,
was arrived and Hercules
e autre chevalier adès
and other knights always
plus de set cenz, des plus hardiz
more than seven hundred of-the most bold
e de Grece des plus esliz,
and of Greece of-the most chosen
sont de lor terre ça venu.
are from their land here come

Le païs avront confondu,
The country they-will-have confounded
les chasteaus ars, prise la preie,
the castles burned taken the plunder
se il mout tost nes en enveie:
if he very soon not-them thence sends
nes i vueille ja consentir,
not-them there let-him-wish ever to-consent
quar granz maus l'en porreit venir.
for great ills him-thence could come
Laomedon fu de grant sens:
Laomedon was of great sense
crienst e dota en son porpens,
he-feared and dreaded in his thought
se ceus de Grece consenteit
if those of Greece he-consented
ne en nul sen lor amordeit
nor in any sense to-them allowed
qu'il arivassent a ses porz,
that-they might-arrive at his ports
il en sereit honiz e morz;
he thereof would-be shamed and dead
bien en porreit perdre s'onor,
well thereof he-could lose his-honor
e quant vendreit al chief del tor,
and when it-would-come at-the end of-the turn
tost li fereient lait damage.
soon to-him they-would-do foul harm
Li reis a pris un suen message:
The king has taken a his messenger

cuens esteit cil de haut parage,
count was he of high lineage
pro d'ome aveit en lui e sage.
valiant of-man there-was in him and wise
Son talent li encharge e dit,
His will to-him he-charges and says
e cil l'a bien mis en escrit.
and he it-has well put in writing
Puis est montez el palefrei,
Then he-is mounted on-the palfrey
dis compaignons mena o sei;
ten companions he-led with himself
tant chevauchierent a espleit
so-much they-rode with speed
que al port sont venu tot dreit;
that to-the port they-are come all straight
le seignor ont tant demandé
the lord they-have so-much asked
que li autre lor ont mostré.
that the others to-them have shown
Son message li dist li cuens,
His message to-him said the count
qui sire e maistre esteit des suens:
who lord and master was of-the his
«Jason,» fait il, «entent a mei:
Jason says he attend to me
«Oies que di de part le rei,
Hear what I-say on behalf the king
«a tei mande nomeement,
to thee he-sends-word namely

«e a cez autres ensement,
and to these others likewise
«que tost en eissiez de sa terre,
that soon thence you-issue from his land
«qu'en pais la vueut tenir senz guerre.
that-in peace it he-wishes to-hold without war
«Senz son congié e senz son gré
Without his leave and without his will
«estes en son païs entré:
you-are into his country entered
«Il ne set pas por quel afaire,
He not knows at-all for what affair
«mais mout li torne a grant contraire
but very to-him turns to great contrary
«dont vos onques ci arivastes
that you ever here arrived
«ne que dedenz sa terre entrastes.
nor that within his land you-entered
«Ne vueut que plus i demoreiz,
Not he-wishes that more there you-may-stay
«ainz vueut tres bien que vos sacheiz,
rather he-wishes very well that you may-know
«tost vos torreit a grant folie.
soon to-you it-would-turn to great folly
«Ne vos i aseürez mie:
Not yourselves there assure at-all
«Eissiez vos en grant aleüre,
Issue yourselves thence great pace
«qu'om ne vos face autre laidure;
that-one not to-you may-do other insult

«s'un sol jor aviëz enfrait
if-one single day you-had broken
«le devié que par mei vos fait,
the forbidding which through me to-you he-makes
«n'en porreit puis un sol baillier
not-thereof he-could after one single to-have
«que tot nel feïst detrenchier;
that all not-him he-would-make cut-up
«de vos sereit faite jostise,
of you would-be made justice
«ja n'en sereit raençon prise.»
ever not-thereof would-be ransom taken
Jason oï la desfiance,
Jason heard the defiance
grant duel en ot e grant pesance:
great grief thereof he-had and great sorrow
«Par Deu,» fait il, «seignor Grezeis,
By God says he lords Greeks
«grant honte nos a fait li reis,
great shame to-us has done the king
«qui de sa terre nos congiee,
who from his land us dismisses
«e ço nos mande e nos deviee
and that to-us sends-word and to-us forbids
«que demain n'i seions trové.
that tomorrow not-there we-be found
«Nos deüssons estre honoré
We ought to-be honored
«par lui e par la soë gent,
by him and by the his folk

«mais de tot ço n'a il talent:
but of all that not-has he desire
«Mauvaisement nos i honore;
Wickedly us there he-honors
«mais ancor cuit veeir tel hore
but yet I-think to-see such hour
«qu'il s'en repentira mout chier.
that-he himself-thereof will-repent very dearly
«Vassaus,» fait il al messagier,
Vassal says he to-the messenger
«dire poëz a vostre rei
say you-can to your king
«que, par les deus de nostre lei,
that by the gods of our law
«quant nos ici preïmes port,
when we here took port
«damage, orgueil, honte ne tort
harm pride shame nor wrong
«ne volions faire en sa terre,
not we-wished to-do in his land
«ne n'avions talent de guerre;
nor not-we-had desire of war
«e s'il en Grece fust venuz,
and if-he into Greece had come
«a grant joie fust receüz:
with great joy he-would-have-been received
«Il n'en fust mie congeez,
He not-thence would-have-been at-all dismissed
«anceis i fust mout honorez.
rather there he-would-have-been very honored

«A mainz sera ancor retraite
To many will-be yet recounted
«ceste honte qu'il nos a faite,
this shame which-he to-us has done
«a teus cui mout en pesera:
to such to-whom much thereof will-weigh
«Ço cuit, ja faille n'i avra.»
That I-think ever fail not-there will-have
Herculès a dit al message:
Hercules has said to-the messenger
«Vassal, le port e le rivage
Vassal the port and the shore
«guerpirons nos hui o demain,
shall-abandon we today or tomorrow
«mais d'une chose faz certain
but of-one thing I-make certain
«Laomedon vostre seignor:
Laomedon your lord
«Jusqu'a treis anz verra tel jor
Until-to three years he-will-see such day
«qu'en cest païs ariverons,
that-in this country we-shall-arrive
«que ja congié ne l'en querrons,
that ever leave not him-thereof we-shall-seek
«ne ja por vié ne por manace,
nor ever for forbidding nor for threat
«o li seit bel, o li desplace,
or to-him be-it fair or to-him displease
«n'i laisserons a sojorner.
not-there we-shall-leave of staying

«Enoier nos deit et peser
Irk us it-ought and weigh
«de la honte qu'il nos a fait.
of the shame which-he to-us has done
«Meü devreit aveir tel plait
Moved he-ought to-have such plea
«qui li tornast a deshonor,
which to-him might-turn to dishonor
«ainz que venist al chief del tor,
before that might-come at-the end of-the turn
«e dont toz jorz se poüst plaindre:
and whereof all days himself he-could lament
«Si fera il, ne puet remaindre.»
So will-do he not it-can remain
Li messages fu mout corteis:
The messenger was very courtly
«Par Dieu», fait il, «seignor Grezeis,
By God says he lords Greeks
«laide chose est de manacier.
foul thing it-is of threatening
«Jo ne ving pas a vos tencier:
I not came at-all to you to-quarrel
«Mon message vos ai dit bien,
My message to-you I-have said well
«ne cuit qu'i obliasse rien;
not I-think that-there I-forgot anything
«jo n'en ai plus o vos que faire,
I not-thereof have more with you what to-do
«dès or me metrai el repaire:
from now me I-shall-put on-the return

«Se il vos plaist, vos en ireiz,
If it to-you pleases you thence will-go
«e, s'il vos plaist, vos remandreiz;
and if-it to-you pleases you will-remain
«mais, ço sacheiz, jo loëreie
but that know I would-advise
«que vos meïsseiz a la veie.»
that you might-put on the way
A tant s'en part, si s'en retorne,
At that himself-thence he-parts so himself-thence returns
e cil remestrent trist e morne.
and those remained sad and gloomy
Une chose puet om saveir:
One thing can one know
s'il en eüssent le poëir,
if-they thereof had the power
ja de la terre nen eississent
ever from the land not they-would-have-issued
desci que damage i feïssent;
until that harm there they-might-have-done
mais poi sont gent al comencier:
but few are folk at-the beginning
içø le lor a fait laissier.
this it to-them has made leave
N'i oserent plus remaneir:
Not-there they-dared more remain
en lor nef entrent vers le seir,
into their ship they-enter toward the evening
fortment siglerent e nagierent,
greatly they-sailed and rowed

de la contree s'esloignierent.
from the country themselves-distanced
Mout regrete sovent Jason
Very laments often Jason
ço que lor fait Laomedon
that which to-them does Laomedon
a lui et a ses compaignons.
to him and to his companions
Tant ont tiré as avirons
So-much they-have pulled at-the oars
e tant siglé a pleines veiles
and so-much sailed with-the with sails
e a la lune e as esteiles,
both by the moon and by-the stars
qu'il ariverent en Colcon.
that-they arrived in Colchis
De la nef est eissuz Jason,
From the ship is issued Jason
Herculès e si compaignon.
Hercules and his companions
Sor le rivage, el bel sablon,
On the shore on-the fair sand
vestirent lor cors gentement:
they-clothed their bodies nobly
riche furent lor guarnement
rich were their garments
de dras de seie a or brosdez,
of cloths of silk with gold embroidered
de gris e d'ermine forrez;
with gray-fur and with-ermine furred

li plus povres ot vesteüre
the most poor had clothing
riche e bien faite a sa mesure.
rich and well made to his measure
Une cité ot iluec près,
A city there-was there near
que l'om clamot Jaconitès:
which one called Jaconites
bele ert e grant e fort e gente,
fair it-was and great and strong and noble
tors i aveit bien plus de trente;
towers there had well more than thirty
close esteit tote de bon mur
closed it-was all with good wall
de fin marbre, serré e dur;
of fine marble close and hard
mout i aveit riches maisons
very there was rich houses
e granz palais e hauz donjons,
and great palaces and high keeps
e chevaliers e marcheanz
and knights and merchants
riches e sages e mananz;
rich and wise and wealthy
dames i ot mout e puceles,
ladies there were very and maidens
e borgeises cointes e beles.
and burgher-wives elegant and fair
Mout fu la cité bien fondee,
Very was the city well founded

e mout fu riche la contree:
and very was rich the country
de fruiz, d'oiseaus e de peissons
of fruits of-birds and of fishes
i ot, ço sacheiz, granz foisons.
there had that know great abundance
Bele e riche ert Jaconitès,
Fair and rich was Jaconites
li reis aveit non Oëtès:
the king had name Aeetes
assez aveit riche tenue,
enough he-had rich holding
quar mout ert bien l'isle vestue.
for very was well the-isle clothed
Beaus fu li tens e cler le jor,
Fair was the weather and bright the day
come el termine de pascor.
as in-the season of Easter
Jason li proz e Herculès
Jason the valiant and Hercules
et tuit lor compaignon après
and all their companions after
sont venu dreit a la cité:
are come straight to the city
gentement furent conreé;
nobly they-were arrayed
bien semblerent bone maisniee,
well they-seemed good household
quar trop fu bien apareilliee.
for too it-was well prepared

A merveille les esguarderent,
At marvel them looked-at
quant il en la cité entrerent,
when they into the city entered
cil des rues e des soliers
those of-the streets and of-the upper-rooms
des fenestres e des planchiers,
of-the windows and of-the floors
e mout par sont en grant d'enquerre
and very much are in great of-asking
dont il vienent ne de quel terre;
whence they come nor from what land
mais cil ne pristrent fin ne cès
but those not took end nor stop
desci qu'il vindrent el palais
until that-they came into-the palace
ou Oëtès li reis esteit,
where Aeetes the king was
qui un grant plait le jor teneit.
who a great court the day held
Devant la sale de la tor,
Before the hall of the tower
fors des arvous del parleor,
outside of-the arches of-the parlor
ot une place grant e lee,
there-was a place great and wide
de haut mur tote avironee;
with high wall all surrounded
le trait durot a un archier:
the shot lasted to an archer

la joërent maint chevalier
there played many-a knight
as dez, as eschas e as tables,
at-the dice at-the chess and at-the tables
e as autres gieus deportables.
and at-the other games of-pastime
Assez en i aveit le jor:
Enough thereof there was the day
maint bon cheval, maint bon ostor
many-a good horse many-a good goshawk
e maint chier riche guarnement
and many-a dear rich gear
i poüst l'om veeir sovent.
there could one see often
Par la porte entrent li Grezeis:
Through the gate enter the Greeks
Oëtès vait contre eus li reis;
Aeetes goes toward them the king
si baron e si vavassor
his barons and his vavasors
les reçurent a grant honor.
them received with great honor
Quant li reis sot qui il esteient,
When the king knew who they were
ou aloënt e dont veneient,
where they-went and whence they-came
honora les de grant maniere
he-honored them in great manner
e mout par lor fist bele chiere;
and very much to-them made fair face

la nuit lor fist si bel ostel
the night to-them he-made so fair lodging
qu'onc puis qu'il murent n'orent tel.
that-ever since that-they moved not-they-had such
A mangier lor dona assez
To eat to-them he-gave enough
e mout les a bien conreez:
and very them has well arrayed
assez i sistrent longement,
enough there they-sat long
pro i ot claré e piment.
plenty there had spiced-wine and piment
Li reis es chambres enveia,
The king to-the chambers sent
e si tramist por Medea:
and so sent for Medea
c'est une fille qu'il aveit,
this-is a daughter whom-he had
que de mout grant beauté esteit;
who of very great beauty was
il n'aveit plus enfant ne heir.
he not-had more child nor heir
Trop ert cele de grant saveir:
Too-much was she of great knowledge
mout sot d'engin e de maistrie,
very she-knew of-cunning and of mastery
de conjure e de sorcerie;
of conjuring and of sorcery

es arz ot tant s'entente mise
in-the arts had so-much her-mind put
que trop par ert sage e aprise;
that too much she-was wise and learned
Astronomie e nigromance
Astronomy and necromancy
sot tote par cuer dès enfance;
she-knew all by heart from childhood
d'arz saveit tant e de conjure,
of-arts she-knew so-much and of conjuring
de cler jor feïst nuit oscure;
of bright day she-would-make night dark
s'ele vousist, ço fust viaire
if-she wished that would-be seeming
que volisseiz par mi cel aire;
that you-might-fly through mid that air
les eves faiseit corre ariere:
the waters she-made run back
sciëntose ert de grant maniere.
learned she-was in great manner
Sot que li reis la demandot,
She-knew that the king her asked-for
si s'atorna plus bel que pot:
so herself-dressed more fair than she-could
d'une porpre inde a or gotee,
of-a purple indigo with gold spotted
richement faite e bien ovree,
richly made and well worked
ot un bliaut forré d'ermines,
she-had a tunic furred with-ermines

e un mantel de sambelines
and a mantle of sables
covert d'un drap outremarin
covered with-a cloth from-overseas
qui ses set peis valeit d'or fin.
which its seven weights was-worth of-gold fine
Quant gentement se fu vestue,
When nobly herself she-was clothed
si est des chambres fors eissue;
so is from-the chambers out issued
ses puceles mena o sei,
her maidens she-led with herself
desci qu'el fu devant le rei.
until that-she was before the king
Trop fu bele de grant maniere
Too-much she-was fair in great manner
de cors, de façon e de chiere.
of body of fashion and of face
Bendee fu d'un treceor,
Banded she-was with-a hair-ribbon
onques nus hom ne vit meillor;
ever any man not saw better
a ses cheveus esteit orlaz.
at her hair it-was edged
Autre parole ne vos faz,
Other speech not to-you I-make
mais el païs ne el regné
but in-the country nor in-the realm
n'aveit dame de sa beauté.
not-there-was lady of her beauty

Par mi la sale vint le pas;
Through mid the hall she-came the pace
la chiere tint auques en bas,
the face she-held somewhat in low
plus fine e fresche e coloree
more fine and fresh and colored
que la rose quant ele est nee:
than the rose when it is born
mout fu corteise e bien aprise.
very she-was courtly and well taught
Oëtès l'a lez lui asise.
Aeetes her-has beside him seated
Bien ot enquis e demandé
Well she-had inquired and asked
dont cil erent, de quel regné.
whence those were of what realm
Quant ele certainement sot
When she certainly knew
que c'ert Jason, mout par li plot:
that this-was Jason very much to-her pleased
mout en aveit oï parler
very thereof she-had heard speak
e mout l'aveit oï loër.
and very him-had heard praise
Mout l'aama enz en son cuer:
Very him-loved in in her heart
ne poëit pas a nes un fuer
not she-could at-all at not-even one price
tenir ses ieuz se a lui non;
to-hold her eyes except to him not

mout li ert de gente façon.
very to-her he-was of noble fashion
La forme esguarde de son cors:
The form she-regards of his body
cheveus recercelez e sors
hair curled and blond
a e beaus ieuz e bele face, —
he-has and fair eyes and fair face
dès or criem que trop ne li place; —
from now I-fear that too-much — to-her he-may-please
bele boche a e dous reguarz,
fair mouth he-has and sweet looks
bel menton, bel cors e beaus braz;
fair chin fair body and fair arms
large e grant a la forcheüre,
large and great he-has the fork
si a mout simple parleüre,
so he-has very simple speech
sage est e de bone maniere.
wise he-is and of good manner
Mout le reguarde en mi la chiere.
Very him she-regards in midst the face
Mout i a Medea ses ieuz
Very there has Medea her eyes
douz, frans e simples, senz orguieuz;
sweet noble and simple without pride
mout le remire doucement.
very him she-gazes-at sweetly
Sis cuers de fine amor esprent:
Her heart with fine love is-kindled

mout par li plaist, mout li agree.
very much to-her he-pleases very to-her he-suits
Tost li avreit s'amor donee,
Soon to-him she-would-have her-love given
s'il fust en lieu qu'il li queïst:
if-he were in place that-he it-to-her might-seek
ne cuit ja l'en escondeïst.
not I-think ever him-thereof she-would-refuse
Onc mais nul jor n'i entendi,
Ever before any day not-there she-attended
n'amer ne voust ne n'ot ami:
nor-to-love not wished nor not-had friend
ore i a si torné son cuer
now there she-has so turned her heart
qu'el ne laira a nes un fuer
that-she not will-leave at not-even one price
qu'ele n'en face son poëir;
that-she not-thereof may-do her power
poi preisera tot son saveir,
little she-will-prize all her knowledge
s'ele n'aemplist son corage:
if-she not-fulfills her heart
mout le desire a mariage.
very him she-desires in marriage

Medea in Love

VI

Medea suffers eight days of love. Sent by her father to speak with the Greeks, she warns Jason that two brazen bulls breathing fire and a serpent that never sleeps guard the Fleece, and that no one has survived them. Jason will not turn back. She offers her help if he will marry her and take her to his country, and he swears to. She bids him come to her chamber that night. Impatient, she watches the hall until the household is asleep, then sends her old governess to bring Jason to her bed.

Ensi sofri a mout grant peine
Thus she-suffered with very great pain
toz les uit jorz de la semaine;
all the eight days of the week
n'ot bien ne repos ne solaz:
not-had good nor rest nor solace
dès or la tient bien en ses laz
from now her holds well in his snares
Amors, vers cui rien n'a defense.
Love toward whom anything not-has defense
Sovent esguarde e se porpense
Often she-looks and herself bethinks
coment ele ait joie pleniere,
how she may-have joy full
quar destreite est de grant maniere:
for distressed she-is in great manner
mout en dote le comencier.
much thereof she-fears the beginning
Un jor, quant vint après mangier,
One day when it-came after eating

si l'ot li reis a sei mandee
so her-had the king to himself summoned
en la sale pavementee.
into the hall paved
Assez la conjot e embrace,
Enough her he-fondles and embraces
cent feiz li a baisié la face;
hundred times to-her he-has kissed the face
comande li e dit après
he-commands her and says after
que o Jason e Herculès
that with Jason and Hercules
parout par bien, tant li consent.
she-may-speak with good so-much to-her he-allows
E cele, que d'amor esprent,
And she whom with-love is-kindled
s'en vient a eus mout vergondose,
herself-thence comes to them very modest
de parler sage e sciëntose.
of speech wise and learned
Mout par li fait Jason grant joie;
Very much to-her makes Jason great joy
soëf, basset, que l'om ne l'oie,
softly low that one not her-may-hear
li dist: «Vassaus, ne tenez mie
to-him she-said Vassal not hold at-all
«a mauvaistié n'a legerie,
for wickedness nor-for lightness
«se a vos me vieng acointier:
if to you myself I-come to-acquaint

«Il ne vos deit pas enoier.
It not to-you ought at-all to-irk
«Dreiz est e biens, ço m'est a vis,
Right it-is and good that to-me-is at opinion
«qui home veit d'autre païs,
who man sees of-other country
«qu'il l'aparout e areisont
that-he him-may-address and may-greet
«e que leial conseil li dont.
and that loyal counsel to-him he-may-give
— Dame,» fait il, «vos dites bien:
Lady says he you say well
«Merci vos rent sor tote rien
Thanks to-you I-render above all thing
«dont il vos plot qu'a mei parlastes
that it to-you pleased that-to me you-spoke
«e que premiere m'areisnastes.
and that first me-you-addressed
«Fait i avez que de bon aire,
Done there you-have what of good nature
«e quant tant vos en plot a faire,
and when so-much to-you thereof pleased to do
«a toz les jorz de mon aé
to all the days of my age
«sacheiz vos en savrai mais gré.
know to-you thereof I-shall-know more thanks
«Mout par poëz grant joie aveir,
Very much you-can great joy have
«quar pleine estes de grant saveir,
for full you-are of great knowledge

«beauté avez mout e franchise
beauty you-have much and nobility
«e de haut sen estes aprise.
and in high sense you-are taught
— Jason,» fait ele, «bien savon
Jason says she well we-know
«que vos venez por la Toison:
that you come for the Fleece
«Onques por el ça ne venistes.
Ever for else here not you-came
«Mais grant estoutie empreïstes,
But great rashness you-undertook
«quar, se erent tuit assemblé
for if were all assembled
«cil qui furent e qui sont né,
those who were and who are born
«ne porreient il engeignier
not could they contrive
«ne porquerre ne porchacier
nor procure nor pursue
«par qu'il la poüssent aveir:
through what-they it could have
«De ço n'aiez vos ja espeir,
Of that not-have you ever hope
«por neient le cuideriëz.
for nothing it you-would-think
«Por quei vos travailleriëz?
For what you you-would-toil
«Essaié s'i sont ja plusor,
Tried themselves-there are already many

«quin furent mort al chief del tor:
who-thence were dead at-the end of-the turn
«Onques n'oï qu'en eschapast
Ever not-I-heard that-thence escaped
«nus, qui de l'aveir se penast.
any who of the-having himself strove
«Li deu i ont lor guarde mise
The gods there have their guard put
«par tel maniere e par tel guise
in such manner and in such guise
«com te dirai, quar bien t'est ues.
as to-thee I-shall-tell for well to-thee-is need
«Mars i a mis d'arain dous bues:
Mars there has put of-bronze two oxen
«Quant ire e mautalenz les toche,
When wrath and ill-temper them touches
«par mi les nes e par la boche
through mid the nostrils and through the mouth
«getent de lor cors feu ardant:
they-throw from their bodies fire burning
«Ja de la mort n'avra guarant
Ever from the death not-will-have warrant
«quin iert atainz ne conseüz,
who-thereof will-be reached nor overtaken
«sempres n'arde com se c'ert fuz.
at-once not-may-burn as if it-were wood
«Par art e par conjureison
By art and by conjuration
«ont cil en guarde le mouton:
have these in keeping the ram

«Qui la Toison voudra aveir,
Who the Fleece will-wish to-have
«si covendra par estoveir
so it-will-behoove by necessity
«que il les puisse si danter
that he them may so tame
«que traire les face e arer.
that draw them he-may-make and plow
«Mars, li poissanz deus de bataille,
Mars the mighty god of battle
«les i a mis ensi senz faille.
them there has put thus without fail
«Ancore i a el a passer
Yet there has else to pass
«que fait assez plus a doter:
which makes enough more to fear
«Quar uns serpenz qui toz jorz veille,
For a serpent which all days watches
«qui pas ne dort ne ne someille,
which at-all not sleeps nor not slumbers
«le reguarde de l'autre part
it guards from the-other side
«par tel engin e par tel art,
by such cunning and by such art
«que ja rien n'i aprochera
that ever anything not-there will-approach
«si tost come sempres morra;
so soon as at-once it-will-die
«quar feu giete ensemble e venin,
for fire it-throws together and venom

«qui tost li a doné la fin.
which soon to-it has given the end
«Granz est e fiers e trop hisdos,
Great it-is and fierce and too hideous
«onc hom ne vit si merveillos:
ever man not saw so marvelous
«Ne porreit mie estre conquis
Not it-could at-all be conquered
«ne engeigniez a estre ocis.
nor contrived to be killed
«Que t'en fereie lonc sermon?
What to-thee-thereof would-I-make long sermon
«Saches ja n'avras la Toison
Know ever not-thou-wilt-have the Fleece
«por rien que seit, nel cuider mie:
for anything that be not-it think at-all
«Guart come as empris grant folie!
Look how thou-hast undertaken great folly
«Ainz te di bien, se tu i vas,
Rather to-thee I-say well if thou there goest
«que ja mais n'en retorneras.»
that ever more not-thence thou-wilt-return
Jason respont come afaitiez:
Jason answers as well-bred
«Dame», fait il, «ne m'esmaiez:
Lady says he not me-dismay
«Ne sui mie por ço venuz
Not I-am at-all for that come
«que m'en torge come esperduz;
that me-thence I-may-turn as distraught

«mieuz vueil morir que jo n'essai
better I-wish to-die than I not-may-try
«s'en nul sen aveir la porrai.
if-in any sense to-have it I-shall-be-able
«Se o mei ne l'en puis porter,
If with me not it-thence I-can carry
«ja mais ne m'en quier retorner;
ever more not me-thence I-seek to-return
«quar a toz jorz honiz sereie,
for at all days shamed I-would-be
«si que ja mais honor n'avreie.
so that ever more honor not-I-would-have
«Par ci m'en covient a passer:
Through here me-thence it-behooves to pass
«Tant en ai fait, nel puis muër;
So-much thereof I-have done not-it I-can change
«seit maus, seit biens, que que m'en vienge,
be-it ill be-it good what ever to-me-thereof may-come
«ne puet estre que jo m'en tienge.
not can be that I me-thence may-hold
— Jason,» fait ele, «bien entent
Jason says she well I-understand
«n'en querreies chastiement.
not-thereof thou-wouldst-seek chastisement
«Seürs puez estre de morir:
Sure thou-canst be of dying
«De ço ne te puet nus guarir.
Of that not thee can any protect
«Duel e pitié me prent de tei:
Grief and pity me takes for thee

«La en iras, ço sai e vei;
There thence thou-wilt-go that I-know and see
«mais se de ço seüre fusse
but if of that sure I-were
«que jo t'amor aveir poüsse,
that I thy-love to-have could
«qu'a femme espose me preïsses,
that-as wife spouse me thou-wouldst-take
«si que ja mais ne me guerpisses, 1410
so that ever more not me thou-wouldst-abandon
«quant en ta terre retornasses,
when into thy land thou-wouldst-return
«qu'en cest païs ne me laissasses,
that-in this country not me thou-wouldst-leave
«e me portasses leial fei,
and to-me thou-wouldst-bear loyal faith
«engin prendreie e bon conrei
cunning I-would-take and good counsel
«com ceste chose parfereies, 1415
how this thing thou-wouldst-accomplish
«que mort ne mahaing n'i prendreies.
that death nor maiming not-there thou-wouldst-take
«Fors mei ne t'en puet rien aidier
Except me not thee-thereof can anything help
«ne aveier ne conseillier.
nor direct nor counsel
«Mais jo sai tant de nigromance,
But I know so-much of necromancy
«que j'ai aprise dès m'enfance, 1420
which I-have learned from my-childhood

«que, quant que jo vueil, tot puis faire:
that whatever that I wish all I-can do
«Ja ne m'iert peine ne contraire.
Ever not to-me-will-be pain nor contrary
«Quant que est grief, tot m'est legier:
Whatever that is grievous all to-me-is light
«Ja n'i troverai encombrier.
Ever not-there I-shall-find hindrance
«Or esguarde que tun feras,
Now look what thou-thereof wilt-do
«saveir se tu[l] m'otreieras:
to-know if thou-it to-me-wilt-grant
«Ton cuer m'en di senz deceveir,
Thy heart to-me-thereof say without deceiving
«tot ton corage en vueil saveir.
all thy heart thereof I-wish to-know
— Dame,» fait il, «jo qu'en direie?
Lady says he I what-thereof would-I-say
«Sor toz les deus vos jurereie
On all the gods to-you I-would-swear
«e sor trestote nostre lei
and on all our law
«amor tenir e porter fei;
love to-hold and faith to-bear
«a femme vos esposerai,
as wife you I-shall-wed
«sor tote rien vos amerai.
above all thing you I-shall-love
«Ma dame sereiz e m'amie,
My lady you-will-be and my-beloved

«de mei avreiz la seignorie:
of me you-will-have the lordship
«Tant entendrai a vos servir
So-much I-shall-attend to you serving
«que tot ferai vostre plaisir.
that all I-shall-do your pleasure
«Merrai vos en en ma contree,
I-shall-lead you thence into my country
«ou vos sereiz mout honoree:
where you will-be very honored
«Tuit vos i porteront honor,
All to-you there will-bear honor
«e li plus riche e li meillor;
both the most rich and the best
«plus i avreiz joie a plaisir
more there you-will-have joy at pleasure
«que li cors n'en porra sofrir.»
than the body not-thereof will-be-able to-bear
La pucele respont a tant:
The maiden answers at that
«Or sai», fait el, «vostre talant.
Now I-know says she your will
«Ço remandra jusqu'eneveis
That will-remain until-this-evening
«que se sera couchiez li reis.
that himself will-be bedded the king
«En ma chambre vendreiz toz sous:
Into my chamber you-will-come all alone
«Ja compaignon n'avreiz o vos.
Ever companion not-you-will-have with you

«La me fereiz tel seürance
There to-me you-will-make such assurance
«que vers vos n'aie plus dotance;
that toward you not-I-may-have more doubt
«puis vos dirai com faitement
then to-you I-shall-tell how fashioned
«porreiz les bues e le serpent
you-will-be-able the oxen and the serpent
«veintre e danter e jostisier:
to-conquer and to-tame and to-master
«Ja puis n'avreiz d'eus encombrier.
Ever after not-you-will-have from-them hindrance
— Dame», fait il, «ensi l'otrei:
Lady says he thus it-I-grant
«Mais enveiez, sos plaist, por mei;
But send if-to-you it-pleases for me
«quar ne savreie ou jo alasse,
for not I-would-know where I might-go
«ne a quel hore jo levasse.»
nor at what hour I might-rise
Dist la pucele: «C'iert bien fait.»
Said the maiden This-will-be well done
Congié a pris, puis si s'en vait;
Leave she-has taken then so herself-thence goes
ariere en ses chambres s'en entre.
back into her chambers herself-thence enters
Mout li tressaut li cuers el ventre;
Very to-her leaps the heart in-the belly
esprise l'a forment Amors.
inflamed her-has greatly Love

Mout li enuie que li jors
Very to-her it-irks that the day
ne s'en vait a greignor espleit:
not itself-thence goes with greater speed
mout se merveille que ço deit.
very herself marvels what that means
Tant a le soleil esguardé
So-much she-has the sun looked-at
que ele le vit esconsé.
that she it saw set
Mout li tarja puis l'anuitier,
Very to-her delayed then the-nightfall
que son plait li fait porloignier;
which her plea to-her makes prolong
e quant le jor en vit alé,
and when the day thereof she-saw gone
n'ot ele pas tot achevé:
not-had she at-all all achieved
soventes feiz a esguardee
many times she-has looked
la lune s'ele esteit levee.
the moon if-it was risen
Crient que sempres s'en aut la nuit:
She-fears that at-once itself-thence may-go the night
ne li torne mie a deduit
not to-her turns at-all to delight
ço que par la sale veillierent
that which through the hall they-watched
e ço que pas ne se couchierent.
and that which at-all not themselves they-bedded

Son vuel, fussent tuit endormi:
Her will they-would-be all asleep
mout par en a son cuer marri.
very much thereof has her heart grieved
As huis des chambres vait oïr
At-the doors of-the chambers she-goes to-hear
s'ancor parolent de dormir;
if-yet they-speak of sleeping
iluec escoute, iluec estait.
there she-listens there she-stands
N'en ot tenir conte ne plait:
Not-thereof she-hears hold count nor plea
«Içо,» fait ele, «que sera?
This says she what will-it-be
«Ceste gent quant se couchera?
This folk when itself will-bed
«Ont il juré qu'il veilleront
Have they sworn that-they will-watch
«e que mais ne se coucheront?
and that more not themselves will-bed
«Qui vit mais gent que tant veillast,
Who saw ever folk that so-much might-watch
«que de veillier ne se lassast?
that from watching not itself might-weary
«Mauvaise gent, fole provee,
Wicked folk foolish proved
«ja est la mie nuit passee,
already is the mid night passed
«mout a mais poi desci qu'al jor.
very there-is more little until to-the day

«Certes mout a en mei folor:
Certainly much there-is in me folly
«De quei me sui jo entremise?
In what me am I meddled
«Mieuz en devreie estre reprise
Better thereof I-ought to-be reproached
«que cil qui est trovez emblant.
than he who is found stealing
«Fol corage e mauvais semblant
Foolish heart and wicked semblance
«porreit l'om or trover en mei,
could one now find in me
«que ci m'estois ne sai por quei.
that here me-I-stand not I-know for what
«Estuet me il estre en esfrei
Behooves me it to-be in alarm
«que volentiers ne vienge a mei
that willingly not may-come to me
«Jason, quel hore qu'i envei?
Jason whatever hour that-there I-may-send
«Oïl, mout volentiers, ço crei.
Yes very willingly that I-believe
«Que faz jo ci ne cui atent?
What do I here nor whom wait
«Tant en ai fait qu'or m'en repent.»
So-much thereof I-have done that-now me-thereof I-repent
De l'uis se part en itel guise.
From the-door herself she-parts in such guise
Vint a son lit, si s'est asise;
She-came to her bed so herself-is seated

mais jo cuit bien certainement
but I think well certainly
qu'el n'i serra pas longement.
that-she not-there will-sit at-all long
Relieve s'en, n'i puet plus estre,
Rises herself-thence not-there she-can more be
s'ala ovrir une fenestre.
so-went to-open a window
Vit la lune, que ert levee,
She-saw the moon which was risen
lores li est s'ire doblee:
then to-her is her-wrath doubled
«Dès or,» fait ele, «est il enuiz:
From now says she is it night
«Passee est ja la mie nuiz.»
Passed is already the mid night
Clot la fenestre, ariere torne:
She-closes the window back she-turns
iriee est mout, pensive e morne.
angered she-is very pensive and gloomy
En mi la chambre s'aresta
In midst the chamber herself-stopped
tot en estant, si escouta:
all in standing so listened
la noise oï auques baissiee,
the noise she-heard somewhat lowered
quar ja departeit la maisniee.
for already was-parting the household
A l'uis s'en vait pensive e pale,
To the-door herself-thence she-goes pensive and pale

si esguarda par mi la sale.
so looked through midst the hall
As chamberlens vit les liz faire:
To-the chamberlains she-saw the beds make
lores li est bien a viaire
then to-her is well in seeming
que jusqu'a poi se coucheront
that until-to little themselves they-will-bed
e que guaires plus n'i serront.
and that much more not-there they-will-be
Par la chambre vait sus e jus,
Through the chamber she-goes up and down
e sovent reguarde al pertus,
and often looks at-the hole
tant que trestuit furent couchié.
so-much that all were bedded
Bien a veü e aguaitié
Well she-has seen and watched
le lit ou Jason se coucha.
the bed where Jason himself bedded
Une soë maistre apela:
A her nurse she-called
tot son conseil li a gehi,
all her counsel to-her has confessed
quar el se fiot mout en li:
for she herself trusted much in her
«Dreit a cel lit,» fait ele, «iras
Straight to that bed says she thou-wilt-go
«tot soavet, le petit pas;
all softly the little pace

«celui qu'i gist m'ameine o tei:
him who-there lies lead-to-me with thee
«De noise te guarde e d'esfrei.
From noise thyself guard and from-alarm
— Dame,» fait el, «premierement
Lady says she first
«vos couchiez, si sera plus gent.
yourself bed so it-will-be more noble
«De la nuit est alé partie,
Of the night is gone part
«sil tendreit tost a vilenie
so-it would-hold soon for villainy
«qu'a couchier fusseiz a tel hore,
that-to bedding you-were at such hour
«quar bien en est mais tens e hore.»
for well thereof is more time and hour
Fait la pucele: «Jo l'otrei.»
Says the maiden I it-grant
Ne firent mie lonc conrei.
Not they-made at-all long ado
En un chier lit d'or et d'argent,
In a dear bed of-gold and of-silver
qu'onques nus hom ne vit plus gent,
that-ever any man not saw more noble
dont li quatre pecol egual
whereof the four posts equal
furent tuit ovré a esmal,
were all worked with enamel

a esmeraudes verdeianz
with emeralds greening
e a robins clers e luisanz; —
and with rubies bright and shining
coute i ot grant vouse de paile,
quilt there had great vaulted of silk
onc meillor n'en ot en Thesaile,
ever better not-thereof had in Thessaly
e lençueus blans deugiez de seie,
and sheets white fine of silk
ne cuit que nus hom meillors veie;
not I-think that any man better may-see
mout i ot riches oreilliers,
very there had rich pillows
onques pucele n'ot si chiers;
ever maiden not-had so dear
li covertors fu riche assez,
the coverlet was rich enough
d'unes bestes fu toz orlez
of-some beasts it-was all bordered
que reluisent come orpimenz;
which shine as orpiment
d'autres mout chieres fu dedenz;
of-other very dear it-was within
vous fu d'un drap Sarragoceis
covered it-was with-a cloth of-Saragossa
d'or e de seie trestot freis; —
of-gold and of silk all fresh
el lit se coucha la pucele,
in-the bed herself bedded the maiden

que mout fu sage e gente e bele:
who very was wise and noble and fair
bien esteit digne d'itel lit.
well she-was worthy of-such bed
La vieille, senz autre respit,
The old-woman without other respite
de la chambre s'en est eissue,
from the chamber herself-thence is issued
dreit au lit Jason est venue;
straight to-the bed (of-)Jason is come
tot belement e en segrei
all fairly and in secret
le traist par mi la main a sei.
him she-drew by midst the hand to herself
E cil s'en leva mout isnel,
And he himself-thence rose very quick
si s'afubla de son mantel.
so himself-cloaked with his mantle
Tot soavet et a celé
All softly and in hiding
s'en sont dedenz la chambre entré.
themselves-thence are within the chamber entered
Clarté i ot, tres bien i veient,
Brightness there had very well there they-see
quar dui cierge grant i ardeient.
for two tapers great there burned
La maistre a l'uis clos e serré,
The nurse has the-door closed and locked
puis l'a desci qu'al lit mené.
then him-she-has as-far as-to-the bed led

The Night with Medea

VII

Medea makes Jason swear on an image of Jupiter to be her loyal husband; the poet says he later broke the oath, and that night she lost her maidenhood. At dawn she gives him an image to wear, an ointment against fire, a ring that guards against enchantment and makes its wearer invisible, a writing to say three times toward the east, and a glue for the bulls' mouths. She tells him to plow four furrows, kill the serpent, and sow its teeth. Aeetes warns him in vain, and Jason, armed richly, crosses alone to the isle while Medea weeps in her tower.

Medea le senti venir,
Medea him felt come
si a fait semblant de dormir,
so has made semblance of sleeping
e cil ne fu pas trop vilains:
and he not was at-all too boorish
le covertor lieve o ses mains.
the coverlet he-lifts with his hands
Cele tressaut, vers lui se torne;
She starts toward him herself turns
auques fu vergondose e morne:
somewhat she-was modest and gloomy
«Vassaus,» fait el, «qui vos conduit?
Vassal says she who you leads
«Mout par avez veillié anuit.
Very much you-have watched tonight
«Tel noise ai tote nuit oïe
Such noise I-have all night heard
«qu'or m'ere a grant peine endormie.
that-now I-was with great pain asleep

— Dame,» fait il, «n'i quier guion
Lady says he not-there I-seek guide
«se vos e vostre maistre non:
except you and your nurse not
«S'en vostre prison me sui mis,
If-into your prison myself I-am put
«il ne m'en deit pas estre pis.»
it not to-me-thereof ought at-all to-be worse
La vieille ensemble les laissa,
The old-woman together them left
en autre chambre s'en entra.
into other chamber herself-thence entered
Jason a parlé toz premiers:
Jason has spoken all first
«Dame, li vostre chevaliers,
Lady the your knight
«qui vostre quites senz partie
who yours quit without part
«sera toz les jorz de sa vie,
will-be all the days of his life
«vos prie e requiert doucement
you prays and requests sweetly
«quel receveiz si ligement,
that-him you-may-receive so liegely
«qu'a nul jor mais chose ne face
that-on any day more thing not he-may-do
«que vos griet ne que vos desplace.»
which you may-grieve nor which you may-displease
Medea respont: «Beaus amis,
Medea answers Fair friend

«grant chose m'avez mout pramis:
great thing to-me-you-have very promised
«Se vos le voliëz tenir,
If you it wished to-hold
«ne me porriëz plus ofrir.
not to-me you-could more offer
«Seürté vueil que jo en aie:
Surety I-wish that I thereof may-have
«Puis atendrai vostre manaie.
Then I-shall-await your mercy
— Dame, a trestot vostre plaisir;
Lady at all your pleasure
«senz fauseté e senz mentir,
without falsehood and without lying
«vos en ferai tel seürtance
to-you thereof I-shall-make such assurance
«qu'a tort avreiz vers mei dotance.»
that-at wrong you-will-have toward me doubt
Une pelice vaire e grise
A fur-robe vair and gray
vest Medea sor sa chemise,
puts-on Medea over her shift
del lit s'en est a tant levee,
from-the bed herself-thence is at that risen
si a une image aportee
so has an image brought
de Jupiter le deu poissant:
of Jupiter the god mighty
«Jason,» fait el, «venez avant.
Jason says she come forward

«Vez ci l'image al deu des cieus:
See here the-image of-the god of-the heavens
«Jo ne vueil mie faire a gieus
I not wish at-all to-make for jest
«de mei e de vos l'assemblee;
of me and of you the-union
«par ço vueil estre aseüree.
by that I-wish to-be assured
«Sor l'image ta main metras,
On the-image thy hand thou-wilt-put
«e sor l'image jureras
and on the-image thou-wilt-swear
«a mei fei porter e tenir
to me faith to-bear and to-hold
«e mei a prendre senz guerpir;
and me to take without abandoning
«leial seignor, leial amant
loyal lord loyal lover
«me seies mais d'ore en avant.»
to-me be-thou more from hour forward
Jason ensi li otreia,
Jason thus to-her granted
mais envers li s'en parjura;
but toward her himself-thereof forswore
covenant ne lei ne li tint:
covenant nor law not to-her be-held
por ço, espeir, l'en mesavint.
for that I-hope him-thereof ill-befell
Mais jo n'ai or de ço que faire,
But I not-have now of that what to-do

del reconter ne del retraire:
of-the recounting nor of-the recounting
assez i a d'el a traitier,
enough there is of-else to treat
ne le vos quier plus porloignier.
not it to-you I-seek more to-prolong
Tote la nuit se jurent puis,
All the night themselves lay then
ensi com jo el Livre truis,
thus as I in-the Book find
tot nu a nu e braz a braz.
all naked to naked and arm to arm
Autre celee ne vos faz:
Other concealment not to-you I-make
se il en Jason ne pecha,
if he thereof Jason not sinned
cele nuit la despucela;
that night her he-deflowered
quar, s'il le voust, ele autretant.
for if-he it wished she as-much
E quant ço vint a l'ajornant:
And when that came at the-dawning
«Dame,» fait il, «ne targera,
Lady says he not it-will-delay
«desci qu'a poi ajornera;
until that-in little it-will-dawn
«ne porrai mais guaires ester
not I-shall-be-able more much to-stay
«qu'il ne m'en estuisse torner.
that-it not me-thence may-behoove to-turn

«Or m'est mestiers, or me bosoigne
Now to-me-is need now to-me it-behooves
«que de mei penseiz senz aloigne,
that of me you-may-think without delay
«quar en vos en est m'esperance
for in you therein is my-hope
«e mis conseiz e m'atendance.»
and my counsel and my-expectation
Fait la danzele: «Beaus amis,
Says the damsel Fair friend
«sacheiz, j'en ai bien conseil pris.»
know I-thereof have well counsel taken
Andui se sont del lit levé,
Both themselves are from-the bed risen
quar ja pert del jor la clarté.
for already appears of-the day the brightness
Un escrin d'or prist Medea,
A casket of-gold took Medea
veant Jason le desferma,
seeing Jason it unlocked
si en a trait une figure
so thence has drawn a figure
faite par art e par conjure:
made by art and by conjuring
«Ço,» fait el, «porteras o tei;
That says she thou-wilt-carry with thee
«quar jo te di en dreite fei,
for I to-thee say in right faith
«ja, tant com tu sor tei l'avras,
ever so-long as thou on thee it-wilt-have

«rien nule en terre ne crembras.»
anything any on earth not thou-wilt-fear
Après li baille un oignement,
After to-him she-gives an ointment
ne sai com fu faiz ne coment:
not I-know how it-was made nor how
«De ço,» fait ele, «seras oinz,
With that says she thou-wilt-be anointed
«quar de ço t'est graindre bosoinz.
for of that to-thee-is greater need
«Puis n'avras ja de feu dotance
Then not-thou-wilt-have ever of fire doubt
«qui a ton cors face noisance.
which to thy body may-do harm
«Or te baillerai un anel,
Now to-thee I-shall-give a ring
«si ne verras ja mais plus bel;
so not thou-wilt-see ever again more fair
«e si saches bien que la pierre
and so know well that the stone
«ne puet estre en nul sen plus chiere.
not can be in any sense more dear
«Soz ciel n'a home qui seit vis,
Under heaven not-is man who be alive
«dès qu'il l'avra en son dei mis,
as-soon that-be it-will-have on his finger put
«qui ja puis crienge enchantement,
who ever after may-fear enchantment
«feu, arme, venin ne serpent:
fire weapon venom nor serpent

«Ne li pueent faire encombrier,
Not to-him they-can do hindrance
«ne en eve ne puet neier.
nor in water not he-can drown
«Tant com l'anel avras sor tei,
So-long as the-ring thou-wilt-have on thee
«mar avras dote ne esfrei.
ill thou-wilt-have dread nor alarm
«Ancore a il autres vertuz:
Yet has it other virtues
«Se tu ne vueus estre veüz,
If thou not wishest to-be seen
«la pierre met defors ta main:
the stone put outside thy hand
«Adonc puez bien estre certain
Then thou-canst well be certain
«que ja rien d'ueil ne te verra.
that ever anything with-eye not thee will-see
«E quant ço iert qu'il te plaira
And when that will-be that-it thee will-please
«e que tu n'avras d'iço soing,
and that thou not-wilt-have of-this care
«clo la pierre dedenz ton poing:
close the stone within thy fist
«Si te verra l'om come autre home.
So thee will-see one as other man
«Onques Oteviëns de Rome
Ever Octavian of Rome
«ne pot conquerre cel aveir,
not could conquer that wealth

«qui cest poüst contrevaleir.
which this could out-value
«L'anel» fait el, «me guarde bien,
The-ring says she for-me guard well
«quar jo l'aim plus que nule rien.»
for I it-love more than any thing
Après li rebaille un escrit,
After to-him she-gives-again a writing
e si li a mostré e dit:
and so to-him has shown and said
«Jason, quant le mouton verras,
Jason when the ram thou-wilt-see
«ne faire ja avant un pas
not make ever forward a step
«desci qu'aies sacrefiié,
until that-thou-may-have sacrificed
«que n'en seient li deu irié:
that not-thereof be the gods angered
«Crieme sereit, se nel faiseies,
Fear it-would-be if not-it thou-didst
«que chierement le comparreies.
that dearly it thou-wouldst-pay-for
«Par içо les apaieras,
By this them thou-wilt-appease
«e dementres que tu[l] feras,
and while that thou-it wilt-do
«cest escrit di tot belement
this writing say all fairly
«treis feiees contre Oriënt:
three times toward East

«Guart bien seies amenteüz.
Take-care well thou-be mindful
«Or te baillerai ceste gluz
Now to-thee I-shall-give this glue
«par tel maniere destempree,
in such manner tempered
«que ja a rien n'iert adesee
that ever to anything not-will-be touched
«dont ja mais desevree seit.
whence ever more separated it-may-be
«Grant aleüre va tot dreit;
Great pace go all straight
«as nes e as boches as bues
on-the nostrils and on-the mouths to-the oxen
«l'espant tote, quar bien t'est ues:
it-spread all for well to-thee-is need
«Par ço les avras si conquis,
By that them thou-wilt-have so conquered
«ja feus de lor cors n'istra puis.
ever fire from their body not-will-issue after
«Arer les feras quatre reies,
Plow them thou-wilt-make four furrows
«mais clo tes ieuz, que tu nes veies;
but close thy eyes that thou not-them may-see
«puis t'en va tot seürement
then thee-thence go all surely
«combatre contre le serpent.
to-fight against the serpent
«Bataille grant i troveras,
Battle great there thou-wilt-find

«mais ja mar le redoteras,
but ever ill it thou-wilt-dread
«quar ja vers tei n'avra poëir.
for ever toward thee not-it-will-have power
«Or te vueil bien faire saveir:
Now thee I-wish well to-make know
«Trestoz les denz fors li trairas,
All the teeth out from-it thou-wilt-draw
«en la terre les semeras
in the earth them thou-wilt-sow
«que o les bues avras aree,
which with the oxen thou-wilt-have plowed
«qu'ensi est chose destinee
that-thus is thing destined
«qu'en autre sen ne puet pas estre.
that-in other sense not can at-all be
«Sempres verras a tes ieuz naistre
At-once thou-wilt-see with thy eyes be-born
«des denz chevaliers toz armez
from-the teeth knights all armed
«e de lor armes adobez:
and with their arms equipped
«En poi d'ore seront nascuz,
In little of-hour they-will-be born
«e d'eaumes, d'aubers e d'escuz
and with-helmets with-hauberks and with-shields
«seront mout bien apareillié;
they-will-be very well equipped
«mais mout seront entre eus irié.
but very they-will-be among them angered

«Veant tes ieuz s'entrociront,
Seeing thy eyes they-will-kill-each-other
«si tost come il s'entreverront.
so soon as they each-other-will-see
«Adonc avras tot achevé,
Then thou-wilt-have all achieved
«mais guart n'i seies oblïé:
but take-care not-there be-thou forgetful
«Por ço qu'avras eü victoire,
For that that-thou-wilt-have had victory
«si rent as deus merci et gloire;
so render to-the gods thanks and glory
«treiz feiz lor fai aflicion,
three times to-them make prostration
«après iras vers le mouton.
after thou-wilt-go toward the ram
«La Toison prent, lui lai ester,
The Fleece take it let be
«e ne t'i chaut plus demorer:
and not thee-there matters more to-stay
«Isnelement si t'en repaire,
Swiftly so thee-thence return
«qu'enui n'i aies ne contraire.
that-annoyance not-there thou-may-have nor contrary
«Ne te sai plus que enseignier,
Not thee I-know more what to-teach
«mais doucement te vueil preier
but sweetly thee I-wish to-pray
«que de tot ço rien n'obliër.
that of all that anything not-to-forget

«Dès or t'en puez hui mais aler;
From now thee-thence thou-canst today more go
«ne poons or plus estre ensemble:
not we-can now more be together
«Granz jorz est ja, si com mei semble.»
Great day it-is already so as me it-seems
Entre ses braz Jason la prent,
Between his arms Jason her takes
cent feiz la baise doucement;
hundred times her kisses sweetly
après a pris de li congié,
after he-has taken from her leave
dreit a son lit est repairié.
straight to his bed is returned
Bien a repost e bien mucié
Well he-has hidden and well concealed
ço que cele li ot baillié:
that which she to-him had given
a grant maniere se fait liez.
in great manner himself he-makes glad
Quant en son lit se fu couchiez,
When in his bed himself he-was bedded
endormi sei en es le pas,
asleep himself in the same pace
quar de veillier esteit toz las;
for from watching he-was all weary
e quant il ot dormi grant piece,
and when he had slept great while
il pot estre ja haute tierce.
it could be already high tierce

Levez s'est, e si s'apareille:
Risen himself-is and so himself-prepares
aler en vueut a la merveille.
to-go thence he-wishes to the marvel
Grant paor e grant sospeçon
Great fear and great suspicion
ont de lui tuit si compaignon.
have for him all his companions
Quant Oëtès veit qu'il vueut faire,
When Aeetes sees what-he wishes to-do
bonement li prent a retraire:
kindly him he-takes to tell
«Jason, ço saches, de ta mort
Jason that know for thy death
«ne vueil estre blasmez a tort:
not I-wish to-be blamed at wrong
«Por çol te di, se m'en creeies,
For that-it thee I-say if me-thereof thou-believedst
«ja la le pié ne portereies.
ever there the foot not thou-wouldst-carry
«Onc ne vi nul, qui i alast,
Ever not I-saw any who there went
«qui ariere s'en retornast.
who back himself-thence returned
«Li deu i ont lor guarde mise,
The gods there have their guard put
«qui ne vuelent en nule guise
who not wish in any guise
«que hom charneus i mete main.
that man fleshly there may-put hand

«De ço somes nos bien certain:
Of that we-are we well certain
«Se tu i vas, fin iert de tei,
If thou there goest end will-be of thee
«mais ja ne t'iert veé par mei.
but ever not to-thee-will-be forbidden by me
«Force sereit que te fereie,
Force it-would-be that thee I-would-do
«si sai que blasmez en sereie.
so I-know that blamed thereof I-would-be
«Fai en tot ço que tu voudras:
Do thereof all that which thou wilt-wish
«Ja mar por mei le laisseras.»
Ever ill for me it thou-wilt-leave
Tot quant qu'Oëtès li reis dit
All how-much that-Aeetes the king says
prise Jason assez petit.
prizes Jason enough little
Il ne se vueut plus atargier:
He not himself wishes more to-delay
de la cité s'en ist premier.
from the city himself-thence issues first
Li reis, li prince e li baron,
The king the princes and the barons
Herculès e si compaignon
Hercules and his companions
le conveient jusqu'al rivage,
him escort until-to-the shore
ou il deveit prendre passage.
where he ought to-take passage

Iluec li covint a passer,
There him behooved to cross
vousist o non, un braz de mer;
he-might-wish or not an arm of sea
mais estreiz ert, ne durot mie
but narrow it-was not it-lasted at-all
guaires plus de liuë e demie.
much more than league and half
De l'autre part ert li isleaus:
From the-other side was the islet
n'ert guaires granz, mais mout ert beaus.
not-it-was much great but very it-was fair
Ço li ont dit, la trovera
That to-him they-have said there he-will-find
ço que il quiert e ou il va.
that which he seeks and where he goes
Lez le rivage, el sablonei,
Beside the shore on-the sand
prist ses armes e son conrei.
he-took his arms and his gear
Primes chauça ses genoillieres:
First he-put-on his knee-pieces
onc el siegle nen ot si chieres.
ever in-the world not there-were so dear
D'or fin furent li esporon,
Of-gold fine were the spurs
taillié de l'uevre Salemon.
cut by the-work (of-)Solomon
Après a un hauberc vestu,
After he-has a hauberk donned

onques mieudre forgiez ne fu:
ever better forged not was
tailliez ert bien a sa mesure;
cut it-was well to his measure
la maille en ert serree e dure.
the mail thereof was close and hard
Poi li pesa, quant l'ot vestu.
Little to-him it-weighed when it-he-had donned
Après laça un heaume agu,
After he-laced a helmet pointed
resplendissant, de bone taille:
resplendent of good size
ja por arme ne fera faille.
ever for weapon not it-will-make fail
Li cercles ert d'or esmerez
The circle was of-gold refined
e des nons as deus toz letrez:
and with-the names of-the gods all lettered
mout l'en teneit om a plus riche.
very it-thereof held one for more rich
Li nasaus fu d'un chier oniche:
The nose-guard was of-a dear onyx
qui meillor ne plus beau queïst
who better nor more fair might-seek
de folie s'entremeïst.
of folly himself-would-meddle
Après a ceint un brant d'acier, —
After he-has girt a blade of-steel
onques nus om ne vit plus chier,
ever any man not saw more dear

si riche ne de sa valor, —
so rich nor of its value
cler e tranchant come rasor.
bright and cutting as razor
Un escu ot d'os d'olifant,
A shield he-had of-bone of-elephant
fort e bien fait e riche e grant:
strong and well made and rich and great
la bocle en fu d'or Espaneis
the boss thereof was of-gold Spanish
e la guige tote d'orfreis.
and the strap all of-orphrey
Un grant espié cler e luisant
A great spear bright and shining
li baillierent d'acier trenchant.
to-him they-gave of-steel cutting
Quant bien l'orent apareillié,
When well him-they-had equipped
si a d'eus toz pris le congié.
so has from-them all taken the leave
Baise Herculès e sa maisniee,
He-kisses Hercules and his household
qui de lui remaint mout iriee:
which for him remains very angered
grant duel demeinent li plusor,
great grief lead the most
quar paor ont de lor seignor.
for fear they-have for their lord
En un batel s'en est entrez,
Into a boat himself-thence is entered

de la terre s'est esquipez.
from the land himself-is embarked

N'ot o sei autre marinier,
Not-had with himself other mariner

ne n'i mena point de destrier:
nor not-there led point of charger

ço saveit bien, n'i vausist guaire
that he-knew well not-there would-avail hardly

a tel bosoing n'a tel afaire.
to such need nor-to such affair

Dreit vers l'isle nage a espleit,
Straight toward the-isle he-rows with speed

al mieuz qu'il sot e al plus dreit.
at-the best that-he knew and at-the most straight

Medea fu en une tor:
Medea was in a tower

vit le, si mua la color.
she-saw him so changed the color

Des ieuz plora, nel pot muër,
From-the eyes she-wept not-it could help

quant elel vit en mi la mer.
when she-him saw in midst the sea

Belement dist entre ses denz:
Fairly she-said between her teeth

«Jason, sire, beaus amis genz,
Jason lord fair friend noble

«mout sui por vos en grant error,
very I-am for you in great distress

«quar jo vos aim de grant amor.
for I you love with great love

«En grant dotance m'avez mise:
In great doubt me-you-have put
«Ne puet mais estre en nule guise
Not can more be in any guise
«que jo m'en puisse aseürer,
that I me-thereof may reassure
«tant que vos veie retorner.
so-long as you I-may-see return
«Grant paor ai e grant dotance
Great fear I-have and great doubt
«que de ço n'aiez remembrance
that of that not-you-may-have remembrance
«que vos ai dit e enseignié:
which to-you I-have said and taught
«Ja mais nen avrai mon cuer lié
Ever more not I-shall-have my heart glad
«desci que vos tienge en mes braz.
until that you I-may-hold in my arms
«A toz les deus oreison faz
To all the gods prayer I-make
«qu'il ne seient vers vos irié.»
that-they not be toward you angered
A tant en plore de pitié.
At that thereof she-weeps from pity

The Golden Fleece

VIII

Jason anoints himself, sacrifices, and reads the writing. He seals the bulls' mouths with the glue, makes them plow four furrows without looking, and fights the serpent until he cuts off its head. He sows the teeth, and the armed knights born from them kill one another. He takes the Fleece and returns, to Medea's joy and Aeetes' anger. That night the lovers meet, and the Greeks stay a month. Jason takes Medea to Greece, though he later deserts her. Peleus hides his anger and honors him, and the poet turns to Troy.

Jason a ja tant espleitié
Jason has already so-much hastened
que en l'isle fu essaivié.
that on the-isle he-was landed
N'i ot puis autre demorance:
Not-there had after other delay
son escu a pris e sa lance,
his shield he-has taken and his lance
eissuz s'en est fors del batel,
issued himself-thence is out of-the boat
puis est poiez sus en l'islel.
then is climbed up onto the-islet
Les bues choisi e le serpent
The oxen he-spied and the serpent
e le mouton, qui mout resplent:
and the ram which very shines
grant clarté done l'or vermeil
great brightness gives the-gold red
contre la raie del soleil.
against the ray of-the sun

Des nes e des boches as bues
From-the nostrils and from-the mouths to-the oxen
eissi tel flambe e teus feus lues,
issued such flame and such fires at-once
ço ert a vis qui l'esguardot,
that was at opinion who it-watched
que toz li isles embrasot.
that all the isle burned
Jason son oignement a pris,
Jason his ointment has taken
son cors en a oint e son vis.
his body therewith he-has anointed and his face
La figure a sacrefiiee
The figure he-has sacrificed
que Medea li ot bailliee;
which Medea to-him had given
mist la sor l'eaume e atacha,
he-put it on the-helmet and fastened
si come ele li enseigna.
so as she to-him taught
Après fist as deus sacrefise
After he-made to-the gods sacrifice
a la maniere e a la guise
in the manner and in the guise
que la pucele li ot dit,
which the maiden to-him had said
e treis feiees list l'escrit.
and three times read the-writing

Vers les bues ala maintenant
Toward the oxen he-went at-once
tres par mi le grant feu ardant.
very through midst the great fire burning
Sempres fu toz ars sis escuz,
At-once was all burned his shield
mais il ne fu mie esperduz:
but he not was at-all distraught
la gluz es boches espandi,
the glue on-the mouths he-spread
onques puis flambe n'en eissi;
ever afterward flame not-thence issued
lor vertu ne monta puis guaire.
their strength not rose after hardly
Quatre reies lor a fait faire,
Four furrows to-them he-has made make
si com li ot dit Medea;
so as to-him had said Medea
mais onc nel vit, bien s'en guarda;
but ever not-it he-saw well himself-thence he-guarded
onques n'i osa esguarder:
ever not-there he-dared look
ne voleit mie trespasser
not he-wished at-all to-transgress
ço que li aveit dit s'amie,
that which to-him had said his-beloved
quar il feïst mout grant folie.
for he would-have-done very great folly

Quant ço ot fait, delivrement
When that he-had done readily
ala requerre le serpent.
he-went to-attack the serpent
Quant li serpenz le vit vers sei,
When the serpent him saw toward itself
en haut sifla e fist esfrei:
on high it-hissed and made alarm
ses escherdes herice e tremble,
its scales it-bristles and trembles
feu e venin li gete ensemble;
fire and venom to-him it-throws together
sovent trait fors son aguillon,
often it-draws out its sting
tote la terre art environ:
all the earth burns around
soz ciel n'a rien, que onc fust nee,
under heaven not-is anything that ever were born
que ja eüst vers lui duree.
which ever might-have-had toward it endurance
Ne fust Jason si bien guarniz,
Not had-been Jason so well equipped
en petit d'ore fust feniz:
in little of-hour he-would-have-been ended
que de l'arson, que del venin
what from the-burning what from-the venom
sempres fust alez a sa fin;
at-once he-would-have-been gone to his end
mais l'oignemenz e la figure,
but the-ointment and the figure

ou erent escrit li conjure,
where were written the conjurings
e li aneaus d'or qu'il portot
and the ring of-gold which-he wore
le defendeit e porguardot.
him defended and protected
Sor lui peceie son espié
On it he-shatters his spear
sanz ço que de rien l'ait plaié;
without that that in anything it-he-may-have wounded
en mainte guise s'i essaie,
in many-a guise himself-there he-tries
ainz qu'il li puisse faire plaie.
before that-he to-it may make wound
De l'espee teus cous li done
With the-sword such blows to-it he-gives
que toz li isles en resone:
that all the isle thereof resounds
n'i puet entrer, ainz s'en resort,
not-there it-can enter rather itself-thence rebounds
tant a la pel e dure e fort.
so-much it-has the hide both hard and strong
Soz sei l'abati mainte feiz,
Under itself it-threw-him-down many-a times
si angoissos e si destreiz,
so anguished and so distressed
que assez en failleit petit
that enough thereof failed little
qu'il ne l'esteint e ne l'ocit.
that-it not him-extinguishes and not him-kills

Tel angoisse a, quant il l'atoche,
Such anguish he-has when he it-touches
que le sanc rent par mi la boche;
that the blood he-renders through midst the mouth
tel angoisse a, toz en tressue;
such anguish he-has all thereof he-sweats
mais tant s'esforce e s'esvertue
but so-much himself-he-strains and himself-exerts
e tant i chaple de s'espee
and so-much there hacks with his-sword
que la teste li a coupee.
that the head from-it he-has cut
S'un poi durast plus la bataille,
If-a little had-lasted more the battle
sempres fust morz Jason senz faille.
at-once would-have-been dead Jason without fail
Les denz en traist, sin a semee
The teeth thence he-drew so-thereof has sown
la terre qu'il aveit aree:
the earth which-he had plowed
tantost en sont chevalier né,
at-once thence are knights born
de lor armes tuit adobé.
with their arms all equipped
En es le pas se corent sore,
In the same pace each-other they-run over
ocis se sont en petit d'ore.
killed themselves they-are in little of-hour

Donc ot Jason tot achevé
Then had Jason all achieved
e son grant travail afiné:
and his great toil finished
granz merciz a as deus rendues
great thanks he-has to-the gods rendered
des victoires qu'il a eües.
for-the victories which-he has had
Il est venuz dreit al mouton,
He is come straight to-the ram
si en a prise la toison.
so thence has taken the fleece
N'i voust puis faire lonc estage:
Not-there he-wished after to-make long stay
tost i poüst aveir damage.
soon there he-could have harm
A son batel vint dreit errant,
To his boat he-came straight going
si entra enz de maintenant;
so entered in from now
destachié l'a, e si s'empeint,
untied it-he-has and so himself-pushes-off
de tost nagier pas ne se feint.
of soon rowing at-all not himself holds-back
Medea le vit el retor,
Medea him saw on-the return
que fu as estres de la tor.
who was at-the galleries of the tower
S'ele ot joie, nus nel demant,
If-she had joy any not-it may-ask

quar onc greignor n'ot rien vivant:
for ever greater not-had anything living
li sans li revint en la chiere,
the blood to-her came-back into the face
dès ore ataint joie pleniere.
from now she-reaches joy full
Herculès e li chevalier
Hercules and the knights
virent lor seignor repairier:
saw their lord return
tel joie en ont, nel set nus dire,
such joy thereof they-have not-it knows any to-say
mais mout en a li reis grant ire.
but very thereof has the king great wrath
Jason est a terre venuz,
Jason is to land come
fors del batel s'en est eissuz.
out of-the boat himself-thence is issued
Receivent le joiosement
They-receive him joyously
tuit ensemble comunaument;
all together in-common
isnelement le desarmerent
swiftly him they-disarmed
icil des suens qui plus l'amerent.
those of-the his who most him-loved

Tote la gent de la contree
All the folk of the country
i est venue e assemblee
there is come and assembled
por esguarder la grant merveille,
for to-look-at the great marvel
qu'onques ne vit nus sa pareille,
that-ever not saw any its equal
ne ja nen iert mais tel veüe:
nor ever not will-be more such seen
fiere parole en ont tenue.
proud speech thereof they-have held
La Toison ont mout esguardee:
The Fleece they-have much looked-at
diënt que c'est chose faee.
they-say that this-is thing fairy
Bien afichent veraiement,
Well they-affirm truly
s'as deus ne venist a talent,
if-to-the gods not had-come to desire
ne poüst pas estre engeignié.
not it-could at-all be contrived
Se d'eus ne li fust otreié,
If by-them not to-him had-been granted
com faitement e en quel guise
how fashioned and in what guise
poüst par home estre conquise?
could-it by man be conquered
Mout ont Jason entre eus loé:
Much they-have Jason among them praised

bien le tienent tuit a faé.
well him they-hold all for fairy
En la cité li reis l'en meine,
Into the city the king him-thence leads
de lui honorer mout se peine.
of him honoring much himself he-strives
Si come il el palais entra,
So as he into-the palace entered
encontre li vint Medea:
toward him came Medea
cinc cenz feiees le baisast
five hundred times him she-would-have-kissed
mout volentiers, se ele osast.
very willingly if she had-dared
Par mi les flans l'a embracié;
Through midst the flanks him-she-has embraced
soavet li a conseillié
softly to-him she-has counseled
que la nuit vienge a li parler,
that the night he-may-come to her to-speak
quant il iert lieus, senz demorer:
when it will-be place without delaying
«Dame», fait il, «mout le desir;
Lady says he much it I-desire
«del tot ferai vostre plaisir.»
in-the all I-shall-do your pleasure
Li bainz li fu apareilliez:
The bath to-him was prepared

quant lavez se fu e baigniez
when washed himself he-was and bathed
isnelement s'en est eissuz;
swiftly himself-thence is issued
mout est de riches dras vestuz
very he-is in rich cloths clothed
que s'amie li ot tramis.
which his-beloved to-him had sent
Après sont al mangier asis;
After they-are at-the eating seated
servi furent mout hautement.
served they-were very highly
N'i ferai plus porloignement:
Not-there I-shall-make more prolonging
tote la quinzaine e le meis
all the fortnight and the month
s'i sojornerent li Grezeis.
themselves-there stayed the Greeks
Grant leisir ont li dui amant
Great leisure have the two lovers
de faire ensemble lor talant:
of doing together their will
sovent demeinent bele vie.
often they-lead fair life
Jason en a mené s'amie,
Jason thence has led his-beloved
quant ço avint qu'il s'en ala.
when that befell that-he himself-thence went
Grant folie fist Medea:
Great folly did Medea

trop ot le vassal aamé,
too-much she-had the vassal loved
por lui laissa son parenté,
for him she-left her kindred
son pere e sa mere e sa gent.
her father and her mother and her folk
Assez l'en prist puis malement;
Enough to-her-thereof it-took after badly
quar, si com li Autors reconte,
for so as the Author recounts
puis la laissa, si fist grant honte.
after her he-left so did great shame
El l'aveit guardé de morir:
She him-had guarded from dying
ja puis ne la deüst guerpir.
ever after not her he-ought to-abandon
Trop l'engeigna, ço peise mei;
Too-much her-he-deceived that weighs me
laidement li menti sa fei.
foully to-her he-belied his faith
Trestuit li deu s'en corrocierent,
All the gods themselves-thereof angered
qui mout asprement l'en vengierent.
who very harshly her-thereof avenged
N'en dirai plus, ne nel vueil faire,
Not-thereof I-shall-tell more nor not-it I-wish to-do
quar mout ai grant uevre a retraire.
for very I-have great work to recount

Quant en Grece furent venu,
When into Greece they-were come
al port dont il erent meü
to-the port whence they were moved
ariverent joiosement:
they-arrived joyously
de grant peine e de grant torment
from great pain and from great torment
furent estors, ço lor est vis.
they-were escaped that to-them is opinion
Grant joie en firent lor amis;
Great joy thereof made their friends
fiere parole en demenerent,
proud speech thereof they-led
quant la merveille remirerent.
when the marvel they-gazed-at
Mout en reçut Jason grant pris
Much thereof received Jason great praise
e grant honor, si com jo truis.
and great honor so as I find
Sis oncles l'a mout honoré;
His uncle him-has much honored
ne li a nul semblant mostré
not to-him has any semblance shown
qu'il fust iriez de sa venue:
that-he were angered at his coming

n'esteit pas chose aparceüe
not-it-was at-all thing perceived
qu'il le haïst ne qu'il vousist
that-he him hated nor that-he wished
que damages li avenist.
that harm to-him might-befall
De sa vie ne de son fait
Of his life nor of his deed
ne sera plus par mei retrait:
not will-be more by me recounted
jo ne le truis pas en cest livre,
I not it find at-all in this book
ne Daires plus n'en voust escrire,
nor Dares more not-thereof wished to-write
ne Beneeiz pas ne l'alonge,
nor Benoît at-all not it-lengthens
ne pas n'i acreistra mençonge.
nor at-all not-there will-add lie
Daires n'en fait plus mencion:
Dares not-thereof makes more mention
mais qui or veut oïr chançon
but who now wishes to-hear song
de la plus haute uevre que seit
of the most high work that be
ne que ja mais oïe seit,
nor that ever more heard be
des plus granz batailles cruëus,
of-the most great battles cruel
des plus fieres, des plus morteus,
of-the most fierce of-the most mortal

dont la riche chevalerie
whereof the rich chivalry
que a cel tens ert fu perie,
which at that time was was perished
e destruite la grant cité,
and destroyed the great city
jo l'en dirai la verité
I him-thereof shall-tell the truth
e retrairai trestote l'uevre,
and shall-recount all the-work
si com li Autors la descuevre.
so as the Author it uncovers

The First Destruction of Troy

IX

Hercules stirs the Greeks to avenge Laomedon's insult. Castor and Pollux at Sparta, Telamon at Salamis, Peleus, and Nestor all promise to come. Fifteen ships sail in spring and reach the port of Sigeum at evening. Peleus reminds the leaders of their vengeance, the land to be laid waste, and the treasure of Troy. Hercules proposes a plan: he, Telamon, and Peleus will lie in ambush near the walls while Nestor, Castor, and Pollux hold the shore, so that when the Trojans ride out the ambush may seize the empty city.

Cil orent conté e retrait
Those had told and recounted
ço qu'a Troie lor ot om fait,
that which-at Troy to-them had one done
si com li reis les congea,
so as the king them dismissed

qui sa terre lor devea,
who his land to-them forbade
ne pas nes i voust consentir
nor at-all not-them there he-wished to-allow
e assez les cuida laidir:
and enough them he-thought to-insult
mout par en ont tenu grant conte.
very much thereof they-have held great account
Grant tort, grant despit e grant honte
Great wrong great spite and great shame
lor fist Laomedon li reis:
to-them did Laomedon the king
mout en a pesé a Grezeis;
very thereof it-has weighed on Greeks
en desdeing pristrent e en gros
in disdain they-took-it and in anger
de ço qu'il onques fu si os,
of that that-he ever was so bold
de sa terre lor fist devié;
from his land to-them he-made forbidding
mout par en sont trestuit irié.
very much thereof are all angered
Juré ont bien tuit e pramis
Sworn have well all and promised
qu'il en destruiront son païs,
that-they thereof will-destroy his country
tote l'en confondront sa terre:
all from-him-thereof they-will-confound his land
seürs puet estre de tel guerre,
sure he-can be of such war

dont il sera honiz e morz:
whereof he will-be shamed and dead
mal lor i devea ses porz.
ill to-them there he-forbade his ports
Ne s'en voust pas taire Herculès:
Not himself-thereof wished at-all to-be-silent Hercules
sor sei en prist le greignor fais,
upon himself thereof he-took the greater burden
a toz ses amis le mostra;
to all his friends it he-showed
tant dist, tant fist, tant porchaça
so-much he-said so-much he-did so-much he-pursued
que ceus de Grece a esmeüz
that those of Greece he-has moved
vers Troïens toz irascuz.
toward Trojans all angered
Par son porchaz e par ses diz,
By his pursuing and by his sayings
si com reconte li Escriz,
so as recounts the Writing
mut le damage e tot l'afaire
moved the harm and all the-affair
que vos orreiz hui mais retraire.
which you will-hear today more recount
A Parte ala, ne tarja plus;
To Sparta he-went not he-delayed more
la trova Castor e Pollus:
there he-found Castor and Pollux
frere esteient e andui rei,
brothers they-were and both kings

riches ert chascuns endreit sei.
rich was each by himself
Cist ont grant joie fait de lui.
These have great joy made of him
Tant lor a dit que ambedui
So-much to-them he-has said that both
li ont pramis a aïdier:
to-him have promised to help
«Prest sont» ço diënt, «del vengier;
Ready they-are that they-say of-the avenging
ja por eus n'i avra tarjance,
ever for them not-there will-have delay
mout en iert prise grief venjance.
very thereof will-be taken grievous vengeance
Bien puet estre li reis seürs,
Well can be the king sure
ja si forz tors ne si forz murs
ever so strong towers nor so strong walls
n'avra, que par force nes prengent
not-he-will-have that by force not-them they-may-take
e que sa honte ne li vengent.»
and that his shame not on-him they-may-avenge
Mout par s'en fait Herculès liez
Very much himself-thereof makes Hercules glad
e mout les en a merciiez
and very them thereof has thanked
e parfondement les encline;
and deeply them bows-to
puis est alez a Salemine.
then is gone to Salamis

Telamon trueve le corteis:
Telamon he-finds the courtly
n'ot en Grece meillor Grezeis,
not-there-was in Greece better Greek
ne plus riche ne plus hardi
nor more rich nor more bold
ne mieuz aidant a son ami.
nor better helping to his friend
Tote l'uevre li a retraite
All the-work to-him he-has recounted
e la honte que lor fu faite:
and the shame which to-them was done
«Se vos», fait il, «de rien m'amez,
If you says he in anything me-love
«ore i parra; si en venez
now there it-will-appear so thence come
«a Troie, quar nos i alons:
to Troy for we there go
«Pro avrons gent, se vos avons.
Plenty we-shall-have folk if you we-have
«Trop sereit lait tot a estros
Too foul it-would-be all at once
«que nos i alissons senz vos;
that we there might-go without you
«mout iert honiz qui remandra.»
very will-be shamed who will-remain
Tant li a dit, tant li preia
So-much to-him he-has said so-much to-him prayed
que de l'aler cil li afie;
that of the-going he to-him pledges

e Herculès mout l'en mercie.
and Hercules much him-thereof thanks
Puis est venuz en Fice ariere.
Then he-is come into Phthia back
A Peleüs fait grant preiere
To Peleus he-makes great prayer
que de l'aler prenge conrei,
that of the-going he-may-take care
e de mener ensemble o sei
and of leading together with himself
les meillors homes de sa terre
the best men of his land
e ceus qui plus sevent de guerre.
and those who most know of war
«La terre est riche e d'aveir pleine:
The land is rich and of-wealth full
«Senz grant travail e senz grant peine
Without great toil and without great pain
«porrons le païs eissillier
we-shall-be-able the country to-lay-waste
«e nostre grant honte vengier.
and our great shame to-avenge
— Par fei», ço respont Peleüs,
By faith that answers Peleus
«tant i merrai contes e dus
so-many there I-shall-lead counts and dukes
«e chevaliers proz e hardiz, —
and knights valiant and bold
«de ço seiez seürs e fiz, —
of that be-you sure and trusting

«qu'en la terre sojornerons
that-in the land we-shall-stay
«un an o dous, se nos volons.»
a year or two if we wish
Fait Herculès: «Vos dites bien:
Says Hercules You say well
«Ne me poüsseiz dire rien
Not to-me you-could say anything
«dont me feïsseiz si grant joie,
whereby to-me you-could-make so great joy
«come d'aler sor ceus de Troie.»
as of-going against those of Troy
A Nestor est tot dreit alez,
To Nestor he-is all straight gone
qui riches ert e renomez.
who rich was and renowned
L'uevre li prent tote a retraire
The-work to-him he-takes all to recount
e ço que il voleient faire.
and that which they wished to-do
Cil ne s'en fait de rien eschis,
He not himself-thereof makes in anything averse
ainz dit: «Senz faille vos plevis
rather says Without fail to-you I-pledge
«que jo serai li premerains
that I shall-be the first
«a destruire les Troïains.
to destroy the Trojans
«Ja ne verrai vostre message,
Ever not I-shall-see your message

«sempres ne m'aiez al rivage;
at-once not me-you-may-have at-the shore
«teus compaignons merrai o mei,
such companions I-shall-lead with me
«qui tost movront un grant desrei.
who soon will-move a great disorder
«Jo n'oï onques mais novele
I not-heard ever more news
«que plus me fust bone ne bele».
which more to-me were good nor fair
Or a quant que vueut Herculès:
Now has how-much that wishes Hercules
nule chose ne li faut mais.
any thing not to-him fails more
As porz font faire quinze nes;
At-the ports they-make make fifteen ships
d'ancres, de veiles e de tres
with-anchors with sails and with masts
les apareillent e guarnissent
them they-prepare and furnish
e de vitaille les emplissent.
and with victuals them fill

Quant vint el tens qu'iverz devise,
When it-came to-the time that-winter departs
que l'erbe vert pert en la lise;
that the-grass green appears in the meadow
lan que florissent li ramel,
the-year that flower the branches
que doucement chantent oisel,
that sweetly sing birds

merle, mauviz e oriol
blackbird thrush and oriole
e estornel e rossignol,
and starling and nightingale
la blanche flor pert en l'espine
the white flower appears on the-thorn
e reverdeie la gaudine;
and greens-again the woodland
quant li tens est douz e soés,
when the season is sweet and soft
lors partirent des porz les nes.
then parted from-the ports the ships
Ceus qu'Herculès aveit somons,
Those whom-Hercules had summoned
les dus, les princes, les barons,
the dukes the princes the barons
ot toz mandez e atenduz,
he-had all summoned and awaited
ainz que des porz se fust meüz.
before that from-the ports himself he-had moved
Puis s'empeignent es hautes ondes;
Then themselves-push-off on-the high waves
par la ou els sont plus parfondes,
through there where they are most deep
traient e siglent a esforz.
they-row and sail with effort
Dès qu'il furent parti des porz,
As-soon that-they were parted from-the ports
onques ne pristrent cès ne fin,
ever not they-took stop nor end

nul jor al seir ne al matin,
any day at-the evening nor at-the morning
desci qu'il virent la contree
until that-they saw the country
qu'il aveient tant desiree:
which-they had so-much desired
mout par orent trestuit grant joie
very much had all great joy
quant le païs virent de Troie.
when the country they-saw of Troy
Le jor laissierent trespasser,
The day they-let pass
e quant ço vint a l'avesprer,
and when that came to the-evening
al port de Sigeon tornerent,
to-the port of Sigeum they-turned
totes lor nes i ariverent.
all their ships there arrived
Quant il les orent aancrees,
When they them had anchored
si les ont bien achastelees:
so them have well fortified
par les bretesches metent armes,
through the bretesches they-put arms
haches, darz, javeloz, gisarmes,
axes darts javelins guisarmes
que, se ço esteit aventure
that if that were adventure
que d'eus fust fait desconfiture,
that of-them were made discomfiture

as nes refust lor forterece,
at-the ships again-would-be their fortress
s'il lor tornot a grant destrece.
if-it to-them turned to great distress
Quant la nuit fu tres bien meiee
When the night was very well half-gone
e la lune se fu couchiee,
and the moon itself was set
sor le rivage, el bel sablon,
on the shore on-the fair sand
s'en eissirent fors li baron.
themselves-thence issued out the barons
Un parlement ont d'eus josté;
A parley they-have of-them gathered
Peleüs a premiers parlé:
Peleus has first spoken
«Oëz,» fait il, «seignor ami,
Hear says he lords friends
«riche, sage, pro e hardi.
rich wise valiant and bold
«En tot le siegle ne sai taus
In all the world not I-know such
«si corajos ne si vassaus,
so courageous nor so valiant
«ne qui aient le tierz conquis
nor who may-have the third conquered
«riches terres ne bons païs.
rich lands nor good countries

«Mainte bataille avez vencue
Many-a battle you-have won
«e mainte terre escombatue:
and many-a land won-in-fight
«Par tot vos est bien avenu,
Through all to-you is well befallen
«quar onques ne fustes vencu,
for ever not you-were conquered
«ne ne sereiz ja por nul plait.
nor not you-will-be ever for any plea
«Tant avons espleitié e fait
So-much we-have hastened and done
«qu'en cest païs somes entré,
that-into this country we-are entered
«nel sevent ancore home né.
not-it know yet man born
«A ço nos covient ore entendre
To that us behooves now to-attend
«e entre nos tel conseil prendre
and among us such counsel to-take
«que nos ensi le poissons faire,
that we thus it may do
«e de ceste chose a chief traire,
and of this thing to end to-draw
«que nostre en seit or la victoire,
that ours thereof be now the victory
«l'onor e le pris e la gloire.
the-honor and the prize and the glory
«Treis choses vos i vueil mostrer,
Three things to-you there I-wish to-show

«que bien i font a esguarder
which well there make to regard
«e que chascuns deit bien saveir
and which each ought well to-know
«que faire en deit tot son poëir.
that to-do therein he-ought all his power
«L'une est de prendre vengement
The-one is of taking vengeance
«del lait qu'il firent nostre gent, 2250
for-the insult which-they did our folk
«quant de cest païs les chacierent
when from this country them they-chased
«e laidement les manacierent.
and foully them threatened
«L'autre est des terres chalongier,
The-other is of-the lands claiming
«qu'il ne nos puissent damagier:
that-they not us may damage
«N'avra en eus que corrocier, 2255
Not-there-will-be in them but anger
«quant verront lor terre eissillier;
when they-will-see their land to-lay-waste
«mout se peneront del defendre
very themselves they-will-strive of-the defending
«e de noz cors ocire e prendre;
and of our bodies to-kill and to-take
«mais de ço ne m'esmai de rien,
but of that not me-I-dismay in anything
«quar vos le fereiz par tot bien. 2260
for you it will-do through all well

«La tierce chose que vos dis,
The third thing which to-you I-say
«se nos vencons noz enemis:
if we conquer our enemies
«A Troie sont li grant tresor
At Troy are the great treasures
«de pailes e d'argent e d'or
of silks and of-silver and of-gold
«e de tote autre manantie,
and of all other wealth
«ne nos n'avons pas la navie
nor we not-have at-all the fleet
«ou la meitié en portissons,
where the half thereof we-might-carry
«quant nos nos en retornerons;
when we us thence shall-return
«toz jorz en serons mais manant
all days thereof we-shall-be more wealthy
«en noz terres e nostre enfant,
in our lands and our children
«e tote Grece en vaudra mais,
and all Greece thereof will-be-worth more
«quant serons mort, mil anz après.
when we-shall-be dead thousand years after
«Or n'i a plus: la nuit s'en vait;
Now not-there has more the night itself-thence goes
«ne covient pas faire lonc plait.
not it-behooves at-all to-make long plea
«Tens est mais hui de nos armer:
Time it-is more today of us arming

«Jusqu'a poi verrons ajorner.
Until-to little we-shall-see dawn
«Partons noz genz e ordenons
Let-us-part our folk and order
«e noz eschieles devisons
and our squadrons divide
«par tel sen e par tel maniere,
in such sense and in such manner
«com plus nos seit chose legiere,
as most to-us be thing easy
«que, quant ço vendra a la feire,
that when that will-come to the doing
«qu'il nen i ait rien a refaire,
that-it not there may-have anything to redo
«que ne seions gent esbaïe.
that not we-may-be folk dismayed
«E qui le mieuz savra, sil die.»
And who it best will-know so-it may-say
Herculès respondi premier:
Hercules answered first
«Leial conseil e dreiturier
Loyal counsel and right
«donez, sire, senz nule dote.
you-give lord without any doubt
«Faisons armer nostre gent tote:
Let-us-make arm our folk all
«A Troie en aut une partie,
To Troy thence may-go a part
«l'autre remaigne a la navie.
the-other may-remain at the fleet

«Jo e Telamon veirement
I and Telamon truly
«irons devant o nostre gent;
shall-go before with our folk
«vos vendreiz el conrei après
you will-come in-the array after
«a sostenir le greignor fais:
to sustain the greater burden
«Chascuns avra sa compaignie.
Each will-have his company
«Ainz que l'aube seit esclarcie,
Before that the-dawn be brightened
«nos embuscherons près del mur
we shall-ambush near of-the wall
«en lieu covenable e seür.
in place fitting and safe
«Li autre, qui ci remandront,
The others who here will-remain
«en treis conreiz se partiront:
into three arrays themselves will-divide
«En l'un sera li reis Nestor,
In the-one will-be the king Nestor
«e en l'autre sera Castor;
and in the-other will-be Castor
«Pollus avra le tierz conrei.
Pollux will-have the third array
«Devant les nes, el sablonei,
Before the ships on-the sand
«tendreiz o eus torneiement.
you-will-hold with them tourney

«Ço sai jo bien certainement,
That know I well certainly
«dès que li reis ci nos savra,
as-soon that the king here us will-know
«o quant que il aveir porra,
with how-much that he to-have will-be-able
«s'en istra sempres o le cri:
himself-thence will-issue at-once with the cry
«En es le pas les avreiz ci.
In the same pace them you-will-have here
«Tant voudront estre a la meslee,
So-much they-will-wish to-be at the melee
«ja la cité n'iert reguardee,
ever the city not-will-be guarded
«e qui ainz ainz ça en vendront,
and who first first here thence will-come
«dès que la novele en orront:
as-soon that the news thereof they-will-hear
«Mout sera tart as Troïans
Very will-be late to-the Trojans
«qu'il nos truissent ça fors es chans.
that-they us may-find here outside in-the fields
«Ja n'i avra resne tenue
Ever not-there will-have rein held
«desci que targe i ait fendue.
until that targe there may-have split
«Vos, n'aiez cure de desrei:
You not-have care of disorder
«Ici maintenez le tornei.
Here maintain the tourney

«Nostre gent sera embuschiee:
Our folk will-be ambushed
«Quant la vile sera voidiee,
When the town will-be emptied
«de nostre embuschement saudrons,
from our ambush we-shall-leap
«tot a delivre i enterrons;
all at freedom there we-shall-enter
«ja n'i troverons grant content,
ever not-there we-shall-find great contention
«quar fors sera tote lor gent.
for out will-be all their folk
«Quant les portes avrons saisies
When the gates we-shall-have seized
«e de noz chevaliers guarnies,
and with our knights furnished
«après lor dos nos apoindrons;
after their back us we-shall-spur
«en itel sen les forsclorons,
in such sense them we-shall-shut-out
«sorpris seront de grant maniere,
surprised they-will-be in great manner
«quant escrïé seront deriere;
when cried-at they-will-be behind
«estrangement seront enclos,
strangely they-will-be enclosed
«quant nos les asaudrons as dos:
when we them shall-assail at-the backs
«Se ariere vuelent torner,
If back they-wish to-turn

«par nos les covendra passer.
through us them it-will-behoove to-pass
«Onc ne virent si fort passage,
Ever not they-saw so strong passage
«ne qui lor tort a tel damage:
nor which to-them might-turn to such damage
«Leiaument vos jur et plevis
Loyally to-you I-swear and pledge
«qu'ensi seront tuit mort e pris.
that-thus they-will-be all dead and taken
«Qui mieuz savra, si m'i ament;
Who better will-know so me-there may-amend
«mais, solonc le mien esciënt,
but according-to the my knowledge
«jo cuit aveir auques bien dit.»
I think to-have somewhat well said
N'i ot un sol, grant ne petit,
Not-there had one single great nor little
qui le conseil a buen ne tienge,
who the counsel for good not may-hold
coment que il lor en avienge,
how that it to-them thereof may-befall
as armes corent a eslais,
to-the arms they-run at gallop
quar le jor criement, qui est près.
for the day they-fear which is near
Sor le rivage, el sablonei,
On the shore on-the sand
a chascuns d'eus pris son conrei.
has each of-them taken his array

De blans haubers, d'eaumes aguz
With white hauberks with-helmets pointed
e de maintes colors escuz
and with many colors shields
s'apareillierent gentement;
themselves-prepared nobly
après desevrerent lor gent.
after they-divided their folk

The Battle Before the Walls

X

Hercules, Telamon, and Peleus hide in the orchards near Troy. At dawn the peasants raise the alarm, and Laomedon rides out against the Greeks on the shore. Nestor is hard pressed until Castor and Pollux come up, and Laomedon reforms his men for a joust. Nestor unhorses Laomedon, who fights on afoot; the young Trojan Cedar knocks Nestor down, and Laomedon wounds him. Castor wounds Seguradon, Cedar avenges his cousin by unhorsing Castor, and Pollux rescues his brother and kills Eliachim, Laomedon's nephew. Laomedon vows vengeance.

2355 Herculès chevaucha premiers
Hercules rode first
bien o dou mile chevaliers.
well with two thousand knights
Dus Telamon avuec sa gent
Duke Telamon with his folk
chevauche après serreement:
rides after closely
trei mile en i ameine o sei,
three thousand thereof there he-leads with himself

qui soz les heaumes furent quei.
who under the helmets were quiet
Après chevauche Peleüs,
After rides Peleus
qui des chevaliers ot le plus:
who of-the knights had the most
quatre mile, tuit alosé,
four thousand all renowned
en vont o lui vers la cité.
thence go with him toward the city
Mout sont riches les treis compaignes:
Very are rich the three companies
covertures et entreseignes
coverings and devices
aveient de maintes colors.
they-had of many colors
Anceis que pareüst li jors,
Before that might-appear the day
se repostrent par les vergiers,
themselves they-bid through the orchards
qu'il troverent granz e pleniers.
which-they found great and full
Contre le tens d'esté novel,
Toward the season of-summer new
esteient flori li ramel,
were flowered the branches
e li arbre vert e foillu
and the trees green and leafy
les ont guardé e defendu,
them have guarded and defended

que nus ne les i aparçut.
that any not them there perceived
Li clers matins, qui venir dut,
The bright morning which to-come ought
ne tarja guaires: l'aube crieve
not delayed much the-dawn breaks
e li soleiz s'espant e lieve.
and the sun itself-spreads and rises
Li païsant de la contree
The country-folk of the country
virent la grant gent aünee,
saw the great folk gathered
virent les nes e les armez:
saw the ships and the armed-men
ço les a fortment esfreez.
that them has greatly frightened
Li criz lieve par le païs,
The cry rises through the country
dès qu'il virent lor enemis;
as-soon that-they saw their enemies
grant fut la noise e granz li sons;
great was the noise and great the sound
fuient as bois e as boissons.
they-flee to-the woods and to-the bushes
A la cité en vait li criz:
To the city thence goes the cry
li plus seürs fu esfreïz.
the most sure was frightened
Laomedon ot mout grant ire,
Laomedon had very great wrath

quant il oï noncier e dire
when he heard announce and say
que li Greu erent retorné
that the Greeks were returned
por lui destruire e son regné.
for him to-destroy and his realm
Isnelement arma son cors,
Swiftly he-armed his body
de la vile s'en eissi fors,
from the town himself-thence issued out
o itant de gent come il ot
with as-much of folk as he had
e come il onques aveir pot.
and as he ever to-have could
Vers eus chevauche a grant espleit,
Toward them he-rides with great speed
e dès que il les aparceit,
and as-soon that he them perceives
ferir les vait de maintenant:
to-strike them he-goes from now
la ot maint chevalier sanglant,
there there-had many-a knight bloody
e maint navré e maint maumis,
and many-a wounded and many-a maimed
e maint abatu e ocis;
and many-a thrown-down and killed
e dès qu'il vindrent as espees,
and as-soon that-they came to-the swords
mout s'entredonent granz colees.
very each-other-give great blows

La ot maint heaume esquartelé
There there-had many-a helmet quartered
e maint chevalier decoupé:
and many-a knight cut-up
par grant ire se requereient,
with great wrath each-other sought
espessement s'entrociëient.
thickly each-other-killed
Nestor avuec la soë gent
Nestor with the his folk
les encontra premierement.
them met first
Le pis en ot al comencier:
The worst thereof he-had at-the beginning
mout i ot as suens grant mestier.
very there was to-the his great need
Grant piece tindrent le tornei,
Great while they-held the tourney
ainz que venissent li conrei
before that might-come the arrays
ou Castor e Pollus esteient;
where Castor and Pollux were
mais puis que il le bosoing veient,
but after that they the need see
si socorent lor compaignons.
so they-succor their companions
Lors mut Castor o tot les sons:
Then moved Castor with all the his
lances baissiees, escuz pris,
lances lowered shields taken

vont encontre lor enemis.
they-go against their enemies
La ot grant presse e grant huëe
There there-had great press and great hue
e mainte fort targe esfondree.
and many-a strong targe staved-in
Mout se tindrent li Troïien,
Very themselves held the Trojans
estrangement le firent bien:
extraordinarily it they-did well
onc de la place ne se murent,
ever from the place not themselves they-moved
toz tens espessierent e crurent.
all times they-thickened and grew
Lor gent veneit a granz compaignes
Their folk came in great companies
par valees e par montaignes:
through valleys and through mountains
une envaïe lor ont faite,
an onset on-them they-have made
ou mainte espee ot nue traite.
where many-a sword there-had bare drawn
La ot mainte sele voidiee;
There there-had many-a saddle emptied
chaciez les ont plus d'une archiee.
chased them they-have more than-a bowshot
Se ne fust li conreiz Pollus,
If not had-been the array (of-)Pollux
qui a venir ne tarja plus,
who of coming not delayed more

sempres i perdissent Grezeis;
at-once there would-have-lost Greeks
mais li autre, qui vindrent freis,
but the others who came fresh
lor laissierent chevaus aler:
to-them let horses go
la veïsseiz estor lever
there you-would-have-seen fight rise
estrange e pesme e doloros,
strange and most-wicked and grievous
lait e mortel e angoissos.
foul and mortal and anguished
Grant sont li hu, grant sont li cri;
Great are the hues great are the cries
la s'aïdent li plus hardi:
there themselves-help the most bold
al departir sont les colees.
at-the parting are the blows
Quant les compaignes sont jostees,
When the companies are joined
si ront recovree la place;
so again-have recovered the place
mais mout dura petit la chace,
but very lasted little the chase
e ne por quant li Troïen
and not for how-much the Trojans
i perdirent, ço sai jo bien,
there lost that know I well

cent chevaliers proz e vaillanz
hundred knights valiant and worthy
e de toz les mieuz combatanz.
and of all the best fighters
Laomedon, de Troie reis,
Laomedon of Troy king
a esguardé que li Grezeis
has seen that the Greeks
damagereient mout sa gent,
would-damage very his folk
s'il ne les teneit autrement.
if-he not them held otherwise
Trop folement se desreoënt,
Too foolishly themselves they-broke-rank
nule mesure n'i guardoënt:
any measure not-there they-kept
mout i perdeient por ço plus.
very there they-lost for that more
Li reis les a fait traire en sus,
The king them has made draw in up
sevrez les a e fait conreiz:
separated them he-has and made arrays
dès or sera beaus li torneiz;
from now will-be fair the tourney
ore i avra joste senz faille,
now there will-have joust without fail
ainz que departe la bataille.
before that may-part the battle

Li reis Nestor fu mout hardiz
The king Nestor was very bold
e chevaliers granz e forniz.
and knight great and well-built
Armez fu bien el milsoudor,
Armed he-was well on-the costly-horse
soz ciel n'en aveit nul meillor:
under heaven not-thereof had any better
uns sors baucenz ert de Castele,
a sorrel blazed it-was of Castile
ne s'i tenist pas arondele.
not itself-there would-hold at-all swallow
Les menuz sauz en vient es rens:
The small leaps thence he-comes into-the ranks
en corage ot e en porpens
in heart he-had and in thought
qu'il ira ja ferir les lor.
that-he will-go now to-strike the theirs
Laomedon maintint l'estor,
Laomedon maintained the-fight
ses homes chadele e estreint:
his men he-leads and holds-close
de bien faire pas ne se feint.
of well doing at-all not himself he-holds-back
Onques nus hom de mere nez
Ever any man of mother born
plus richement ne fu armez;
more richly not was armed
riches armes ot a merveille.
rich arms he-had to marvel

D'une chiere porpre vermeille
Of-a costly purple red
ot coverture e entreseigne
he-had covering and device
e en sa lance grant enseigne;
and on his lance great banner
les lengues l'en batent as poinz.
the tongues him-thereof beat at-the fists
Nestor broche vers lui toz joinz.
Nestor spurs toward him all close
Li reis le vit vers lui venir,
The king him saw toward him come
de plain eslais le vait ferir:
with plain gallop him he-goes to-strike
tant com cheval porent aler,
as-much as horse could go
se vont granz cous entredoner;
themselves they-go great blows each-other-to-give
par mi les bocles des escuz
through midst the bosses of-the shields
se passerent e fers e fuz.
themselves passed both irons and shafts
Li reis a peceié sa lance,
The king has shattered his lance
mais jo vos di bien senz dotance,
but I to-you say well without doubt
Nestor eüst navré a mort,
Nestor he-would-have wounded to death
se il n'eüst hauberc si fort.
if he not-had-had hauberk so strong

Cil refiert lui par grant vigor,
He strikes-back him with great vigor
si que la targe peinte a flor
so that the targe painted with flower
li a fendue e dequassee
to-him he-has split and smashed
e la broigne li a fausee;
and the byrnie to-him has pierced
auques l'a navré tot de plain
somewhat him-he-has wounded all of plain
par mi le braz e par la main;
through midst the arm and through the hand
puis l'a empeint de tel vertu
then him-he-has thrust with such strength
qu'a la terre l'a abatu.
that-to the earth him-he-has thrown-down
Li reis fu merveilles iriez:
The king was marvelously angered
isnelement sailli en piez.
swiftly he-leapt to feet
Ainz que Nestor feïst son tor,
Before that Nestor might-make his turn
ot trait le vert brant de color;
he-had drawn the green blade of color
treis cous l'en dona granz e fiers:
three blows him-thereof he-gave great and fierce
mout ert li reis bons chevaliers.
very was the king good knight
Uns Troïens, Cedar ot non,
A Trojan Cedar had name

jovnes senz barbe e senz grenon, —
young without beard and without mustache
n'ert ancor pas li anz passez
not-was yet at-all the year passed
qu'il aveit esté adobez, —
that-he had been dubbed
mout ot grant duel, mout fu marri,
very he-had great grief very he-was grieved
por poi li cuers ne li parti,
for little the heart not to-him broke
quant son seignor vit a la terre:
when his lord he-saw on the earth
par ire vait Nestor requerre.
in wrath he-goes Nestor to-attack
Tel li dona en mi le piz
Such to-him he-gave in midst the breast
que de sa lance vole escliz:
that from his lance flies splinter
outre en passast le confanon,
beyond thence would-have-passed the gonfanon
se il n'eüst hauberc si bon;
if he not-had-had hauberk so good
mais ne por quant al parhurter
but not for how-much at-the knocking
l'a fait a la terre enverser.
him-he-has made to the earth overturn
Li heaumes feri el gravier,
The helmet struck on-the gravel
si quel virent mil chevalier.
so that-it saw thousand knights

Toz li premiers qui i avint,
All the first who there arrived
ço fu li reis, qui le brant tint
that was the king who the blade held
cler e trenchant el poing tot nu:
bright and cutting in-the fist all bare
parmi l'eaume l'en a feru
through-midst the-helmet him-thereof he-has struck
de tel aïr que le nasal
with such force that the nose-guard
l'en a abatu contre val,
him-thereof he-has thrown-down toward below
que de la levre e del menton
that of the lip and of-the chin
puet om veeir sor le sablon.
can one see on the sand
Bien cuit que s'en venjast li reis,
Well I-think that himself-thereof would-have-avenged the king
se nel hastassent li Grezeis;
if not-him had-hastened the Greeks
mais tant i a d'eus assemblé
but so-many there has of-them assembled
que l'un de l'autre ont dessemblé.
that the-one from the-other they-have separated
Mais ainz qu'il fussent remonté,
But before that-they were remounted
i ot maint chief de bu sevré.
there had many-a head from trunk severed

Li Troïen bien s'i aidierent
The Trojans well themselves-there helped
e des Grezeis mout damagierent:
and of-the Greeks very damaged
ocis en ont teus trente sis,
killed thereof they-have such thirty six
qui mout esteient de grant pris.
who very were of great worth
Castor a bien Cedar veü,
Castor has well Cedar seen
qui Nestor aveit abatu;
who Nestor had thrown-down
mout le vit bien aidier e poindre
very him he-saw well help and spur
e mout sovent o les suens joindre.
and very often with the his join
Devers le rei n'a en la place
Toward the king not-there-is in the place
un sol des suens qui mieuz le face.
a single of-the his who better it may-do
Sor un cheval d'Espaigne sor
On a horse of-Spain sorrel
sist bien armez li reis Castor:
sat well armed the king Castor
par mi les rens vint eslaissiez
through midst the ranks he-came dashing
vers Troïens fel e iriez,
toward Trojans felon and angered
prez del damagier senz demore.
ready of-the damaging without delay

Uns Troïens li corut sore:
A Trojan to-him ran over
Seguradon aveit cil non;
Seguradon had he name
bel cors, bel vis, bele façon
fair body fair face fair fashion
aveit sor tote creature;
he-had above all creature
riches hom ert a desmesure.
rich man he-was beyond measure
Il e Cedar erent cosin,
He and Cedar were cousins
mout i aveit noble meschin.
very there was noble youth
Cil e Castor s'entrecontrerent;
He and Castor each-other-met
enz el mi lieu des rens josterent
in in-the mid place of-the ranks they-jousted
de tel aïr com li cheval
with such force as the horses
porent moveir de lor estal:
could move from their stand
bien i parut a lor escuz,
well there it-appeared on their shields
qu'estroëz orent e fenduz.
which-pierced they-had and split
Seguradon sa lance brise,
Seguradon his lance breaks
onques n'i ot autre devise:
ever not-there had other device

bien cuit, s'ele ne peceiast,
well I-think if-it not had-shattered
que del cheval jus le portast.
that from-the horse down him he-would-have-carried
Castor le navra al joster;
Castor him wounded at-the jousting
onc li haubers nel pot sauver:
ever the hauberk not-him could save
son confanon el cors li baigne,
his gonfanon in-the body to-him he-bathes
li dueus des suens creist e engraigne.
the grief of-the his grows and swells
Cedar vit son cosin navrer,
Cedar saw his cousin wounded
sempres cuida del sens desver:
at-once he-thought from-the sense to-go-mad
ja morra, s'il nel puet vengier.
now he-will-die if-he not-it can avenge
Isnelement point le destrier,
Swiftly he-spurs the charger
Castor a pris bien en travers.
Castor he-has taken well at across
De la lance trencha li fers:
Of the lance cut the iron
l'escu li perce e la ventaille,
the-shield to-him it-pierces and the ventail
iluec li fist sis haubers faille;
there to-him made his hauberk fail

par mi la chiere l'a navré
through midst the face him-he-has wounded
e del cheval jus enversé.
and from-the horse down overturned
Par la resne prent le destrier,
By the rein he-takes the charger
si l'a baillié un escuier:
so it-he-has given to-a squire
par grant proëce l'a conquis.
by great prowess it-he-has conquered
Castor dut bien estre entrepris:
Castor ought well to-be in-straits
a terre fu entre tel gent,
on ground he-was among such folk
qui ne l'amoënt de neient.
who not him-loved in anything
Cedar li dist: «Sire vassal,
Cedar to-him said Lord vassal
«n'en merreiz mie del cheval.
not-thence you-will-lead at-all of-the horse
«Auques ai mon cosin vengié,
Somewhat I-have my cousin avenged
«dont mout m'aviëz fait irié.
whereof much me-you-had made angered
«Ja del guaaing d'este contree
Ever from-the gain of-this country
«n'avreiz la perte restoree:
not-you-will-have the loss restored

«Guage nos i avez laissié
Pledge to-us there you-have left
«e plus perdu que guaaignié;
and more lost than gained
«mil en gisent sor la marine,
thousand thereof lie on the shore
«dont ja mais jor n'avrons haïne:
whereof ever more day not-we-shall-have hatred
«En cest païs nos remandront,
In this country to-us they-will-remain
«ja mais Grece ne reverront.»
ever more Greece not they-will-see-again
Castor ert pris e retenuz,
Castor was taken and retained
qui mout s'ert a pié combatuz,
who much himself-was on foot fought
quant reis Pollus l'a socoru.
when king Pollux him-has succored
Cele part es le vos venu:
That way see him you come
son frere ne lor laira mie,
his brother not to-them he-will-leave at-all
tant come il ait el cors la vie.
so-long as he may-have in-the body the life
D'ire desvez, en es le pas,
With-wrath maddened in the same pace
les est alez ferir el tas;
them he-is gone to-strike in-the heap

set cent Grezeis de grant valor
seven hundred Greeks of great valor
le sivent après en l'estor.
him follow after into the-fight
Ja i avra fiere meslee:
Now there will-have fierce melee
trop iert la joste comparee
too-much will-be the joust paid-for
que Castor fist. Jo n'en sai al:
which Castor made I not-thereof know else
la s'entrevienent li vassal,
there each-other-meet the vassals
la s'entredonent, la s'empeignent;
there each-other-give there each-other-thrust
d'eus entrocire ne se feignent.
of-them to-kill-each-other not themselves they-hold-back
La terre est coverte des morz.
The earth is covered with-the dead
Jo qu'en direie? Par esforz
I what-thereof would-say By effort
fu Castor rescos e montez,
was Castor rescued and mounted
qui bien fu en set lieus navrez:
who well was in seven places wounded
par vive force lor tolirent,
by living force from-them they-took
as branz la presse departirent.
with-the blades the press they-parted
Pollus lor i fist grant damage,
Pollux to-them there did great harm

quar le fil al rei de Cartage
for the son of-the king of Carthage
lor i ocist: ço fu dolor.
from-them there he-killed that was grief
Niés ert le rei, fiz sa soror;
Nephew he-was (of-)the king son (of-)his sister
jovnes esteit, de poi d'aage,
young he-was of little age
mais bel vaslet i ot e sage.
but fair youth there had and wise
Assez fu plainz e regretez:
Enough he-was lamented and mourned
Eliachim ert apelez.
Eliachim he-was called
Quant li Troïen mort le virent,
When the Trojans dead him saw
poëz saveir grant duel en firent:
you-can know great grief thereof they-made
criënt, plorent e font granz dueus,
they-cry weep and make great griefs
por lui derompent lor cheveus.
for him they-tear their hair
Li reis trova mort son nevo:
The king found dead his nephew
plora des ieuz e fist un vo
he-wept from-the eyes and made a vow
que ja mais Troie ne verreit
that ever more Troy not he-would-see
desci que il vengié l'avreit.
until that he avenged him-would-have

Ses homes a trestoz somons:
His men he-has all summoned
«Poignons,» fait il, «fil a barons;
Let-us-spur says he sons to barons
«quar destruions noz enemis,
for let-us-destroy our enemies
«sin delivrons nostre païs,
so-thereof let-us-free our country
«que cist coilvert vuelent destruire
which these churls wish to-destroy
«e metre a duel et a martire.
and to-put to grief and to martyrdom
«Veez voz freres, voz amis,
See your brothers your friends
«vez mon nevo, qu'il m'ont ocis.
see my nephew whom-they to-me-have killed
«Ore i parra qui me sivra
Now there it-will-appear who me will-follow
«e qui mon enui vengera.»
and who my grief will-avenge

The Death of Laomedon

XI

Laomedon's charge drives the Greeks to the sea until the wounded Dircès brings word that Troy has been taken by treachery. Laomedon turns back against the men coming from the city and is surrounded. Hercules cuts off his head, and the Trojans flee and are slaughtered. The Greeks sack the city, raze its walls and temples, and carry off its women and treasure. Hercules gives Laomedon's daughter Hesione to Telamon, who keeps her as his concubine. Greece grows rich on Troy, and the poet says the war that followed began from a small cause.

A tant a fait li reis soner
At that has made the king sound
un cor d'olifant haut et cler.
a born of-ivory high and clear
Li renc fremissent environ,
The ranks tremble around
n'i set coarz sa guarison:
not-there knows coward his safety
jas troveront feus e engrès,
now-them they-will-find felon and eager
hui mais les requerront de près.
today more them they-will-attack from near
Li reis chevauche o les premiers:
The king rides with the first
bien ot set mile chevaliers.
well he-had seven thousand knights
Les escuz pris, lances baissiees
The shields taken lances lowered
s'entrassemblerent les maisniees:
each-other-assembled the households

la veïsseiz estor mortel,
there you-would-have-seen fight mortal
ja mais nus hom ne verra tel.
ever more any man not will-see such
Nel porent li Grezeis sofrir,
Not-it could the Greeks suffer
le champ lor covint a guerpir:
the field them behooved to abandon
jusqu'a la mer ne tindrent place,
until-to the sea not they-held place
assez perdirent en la chace.
enough they-lost in the chase
Ja ne tenissent mais conrei,
Ever not they-would-have-held more array
quant uns messages vint al rei:
when a messenger came to-the king
Dircès ot non de Salemine,
Dircès he-had name of Salamis
parenz prochains ert la reïne.
kinsman near he-was (of-)the queen
Par mi le cors ot une plaie
Through midst the body he-had a wound
que de la mort fortment l'esmaie:
which of the death greatly him-dismays
«Laomedon,» fait il, «que fais?
Laomedon says he what dost-thou
«Sire, por quei ne t'en revais?
Lord for what not thee-thence goest-back
«Hui cest jor iés morz e traïz,
Today this day thou-art dead and betrayed

«tu seras sempres desconfiz.
thou wilt-be at-once discomfited
«Vez lor gent venir après mei:
See their folk come after me
«Set mile sont e plus, ço crei.
Seven thousand they-are and more that I-believe
«Troie ont prise par traïson,
Troy they-have taken by treason
«ja mais nul jor n'i rentreron:
ever more any day not-there we-shall-re-enter
«Es tors, es murs e es portaus
In-the towers on-the walls and in-the gates
«a plus de mil de lor vassaus;
there-are more than thousand of their vassals
«la vile ont prise e si guarnie
the town they-have taken and so garrisoned
«que perdue l'as a ta vie.
that lost it-hast for thy life
«Part tei de ci delivrement,
Part thyself from here readily
«si chevauche contre lor gent:
so ride against their folk
«Mieuz est qu'encontre lor ailleiz
Better it-is that-against them you-may-go
«que vos ici les atendeiz.»
than you here them may-await
Mout fu espoëntez li reis,
Very was terrified the king

quant il oï que li Grezeis
when he heard that the Greeks
aveient sa cité saisie:
had his city seized
s'il s'esmaia, n'en merveil mie.
if-he was-dismayed not-thereof I-marvel at-all
Si grant duel a e si grant ire,
So great grief he-has and so great wrath
ne set que faire ne que dire;
not he-knows what to-do nor what to-say
bien veit n'en puet senz perte aler.
well he-sees not-thence he-can without loss go
Un graile a fait a tant soner.
A trumpet he-has made at that sound
Sa gent restreint environ sei,
His folk he-draws-close around himself
mais onc n'en puet sevrer conrei,
but ever not-thereof he-can sever array
quar li Grezeis ne li laissoënt,
for the Greeks not to-him let
qui de neient nes esparnoënt:
who in nothing not-them spared
de près lor esteient veisin,
from near to-them they-were neighbors
sis font morir de male fin.
so-them they-make die by evil end
Li reis, dolenz e entrepris,
The king sorrowful and in-straits
vait encontre ses enemis:
goes against his enemies

d'ire et d'angoisse, vueille o non,
from-wrath and from-anguish he-may-wish or not
li chiet l'eve a val le menton;
to-him falls the-water to below the chin
sa perte veit e son damage,
his loss he-sees and his harm
por poi que toz vis n'en enrage.
for little that all alive not-thereof he-goes-mad
Teus mil en veit vers sei venir,
Such thousand thereof he-sees toward himself come
qui maintenant l'iront ferir:
who at-once him-will-go to-strike
ne puet mais estre en autre sen,
not can more be in other sense
dès or i perdront Troïen.
from now there will-lose Trojans
Nestor e Castor e Pollus
Nestor and Castor and Pollux
les asaillent, ne pueent plus.
them attack not they-can more
Danz Herculès e sa maisniee,
Lord Hercules and his household
que mout fu gent apareilliee,
which very was nobly equipped
les ont devant si aprochiez,
them have before so approached
mil confanons i a baissiez.
thousand gonfanons there has lowered
De plain eslais lor corent sore,
With plain gallop on-them they-run over

mout en ociënt en poi d'ore.
very thereof they-kill in little of-hour
Cil furent las, cist furent freis;
Those were weary these were fresh
enclos les orent li Grezeis:
enclosed them had the Greeks
derier les fierent e devant,
behind them they-strike and before
mout en ociënt maintenant.
very thereof they-kill at-once
Mout i oïsseiz granz criëes
Very there you-would-have-heard great cries
e granz retenteïz d'espees.
and great resoundings of-swords
Sor un cheval sist Herculès,
On a horse sat Hercules
e si n'orra parler ja mais
and so not-will-hear speak ever more
nus hom de tel ne de son per:
any man of such nor of his peer
pro vos en porreit om conter,
plenty to-you thereof could one tell
mais a peines creü sereit
but with pains believed it-would-be
come il fu nez ne qu'il valeit.
how he was born nor what-he was-worth
Iriez, le brant d'acier nu trait,
Angered the blade of-steel bare drawn
s'embat es presses, si lor vait:
he-plunges into-the presses so at-them goes

fiert e chaple, bote e empeint,
he-strikes and hacks pushes and thrusts
tot detrenche quant qu'il ataint;
all he-cuts-up how-much that-he reaches
dous meitiez fait d'un chevalier.
two halves he-makes of-a knight
Si granz cous fiert del brant d'acier,
So great blows he-strikes with-the blade of-steel
entor lui muerent e fenissent,
around him they-die and end
tote la place li guerpissent.
all the place to-him they-abandon
Tant a venu, tant a alé,
So-much he-has come so-much has gone
Laomedon a encontré.
Laomedon he-has met
Il ne l'ala plus loing querant:
He not him-went more far seeking
si grant li a doné del brant
so great to-him he-has given with-the blade
que la teste li a trenchiee,
that the head to-him he-has cut
veant le mieuz de sa maisniee.
seeing the best of his household
Quant il virent mort lor seignor,
When they saw dead their lord
onc puis ne pristrent d'eus retor:
ever after not took of-them return
chascuns de sei guarir se peine,
each of himself to-save himself strives

dès qu'il furent senz chevetaine;
as-soon that-they were without captain
le champ guerpissent maintenant,
the field they-abandon at-once
vers la vile s'en vont fuiant.
toward the town themselves-thence go fleeing
Mais devant lor sont li Grezeis,
But before them are the Greeks
qui les abatent treis e treis.
who them throw-down three and three
Jo qu'en direie? A grant dolor
I what-thereof would-say With great grief
furent mort e destruit le jor;
were dead and destroyed the day
Laomedon i fu ocis,
Laomedon there was killed
poi eschapa des autres vis.
few escaped of-the others alive
Quant partie fu la meslee
When parted was the melee
e la bataille fu finee,
and the battle was ended
en la cité trestuit entrerent:
into the city all entered
onques contredit n'i troverent.
ever opposition not-there they-found
De femmes e d'enfanz petiz
Of women and of-children small
i ert trop granz li ploreïz;
there was too great the weeping

es temples as deus s'en fuieient,
into-the temples to-the gods themselves-thence they-fled
quar aillors guarir ne saveient.
for elsewhere to-take-refuge not they-knew
Mainte dame, mainte pucele,
Many-a lady many-a maiden
mainte borgeise riche e bele
many-a burgher-wife rich and fair
veïst om foïr par les rues,
would-have-seen one flee through the streets
paoroses e esperdues:
frightened and distraught
en lor braz portent lor enfanz.
in their arms they-carry their children
Tant par i esteit li dueus granz,
So-much very there was the grief great
onques ne fu en nul lieu maire,
ever not was in any place greater
ne nus nel vos savreit retraire.
nor any not-it to-you would-know-how to-recount
Totes ont les maisons guerpies
All have the houses abandoned
pleines de riches mananties:
full of rich riches
mout en troverent li Grezeis.
very thereof found the Greeks
Bien i esturent plus d'un meis:
Well there stayed more than-a month

maint riche aveir, maint bon tresor
many-a rich wealth many-a good treasure
de pailes e d'argent e d'or,
of silks and of-silver and of-gold
e mainte pierre e maint anel,
and many-a stone and many-a ring
e d'or et d'argent maint vaissel,
and of-gold and of-silver many-a vessel
e maint cheval e maint ostor,
and many-a horse and many-a goshawk
e maint riche drap de color
and many-a rich cloth of color
en porterent en lor contree.
thence carried into their country
Trestote ont la vile guastee,
All they-have the town laid-waste
les fortereces ont fondues
the fortresses they-have thrown-down
e les riches tors abatues:
and the rich towers thrown-down
onc n'i remest maison entiere
ever not-there remained house whole
ne mur ne temple ne maisiere,
nor wall nor temple nor walling
ne bon palais ne bel maneir.
nor good palace nor fair manor
Des femmes firent lor voleir:
Of-the women they-did their will
assez i ot des vergondees,
enough there was of-the shamed

sin ont des plus beles menees.
so-thence they-have of-the most fair led
La fille al rei, Esiona, —
The daughter of-the king Hesione
ja mais plus bele ne naistra,
ever again more fair not will-be-born
ne plus franche ne plus corteise,
nor more noble nor more courtly
grant ire en ai e mout m'en peise, —
great wrath thereof I-have and much me-thereof weighs
cele en a Telamon menee:
her thence has Telamon led
danz Herculès li a donee,
lord Hercules to-him has given
por ço qu'en Troie entra premier.
for that that-into Troy he-entered first
N'en ot mie mauvais loier,
Not-thereof he-had at-all bad reward
e s'il a femme l'esposast,
and if-he as wife her-had-wed
ja guaires donc ne m'en pesast;
ever much then not me-thereof it-would-weigh
mais puis la tint en soignantage,
but after her he-held in concubinage
ço fu grant duel e grant damage.
that was great grief and great harm
Quant lor buens orent acompliz
When their wills they-had accomplished
e li navies fu guarniz,
and the fleet was furnished

es nes entrerent a grant joie,
into-the ships they-entered with great joy
puis partirent des porz de Troie;
then parted from-the ports of Troy
par mer siglerent e nagierent
through sea they-sailed and rowed
tant que en Grece repairierent.
so-much that into Greece they-returned
Grant joie en firent lor ami
Great joy thereof made their friends
e trestuit li autre autresi.
and all the others likewise
Granz graces ont as deus rendues
Great thanks they-have to-the gods rendered
de ço qu'ont victoires eües:
for that that-they-have victories had
mout lor ont faiz granz sacrefises
very to-them they-have made great sacrifices
e voz renduz e granz servises.
and vows rendered and great services
Mout ont granz aveirs departiz
Very they-have great wealth shared
a lor peres e a lor fiz;
to their fathers and to their sons
tant en donent a lor maisniees
so-much thereof they-give to their households
e as prochains de lor ligniees,
and to-the near-ones of their lineages
onc puis povreté ne conurent:
ever after poverty not they-knew

riche, asazé e manant furent;
rich sated and wealthy they-were
de Troie e de sa manantie
of Troy and of its wealth
fu tote Grece replenie.
was all Greece refilled
Or vient uevre, s'est qui la die,
Now comes work if-there-is who it may-tell
ja mais tel ne sera oïe.
ever more such not will-be heard
L'uevre e la chançon vos ai dite,
The-work and the song to-you I-have told
si com jo l'ai trovee escrite,
so as I it-have found written
saveir par com faite acheison
to-know by how made cause
avint ceste destrucion.
befell this destruction
Par assez petit d'uevre mut,
By enough little of-work it-moved
mais mout par monta puis e crut:
but very much it-rose after and grew
onques chose, si com jo truis,
ever thing so as I find
a tant n'ala ne ainz ne puis,
to so-much not-went nor before nor after
quar d'icel tens tuit li meillor
for of-that time all the best
en furent mort a grant dolor.
thereof were dead with great grief

Por assez petit começa
For enough little began
la guerre, que tant puis dura;
the war which so-much after lasted
mout par en fu l'uevre dotose,
very much thereof was the-work dreadful
e la fin en fu dolorose.
and the end thereof was sorrowful
Or est la chose comenciee,
Now is the thing begun
que mout sera griefment vengiee;
which very will-be grievously avenged
mais li respiz al vilain dit,
but the proverb of-the villein says
qui onques de rien n'i faillit:
which ever in anything not-there failed
teus cuide sa honte vengier,
such thinks his shame to-avenge
cui en avient grant encombrier.
to-whom thereof befalls great hindrance
Mais ço puet or bien remaneir.
But that can now well remain
Qui la chose voudra saveir,
Who the thing will-wish to-know
si atende: nos li dirons,
so let-him-wait we to-him will-tell
solonc ço qu'el Livre trovons,
according-to that which-in-the Book we-find
com faitement iço ala,
how fashioned this went

qui perdi e qui guaaigna,
who lost and who gained
qui fu ocis e qui ocist,
who was killed and who killed
e saveir qui venjance prist;
and to-know who vengeance took
qui fu riches e qui fu proz,
who was rich and who was valiant
e qui fu plus loëz de toz,
and who was most praised of all
e qui fu tenuz al plus sage,
and who was held for-the most wise
e qui de plus hardi corage,
and who of most bold heart
e qui i reçut greignor pris.
and who there received greater worth
Içо que j'en l'Estoire en truis
That which I-in the-Story thereof find
me porra oïr reconter
me will-be-able to-hear recount
qui bien me voudra escouter.
who well me will-wish to-listen

Troy Rebuilt

XII

Priam, Laomedon's son, is besieging a castle when he hears that Troy is destroyed and his father, mother, brothers, and sisters killed, and one sister carried off. He mourns and vows revenge. He returns with Hecuba and their children: Hector, Paris, Deiphobus, Helenus, Troilus, Andromache, Cassandra, and Polyxena. Finding the city razed, Priam rebuilds it larger and stronger, with walls and towers of colored marble, and builds the citadel Ilion on a rock so high it seems to touch the clouds, with a great hall whose altar holds a golden image of Jupiter.

Laomedon un fil aveit,
Laomedon a son had
qui riche e sage e pro esteit:
who rich and wise and valiant was
icil ert apelez Prianz,
he was called Priam
de sa femme aveit uit enfanz.
of his wife he-had eight children
En ost esteit loing del païs,
In host he-was far from-the country
ou sis pere l'aveit tramis:
where his father him-had sent
un chastel aveit asegié.
a castle he-had besieged
Quant il li fu dit e noncié
When it to-him was said and announced
que Troie esteit e la contree
that Troy was and the country
tote arse e destruite e robee,
all burned and destroyed and robbed

e sis pere ocis e sa mere
and his father killed and his mother
e ses sorors e tuit si frere,
and his sisters and all his brothers
fors une, dont ert grant damage,
except one whereof was great damage
qu'en esteit menee en servage;
who-thence was led into servitude
quant la novele fu seüe
when the news was known
e Priamus l'ot entendue,
and Priam it-had heard
s'il ot dolor, nus nel demant:
if-he had grief any not-it may-ask
rien que vesquist n'en ot si grant.
anything that lived not-thereof had so great
Assez plora e fist grant duel:
Enough he-wept and made great grief
iluec vousist morir, son vuel.
there he-would-have-wished to-die his will
Mout a son pere regreté
Very he-has his father lamented
e sa valor e sa bonté:
and his valor and his goodness
«Laomedon, chiers pere, sire,
Laomedon dear father lord

«tant a mon cuer mis en grant ire
so-much has my heart put in great wrath
«qui vos a mort, ja mais nul jor
who you has killed ever more any day
«ne porrai vivre senz dolor.
not I-shall-be-able to-live without grief
«Onc mais ne fu faiz teus outrages:
Ever more not was done such outrage
«Meie est la honte e li damages;
Mine is the shame and the harm
«poi pris e aim tote ma vie.
little I-prize and love all my life
«Haï! bone chevalerie,
Alas good chivalry
«come estes morte en poi de tens!
how you-are dead in little of time
«Bien devreie perdre le sens:
Well I-ought to-lose the sense
«Tenir se deit por confondu,
To-hold himself he-ought for confounded
«qui tel damage a receü.
who such harm has received
«Haï! la noble gent de Troie,
Alas the noble folk of Troy
«de vos parti a si grant joie!
from you I-parted with so great joy
«Come estes a honte eissilliee,
How you-are with shame laid-waste
«morte e ocise e detrenchiee!
dead and killed and cut-up

«Franches dames, franches puceles,
Noble ladies noble maidens
«tant par a ci freides noveles!
so-much very there-is here cold news
«Tant sont malement departi
So-much are badly parted
«de vos vostre riche mari!
from you your rich husbands
«Voz fiz, voz freres, voz nevoz
Your sons your brothers your nephews
«e voz amis les beaus, les proz,
and your friends the fair the valiant
«toz les ont li Grezeis ocis
all them have the Greeks killed
«e eissillié le bel païs.
and laid-waste the fair country
«Tote ont destruite la contree
All they-have destroyed the country
«e ma soror en ont menee:
and my sister thence they-have led
«Bien sai vilment la tendra cil
Well I-know vilely her will-hold he
«qui l'en a menee en eissil.
who her-thence has led into exile
«Ha! las, com puis de duel morir!
Ah alas how I-can of grief die
«E coment puis jo ço sofrir?
And how can I that suffer
«Com porrai jo mais joie aveir?
How shall-be-able I more joy have

«S'eüsse force ne poëir
If-I-had force nor power
«coment j'en preïsse venjance,
how I-thereof might-take vengeance
«ço me donast grant alejance;
that to-me would-give great relief
«e se Deu plaist, ainz que jo muire,
and if God pleases before that I may-die
«lor cuit jo tant forfaire e nuire
to-them think I so-much to-wrong and harm
«dont il avront assez que plaindre:
whereof they will-have enough what to-lament
«Ne puet la chose anceis remaindre.»
Not can the thing before remain
Ses genz mande, ne tarja plus,
His folk he-summons not he-delayed more
tant come il en puet aveir plus,
so-much as he thereof can have more
e ses veisins e ses amis,
and his neighbors and his friends
si chevauche vers son païs.
so rides toward his country
Sa femme avuec sei en mena,
His wife with himself thence he-led
que aveit a non Ecuba.
who had as name Hecuba
Bele dame ert, proz e vaillanz,
Fair lady she-was valiant and worthy
si aveit del rei uit enfanz,
so had of-the king eight children

les cinc vaslez, les treis meschines:
the five youths the three maidens
dignes fussent d'estre reïnes.
worthy they-would-be of-being queens
Hector ot non li ainz nez fiz:
Hector had name the first born son
onques plus proz ne fu norriz;
ever more valiant not was nurtured
tant fist de sei, tant ot bonté,
so-much he-did of himself so-much had goodness
toz jorz en sera mais parlé.
all days thereof will-be more spoken
Li autre après ot non Paris:
The other after had name Paris
cil fu mout beaus e de grant pris.
he was very fair and of great worth
Li tierz ot non Deïphebus,
The third had name Deiphobus
e li quarz après Helenus:
and the fourth after Helenus
cil fu devins, deviner sot;
he was diviner to-divine he-knew
mout par fu sages, grant sen ot.
very much he-was wise great sense he-had
Li quinz Troïlus aveit non:
The fifth Troïlus had name
gent ot le cors e la façon,
noble he-had the body and the fashion
trop fu de grant chevalerie;
too-much he-was of great chivalry

assez sera avant oïe
enough will-be forward heard
la merveille qu'il fist de sei;
the marvel which-he did of himself
cil ot le pris de maint tornei.
he had the prize of many-a tourney
Des treis filles ot non l'ainz nee
Of-the three daughters had name the-first born
Andromacha: mout fu senee,
Andromache very she-was sensible
mout fu bele, mout fu corteise,
very she-was fair very she-was courtly
mout ama honor e proëise.
very she-loved honor and prowess
Cassandra ot non cele après:
Cassandra had name she after
de deviner sot cele adès.
of divining knew she always
Polixena fu la puis nee:
Polyxena was the after born
mais a Troie n'en la contree,
but at Troy nor-in the country
ço vos di bien de verité,
that to-you I-say well of truth
n'ot onc femme de sa beauté.
not-had ever woman of her beauty
Ço dit l'Escriz, que trente enfanz
That says the-Writing that thirty children
aveit ancor li reis Prianz,
had yet the king Priam

qui esteient bon chevalier,
who were good knights
mais n'erent mie de moillier.
but not-they-were at-all of wife
O tant de gent com li reis ot,
With as-much of folk as the king had
vint a Troie come il ainz pot.
he-came to Troy as he soonest could
La cité trova eissilliee
The city he-found laid-waste
e la gent morte e detrenchiee;
and the folk dead and cut-up
tot trova ars, guast e fondu,
all he-found burned wasted and thrown-down
robé, maumis e abatu;
robbed maimed and thrown-down
onc n'i trova maison entiere,
ever not-there he-found house whole
ne tor ne temple ne maisiere.
nor tower nor temple nor walling
Les premerains treis jorz plorerent,
The first three days they-wept
que de viande ne gosterent.
that of food not they-tasted
Por les ames de lor amis,
For the souls of their friends
qui aveient esté ocis,
who had been killed
firent as deus granz sacrefises,
they-made to-the gods great sacrifices

si com dreiz ert, e granz servises.
so as right it-was and great services
Après, ne tarja pas grantment,
After not delayed at-all greatly
prist conseil Prianz o sa gent
took counsel Priam with his folk
que la cité restorereit,
that the city he-would-restore
meillor e plus grant la fereit,
better and more great it he-would-make
e plus defensable e plus fort,
and more defensible and more strong
qu'il ne criengent orgueil ne tort
that-they not may-fear pride nor wrong
ne mauvoillance de veisin,
nor ill-will of neighbor
ne vers rien ne seient aclin,
nor toward anything not be bowed
ne de Grezeis n'aient dotance:
nor of Greeks not-may-have doubt
après porront prendre venjance
after they-will-be-able to-take vengeance
del damage qu'il lor ont fait.
for-the harm which-they to-them have done
Ne firent mie trop lonc plait:
Not they-made at-all too long plea
ovriers quistrent, assez en orent
workmen they-sought enough thereof they-had
e, a l'anceis qu'il onques porent,
and at the-soonest that-they ever could

comencierent le marbre a traire
they-began the marble to draw
e la cité tost a refaire.
and the city soon to remake
Ço truevent bien li clerc lisant,
That find well the clerks reading
e ancore est aparissant,
and yet it-is appearing
c'onques en terre n'ot cité
that-ever on earth not-had city
que la resemblast de beauté
which it might-resemble in beauty
ne de grandor ne de largece
nor in greatness nor in breadth
ne de plenté ne de richece.
nor in plenty nor in riches
Riche i sont fait li fondement
Rich there are made the foundations
e l'uevre que desus s'estent:
and the-work which above itself-extends
mout la troverent deguastee,
very it they-found laid-waste
mais cent tanz mieuz l'ont restoree;
but hundred times better it-they-have restored
mout la refirent bele et gente.
very it they-remade fair and noble
Mout i mist Prianz grant entente:
Very there put Priam great care

mout la fist clore de bons murs
very it he-made enclose with good walls
de marbre hauz, espés e durs;
of marble high thick and hard
mout en erent haut li terrier.
very thereof were high the earthworks
Al meins le trait a un archier,
At-the least the shot of an archer
aveit granz tors tot environ,
there-was great towers all around
faites de chauz e de sablon.
made of lime and of sand
De marbre fin e de liois
Of marble fine and of limestone
jaunes e verz, indes e blois,
yellow and green indigo and blue
en esteient tuit li quarrel,
thereof were all the squared-stones
mout bien entaillié a cisel.
very well cut with chisel
En plusors lieus ot fortereces,
In many places there-were fortresses
o chaafauz e o bretesches,
with scaffolds and with bretesches
sor granz motes en haut levees,
on great mounds on high raised
de granz fossez avironees.
with great ditches surrounded

Teus mil maisons i ot e plus
Such thousand houses there were and more
a reis, a contes e a dus,
of kings of counts and of dukes
la meins fort n'eüst pas dotance
the least strong not-would-have at-all doubt
de tot l'empire al rei de France.
of all the-empire of-the king of France
La gent des terres environ
The folk of-the lands around
e de tote la region
and of all the region
i ert tote atraite e venue:
there was all drawn and come
poplee l'ont e si vestue
peopled it-they-have and so clothed
que treis jornees senz devise
that three days'-journeys without dispute
durot e mout plus la porprise.
lasted and much more the enclosure
Mout en erent beles les rues
Very thereof were fair the streets
e de riches maisons vestues;
and with rich houses clothed
mout i aveit de beaus palais:
very there was of fair palaces
si riches ne verreiz ja mais.
so rich not you-will-see ever more

En tote Troie n'ot bordel
In all Troy not-there-was hut
ou eüst pierre ne quarrel
where might-have-been stone nor squared-stone
se de marbre non entaillié.
except of marble not cut
Ja nus hom n'i moillast son pié,
Ever any man not-there would-have-wet his foot
quar les rues erent voutices,
for the streets were vaulted
les unes as autres jointices:
the ones to-the others joined
desoz erent pavementees,
below they-were paved
desus a or musique ovrees.
above with gold mosaic worked
De l'une part sist Ylion,
On the-one side sat Ilion
de Troie le maistre donjon.
of Troy the master keep
Cel fist Prianz a son ues faire,
That made Priam for his need make
e si vos puet om bien retraire,
and so to-you can one well recount
onques ne fu faiz autreteus
ever not was made such-another
par nul home qui fust charneus.
by any man who were fleshly
El plus haut lieu de Troie sist:
In-the most high place of Troy it-sat

trop fu maistre cil qui le fist.
too-much was master he who it made
Sor une roche tote entiere,
On a rock all whole
que fu tailliee en tel maniere
which was cut in such manner
que a compas tot a roont
that by compass all in round
s'estreigneit auques jusqu'a mont, —
itself-narrowed somewhat until-to top
n'esteit si estreiz de desus,
not-it-was so narrow from above
cinc cenz teises n'eüst e plus, —
five hundred fathoms not-it-would-have and more
iluec fu Ylion asis,
there was Ilion set
dont om sorvit tot le païs.
whence one overlooked all the country
Si esteit hauz, qui l'esguardot,
So it-was high who it-looked-at
ço li ert vis e ço cuidot
that to-him was opinion and that he-thought
que jusqu'as nues atainsist:
that until-to-the clouds it-would-reach
onques Deus cel engin ne fist
ever God that engine not made
qui i poüst estre menez
which there could be led
par nul home qui onc fust nez.
by any man who ever were born

De marbre blanc, inde, safrin,
Of marble white indigo saffron
jaune, vermeil, pers e porprin
yellow red blue and purple
erent asis en tel maniere
were set in such manner
tuit li quarrel de la maisiere.
all the squared-stones of the walling
Ensi come il divers esteient,
Thus as they various were
por les colors ques departeient,
for the colors which-them parted
si erent les uevres diverses
so were the works various
a flors, a oiseaus e a bestes.
with flowers with birds and with beasts
Azur ne teint ne vermeillon
Azure nor dye nor vermilion
n'i aveit se de marbre non.
not-there there-was except of marble not
D'or esmeré e de cristal
Of-gold refined and of crystal
erent ovré li fenestral.
were worked the window-frames
N'i ot chapitel ne piler
Not-there had capital nor pillar
que l'om ne feïst tresgeter
that one not might-make cast

tot d'uevre estrange e deboissiee
all of-work strange and carved
e a cisel bien entailliee.
and with chisel well cut
Riche furent li pavement:
Rich were the pavements
assez i ot or e argent.
enough there had gold and silver
Dis estages larges e lez,
Ten stories large and wide
beaus e bien faiz e bien ovrez,
fair and well made and well worked
i trovot l'om dès le premier,
there found one from the first
ainz que l'om fust sus al derier.
before that one were up at-the last
Les batailles e li crenel
The battlements and the crenels
furent tuit ovré a cisel.
were all worked with chisel
Images de fin or entieres
Images of fine gold whole
ot mout asis par les maisieres.
there-had very set through the walls
Quant achevez fu Ylion,
When achieved was Ilion
mout par fu de riche façon;
very much it-was of rich fashion
mout sist en orgoillose place,
very it-sat in proud place

tote rien par semblant manace:
all thing by semblance it-threatens
manacier puet, que rien ne crient,
to-threaten it-can for anything not it-fears
se devers le ciel ne li vient.
except toward the sky not to-it comes
Toz l'empires, tote la gent,
All the-empire all the folk
qui sont desci qu'en Oriënt,
who are from-here until-in East
n'i forfereient une pome:
not-there would-harm an apple
trop par fu forz, ço est la some.
too much it-was strong that is the sum
Une sale fist Priamus
A hall made Priam
de marbre fin e de benus:
of marble fine and of ebony
riche fu mout l'entableüre
rich was very the-paneling
e plus riche la coverture;
and more rich the roof
mout ot asis de riches pierres
very he-had set of rich stones
en plusors lieus par les maisieres;
in many places through the walls
mout par fu grant, mout par fu lee
very much it-was great very much it-was wide
e mout fu richement ovree.
and very it-was richly worked

Onc ne fu veüz pavemenz
Ever not was seen pavement
teus come cil fu ne si genz:
such as that was nor so noble
tant i ot des uevres levees,
so-many there had of-the works raised
ne sai com furent porpensees.
not I-know how they-were devised
A l'un des chiés fu faiz li deis,
At the-one of-the ends was made the dais
ou mangera Prians li reis:
where will-eat Priam the king
les tables i sont arengiees,
the tables there are ranged
ou mangeront ses granz maisniees.
where will-eat his great households
En l'autre chief, de l'autre part,
At the-other end from the-other side
par grant conseil e par grant art,
by great counsel and by great art
fist faire li reis un autel,
made make the king an altar
onques nus hom ne vit itel:
ever any man not saw such
ensi com Daires le retrait,
thus as Dares it recounts
d'estrange richece l'ot fait;
of-strange richness it-be-had made

onques ne pot estre seü
ever not could be known
demi l'aveir qui mis i fu.
half the-wealth which put there was
L'image al deu qu'il plus creeient,
The-image of-the god whom-they most believed
ou il greignor fiance aveient, —
where they greater trust had
c'ert Jupiter li deus poissanz, —
it-was Jupiter the god mighty
cel fist faire li reis Prianz
that made make the king Priam
del meillor or qu'il onques ot
of-the best gold which-he ever had
ne que il onques trover pot.
nor which he ever to-find could
Grant seürté e grant fiance
Great surety and great trust
i aveient e atendance,
there they-had and expectation
que par ço fussent defendu,
that by that they-would-be defended
ne ja ne fussent mais vencu,
nor ever not would-be more conquered
ne mais destruite lor contree:
nor more destroyed their country
mais n'ert pas tel la destinee.
but not-was at-all such the destiny
Chambres voutices o forneaus,
Chambers vaulted with stoves

verrieres, clostres e praeaus,
glass-windows cloisters and courts
fontaines, puiz i ot adès:
fountains wells there were always
eve preneient assez près.
water they-took enough near

Antenor Sent to Greece

XIII

The new walls have six gates, Antenorides, Dardanides, Ilia, Scaea, Thymbraea, and Troiana. The Trojans sacrifice to the gods and invent chess, tables, and dice. Priam holds a council, Hector being away in Pannonia, and resolves first to ask for his sister Hesione back. Antenor sails to Peleus, who threatens him and orders him out of his land. At Salamis he finds Telamon resting under a cypress among a hundred knights. Telamon answers that Hesione was his reward for being first into Troy and that he will never give her up.

Quant li mur furent achevé,
When the walls were achieved
qui clostrent tote la cité, 3140
which enclosed all the city
onc si riche, si com jo truis,
ever so rich so as I find
ne furent fait ne ainz ne puis.
not were made nor before nor after
Sis portes i ot solement,
Six gates there were only
se li Autors ne nos en ment.
if the Author not to-us thereof lies

Ço dit Daires, qui n'i faut pas,
That says Dares who not-there fails at-all
l'une ot non Antenoridas;
the-one had name Antenorides
la seconde, que ert après,
the second which was after
apelot om Dardanidès;
called one Dardanides
la tierce apelent Ylia;
the third they-call Ilia
la quarte raveit non Ceca;
the fourth again-had name Scaea
la quinte resteit apelee
the fifth again-was called
par non, ço sai de veir, Tymbree,
by name that I-know of truth Thymbraea
e cil qui a dreit l'apelerent
and those who by right it-called
la siste Trojana nomerent.
the sixth Troiana named
Riche furent mout li portal;
Rich were very the gateways
sor chascune ot tor principal
on each there-was tower principal
haute e espesse e defensable.
high and thick and defensible
N'i ot si povre conestable,
Not-there had so poor constable
cuin fust balliee la menor,
to-whom-thereof were given the least

mil chevaliers n'ait de s'onor,
thousand knights not-be-may-have of his-fief
e de rentes al plus eschars
and of rents at-the most meager
plus de vaillant set mile mars.
more than of-value seven thousand marks
Que sereit ço que jo direie?
What would-be that which I would-say
De folie me penereie:
Of folly myself I-would-strive
ne sereit pas sempres oïe
not would-be at-all at-once heard
solement la disme partie
only the tenth part
des merveilles e des façons
of-the marvels and of-the fashions
des murs, des tors e des donjons;
of-the walls of-the towers and of-the keeps
enuiz sereit de l'escouter,
annoyance it-would-be of the-listening
e mei graindre del reconter.
and to-me greater of-the recounting
Ço est la fin: nus hom vivanz
That is the end any man living
ne vit si riches ne si granz.
not saw so rich nor so great
Quant Ylion fu achevé
When Ilion was achieved
e Troie la riche cité,
and Troy the rich city

grant joie orent, mout furent lié;
great joy they-had very they-were glad
mout ont as deus sacrefiié.
very they-have to-the gods sacrificed
Gieus establirent e troverent,
Games they-established and invented
ou mainte feiz se deporterent;
where many-a time themselves they-amused
onques ne fu riche maistrie
ever not was rich mastery
n'afaitemenz ne corteisie,
nor-accomplishment nor courtesy
dont l'om eüst delit ne joie,
whereof one might-have delight nor joy
que ne trovassent cil de Troie:
that not might-invent those of Troy
eschas e tables, gieu de dez
chess and tables game of dice
i furent, ço sacheiz, trovez,
there were that know invented
e mainte autre uevre deportable,
and many-a other work amusing
riche e vaillant e delitable.
rich and valuable and delightful
Quant li reis Prianz ot ço fait
When the king Priam had that done
e de ses uevres a chief trait,
and of his works to end drawn

sa cité vit fort e entiere
his city he-saw strong and whole
e sa terre riche e pleniere,
and his land rich and full
tens fu e lieus, ço li fu vis,
time it-was and place that to-him was opinion
de requerre ses enemis:
of seeking his enemies
ne pot obliër por nul plait
not he-could forget for any plea
le damage qu'il li ont fait
the harm which-they to-him have done
de son pere e de sa ligniee,
of his father and of his lineage
qu'il orent morte e eissilliee.
which-they had killed and laid-waste
Jor a asis de parlement:
Day he-has set of parley
le mieuz i manda de sa gent.
the best there he-summoned of his folk
Si fil i furent tuit fors un:
His sons there were all except one
bon chevalier ot en chascun.
good knight there-had in each
Hector ot tramis senz essoine
Hector he-had sent without excuse
es granz parties de Pannoine
into-the great parts of Pannonia

lor grant afaire porchacier
their great affair to-pursue
e a eus le regne aleier.
and to them the realm to-ally
O les autres qu'ot assemblé,
With the others whom-he-had assembled
qui sage furent e sené,
who wise were and sensible
se conseilla, come il dut faire.
himself he-counseled as he ought to-do
Oëz qu'il lor prist a retraire:
Hear what-he to-them took to recount
«Seignor», fait il, «entendez mei,
Lords says he hear me
«vos qui m'amez par dreite fei.
you who me-love by right faith
«Bien savez la mesaventure
Well you-know the misadventure
«e la laide desconfiture
and the foul discomfiture
«que li Grezeis, par lor outrage,
which the Greeks by their outrage
«firent de nostre bon lignage.
made of our good lineage
«Mon pere ocistrent: par nul fuer
My father they-killed at any price
«ne m'en istreit l'ire del cuer,
not from-me-thereof would-issue the-wrath of-the heart
«ne ne fera ja mais nul jor,
nor not it-will-do ever more any day

«se jo n'en puis prendre retor.
if I not-thereof can take return
«Ma soror ai en lor contree,
My sister I-have in their country
«qu'uns vassaus a asoignantee,
whom-a vassal has taken-as-concubine
«ne la deigne prendre a moillier:
not her he-deigns to-take as wife
«Peser m'en deit e enoier.
Weigh me-thereof it-ought and irk
«Trop est grant honte e lait damage
Too-much it-is great shame and foul harm
«que fille a rei est en servage:
that daughter to king is in servitude
«Jo i ai honte grant e lait.
I there have shame great and foul
«Qu'en direie? Tant nos ont fait,
What-thereof would-I-say So-much to-us they-have done
«ja ne devons grant joie aveir,
ever not we-ought great joy to-have
«desci que Deus nos laist veeir
until that God us may-let see
«le jor que lor poissons merir
the day that them we-might reward
«ço dont tant les devons haïr.
that whereof so-much them we-ought to-hate
«Fort vile avons e bien guarnie
Strong town we-have and well furnished
«e de plusors parz bone aïe.
and from many sides good help

«Mout fust bien tens de guerreier:
Very would-be well time of making-war
«Ja nel loasse a porloignier,
Ever not-it I-would-advise to delay
«ne fust por ma soror raveir.
not it-were for my sister to-have-back
«Mais primes nos covient saveir
But first us behooves to-know
«se por nul plait la nos rendront,
if for any plea her to-us they-will-render
«car mout me peise que il l'ont.
for much me weighs that they her-have
«Manderai lor qu'il la me rendent,
I-shall-send to-them that-they her to-me may-render
«e puis après, s'il la contendent,
and then after if-they her dispute
«a vos trestoz e a mes fiz,
with you all and with my sons
«que ne seie del tot honiz,
that not I-may-be from-the all shamed
«prendrai conseil del guerreier,
I-shall-take counsel of-the making-war
«o del haster, o del targier.»
or of-the hastening or of-the delaying
Li fil le rei e si feeil
The sons (of-)the king and his faithful
tindrent a mout buen cest conseil:
held for very good this counsel
nus ne porreit meillor doner.
any not could better give

Li reis en a fait apeler
The king thereof has made call
un suen conte, riche baron,
a his count rich baron
mout de grant sen e de grant non.
very of great sense and of great name
Cointes ert, riches e senez,
Clever he-was rich and sensible
Antenor esteit apelez;
Antenor he-was called
mout sot de plait, mout sot de leis.
very he-knew of plea very he-knew of laws
Mout bonement li dist li reis
Very kindly to-him said the king
que la l'en estoveit aler
that there him-thence behooved to-go
sa soror querre e demander:
his sister to-seek and to-demand
«Ne sai», fait il, «cui enveiasse,
Not I-know says he whom I-might-send
«sire Antenor, se vos laissasse:
lord Antenor if you I-left
«N'i puis nul meillor enveier.
Not-there I-can any better send
«Ore pensez de l'espleitier.
Now think of the-achieving
«A ceus dites qui furent ça,
To those say who were here
«s'il me rendent Esiona,
if-they to-me render Hesione

«ja ne m'orront puis tenir conte
ever not me-will-hear after hold account
«del lait, del tort ne de la honte
of-the insult of-the wrong nor of the shame
«qu'il firent d'ocire mon pere,
which-they did of-killing my father
«de mes sorors ne de ma mere.
of my sisters nor of my mother
«Li sole quier jo e demant:
Her alone seek I and demand
«Honte ai qu'on la tient a soignant.
Shame I-have that-one her holds as concubine
«Metez i or norme e poëir
Put there now rule and power
«coment nos la poissons aveir:
how we her might have
«Mout en serai liez e joios,
Very thereof I-shall-be glad and joyful
«s'amener l'en poëz o vos.»
if-to-lead her-thence you-can with you
Fait Antenor: «Ço sacheiz bien,
Says Antenor That know well
«por message n'i perdreiz rien:
for message not-there you-will-lose anything
«Dès que jo la en dei aler,
Since that I there thence ought to-go
«ne quier targier ne demorer.»
not I-seek to-delay nor to-stay

La parole est remese a tant.
The speech is remained at that
Le seir, quant vint a l'anuitant,
The evening when it-came to the-nightfall
fu la nef bien apareilliee,
was the ship well prepared
que tost fu del port essaiviee.
which soon was from-the port launched
A espleit sigla a la lune:
With speed it-sailed by the moon
bon vent li a doné Fortune.
good wind to-him has given Fortune
Siglé ont ensi la semaine:
Sailed they-have thus the week
onc n'i sofrirent mal ne peine.
ever not-there they-suffered ill nor pain
A Manese pristrent port dreit,
At Magnesia they-took port straight
ou Peleüs li reis esteit:
where Peleus the king was
la cité fu soë demeine.
the city was his own
Danz Antenor o ceus qu'il meine
Lord Antenor with those whom-he leads
vindrent a lui, quis herberja
came to him who-them lodged
e treis jorz bien les sojorna,
and three days well them kept

tant qu'il se prist a merveillier
so-much that-he himself took to marvel
saveir que veneit espiier
to-know what came to-spy
Antenor, qui mot ne li sone
Antenor who word not to-him sounds
ne de neient ne l'areisone.
nor in anything not him-addresses
Mout se merveille qu'il a quis
Much himself he-marvels what-he has sought
en la terre ne el païs.
in the land nor in-the country
Vers Troïens n'ot nule pais,
Toward Trojans not-he-had any peace
ne ne cuidot aveir ja mais:
nor not he-thought to-have ever more
demanda li qu'il veneit querre
he-asked him what-he came to-seek
en la contree n'en la terre.
in the country nor-in the land
Fait Antenor: «Ço est bien dreiz
Says Antenor That is well right
«que jol vos die e quel sacheiz.
that I-it to-you may-say and that-it you-may-know
«Ço vos mande Prianz li reis,
That to-you sends-word Priam the king
«a tei e as autres Grezeis,
to thee and to-the other Greeks
«que mout li estes tuit mesfait:
that much to-him you-are all at-fault

«Grant tort e grant honte e grant lait
Great wrong and great shame and great insult
«feïstes de son pere ocire;
you-did of his father killing
«a duel, a mal e a martire
to grief to ill and to martyrdom
«livrastes tote la contree.
you-delivered all the country
«Quant l'eüstes arse e robee,
When it-you-had burned and robbed
«sin amenastes sa soror,
so-thence you-led his sister
«qu'i est a trop grant deshonor.
which-there is at too great dishonor
«En soignantage la tient cil
In concubinage her holds he
«qui l'en amena en eissil:
who her-thence led into exile
«Grant honte en fait Priant le rei.
Great shame thereof he-does Priam the king
«Or si te mande e dit par mei
Now so to-thee he-sends-word and says through me
«que sa soror aveir li faces:
that his sister to-have to-him thou-may-make
«Il ne te fait autres manaces,
He not to-thee makes other threats
«mais qui en pais la li rendra,
but who in peace her to-him will-render
«en bone pais la recevra.
in good peace her will-receive

«Il n'a talent d'el demander:
He not-has desire of-else to-ask
«Ja ne l'orreiz de plus parler.
Ever not him-you-will-hear of more speak
«Vers vos eüst mout a requerre,
Toward you he-would-have very to require
«mais ja par lui n'en sordra guerre,
but ever by him not-thence will-rise war
«noise ne tençon ne meslee,
noise nor quarrel nor melee
«se sa suer li est aquitee.»
if his sister to-him is released
La parole entent Peleüs:
The speech hears Peleus
si fu iriez qu'il ne pot plus.
so he-was angered that-he not could more
Por ço qu'auques vers lui pendeit
For that that-somewhat toward him leaned
la requeste que cil faiseit,
the request which he made
dist li que ço seüst il bien,
said to-him that that might-know he well
par lui n'espleitereit il rien:
through him not-would-achieve he anything
«Jo n'ai», fait il, «de ço que faire:
I not-have says he of that what to-do
«Por poi que ne vos faz desfaire.
For little that not you I-make undo
«Se danz Prianz, cui tiens a rei,
If lord Priam whom thou-holdest for king

«en enveiot ja mais vers mei,
thereof sent ever more toward me
«estrangement le comparreit
extraordinarily it would-pay-for
«toz li premiers qui i vendreit.
all the first who there would-come
«Or vos metez tost a la veie,
Now yourselves put soon on the way
«si guardez ja mais ne vos veie,
so guard ever more not you I-may-see
«n'en ma terre plus n'arestez:
nor-in my land more not-stop
«Guardez mais n'i seiez trovez.
Guard more not-there you-be found
«Si me doint Deus honor e joie,
So to-me may-give God honor and joy
«ja mais ne reverriëz Troie.»
ever more not you-would-see-again Troy
Antenor n'i fist plus demore,
Antenor not-there made more delay
a sa nef vint en mout poi d'ore;
to his ship he-came in very little of-hour
n'i a un sol qui ne se hast.
not-there has one single who not himself may-hasten
La veile traient sor le mast:
The sail they-draw on the mast
mout s'esjoïrent cil dedenz,
very rejoiced those within
quant enz se fu feruz li venz;
when in itself was struck the wind

onc ne furent seür de mort
ever not they-were sure of death
tant qu'esloignié furent del port.
until that-distanced they-were from-the port
Lez le rivage de Boëce,
Beside the shore of Boeotia
qui siet es parties de Grece,
which sits in-the parts of Greece
s'en passerent un bien matin;
themselves-thence they-passed a well morning
onc ne pristrent cès ne fin
ever not they-took stop nor end
desci qu'as porz de Salemine.
until that-at-the ports of Salamis
Sor le rivage, en la marine
On the shore on the coast
s'en eissirent defors al plain:
themselves-thence they-issued out to-the plain
la nuit suefrent jusqu'al demain.
the night they-suffer until-the morrow
Demandé orent e enquis
Asked they-had and inquired
se Telamon ert el païs;
if Telamon was in-the country
e om lor dist qu'en la cité
and one to-them said that-in the city
aveit grant piece demoré:
he-had great while stayed

«Qui bosoing a d'o lui parler
Who need has of-with him speaking
en la vile le puet trover.»
in the town him can find
Antenor gent s'apareilla,
Antenor nobly himself-prepared
e merveilles bel s'atorna;
and marvels fairly himself-dressed
mout richement son cors vesti,
very richly his body he-clothed
e si compaignon autresi.
and his companions likewise
Puis sont es palefreiz monté.
Then they-are on-the palfreys mounted
Ne furent pas trop esfreé:
Not they-were at-all too frightened
ja a cel tens reguart n'eüst
ever in that time regard not-would-have
nus messages, qui que il fust.
any messenger whoever that he were
Par mi la vile chevauchierent
Through midst the town they-rode
l'ambleüre: tant espleitierent
the-amble so-much they-hastened
e tant quistrent e demanderent
and so-much sought and asked
rei Telamon qu'il le troverent.
king Telamon that-they him found
Delez la sale en un herbier,
Beside the hall in a lawn

desoz l'ombre d'un olivier,
under the-shade of-an olive-tree
descendirent cil que vos di.
dismounted those whom to-you I-tell
Ja esteit bien près de midi:
Already it-was well near of midday
delez la tor, en uns vergiez,
beside the tower in some orchards
lor fu Telamon enseigniez;
to-them was Telamon shown
par un guichet les i menerent
through a wicket them there led
trei chevalier que il troverent.
three knights whom they found
Sor un feutre d'un paile bis
On a felt of-a silk gray
jut en l'ombre d'un ciparis.
he-lay in the-shade of-a cypress
Nen ert pas sous cele feiee:
Not he-was at-all alone that time
cent chevaliers de sa maisniee
hundred knights of his household
aveit o lui riches e beaus;
he-had with him rich and fair
de lui teneient lor chasteaus.
from him they-held their castles
Antenor fu sages parliers:
Antenor was wise speaker
«Sire, nos somes messagiers.
Lord we are messengers

«Par mer nos a a tei tramis
By sea us has to thee sent
«Prianz li reis en cest païs.
Priam the king into this country
«Nel laisserai que nel te die:
Not-it I-shall-leave that not-it to-thee I-may-say
«Par mei te mande mout e prie
Through me thee he-sends-word much and prays
«que tu li rendes sa soror,
that thou to-him may-render his sister
«que as ja tenue maint jor.
whom thou-hast already held many-a day
«Fille a rei est, de grant parage:
Daughter to king she-is of great lineage
«Ne la deis plus en soignantage
Not her thou-oughtest more in concubinage
«tenir n'aveir, quar trop est lait.
to-hold nor-to-have for too-much it-is foul
«Rent li, si avras mout bien fait:
Render to-him so thou-wilt-have very well done
«Ancor sereit bien mariëe,
Still she-would-be well married
«s'il la raveit en sa contree.»
if-he her had-back in his country
Telamon art e esprent d'ire,
Telamon burns and is-kindled with-wrath
de mautalent prist a sozrire:
from ill-temper he-took to smile

«Vassaus», fait il, «o vostre rei
Vassal says he with your king
«n'ai rien a faire, n'il o mei;
not-I-have anything to do nor-he with me
«ne sai qu'il est, onc nel conui,
not I-know who-he is ever not-him I-knew
«ne rien ne fereie por lui.
nor anything not I-would-do for him
«Ço sai jo bien qu'a Troie alames
That know I well that-to Troy we-went
«por un tortfait, que nos venjames.
for a misdeed which we avenged
«Por ço que j'i entrai premier,
For that that I-there entered first
«me rendirent itel loier,
to-me they-rendered such reward
«une pucele fille al rei:
a maiden daughter of-the king
«Icele en amenai o mei.
Her thence I-led with me
«Tenue l'ai, tenir la vueil,
Held her-I-have to-hold her I-wish
«quar mout est franche senz orgueil.
for much she-is noble without pride
«Amer la dei e tenir chiere:
To-love her I-ought and to-hold dear
«Bele est e sage a grant maniere.
Fair she-is and wise in great manner
«De ma victoire est guerredon,
Of my victory she-is reward

«qu'ensi le voustrent li baron:
that-thus it wished the barons
«Par grant proëce la conquis.
By great prowess her I-conquered
«De ço ai bien mon conseil pris,
Of that I-have well my counsel taken
«que ja nul jor ne la rendrai,
that ever any day not her I-shall-render
«tant com jo sains e vis serai.
so-long as I sound and alive shall-be
«De ma victoire fu loiers:
Of my victory she-was reward
«Ja ne serai puis chevaliers,
Ever not I-shall-be after knight
«que vos ne autre l'en meneiz.
that you nor other her-thence may-lead
«N'i enveit il pas autre feiz,
Not-there let-send he at-all other time
«quar assez tost le comparreit
for enough soon it would-pay-for
«toz li premiers qui i vendreit.
all the first who there would-come
«A vos meïsme di jo bien
To you yourself say I well
«que vos guardeiz sor tote rien
that you may-guard above all thing
«que en cest païs n'aresteiz,
that in this country not-you-may-stop
«isnelement vos en railleiz:
swiftly you thence go-back

«Pesera mei d'ore en avant,
It-will-weigh me from hour forward
«se jo vos i truis sojornant.»
if I you there find staying

Antenor Refused

XIV

Antenor sails to Achaea, where Castor and Pollux tell him that Laomedon began the wrong and that they prefer Troy's ill will to its friendship. At Pylos Nestor insults him, threatens to put out his eyes, and drives him away. A storm of three days nearly sinks his ship. Back at Troy, Antenor gives thanks to the gods and reports to Priam and his sons every answer he received, and advises that whoever begins a great undertaking should first consider how it is to end.

Antenor e si compaignon
Antenor and his companions
ne firent mie lonc sermon:
not made at-all long sermon
dreit a lor nef s'en repairierent,
straight to their ship themselves-thence returned
en mer parfonde s'esloignierent.
into sea deep themselves-distanced
Dreit vent orent e bon oré:
Straight wind they-had and good weather
del lonc de la mer ont siglé,
of-the length of the sea they-have sailed
dreit en Achaie sont venu;
straight into Achaea they-are come
iluec pristrent port e salu.
there they-took port and safety

Conreerent sei gentement,
They-arrayed themselves nobly
e senz autre porloignement
and without other delay
ont Castor e Pollus tant quis
they-have Castor and Pollux so-much sought
qu'il les troverent el païs.
that-they them found in-the country
Antenor lor a dit tres bien
Antenor to-them has said very well
son message, n'i laissa rien:
his message not-there he-left anything
«Seignor», fait il, «Prianz vos mande
Lords says he Priam to-you sends-word
«e par mei vos dit e comande
and through me to-you says and commands
«que sa soror li faceiz rendre;
that his sister to-him you-may-make render
«e se mis sire vueut dreit prendre
and if my lord wishes right to-take
«de vos, si en seit uns jorz pris:
from you so thereof be a day taken
«Trop avez esté enemis.
Too-much you-have been enemies
«Buene en sereit la benestance:
Good thereof would-be the well-being
«Trop a duré la mauvoillance.»
Too-much has lasted the ill-will

Castor e Pollus respondirent
Castor and Pollux answered
qu'onques a Priant tort ne firent:
that-ever to Priam wrong not they-did
«Mais ço set om certainement
But that knows one certainly
«que sis pere premierement
that his father first
«forfist vers nos e vers les noz,
misdid toward us and toward the ours
«dont damages vint puis as voz.
whence harm came after to-the yours
«Laomedon le començа,
Laomedon it began
«qui laidement le compara;
who foully it paid-for
«e qui de rien nos en apele
and who in anything us thereof calls
«ne nos puet aporter novele
not to-us can bring news
«dont meins nos seit. Nos ne preison
whereof less to-us may-be We not prize
«ceus de Troie se petit non:
those of Troy except little not
«Mieuz amons nos lor mauvoillance
Better love we their ill-will
«que estre o eus en benestance;
than to-be with them in well-being

«e qui ça vos en enveia
and who here you thence sent
«de petite amor vos ama.
with little love you loved
«Voz genz ne les noz ne sont une
Your folk nor the ours not are one
«n'ensemble n'ont nule comune.
nor-together not-have any common
«Ne volons que ça nus en vienge:
Not we-wish that here any thence may-come
«Iço que chascuns a, ço tienge.
That which each has that let-him-hold
«Metez vos or tost el repaire,
Put yourselves now soon on-the return
«quar tote honte e tot contraire
for all shame and all contrary
«vos fereit l'om, ço sacheiz vos:
to-you would-do one that know you
«Ja n'en sereit parlé o nos.
Ever not-thereof would-be spoken with us
«E quant vos ça preïstes port,
And when you here took port
«mout dotastes petit la mort.»
very you-feared little the death
Antenor entent le respons,
Antenor hears the answer
qui ne li fu ne beaus ne bons:
which not to-him was nor fair nor good
mout li est tart qu'il seit ariere,
very to-him it-is late that-he may-be back

quar mout li font cil laide chiere.
for very to-him make they foul face
Senz congié prendre s'en retorne,
Without leave taking himself-thence he-returns
iriee chiere fait e morne.
angered face he-makes and gloomy
En lor nef entrent, si s'en vont:
Into their ship they-enter so themselves-thence go
o dreite bise cui il ont
with straight north-wind which they have
ont tant nagié e tant siglé
they-have so-much rowed and so-much sailed
que a Pile sont arivé.
that at Pylos they-are arrived
Li dus Nestor en esteit sire,
The duke Nestor thereof was lord
qui mout ert fel e de grant ire:
who very was felon and of great wrath
de ses armes esteit mout proz
of his arms he-was very valiant
e uns des plus vaillanz de toz.
and one of-the most valiant of all
Mout ert bien de sa terre sire.
Very he-was well of his land lord
Poi li esteit d'un home ocire:
Little to-him was of-a man killing
maint en aveit o ses mains mort,
many-a thereof he-had with his hands killed
qui ne li faiseient nul tort.
who not to-him did any wrong

Mout ert engrès e de put aire,
Very he-was fierce and of foul nature
e mout li ert poi de mal faire.
and very to-him was little of ill doing
Antenor a tant dit e fait,
Antenor has so-much said and done
son message li a retrait
his message to-him he-has recounted
tot mot a mot: rien n'i oblie,
all word by word anything not-there he-forgets
que bien ne li recont e die
that well not to-him he-may-recount and say
ço que Prianz li encharja;
that which Priam to-him charged
onques por paor nel laissa.
ever for fear not-it he-left
Nestor le reguarde en travers,
Nestor him looks-at in across
d'ire devint pales e pers:
from-wrath he-became pale and livid
«Fiz a putain,» fait il, «bastarz,
Son of whore says he bastard
«por poi des ieuz ne vos desfaz.
for little of-the eyes not you I-undo
«Par cui congié, par cui otrei
By whose leave by whose grant
«vos osastes metre sor mei?
you dared to-put upon me

«Por poi jo ne vos faz desfaire
For little I not you make undo
«o vilment a chevaus detraire.
or vilely by horses to-tear
«Vers vostre rei hontos, mauvais,
Toward your king shameful wicked
«ne querrai ja jor aveir pais.
not I-shall-seek ever day to-have peace
«Sis pere, li chaitis dolenz,
His father the wretch sorrowful
«a mout grant tort laidi noz genz,
with very great wrong insulted our folk
«qui rien mesfait ne li aveient
who anything misdone not to-him had
«n'en sa terre ne forfaiseient:
nor-in his land not misdid
«E cuidereit or vostre sire
And would-think now your lord
«vengier la mort e le martire
to-avenge the death and the martyrdom
«que nos feïmes des chaitis,
which we made of-the wretches
«quant destruisimes le païs!
when we-destroyed the country
«Cuidereit nos il faire acreire
Would-think us he to-make believe
«qu'amor ne pais nos tenist veire?
that-love nor peace to-us he-would-hold true

«Dahé ait hui la soë amor
Curse have today the his love
«ne qui s'i fiera nul jor!
nor who himself-there will-trust any day
«De grant folie se porpense:
Of great folly himself he-bethinks
«N'a pas l'aveir ne la despense
Not-he-has at-all the-wealth nor the expense
«dont vers nos puisse forceier
whereby toward us he-may exert-force
«ne dous meis de l'an guerreier.
nor two months of the-year make-war
«Tot quant qu'il a ovré e fait,
All how-much that-he has worked and made
«s'il ne se guarde de fol plait,
if-he not himself guards from foolish plea
«li avrons tost ars e guasté.
to-him we-shall-have soon burned and wasted
«Guardez que ne seiez trové
Guard that not you-may-be found
«demain en la cité de Pile;
tomorrow in the city of Pylos
«eissiez vos en tost de la vile,
issue yourselves thence soon from the town
«quar il n'est gent cui jo tant hee
for it not-is folk whom I so-much hate
«com ceus de la vostre contree.
as those of the your country

«Dahé ait qui les amera
Curse have who them will-love
«ne qui ja o eus pais avra!»
nor who ever with them peace will-have
Antenor n'esteit pas seürs:
Antenor not-was at-all sure
mout vousist estre fors des murs.
very he-would-have-wished to-be outside of-the walls
Bien veit qu'il vait querant folie:
Well he-sees that-he goes seeking folly
por poi sor lui n'est revertie.
for little on him not-is turned-back
A la nef vint plus tost que pot;
To the ship he-came more soon than he-could
o itel vent come il i ot
with such wind as he there had
s'est tost de la terre esloigniez:
himself-is soon from the land distanced
or voudroit estre repairiez.
now he-would-wish to-be returned
Ja ne prendra mais port, son gré,
Ever not he-will-take more port his will
desci qu'a cel seit arivé
until that-at that he-may-be arrived
dont il mut. Bien treis jorz entiers
whence he moved Well three days whole
lor a duré uns granz tempiers:
to-them has lasted a great tempest
mout fu la mer neire e hisdose,
very was the sea black and hideous

oscure e laide e tenebrose.
dark and foul and shadowy
Grant paor ot, mout se demente
Great fear he-had very himself laments
Antenor por la grant tormente:
Antenor for the great storm
li venz e la mer le desfie,
the wind and the sea him defy
n'a esperance de sa vie.
not-he-has hope of his life
Cil de la nef gisent a denz,
Those of the ship lie on teeth
mout se claime chascuns dolenz:
very himself calls each sorrowful
ja n'en cuida uns eschaper.
ever not-thence thought one to-escape
Mout lor fu fort a endurer:
Very to-them it-was hard to endure
a grant dolor e a grant peine,
with great grief and with great pain
ainz que trespassast la semaine,
before that might-pass the week
ariverent en lor païs.
they-arrived in their country
Grant joie en fu a lor amis:
Great joy thereof was to their friends
li reis e li baron de Troie
the king and the barons of Troy
les reçurent a mout grant joie.
them received with very great joy

Par les temples Antenor va,
Through the temples Antenor goes
mout doucement les deus ora;
very sweetly the gods he-prayed
un sacrefise lor ofri,
a sacrifice to-them he-offered
por ço que de mort l'ont guari.
for that that from death him-they-have saved
Après est el palais venuz.
After he-is into-the palace come
Ne se fist pas taisanz ne muz:
Not himself he-made at-all silent nor mute
oiant le rei, oiant ses fiz,
hearing the king hearing his sons
oiant cent chevaliers esliz,
hearing hundred knights chosen
a tot conté e tot retrait,
he-has all told and all recounted
com faitement il aveit fait,
how fashioned he had done
e dist: «Por poi que cist messages
and said For little that this message
«ne m'est tornez a granz damages.
not to-me-is turned to great harm
«Tant par nos heent cil de la,
So-much very us hate those of there
«ja mais n'ameront ceus de ça.
ever more not-they-will-love those of here
«A Peleüs alai premier,
To Peleus I-went first

«cui mout trovai enrievre e fier.
whom very I-found cruel and proud
«Sacheiz mout en failli petit,
Know very thereof failed little
«quant mon message li oi dit,
when my message to-him I-had said
«qu'il ne me fist deshonorer.
that-he not me made dishonor
«Comença mei a congeër
He-began me to dismiss
«mout laidement de son païs:
very foully from his country
«Ja ne sereit, ço dist, amis
Ever not he-would-be that he-said friend
«a ceus de Troie nul jor mais,
to those of Troy any day more
«n'o eus n'avreit triuë ne pais.
nor-with them not-would-have truce nor peace
«O lui ne poi jo el trover.
With him not could I else find
«Puis me remis ariere en mer:
Then me I-put-again back on sea
«Telamon quis e demandai
Telamon I-sought and asked
«tant que a peines le trovai.
so-much that with pain him I-found
«De par vos li dis e requis,
On behalf you to-him I-said and requested
«mout m'en penai e entremis,
very me-thereof I-strove and engaged

«qu'il vos rendist vostre soror,
that-he to-you might-render your sister
«car tenue l'aveit maint jor.
for held her-he-had many-a day
«Cui chaut? Assez me foleia
Who cares Enough me he-mocked
«e vos meïsme laidenja:
and you yourself insulted
«Por vos, ço dist, rien ne fereit,
For you that he-said anything not he-would-do
«ne bien, ne mal, ne tort, ne dreit.
nor good nor ill nor wrong nor right
«Pollus me redist autretel,
Pollux to-me said-again the-same
«mout me laidi en son ostel;
very me he-insulted in his lodging
«mout me fist mauvais acoilleit
very to-me he-made wicked welcome
«e dist que Troïens haeit:
and said that Trojans he-hated
«Ne fereit por vos nule rien,
Not he-would-do for you any thing
«ço dist, ne que por un vil chien;
that he-said nor than for a vile dog
«nos i atendisseiz vos mie.
not there would-wait you at-all
«Assez me dist honte e folie.
Enough to-me he-said shame and folly
«Jo sofri tot o morne chiere,
I suffered all with gloomy face

«puis me remis en mer ariere.
then me I-put-again on sea back
«Nestor quis tant qu'a lui parlai,
Nestor I-sought so-much that-to him I-spoke
«vostre message li contai.
your message to-him I-told
«Cui chaut? quar il me dist tres bien
Who cares for he to-me said very well
«sire, que nos amot de rien.
lord that not-us he-loved in anything
«Des dous ieuz me voleit desfaire,
Of-the two eyes me he-wished to-undo
«o vilment a chevaus detraire;
or vilely by horses to-tear
«manaça vos a eissillier
he-threatened you to lay-waste
«e tote Troie a trebuchier.
and all Troy to topple
«Onc, ço sacheiz, jor ne conui
Ever that know day not I-knew
«nes un plus orgoillos de lui,
not-even one more proud than him
«ne plus pervers, ne plus sorfait.
nor more perverse nor more outrageous
«Que vos en fereie lonc plait?
What to-you thereof would-I-make long plea
«Ne vos prisent ne ne vos aiment,
Not you they-prize nor not you love
«ne ceus qui de part vos se claiment.
nor those who on behalf you themselves call

«Nos i poëz de rien fiër,
Not there you-can in anything trust
«ainz vos estuet d'eus a guarder.
rather you behooves from-them to guard
«Il resevent, ço sacheiz, bien,
They again-know that know well
«que vos ne les amez de rien.
that you not them love in anything
«Prenez conseil qu'en devez faire
Take counsel what-thereof you-ought to-do
«tel dont vos poisseiz a chief traire
such whereby you may to end draw
«al pro de vos e a l'onor;
to-the profit of you and to the-honor
«quar ço nos diënt li autor:
for that to-us say the authors
«Qui grant chose vueut envaïr,
Who great thing wishes to-undertake
«la fin a qu'il en deit venir
the end to which-he thereof ought to-come
«deit esguarder, se il est sages,
ought to-regard if he is wise
«que n'en vienge honte e damages.»
that not-thereof may-come shame and harm

The Council

XV

Priam tells his men that death is better than suffering the shame in peace, and proposes to send knights secretly to ravage Greece. All agree. He makes his sons captains and Hector lord over all. Hector agrees, but warns that the Greeks are strong and hold Europe, and that Troy has no fleet. Paris answers that the gods favor them: hunting in Lesser India he fell asleep and dreamed that Mercury brought Juno, Venus, and Minerva to him to judge a golden apple. He gave it to Venus for her promise of the most prized woman of Greece, and he offers to lead the raid himself.

Mout fu iriez Prianz li reis,
Very was angered Priam the king
quant il oï que li Grezeis
when he heard that the Greeks
aveient despit son message:
had despised his message
mout l'en pesa en son corage.
very him-thereof weighed in his heart
Les manaces ot e le lait 3655
The threats he-hears and the insult
que Antenor dit e retrait,
which Antenor says and recounts
e les reproches e les diz.
and the reproaches and the sayings
A ses homes et a ses fiz
To his men and to his sons
le prist a dire e a mostrer:
it he-took to say and to show

«Seignor, en vos me dei fiër.
Lords in you me I-ought to-trust
«Oïr poëz l'adrecement
To-hear you-can the-redress
«e la pais e l'acordement
and the peace and the-accord
«que cil de Grece nos fereient,
which those of Greece us would-make
«se lieu e tens e aise aveient.
if place and time and ease they-had
«De nos n'ont crieme ne dotance,
Of us not-they-have fear nor doubt
«mout prisent poi nostre poissance:
very they-prize little our power
«Ma soror ne me rendront mie.
My sister not to-me they-will-render at-all
«Or ne sai jo mais que jo die,
Now not know I more what I may-say
«mais assez nos vient mieuz morir
but enough to-us comes better to-die
«que ceste honte en pais sofrir.
than this shame in peace to-suffer
«Dahé ait qui la soferra
Curse have who it will-suffer
«e qui a tant ne s'en metra
and who at so-much not himself-thereof will-put
«que l'om ne nos en blast a tort.
that one not us thereof may-blame at wrong
«A morir avons d'une mort:
To die we-have of-one death

«Assez sovent a l'om veü
Enough often has one seen
«que cil qui esteient vencu
that those who were conquered
«revenqueient lor enemis,
conquered-in-turn their enemies
«si qu'a eus erent puis sozmis.
so that-to them they-were after submitted
«Fort vile avons: jusqu'al joïse
Strong town we-have until-the judgment
«ne sereit el par force prise.
not would-be it by force taken
«Chevalerie avons assez
Chivalry we-have enough
«e de genz a pié granz plentez;
and of folk on foot great plenties
«de la vitaille avons adès.
of the victuals we-have always
«Mout nos devons metre en grant fais
Very us we-ought to-put in great burden
«que de l'ire dont somes plein
that for the-wrath whereof we-are full
«querons mecine a estre sain,
we-may-seek medicine to be well
«o faire a ceus honte e damage
or to-do to those shame and harm
«qui le firent nostre lignage:
who it did our lineage
«Si serons sain, lié e joios.
So we-shall-be well glad and joyful

«Cest afaire met jo sor vos.
This affair put I upon you
«Que qu'om die ne que que non,
What that-one may-say nor what that not
«n'en ferai rien se par vos non.
not-thereof I-shall-do anything except through you not
«Non pas por ço ma volenté
Not at-all for that my will
«e mon corage e mon pensé
and my heart and my thought
«est biens e dreiz que vos en die,
is good and right that to-you thereof I-may-say
«o seit saveirs, o seit folie.
or be-it wisdom or be-it folly
«Eslisons tant de nostre gent
Let-us-choose so-much of our folk
«come il vos vendra a talent,
as it to-you will-come to desire
«de chevaliers proz e hardiz,
of knights valiant and bold
«de totes armes bien guarniz,
with all arms well furnished
«sis enveions en lor contree
so-them let-us-send into their country
«tot belement e a celee:
all fairly and in secret
«Ainz que la chose seit seüe,
Before that the thing be known
«puet la terre estre confondue,
can the land be confounded

«lor home mort, lor preie prise.
their men dead their plunder taken
«Ne cuident pas en nule guise
Not they-think at-all in any guise
«que l'om osast sor eus aler
that one might-dare against them to-go
«ne en lor terre a force entrer.
nor into their land by force to-enter
«Haï! haï! franc chevalier,
Alas alas noble knights
«qui lor orgueil porreit baissier,
who their pride could lower
«come avreit grant aumosne faite!
how he-would-have great alms done
«Or me dites que vos en haite.
Now to-me tell what you thereof pleases
«Içо vos di jo bien de veir,
This to-you say I well of truth
«se vostre aïde en puis aveir,
if your help thereof I-can have
«qu'a mei ne la guarront ja mais,
that-from me not her will-protect ever more
«ne n'i avront triuë ne pais.»
nor not-there will-have truce nor peace
N'i a un sol qui l'en desdie;
Not-there has one single who him-thereof may-gainsay

chascuns li pramet e afie
each to-him promises and pledges
qu'il en feront tot son voleir
that-they thereof will-do all his will
a lor force e a lor poëir:
with their force and with their power
«Comant e die son plaisir,
Let-him-command and say his pleasure
quar il sont prest de l'obeïr.»
for they are ready of him-obeying
Mout s'en est li reis esjoïz,
Very himself-thereof is the king rejoiced
puis a parlé a toz ses fiz;
then has spoken to all his sons
si lor dit qu'al suen esciënt
so to-them says that-to-the his knowledge
a fait en eus bon norriment,
he-has made in them good nurture
quar beaus les veit, hardiz e proz:
for fair them he-sees bold and valiant
«Maistre sereiz», fait il, «sor toz.
Masters you-will-be says he above all
«Chascuns avra sa compaignie
Each will-have his company
«bien ordenee e establie.
well ordered and established
«Chascuns sera princes des suens,
Each will-be prince of-the his
«e dus e sire e maistre e cuens.
and duke and lord and master and count

«Ore i parra qui plus dorra
Now there it-will-appear who more will-give
«e qui les suens plus amera.
and who the his more will-love
«Or guart chascuns que teus lor seit
Now let-guard each that such to-them he-may-be
«qu'autre seignor nus ne coveit,
that-other lord any not may-covet
«e que nes uns d'eus ne se plaigne
and that not-even one of-them not himself may-complain
«qu'il aient mauvais chevetaigne,
that-they may-have bad captain
«ne qu'il ne perdent lor valor
nor that-they not may-lose their valor
«por defaute de lor seignor.
for default of their lord
«Ore iert veüe l'esperance,
Now will-be seen the-hope
«la norreture e l'atendance
the nurture and the-expectation
«que jo ai faite e atendue;
which I have made and awaited
«dès or sera bien coneüe
from now will-be well known
«la proëce que g'i espeir.
the prowess which I-there hope
«Par la fei que dei Deu le veir,
By the faith which I-owe God the true

«por neient s'atendreit a mei
for nothing himself-would-wait on me
«cil qui mauvais sereit de sei.
he who wicked would-be of himself
«Mais cil qui porra endurer
But he who will-be-able to-endure
«les granz peines d'armes porter,
the great pains of-arms bearing
«les sofraites e les ahanz,
the wants and the toils
«qu'i seit seürs e combatanz,
that-be-there be sure and fighting
«cil iert mis fiz, lui amerai,
he will-be my son him I-shall-love
«tot quant que il voudra ferai;
all how-much that he will-wish I-shall-do
«tot le mien prenge e doint e ait:
all the mine let-him-take and give and have
«Ja ne l'en sera dangiers fait.
Ever not to-him-thereof will-be refusal made
«Hector, beaus fiz, tu iés li maire:
Hector fair son thou art the eldest
«Sire seras de cest afaire;
Lord thou-wilt-be of this affair
«tu en seras li chiés de toz,
thou thereof wilt-be the head of all
«quar mout par iés sages e proz.
for very much thou-art wise and valiant
«En tei sera lor recovrier,
In thee will-be their recovery

«a tei se vendront conseillier:
to thee themselves will-come to-take-counsel
«Ne vueil qu'i ait fil de baron
Not I-wish that-there may-be son of baron
«qui rien face se par tei non.
who anything may-do except through thee not
«De toz avras la seignorie,
Of all thou-wilt-have the lordship
«la poësté e la maistrie.
the power and the mastery
«E tu, guarde que sauve i seit:
And thou guard that safe there it-be
«Por ço avras en m'onor dreit,
For that thou-wilt-have in my-domain right
«por ço me seras fil e heir.
for that to-me thou-wilt-be son and heir
«Li deu en facent mon voleir!»
The gods thereof may-do my will
Hector respont come senez:
Hector answers as sensible
«Sire», fait il, «voz volentez
Lord says he your wills
«vueil jo mout faire, quar dreiz est.
wish I very to-do for right it-is
«De vostre plaisir vez me prest:
Of your pleasure see me ready
«Volentiers m'en entremetrai
Willingly me-thereof I-shall-undertake
«e tot mon poëir en ferai.
and all my power thereof I-shall-do

«A toz les deus pri e requier
To all the gods I-pray and request
«que mon aiuel puisse vengier:
that my grandfather I-may avenge
«Lor voleir seit e lor plaisir
Their will be and their pleasure
«de nos guarder e maintenir
of us to-guard and to-maintain
«tant qu'eüssons venjance prise
until we-might-have vengeance taken
«de cele gent que poi nos prise!
of that folk which little us prizes
«Trop sera lait, se lor enfant
Too-much it-will-be foul if their children
«se vont de nos escharnissant,
themselves go of us mocking
«ne s'il remaneient en paiz
nor if-they remained in peace
«des laiz, des torz qu'il nos ont faiz.
of-the insults of-the wrongs which-they to-us have done
«Bien nos devons tuit essaier
Well us we-ought all to-try
«de nostre grant honte vengier:
of our great shame avenging
«Mout par m'est tart e mout coveit
Very much to-me-is late and much I-covet
«que de noz genz bataille seit
that of our folk battle be
«envers la lor: bien la voudreie,
against the theirs well it I-would-wish

«volentiers m'i essaiereie.
willingly myself-there I-would-try
«Ço peise mei, que ne portons
That weighs me that not we-bear
«armes vers gent que nos haons:
arms toward folk whom we hate
«Contre eus les vueil jo bien porter,
Against them them wish I well to-bear
«mais mout nos covient a guarder
but much us behooves to guard
«que en tel sen le començons
that in such sense it we-begin
«que traire a bon chief le poissons.
that to-draw to good end it we-may
«Mout sont fort gent, mout ont aïe,
Very are strong folk much they-have help
«mout dure loing lor seignorie:
very lasts far their lordship
«Grant honte avrons al comencier,
Great shame we-shall-have at-the beginning
«se nos nel poons avengier.
if we not-it can bring-to-end
«Qui bien comence, que li vaut,
Who well begins what to-him avails
«s'en la fin del tot pert e faut?
if-in the end from-the all he-loses and fails
«Comencement deit l'om haïr
Beginning ought one to-hate
«dont l'om ne puet a chief venir.
whereof one not can to end come

«Li vilains dit: «Mieuz vient laissier
The villein says Better comes to-leave
««que mauvaisement comencier.»
than badly to-begin
«Bien savons tuit qu'en tot le mont
Well we-know all that-in all the world
«n'a si tres fort gent come il sont.
not-has so very strong folk as they are
«Vez Eürope, que il ont,
See Europe which they have
«que tient la tierce part del mont,
which holds the third part of-the world
«ou sont li meillor chevalier
where are the best knights
«e li mieuz duit de guerreier:
and the best trained in war-making
«Onc el ne firent a nul jor
Ever else not they-did on any day
«ne ne servent d'autre labor.
nor not serve of-other labor
«Ceus pueent bien en ost mener
Those they-can well in host lead
«o eus e par terre e par mer;
with them both by land and by sea
«ceus avront toz a lor talent,
those they-will-have all at their desire
«e ceus d'Aise tot ensement.
and those of-Asia all likewise
«Cil d'Aise nen ont cure d'al,
Those of-Asia not have care of-else

«mais toz jorz seient a cheval;
but all days they-sit on horse
«plus vuelent guerre qu'autre rien,
more they-wish war than-other thing
«onc n'amerent repos ne bien.
ever not-they-loved rest nor good
«Içe resavons nos de veir,
That know-again we of truth
«que cil resont a lor voleir.
that those are-again at their will
«Si guardez bien quos en fereiz:
So guard well what-you thereof will-do
«Ja mar por mei le laissereiz.
Ever ill for me it you-will-leave
«Jo n'en di rien por coardie;
I not-thereof say anything for cowardice
«ensorquetot n'avons navie
moreover not-we-have fleet
«par que sor eus poissons passer:
by which upon them we-might cross
«A ço ne sai conseil doner.
To that not I-know counsel to-give
«Senz nes ne sai com faitement
Without ships not I-know how fashioned
«lor poissons faire nuisement.
to-them we-might do harm
«Mout i avons poi d'apareil,
Very there we-have little of-equipment

«sin fait a prendre tel conseil
so-thereof it-is to take such counsel
«dont l'om puisse a tel chief venir,
whereby one may to such end come
«ne nos en plaignons al partir;
not us thereof we-may-complain at-the parting
«quar l'onor de nos e le bien
for the-honor of us and the good
«en desir jo sor tote rien.»
thereof desire I above all thing
A ço redistrent lor talant
At that said-again their desire
li plusor d'eus e li auquant:
the most of-them and the some
en plusors sens le loënt faire,
in many senses it they-advise to-do
mais enuiz est de tot retraire.
but annoyance it-is of all recounting
Après eus toz parla Paris:
After them all spoke Paris
«Tot iço», fait il, «rien ne pris.
All this says he anything not I-prize
«Riche gent somes e vaillant
Rich folk we-are and valiant
«e d'aïde e d'aveir manant;
and in-help and in-wealth wealthy
«ceste vile ne crient nul home.
this town not fears any man
«De mon conseil est ço la some,
Of my counsel is that the sum

«que des Grezeis querons venjance,
that on-the Greeks let-us-seek vengeance
«quar jo sai de fi senz dotance
for I know for sure without doubt
«qu'il nos en avendra toz biens:
that-it to-us thereof will-befall all goods
«De ço seit toz li blasmes miens.
Of that be all the blame mine
«Seit la navie apareilliee,
Be the fleet prepared
«e si seit en Grece enveiee
and so be into Greece sent
«delivrement jusqu'a brief jor.
readily until-to short day
«Li deu en vuelent nostre honor,
The gods thereof wish our honor
«e dirai vos coment jol sai.
and I-shall-tell you how I-it know
«L'autr'ier, es calendes de mai,
The-other-day at-the calends of May
«chaçoë en Inde la Menor
I-hunted in India the Less
«un cerf, ço m'est vis, coreor.
a stag that to-me-is opinion running
«Le jor le chacierent mi chien:
The day it hunted my dogs
«Assez corui, ainz ne pris rien.
Enough I-ran but not I-took anything
«Mout fist grant chaut d'estrange guise:
Very it-made great heat of-strange guise

«Le jor ne venta guaires bise.
The day not blew much north-wind
«Mes veneors e toz mes chiens
My huntsmen and all my dogs
«perdi es vaus Citharіiens.
I-lost in-the vales Citharean
«Lez la fontaine ou rien n'abeivre,
Beside the fountain where anything not-drinks
«tres desoz l'ombre d'un geneivre,
very under the-shade of-a juniper
«m'estut dormir, nel poi muër:
me-behooved to-sleep not-it I-could help
«Onques avant ne poi aler.
Ever forward not I-could go
«Sempres maneis en m'avison
At-once forthwith in my-vision
«vi devant mei Mercurion:
I-saw before me Mercury
«Juno, Venus e Minerva,
Juno Venus and Minerva
«cez treis deuesses m'amena.
these three goddesses me-he-brought
«Treis feiz m'apela dreitement,
Three times me-he-called straightly
«puis dist: «Paris, a mei entent.
then said Paris to me attend
«Cez deuesses vienent a tei
These goddesses come to thee
«por le jugement d'un otrei.
for the judgment of-a grant

«Une pome lor fu getee
An apple to-them was thrown
«d'or massice, tote letree:
of-gold massive all lettered
«Les letres diënt en grezeis
The letters say in Greek
«qu'a la plus bele d'eles treis
that-to the most fair of-them three
«sera la pome quitement.
will-be the apple freely
«Entre eles en a grant content:
Among them thereof there-is great contention
«Chascune plus bele se fait,
Each more fair herself makes
«chascune est dreiz, ço dit, qu'el l'ait;
each it-is right that says that-she it-may-have
«n'i a celi de sei ne die
not-there has she of herself not may-say
«que por beauté n'en perdra mie.
that for beauty not-thereof she-will-lose at-all
«L'une la vueut, l'autre li viee.
The-one it wishes the-other to-her forbids
«Ancor n'est a nule otreiee,
Yet not-it-is to any granted
«ancor n'en est nule saisie:
yet not-thereof is any seized
«Mout est l'une a l'autre marrie.
Very is the-one with the-other grieved

«Conseil ont pris, — jo lor donai
Counsel they-have taken I to-them gave-it
«e par bone fei lor loai, —
and by good faith to-them advised-it
«que a ço que tu en direies,
that to that which thou thereof wouldst-say
«e celi cui tu la dorreies,
and she to-whom thou it wouldst-give
«des autres li seit otreiee,
by-the others to-her be-it granted
«de beauté seit la plus preisiee.
in beauty let-her-be the most prized
«Totes treis l'ont ensi graé
All three it-have thus agreed
«com de ta boche iert devisé:
as by thy mouth will-be decided
«Cele l'avra cui tu diras
She it-will-have to-whom thou wilt-say-it
«e de beauté plus loëras.
and in beauty more wilt-praise
«Par tei le covient a saveir,
By thee it behooves to know
«qui la pome devra aveir.»
who the apple will-be-bound to-have
«Chascune conseilla a mei
Each counseled with me
«priveement e en segrei:
privately and in secret

«Soz ciel n'a rien que jo vousisse
Under heaven not-is anything that I might-wish
«qu'a icele hore n'en traisisse;
that-at that hour not-thereof I-might-draw
«n'i ot celi que ne m'ofrist.
not-there had she who not me-offered
«E Venus m'afia e dist,
And Venus me-pledged and said
«se la pome li otreioë
if the apple to-her I-granted
«e de beauté plus la looë,
and in beauty more her praised
«femme de Grece me dorreit
wife of Greece me she-would-give
«la plus preisiee qu'i sereit.
the most prized who-there would-be
«La pome ensi li otreiai
The apple thus to-her I-granted
«e de beauté plus la loai:
and in beauty more her praised
«A li m'en tinc por la pramesse,
To her me-thereof I-hold for the promise
«si sai tres bien que la deuesse
so I-know very well that the goddess
«m'aïdera, n'en dot de rien.
me-will-help not-thereof I-doubt in anything
«Se vos, sire, le volez bien,
If you lord it wish well
«g'irai, ço sacheiz, volentiers.
I-shall-go that know willingly

«Tant aie gent e chevaliers
So-much I-may-have folk and knights
«qu'en lor terre poissons forfaire:
that-in their land we-may wrong
«Ainz que nos metons el repaire,
Before that we may-put on-the return
«lor avrons tel damage fait,
to-them we-shall-have such harm done
«qui a toz jorz iert mais retrait.»
which at all days will-be more recounted

The Prophecies Refused

XVI

Deiphobus supports Paris, sure that the Greeks will then give Hesione back. Helenus prophesies that if Paris brings a wife from Greece, Troy will be destroyed and its people killed. Troilus mocks him as a cowardly priest, and the court sides with Troilus. Priam sends Paris and Deiphobus to raise knights in Pannonia and summons a parley. The wise Panthus warns that his father Euphorbus foretold the same ruin, but the people overrule him, and ships are built. Cassandra foretells the destruction too, and the poet says that if she, Helenus, and Panthus had been believed, Troy would have had no harm.

Anceis qu'a ço respondist nus,
Before that-to that might-answer any
parla premiers Deïphebus:
spoke first Deiphobus
«Bien lo,» fait il, «e bien agré
Well I-advise says he and well approve
«le conseil qu'a Paris doné.
the counsel which-has Paris given

«A lui m'en tieng, mout a bien dit:
To him me-thereof I-hold very he-has well said
«N'i deit aveir nul contredit.
Not-there ought to-have any gainsaying
«Bien cuit e crei, se il i vait,
Well I-think and believe if he there goes
«que li Grezeis nos feront plait
that the Greeks to-us will-make peace
«e qu'il rendront Esionan:
and that-they will-render Hesione
«Anceis que vienge al chief de l'an,
Before that it-may-come at-the end of the-year
«plait nos feront tot a noz grez.
peace to-us they-will-make all to our wills
«Seit li navies aprestez,
Be the fleet readied
«e si en aut hastivement:
and so thence let-him-go hastily
«N'i ait autre porloignement».
Not-there be other delay
Après parla danz Helenus,
After spoke lord Helenus
frere Paris, fiz Priamus.
brother (of-)Paris son (of-)Priam
En piez s'estut devant le rei:
On feet he-stood before the king
«Sire,» fait il, «entendez mei.
Lord says he hear me
«Jo sai auques de deviner:
I know somewhat of divining

«Ne veïstes onques mon per.
Not you-saw ever my peer
«Mainte chose ai prophetiziee
Many-a thing I-have prophesied
«que est provee e essaiee;
which is proved and tried
«onques chose ne fis acreire
ever thing not I-made believe
«que n'ait esté provee a veire:
which not-has been proved for true
«De rien que die n'i faudrai.
In anything that I-may-say not-there I-shall-fail
«Mais, ço sacheiz, une rien sai:
But that know one thing I-know
«Se Paris a de Grece femme
If Paris has from Greece wife
«ne de la terre ne del regne,
nor from the land nor from-the realm
«se Troie n'en est eissilliee,
if Troy not-thereof is laid-waste
«arse e fondue e trebuchiee,
burned and thrown-down and toppled
«j'otrei que j'en seie dampnez
I-grant that I-thereof may-be damned
«e en un feu ars e ventez.
and in a fire burned and winnowed
«Veü en ai les visions
Seen thereof I-have the visions
«par treis feiz e devins respons:
by three times and divine answers

«De ço me faz devins e maistre,
Of that me I-make diviner and master
«que il ne puet autrement estre:
that it not can otherwise be
«Se de Grece femme en ameine,
If from Greece wife thence he-leads
«senz mort, senz dolor e senz peine
without death without grief and without pain
«n'en porra eschaper uns sous,
not-thence will-be-able to-escape one alone
«quar li Grezeis vendront sor nos,
for the Greeks will-come upon us
«par vive force e par bataille
by living force and by battle
«Ylion abatront senz faille;
Ilion they-will-throw-down without fail
«ja n'i avra si haut terrier
ever not-there will-have so high earthwork
«que il ne facent trebuchier.
that they not may-make topple
«Peres e fiz toz ociront
Fathers and sons all they-will-kill
«e tot le regne destruiront
and all the realm will-destroy
«a grant dolor e a torment:
with great grief and with torment
«Ja nos i remaindra parent.
Ever not-to-us there will-remain kinsman
«Por ço sereit bien, ço m'est vis,
For that it-would-be well that to-me-is opinion

«que n'i alast pas danz Paris:
that not-there might-go at-all lord Paris
«Remaigne sei, quar grant damage
Let-him-remain himself for great harm
«nos puet venir par son passage.
to-us can come through his passage
«Grant chose deit l'om desvoleir,
Great thing ought one to-not-wish
«por pis oster, e remaneir».
for worse to-remove and to-remain
Quant Helenus ot achevee
When Helenus had achieved
la parole qu'il ot mostree,
the speech which-he had shown
tuit furent a la cort taisant,
all were at the court silent
onc n'i parla petit ne grant.
ever not-there spoke little nor great
N'i aveit un sol mot tenti,
Not-there had a single word sounded
quant Troïlus en piez sailli.
when Troilus to feet leapt
Des fiz le rei ert le menor,
Of-the sons (of-)the king he-was the youngest
mais ço nos retrait bien l'Autor,
but that to-us recounts well the-Author
poi ert meins forz en son endreit
little he-was less strong in his kind
ne meins hardiz qu'Hector esteit:
nor less bold than-Hector was

«Avoi!» fait il, «franc chevalier,
Fie says he noble knights
«por quei vos vei si esmaier
for what you I-see so dismay
«por la parole d'un proveire,
for the speech of-a priest
«qui ci nos fait mençonge acreire?
who here us makes lie believe
«Trop par est fous qui cuide e creit
Too much is foolish who thinks and believes
«que il sache qu'avenir deit
that he may-know what-to-come ought
«d'ui en treis anz: jo nel cuit mie.
from-today in three years I not-it think at-all
«Ço li fait dire coardie:
That him makes say cowardice
«Proveire sont toz jorz coart,
Priests are all days cowards
«de poi de chose ont il reguart.
of little of thing have they fear
«Cist ne fait mie a escouter:
This-one not makes at-all to listen
«Dahé ait hui son deviner!
Curse have today his divining
«Que quiert il entre chevaliers?
What seeks he among knights
«Mais aut orer en cez mostiers
But let-him-go to-pray in these minsters
«e guart qu'il seit e gros e gras.
and let-him-guard that-he be both stout and fat

«Noz vies ne s'acordent pas:
Our lives not themselves-accord at-all
«Penst bien de son cors aaisier,
Let-him-think well of his body to-ease
«qu'il n'a d'autre chose mestier.
for-he not-has of-other thing need
«Peine e travail por pris aveir:
Pain and toil for worth to-have
«Itel vie devons aveir.
Such life we-ought to-have
«E qui por son devinement
And who for his divination
«laira a prendre vengement
will-leave of taking vengeance
«de la grant honte e del grant lait
for the great shame and for-the great insult
«que li Grezeis nos ont tant fait,
which the Greeks to-us have so-much done
«cil seit a toz jorz mais honiz
he be at all days more shamed
«e de trestoz les deus partiz.»
and from all the gods parted
A cele parole ot grant bruit:
At that word there-had great noise
«Mout a bien dit,» ço diënt tuit.
Very he-has well said that say all
Chascuns loë, chascuns otreie
Each advises each grants
que Paris se mete a la veie:
that Paris himself may-put on the way

«Por les paroles Heleni,
For the words of-Helenus
o ait veir dit o ait menti,
or he-may-have true said or may-have lied
ne remaigne.» Non fera il:
not let-him-remain Not will-do he
por ço furent tuit a eissil.
for that were all to exile
Ensi fu li conseiz graez:
Thus was the counsel agreed
«Seit li navies aprestez;
Be the fleet readied
en Grece en aut, pas ne remaigne,
into Greece thence let-him-go at-all not let-him-remain
qui que s'en lot ne qui s'en plaigne.»
who that himself-thereof may-praise nor who himself-thereof may-complain
A cele feiz ne distrent plus.
At that time not they-said more
Prianz tramist Deïphebus
Priam sent Deiphobus
en Pannoine, lui e Paris,
into Pannonia him and Paris
por chevaliers querre el païs.
for knights to-seek in-the country
La en alerent senz demore:
There thence they-went without delay
assez en orent en poi d'ore;
enough thereof they-had in little of-hour

tant en josterent come il vorent,
so-many thereof they-gathered as they wished
puis s'en tornerent come ainz porent.
then themselves-thence turned as soonest they-could
Après manda li reis Prianz
After summoned the king Priam
un parlement qui mout fu granz:
a parley which very was great
tuit i vindrent cil de s'onor,
all there came those of his-domain
e li plus riche e li meillor
and the most rich and the best
mandé furent comunaument.
summoned were in-common
Mout par i assembla grant gent,
Very much there assembled great folk
quar bien voleit li reis Prianz
for well wished the king Priam
saveir lor cuers e lor talanz:
to-know their hearts and their wills
«Seignor,» fait il, «mandez vos ai:
Lords says he summoned you I-have
«Savez por quei? Jol vos dirai.
Know-you for what I-it to-you shall-tell
«Bien oïstes la grant dolor,
Well you-heard the great grief
«com furent mort nostre ancessor,
how were dead our ancestors
«que cil de Grece detrenchierent,
whom those of Greece cut-up

«e Troie e la terre eissillierent.
and Troy and the land laid-waste
«N'en a esté prise venjance:
Not-thereof has been taken vengeance
«Or si sacheiz bien senz dotance,
Now so know well without doubt
«ne remandra mais por nul plait
not will-remain more for any plea
«que autre chose n'en seit fait.
that other thing not-thereof may-be done
«Dreiz ert qu'o vos me conseillasse,
Right it-was that-with you me I-might-counsel
«ainz qu'autre chose començasse.
before that-other thing I-might-begin
«Antenor i tramis l'autr'ier:
Antenor there I-sent the-other-day
«Saveir voleie e essaier
To-know I-wished and to-try
«s'il me rendreient ma soror,
if-they to-me would-render my sister
«qu'il tienent a grant deshonor.
whom-they hold in great dishonor
«Il ne m'en voustrent rendre mie,
They not to-me-thereof wished to-render at-all
«mout li distrent lait e folie.
very to-him they-said insult and folly

«Or n'i a plus: j'ai conseil pris
Now not-there has more I-have counsel taken
«que g'i vueil enveier Paris
that I-there wish to-send Paris
«por forfaire, por vengement
for wronging for vengeance
«del lait qu'il firent nostre gent.
of-the insult which-they did our folk
«Mais tot en vueil ancor saveir
But all thereof I-wish yet to-know
«le los de vos e le voleir;
the counsel of you and the will
«quar, se vos plaist, il i ira,
for if to-you it-pleases he there will-go
«e se vos plaist, il remandra.
and if to-you it-pleases he will-remain
«E se aucun de vos desplaist,
And if any of you it-displeases
«c'est folie que il s'en taist,
it-is folly that he himself-thereof may-be-silent
«mais die en ço qu'a vis l'en iert:
but let-him-say therein that which-to opinion him-thereof will-be
«Conseil creie qui conseil quiert».
Counsel let-him-believe who counsel seeks
Panthus, uns vassaus mout senez,
Panthus a vassal very sensible
de letres sages e fondez,
in letters wise and grounded
a comenciee sa reison,
has begun his speech

si que l'oïrent li baron:
so that it-heard the barons
«Reis sire, oëz que vueil retraire
King lord hear what I-wish to-recount
«par fei, jo nel dei mie taire;
by faith I not-it ought at-all to-keep-silent
«ne dei chose celer vers tei
not I-ought thing to-hide toward thee
«dont jo trespas la meie fei:
whereby I may-transgress the my faith
«Mei est a vis, cil n'aime bien
To-me it-is at opinion he not-loves well
«qui a son seignor ceile rien
who from his lord hides anything
«par que il seit desheritez
through which he may-be disinherited
«ne morz ne pris ne encombrez.
nor dead nor taken nor encumbered
«Treis cenz e seisante anz e plus
Three hundred and sixty years and more
«ot mis pere Eüforbius,
had my father Euphorbus
«ainz qu'il passast de ceste vie;
before that-he passed from this life
«mout ot grant sen e grant clergie.
very he-had great sense and great learning
«Des arz e del conseil devin
Of-the arts and of-the counsel divine
«esteient tuit a lui aclin:
were all to him bowed

«Onc cele chose ne pramist
Ever that thing not he-promised
«que a son terme n'avenist.
that at its term not-befell
«Jo li oï mainte feiz dire
I him heard many-a times say
«que tote Troie e tot l'empire
that all Troy and all the-empire
«empeirereit e tot le regne,
would-worsen and all the realm
«se Paris de Grece aveit femme.
if Paris from Greece had wife
«Por çol te di, se il i vait
For that-it thee I-say if he there goes
«e de la prenge femme e ait,
and from there may-take wife and may-have
«la prophecie averera
the prophecy will-come-true
«que mis pere prophetiza.
which my father prophesied
«N'aies mie ço en despit
Not-have at-all that in despite
«que li sages sot e porvit:
which the wise-man knew and foresaw
«Mieuz te vient tot ensi ester
Better to-thee it-comes all thus to-stand
«e ton bon regne en pais guarder
and thy good realm in peace to-keep

«qu'estre en tomoute e en esfrei
than-to-be in tumult and in alarm
«que n'en chiee li maus sor tei.
that not-thence may-fall the ill upon thee
«Mout bone pais, mout grant franchise
Very good peace very great freedom
«as a ton gré, a ta devise:
thou-hast at thy will at thy choice
«Ne querras pas, se tu bien fais,
Not thou-wilt-seek at-all if thou well doest
«com franchise perdes e pais.
how freedom thou-may-lose and peace
«Mout desert cil male merite,
Very deserves he evil merit
«qui de son gré se desherite;
who of his will himself disinherits
«de noble vie e de gentil
from noble life and from gentle
«te vueus embatre en grant peril».
thyself thou-wishest to-plunge into great peril
Li pueples toz comunaument,
The people all in-common
qui ert jostez al parlement,
who was gathered at-the parley
contredistrent l'autorité
gainsaid the-authority
que Panthus ot dit e mostré:
which Panthus had said and shown
n'en firent rien, n'en orent cure;
not-thereof they-made anything not-thereof they-had care

bien i ert lor mesaventure.
well there was their misadventure
Al rei diënt qu'il lor comant
To-the king they-say that-he to-them may-command
trestot son buen e son talant:
all his good-pleasure and his will
ja del faire n'avra respit,
ever of-the doing not-he-will-have respite
cui que place ne cui qu'enuit.
whom that it-may-please nor whom that-it-may-irk
Mout les en mercia li reis,
Very them thereof thanked the king
e solonc l'estre de lor leis
and according-to the-being of their laws
lor a a toz doné congié.
to-them he-has to all given leave
Après a quis e porchacié
After he-has sought and procured
ovriers vaillanz por les nes faire.
workmen valiant for the ships to-make
Ne vos en quier lonc conte faire:
Not to-you thereof I-seek long tale to-make
tost furent prestes e guarnies
soon they-were ready and furnished
e de vitaille replenies.
and with victuals refilled
Dès or lor targe bons orez.
From now to-them delays good weather

Hector li proz en fu alez
Hector the valiant thereof was gone
ost aioster e porchacier:
host to-gather and to-procure
maint vaillant riche chevalier
many-a valiant rich knight
i amena par sa preiere,
there he-brought by his prayer
qui onc ne torna puis ariere.
who ever not turned after back
Cassandra fu fille le rei,
Cassandra was daughter (of-)the king
que mout sot de devin segrei:
who very knew of divine secret
respons preneit e sorz getot.
answers she-took and lots threw
Cele conut tres bien e sot,
She knew very well and knew
se de Grece a femme Paris,
if from Greece has wife Paris
destruite iert Troie e li païs.
destroyed will-be Troy and the country
Mostré lor a e dit tres bien:
Shown to-them she-has and said very well
«Nel vos penseiz,» fait el, «por rien;
Not-it you think says she for anything
«quar, s'en Grece vait li navies,
for if-into Greece goes the fleet
«poi porrons puis preisier noz vies.
little we-shall-be-able after to-prize our lives

«Troie en revertira en cendre:
Troy thereof will-turn into ash
«Ne nos en porra rien defendre.
Not us thereof will-be-able anything to-defend
«A mal irons e en peril,
To ill we-shall-go and into peril
«e li plusor en lonc eissil.»
and the most into long exile
Mout lor defent e mout lor viee,
Very to-them she-forbids and much to-them refuses
e mout s'en fait triste e iriee.
and very herself-thereof makes sad and angered
Bien lor anonçot chose veire:
Well to-them she-announced thing true
cui chaut? qu'il ne la voustrent creire.
who cares that-they not it wished to-believe
Se Cassandra e Helenus
If Cassandra and Helenus
en fussent creü e Panthus,
thereof had-been believed and Panthus
ancor n'eüst Troie nul mal,
yet not-would-have Troy any ill
ne li noble riche vassal;
nor the noble rich vassals
mais Fortune nel voleit mie,
but Fortune not-it wished at-all
que trop lor esteit enemie.
who too-much to-them was enemy

The Taking of Helen

XVII

In spring twenty-two ships sail for Greece with more than three thousand knights whom Paris and Deiphobus raised in Pannonia. Priam charges them to win Hesione back or send for help, and names Paris their prince, with Deiphobus, Aeneas, and Polydamas. On the way they pass Menelaus sailing to Nestor at Pylos, and neither fleet hails the other. The Trojans land at Cythera, where a festival is held at a temple of Venus. Paris sacrifices there, and his men say he has come for Hesione. Helen comes to the feast; she and Paris see each other, and Love wounds them both.

El meis que chantent li oisel,
In-the month that sing the birds
fu la mer queie e li tens bel.
was the sea calm and the weather fair
Les nes furent apareilliees,
The ships were made-ready
e de la terre en mer veiliees.
and from the land into sea watched
Vint e dous furent e non plus:
Twenty and two they-were and not more
mout lor venta dreit Eürus.
very to-them blew straight Eurus
Li chevalier o les barons,
The knights with the barons

que Paris ot quis e somons
whom Paris had sought and summoned
e sis frere Deïphebus
and his brother Deiphobus
en Pannoine, trei mile e plus,
in Pannonia three thousand and more
furent venu d'armes guarni,
were come with-arms furnished
defensable, pro e hardi:
able-to-defend valiant and bold
en batailles ne en estors
in battles nor in fights
ne poüst l'om trover meillors.
not could one find better
Li reis Prianz a toz parla,
The king Priam to all spoke
e si lor dist bien e mostra:
and so to-them said well and showed
«Seignor,» fait il, «or iert veüe
Lords says he now will-be seen
«la grant proëce e coneüe
the great prowess and known
«que l'om cuide que en vos seit.
which one thinks that in you may-be
«Grezeis ont tort, nos avons dreit.
Greeks have wrong we have right
«Sor eus vos envei por forfaire:
Upon them you I-send for to-do-harm
«Guardez, quant l'om l'orra retraire,
Guard when one it-will-hear recounted

«que si richement l'aiez fait
that so richly it-you-may-have done
«que n'i aiez honte ne lait.
that not-there you-may-have shame nor insult
«Paris sera princes de vos,
Paris will-be prince of you
«de la venjance desiros:
of the vengeance desirous
«Son plaisir faites e son bon.
His pleasure do and his good
«O vos avreiz Deïphebon.
With you you-will-have Deiphobus
«Vos ireiz,» fait il, «Eneas,
You will-go says he Aeneas
«ensemble o vos Polidamas.
together with you Polydamas
«De rien n'ai crieme ne esveil,
Of anything not-I-have fear nor alarm
«la ou sache vostre conseil.
there where I-may-know your counsel
«Ne soferreiz folie faire:
Not you-will-suffer folly to-do
«S'Esiona en poëz traire,
If-Hesione thence you-can draw
«si en faites vostre poëir;
so thereof do your power
«e se ne la poëz aveir,
and if not her you-can have
«si renveiez mout tost a mei,
so send-back very soon to me

«e jo leiaument vos otrei,
and I loyally you grant
«se mestier avez de socors,
if need you-have of help
«tel gent trametrai après vos,
such folk I-shall-send after you
«ja n'i avra si fort cité,
ever not-there will-have so strong city
«chastel si clos ne fermeté,
castle so closed nor fortress
«que il ne prengent par destrece
that they not may-take by force
«jusqu'a la maistre forterece.»
as-far-as the master fortress
N'i ot puis autre parlement:
Not-there was then other parley
es nes entrent comunaument.
into-the ships they-enter in-common
Dreit vent orent e bone mer
Straight wind they-had and good sea
por corre tost e por sigler.
for to-run soon and for to-sail
Sovent saluënt lor amis,
Often they-salute their friends
tost esloignierent le païs.
soon they-drew-away-from the country
Vers Grece ont dreciees lor veiles
Toward Greece they-have set-straight their sails
tot dreit a l'asen des esteiles.
all straight at the-bearing of-the stars

Endreit les jorz d'icel termine,
Right-in the days of-that term
si com la Letre nos devine,
so as the Text to-us foretells
anceis qu'il en Grece arivassent,
before that-they into Greece arrived
ne qu'il onques a port tornassent,
nor that-they ever to port turned
fu Menelaus entrez en mer:
was Menelaus entered into sea
dreit a Pile voleit sigler.
straight to Pylos he-wished to-sail
Nestor l'aveit mandé a sei,
Nestor him-had summoned to himself
mais ne sai pas dire por quei.
but not I-know at-all to-say for what
Menelaus fu mout riches reis,
Menelaus was very rich king
mout proz, mout sages, mout corteis.
very valiant very wise very courteous
Mout ot femme de grant beauté:
Very he-had wife of great beauty
onc en cest siegle trespassé
ever in this world passed
ne nasqui nule de son pris,
not was-born any of her worth
ne donc ne ainz, n'avant ne puis.
nor then nor before nor-before nor after

Quant cil des nes s'entrechoisirent
When those of-the ships caught-sight-of-each-other
e li un d'eus les autres virent,
and the one of-them the others saw
ne sorent dire ne penser
not they-knew to-say nor to-think
quel part chascuns voleit aler;
which way each wished to-go
ne se voustrent tant aproismier
not themselves they-wished so-much to-approach
que l'uns poüst l'autre areisnier.
that the-one might the-other address
A la cité de Climestree,
At the city of Climestree
que mout ert riche e renomee,
which very was rich and renowned
ert en cez jorz Castor alez,
was in those days Castor gone
e Pollus sis frere l'ainz nez.
and Pollux his brother the-elder born
A icez dous fu suer Heleine,
To these two was sister Helen
dont il orent puis assez peine.
from-which they had later enough pain
Cist Menelaus esteit sis sire,
This Menelaus was her lord
qui par mer en alot a Pire:
who by sea thence went to Pylos
Heleine une fille en aveit,
Helen a daughter thereof had

qui o ses dous freres esteit.
who with her two brothers was
Hermiona ert apelee,
Hermione she-was called
mout ert de ses oncles amee:
very she-was by her uncles loved
mout l'amoënt e cherisseient,
much her-they-loved and cherished
a grant chierté la norrisseient.
with great dearness her they-nourished
Li Troïen tant espleitierent,
The Trojans so-much pressed-on
tant siglerent e tant nagierent
so-much sailed and so-much rowed
qu'il ariverent el païs
that-they arrived in-the country
qui esteit a lor enemis.
which was to their enemies
Citherea, ço dit l'Autor,
Cythera that says the-Author
aveit non l'isle a icel jor,
had name the-isle at that day
ou il ariverent lor nes:
where they landed their ships
mout ert li tens douz e soés.
very was the weather sweet and mild
Un riche temple merveillos,
A rich temple marvelous
mout anciën e precios,
very ancient and precious

aveit en cel isle, en l'onor
there-was in that isle in the-honor
Venus la deuesse d'amor.
of-Venus the goddess of-love
Tuit cil del regne d'environ
All those of-the realm of-around
i veneient a oreison.
there came to prayer
Mout ert li temples chiers tenuz:
Very was the temple dear held
la aoroënt lor vertuz,
there they-adored their powers
la faiseient lor sacrefise
there they-made their sacrifice
icil de la terre a lor guise,
those of the land after their manner
e ofreient de riches dons
and offered of rich gifts
e preneient devins respons.
and took divine answers
Lors i faiseient lor grant feste,
Then there they-made their great feast
ço dit l'estoire de la geste.
that says the-story of the deed
Cil del païs i erent tuit.
Those of-the country there were all

A grant joie e a grant deduit
With great joy and with great delight
par anz s'i suelent assembler
by years themselves-there they-are-wont to-assemble
por la grant feste celebrer
for the great feast to-celebrate
de la grant deuesse des cieus,
of the great goddess of-the heavens
ne la faiseient mie a gieus:
not it they-made at-all in sport
c'ert de Juno la soveraine.
it-was of Juno the sovereign
Paris, o ceus qu'o sei ameine,
Paris with those whom-with himself he-leads
en est venuz al temple dreit,
thereof is come to-the temple straight
ou la grant assemblee esteit.
where the great assembly was
Mout fu de grant beauté Paris
Very was of great beauty Paris
de cors, de façon e de vis;
of body of fashion and of face
sor les autres fu li plus genz,
above the others he-was the most noble
si ot mout riches guarnemenz.
so he-had very rich garments
Il n'ot si povre compaignon
He not-had so poor companion
ne resemblast prince o baron.
not might-resemble prince or baron

Un sacrefise apareilla
A sacrifice he-prepared
a la deuesse Diana
to the goddess Diana
a la Troïene maniere,
in the Trojan manner
o simple vout e o preiere:
with simple countenance and with prayer
mout le fist acetablement
very it he-did fittingly
en la presence de la gent.
in the presence of the folk
Cil del païs mout demandoënt
Those of-the country much asked
as Troïens a qu'il parloënt
of-the Trojans to whom they-spoke
qu'il esteient ne qu'il quereient,
what-they were nor what-they sought
ou aloënt ne dont veneient.
where they-went nor whence they-came
E cil respondirent briefment,
And they answered briefly
fiz ert Priant demeinement,
son he-was of-Priam directly
qui sire e reis de Troie esteit:
who lord and king of Troy was
en cest païs le trameteit
into this country him he-sent
por Castor e Pollus requerre,
for Castor and Pollux to-demand

qui jadis furent en sa terre,
who formerly were in his land
une pucele en amenerent,
a maiden thence they-led
quant Troie e le païs guasterent:
when Troy and the country they-laid-waste
«Ante est cestui e suer le rei,
Aunt is of-this-one and sister of-the king
«si la tient om a grant beslei.
so her holds one in great wrong
«Querre la vient: se l'avions,
To-seek her he-comes if-her we-had
«mout volentiers l'en merrions;
very willingly her-thence we-would-lead
«s'el n'est rendue, estre porra
if-she not-is rendered be it-will-be-able
«que granz damages en sordra.»
that great harm thence will-arise
Mout est isnele Renomee:
Very is swift Rumor
saveir fist tost par la contree
to-know she-made soon through the country
que Paris ert avuec ses nes
that Paris was with his ships
iluec en l'isle al port remés.
there in the-isle at-the port remained
Heleine en oï la novele,
Helen thereof heard the news

que sor autres dames ert bele
who above other ladies was fair
e riche e sage e avenant.
and rich and wise and comely
Ne se prise ne tant ne quant,
Not herself she-prizes nor so-much nor how-much
se ele a la feste ne vait.
if she to the feast not goes
A ses privez dit e retrait
To her intimates she-says and recounts
qu'ele a piece a un vo voé
that-she has a-while ago a vow vowed
rendre a cel jor determiné:
to-render at that day determined
sor l'autel vueut ses dons ofrir
upon the-altar she-wishes her gifts to-offer
e les devins respons oïr.
and the divine answers to-hear
Son eirre fist apareillier,
Her journey she-made make-ready
puis espleita del chevauchier;
then pressed-on with-the riding
al temple vint o sa maisniee:
to-the temple she-came with her household
mout par s'en fist joiose e liee.
very greatly herself-thereof she-made joyful and glad
Quant Paris sot qu'ele ert venue, —
When Paris knew that-she was come
il ne l'aveit onques veüe, —
he not her-had ever seen

mout la coveita a veeir.
much her he-coveted to see
Oï aveit dire por veir
Heard he-had say for true
que c'ert la tres plus bele rien
that it-was the very most fair thing
que fust el siegle terriien.
that might-be in-the world earthly
Tant fist, tant dist, tant porchaça,
So-much he-did so-much said so-much contrived
e tant revint e tant ala,
and so-much came-back and so-much went
que il la vit e ele lui:
that he her saw and she him
mout s'entresguarderent andui.
much they-looked-at-each-other both
Ele ot demandé e enquis
She had asked and inquired
cui fiz e dont esteit Paris;
whose son and whence was Paris
fiere beauté en lui mirot:
proud beauty in him she-gazed-at
mout l'aama e mout li plot.
much him-she-loved and much to-her it-pleased
Paris fu sage e sciëntos,
Paris was wise and knowing
veiziié, cointe e enartos:
shrewd elegant and skillful

tost sot, tost vit e tost conut
soon he-knew soon saw and soon recognized
son bon semblant e aparçut,
her good countenance and perceived
e que vers lui a bon corage:
and that toward him she-has good heart
ne li fu mie trop sauvage,
not to-him she-was at-all too wild
anceis s'en est mise en itant
rather herself-thereof is put in so-much
qu'auques li dist de son talant.
that-somewhat to-him she-said of her desire
El veeir e el parlement
In-the seeing and in-the talk
que il firent assez briefment,
which they made quite briefly
navra Amors e lui e li,
wounded Love both him and her
ainz qu'il se fussent departi.
before that-they themselves had parted
En lor aé, en lor enfance,
In their age in their childhood
en lor forme e en lor semblance
in their form and in their semblance
les a griefment saisiz Amors:
them has grievously seized Love
sovent lor fait muër colors.
often to-them he-makes to-change colors

Tant erent bel, ne me merveil
So-much they-were fair not me I-marvel
s'il les voleit joster pareil:
if-he them wished to-join equal
nes poüst pas aillors trover.
not-them he-could at-all elsewhere find
Tel leisir orent de parler
Such leisure they-had to speak
qu'auques i distrent de lor buens.
that-somewhat there they-said of their goods
Paris o tot ses Troïens
Paris with all his Trojans
ont pris d'Eleine le congié:
have taken of-Helen the leave
dreit a lor nes sont repairié,
straight to their ships they-are returned
mais ele sot tres bien de veir
but she knew very well for true
qu'il la vendreit ancor veeir.
that-he her would-come again to-see

The Raid on the Temple

XVIII

Paris tells his companions that Hesione cannot be won back, but that the temple is full of treasure and of Helen, queen of the realm. He proposes to attack it that night, and they agree. After moonset the armed Trojans fall on the sleeping worshipers, kill many, and take Helen, who makes a show of consenting, with many ladies and the temple's wealth. The men of the nearby castle of Helee come out with torches and nearly overwhelm them, but the Trojans load their ships, turn back the castle's men, and sail away with their prisoners.

Quant al port furent repairié,
When to-the port they-were returned
auques fu li soleiz baissié.
somewhat was the sun lowered
Paris a sa gent aünee
Paris has his folk gathered
priveement e a celee:
privately and in secret
danz Antenor e Eneas,
lord Antenor and Aeneas
Deïphebus, Polidamas
Deiphobus Polydamas
e li autre comunaument
and the others in-common
sont assemblé al parlement.
are assembled at-the parley
Paris parla avant eus toz,
Paris spoke before them all
qui mout esteit sages et proz:
who very was wise and valiant

«Seignor,» fait il, «en cest païs
Lords says he into this country
«nos a li reis Prianz tramis
us has the king Priam sent
«por faire a ceus honte e damage,
for to-do to those shame and harm
«qui le firent nostre lignage.
who it did-to our lineage
«Il n'est rien de m'antain raveir,
It not-is anything of my-aunt to-have-back
«de ço n'aions ja nul espeir:
of that not-let-us-have ever any hope
«Ne l'ont mie en tel lieu enclose
Not her-they-have at-all in such place shut
«que de l'aveir seit nule chose.
that of her-having may-be any thing
«Quant mener ne l'en porrions
Since to-lead not her-thence we-could
«por rien que faire poüssons,
for anything that to-do we-might
«si nos covendreit engeignier
so us would-behoove to-contrive
«com nos les poissons damagier,
how we them might damage
«e que tel chose poissons faire
and that such thing we-might do
«dont il aient honte e contraire.
whereby they may-have shame and harm
«En cest païs somes venu,
Into this country we-are come

«s'est ja en plusors lieus seü.
so-it-is already in many places known
«Vos savez bien certainement
You know well certainly
«que il n'aiment pas nostre gent:
that they not-love at-all our folk
«Tant lor ont fait hontes e laiz
So-many to-them they-have done shames and ugly-deeds
«qu'il n'en sera ja mais jor paiz.
that-there not-thence will-be ever more day peace
«N'ont en nos nule sëurté:
Not-they-have in us any security
«Se il s'esteient apensé,
If they themselves-had bethought
«enui e honte nos fereient,
annoyance and shame to-us they-would-do
«s'en lor terre nos ataigneient.
if-in their land us they-reached
«Por ço les nos covient deceivre,
For that them us behooves to-deceive
«ainz qu'il se puissent aparceivre.
before that-they themselves may perceive
«Une grant chose ai esguardee,
A great thing I-have looked-to
«que ja vos iert dite e mostree:
which now to-you will-be said and shown
«Cil del païs assemblé sont
Those of-the country assembled are
«a ceste feste que il font;
at this feast which they hold

«tuit li plus riche e li meillor
all the most rich and the best
«i sont venu d'iceste honor.
there are come of-this domain
«Assez i a or e argent
Enough there is gold and silver
«e maint riche chier guarnement;
and many-a rich dear garment
«aveir i a trop amassé,
wealth there is too-much amassed
«mout en i a l'om aporté;
much thereof there has one brought
«mout i a une bele femme,
much there is a fair woman
«que est dame de tot cest regne,
who is lady of all this realm
«la plus preisiee senz sorpeis
the most prized without surpassing
«que seit el regne des Grezeis:
that may-be in-the realm of-the Greeks
«Reïne est, femme Menelaus.
Queen she-is wife (of-)Menelaus
«Assez i a de teus vassaus
Enough there is of such vassals
«ou mout avreit riches prisons.
where much there-would-have rich prisoners
«Or esguardez quel la ferons.
Now look-to what it we-shall-do
«Ne porrions mais tant aler,
Not we-could ever so-much go

«ço cuit, par terre ne par mer,
that I-think by land nor by sea
«qu'en poüssons a tant venir:
that-thereof we-could to so-much come
«Chascuns en die son plaisir.
Each thereof may-say his pleasure
«Nos n'avons pas gent amenee
We not-have at-all folk brought
«a forceier en lor contree:
to make-force in their country
«Ja par la gent que nos avons
Ever by the folk that we have
«cité par force ne prendrons;
city by force not we-shall-take
«e se nos bien l'avions prise,
and if we well it-had taken
«ne vaudreit tant en nule guise
not would-be-worth so-much in any wise
«li guaainz que nos ferions
the gain that we would-make
«com cist fereit que ci veons.
as this-one would-make which here we-see
«Mout i a riche troveüre:
Very there is rich finding
«Veeir poëz quel aventure.
To-see you-can what fortune
«Mout laisserons noz enemis
Much we-shall-leave our enemies
«hontos e dolenz e pensis:
shamed and grieving and pensive

«Jusqu'a mil anz en iert parlé.
Up-to a-thousand years thereof will-be spoken
«Chascuns en die son pensé
Each thereof may-say his thought
«e tot son buen et son plaisir,
and all his good and his pleasure
«quar n'avons mie grant leisir:
for not-we-have at-all great leisure
«Haster nos covient cest afaire,
To-hasten us behooves this affair
«a quel que chief en deions traire,
to what that end thereof we-ought to-draw
«o de ço faire o del laissier,
or of that to-do or of-the leaving
«o d'autre chose comencier.»
or of-other thing to-begin
Diversement i respondirent
Diversely there answered
cil qui ceste parole oïrent;
those who this speech heard
mais a la parfin s'acorderent
but at the end themselves-agreed
e bien voustrent tuit e loerent
and well wished all and advised
que li temples fust envaïz,
that the temple be invaded
en icele nuit asailliz
in that night assailed
par force e peceiez e pris:
by force and smashed and taken

«Or n'i a plus,» ço dist Paris:
Now not-there is more that said Paris
«Sempres, quant la lune iert couchiee,
At-once when the moon will-be set
«e la grant noise iert abaissiee,
and the great noise will-be lowered
«nos armerons comunaument.
us we-shall-arm in-common
«O tot le mieuz de nostre gent,
With all the best of our folk
«tot belement e a celee,
all softly and in secret
«senz noise faire e senz criëe,
without noise to-make and without outcry
«les sorprendrons en tel maniere,
them we-shall-surprise in such manner
«senz ço que nus d'eus ja nos fiere,
without that that any of-them ever us may-strike
«les avrons sempres toz conquis
them we-shall-have at-once all conquered
«e tot l'aveir robé e pris.
and all the-wealth robbed and taken
«E cil qui remandront as nes
And those who will-remain at-the ships
«aient sus trait ancres e tres,
let-them-have up drawn anchors and masts
«que, dès que nos avrons chargié,
that as soon-as we shall-have loaded
«seions tost del port esloignié.
we-may-be soon from-the port gone-far

«Teus entreseignes lor dorrons
Such signs to-them we-shall-give
«qu'il savront bien qui nos serons.»
that-they will-know well who we shall-be
Mout devisent bien lor afaire.
Very they-devise well their affair
Li jorz s'en vait, la nuit repaire.
The day thence goes the night returns
Cil mangierent qui mestier orent,
Those ate who need had
s'il orent quei e se il porent.
if-they had whereof and if they could
La lune prist cler a raier,
The moon took clear to shine
dès que il vint a l'anuitier;
as-soon that it came to the-nightfall
ainz prinsome se fu couchiee.
before first-sleep herself was set
Armee se fu lor maisniee:
Armed itself was their household
le petit pas, estreit serré,
at-the little pace tight close
en sont tot dreit el temple alé.
thence they-are all straight to-the temple gone
Cil del païs veillierent tuit,
Those of-the country watched all
grant joie i ot e grant deduit;
great joy there was and great delight
mais des autres nuiz las esteient,
but from-the other nights weary they-were

par dreite force s'endormeient:
by sheer force they-fell-asleep
n'aveient paor ne reguart
not-they-had fear nor regard
maus lor venist de nule part;
ills to-them might-come from any part
mout ert la contree seüre.
very was the country secure
Ha! Deus, com grant mesaventure
Ah God how great misadventure
avint por ço que la fu fait?
befell for that that there was done
Ne vos en quier faire lonc plait:
Not to-you thereof I-seek to-make long plea
li Troïen ont tant alé
the Trojans have so-much gone
qu'al temple vindrent tuit armé.
that-to-the temple they-came all armed
Un graile sonent a l'entree,
A trumpet they-sound at the-entrance
chascuns a trait nue s'espee:
each has drawn naked his-sword
isnelement e en poi d'ore,
swiftly and in little of-hour
fel e irié lor corent sore;
félon and angered on-them they-run upon
maint en detrenchent e ociënt,
many-a thereof they-cut-down and kill
e maint en i prenent e liënt.
and many-a thereof there they-take and bind

La bele, la pro dame Heleine
The fair the valiant lady Helen
i pristrent tote premeraine:
there they-took all first
ne se fist mie trop laidir,
not herself she-made at-all too ill-used
bien fist semblant del consentir.
well she-made show of-the consenting
Maintes dames, plusors puceles
Many ladies many maidens
pristrent o li riches e beles.
they-took with her rich and fair
Cil del temple sont esbaï,
Those of-the temple are dismayed
qui d'armes furent desguarni:
who of-arms were unprovided
ne sevent d'eus prendre conrei,
not they-know of-themselves to-take order
muçant s'en fuient trei et trei.
hiding thence they-flee three and three
Pris e leiez en ont assez.
Taken and bound thereof they-have enough
Mout fu li temples tost robez:
Very was the temple soon robbed
n'i laissierent or ne argent,
not-there they-left gold nor silver
drap de seie ne guarnement.
cloth of silk nor garment
Tant en i pot chascuns trover,
So-much thereof there could each find

ne l'en pueent demi porter:
not it-thence they-can half carry
onc teus guaainz ne fu mais faiz.
ever such gain not was ever made
Granz fu li criz, granz fu li braiz.
Great was the cry great was the shriek
Cil qui n'est pris est detrenchié.
He who not-is taken is cut-down
Mout eüssent bien espleitié,
Very they-would-have well succeeded
mais sor le port ot un chastel,
but upon the port there-was a castle
Helee ot non, mout par sist bel;
Helee it-had-as name very greatly sat fair
fort gent i aveit e hardie.
strong folk there it-had and bold
Dès qu'il orent la noise oïe,
As-soon-as they had the noise heard
tuit esfreé se sont vestu,
all frightened themselves they-are clothed
puis sont a lor armes coru;
then they-are to their arms run
onc gent ne fu plus tost armee.
ever folk not was more soon armed
Tot dreit en vont a la criëe:
All straight thence they-go to the outcry
failles porterent e brandons,
torches they-carried and brands
toz en resplendist l'environs.
all thereof shines the-surroundings

Les Troïens ont encontrez,
The Trojans they-have met
d'aveir e de prisons trossez.
with-wealth and with prisoners laden
Virent lor gent qu'il en menoënt,
They-saw their folk that-they thence led
qui braeient e qui crioënt.
who bawled and who cried
Tel noise font e tel tomoute
Such noise they-make and such tumult
que nus n'i poëit oïr gote.
that any not-there could hear a-drop
Cil del chastel furent ensemble:
Those of-the castle were together
hardi cuer a cui il ne tremble.
bold heart has whom it not trembles
De maintenant les vont ferir:
From now them they-go to-strike
la oïsseiz testes croissir,
there you-would-have-heard heads crack
ferir de lances e d'espees
striking with lances and with-swords
e de gisarmes acerees,
and with halberds steeled
de maçues e de coigniees.
with maces and with axes
Trop i sofrirent granz haschiees
Too-much there suffered great buffetings
li Troïen por eus defendre,
the Trojans for themselves to-defend

e cil del chastel por eus prendre:
and those of-the castle for them to-take
se desarmez les trovissant,
if unarmed them they-had-found
ja mais Troie ne veïssant.
ever more Troy not they-would-have-seen
Cil d'Elee mout les laidissent,
Those of-Helee much them ill-use
por poi que toz nes desconfissent:
for little that all not-them they-rout
merveille esteient agregié,
marvelously they-were burdened
por ço qu'il esteient chargié;
for that that-they were laden
ne lor esteit mie bosoinz
not to-them was at-all need
que lor nes fussent guaires loinz.
that their ships were much far
Maint bot, maint hurt, mainte colee
Many-a thrust many-a knock many-a blow
orent anceis prise e donee
they-had before taken and given
qu'il i poüssent parvenir:
that-they there could arrive
assez en i estut morir.
enough thereof there behooved to-die
Mais dès qu'il orent lor prisons
But as-soon-as they had their prisoners
bailliez as autres compaignons,
handed to-the other companions

e la robe fu mise es nes
and the plunder was put into-the ships
o ceus qui esteient remés,
with those who were remained
recovrerent sor les Grezeis.
they-recovered upon the Greeks
Donc lor alerent de maneis:
Then to-them they-went at once
les escuz pris, espees traites,
the shields taken swords drawn
lor ont de morteus plaies faites.
to-them they-have of mortal wounds made
Il meïsme s'entrocieient,
They themselves killed-each-other
quar nuit esteit, poi i veeient.
for night it-was little there they-saw
Mout en i ot la nuit ocis,
Many thereof there were the night killed
plusors navrez e plusors pris.
many wounded and many taken
Desconfit sont cil del chastel,
Discomfited are those of-the castle
n'en orent mie le plus bel:
not-thereof they-had at-all the most fair
jusqu'as portes les embatirent,
up-to-the gates them they-drove
a grant dolor s'en departirent.
with great grief thence they-parted

Li Troïen ne se targierent:
The Trojans not themselves delayed
dreit a lor nes s'en repairierent.
straight to their ships thence they-returned
L'eschec de la desconfiture
The-booty of the rout
ont sempres chargié a dreiture,
they-have at-once loaded by right
puis entrerent dedenz lor nes.
then they-entered within their ships
Des vis n'i a nul d'eus remés,
Of-the living not-there is any of-them remained
mais des morz en i laissent tant,
but of-the dead thereof there they-leave so-many
dont lor ami seront dolant.
whereof their friends will-be grieving
Ainz que des porz fussent parti,
Before that from-the ports they-were departed
virent le jor mout esclarci.
they-saw the day very brightened
Mout fu bele la matinee
Very was fair the morning
qu'il partirent de la contree:
that-they departed from the country
vent orent buen a lor voleir
wind they-had good at their will
trestot le jor desci qu'al seir.
all the day until to-the evening
Li venz baissa a l'avespree,
The wind dropped at the-evening

mout devint queie mer salee:
very became calm sea salt
n'i pareisseit onde ne rible,
not-there appeared wave nor ripple
de grant maniere esteit paisible.
in great manner it-was peaceful
La nuit traistrent as avirons.
The night they-pulled at-the oars
Paris fu liez de ses prisons,
Paris was glad of his prisoners
del grant guaaing e de l'onor,
of-the great gain and of the-honor
del damage qu'ont fait as lor:
of-the harm which-they-have done to-the theirs
auques les ont estouteiez,
somewhat them they-have maltreated
assez en i laissent d'iriez.
enough thereof there they-leave of-angered
A tant ne remandra il mie:
At so-much not will-remain it at-all
dès ore engroisse la folie.
from now swells the folly

Helen at Tenedos

XIX

After seven days at sea without wind the Trojans row to Tenedos, and Paris sends word to Priam. There Helen weeps for her husband, her brothers, her daughter, and her country, and the captive ladies grieve to see their lords bound. Paris comforts them, promising that Helen will rule Troy and that for her sake their lords will be freed. Helen answers that, since it cannot be otherwise, they must bear his pleasure. Taking her aside, Paris swears to be her loyal lover and husband for life; she replies that she cannot refuse and will consent if he keeps her with honor and faith, and weeps again.

Li Troïen erent en mer,
The Trojans were at sea
mout desirant de l'ariver.
very desiring of the-landing
Set jorz i furent acompliz,
Seven days there were fulfilled
quar toz lor est li venz failliz;
for all to-them is the wind failed
mais tant ovrerent o lor reins
but so-much they-worked with their oars
par mi la mer, que tote ert plains,
through-the midst-of the sea which all was smooth
qu'il pristrent port a Tenedon:
that-they took port at Tenedos
a grant joie les reçut l'om.
with great joy them received one

Tenedon esteit uns chasteaus
Tenedos was a castle
sor la marine genz e beaus:
upon the shore noble and fair
de murs de marbre ert clos e joinz,
with walls of marble it-was closed and joined
de Troie esteit set liuës loinz.
from Troy it-was seven leagues far
Tor i aveit mout bien asise,
Tower there it-had very well set
s'en esteit mout fort la porprise;
so-thereof was very strong the enclosure
mout par i aveit gent repaire.
very greatly there it-had fine dwelling
Ne vos en quier lonc conte faire:
Not to-you thereof I-seek long tale to-make
li Troïen issent des nes,
the Trojans go-out from-the ships
la nuit se sont iluec remés.
the night themselves they-are there remained
Mout i furent bien herbergié.
Very there they-were well lodged
Paris a mout tost enveié
Paris has very soon sent
un message tot dreit batant
a messenger all straight hastening
noveles dire al rei Priant.
news to-tell to-the king Priam
Cil s'est mout tost mis a l'estree;
He himself-is very soon put to the-road

le seir, quant vint a l'avespree,
the evening when it-came to the-dusk
vint a Troie, le rei trova,
he-came to Troy the king found
trestote l'uevre li conta,
all the-work to-him told
coment Paris ot espleitié,
how Paris had succeeded
a Tenedon sont herbergié.
at Tenedos they-are lodged
Quant li reis oï les noveles,
When the king heard the news
joioses li furent e beles:
joyful to-him they-were and fair
grant joie en orent, teus i ot,
great joy thereof they-had such there were
cui mout pesa puis e desplot;
to-whom much it-weighed after and displeased
tel en furent joios e lié,
such thereof were joyful and glad
qui puis en furent tuit irié.
who after thereof were all angered
Paris e tuit si compaignon
Paris and all his companions
jurent la nuit a Tenedon.
lay the night at Tenedos
Dame Heleine faiseit semblant
Lady Helen made show
qu'ele eüst duel e ire grant:
that-she had grief and wrath great

fortment plorot e duel faiseit,
greatly she-wept and grief made
e doucement se complaigneit.
and sweetly herself lamented
Son seignor regretot sovent,
Her lord she-mourned often
ses freres, sa fille e sa gent,
her brothers her daughter and her folk
e sa ligniee e ses amis,
and her lineage and her friends
e sa contree e son païs,
and her country and her land
sa joie, s'onor, sa richece,
her joy her-honor her wealth
e sa beauté e sa hautece.
and her beauty and her highness
Ne la poëit nus conforter,
Not her could any comfort
quant les dames veeit plorer
when the ladies she-saw weep
que esteient o li ravies.
who were with her ravished
Mout preisoënt petit lor vies,
Very they-prized little their lives
quant lor seignors veeient pris,
when their lords they-saw taken
auquanz navrez, plusors ocis;
some wounded many killed
por poi li cuer ne lor parteient.
for little the hearts not to-them broke

Ceus esguardoënt e veeient
Those they-looked-at and saw
qui lor erent seignor e pere,
who to-them were lord and father
oncle, nevo e fil e frere,
uncle nephew and son and brother
e de leisir n'aveient tant
and of leisure not-they-had so-much
qu'o eus parlassent tant ne quant:
that-with them they-might-speak so-much nor how-much
les dames mistrent, par esguart,
the ladies they-put by design
par sei, les homes autre part.
by themselves the men another part
Onques teus dueus ne fu oïz
Ever such grief not was heard
come il faiseient ne teus criz.
as they made nor such cries
Paris nel pot plus endurer,
Paris not-it could more endure
Heleine ala reconforter:
Helen he-went to-comfort
s'entente meteit chascun jor
his-intent he-put each day
a li reconforter de plor.
on her to-comfort from weeping
Tot dreit a li en est venuz,
All straight to her thence he-is come
semblant fist que fust irascuz:
semblance he-made that he-was angered

«Dame», fait il, «ço que sera,
Lady says he that what will-be
«ne si fait duel qui soferra?
nor so made grief who will-suffer
«E ço ne faut ne jor ne nuit:
And that not fails nor day nor night
«Cuidez que mout ne nos enuit?
Think-you that much not us it-irks
«Dur cuer avreit e reneié,
Hard heart he-would-have and renegade
«cui vos ne feriëz pitié.
to-whom you not would-make pity
«Nule rien quos oie plorer
Any thing which-you may-hear weep
«ne puet de joie remembrer.
not can of joy remember
«Avoi! dames, confortez vos,
Come-now ladies comfort you
«quar, par la fei que jo dei vos,
for by the faith that I owe you
«plus avreiz joie en cest païs,
more you-will-have joy in this country
«e plus avreiz de voz plaisirs,
and more you-will-have of your pleasures
«que vos n'aviëz es contrees
than you not-had in-the countries
«dont l'om vos a ça amenees.
whence one you has hither brought
«Cil se deivent bien esmaier,
Those themselves ought well to-dismay

«qui sont tenu en chaitivier:
who are held in captivity
«Vos ne sereiz ja vis tenues,
You not will-be ever vile held
«ne a ceus ne sereiz tolues
nor from those not will-be taken-away
«qui vos aiment ne quos ameiz;
who you love nor whom-you love
«quites delivres les avreiz.
quit free them you-will-have
«Celes que lor seignor ont ci,
Those who their lord have here
«ne s'aucune i a son ami,
nor if-any there has her friend
«si l'avra tot quite e delivre.
so him-she-will-have all quit and free
«En ceste terre porreiz vivre
In this land you-will-be-able to-live
«a grant joie e a grant baudor:
with great joy and with great gladness
«Ja ne vos iert fait deshonor.
Ever not to-you will-be done dishonor
«Empor l'amor ma dame Heleine,
For the-love-of my lady Helen
«n'i soferreiz ne mal ne peine:
not-there you-will-suffer nor ill nor pain
«Ele sole vos en guarra,
She alone you thereof will-protect
«que ja torz faiz ne vos sera,
that ever wrong done not to-you will-be

«e al voleir de son plaisir
and to-the will of her pleasure
«ferai tote Troie obeïr.
I-shall-make all Troy obey
«Cist regnes iert en sa baillie,
This realm will-be in her keeping
«soë en sera la seignorie.
hers thereof will-be the lordship
«Ja mare avra paor de rien
Ever ill will-have fear of anything
«cil a cui el voudra nul bien;
he to whom she will-wish any good
«riches mananz les porra faire:
rich wealthy them she-will-be-able to-make
«Ja rien ne l'en fera contraire.
Ever anything not her-thence will-do harm
«A la plus povre que ci est
To the most poor who here is
«porra doner, se bon li est,
she-will-be-able to-give if good to-her it-is
«greignor aveir c'onques n'en ot
greater wealth than-ever not-thereof had
«la plus riche ne aveir pot.
the most rich nor have could
«Confortez vos, ne plorez mie.»
Comfort you not weep at-all

Chascune donc merci li crie —
Each then mercy to-him cries
as piez li chieent les plusors —
at-the feet to-him fall the most
qu'il ait merci de lor seignors,
that-he may-have mercy on their lords
qui sont destreit e en liëns:
who are distressed and in bonds
«Toz en ferai,» fait il, «voz buens
All thereof I-shall-do says he your goods
«e le plaisir a la reïne.»
and the pleasure to the queen
Ele parfondement l'encline:
She deeply to-him-bows
«Sire,» fait el, «s'estre poüst,
Lord says she if-be it-could
«ja ne vousisse qu'ensi fust;
ever not I-would-have-wished that-thus it-were
«mais quant içо vei e entent,
but since this I-see and understand
«que il ne puet estre autrement,
that it not can be otherwise
«si nos covendra a sofrir,
so us will-behoove to suffer
«peist o place, vostre plaisir.
it-may-weigh or it-may-please your pleasure
«Deus le guart, qui bien nos fera
God him guard who well to-us will-do
«e qui honor nos portera!
and who honor to-us will-bear

«Aumosne i porra grant aveir.
Alms there he-will-be-able great to-have
— Dame,» fait il, «vostre voleir
Lady says he your will
«sera si fait e acompli
will-be so done and fulfilled
«com de vostre boche iert gehi.»
as from your mouth will-be declared
Par mi la main destre l'a prise:
By midst the hand right her-he-has taken
sor un feutre de porpre bise
on a cloth of purple gray
sont andui alé conseillier,
are both gone to-take-counsel
si li començа a preier:
so to-her he-began to entreat
«Dame», fait il, «ço sacheiz bien,
Lady says he that know well
«onques mais n'amai nule rien,
ever before not-I-loved any thing
«onc mais ne soi que fu amer,
ever before not I-knew what was to-love
«onc mais ne m'i vous atorner.
ever before not myself-there I-wished to-turn
«Or ai mon cuer si en vos mis,
Now I-have my heart so in you put
«e si m'a vostre amor espris,
and so me-has your love inflamed
«que del tot sui enclins a vos.
that of-the all I-am bowed to you

«Leiaus amis, leiaus espos
Loyal lover loyal husband
«vos serai mais tote ma vie:
to-you I-shall-be henceforth all my life
«D'içe seiez seüre e fie.
Of-this be secure and trusting
«Tote rien vos obeïra
All thing you will-obey
«e tote rien vos servira.
and all thing you will-serve
«Se vos ai de Grece amenee,
If you I-have from Greece brought
«plus bele e plus riche contree
more fair and more rich country
«verreiz assez en cest païs,
you-will-see enough in this land
«ou toz iert faiz vostre plaisirs.
where all will-be done your pleasure
«Tot ço voudrai que vos voudreiz
All that I-shall-wish which you will-wish
«e ço que vos comandereiz.
and that which you will-command
— Sire,» fait el, «ne sai que dire,
Lord says she not I-know what to-say
«mais assez ai e duel e ire:
but enough I-have both grief and wrath
«N'en puet aveir nule rien plus.
Not-thereof can have any thing more

«Se jo desdi e jo refus
If I gainsay and I refuse
«vostre plaisir, poi me vaudra.
your pleasure little me it-will-avail
«Por ço sai bien qu'il m'estovra,
For that I-know well that-it me-will-behoove
«vueille o ne vueille, a consentir
I-may-wish or not I-may-wish to consent-to
«vostre buen e vostre plaisir.
your good and your pleasure
«Quant defendre ne me porreie,
Since defend not myself I-could
«de dreit neient m'escondireie:
by right nothing myself-I-would-excuse
«Nel puis faire, ço peise mei.
Not-it I-can do that weighs-on me
«Se me portez honor e fei,
If to-me you-bear honor and faith
«sauve l'avreiz sonc ma valor.»
safe it-you-will-have according-to my worth
Donc ne se pot tenir de plor.
Then not herself she-could hold from weeping
Mout l'a Paris reconfortee
Much her-has Paris comforted
e merveilles l'a honoree.
and marvelously her-has honored
Mout la fist la nuit gent servir,
Much her he-made the night nobly serve
ços puis bien dire senz mentir.
that-you I-can well say without lying

The Grief of Menelaus

XX

Rumor carries the news through Greece. Menelaus returns to Sparta in grief with Nestor and sends for his brother Agamemnon. Paris rides from Tenedos with Helen, and Priam meets him three leagues from Troy, rejoicing because he thinks he can exchange Helen for his sister. The next day Paris weds Helen, and the city feasts for eight days and more. Only Cassandra mourns, crying out that the towers will fall and Priam's sons die, until the king shuts her in a chamber.

Renomee, que tost s'espant,
Rumor who soon herself-spreads
ne se tarja ne tant ne quant:
not herself delayed nor so-much nor how-much
par tote Grece a reconté
through all Greece she-has recounted
coment le temple orent robé,
how the temple they-had robbed
com Paris e sa compaignie
how Paris and his company
ont Heleine prise e ravie;
have Helen taken and ravished
tot a conté, tot a retrait,
all she-has told all she-has recounted
ensi come il l'aveient fait.
thus as they it-had done
Mout en furent Grezeis irié.
Very thereof were Greeks angered
A Menelau l'a l'om noncié,
To Menelaus it-has one announced

qu'il aveit sa femme perdue:
that-he had his wife lost
Paris la li aveit tolue,
Paris her from-him had taken-away
a Troie l'en aveit menee;
to Troy her-thence he-had led
ja poëit estre en sa contree.
already she-could be in his country
Mout fu Menelaus angoissos,
Very was Menelaus anguished
dolenz e tristes e ploros;
grieving and sad and tearful
mout fu destreiz, mout l'en pesa.
very he-was distressed very him-thereof it-weighed
Ariere a Parte s'en torna.
Back to Sparta himself-thence he-turned
Nestor en amena o sei,
Nestor thence he-led with himself
qui mout l'amot par bone fei:
who very him-loved by good faith
de sa honte e de son damage
for his shame and for his harm
li pesa mout en son corage.
to-him it-weighed much in his heart
Menelaus un message prent,
Menelaus a messenger takes
si l'enveia delivrement
so him-he-sent readily
a un suen frere qu'il aveit,
to a his brother whom-he had

qui mout bons chevaliers esteit:
who very good knight was
n'aveit en Grece plus vaillant
not-there-was in Greece more valiant
ne plus riche ne plus sachant;
nor more rich nor more knowing
Agamennon fu apelez.
Agamemnon he-was called
Icil fu a Parte mandez.
This-one was to Sparta summoned
Paris, qui fu a Tenedon,
Paris who was at Tenedos
il e si autre compaignon,
he and his other companions
quant l'endemain furent levé
when the-next-day they-were risen
e del jor parut la clarté, —
and of-the day appeared the brightness
bel tens fist mout come en pascor,
fair weather it-made much as in springtime
qu'es arbres pert e fueille e flor, —
when-in-the trees appears both leaf and flower
monté furent es palefreiz;
mounted they-were on-the palfreys
assez orent riches conreiz.
enough they-had rich trappings
L'aveir e la robe ont chargiee
The-wealth and the plunder they-have loaded
de que Grece esteit despoilliee,
of which Greece was despoiled

si l'en enveient dreit a Troie,
so it-thence they-send straight to Troy
e lor prisons a mout grant joie.
and their prisoners with very great joy
Paris tint par la resne Heleine,
Paris held by the rein Helen
de li honorer mout se peine:
of her to-honor much himself he-pains
sis cors de grant beauté resplent.
her body with great beauty shines
Prianz o le mieuz de sa gent
Priam with the best of his folk
fu par matin de Troie eissuz,
was by morning from Troy gone-out
treis liuës est contre eus venuz.
three leagues he-is toward them come
Estrange joie demenerent,
Strange joy they-made
la ou primes s'entrecontrerent.
there where first they-met-each-other
Icil qui les prisons guioënt
Those who the prisoners guided
e qui le grant aveir menoënt
and who the great wealth led
de tot ont fait al rei present,
of all they-have made to-the king present
e il s'en esjoï fortment.
and he himself-thereof rejoiced greatly
Son fil Paris aime et joïst,
His son Paris he-loves and fêtes

e cil li conta tot e dist
and he to-him told all and said
par ordre, ensi come il alerent,
in order thus as they went
ou e coment il ariverent,
where and how they arrived
coment li temples fu brisiez
how the temple was broken
e del grant aveir despoilliez,
and of-the great wealth despoiled
e come il furent asailli
and how they were assailed
ainz qu'as nes fussent reverti.
before that-to-the ships they-were returned
Conta li la desconfiture
He-told to-him the rout
que il firent par nuit oscure,
which they made by night dark
e mostra li celi qu'il meine,
and showed to-him her whom-he leads
que pas n'est laide ne vilaine.
who at-all not-is ugly nor base
Mout s'en tint li reis a guariz,
Very himself-thereof held the king as healed
qu'or cuide estre seürs e fiz
for-now he-thinks to-be secure and sure
que por Heleine seit rendue
that for Helen may-be rendered
sa suer, que il ont tant tenue:
his sister whom they have so-long held

dreit avra d'eus a sa merci,
right he-will-have of-them at his mercy
ainz qu'il en seient mais saisi.
before that-they thereof may-be ever seized
Mout fu li reis proz e corteis:
Very was the king valiant and courteous
les resnes a noeaus d'orfreis
the reins with bosses of-gold-embroidery
prist del palefrei dame Heleine;
he-took of-the palfrey (of-)lady Helen
il toz sous la conduit e meine.
he all alone her conducts and leads
Mout la conforte e mout li prie
Much her he-comforts and much her begs
qu'ele s'esjoie e ne plort mie:
that-she may-rejoice and not may-weep at-all
assez li a li reis pramis
enough to-her has the king promised
qu'el sera dame del païs.
that-she will-be lady of-the country
Tant chevauchierent, tant parlerent
So-much they-rode so-much spoke
que es rues de Troie entrerent.
that into-the streets of Troy they-entered
Onques nus hom a icel jor,
Ever any man at that day
ço nos recontent li autor,
that to-us recount the authors

n'aveit oï anceis parler
not-had heard before speak
de si grant joie demener
of so great joy to-make
a nule gent qui fussent vis,
by any folk who were living
com le jor firent el païs.
as the day they-made in-the country
La nuit furent mout celebré,
The night they-were very celebrated
mout essaucié, mout honoré;
much exalted much honored
e l'endemain a grant hautece
and the-next-day with great highness
a grant joie e a grant leece
with great joy and with great gladness
a Paris Heleine esposee.
has Paris Helen wedded
Li reis Prianz li a donee:
The king Priam to-him her-has given
mout li a riches noces faites,
very to-him he-has rich wedding made
ja mais n'ierent iteus retraites.
ever more not-will-be such recounted
Tuit cil de Troie festiverent
All those of Troy feasted
uit jorz, que onques ne finerent:
eight days that ever not they-ceased

grant joie aveient que Paris
great joy they-had that Paris
aveit laidiz lor enemis.
had ill-used their enemies
Por essaucement de la gloire
For exaltation of the glory
e por l'onor de la victoire
and for the-honor of the victory
dura la feste uit jorz e plus,
lasted the feast eight days and more
si come il l'aveient en us.
so as they it-had in use
Heleine fu mout honoree
Helen was very honored
e mout joïe e mout amee
and much fêted and much loved
del rei Priant e de sa femme
by-the king Priam and by his wife
e de toz les autres del regne.
and by all the others of-the realm
Li frere Paris l'orent chiere
The brothers (of-)Paris her-had dear
e ses sorors de grant maniere,
and his sisters in great manner
fors la devine Cassandra,
except the prophetess Cassandra
que mout grant noise demena:
who very great noise made
qui qu'onques fust liez ne joios,
whoever ever might-be glad nor joyful

ele faiseit duel angoissos.
she made grief anguished
A haute voiz a toz diseit
With high voice to all she-said
que tot certainement saveit
that all certainly she-knew
qu'or sereit Troie desertee,
that-now would-be Troy deserted
ja ne sereit mais rabitee:
ever not would-be more reinhabited
mout en esteit la fin prochaine.
very thereof was the end near
Mout maudiseit sovent Heleine,
Much she-cursed often Helen
mout maudiseit le mariage,
much she-cursed the marriage
et lor diseit que tel damage
and to-them she-said that such harm
lor avendreit prochainement,
to-them would-befall shortly
qui durreit pardurablement:
which would-last everlastingly
«Lasse,» fait ele, «quel dolors
Alas says she what grief
«iert, quant charront cez beles tors,
will-be when will-fall these fair towers
«cist riche mur e cez maisons
these rich walls and these houses
«e cist palais e cist donjons!
and these palaces and these keeps

«Ha! quel dolor, quant mi bel frere
Ah what grief when my fair brothers
«en seront mort e mis chiers pere!
thereof will-be dead and my dear father
«A tart se clamera chaitis,
Too late himself will-call wretched
«quant les verra morz e ocis.
when them he-will-see dead and slain
«Ecuba, mere, queus pechiez!
Hecuba mother what sins
«Tant sera vostre cuers iriez!
So-much will-be your heart angered
«Tant par a ci fort aventure!
So greatly has here strong fortune
«Com dolorose porteüre
How sorrowful bearing
«as fait, dame, de tes enfanz!
thou-hast made lady of thy children
«Ocis les t'a li reis Prianz,
Killed them for-thee-has the king Priam
«qui cest mariage a josté.
who this marriage has joined
«Haï! Troie, noble cité,
Alas Troy noble city
«com grant dolor qu'or fineras,
how great grief that-now thou-wilt-end
«ja mais jor ne restoreras!
ever more day not thou-wilt-be-restored
«Franches dames, franches puceles,
Noble ladies noble maidens

«n'atendez mie les noveles
not-await at-all the news
«qu'orreiz sovent de voz mariz,
which-you-will-hear often of your husbands
«de voz freres e de voz fiz:
of your brothers and of your sons
«Fuiez vos en, bien en est termes.
Flee you thence well thereof is time
«Ou prendriëz vos tantes lermes
Where you-would-take you so-many tears
«com vos covendra a plorer?
as you will-behoove to weep
«Ha! com porra veeir pasmer
Ah how will-be-able to-see swoon
«l'une de vos l'autre sovent!
the-one of you the-other often
«Mout desirasse chierement
Much I-would-desire dearly
«mort avenir, s'estre poüst,
death to-come if-be it-could
«ainz que li termes venuz fust,
before that the term come were
«qui s'apareille chascun jor,
which itself-prepares each day
«de la laide mortel dolor.»
of the ugly mortal grief
Ensi braeit, ensi criot,
Thus she-bawled thus she-cried

si faite vie demenot
such made life she-led
Cassandra: ja repos n'eüst,
Cassandra ever rest not-she-would-have-had
por nul chasti qui faiz li fust,
for any reproof which made to-her were
tant qu'il nel porent endurer.
until that-they not-it could endure
Lors l'a li reis faite enfermer
Then her-has the king made shut-up
en une chambre, loinz de gent,
in a chamber far from folk
ou puis fu assez longement.
where after she-was enough long

The Greeks Muster

XXI

Agamemnon comforts Menelaus: the worthy men of old won honor by revenge, not by tears, and Troy must be destroyed so that men may speak of it for a thousand years. Messengers summon the kings and dukes of Greece, and Patroclus, Achilles, Diomedes, and others come to Sparta. They make Agamemnon emperor over all and set a muster at Athens. Within a fortnight of Helen's taking, Castor and Pollux sail to rescue their sister and are lost in a storm off Lesbos, and no one ever learns what became of them.

En dementres que ço fu fait,
In meanwhile that that was done
que jo vos ai dit e retrait.
which I to-you have said and recounted
Es vos Agamennon venu,
Behold you Agamemnon come
cui Menelaus ot atendu.
whom Menelaus had awaited
A Parte vint dreit, ou il ere;
To Sparta he-came straight where he was
mout trova deshaitié son frere
very he-found dejected his brother
por le hontage de sa femme,
for the shame of his wife
por le damage de son regne,
for the harm of his realm
que li Troïen li ont fait:
which the Trojans to-him have done
ne puet muër ne s'en deshait.
not he-can change not himself-thereof be-dejected

Agamennon esteit mout proz:
Agamemnon was very valiant
son frere conforta sor toz:
his brother he-comforted above all
«Içe», fait il, «mais ne pensez.
This says he more not think
«Guardez que ja hom qui seit nez
Guard that ever man who may-be born
«se puisse aparceveir ne dire
himself may perceive nor say
«que vos en aiez duel ne ire.
that you thereof may-have grief nor wrath
«Li preisié home del vieil tens,
The prized men of-the old time
«qui tant orent valor e sens,
who so-much had worth and sense
«ne conquistrent pas les honors
not won at-all the honors
«en duel, en lermes ne en plors;
in grief in tears nor in weeping
«mais quant om lor faiseit laidure,
but when one to-them did ugliness
«si preneient engin e cure
so they-took device and care
«come il s'en poüssent vengier:
how they themselves-thereof might avenge
«Si deivent faire chevalier.
So ought to-do knights

«Qui n'a guerre n'aversité
Who not-has war nor-adversity
«ne damage ne povreté,
nor harm nor poverty
«coment conoistra sa valor?
how will-he-know his worth
«Mais cil a cui om tout honor,
But he from whom one takes-away honor
«qui les granz cous a a sofrir
who the great costs has to suffer
«e les maisniees a tenir,
and the households to keep
«qu'il seit e povre e sofraitos,
that-he may-be both poor and needy
«or seit riches, or bosoignos,
now he-may-be rich now in-want
«a la feiee guaaignanz
at the time gaining
«e a la feiee perdanz;
and at the time losing
«que sis pris creisse e mont e puit,
so-that his worth may-grow and mount and rise
«ne de bien faire ne s'enuit:
nor of well to-do not himself-may-weary
«Ensi conquistrent lor honor
Thus won their honor
«ça en ariers nostre ancessor;
here in back our ancestors
«ensi puet l'om en pris venir.
thus can one into worth come

«Or n'i a rien del plus sofrir
Now not-there is anything of-the more to-suffer
«la honte e le damage grant
the shame and the harm great
«que nos a fait le rei Priant:
which to-us has done the king Priam
«Or porchaçons delivrement
Now let-us-seek readily
«que en prenons tel vengement
that thereof we-may-take such vengeance
«que nostre honor i seit seüe
that our honor there may-be known
«e par tot le mont conëue,
and through all the world known
«que cil qui naistront a mil anz
that those who will-be-born in a-thousand years
«puissent bien dire a lor enfanz
may well say to their children
«qu'onques si hauz dreiz ne fu pris,
that-ever so high right not was taken
«come de ço qu'a fait Paris.
as for that which-has done Paris
«Grant parole n'a ci mestier,
Great speech not-has here need
«mais or pensons de l'enveier
but now let-us-think of the-sending
«par tote Grece sus e jus
through all Greece up and down
«as reis, as contes e a dus:
to-the kings to-the counts and to dukes

«Somons seient d'aler a Troie.
Summoned let-them-be to-go to Troy
«N'i a celui qui de grant joie
Not-there is that-one who with great joy
«ne s'apareit a son poëir
not himself-may-prepare to his power
«o quant que il porra aveir.
with as-much that he will-be-able to-have
«Quant nostre gent sera jostee
When our folk will-be joined
«e por bataille conreëe,
and for battle equipped
«soz ciel n'a vile ne cité,
under heaven not-is town nor city
«tor ne chastel ne fermeté
tower nor castle nor fortress
«que de nos se puisse defendre;
which from us itself may defend
«e qui Paris porra vif prendre,
and who Paris will-be-able alive to-take
«sil pende l'om come larron.
so-him may-hang one as thief
«Si asprement nos en venjon
So harshly us thereof let-us-avenge
«que tote Troie en seit fondue
that all Troy thereof may-be brought-down
«e craventee e abatue.»
and crushed and thrown-down

Senz autre respit quin fust pris,
Without other respite which-thereof were taken
ont par Grece lor mes tramis.
they-have through Greece their messengers sent
N'i ot rei ne duc n'aumaçor,
Not-there was king nor duke nor-emir
riche conte ne vavassor,
rich count nor vavasor
qui ne seit baniz e somons:
who not may-be proclaimed and summoned
oïr poëz d'auquanz les nons.
to-hear you-can of-some the names
Danz Patroclus, danz Achillès
Lord Patroclus lord Achilles
e li tres proz Diomedès
and the very valiant Diomedes
e li beaus Eürialus
and the fair Euryalus
e li forz reis Telepolus
and the strong king Tlepolemus
vindrent a Parte, ou cil esteient
came to Sparta where those were
qui de l'uevre s'entremeteient.
who of the-work themselves-busied
Conseil pristrent comunaument,
Counsel they-took in-common
quant avreient josté lor gent,
when they-would-have joined their folk

qu'il ireient senz demorance
that-they would-go without delay
d'Eleine prendre la venjance:
of-Helen to-take the vengeance
de l'ost joster ont conseil pris
of the-host to-join they-have counsel taken
e del navie, qu'il seit quis.
and of-the navy that-it may-be sought
Icil que jo vos ai nomé,
These whom I to-you have named
o ceus qu'i erent assemblé,
with those who-there were assembled
firent Agamennon seignor
made Agamemnon lord
e sor eus toz empereor.
and over them all emperor
Tote la gent qu'il josteront
All the folk that-they will-join
e qui al siege a Troie iront
and who to-the siege at Troy will-go
seront desoz sa seignorie,
will-be under his lordship
e de toz avra la baillie:
and of all he-will-have the governance
a lui del tot obeïront,
to him of-the all they-will-obey
son buen e son plaisir feront.
his good and his pleasure they-will-do

Autresi riches reis e dus
Equally rich kings and dukes
jostisera quatorze e plus
he-will-govern fourteen and more
come il esteit, mais nequeden,
as he was but nevertheless
par grant esguart e par grant sen,
by great regard and by great sense
l'ont il eslit desor eus toz,
him-have they chosen over them all
quar mout esteit sages e proz.
for very he-was wise and valiant
Mout est ja ceste uevre aatie:
Much is already this work urged
de rechief ont Grece banie
of new they-have Greece summoned
si faitement, par tel maniere,
so fashioned in such manner
o seit par force o par preiere,
or be-it by force or by prayer
ja n'i avra grant ne petit
ever not-there will-have great nor small
de remaneir quiere respit.
of to-remain may-seek respite
De nes, d'armes e de conreiz
Of ships of-arms and of trappings
firent par tot granz apareiz,
they-made through all great preparations

si qu'al terme qui mis i est
so that-at-the term which set there is
fussent trestuit guarni e prest:
they-might-be all furnished and ready
a Temese dreit al rivage
at Athens straight at-the shore
ajosteront tot lor barnage;
they-will-join all their baronage
puis movront tuit comunaument,
then they-will-move all in-common
dès qu'il avront oré e vent.
as-soon-as they will-have breeze and wind
S'a Troie pueent ariver,
If-to Troy they-can arrive
mout en seront fort a geter;
much thence they-will-be hard to cast-out
mout en seront ainz lances fraites
much thereof will-be before lances broken
e espees de fuerre traites;
and swords from scabbard drawn
mout i avra ainz chevaliers
much there will-have before knights
abatuz morz de lor destriers.
thrown-down dead from their chargers
Adès en estovra morir:
Ever thereof will-behoove to-die
autrement ne puet avenir.
otherwise not can it-happen

Dedenz les jorz de la quinzaine
Within the days of the fortnight
que Paris ot ravi Heleine,
that Paris had ravished Helen
se mistrent si dui frere en mer
themselves put her two brothers to sea
por li socorre e ramener:
for her to-help and to-bring-back
mais a male hore s'i esmurent.
but at evil hour themselves-there they-set-out
Quant al port de Lesbion furent,
When at-the port of Lesbos they-were
si tost n'orent terre perdue,
so soon not-they-had land lost
quant tormente lor est creüe:
when storm to-them is grown
toz les treis jorz venta si fort
all the three days it-blew so strong
que nes n'osa venir a port.
that ship not-dared come to port
Mout fu la mer fiere e orrible,
Very was the sea fierce and horrible
onques d'uit jorz ne fu paisible.
ever in-eight days not it-was peaceful
N'en pot estre novele oïe,
Not-thereof could be news heard
fors que fole gent esbaïe,
except that foolish folk dismayed

qui legier creient maintes riens
who lightly believe many things
cui il cuident que il seit biens,
to-whom they think that it may-be good
par iceus fu dit e cuidé
by those was said and thought
qu'il n'erent mie tempesté.
that-they not-were at-all storm-tossed
«Ne poëient mie morir,
Not they-could at-all die
n'en mer ne en terre perir»:
nor-in sea nor in land perish
ensi distrent la gent vilaine.
thus said the folk base
O lonc travail e o grant peine
With long toil and with great pain
les quist om puis desci qu'a Troie.
them sought one after up to Troy
Mais qui qu'en feïst duel ne joie,
But whoever thereof might-make grief or joy
ne pot estre por rien seü,
not it-could be for anything known
saveir qu'il erent devenu.
to-know what-they were become
Castor e sis frere Pollus
Castor and his brother Pollux
ensi finerent, n'en sai plus.
thus ended not-thereof I-know more

Cist ont ja receü estreine
These have already received gift
de lor bele soror Heleine:
from their fair sister Helen
a mainz la covint a receivre,
to many it behooved to receive
qui en seront des ames seivre.
who thereof will-be from-the souls parted

The Greeks Portrayed

XXII

Benoît follows Dares, who looked at every leader during the truces in order to describe them. Castor and Pollux were alike, with long blond hair. Helen surpassed all women, with a mark between her eyebrows. Then come Agamemnon, Menelaus, Achilles, Patroclus, the two Ajaxes, Ulysses, Diomedes, Nestor, Protesilaus, Neoptolemus, Palamedes, Podalirius, Machaon, the king of Persia, and Briseida, fair and courteous but changeable of heart.

Beneeiz dit, qui rien n'i lait
Benoît says who anything not-there leaves
de quant que Daires li retrait,
of as-much as Dares to-him recounts
qu'ici endreit voust demostrer
that-here right he-wished to-show
e les semblances reconter
and the semblances to-recount
e la forme qu'aveit chascuns,
and the form which-had each
qu'a ses ieuz les vit uns e uns.
which-with his eyes them he-saw one and one

Quant cil de Troie e li Grezeis
When those of Troy and the Greeks
aveient triuës par dous meis,
had truces for two months
o par meins o par plus d'espaces,
or for less or for more of-spaces
en tres, en loges e en places
in tents in lodges and in places
les alot Daires reguarder
them went Dares to-look-at
por lor semblances reconter:
for their semblances to-recount
s'estoire voleit faire pleine,
his-history he-wished to-make full
por ço s'en mist en si grant peine.
for that himself-thereof he-put in so great pain
Des dous qui sont peri en mer
Of-the two who are perished in sea
oï retraire e reconter
I-heard recount and tell
que il furent andui d'un grant
that they were both of-one size
e d'une groisse e d'un semblant.
and of-one thickness and of-one semblance
Cheveus aveient lons e blois
Hair they-had long and blond
sor les espaules par granz trois.
upon the shoulders in great tresses
Ambedui aveient gros ieuz,
Both had big eyes

pleins de fierté e pleins d'orguieuz.
full of fierceness and full of-pride
Mout aveient les faces beles
Very they-had the faces fair
e les boches e les maisseles.
and the mouths and the cheeks
Lonc cors aveient e bien fait,
Long body they-had and well made
si com l'Estoire nos retrait.
so as the-Story to-us recounts
D'Eleine, que ert lor soror,
Of-Helen who was their sister
de trestotes beautez la flor,
of all beauties the flower
de totes dames mireor,
of all ladies mirror
de totes autres la gençor,
of all others the noblest
de trestotes la soveraine, —
of all the sovereign
ausi come color de graine
just as color of scarlet-grain
est mout plus bele d'autre chose,
is much more fair than-other thing
et tot ausi come la rose
and all just as the rose
sormonte colors de beautez,
surpasses colors in beauties
trestot ausi, e plus assez,
all just-so and more enough

sormonta la beauté Heleine
surpassed the beauty (of-)Helen
tote rien que nasqui humaine, —
all thing that was-born human
ço diseient bien li auquant
that said well the some
qu'a ses dous freres ert semblant.
that-to her two brothers she-was like
Enz el mi lieu des dous sorcis,
Within the midst place of-the two eyebrows
qu'ele aveit deugiez e soutis,
which-she had fine and delicate
aveit un seing en tel endreit
she-had a mark in such place
que merveilles li aveneit.
that marvelously to-her it-became
Li cors de li ert blans e gras,
The body of her was white and plump
mout se vesteit bien de ses dras;
very herself she-dressed well in her clothes
simple esteit tant e de bon aire
simple she-was as-much and of good air
come l'om porreit plus retraire.
as one could more recount
Agamennon, qui esteit reis
Agamemnon who was king
e duitre e maistre des Grezeis,
and leader and master of-the Greeks
fu merveilles granz e membruz;
was marvelously big and strong-limbed

mout ot grant force e granz vertuz;
very he-had great force and great powers
merveilles esteit aïros
marvelously he-was wrathful
e penibles e travaillos.
and toilsome and laborious
Sa char e sa crine deugiee
His flesh and his hair fine
ert plus blanche que neif negiee.
was more white than snow snowed
Ja de parler ne fust atainz,
Ever in speaking not he-was overcome
sages ert, cointes e macainz;
wise he-was elegant and crafty
mout ert nobles e glorios
very he-was noble and glorious
e d'aveir riches e penos.
and in-wealth rich and toiling
Menelaus n'ert granz ne petiz;
Menelaus not-was big nor small
ros ert e beaus, proz e hardiz.
red-haired he-was and fair valiant and bold
Mout esteit liez e acetables
Very he-was glad and agreeable
e a tote rien agraables.
and to all thing pleasing
Achillès fu de grant beauté.
Achilles was of great beauty
Gros ot le piz, espés e lé,
Big he-had the chest thick and broad

e les membres granz e pleniers,
and the limbs great and full
les ieuz el chief hardiz e fiers;
the eyes in-the head bold and fierce
crespes cheveus ot e aubornes.
curly hair he-had and auburn
Ne fu mie pensis ne mornes:
Not he-was at-all pensive nor gloomy
la chiere aveit liee e joiose
the face he-had glad and joyful
e vers son enemi irose.
and toward his enemy wrathful
Larges esteit e despensiers
Generous he-was and spending
e mout amez de chevaliers.
and very loved by knights
Grant pris aveit d'armes porter;
Great worth he-had in-arms to-bear
a peines trovast om son per.
with pains might-find one his peer
Mout ert hardiz e corajos
Very he-was bold and courageous
e de victoire coveitos.
and of victory covetous
Patroclus ot le cors mout gent
Patroclus had the body very handsome
e mout fu de grant esciënt.
and very he-was of great knowledge

Blans fu e blonz e lons e granz
White he-was and blond and tall and big
e chevaliers mout avenanz;
and knight very comely
les ieuz ot vairs, n'ot pas grant ire;
the eyes he-had gray not-he-had at-all great wrath
beaus fu mout, a la verté dire,
fair he-was very to the truth to-tell
larges, donere merveillos,
generous giver marvelous
mais mout par esteit vergondos.
but very greatly he-was bashful
Aïaus fu gros e quarrez
Ajax was big and squared
de piz, de braz e de costez:
of chest of arms and of sides
auques ert granz e espauluz,
somewhat he-was big and broad-shouldered
toz jorz ert richement vestuz;
all days he-was richly clothed
mout esteit forz, mout esteit durs,
very he-was strong very he-was hard
mais n'esteit mie mout seürs:
but not-he-was at-all very steady
de parole ert auques legiers
of speech he-was somewhat light
e mout se joot volentiers.
and much himself he-joked willingly

Mais un autre Aïaus i ot,
But an other Ajax there was
qui Telamon en sornon ot:
who Telamon as surname had
icist fu mout de grant valor.
this-one was very of great worth
Mout ot en lui bon chanteor,
Very there-was in him good singer
mout aveit la voiz haute et clere
very he-had the voice high and clear
e de sonez ert bons trovere.
and of songs he-was good maker
Neir chief aveit recercelé;
Black head he-had curled
mout par ert de grant simpleté,
very greatly he-was of great simplicity
mais encontre son enemi
but against his enemy
aveit cuer cruël e hardi:
he-had heart cruel and bold
ja en estor ne en tornei
ever in fight nor in tourney
ne portast a nul home fei.
not he-would-bear to any man faith
Soz ciel n'aveit tel chevalier,
Under heaven not-there-was such knight
ne qui meins se seüst preisier.
nor who less himself might-know to-prize

De grant beauté, ço dit Darès,
In great beauty that says Dares
les sormontot toz Ulixès.
them surpassed all Ulysses
N'ert mie granz ne trop petiz,
Not-he-was at-all big nor too small
mout par ert de grant sen guarniz.
very greatly he-was with great sense furnished
Merveilles esteit beaus parliers,
Marvelously he-was fair speaker
mais en dis mile chevaliers
but in ten thousand knights
n'en aveit un plus tricheor:
not-thereof there-was one more deceiver
ja veir ne deïst a nul jor.
ever true not he-would-say at any day
De sa boche eisseit granz guabeis,
From his mouth went-out great jests
mais mout ert sages e corteis.
but very he-was wise and courteous
Forz refu mout Diomedès,
Strong again-was very Diomedes
gros e quarrez e granz adès;
big and squared and big withal
la chiere aveit mout felenesse:
the face he-had very fierce
cist fist mainte fause pramesse.
this-one made many-a false promise
Mout fu hardiz, mout fu noisos,
Very he-was bold very he-was quarrelsome

e mout fu d'armes engeignos;
and very he-was in-arms skillful
mout fu estouz e sorparlez,
very he-was proud and boastful
e mout par fu sis cors dotez.
and very greatly was his body feared
A grant peine poëit trover
With great pain could-one find
qui contre lui vousist ester:
who against him might-wish to-stand
rien nel poëit en pais tenir,
anything not-him could in peace keep
trop par esteit maus a servir;
too greatly he-was bad to serve
mais por amor traist mainte feiz
but for love he-drew many-a times
maintes peines e mainz torneiz.
many pains and many tourneys
Nestor fu granz e lons e lez;
Nestor was big and tall and broad
force deveit aveir assez.
force he-ought to-have enough
Le nes ot corbe; de parler
The nose he-had curved in speaking
ne poüst om trover son per.
not could one find his peer
Mout donot bien un bon conseil
Very he-gave well a good counsel
a son ami, a son feeil;
to his friend to his liegeman

mais quant ire le sorportot,
but when wrath him overcame
nule mesure ne guardot.
any measure not he-kept
Neif n'est plus blanche qu'il ert toz;
Snow not-is more white than-he was all
mout ert hardiz e mout ert proz.
very he-was bold and very he-was valiant
Or ne resteit de rien itaus
Now not was-again in anything such
de semblance Proteselaus,
in semblance Protesilaus
quar merveilles esteit isneaus
for marvelously he-was swift
e genz e proz e forz e beaus.
and noble and valiant and strong and fair
Neptolemus fu granz e lons,
Neoptolemus was big and tall
gros par le ventre come uns trons.
big by the belly as a barrel
Merveilles par ert vertuös
Marvelously greatly he-was mighty
e de mainte chose engeignos.
and in many-a thing skillful
Bel vout aveit e bele chiere,
Fair countenance he-had and fair face
si beaubeot de grant maniere.
so he-stammered in great manner
Les ieuz aveit gros e roonz;
The eyes he-had big and round

neir chief aveit, — n'ert mie blonz, —
black head he-had not-he-was at-all blond
les sorcilles grosses e lees,
the eyebrows thick and broad
come s'il les eüst enflees.
as if-he them had swollen
De plaiz saveit trop e de leis,
Of pleas he-knew much and of laws
e merveilles par ert corteis.
and marvelously greatly he-was courteous
Palamedès nel semblot pas:
Palamedes not-him resembled at-all
gent cors aveit, n'ert mie gras;
handsome body he-had not-he-was at-all fat
grailes ert mout par mi les flans,
slim he-was very through the-midst the flanks
douz e soés, simples e frans,
sweet and gentle simple and noble
hauz, lons e blois e beaus e dreiz,
high tall and blond and fair and straight
e les mains blanches e les deiz.
and the hands white and the fingers
Polidarius ert si gras
Podalirius was so fat
qu'a granz peines alot le pas.
that-with great pains he-went the pace
En plusors choses ert vaillanz,
In many things he-was valiant
mais toz jorz ert tristes pensanz.
but all days he-was sad thinking

Ainz cerchast l'om par mainte terre,
Sooner might-search one through many-a land
qui plus orgoillos vousist querre.
who more proud might-wish to-seek
Machaon ert reis merveillos,
Machaon was king marvelous
mout esteit fiers e corajos.
very he-was fierce and courageous
Le cors aveit trestot roont
The body he-had all round
e poi cheveus en mi le front;
and little hair in the-midst the forehead
mout par manaçot richement
very greatly he-threatened richly
e mout ert fel a tote gent.
and very he-was felon to all folk
N'ert pas trop granz ne trop petiz;
Not-he-was at-all too big nor too small
toz jorz s'endormeit a enviz.
all days himself-he-slept at unwillingness
Li reis de Perse fu mout granz
The king of Persia was very big
e mout riches e mout poissanz.
and very rich and very powerful
Le vis ot gras e lentillos;
The face he-had fat and freckled
de barbe e de cheveus fu ros.
of beard and of hair he-was red

Briseïda fu avenant:
Briseida was comely
ne fu petite ne trop grant.
not she-was small nor too big
Plus esteit bele e bloie e blanche
More she-was fair and blond and white
que flor de lis ne neif sor branche;
than flower of lily nor snow on branch
mais les sorcilles li joigneient,
but the eyebrows to-her joined
que auques li mesaveneient.
which somewhat to-her misbecame
Beaus ieuz aveit de grant maniere
Fair eyes she-had in great manner
e mout esteit bele parliere.
and very she-was fair speaker
Mout fu de bon afaitement
Very she-was of good breeding
e de sage contenement.
and of wise bearing
Mout fu amee e mout amot,
Much she-was loved and much she-loved
mais sis corages li chanjot;
but her heart to-her changed
e si ert el mout vergondose,
and so was she very bashful
simple e aumosniere e pitose.
simple and almsgiving and pitying

De ceus de Grece vos ai dit
Of those of Greece to-you I-have told
les semblances solonc l'Escrit: 5290
the semblances according-to the-Writing
itant com jo en ai trové,
as-much as I thereof have found
vos ai tot dit e reconté;
to-you I-have all said and recounted
jo n'i ai mis ne plus ne meins.
I not-there have put nor more nor less
Or vos dirai des Troïains.
Now to-you I-shall-tell of-the Trojans

The Trojans Portrayed

XXIII

Priam is tall, handsome, and soft-spoken, and loves songs and generous giving. Hector, the boldest man of the world, squints and stammers a little but is the most courteous and generous of all, so that the city loves him beyond any man. Helenus and Deiphobus resemble their father. Troilus is described at length, as fair as he is bold. Then come Paris, Aeneas, Antenor and his son Polydamas, Memnon, Hecuba, Andromache, and Cassandra. Polyxena surpasses them all in beauty, and Dares names no more.

Mout par fu beaus e lons e granz,
Very greatly was fair and tall and big
ço dit l'Escriz, li reis Prianz.
that says the-Writing the king Priam
Le nes e la boche e le vis
The nose and the mouth and the face
ot bien estant e bien asis;
he-had well standing and well set
la parole aveit auques basse,
the speech he-had somewhat low
soëf voiz ot e douce e quasse.
soft voice he-had and sweet and broken
Mout par esteit bons chevaliers,
Very greatly he-was good knight
e matin manjot volentiers.
and morning he-ate willingly
Onques nul jor ne s'esmaia,
Ever any day not himself-he-dismayed
ne onques losengier n'ama.
nor ever flatterer not-he-loved

De sa parole ert veritiers
Of his word he-was truthful
e de jostise dreituriers.
and in justice righteous
Contes e fables e chançons
Tales and fables and songs
e estrumenz e noveaus sons
and instruments and new airs
oëit: sovent s'i delitot,
he-heard often himself-there he-delighted
e chevaliers mout honorot.
and knights much he-honored
Onques nus reis plus riches dons
Ever any king more rich gifts
ne sot doner a ses barons.
not knew to-give to his barons
Des Troïens li plus hardiz
Of-the Trojans the most bold
esteit Hector, sis ainz nez fiz.
was Hector his first born son
Des Troïens? Veire del mont,
Of-the Trojans Truly of-the world
de ceus qui furent ne qui sont,
of those who were nor who are
ne qui ja mais jor deivent estre.
nor who ever more day must be
Des biens le fist Nature maistre
Of-the goods him made Nature master
e des bontez qu'on puet aveir;
and of-the bounties which-one can have

en lui mostra tot son saveir,
in him she-showed all her knowing
fors que plus bel le poüst faire.
except that more fair him she-could make
Mais nus ne set meillor retraire.
But any not knows better to-recount
Se en lui rien mesaveneit,
If in him anything misbecame
par le bien faire le covreit:
by the well doing it he-covered
ço savez bien, haute proëce
that you-know well high prowess
abaisse bien cri de laidece.
lowers well cry of ugliness
Or vos dirai d'Ector la some,
Now to-you I-shall-tell of-Hector the sum
ja ne l'orreiz mieuz par nul home:
ever not it-you-will-hear better from any man
de pris toz homes sormontot,
in worth all men he-surpassed
mais un sol petit beaubeot.
but a sole little he-stammered
D'andous les ieuz borgnes esteit,
Of-both the eyes squinting he-was
mais point ne li mesaveneit.
but at-all not to-him it-misbecame
Chief ot blont e cresp, blanche char,
Head he-had blond and curly white flesh
e si n'aveit cure d'eschar.
and so not-he-had care for-mockery

Cors ot bien fait e forniz membres,
Body he-had well made and full limbs
mais il nes aveit mie tendres;
but he not-them had at-all tender
ne puis qu'il vint al grant bosoing,
nor since that-he came to-the great need
ne que il traist vers lui le soing,
nor that he drew toward him the care
onques as armes n'ot si dur
ever in-the arms not-there-was so hard
en tot le mont ne si seür.
in all the world nor so steady
De sa largece ne fu rien,
Of his largesse not was anything
quar, se li mondes fust toz sien,
for if the world were all his
sil donast tot a bones genz.
so-it he-would-give all to good folk
Lui ne durot ors ne argenz,
Him not lasted gold nor silver
ne bons destriers ne palefreiz,
nor good chargers nor palfreys
ne riches dras ne bons conreiz:
nor rich cloths nor good trappings
sol proëce li remaneit
only prowess to-him remained
e li frans cuers, quil somoneit
and the noble heart which-him summoned
de toz jorz faire come ber.
of all days to-do as baron

Puis qu'il n'aveit a armes per,
Since that-he not-had in arms peer
ne n'eüst nul de sa largece,
nor not-he-might-have any of his largesse
de tant valeit mieuz sa proëce.
by so-much was-worth more his prowess
De corteisie par fu teus
In courtesy greatly he-was such
que cil de Troie e l'oz des Greus
that those of Troy and the-host of-the Greeks
envers lui furent dreit vilain:
toward him were straight churls
onc plus corteis ne manja pain.
ever more courteous not ate bread
De sen e de bele mesure
In sense and in fair measure
sormontot tote creature,
he-surpassed all creature
n'onques por joie ne por ire
nor-ever for joy nor for wrath
ne fu menez jusqu'al mesdire
not he-was led up-to-the slander
ne a sorfait n'a nule faille:
nor to excess nor-to any fault
ja mais n'iert cors d'ome quil vaille.
ever more not-will-be body of-man which-him may-be-worth
De vis, de boche e de menton
Of face of mouth and of chin
e de cors ot gente façon;
and of body he-had noble fashion

bruns chevaliers ert de visage.
brown knight he-was of face
Le cuer ot franc e douz e sage:
The heart he-had noble and sweet and wise
tant par esteit de riche cuer
so greatly he-was of rich heart
qu'il ne deïst a nes un fuer
that-he not would-say at not-even one price
parole laide ne vilaine.
word ugly nor base
Onc ne nasqui hom de sa peine;
Ever not was-born man of his toil
d'armes porter ne del sofrir,
in-arms to-bear nor in-the suffering
ne de faire tot son plaisir,
nor in doing all his pleasure
ne vit onques nus hom meillor,
not saw ever any man better
e mout amot pris e honor.
and much he-loved worth and honor
Onques nus hom de mere nez
Ever any man of mother born
ne fu en vile tant amez
not was in town so-much loved
com cil de Troie lui amoënt,
as those of Troy him loved
petit et grant, qui i estoënt.
little and great who there were

Douz e pius ert as citeains,
Sweet and kind he-was to-the citizens
e contre amor n'ert pas vilains.
and against love not-he-was at-all churlish
Toz autreteus ert Helenus,
All such was Helenus
e sis frere Deïphebus,
and his brother Deiphobus
come Prianz lor pere esteit.
as Priam their father was
Entre eus dessemblance n'aveit
Between them unlikeness not-there-was
de cors, de forme, fors d'aage
of body of form except of-age
e fors de cuer e de corage.
and except of heart and of spirit
Des formes erent mout semblanz,
Of-the forms they-were very alike
mais divers erent de talanz.
but different they-were of dispositions
Forz esteit mout Deïphebus,
Strong was very Deiphobus
e de grant sen ert Helenus,
and of great sense was Helenus
sages poëtes, bons devins:
wise poet good diviner
des choses diseit bien les fins.
of-the things he-said well the ends

Troïlus fu beaus a merveille;
Troilus was fair to marvel
chiere ot riant, face vermeille,
face he-had laughing face vermilion
cler vis apert, le front plenier:
clear countenance open the forehead full
mout covint bien a chevalier.
very it-befitted well to knight
Cheveus ot blonz, mout avenanz
Hair he-had blond very comely
e par nature reluisanz,
and by nature shining
ieuz vairs e pleins de gaieté:
eyes gray and full of gaiety
onc ne fu rien de lor beauté.
ever not was anything of their beauty
Tant come il ert en bon talent,
As-long as he was in good mood
par esguardot si doucement,
greatly he-looked so sweetly
que deliz ert de lui veeir;
that delight it-was of him to-see
mais une rien vos di por veir,
but one thing to-you I-say for true
qu'il ert envers ses enemis
that-he was toward his enemies
d'autre semblant e d'autre vis.
of-other semblance and of-other face
Haut ot le nes e par mesure:
High he-had the nose and in measure

bien sist as armes sa faiture.
well sat in-the arms his make
Boche ot bien faite e beaus les denz,
Mouth he-had well made and fair the teeth
plus blans qu'ivoires ne argenz;
more white than-ivory nor silver
menton quarré, lonc col e dreit,
chin squared long neck and straight
tel come as armes coveneit;
such as for-the arms befitted
les espaules mout bien seanz,
the shoulders very well sitting
a val traitices descendanz;
to down tapering descending
le piz formé desoz les laz,
the chest formed under the laces
bien faites mains e beaus les braz.
well made hands and fair the arms
Bien fu tailliez par la ceinture;
Well he-was cut by the waist
mout li sist bien sa vesteüre;
very to-him sat well his clothing
endreit les hanches fu pleniers,
right-at the hips he-was full
a merveille ert beaus chevaliers.
to marvel he-was fair knight
Jambes ot dreites, vous les piez,
Legs he-had straight arched the feet
trestoz les membres bien tailliez;
all the limbs well cut

e ot mout large aforcheüre,
and he-had very wide fork
si fu de mout bele estature.
so he-was of very fair stature
Granz ert, mais bien li coveneit
Big he-was but well to-him it-befitted
o la taille, que bone aveit.
with the build which good he-had
Jo ne cuit or si vaillant home
I not think now so valiant man
ait jusque la ou terre asome,
there-may-be up-to there where earth ends
qui tant aint joie ne deduit,
who so-much may-love joy nor delight
ne meins die qu'a autre enuit,
nor less may-say what-to other may-annoy
ne qui tant ait riche corage,
nor who so-much may-have rich heart
ne tant coveit pris ne barnage.
nor so-much may-covet worth nor baronage
Ne fu sorfaiz ne outrajos,
Not he-was overbearing nor outrageous
mais liez e gais e amoros.
but glad and gay and amorous
Bien fu amez e bien ama,
Well he-was loved and well he-loved
e maint grant fais en endura.
and many-a great burden thereof endured
Bachelers ert e jovenceaus,
Bachelor he-was and youth

de ceus de Troie li plus beaus
of those of Troy the most fair
e li plus proz, fors que sis frere
and the most valiant except that his brother
Hector, qui fu dreiz emperere
Hector who was true emperor
e dreiz sire d'armes portanz:
and true lord of-arms bearing
bien nos en est Daires guaranz.
well to-us thereof is Dares warrant
Flor fu cil de chevalerie,
Flower was that-one of chivalry
e cist l'en tint mout bien frarie;
and this-one him-thence held very well brotherhood
bien fu sis frere de proëce,
well he-was his brother in prowess
de corteisie e de largece.
in courtesy and in largesse
Paris esteit lons e deugiez
Paris was tall and slender
e mout par ert isneaus des piez.
and very greatly he-was swift of-the feet
Les cheveus aveit blois e sors,
The hair he-had blond and golden
plus reluisanz que n'est fins ors.
more shining than not-is fine gold
Sages esteit e vertuös
Wise he-was and mighty
e d'empire mout coveitos,
and of-empire very covetous

seignorie mout desirot.
lordship much he-desired
Bien faite chiere e beaus ieuz ot.
Well made face and fair eyes he-had
Traire saveit merveilles bien,
To-shoot he-knew marvelously well
si sot de bois sor tote rien:
so he-knew of woods above all thing
hardiz e proz e combatanz,
bold and valiant and fighting
de ses armes bien aïdanz.
of his arms well helping
Mout ot en lui bon chevalier
Much there-was in him good knight
e bien se sot d'arc aïdier.
and well himself he-knew with-bow to-help
Eneas fu gros e petiz,
Aeneas was thick and short
sages e en faiz e en diz.
wise both in deeds and in words
Mout saveit bien autre areisnier
Very he-knew well other to-address
e son pro querre e porchacier.
and his profit to-seek and to-procure
Merveilles esteit beaus parliers
Marvelously he-was fair speaker
e en causes dreiz conseilliers.
and in causes right counselor
Mout aveit en lui sapiënce,
Much he-had in him wisdom

force e vertu e reverence.
force and strength and reverence
Les ieuz ot vairs, le vis joios;
The eyes he-had gray the face joyful
de barbe e de cheveus fu ros.
of beard and of hair he-was red
Mout ot engin, mout ot veisdie,
Much he-had wit much he-had cunning
e mout coveita manantie.
and much he-coveted wealth
Antenor fu grailes e lons,
Antenor was slim and tall
mout ot paroles e sermons.
much he-had words and speeches
Cointe home i ot e veiziié,
Elegant man there was and shrewd
viste a cheval e viste a pié.
quick on horse and quick on foot
Sages esteit e emparlez,
Wise he-was and eloquent
del rei de Troie mout amez.
by-the king of Troy very loved
Sovent joglot ses compaignons,
Often he-joked-with his companions
quant il i trovot acheisons.
when he there found occasions
Un fil aveit, Polidamas,
A son he-had Polydamas
dont li Livres ne se taist pas.
of-whom the Book not itself keeps-silent at-all

Quar merveilles esteit preisiez
For marvelously he-was prized
e beaus e genz e enseigniez,
and fair and noble and well-taught
grailes e dreiz e brun le vis,
slim and straight and brown the face
de bons afaitemenz apris,
in good manners learned
forz e hardiz e defensables
strong and bold and able-to-defend
e en toz estoveirs metables.
and in all needs fit
Nus de son cors plus ne valeit,
Any of his body more not was-worth
larges e douz e frans esteit.
generous and sweet and noble he-was
Point n'esteit feinz, poi ert iros,
At-all not-he-was false little he-was wrathful
mais as armes ert vertuös.
but in-the arms he-was mighty
Li reis Mennon fu genz e granz,
The king Memnon was noble and big
e chevaliers mout avenanz;
and knight very comely
si ert, ço conte li Escriz,
so he-was that tells the Writing
par les espaules bien forniz,
by the shoulders well furnished
o un dur piz, o uns forz braz,
with a hard chest with some strong arms

o un chief cresp e aubornaz,
with a head curly and auburn
o un lonc vis, o un traitiz,
with a long face with a well-drawn
o uns gros ieuz e tres hardiz;
with some big eyes and very bold
poi enveisiez, poi emparlez
little playful little eloquent
e as armes desmesurez.
and in-the arms beyond-measure
Rien ne dotot, rien ne cremeit,
Anything not he-feared anything not he-dreaded
e par tot bien li aveneit.
and through all well to-him it-went
Maint dur estor rendi e prist:
Many-a hard fight he-rendered and took
merveillos fu, merveilles fist.
marvelous he-was marvels he-made
Sa grant proëce e si grant fait
His great prowess and his great deeds
seront a toz jorz mais retrait.
will-be at all days ever recounted
D'Ecuba ne vueil mie taire
Of-Hecuba not I-wish at-all to-keep-silent
ce que Daires en voust retraire:
that which Dares thereof wished to-recount
ensi aveit non la reïne,
thus had name the queen
mout esteit de bone dotrine.
very she-was of good teaching

Grant fu assez e bele adès,
Big she-was enough and fair withal
de cors semblot home a bien près:
in body she-seemed man to well near
n'aveit pas femenin talant
not-she-had at-all womanly disposition
ne corage ne tant ne quant.
nor heart nor so-much nor how-much
Juste ert e pie e dreituriere,
Just she-was and kind and righteous
e sage dame e aumosniere.
and wise lady and almsgiving
Andromacha fu bele e gente,
Andromache was fair and noble
e plus blanche que n'est flor d'ente.
and more white than not-is flower of-graft
Blois fu sis chiés e vair si ueil;
Blond was her head and gray her eyes
franche ert e simple senz orgueil;
noble she-was and simple without pride
le col aveit de lonc espace.
the neck she-had of long space
En li n'ot rien que bien n'estace;
In her not-there-was anything that well not-befits
en son cors ne en sa semblance,
in her body nor in her semblance
n'aveit un point de mesestance.
not-there-was a point of unseemliness

Legerie ne fol semblant
Lightness nor foolish semblance
n'aveit en li ne tant ne quant.
not-there-was in her nor so-much nor how-much
Cassandra fu de tel grandor
Cassandra was of such greatness
que ne pot estre de meillor.
that not could be of better
Rose ot la chiere e lentillose.
Rosy she-had the face and freckled
Merveilles ert esciëntose:
Marvelously she-was knowing
des arz e des segreiz devins
of-the arts and of-the secrets divine
saveit les somes e les fins;
she-knew the sums and the ends
de la chose que aveneit
of the thing that would-befall
diseit tot quant qu'il en sereit.
she-said all as-much as-it thereof would-be
Les ieuz ot clers e reluisanz.
The eyes she-had clear and shining
Toz ert divers li suens semblanz,
All was different the her semblance
e sis estres e sis pensez
and her being and her thought
ert d'autres femmes devisez.
was from-other women distinguished

De la beauté Polixenain
Of the beauty (of-)Polyxena
vos porreit l'om parler en vain:
to-you could one speak in vain
ne porreit pas estre descrite,
not it-could at-all be described
ne par mei ne par autre dite.
nor by me nor by other told
Haute ert e graile e longe e dreite,
High she-was and slim and tall and straight
par les flans deugiee e estreite;
by the flanks slender and narrow
le chief ot bloi, les cheveus lons,
the head she-had blond the hair long
qui li passoënt les talons;
which to-her passed the heels
les ieuz clers, vairs e amoros,
the eyes clear gray and amorous
les sorcis deugiez ambedous;
the eyebrows slender both
la face blanche, cler le vis,
the face white bright the countenance
plus que rose ne flor de lis.
more than rose nor flower of lily
Mout aveit de gente façon
Very she-had of noble fashion
le nes, la boche e le menton.
the nose the mouth and the chin
Le col aveit auques longuel;
The neck she-had somewhat longish

gent s'afublot de son mantel.
handsomely herself-she-wrapped in her mantle
N'ot pas espaules encroëes:
Not-she-had at-all shoulders hunched
n'erent trop corbes ne trop lees.
not-they-were too curved nor too broad
Plus li blancheot la peitrine
More to-her whitened the breast
que flor de lis ne flor d'espine.
than flower of lily nor flower of-thorn
Lons braz aveit e blanches mains,
Long arms she-had and white hands
les deiz traitiz, deugiez e plains.
the fingers well-drawn slender and smooth
Onc pucele ne fu meins fole.
Ever maiden not was less foolish
Le cuer ot douz e la parole
The heart she-had sweet and the speech
e bel semblant e bon corage.
and fair semblance and good heart
Onc fille a rei ne fu plus sage,
Ever daughter to king not was more wise
ne plus large ne plus corteise:
nor more generous nor more courteous
d'afaitement ne de proëise
in-breeding nor in prowess
ne de beauté ne de valor
nor in beauty nor in worth
n'aveit mieuz guarnie en l'onor.
not-there-was better furnished in the-domain

Se la beauté de l'autre gent
If the beauty of the-other folk
fust trestote en un solement,
were all in one only
si somes nos de ço certain,
so are we of that certain
plus en ot en Polixenain:
more thereof there-was in Polyxena
plus bele ert e mieuz enseigniee
more fair she-was and better taught
e de totes la plus preisiee.
and of all the most prized
Autre gent ot a Troie assez,
Other folk there-was at Troy enough
riches, sages e renomez,
rich wise and renowned
dont n'est ci faite mencion
of-whom not-is here made mention
ne recontee lor façon:
nor recounted their fashion
el Livre n'en truis plus escrit,
in-the Book not-thereof I-find more written
ne de nul Daires plus n'en dit.
nor of any Dares more not-thereof says

The Catalog of Ships

XXIV

Before the end of February the Greeks gather at Athens, the greatest army ever joined. Agamemnon brings a hundred ships from Mycenae and Menelaus sixty from Sparta. Then come Archelaus and Prothenor, Ascalaphus and Ialmenus, Telamonian Ajax, Nestor with eighty from Pylos, Oilean Ajax, Idomeneus, Ulysses, Protesilaus, Machaon and Podalirius, Achilles with fifty from Phthia, and many more. Forty-nine kings and barons bring eleven hundred and thirty ships.

Vait s'en iverz, estez repaire,
Goes itself-thence winter summer returns
e li termes de cest afaire,
and the term of this affair
qui ne pot mais guaires targier.
which not could more much delay
Trestuit, ainz la fin de fevrier,
All before the end of February
furent li Grezeis assemblé
were the Greeks assembled
a Athenes la grant cité.
at Athens the great city
Quant qu'il porent de gent aveir
As-much as-they could of folk have
ne par force ne par poëir,
nor by force nor by power
par gré ne par autre maniere,
by goodwill nor by other manner
par somonse ne par preiere,
by summons nor by prayer

a Athenes fu assemblee:
at Athens was assembled
onques si grant ne fu jostee,
ever so great not was joined
ne ja si grant n'iert mais oïe.
nor ever so great not-will-be more heard
Aprestee fu la navie.
Made-ready was the fleet
Lor nes i orent ajostees
Their ships there had joined
tuit li riche home des contrees,
all the rich men of-the countries
bien aprestees, ços plevis,
well made-ready that-you I-pledge
contre lor morteus enemis.
against their mortal enemies
Ne vos en cuit de rien mentir:
Not to-you thereof I-think in anything to-lie
de Miceines i fist venir
from Mycenae there made come
Agamennon cent nes guarnies,
Agamemnon a-hundred ships furnished
d'omes e d'armes replenies.
with-men and with-arms refilled
De Parte en i ot Menelaus
From Sparta thereof there had Menelaus
seisante, pleines de vassaus.
sixty full of vassals
E de Boëce e de l'onor,
And from Boeotia and from the-domain

entre Archelaus e Prothenor,
between Archelaus and Prothenor
en i orent cinquante beles,
thereof there they-had fifty fair
trestotes fresches e noveles.
all fresh and new
Ascalaphus e Almenus —
Ascalaphus and Ialmenus
li uns ert cuens, li autre dus —
the one was count the other duke
en orent trente a lor partie
thereof had thirty for their part
de la terre d'Orcomenie.
from the land of-Orchomenus
Epistrophus e Scedius
Epistrophus and Schedius
en orent cinquante, e non plus,
thereof had fifty and not more
bien guarnies, jol vos plevis,
well furnished I-it to-you pledge
de la terre de Phocidis.
from the land of Phocis
Telamonius Aïaus
Telamonian Ajax
i vint tres bien come vassaus:
there came very well as vassal
cinquante en ot en la marine,
fifty thereof he-had on the shore
qu'ot fait venir de Salemine.
which-he-had made come from Salamis

Teücer ot a compaignon
Teucer he-had as companion
e Amphimac e Dorion,
and Amphimachus and Dorion
Polixenart e Theseüs:
Polyxenart and Theseus
li plus povre fu cuens o dus.
the most poor was count or duke
De Pile en i aveit oitante
From Pylos thereof there had eighty
li vieuz Nestor, totes a cante;
the old Nestor all in count
cinquante en i aveit Thoas
fifty thereof there had Thoas
de la cité de Tolias;
from the city of Tolias
Hunerius, quarante e treis
Hunerius forty and three
de la terre d'Essimiëis.
from the land of-Essimieis
Trente e set en ot li vassaus
Thirty and seven thereof had the vassal
Oïleïus Aïaus
Oilean Ajax
de Logres, sa terre demeine:
from Locris his land own

n'i aveit celi ne fust pleine
not-there was that-one not were full
d'omes, d'armes e de vitaille,
of-men of-arms and of victuals
toz volenteïs de bataille.
all eager for battle
Trente en aduist de Caledoine,
Thirty thereof brought from Calydon
senz escondit e senz essoine,
without excuse and without hindrance
Philitoas e Antipus:
Philitoas and Antipus
li uns fu reis, li autre dus.
the one was king the other duke
Idomeneus e Merion
Idomeneus and Meriones
de Crete e de la region
from Crete and from the region
en i amenerent oitante,
thereof there brought eighty
beles e granz, totes a cante.
fair and big all in count
D'Achaie, granz e forz adès,
From-Achaea big and strong withal
en i ot cinquante Ulixès.
thereof there had fifty Ulysses
Emelius en i ot dis,
Emelius thereof there had ten
de la contree de Pigris.
from the country of Pigris

De la terre e de la contree
From the land and from the country
que Pilaca est apelee
which Phylace is called
en ot cinquante Potarcaus,
thereof had fifty Podarces
e il e danz Proteselaus.
both he and lord Protesilaus
Danz Machaon, danz Polidri,
Lord Machaon lord Podalirius
qui furent fil Escolapi,
who were sons (of-)Aesculapius
en i aduistrent trente e dous
thereof there brought thirty and two
de la terre de Tricios.
from the land of Tricca
De Phice, que de mer est près,
From Phthia which to sea is near
en i ot cinquante Achillès.
thereof there had fifty Achilles
De Rode, une isle desor mer,
From Rhodes an isle upon sea
en fist dis pleines amener
thereof made ten full bring
Telepolus, uns riches reis,
Tlepolemus a rich king
qui mout ert amez de Grezeis,
who very was loved by Greeks

Euripilus d'Orcomenie,
Eurypylus of-Orchomenus
uns reis de mout grant seignorie,
a king of very great lordship
en ot cinquante bien guarnies,
thereof had fifty well furnished
bien chargiees e bien emplies.
well laden and well filled
D'Elide, une terre sauvage,
From-Elis a land wild
en ot o sei onze al rivage
thereof had with himself eleven at-the shore
danz Antipus e Amphimaus:
lord Antipus and Amphimachus
n'en ert a dire tres ne maus.
not-thereof was to lack sail nor mast
Si com la Letre me devise,
So as the Text to-me sets-out
seisante en i ot de Larise
sixty thereof there had from Larissa
Polibetès e Leontins,
Polypoetes and Leonteus
qui esteient germains cosins.
who were first cousins
Diomedès e Sthelenus
Diomedes and Sthenelus
e li beaus Eürialus
and the fair Euryalus

i aduistrent oitante barges
there brought eighty barges
de la cité, de l'onor d'Arges.
from the city from the-domain of-Argos
De la terre de Melibee,
From the land of Meliboea
que donc n'ert guaires habitee,
which then not-was much inhabited
en i ot set Philotetès,
thereof there had seven Philoctetes
qui mout esteit fel e engrès.
who very was felon and eager
Uns reis de Cipe Cuneüs
A king of Cyprus Cyneus
onze en i ot e neient plus.
eleven thereof there had and nothing more
Cinquante en i ot de Manese —
Fifty thereof there had from Magnesia
n'en i aveit nule remese —
not-thereof there had any remained
Prothoïlus, quin esteit sire,
Prothous who-thereof was lord
riches, poissanz de grant empire.
rich powerful of great empire
Agapenor de Capadie
Agapenor of Arcadia
en rot cinquante en la navie,
thereof again-had fifty in the fleet

e de Pise en i ot Crenos
and from Pisa thereof there had Crenos
trestot par conte vint e dous.
all by count twenty and two
Menesteüs, li dus d'Athenes
Menestheus the duke of-Athens
en i aveit cinquante teles,
thereof there had fifty such
forz e guarnies des meillors.
strong and furnished from-the best
Ço dit e conte li Autors,
That says and tells the Author
quarante e nuef furent par non,
forty and nine they-were by name
tuit riche rei e fort baron,
all rich kings and strong barons
qui mil e cent nes amenerent
who a-thousand and hundred ships brought
e trente: a itant les nombrerent.
and thirty at so-much them they-numbered

Achilles at Delphi

XXV

Agamemnon proposes that before they sail they consult Apollo at Delphi. Achilles goes with Patroclus, and the oracle says Troy will fall in the tenth year. At the same temple Achilles meets Calchas, sent by Troy's king and people, whom the god commands to go with the Greeks and teach them. Calchas tells the Greeks this, and they rejoice. A storm then holds the fleet back. Calchas declares that Diana is angry for want of sacrifice, and Agamemnon sacrifices to her at Aulis. The fleet sails under Philoctetes and takes a castle of Troy's.

Ensi com vos poëz oïr,
Thus as you can hear
de verité e senz mentir,
in truth and without lying
fu a Athenes l'assemblee:
was at Athens the-assembly
ja mais si grant n'iert ajostee.
ever more so great not-will-be joined
Cil qui tant ert sages e proz
He who so was wise and valiant
e qui la cure aveit sor toz —
and who the charge had over all
ço ert Agamennon li reis —
that was Agamemnon the king
manda les princes des Grezeis,
summoned the princes of-the Greeks
les dus e toz les chevetaignes
the dukes and all the captains
fors de la cit en unes plaignes:
out of the city into some plains

mout i ot riche parlement,
very there was rich parley
quar mout i ot de haute gent.
for very there was of high folk
La ont conté lor chevaliers,
There they-have counted their knights
qu'en a chascuns e quanz miliers;
how-many-thereof has each and how-many thousands
mais tant en i aveit venu
but so-many thereof there had come
qu'a peines pot estre seü.
that-with pains it-could be known
Agamennon lor prist a dire:
Agamemnon to-them began to say
«Sire», fait il, «riche concire
Lord says he rich council
«avez josté en ceste place.
you-have joined in this place
«Trop pesant fais prent e embrace
Too heavy burden takes and embraces
«qui vers vos s'aatist de guerre;
who toward you himself-pits in war
«petit aime sei e sa terre.
little he-loves himself and his land
«Tel cent en vei, al mien espeir,
Such hundred thereof I-see to-the my hope

«dont cil qui a menor poëir
of-whom he who has least power
«devreit bien par force achever
ought well by force to-achieve
«ço que nos a fait assembler.
that which us has made assemble
«Li laiz e la honte est mout grant,
The insult and the shame is very great
«que nos a fait li fiz Priant: 5730
which to-us has done the son (of-)Priam
«Meü somes por la venjance,
Moved we-are for the vengeance
«quar ne volons que reparlance
for not we-wish that reproach
«ne vilanie ne hontages
nor villainy nor shames
«seit reprochiez a noz lignages.
be reproached to our lineages
«Onc ne firent nostre ancessor 5735
Ever not did our ancestors
«rien que nos tort a deshonor,
anything which to-us may-turn to dishonor
«ne nos ne redevons sofrir
nor we not ought-again to-suffer
«noz heirs abaissier ne honir.
our heirs to-be-lowered nor shamed

«La seignorie e la noblece
The lordship and the nobility
«qu'a Grece eü e la hautece
which-has Greece had and the highness
«ne deit pas endreit nos baissier,
not ought at-all toward us to-lower
«anceis devreit mout essaucier;
rather ought much to-exalt
«quar tant somes d'une acordance
for so-much we-are of-one accord
«e tant vait loinz nostre poissance
and so-much goes far our power
«qu'il n'est nus reis qui faire osast
that-there not-is any king who to-do might-dare
«chose vers nos que nos pesast,
thing toward us which us might-weigh
«ne mais que ceste gent honie,
nor more than this folk shamed
«qui mar virent lor grant folie.
who ill saw their great folly
«Bien pert que mauvais conseil ont,
Well appears that bad counsel they-have
«quar tuit sevent cil qui vif sont
for all know those who alive are
«que ne sai quant de nostre gent
that not I-know how-many of our folk
«destruistrent Troie si vilment
destroyed Troy so vilely
«que un sol vif n'en i laissierent,
that a sole living not-thereof there they-left

«la contree tote eissilierent:
the country all they-laid-waste
«E ço que porent faire sis
And that which could do six
«ne porront faire cent e dis?
not will-be-able to-do hundred and ten
«Puet cel estre? Qui sil laireit
Can that be Who so-it would-leave
«e qui venjance n'en prendreit,
and who vengeance not-thereof would-take
«ancor nos fereient sordeis:
still to-us they-would-do worse
«Sis en devancissons anceis.
So-them thereof let-us-forestall before
«Quar gent qui font honte e contraire
For folk who do shame and harm
«ne deit om pas sor sei atraire,
not ought one at-all upon oneself to-draw
«ainz les deit om si devancir,
rather them ought one so to-forestall
«qu'il n'aient mie grant leisir
that-they not-may-have at-all great leisure
«d'eus guarnir ne d'eus enforcier,
of-themselves furnish nor of-themselves strengthen
«ne d'ajutoire porchacier.
nor of-help to-procure
«Ço sai jo bien tot a estros,
That know I well all for certain

«que guarni se sont contre nos
that furnished themselves they-are against us
«e que granz genz ont assemblees
and that great folk they-have assembled
«de plusors diverses contrees:
from many different countries
«A lor poëir se defendront
To their power themselves they-will-defend
«tant come il onques plus porront.
as-much as they ever more will-be-able
«E sos plaiseit, jo loëreie
And if-you it-pleased I would-advise
«e endreit mei conseillereie
and for my-part would-counsel
«qu'anceis que de ci meüssons,
that-before that from here we-might-move
«a Apollo enveïssons
to Apollo we-might-send
«prendre conseil de cest afaire,
to-take counsel of this affair
«saveir a quel en porrons traire.
to-know to what thereof we-shall-be-able to-draw
«Li deus nos en dira bien veir
The god to-us thereof will-say well true
«senz faillir e senz deceveir.
without failing and without deceiving
«Buen conseillier se fait a lui:
Good to-counsel itself makes with him
«Quar bien sacheiz, si com jo cui,
For well know so as I think

«ja de rien puis ne doterons
ever of anything after not we-shall-fear
«qu'il nos avra doné respons.
that-he to-us will-have given answer
«De ço nos est mout granz bosoinz,
Of that to-us is very great need
«ne n'est mie Delfos si loinz
nor not-is at-all Delphi so far
«que tost ne puissent repairier
that soon not may return
«cil qu'i iront sacrefiier.»
those who-there will-go to-sacrifice
Ceste parole ont agraee
This speech have agreed
tuit cil a cui el fu mostree.
all those to whom it was shown
Par le comun esguart de toz,
By the common regard of all
i vait danz Achillès li proz.
there goes lord Achilles the valiant
Patroclus meine ensemble o lui:
Patroclus he-leads together with him
en Delfon vindrent ambedui.
into Delphi came both
Senz eschars faire e senz nul ris
Without mockery to-make and without any laughter
entrent el temple Apollinis;
they-enter into-the temple of-Apollo

o crieme e o devocion
with fear and with devotion
firent al deu lor oreison.
they-made to-the god their prayer
Un sacrefise apareillié
A sacrifice prepared
a Achillès sacrefiié.
has Achilles sacrificed
La nuit oï e sot de veir
The night he-heard and knew for true
ço qu'il esteit venuz saveir.
that which-he was come to-know
Li respons li a dit en bas:
The answer to-him has said in low
«As Grezeis,» fait il, «nonceras
To-the Greeks says it thou-wilt-announce
«que al disme an, senz nule faille,
that in-the tenth year without any fail
«iert tote fin de la bataille.
will-be all end of the battle
«Ço ait bien chascuns en memoire,
That may-have well each in memory
«que en l'an disme avront victoire;
that in the-year tenth they-will-have victory
«e bien sachent de verité
and well let-them-know in truth
«qu'adonc avront tot achevé,
that-then they-will-have all achieved
«quar Troie iert prise e abatue,
for Troy will-be taken and thrown-down

«e la gent destruite e vencue.»
and the folk destroyed and vanquished
Tot ço que li respons a dit
All that which the answer has said
a Achillès mis en escrit.
has Achilles put in writing
Le deu aore e sil mercie,
The god he-adores and so-him thanks
e devant l'autel s'umelie.
and before the-altar himself-humbles
Oïr poëz com faitement
Hear you-can how fashioned
a icel jor demeinement
at that day directly
esteit Calcas iluec venuz,
was Calchas there come
sages poëtes coneüz.
wise poet known
Fiz ert Testor, un Troïen.
Son he-was (of-)Thestor a Trojan
Trop par aveit Calcas grant sen:
Too greatly had Calchas great sense
dons aportot Apollini,
gifts he-brought to-Apollo
al deu veneit criër merci
to-the god he-came to-cry mercy
por ceus de Troie, qu'il fereient
for those of Troy what-they would-do
e coment il se contendreient.
and how they themselves would-bear

Li reis, li pueples del païs
The king the people of-the country
i aveient Calcas tramis
there had Calchas sent
por ofrir sor l'autel lor dons
for to-offer upon the-altar their gifts
e por oïr devins respons,
and for to-hear divine answers
e saveir come il lor prendreit
and to-know how it to-them would-take
de la gent que sor eus veneit.
from the folk who upon them came
Ço distrent li respons devin:
That said the answers divine
«Guarde», fait il, «que par matin
Guard says it that by morning
«ailles tot dreit a la navie
thou-may-go all straight to the fleet
«de la Grezesche compaignie.
of the Greek company
«Ensemble o eus a Troie iras:
Together with them to Troy thou-wilt-go
«Sages iés, sis dotrineras.
Wise thou-art so-them thou-wilt-instruct
«Tis sens lor avra grant mestier:
Thy sense to-them will-have great need

«Nes en lai mie repairier
Not-them thence leave at-all to-return
«devant qu'il aient Troie prise
before that-they may-have Troy taken
«e de la gent faite jostise.
and of the folk made justice
«Ensi l'estuet a avenir,
Thus it-behooves to happen
«quar ensi me vient a plaisir.»
for thus to-me it-comes to pleasure
Entre Calcas e Achillès,
Between Calchas and Achilles
qui ne s'erent veü onc mais,
who not themselves-were seen ever before
se sont el temple entrecontré;
themselves are in-the temple met
puis ont entre eus dous tant parlé,
then they-have between them two so-much spoken
de lor segreiz se descovrirent:
of their secrets themselves they-uncovered
estrange joie s'entrefirent.
strange joy to-each-other-they-made
Achillès o sei l'en mena,
Achilles with himself him-thence led
a son ostel le herberja;
at his lodging him lodged
mout se pena de lui servir
very himself he-pained of him to-serve
et de faire tot son plaisir.
and to do all his pleasure

De porter fei e compaignie
To bear faith and company
sont otreié par fei plevie.
they-are agreed by faith pledged
Tant ont alé e espleitié,
So-much they-have gone and pressed-on
qu'a Athenes sont repairié.
that-to Athens they-are returned
Achillès conta as barons
Achilles told to-the barons
ço que li ot dit li respons;
that which to-him had said the answer
tote lor a dite e retraite
all to-them he-has said and recounted
la pramesse que lor est faite:
the promise which to-them is made
«Victoire avront, ço sachent bien:
Victory they-will-have that let-them-know well
ja mar en doteront de rien.»
ever ill thereof will-fear of anything
Onc tel joie ne fu oïe
Ever such joy not was heard
com cil ont fait de la navie.
as those have made of the fleet
Calcas lor a dit e conté
Calchas to-them has said and told
tot en ordre la verité,
all in order the truth

com cil de Troie l'enveioënt
how those of Troy him-sent
al deu, cui lor dons presentoënt.
to-the god to-whom their gifts they-presented
«E por oïr e por saveir
And for to-hear and for to-know
«que Apollo lor deïst veir
that Apollo to-them might-say true
«com faitement lor avendreit
how fashioned to-them it-would-befall
«ne se Troie se defendreit,
nor if Troy itself would-defend
«ne s'il se porreient tenir
nor if-they themselves could hold
«vers vos, qu'i deviëz venir,
toward you who-there were-to come
«mei i eslurent e tramistrent
me there they-chose and sent
«e sor mei la parole en mistrent.
and upon me the word thereof they-put
«Venuz i esteie endreit eus,
Come there I-was on-behalf-of them
«mout en voleie le pro d'eus.
much thereof I-wished the profit of-them
«Tot mon poëir fait en aveie:
All my power done thereof I-had
«Dedenz le temple al deu esteie;
Within the temple at-the god I-was
«sor l'autel oi les dons posez,
upon the-altar I-had the gifts placed

«que de Troie aveie aportez;
which from Troy I-had brought
«fait li aveie sacrefise
made to-him I-had sacrifice
«a la maniere e a la guise
in the manner and in the guise
«cui je soi qu'il faiseit a faire.
which I knew that-it was to do
«Ne vos en quier lonc conte faire,
Not to-you thereof I-seek long tale to-make
«mais ço me dist la voiz devine
but that to-me said the voice divine
«qu'a Athenes sor la marine
that-to Athens upon the shore
«venisse ça a vos parler,
I-should-come here to you to-speak
«por dire e por amonester
for to-say and for to-admonish
«que ne departisseiz ja mais,
that not you-should-depart ever more
«n'as Troïens n'eüsseiz pais,
nor-with-the Trojans not-you-should-have peace
«devant que Troie fust fondue
before that Troy were brought-down
«e la gent ocise e vencue.
and the folk killed and vanquished
«Comandé m'a qu'o vos remaigne
Commanded me-he-has that-with you I-may-remain
«por enseignier vostre compaigne:
for to-teach your company

«O vos m'estuet a Troie aler
With you me-behooves to Troy to-go
«por vostre gent a dotriner.
for your folk to instruct
«Ço qu'Apollo vient a plaisir
That which-to-Apollo comes to pleasure
«me covient faire e obeïr:
me behooves to-do and to-obey
«Dès que li plaist que aille o vos,
Since that to-him it-pleases that I-may-go with you
«ne m'en vueil faire refusos.
not myself-thereof I-wish to-make refusing
«Son damage quiert e porchace
His harm seeks and procures
«qui as deus fait que lor desplace.
who to-the gods does what to-them may-displease
«Mais une chose vos di bien:
But one thing to-you I-say well
«Blasme en avrai sor tote rien;
Blame thereof I-shall-have above all thing
«tuit li Troïen m'en harront
all the Trojans me-thereof will-hate
«e mout par s'en merveilleront,
and very greatly themselves-thereof will-marvel
«quant il orront qu'o vos serai;
when they will-hear that-with you I-shall-be
«mais ja por ço ne remandrai.
but ever for that not I-shall-remain
«Mieuz me vient as deus obeïr,
Better to-me it-comes to-the gods to-obey

«e lor buen faire e lor plaisir,
and their good to-do and their pleasure
«qu'a ceus de Troie, ço m'est vis.
than-to those of Troy that to-me-is opinion
«Içо que vos avez empris
This that you have undertaken
«faites senz lonc porloignement:
do without long delaying
«Bon oré avez e bon vent.
Good breeze you-have and good wind
«Ainz demain nuit, s'en sui creüz,
Before tomorrow night if-thereof I-am believed
«iert li navies toz meüz.»
will-be the fleet all moved
Mout esteient haitié anceis
Very they-were glad before
e plein de joie li Grezeis,
and full of joy the Greeks
mais or les a Calcas guariz
but now them has Calchas healed
e mout les a plus esbaudiz.
and much them he-has more emboldened
A grant joie l'ont receü
With great joy him-they-have received
e a grant joie retenu:
and with great joy retained
or sont de l'aler tuit certain.
now they-are of the-going all certain

Ne demora que l'endemain
Not it-delayed but the-next-day
qu'il se veilierent en la mer:
that-they themselves set-sail on the sea
dreit a Troie voustrent sigler,
straight to Troy they-wished to-sail
mais ne pot estre, qu'uns orages
but not it-could be for-a storm
lor a defendu les passages.
to-them has forbidden the passages
Une tormente merveillose,
A storm marvelous
laide e oscure e tenebrose,
ugly and dark and shadowy
lor a ne sai quanz jorz duré:
to-them has not I-know how-many days lasted
mout en furent desconforté.
very thereof they-were discomforted
Por poi que tuit n'i sont neié:
For little that all not-there are drowned
trop en furent desconseillié.
too-much thereof they-were at-a-loss
Calcas fist ses esperimenz:
Calchas made his experiments
tost sot par ses auguremenz
soon he-knew by his augurings
que cist tempiers senefiot,
what this tempest signified
qui de passer les destorbot.
which from passing them hindered

Les barons a mandez a sei:
The barons he-has summoned to himself
«Seignor», fait il, «or sai e vei
Lords says he now I-know and see
«por quei tel tens avons eü:
for what such weather we-have had
«Por poi ne somes deceü.
For little not we-are deceived
«Mout s'est Diana corrociee
Very herself-is Diana angered
«e mout par est vers nos iriee
and very greatly she-is toward us wrathful
«de ço que ne l'avons requise
for that that not her-we-have sought
«e qu'el n'a eü sacrefise.
and that-she not-has had sacrifice
«Mout le nos a bien demostré:
Very it to-us she-has well shown
«Nos n'avrons ja tens ne oré
We not-shall-have ever weather nor breeze
«desci que li vienge a plaisir.
until that to-her it-may-come to pleasure
«Mais mon conseil e mon avir,
But my counsel and my opinion
«e ço que nos covient a faire,
and that which us behooves to do
«vos vueil a toz dire e retraire.
to-you I-wish to all to-say and recount

«En la grant selve renomee
In the great forest renowned
«que Alida est apelee
which Aulis is called
«nos covendra a repairier:
us will-behoove to return
«La li estuet sacrefiier.
There to-her it-behooves to-sacrifice
«Agamennon, qui la maistrie
Agamemnon who the mastery
«a de nos e la seignorie,
has of us and the lordship
«fera ceste uevre de sa main;
will-do this work by his hand
«après serons fi e certain
after we-shall-be sure and certain
«qu'o bel oré e a grant joie
that-with fair breeze and with great joy
«porrons prendre les porz de Troie.»
we-shall-be-able to-take the ports of Troy
D'içe n'i ot rien porloignié:
Of-this not-there was anything delayed
en Alida sont repairié.
into Aulis they-are returned
Agamennon sous sacrefie,
Agamemnon alone sacrifices
vers la deuesse s'umelie:
toward the goddess himself-humbles
del tot se met en sa manaie;
of-the all himself he-puts in her power

a li s'acorde, a li s'apaie.
with her himself-reconciles with her himself-appeases
Après sont as nes repairié;
After they-are to-the ships returned
a toz a l'om dit e noncié
to all has one said and announced
que del passer nus ne remaigne:
that from-the crossing any not may-remain
dès or n'i a nul qui s'en feigne.
from now not-there is any who himself-thereof may-feign
Mout s'esjoïssent li Grezeis:
Much rejoice the Greeks
lor ancres traient de maneis,
their anchors they-draw from now
haut sor les maz traient les veiles;
high upon the masts they-draw the sails
la nuit corurent as esteiles.
the night they-ran by-the stars
Par mi la mer les nes s'espandent:
Through the-midst the sea the ships spread
itel vent ont come il demandent.
such wind they-have as they ask
Duitor, meneor e guion
Leader conductor and guide
aveient tel com vos diron:
they-had such as to-you we-shall-tell
Philotetès, uns vassaus proz,
Philoctetes a vassal valiant
mais vieuz esteit e mout de jorz, —
but old he-was and very of days

cil ot esté premierement
he had been first
al premerain destruiement, —
at-the first destruction
cil les conduist, quar bien saveit
he them conducted for well he-knew
par ont li cors esteit plus dreit.
by where the course was more straight
A un chastel sont arivé,
At a castle they-are arrived
que Troie aveit en poësté.
which Troy had in power
Granz fu e riches, beaus e forz,
Big it-was and rich fair and strong
mais sempres fu pris par esforz.
but at-once it-was taken by force
Sorpris furent trop malement:
Surprised they-were too badly
defense n'i valut neient;
defense not-there availed nothing
en poi d'ore l'orent conquis.
in little of-hour it-they-had conquered
De ceus dedenz ont mout ocis;
Of those within they-have many killed
assez i ot guaaignié preie,
enough there had won booty
or e argent e dras de seie.
gold and silver and cloths of silk

Tenedos Taken

XXVI

The Greeks storm Tenedos, kill all within, and lay the country waste, and the peasants flee to Troy. Agamemnon divides the booty and holds a parley. He tells the barons that pride brings loss and is hated by the gods. The Greeks did wrong, he says, to refuse Hesione: had she been rendered, Helen would not have been taken. He proposes sending messengers to ask Priam for Helen and amends: if Priam refuses, the right is theirs and their honor doubled when they win; if he yields, they can go home with honor.

A Tenedon d'iluec alerent
To Tenedos from-there they-went
maneis, onc plus n'i demorerent.
at-once ever more not-there they-remained
Mais cil, cui n'en fu mie bel,
But those to-whom not-thereof was at-all fair
clostrent les portes del chastel.
closed the gates of-the castle
En crieme sont e en esfrei,
In fear they-are and in alarm
grant paor a chascuns de sei;
great fear has each for himself
a defendre s'apareillierent.
to defend themselves-they-prepared
Cui chaut? Trop sont cil quis requierent.
Who cares Too-many are those who-them attack
Ne se porent guaires tenir:
Not themselves they-could much hold
quant il se virent asaillir,
when they themselves saw assail

si se defendirent assez.
so themselves they-defended enough
Li chasteaus fu mout bien fermez:
The castle was very well fortified
sor les portes e par le mur
upon the gates and along the wall
s'en monterent li plus seür.
themselves-thence mounted the most steady
Fort se defendent de chaillous,
Strongly themselves they-defend with pebbles
a ceus defors donent granz cous;
to those outside they-give great blows
des tors lor lancent peus aguz:
from-the towers at-them they-hurl stakes sharp
haubers ne heaumes ne escuz
hauberks nor helmets nor shields
nel puet guarir, quin est ataint;
not-him can protect who-thereof is struck
jus es doves en chieent maint.
down into-the ditches thereof fall many-a
O ço que haut sont li terrier,
With that that high are the earthworks
cui l'om en fait jus trebuchier
whom one thence makes down tumble
ne montera ja mais ariere:
not will-mount ever more back
maint en i ot la nuit en biere.
many-a thereof there were the night on bier

Cil qui trebuchent contre val
Those who tumble down valley
font as montanz merveillos mal,
do to-the climbers marvelous ill
quar uns en abat plus de dis,
for one thereof fells more than ten
qui ja n'en releveront puis.
who ever not-thence will-rise-again after
Mout sont li tai grant e parfont,
Very are the ditches big and deep
li terrier roiste e dreit a mont.
the earthworks steep and straight to height
As portes fu li asauz maire:
At-the gates was the assault greater
la veïsseiz lancier e traire,
there you-would-have-seen hurl and shoot
la veïsseiz heaumes croissir
there you-would-have-seen helmets crack
e chevaliers espés morir.
and knights thick die
Mout se sont cil dedenz tenu
Much themselves are those within held
e chierement se sont vendu,
and dearly themselves they-are sold
mais malement le compararent,
but badly it they-paid-for
quar onc d'iluec nen eschaperent:
for ever from-there not they-escaped
tuit i morurent povre e riche,
all there died poor and rich

si com l'Estoire nos afiche.
so as the-Story to-us affirms

Onc cil defors merci n'en orent,
Ever those outside mercy not-thereof had

quar de lor gent grant perte i orent:
for of their folk great loss there they-had

mout lor en aveient ocis,
many of-them thereof they-had killed

por ço lor en fu mout de pis;
for that to-them thereof was much of worse

onc nus n'en vint a raençon,
ever any not-thereof came to ransom

mout i ot grant ocision;
very there was great slaughter

tot destruistrent, tot trebuchierent
all they-destroyed all they-tumbled

e tote la terre eissillierent.
and all the land laid-waste

La contree est mise a dolor:
The country is put to grief

n'i a vilain ne vavassor
not-there is peasant nor vavasor

qui ne guerpisse son maneir;
who not may-abandon his manor

n'en i ose uns sous remaneir.
not-thereof there dares one alone to-remain

Li coreor ne li forrier
The runners nor the foragers

n'i laissent rien a peceier;
not-there leave anything to break

n'i laissent blé, n'i laissent preie,
not-there they-leave grain not-there they-leave booty
ne chose que l'om mangier deie.
nor thing that one to-eat ought
Cil del païs sont en esfrei,
Those of-the country are in alarm
grant paor a chascuns de sei:
great fear has each for himself
ne sevent lor guarissement
not they-know their safety
ne mais a Troie solement.
nor more-than at Troy only
La s'en fuient e la s'en vont;
There themselves-thence they-flee and there themselves-thence they-go
la, s'il pueent, se defendront;
there if-they can themselves they-will-defend
la reseront il bien requis
there they-will-be-again they well attacked
e de durable siege asis.
and with lasting siege set-upon
Quant conquis furent li chastel,
When conquered were the castles
Tenedon et Lauriëntel, —
Tenedos and Lauriëntel
assez en a l'om aveir trait,
enough thereof has one wealth drawn
trop par i ot grant guaaing fait, —
too greatly there had great gain made

Agamennon a fait joster
Agamemnon has made gather
tot quant que il en pot trover,
all as-much as he thereof could find
puis le departi en comun:
then it he-divided in common
sa dreite part done a chascun.
his right part he-gives to each
Après, ne tarja pas grantment,
After not delayed at-all greatly
josterent Greu un parlement:
joined Greeks a parley
li rei, li prince e li baron
the kings the princes and the barons
i furent tuit mandé par non.
there were all summoned by name
Agamennon parla premiers,
Agamemnon spoke first
qui mout fu sages chevaliers
who very was wise knight
e de grant sen e engeignos
and of great sense and skillful
e de l'afaire curios:
and of the-affair careful
«Seignor», fait il, «mostrer vos vueil
Lords says he to-show you I-wish
«que mout deit om haïr orgueil:
that much ought one to-hate pride
«N'i vei nul home guaaignier,
Not-there I-see any man gain

«par orgueil sort maint encombrier.
by pride arises many-a trouble
«Qui par orgueil vueut s'uevre faire
Who by pride wishes his-work to-do
«a peine en puet a bon chief traire:
with pain thence can to good end draw
«Se l'om s'en loë al començail,
If one himself-thereof praises at-the beginning
«si s'en plaint om al definail;
so himself-thereof laments one at-the ending
«ne ja orgueil ne orgoillos
nor ever pride nor proud-man
«ne vueil que s'acompaint o nos.
not I-wish that himself-may-accompany with us
«Li deu n'orent onc d'orgueil cure,
The gods not-had ever of-pride care
«ainz le heent a desmesure:
rather it they-hate beyond measure
«Mainte feiz en ont pris venjance
Many-a time thereof they-have taken vengeance
«e si aperte demostrance
and so open showing
«que nus ne deit rien plus haïr
that any not ought anything more to-hate
«qu'orgueil en sei a maintenir.
than-pride in oneself to maintain
«Perte e damage e destorbier
Loss and harm and trouble
«fait orguieuz sovent comencier.
makes pride often begin

«Contre un ami o contre dous
Against a friend or against two
«que ja avra uns orgoillos
which ever will-have a proud-man
«a il cent enemis mortaus.
has he a-hundred enemies mortal
«De toz vices est li plus maus;
Of all vices it-is the most bad
«e qui mal aime e en mal creit,
and who ill loves and in ill believes
«se maus l'en vient, c'est a bon dreit.
if ill to-him-thence comes it-is by good right
«Por ço vos vueil dire e mostrer
For that to-you I-wish to-say and show
«ço dont nos covient a penser:
that of-which us behooves to think
«Estre en devons tuit curios.
To-be thereof we-ought all careful
«Nostre enemi sont près de nos;
Our enemies are near to us
«entré somes dedenz lor terre,
entered we-are within their land
«par force les volons conquerre;
by force them we-wish to-conquer
«tant en avons ja comencié,
so-much thereof we-have already begun
«dont il sont mout vers nos irié.
whereof they are very toward us angered
«Volentiers en prendront venjance,
Gladly thereof they-will-take vengeance

«s'il en pueent aveir poissance;
if-they thereof can have power
«en lor cité se defendront
in their city themselves they-will-defend
«de nos tant come il plus porront.
from us as-much as they most will-be-able
«Ele est mout fort estrangement,
It is very strong strangely
«s'i a mout chevaliers e gent:
so-there has very-many knights and folk
«Venu i sont de plusors lieus,
Come there they-are from many places
«chalongier nos cuident lor fieus.
to-dispute us they-think their fiefs
«Grant avantage a, ço m'est vis,
Great advantage he-has that to-me-is opinion
«qui se defent en son païs;
who himself defends in his country
«doble force a, se il rien vaut,
double force he-has if he anything is-worth
«envers celui qui lui asaut.
toward him who him assails
«Une buisnache feible assez,
A hut weak enough
«ou n'a granz murs ne granz fossez,
where not-is great walls nor great ditches
«se defent tant, ainz que seit prise,
itself defends so-long before that may-be taken
«qu'a peine est tel hore conquise.
that-with pain is such hour conquered

«Ne por ço ne parol jo mie
Nor for that not speak I at-all
«que jo ja pens ne que ja die
that I ever may-think nor that ever may-say
«qu'al loinz se defendent de nos.
that-in-the long themselves they-defend from us
«De ço ne sui jo pas dotos:
Of that not am I at-all doubtful
«Mais une chose poons faire,
But one thing we-can do
«ensi come il m'est a viaire.
thus as it to-me-is at opinion
«Sens e mesure, icest pareil,
Sense and measure this pair
«deivent estre nostre conseil:
ought to-be our counsel
«Granz laiz sereit, se faision
Great insult it-would-be if we-did
«chose ou n'eüst sen ne reison.
thing where not-there-might-be sense nor reason
«Del mont, qui si est granz e lez,
Of-the world which so is great and broad
«avons les plus sages jostez:
we-have the most wise joined
«Sages deit estre e buens e dreiz
Wise ought to-be and good and right
«toz li conseiz que ja prendreiz.
all the counsel that ever you-will-take
«Ço est mout bien chose seüe,
That is very well thing known

«coment iceste uevre est meüe,
how this work is moved
«li quel ont dreit e li quel tort,
the which have right and the which wrong
«maint bon chevalier en sont mort.
many-a good knight thereof are dead
«Laomedon le començа,
Laomedon it began
«qui laidement le compara:
who uglily it paid-for
«Mout en fu prise aspre venjance,
Very thereof was taken harsh vengeance
«ancore en ont li heir pesance.
still thereof have the heirs sorrow
«Prianz nos fist l'autr'ier requerre
Priam us made the-other-day ask
«en fine pais, senz nule guerre,
in pure peace without any war
«que li rendissons sa soror,
that to-him we-should-render his sister
«que tenue avions maint jor.
whom held we-had many-a day
«Ne l'en vousimes rendre mie:
Not to-him-thence we-wished to-render at-all
«Ço fu orguieuz e grant folie.
That was pride and great folly
«Tant par lor estions mesfait,
So greatly to-them we-were having-wronged
«voleir en deüssons le plait:
to-wish thereof we-ought the agreement

«Ne set mie qui rien ne crient
Not knows at-all who anything not fears
«come en poi d'ore maus li vient.
how in little of-hour ill to-him comes
«Se fust Esiona rendue,
If were Hesione rendered
«Heleine ne fust pas tolue:
Helen not would-be at-all taken-away
«Ja jor Paris nel se pensast
Ever day Paris not-it himself would-have-thought
«ne nostre terre ne robast.
nor our land not would-have-robbed
«Honte i avons, e il greignor;
Shame there we-have and he greater
«s'avons perdu, e il des lor;
so-we-have lost and he of-the theirs
«s'avons damages, e il dueus;
so-we-have harm and he griefs
«de nos se plaignent, e nos d'eus;
of us themselves they-complain and we of-them
«tort ont eü, e nos greignor:
wrong they-have had and we greater
«De ço se plaignent tuit li lor.
Of that themselves complain all the theirs
«Faisons en tant, jol lo e vueil,
Let-us-do thereof so-much I-it advise and wish
«que l'om nel nos tienge a orgueil
that one not-it to-us may-hold as pride
«e que nostre n'en seit li torz:
and that ours not-thereof may-be the wrong

«Quant les avrons destruiz e morz,
When them we-shall-have destroyed and dead
«toz nostre pris en iert doblez,
all our worth thereof will-be doubled
«quant nostre torz n'i iert trovez;
when our wrong not-there will-be found
«mout nos sera bien eschaeit,
very to-us will-be well fallen
«quant nos avrons victoire e dreit.
when we shall-have victory and right
«Cui l'om fait tort e il s'en venge,
To-whom one does wrong and he himself-thereof avenges
«içe li est doble loënge;
this to-him is double praise
«mais qui tort fait e honte e lait
but who wrong does and shame and insult
«senz ço que l'om l'ait a lui fait,
without that that one it-may-have to him done
«s'il l'en meschiet, ja n'en iert plainz,
if-be to-him-thence fares-ill ever not-thereof will-be pitied
«anceis en fait esjoïr mainz.
rather thereof makes rejoice many
«Mandons Priant par noz messages,
Let-us-send-to Priam by our messengers
«par teus qui seient proz e sages,
by such who may-be valiant and wise
«que Heleine rendre nos face,
that Helen render to-us he-may-make
«o une chose de fi sace,
or one thing for sure may-know

«s'il ne nos fait dreit del mesfait
if-be not to-us does right for-the misdeed
«que Paris a en Grece fait,
which Paris has in Greece done
«donc avra tort, nos avrons dreit:
then he-will-have wrong we shall-have right
«Ne puet estre destruiz ne seit;
Not it-can be destroyed not he-may-be
«ja mais a nos ne la guarront.
ever more from us not her they-will-keep
«S'il la rendent e dreit nos font,
If-they her render and right to-us do
«qu'irions nos plus demandant?
why-would-go we more asking
«Buen torner s'en fereit a tant.
Good to-turn ourselves-thence it-would-make at so-much
«Jo voudreie qu'a nostre honor
I would-wish that-with our honor
«nos fussons ja mis el retor.
we were already put in-the return
«A ma parole n'a mes diz
In my word not-there-is ill sayings
«ne cuidez que seie guenchiz;
not think that I-may-be swerved
«quar, ço sacheiz, tant en ferai,
for that know so-much thereof I-shall-do
«ço cuit, ja blasmez n'en serai.»
that I-think ever blamed not-thereof I-shall-be

The Embassy to Priam

XXVII

Ulysses and Diomedes are chosen as envoys. Splendidly dressed, they ride to Troy, past a golden pine before the hall, and Ulysses demands Helen and amends from Priam without greeting him. Priam refuses: the Greeks killed his father, carried off his sister, and now ravage his land, and he will never have peace with them. Diomedes threatens him, and two hundred knights spring up to kill him until Priam stops them. Aeneas and Diomedes trade insults, and the envoys return and report everything to the Greeks.

En plusors sens i respondirent
In many senses there answered
cil qui ceste parole oïrent.
those who this speech heard
Li un loënt bien l'enveier,
The some advise well the-sending
l'autre nel voustrent otreier.
the-others not-it wished to-grant
Li un diënt mout a bien dit,
The some say very he-has well said
e de plusors fu contredit.
and by many it-was gainsaid
Que vos en fereie lonc plait?
What to-you thereof would-I-make long plea
Otreié ont qu'ensi seit fait.
Granted they-have that-thus it-be done
Li messages fu enchargiez
The message was charged
a dous chevaliers mout preisiez:
to two knights very prized

li uns ot non Diomedès,
the one had name Diomedes
e li autre fu Ulixès.
and the other was Ulysses
Por cest afaire bien fornir,
For this affair well to-furnish
n'i poüssent meillors choisir.
not-there they-could better choose
N'i ot rien plus del porloignier:
Not-there was anything more of-the delaying
cil s'alerent apareillier.
they themselves-went to-make-ready
Mout se vestirent richement,
Very themselves they-dressed richly
quar, se li Livres ne me ment,
for if the Book not to-me lies
de dras de seie de colors
in cloths of silk of colors
ovrez a bestes e a flors,
worked with beasts and with flowers
d'or e de pieres estelez,
with-gold and with stones starred
furent vestuz e afublez
they-were clothed and wrapped
ensi tres bel e si tres bien
thus very fair and so very well
qu'il lor avint sor tote rien.
that-it to-them became above all thing

En lor chiés orent dous chapeaus
On their heads they-had two hats
faiz de la plume d'uns oiseaus
made of the feather of-some birds
qui conversent, ço dit l'Autor,
which dwell that says the-Author
en Inde la Superior.
in India the Upper
Soëf uelent, ços sai retraire,
Sweetly they-smell that-you I-can recount
e si n'est color que n'i paire:
and so not-is color which not-there may-appear
ceus portent por le chaut d'esté.
these they-bear for the heat of-summer
D'or furent bien esporoné.
With-gold they-were well spurred
Palefreiz orent genz e beaus,
Palfreys they-had noble and fair
soëf amblanz, forz e isneaus;
smoothly ambling strong and swift
merveilles erent bien taillié
marvelously they-were well cut
e de l'eirre bien aaisié.
and of the-pace well easy
Ne neif ne cignes n'est si blans
Nor snow nor swan not-is so white
come il aveient toz les flans;
as they had all the flanks

ferranz e bais e pomelez
iron-gray and bay and dappled
orent cous, cropes e costez.
they-had necks cruppers and sides
Enselé furent gentement
Saddled they-were handsomely
e enfrené si richement
and bridled so richly
que por mil besanz moneez
that for a-thousand bezants coined
ne fust li lorains achatez.
not would-be the harness bought
Cil monterent delivrement.
They mounted readily
Dous vaslez meinent solement:
Two squires they-lead only
ne voleient armes porter,
not they-wished arms to-bear
quar teus poüssent encontrer
for such they-could meet
qui ja a reison nes meïssent,
who ever to reason not-them would-put
d'eus ocire ne se feinsissent.
of-them to-kill not themselves would-hold-back
Mais qui quis truisse ne qui non,
But who whoever-them may-find nor who not
ne lor dira rien se bien non.
not to-them he-will-say anything if well not

Dreit a Troie tote l'estree
Straight to Troy all the-road
chevauchierent la matinee.
they-rode the morning
N'ont nul reguart de destorbier:
Not-they-have any regard of hindrance
rien ne dotoënt messagier.
anything not they-feared messengers
Ainz que midis fust trespassé,
Before that midday were passed
furent venu a la cité.
they-were come to the city
Par mi les rues chevauchierent,
Through the-midst the streets they-rode
tant com plus porent espleitierent;
as-much as more they-could they-pressed-on
de maint furent le jor miré
by many-a they-were the day gazed-at
e de maint furent esguardé.
and by many-a they-were looked-at
Devant la sale aveit un pin
Before the hall there-was a pine
dont les branches furent d'or fin
of-which the branches were of-gold fine
tresgetees par artimaire,
cast by magic-art
par nigromance e par gramaire.
by necromancy and by grammar
Li pins fu faiz de tel semblance:
The pine was made of such semblance

poi esteit plus gros d'une lance,
little it-was more thick than-a lance
mais desus fu espés ramuz
but above it-was thick branching
e par mi la place estenduz.
and through the-midst the place spread
Por ço qu'ensi grailes esteit
For that that-thus slender it-was
e par desus tel fais aveit,
and by above such burden had
se sont li dui rei merveillié
themselves are the two kings marveled
com ço pot estre apareillié:
how that could be fashioned
a grant richece l'ont tenu.
for great richness it-they-have held
Des palefreiz sont descendu,
From-the palfreys they-are descended
as dous vaslez les ont laissiez.
to-the two squires them they-have left
Par mi les degrez entailliez
Through the-midst the steps carved
sont el palais dreit monté sus:
they-are into-the palace straight mounted up
mout i aveit contes e dus
many there were counts and dukes
e maint bon chevalier gentil.
and many-a good knight noble

Li reis Prianz e tuit si fil
The king Priam and all his sons
conseil preneient qu'il fereient
counsel took what-they would-do
des Greus, qui si les requereient.
of-the Greeks who so them attacked
A tant li dui message entrerent:
At so-much the two messengers entered
contre eus li plusor se leverent.
toward them the most themselves rose
Devant le rei sont aresté.
Before the king they-are stopped
Ulixès a premiers parlé:
Ulysses has first spoken
«Reis Prianz, ne te salu mie,
King Priam not thee I-greet at-all
«quar nostre gent t'est enemie:
for our folk to-thee-is enemy
«Assez i a eü de quei.
Enough there has had of what
«Nos somes ça tramis a tei:
We are hither sent to thee
«Agamennon te mande e dit
Agamemnon to-thee sends and says
«que senz lonc terme e senz respit
that without long term and without respite
«rendes Heleine son seignor,
thou-may-render Helen to-her lord

«e de la laide deshonor
and of the ugly dishonor
«que fist Paris en nostre terre
which did Paris in our land
«te font par nos li Greu requerre.
thee make by us the Greeks require
«Fai vers eus tel adrecement
Make toward them such redress
«qu'il le prengent graantement.
that-they it may-take gratefully
«Tant a en eus sen e mesure,
So-much there-is in them sense and measure
«se tu lor vueus faire dreiture,
if thou to-them wishest to-do right
«la dame rendes e l'aveir
the lady thou-may-render and the-wealth
«e faces dreit a lor voleir,
and may-do right to their will
«ço te mandent, qu'il le prendront
that to-thee they-send that-they it will-take
«e en lor terre s'en riront.
and into their land themselves-thence will-go-back
«N'avreiz ja puis de nos dotance:
Not-you-will-have ever after of us fear
«Seüre pais, ferme creance
Secure peace firm trust
«vos tendront mais d'ore en avant.
you they-will-keep henceforth from-now in forward
«N'aiez or mie sen d'enfant,
Not-have now at-all sense of-child

«quar, se vos ço ne volez faire,
for if you that not wish to-do
«tel damage ne tel contraire
such harm nor such injury
«n'avint onques come en iert fait;
not-befell ever as thereof will-be done
«jusqu'a mil anz sera retrait.
up-to a-thousand years it-will-be recounted
«Legierement puez adrecier
Lightly thou-canst redress
«ço que tant te puet damagier:
that which so-much thee can damage
«Le mal quin puet venir sor tei
The ill which-thereof can come upon thee
«puez or mieuz covrir o ton dei
thou-canst now better cover with thy finger
«que a brief terme o mil escuz.
than in short term with a-thousand shields
«Se jo de ço ne sui creüz,
If I of that not am believed
«ne t'en i vaudront mil que treis,
not to-thee-thence there will-avail a-thousand than three
«tot ton talent m'en di maneis;
all thy mind to-me-thereof say at-once
«conseille t'en e si respon,
counsel thyself-thereof and so answer
«quar a torner nos en avon.»
for to turn us thence we-have

Prianz respondi al message:
Priam answered to-the messenger
«Vassaus, ne vos tieng mie a sage,
Vassal not you I-hold at-all as wise
«se vos cuidez que me honisse,
if you think that myself I-may-shame
«mien esciënt, tant com jo puisse:
to-my knowledge as-long as I may-be-able
«Honiz me sereie jo bien,
Shamed myself would-be I well
«se de tot ço faiseie rien.
if of all that I-did anything
«S'il m'aveient en buies mis
If-they me-had in fetters put
«o en lor chartre set ans pris,
or in their prison seven years taken
«si ne me querreient il plus.
so not of-me would-ask they more
«Ne sui mie si al dejus
Not I-am at-all so at-the bottom
«por quei jo face hontos plait:
for which I may-make shameful agreement
«Ne vueil qu'a mes heirs seit retrait.
Not I-wish that-to my heirs it-be recounted
«Jo lor avreie dreit a querre:
I to-them would-have right to ask
«Primes destruistrent ceste terre;
First they-destroyed this land

«l'or e l'argent e la richeise
the-gold and the-silver and the riches
«en porterent. Mais plus me peise
thence they-carried But more me weighs
«de ço qu'il m'ocistrent mon pere:
for that that-they me-killed my father
«Ne me remest soror ne frere,
Not to-me remained sister nor brother
«ami, parent ne bien voillant.
friend kinsman nor well wisher
«Ja n'avrai joie a mon vivant
Ever not-I-shall-have joy in my living
«desci qu'en aie restor pris:
until that-thereof I-may-have restitution taken
«Jo m'en sui bien en mon dreit mis.
I myself-thereof am well in my right put
«Antenor i tramis l'autre an,
Antenor there I-sent the-other year
«qu'il rendissent Esionan:
that-they might-render Hesione
«Assez vilment me manacierent,
Enough vilely me they-threatened
«lui deboterent e chacierent.
him they-thrust-out and chased
«Ancor la tient en soignantage
Still her holds in concubinage
«cil qui l'en mena en servage.
he who her-thence led into servitude
«Ire e pesance en dei aveir:
Wrath and sorrow thereof I-ought to-have

«Ço puet il bien de fi saveir,
That can he well for sure know
«n'en sera pais n'acorde quise
not-thereof will-be peace nor-accord sought
«si en sera venjance prise.
so thereof will-be vengeance taken
«Or me ront ma terre eissilliee
Now to-me again-they-have my land laid-waste
«e ma gent morte e detrenchiee:
and my folk dead and cut-down
«Après diënt que dreit lor face!
After they-say that right to-them I-may-do
«Agamennon vueil que bien sace, —
Agamemnon I-wish that well he-may-know
«dites li bien que jo li mant, —
say to-him well that I to-him send
«tant com j'avrai non rei Priant,
as-long as I-shall-have name king Priam
«n'avra a mei triuë ne pais.
not-be-will-have with me truce nor peace
«Iceste guerre durra mais:
This war will-last henceforth
«A toz les jorz que jo vivrai,
At all the days that I shall-live
«tot mon poëir en mostrerai.
all my power thereof I-shall-show
«Ço sachent il de fi por veir,
That may-know they for sure for true

«que jo lor ferai a saveir
that I to-them shall-make to know
«quel cuer jo ai, ne queus aiuës
what heart I have nor what aids
«me sont dès un meis acreües.
to-me are from a month increased
«Près m'ont requis, mais se jo puis
Near me-they-have attacked but if I can
«ne se j'en ma terre les truis,
nor if-I in my land them find
«jo lor i cuit chalonge metre:
I to-them there think dispute to-put
«Ço vueil je voër e prametre,
That wish I to-vow and to-promise
«qu'o eus n'avrai ja concordance
that-with them not-I-shall-have ever concord
«ne ferme pais ne benestance,
nor firm peace nor good-standing
«tant come aie cent chevaliers;
as-long as I-may-have a-hundred knights
«e sos ne fusseiz messagiers,
and if-you not were messengers
«trop vos esteüst malement.
too-much you it-would-go badly
«Alez vos en hastivement,
Go you thence hastily
«quar ja, tant com jo vos verrai,
for ever as-long as I you shall-see
«hore senz ire ne serai.»
hour without wrath not I-shall-be

Diomedès prist a sozrire:
Diomedes took to smile
«Par Deu,» fait il, «ja mais senz ire
By God says he ever more without wrath
«ne sereiz donc, s'ensi vos vait.
not you-will-be then if-thus to-you it-goes
«Jusqu'a un meis orreiz tel plait,
Within a month you-will-hear such plea
«veeir en porreiz cent miliers
to-see thereof you-will-be-able a-hundred thousands
«toz adobez sor lor destriers:
all dubbed upon their chargers
«N'i a celui qui n'ait enseigne,
Not-there is that-one who not-may-have banner
«heaume e hauberc e entreseigne.
helmet and hauberk and device
«Ja si forz lices n'i avreiz
Ever so strong palisades not-there you-will-have
«qu'en poi d'ore ne guerpisseiz.
that-in little of-hour not you-may-abandon
«Es murs de marbre e es portaus
In-the walls of marble and in-the gateways
«vos avront ues pierres e paus.
you will-have need-of stones and stakes
«Tant i verreiz des voz morir
So-many there you-will-see of-the yours die
«a l'assembler e al partir,
at the-joining and at-the parting
«tant en verreiz o mortel plaie,
so-many thereof you-will-see with mortal wound

«grant cuer avreiz, s'il ne s'esmaie.
great heart you-will-have if-it not itself-dismays
«Quant ci avez de nos pesance,
Since here you-have of us sorrow
«qui n'i avons escu ne lance,
who not-there have shield nor lance
«bien la devreiz donc aveir d'eus:
well it you-ought then to-have of-them
«Longement vos durra cist dueus.»
Long to-you will-last this grief
Grant tomoute sorst el palais
Great tumult arose in-the palace
de ço qu'ot dit Diomedès.
at that which-had said Diomedes
Dui cent en saillirent en piez:
Two hundred thereof leapt to feet
ja fust toz morz e detrenchiez,
already he-would-be all dead and cut-down
quant li reis se mist entredous,
when the king himself put between-two
qui a grant peine l'a rescos.
who with great pain him-has rescued
«Tolez,» fait il, «nel faites mie.
Stop says he not-it do at-all
«Se li musarz dist sa folie,
If the fool says his folly
«ne devons mie nostre sen
not we-ought at-all our sense
«ici metre contre le suen:
here to-put against the his

«Conoistre puet om a ses diz
Know can one by his sayings
«qu'il n'est mie de sen guarniz.
that-he not-is at-all with sense furnished
«N'en ma cort n'a reguart messages,
Nor-in my court not-has fear messengers
«queus que il seit, o fous o sages:
whatever that he may-be or fool or wise
«Ja n'en avrai jor retraçon.
Ever not-thereof I-shall-have day reproach
«Por assez poi se honist om:
For enough little himself shames one
«Por mil mars d'or ne vueil jo mie
For a-thousand marks of-gold not wish I at-all
«qu'uns d'eus i ait perdu la vie.»
that-one of-them there may-have lost the life
Eneas sist delez le rei:
Aeneas sat beside the king
«Sire», fait il, «en meie fei,
Lord says he in my faith
«en toz lieus est dreit jugement:
in all places is right judgment
««Qui dit que fous e que fous prent.»
Who says what-a fool and what-a fool takes
«E s'il vuelent dire que fous,
And if-they wish to-say what-a fool
«bien lor debate l'om les cous:
well to-them may-beat-back one the blows
«La folie sor eus reverte,
The folly upon them may-turn-back

«sin aient mout bien lor deserte.
so-thereof let-them-have very well their desert
«Jo porreie ja ci tant dire
I could already here so-much say
«que vos me feriëz ocire
that you me would-make kill
«o pendre o en un feu ardeir.
or hang or in a fire burn
«Jo cuit or bien, al mien espeir,
I think now well to-the my hope
«que malement lor avendreit
that badly to-them it-would-befall
«se por vos non, e a bon dreit,
if for you not and with good right
«qui ci vos vienent ramponer:
who here to-you come to-mock
«N'est mie biens de l'escouter.
Not-is at-all good of the-listening
«Tiengent lor veie, jol lo bien,
Let-them-keep their way I-it advise well
«quar ci ne guaaigneront rien.»
for here not they-will-gain anything
Diomedès li respondi:
Diomedes to-him answered
«Sire,» fait il, «vostre merci.
Lord says he your thanks
«Conter savez e mieuz jugier:
To-tell you-know and better to-judge
«Ci nos porreiz aveir mestier.
Here us you-could have need

«Bien entendons a vostre conte
Well we-understand by your tale
«que, qui nos voudreit faire honte,
that who us would-wish to-do shame
«de neient nos en pesereit:
of nothing to-us thereof it-would-weigh
«Or sacheiz bien, coment qu'il seit,
Now know well how that-it may-be
«ne vos mesconostrai mais mie.
not you I-shall-misknow ever at-all
«Onques de rien n'oi tel envie
Ever of anything not-I-had such desire
«com j'avreie de vos trover
as I-would-have of you to-find
«ou vos poüsse merciër
where you I-might thank
«de tant bel dit e de tant bon.
for so-much fair saying and for so-much good
«Mout avez trait vilain sermon,
Very you-have drawn base speech
«e en maint lieu sera retrait:
and in many-a place it-will-be recounted
«Mais s'eissir osiëz al plait
But if-to-come-out you-dared to-the plea
«ou tant avra escuz e lances,
where so-many there-will-be shields and lances
«chevaus, haubers e conoissances
horses hauberks and devices
«e chevaliers de tante terre,
and knights of so-many land

«se lors voliëz pris conquerre,
if then you-wished worth to-win
«sacheiz grant l'avriëz conquis,
know great it-you-would-have won
«se me rendiëz mort o pris.
if to-me you-rendered dead or taken
«La me cuit acointier a vos:
There myself I-think to-acquaint with you
«Se n'en avez l'eaume terros,
If not-thereof you-have the-helmet earthy
«ja puis armes ne porterai
ever after arms not I-shall-bear
«n'en grant estor ne me verrai.
nor-in great fight not myself I-shall-see
«Ha! quel vassal e quel baron!
Ah what vassal and what baron
«Quin avreit treis en sa maison
Who-thereof would-have three in his house
«tant par se porreit faire liez:
so greatly himself could make glad
«Ja ne sereit desconseilliez
Ever not he-would-be at-a-loss
«de faire tost un hontos plait.»
for making soon a shameful agreement
Fait Ulixès: «Dès ore est lait;
Says Ulysses From now it-is ugly
«vilanie est: remaigne a tant.
villainy it-is let-it-remain at so-much
«Sire,» fait il al rei Priant,
Lord says he to-the king Priam

«vostre respons ai bien oï,
your answer I-have well heard
«ne l'ai de rien mis en obli:
not it-I-have in anything put into forgetting
«Bien le savrai as noz retraire.
Well it I-shall-know to-the ours to-recount
«Dès or nos metrons el repaire.»
From now us we-shall-put on-the return
Mout engrossoënt les paroles:
Much grew-heavy the words
sempres en i eüst de foles,
at-once thereof there would-have-had of foolish
quant Ulixès s'en est partiz.
when Ulysses himself-thence is departed
Jus avalent les ars voutiz;
Down they-descend the arches vaulted
en lor palefreiz sont monté,
on their palfreys they-are mounted
puis chevauchent par la cité.
then they-ride through the city
Totes les rues trespasserent,
All the streets they-passed
mainte richece i esguarderent,
many-a riches there they-looked-at
maint riche ostel e maint vassal,
many-a rich lodging and many-a vassal
maint chevalier e maint cheval,
many-a knight and many-a horse
maint bon borgeis, maint marcheant,
many-a good burgess many-a merchant

maint orgoillos e maint preisant.
many-a proud-man and many-a worthy-man
Quant fors furent, si espleitierent,
When outside they-were so they-pressed-on
lor ambleüres engrossierent.
their ambling-paces they-quickened
Tant ont erré e chevauchié
So-much they-have journeyed and ridden
qu'en l'ost des Greus sont repairié.
that-into the-host of-the Greeks they-are returned
Al tref Agamennon alerent:
To-the tent (of-)Agamemnon they-went
onc ainz lor resnes ne tirerent;
ever before their reins not they-drew
des palefreiz sont descendu.
from-the palfreys they-are descended
La sont tuit li prince venu,
There are all the princes come
li rei, li conte o les barons,
the kings the counts with the barons
quar oïr vuelent le respons.
for to-hear they-wish the answer
Li message lor ont retrait
The messengers to-them have recounted
ensi come il l'aveient fait,
thus as they it-had done
tot lor venir, tot lor aler,
all their coming all their going
les respons d'eus e le parler:
the answers of-them and the speaking

n'i ot parole en la cort dite
not-there was word in the court said
une sole grant ne petite
a single great nor small
qu'il ne lor aient reconté.
that-they not to-them may-have recounted
Après sont as osteus alé,
After they-are to-the lodgings gone
e si donc fu prez li mangiers:
and so then was ready the meal
il s'i asistrent volentiers.
they themselves-there sat willingly

Achilles in Mysia

XXVIII

Achilles and Telephus, son of Hercules, go into Mysia for provisions. Achilles wounds King Teuthras mortally, but Telephus shields him, since Teuthras once lodged him. The dying king makes Telephus his heir, because Hercules once restored his kingdom; Telephus buries him and stays to supply the army. Within the week Achilles is back, the host enriched, and the princes come to his tent to thank him.

Agamennon e li baron
Agamemnon and the barons
furent dedenz son paveillon,
were within his pavilion
ou assez ot or Espaneis
where enough there-was gold Spanish
e bons pailes riches e freis.
and good silks rich and fresh

En plusors sens ont pris conseiz,
In many senses they-have taken counsels
mais tairai m'en a ceste feiz:
but I-shall-keep-silent myself-thereof at this time
n'est mie lieus de tot retraire,
not-is at-all place for all to-recount
e j'ai avant assez a faire.
and I-have ahead enough to do
Mais ci porreiz oïr après
But here you-will-be-able to-hear after
com faitement danz Achillès
how fashioned lord Achilles
ala en Mese porchacier
went into Mysia to-procure
de quei l'ost eüst a mangier.
of what the-host might-have to eat
La l'orent li prince tramis:
There him-had the princes sent
il ne s'en fist de rien eschis.
he not himself-thereof made in anything shy
O lui ala dus Telephus
With him went duke Telephus
e chevalier dis mile e plus.
and knights ten thousand and more
Ço dit e reconte Darès,
That says and recounts Dares
Telephus fu fiz Herculès.
Telephus was son (of-)Hercules
En Mese alerent, ço vos dis,
Into Mysia they-went that to-you I-say

ou mout aveit riche païs
where very there-was rich country
e plenteïf e asazé,
and abounding and well-stocked
de bataille tot conreé.
for battle all equipped
Il le troverent dur e fort,
They it found hard and strong
mainz chevaliers i reçut mort,
many knights there received death
quar Teütrans, quin esteit reis,
for Teuthras who-thereof was king
se combati o les Grezeis:
himself fought with the Greeks
defendre lor voleit sa terre.
to-defend from-them he-wished his land
Nes ala mie trop loing querre,
Not-them he-went at-all too far to-seek
mais o la gent qu'il pot joster
but with the folk that-he could join
s'ala sempres o eus mesler.
himself-went at-once with them to-mingle
De maintenant s'entreferirent,
From now they-struck-each-other
mainte colee i departirent:
many-a blow there they-dealt
ne s'entrespargnierent de rien.
not themselves-spared-each-other in anything
Cil de Mese le firent bien,
Those of Mysia it did well

lor cors e lor païs defendent:
their bodies and their country they-defend
ço sacheiz bien que chier se vendent;
that know well that dear themselves they-sell
e se ne fust une aventure
and if not were a fortune
que trop lor avint pesme e dure,
which too-much to-them befell worst and hard
Greu fussent desconfit le jor.
Greeks would-be discomfited the day
Mais Achillès en mi l'estor
But Achilles in the-midst the-fight
conut le rei: ferir le vait,
knew the king to-strike him he-goes
si que mortel plaie li fait:
so that mortal wound to-him he-makes
a denz chaï en mi la place.
on teeth he-fell in the-midst the place
L'eaume de son chief li deslace:
The-helmet from his head from-him he-unlaces
sempres eüst le chief trenchié,
at-once he-would-have the head cut
mais Telephus li a preié
but Telephus him has begged
que il eüst de lui merci;
that he might-have on him mercy
de son escu bien le covri.
with his shield well him he-covered
Achillès demande por quei:
Achilles asks for what

«Bien a,» fait il, «dis anz, ço crei,
Well it-has says he ten years that I-believe
«qu'en cest païs me herberja,
that-in this country me he-lodged
«e merveilles m'i honora;
and marvelously me-there he-honored
«mout se pena de mei servir,
much himself he-pained of me to-serve
«por ço nel puis veeir morir.»
for that not-him I-can see die
Achillès mout joiosement
Achilles very joyfully
li dit qu'en face son talent.
to-him says that-thereof he-may-do his desire
Cil de Mese furent vencu,
Those of Mysia were vanquished
qui lor seignor orent perdu:
who their lord had lost
onc puis ne pristrent d'eus retor,
ever after not they-took of-them turning
ne plus ne maintindrent l'estor.
nor more not they-maintained the-fight
Li Greu cerchierent le païs:
The Greeks searched the country
assez i ot robé e pris;
enough there was robbed and taken

onques ne fu tel manantie
ever not was such wealth
ne si faite preie acoillie
nor so made booty gathered
come chascuns en meine e prent.
as each thence leads and takes
Li reis fu navrez mortelment;
The king was wounded mortally
sot qu'a morir l'en estoveit
he-knew that-to die him-thence it-behooved
ne par el passer n'en poëit:
nor by other-means to-pass not-thereof he-could
de Telephus voust son heir faire,
of Telephus he-wished his heir to-make
quar mout sot bien dire e retraire
for very he-knew well to-say and to-recount
que sis pere li ot rendue
that his father to-him had rendered
sa terre, qu'il aveit perdue:
his land which-he had lost
«Uns reis,» fait il, «me guerreiot,
A king says he me warred-on
«qui desheriter me cuidot.
who to-disinherit me thought
«Mais Herculès me vint aidier
But Hercules to-me came to-help
«la ou j'en oi greignor mestier;
there where I-thereof had greater need

«le rei ocist e detrencha
the king he-killed and cut-down
«e ma terre me delivra,
and my land to-me delivered
«tote la me rendi en pais.
all it to-me he-rendered in peace
«Por ço la te guerpis e lais,
For that it to-thee I-abandon and leave
«mon heir te faz, rei e seignor
my heir thee I-make king and lord
«e de la terre e de l'onor:
both of the land and of the-domain
«Mener en porras grant richeise.
To-lead thence thou-wilt-be-able great riches
«De ma mort vei que il te peise:
Of my death I-see that it thee weighs
«Grant gré t'en sai. Sevelis mei
Great gratitude to-thee-thereof I-know Bury me
«ensi com l'om deit faire rei;
thus as one ought to-do king
«fai mei faire ma sepouture
make me make my sepulcher
«e mon service e ma dreiture.
and my service and my due
«Guarde la terre, aime la gent:
Guard the land love the folk
«Ne lor faire destruiement.
Not to-them do destruction
«De bon pere seies bons fiz.»
Of good father be good son

A cez paroles est feniz.
At these words he-is ended
Sevelir le fait Telephus
Bury him makes Telephus
si richement come il pot plus:
so richly as he could most
en un sarcueil l'ont embasmé
in a coffin him-they-have embalmed
de vert marbre menu goté.
of green marble finely speckled
Quant sis osseques fu feniz,
When his obsequies was ended
de la tombe sont toz partiz.
from the tomb they-are all departed
Ses homages a puis toz pris
His homages he-has after all taken
des nobles homes del païs;
from-the noble men of-the country
les fortereces fist guarnir,
the fortresses he-made furnish
tot le regne ot a son plaisir.
all the realm he-had at his pleasure
Quant ço fu fait, sempres après,
When that was done at-once after
se mist el repaire Achillès.
himself put on-the return Achilles
Telephus li fait grant preiere
Telephus to-him makes great prayer
qu'en l'ost l'en laist torner ariere:
that-into the-host him-thence he-may-let turn back

«Ço vueut faire que cil feront
That he-wishes to-do which those will-do
qui al grant siege a Troie iront,
who to-the great siege at Troy will-go
e si sera as granz torneiz
and so he-will-be at-the great tourneys
qu'il lor tendront par plusors feiz.»
which-they to-them will-hold by many times
Mais Achillès li dit e prie
But Achilles to-him says and begs
que il d'içe ne parout mie:
that he of-this not may-speak at-all
«Vos remandreiz, que bosoinz est.
You will-remain for need is
«De nos socorre seiez prest:
To us help be ready
«Faire nos poëz grant aiuë.
To-make to-us you-can great aid
«Guardez que l'ost seit socorue
Guard that the-host may-be helped
«de vin, de blé, d'uile, de char;
with wine with grain with-oil with meat
«si nel tenez mie a eschar
so not-it hold at-all as mockery
«ne en obli, quar mal sereit
nor in forgetting for ill it-would-be
«e laiz blasmes vos en vendreit.»
and ugly blame to-you thereof would-come
Remés est cil a quel que peine.
Remained is he at what that pain

Ainz que trespassast la semaine,
Before that might-pass the week
fu Achillès en l'ost ariere.
was Achilles in the-host back
Mout li ont fait joiose chiere,
Very to-him they-have made joyful face
quar mout a l'ost enmanantie
for much has the-host enriched
e de vitaille replenie.
and with victuals refilled
Agamennon e Menelaus,
Agamemnon and Menelaus
Nestor li vieuz e Aïaus,
Nestor the old and Ajax
e des autres trei cent e plus,
and of-the others three hundred and more
reis e contes, princes e dus,
kings and counts princes and dukes
sont dreit a la tente venu
are straight to the tent come
ou Achillès ert descendu.
where Achilles was dismounted
Chascuns d'eus l'est alez baisier:
Each of-them him-is gone to-kiss
grant joie en font, quar mout l'ont chier.
great joy thereof they-make for much him-they-have dear
Conté lor a com faitement
Told to-them he-has how fashioned
se combati e o quel gent,
himself he-fought and with what folk

com li reis fu morz e conquis,
how the king was dead and conquered
e Telephus ot le païs
and Telephus had the country
e tot le regne quitement,
and all the realm freely
reis en est riches poissantment:
king thereof he-is rich powerfully
«Del blé, del vivre del païs
Of-the grain of-the food of-the country
«nos socorra, ço m'a pramis.»
us he-will-help that me-he-has promised
Tuit ensemble l'ont merciié,
All together him-they-have thanked
diënt mout a bien espleitié
they-say very he-has well succeeded
e bele chevauchiee faite:
and fair raid made
quant a Troie sera retraite,
when at Troy it-will-be recounted
pesera lor, si deit il faire.
it-will-weigh-on them so ought it to-do

Priam's Allies

XXIX

Before going further the poet names Priam's allies: Pandarus with old Ampon and Adrastus, Glaucus and his son Sarpedon from Lycia, Euphemes of Lycaonia, Remus of Cisonia with his liveried knights, Pileus and Acamas from Thrace, Paeonian archers, princes of Phrygia and Boeotia, Boetes and Epistrophus who never ate bread, Philemenis of Paphlagonia, nearly a giant, who marched ten months to come, and Xerxes and Memnon of Ethiopia with poisoned arrows. Rhesus, Fion and Edras, and Pistropleus with a Sagittary come too. Thirty-three kings and dukes defend Troy under Hector.

Ici me covient a retraire, —
Here me behooves to recount
anceis que jo trespas avant,
before that I may-pass ahead
dreiz est e biens que jol recant, —
right it-is and good that I-it recount
queus aïdes ot Priamus,
what aids had Priam
queus reis, queus princes e queus dus
what kings what princes and what dukes
e queus contes e queus barons:
and what counts and what barons
oïr porreiz d'auquanz les nons
to-hear you-will-be-able of-some the names
qui la riche cité guarnirent
who the rich city garrisoned
e qui lonc tens se defendirent.
and who long time themselves defended

De Sezile i vint Pandarus,
From Sicily there came Pandarus
Ampon li vieuz e Adrastus.
Ampon the old and Adrastus
Gent amenerent merveillose
Folk they-brought marvelous
e hardie e chevalerose:
and bold and knightly
de riches armes bien armé,
with rich arms well armed
icist defendront la cité
these will-defend the city
encontre ceus qui l'ont asise,
against those who it-have besieged
qu'el ne seit arse ne maumise.
that-it not may-be burned nor misused
De Colophon, une contree
From Colophon a country
que de mer est avironee,
which by sea is surrounded
i vint Caras e Masius,
there came Caras and Masius
Nesteus li forz e Phimacus.
Nesteus the strong and Phimacus
Icist erent tuit quatre rei,
These were all four kings

e chascuns amena o sei
and each brought with himself
gent merveillose e bien armee
folk marvelous and well armed
e por bataille conreee:
and for battle equipped
cist defendront l'onor Priant,
these will-defend the-domain (of-)Priam
e por lui trairont maint ahant.
and for him will-draw many-a toil
De Lice i vint li vieuz Glaucon
From Lycia there came the old Glaucus
e sis fiz o lui Sarpedon.
and his son with him Sarpedon
Cist dui i ont gent amenee,
These two there have folk brought
trei mile e plus de lor contree:
three thousand and more from their country
por ço i vindrent o tel gent
for that there they-came with such folk
qu'al rei de Troie erent parent.
that-to-the king of Troy they-were kin
Icist ferront de granz colees
These will-strike with great blows
e soferront les granz meslees,
and will-suffer the great melees
ainz que Greu aient Troie prise
before that Greeks may-have Troy taken
ne par force la gent conquise.
nor by force the folk conquered

E de Licoine, que tant vaut,
And from Lycaonia which so-much is-worth
vint Eüfemes l'amiraut.
came Euphemes the-emir
Mil chevaliers proz e hardiz,
A-thousand knights valiant and bold
de totes armes bien guarniz,
with all arms well furnished
i amena en son conrei:
there he-brought in his troop
icist maintendront le tornei;
these will-maintain the tourney
cist feront mainte riche eissue,
these will-make many-a rich sally
ainz que la vile seit rendue.
before that the town may-be rendered
Hupoz li granz e Cupesus,
Hupoz the big and Cupesus
qui de Larise esteient dus,
who of Larissa were dukes
n'i vindrent mie povrement.
not-there came at-all poorly
Cil d'eus qui meins amena gent
That-one of-them who least brought folk
en pot aveir set cenz de taus
thereof could have seven hundreds of such
qui proz esteient e vassaus
who valiant were and vassals
e desirant d'armes porter:
and desiring arms to-bear

mout voudront cist ainz endurer
much will-wish these rather to-endure
granz sofraites e granz mautraiz
great wants and great ill-treatments
que ja Greu aient Troie en paiz.
than ever Greeks may-have Troy in peace
Li reis Remus de Cisonie
The king Remus of Cisonia
i vint o gente compaignie.
there came with noble company
Set contes ot e quatre dus
Seven counts he-had and four dukes
e chevaliers set mile e plus:
and knights seven thousand and more
si lige home erent natural;
his liege men they-were native
n'i ot un sol n'eüst cheval,
not-there was a sole not-might-have-had horse
o dous o treis o quatre o sis,
or two or three or four or six
toz milsoudors e toz de pris.
all thousand-shilling-men and all of worth
Armes ont fresches e noveles,
Arms they-have fresh and new
heaumes, haubers, escuz e seles
helmets hauberks shields and saddles
totes d'un teint, d'une color,
all of-one tint of-one color
qu'ensi plaiseit a lor seignor,
for-thus it-pleased to their lord

por ço qu'il s'entreconeüssent
for that that-they might-know-each-other
es granz batailles ou il fussent,
in-the great battles where they might-be
e que il fust dit e retrait,
and that it might-be said and recounted
saveir come il l'avreient fait.
to-know how they it-would-have done
Cist briseront ainz mainte lance
These will-break before many-a lance
e feront mainte desevrance
and will-make many-a parting
d'ames de cors, que la cité
of-souls from bodies than the city
seit ja prise par poësté.
may-be ever taken by power
De Trace, une terre pleniere,
From Thrace a land abundant
ou la gent est hardie e fiere
where the folk is bold and fierce
e aduree e combatant
and hardened and fighting
plus qu'autre gent que seit vivant,
more than-other folk which may-be living
i vint Pileus e Acamus:
there came Pileus and Acamas
li uns ert reis, li autre dus;
the one was king the other duke

si vos di bien qu'en ambedous
so to-you I-say well that-in both
aveit chevaliers merveillos.
there-was knights marvelous
Dou mile e cent vassaus Traceis
Two thousand and hundred vassals Thracian
amenerent contre Grezeis:
they-brought against Greeks
mout en soferront ainz grant peine
much thereof will-suffer before great pain
que la cité seit lor demeine,
than the city may-be their own
e de granz batailles champaus
and of great battles in-the-field
e forz estors durs e mortaus.
and strong fights hard and mortal
E de Peoine, une contree
And from Paeonia a country
ou mainte merveille a trovee, —
where many-a marvel has-one found
quar es forez e es montaignes,
for in-the forests and in-the mountains
dont mout i a plus que des plaignes,
of-which very there has more than of-the plains
veit l'om folez e satireaus,
sees one fauns and satyrs
bestes sauvages e oiseaus
beasts wild and birds
de mil manieres e de plus, —
of a-thousand manners and of more

li reis quin ert Pretemesus
the king who-thereof was Pyraechmes
e Steropeus, uns suens cosins, —
and Steropeus a his cousin
andui erent jovnes meschins,
both were young youths
genz, beaus e proz e enseigniez
noble fair and valiant and well-taught
e en toz lieus bien afaitiez, —
and in all places well mannered
mil chevaliers i amenerent
a-thousand knights there brought
qui onques lances n'i porterent,
who ever lances not-there bore
mais darz trenchanz de fin acier
but darts cutting of fine steel
e granz ascones por lancier,
and great javelins for hurling
forz ars Turqueis: gent desarmee
strong bows Turkish folk unarmed
ne puet aveir a cez duree.
not can have against these lasting
Cist navreront maint chevalier
These will-wound many-a knight
e ociront maint bon destrier, —
and will-kill many-a good charger
de cel vos sui jo bien devin, —
of that to-you am I well diviner
ainz que del siege seit la fin.
before that of-the siege may-be the end

De Frise i revint Antipus
From Phrygia there again-came Antipus
e Mercerès e Thalamus:
and Merceres and Thalamus
cist n'erent mie chastelain
these not-were at-all castellans
ne vavassor de basse main,
nor vavasors of low hand
ainz erent riche rei poissant,
rather they-were rich kings powerful
fort e hardi e combatant.
strong and bold and fighting
Cist amenerent teus maisniees
These brought such households
que gent furent apareilliees:
which handsomely were equipped
chascuns en a en sa compaigne
each thereof has in his company
set cenz: n'i a cel n'ait enseigne,
seven hundreds not-there is that-one not-may-have banner
heaume d'acier resplendissant
helmet of-steel shining
e espee buene e trenchant.
and sword good and cutting
De Boëce i vint Asimas,
From Boeotia there came Asimas
Fortis li proz e Sanias.
Fortis the valiant and Sanias
Conte esteient icist tuit trei,
Counts were these all three

mais ne se porterent onc fei:
but not to-each-other they-bore ever faith
toz jorz s'esteient guerreié,
all days themselves-they-had warred
mais or s'esteient apaié
but now themselves-they-had reconciled
por guarnir Troie encontre Greus.
for to-garrison Troy against Greeks
Mil chevaliers aduistrent teus,
A-thousand knights they-brought such
n'i a un sol qui a tornei
not-there is a sole who at tourney
face ja mauvaistié de sei:
may-make ever badness of himself
icist feront de teus eissues
these will-make of such sallies
dont i seront paumes batues.
whereof there will-be palms beaten
E del grant regne de Botine,
And from-the great realm of Botine
terre sauvage outremarine,
land wild overseas
vint Boëtès e Epistroz
came Boetes and Epistrophus
o chevaliers set cenz de proz:
with knights seven hundreds of valiant
frere esteient icist germain.
brothers were these german
Onc en lor terre n'ot fait pain:
Ever in their land not-had-one made bread

especes buenes e peissons,
spices good and fishes
fruiz precios e veneisons
fruits precious and venisons
aveient a mangier apris.
they-had to eat learned
Chascuns aveit cheval de pris,
Each had horse of worth
espié trenchant, escu e broigne:
spear cutting shield and byrnie
mout avront ainz cist grant essoigne
much will-have rather these great hindrance
que la vile guerpissent mais,
than the town they-may-abandon ever
jusque de la guerre seit pais.
until of the war may-be peace
De Paflagoine, une contree
From Paphlagonia a country
que assez est poi renomee, —
which enough is little renowned
quar si est loinz vers le soleil
for so it-is far toward the sun
qu'a grant maniere me merveil
that-in great manner I-myself marvel
com faitement l'om i ireit
how fashioned one there would-go
ne coment rien ça en vendreit, —
nor how anything hither thence would-come

merveille fu e iert toz dis
marvel it-was and will-be all days
coment en vint Philemenis.
how thence came Philemenis
C'ert li sire de Paflagoine,
It-was the lord of Paphlagonia
mais ne cuit pas que soz le troine
but not I-think at-all that under the throne
eüst dous chevaliers si granz:
there-might-have-been two knights so big
por poi ne resemblot jaianz.
for little not he-resembled giants
Mout esteit forz e vertuös,
Very he-was strong and mighty
fel e hardiz e corajos.
felon and bold and courageous
Ne sai mie coment il sot
Not I-know at-all how he knew
le siege qui a Troie alot:
of-the siege which to Troy went
venir i voust, toz dessomons,
to-come there he-wished all unsummoned
bien o dou mile compaignons;
well with two thousand companions
e si en traistrent mout granz peines
and so thereof they-drew very great pains
dis meis entiers e treis semaines.
ten months entire and three weeks
Ains qu'a Troie fussent venu,
Before that-to Troy they-were come

ot il de sa gent mout perdu,
had he of his folk much lost
quar assez en teus lieus veneient
for enough thereof into-such places came
ou por un poi ne perisseient.
where for a little not they-perished
Merveille fu com s'i esmurent:
Marvel it-was how themselves-there they-set-out
ja en nul sen venir n'i durent.
ever in any sense to-come not-there they-ought
Philemenis e sa compaigne,
Philemenis and his company
que mout par ert fiere e grifaigne,
which very greatly was fierce and grim
vindrent a Troie por defendre
came to Troy for to-defend
que Greu ne la poüssent prendre.
that Greeks not her could take
Armé erent en autre sen
Armed they-were in other sense
que n'esteient li Troïen:
than not-were the Trojans
de cuir boilliz escuz aveient
of leather boiled shields they-had
qui de fin or resplendisseient;
which with fine gold shone
mieuz en preisot l'om le peior
more thereof prized one the worst
que de Troie tot le meillor,
than of Troy all the best

quar de pierres de Paradis,
for with stones of Paradise
d'Eüfratès e de Tigris
of-Euphrates and of Tigris
esteient tuit orlé e plein,
they-were all bordered and full
e ensement tuit li lorain.
and likewise all the harnesses
De porpre aveient conoissances
Of purple they-had devices
e granz enseignes en lor lances.
and great banners on their lances
Cist feront d'eus sovent parler
These will-make of-themselves often speak
al torneier e al joster:
at-the tourneying and at-the jousting
por paor ne por coardie
for fear nor for cowardice
n'iert ja par eus Troie guerpie.
not-will-be ever by them Troy abandoned
N'i revint mie de trop près
Not-there again-came at-all from too near
d'Ethiope li reis Sersès,
of-Ethiopia the king Xerxes
ne Mennon, li fiz sa soror,
nor Memnon the son (of-)his sister
qui mout esteit de grant valor
who very was of great worth
e riches chevaliers assez,
and rich knight enough

quar sire fu de dis citez.
for lord he-was of ten cities
Sersès i vint mout richement
Xerxes there came very richly
e o noble contenement.
and with noble bearing
A venir mist set meis e plus:
To come he-put seven months and more
mout amena contes e dus
many he-brought counts and dukes
e chevaliers e autre gent,
and knights and other folk
mais onques peiz ne arrement
but ever pitch nor ink
ne fu si tres neir come il erent.
not was so very black as they were
Estranges chevaus amenerent.
Strange horses they-brought
Ne saveient armes porter,
Not they-knew arms to-bear
mais de traire ne de berser
but of shooting nor of hunting-with-bow
ne sot onc rien gent avers eus:
not knew ever anything folk compared-to them
mout esteient hardiz e feus.
very they-were bold and felon
Icist feront de Greus essart,
These will-make of Greeks clearing

quar lor saietes e lor dart
for their arrows and their darts
sont entoschié: ja n'en guarra
are poisoned ever not-thereof will-be-healed
nus hom qui navrez en sera.
any man who wounded thereby will-be
De Therace i vint Heseüs,
From Thrace there came Rhesus
il e sis fiz Archilogus.
he and his son Archilogus
Al rei de Troie erent parent
To-the king of Troy they-were kin
e si ami de longement;
and his friends from long
fort home erent cist e gentil.
strong men were these and noble
Chevaliers orent plus de mil,
Knights they-had more than a-thousand
de teus qui ja ne feront faille
of such who ever not will-make fail
en fort estor ne en bataille:
in strong fight nor in battle
icist socorront lor parenz
these will-help their kinsmen
e aideront a ceus dedenz.
and will-aid to those within
D'Agreste, une isle en mer lontaigne,
From-Agreste an isle in sea far
dont la gent est fiere e grifaigne,
whence the folk is fierce and grim

vint reis Fion e reis Edras,
came king Fion and king Edras
qui n'amenerent mie eschars
who not-brought at-all scant
de chevaliers ne de serjanz:
of knights nor of sergeants
as Troïens seront aidanz;
to-the Trojans they-will-be helpers
mout en despendront ainz del lor
much thereof they-will-spend rather of-the theirs
que Greu n'en aient le meillor.
than Greeks not-thereof may-have the best
Del reiaume d'Alizonie,
From-the realm of-Alizonia
qui vers terre est de Femenie,
which toward land is of Amazons
ou les chieres especes sont
where the dear spices are
que l'om porte par tot le mont,
which one carries through all the world
vint Pistropleus, uns reis veillarz,
came Pistropleus a king old
qui mout ert sages des set arz:
who very was wise in-the seven arts
mainte merveille saveit faire.
many-a marvel he-knew to-make
Cist amena un Saietaire,
This-one brought a Sagittary

dont en l'ost fu grant reparlance
of-whom in the-host was great talk
e dont Greu orent grant dotance:
and of-whom Greeks had great fear
mout i orent pesme enemi,
very there they-had worst enemy
tant dementres come il vesqui;
so-long while as he lived
mais ne dura pas longement, 6905
but not he-lasted at-all long
assez orreiz avant coment.
enough you-will-hear ahead how
Tuit icist que jos ai nomé
All these whom I-them have named
vindrent a Troie la cité.
came to Troy the city
Dedenz se mistrent li plusor
Within themselves put the most
por los, por pris e por amor, 6910
for praise for worth and for love
e li auquant por seignorage,
and the some for lordship
e li autre por parentage:
and the others for kinship
dès que Deus voust le mont former,
since that God wished the world to-form

n'oï onques nus hom parler
not-heard ever any man speak
qu'ensi faite chevalerie
that-thus made chivalry
eüst nule cité guarnie.
might-have any city garrisoned
A trente e treis furent nombré
At thirty and three they-were numbered
icist que jos ai ci nomé,
these whom I-them have here named
dont li plus povre ert reis o dus
of-whom the most poor was king or duke
de mil chevaliers e de plus.
of a-thousand knights and of more
De toz ceus qui a Troie vindrent
Of all those who to Troy came
e qui contre Grezeis la tindrent
and who against Greeks her held
fu Hector sire: al suen plaisir
was Hector lord to-the his pleasure
les i covint toz obeïr;
them there behooved all to-obey
de toz i ot la seignorie,
of all there he-had the lordship
la poësté e la maistrie.
the power and the mastery
Paris sis frere e Troïlus,
Paris his brother and Troilus
e ensement Deïphebus,
and likewise Deiphobus

Antenor e Polidamas,
Antenor and Polydamas
e autresi danz Eneas,
and also lord Aeneas
chascuns d'icez tel gent aveit,
each of-these such folk had
dont chascuns guarde se preneit;
of-whom each guard himself took
chascuns aveit une partie
each had a part
de ceus defors en sa baillie.
of those outside in his keeping
Si esteit fait e ordené,
So it-was done and ordained
e si l'aveient devisé,
and so it-they-had devised
que ja chevaliers ne montast,
that ever knight not might-mount
se lor princes nel comandast;
if their prince not-it commanded
ja fors des murs nus n'en eissist
ever out of-the walls any thence might-go-out
desci qu'a l'ore qu'il vousist.
until to the-hour that-he might-wish
Bien les covint a jostisier,
Well them behooved to govern
qu'orgueil i aveit grant e fier:
for-pride there was great and fierce
trop folement se contenissent,
too foolishly themselves they-would-have-borne

s'al jostisier ne s'atendissent.
if-to-the governing not themselves-had-attended
Ensi firent, ço puis retraire,
Thus they-did that I-can recount
come onques mieuz le porent faire:
as ever better it they-could do
de ceus n'aveient esperance,
of those not-they-had expectation
paor ne crieme ne dotance
fear nor dread nor doubt
qu'il as murs fussent asailli.
that-they at-the walls might-be assailed
Por ço ne fu mie establi
For that not was at-all established
qeus defenses li rei avreient
what defenses the kings would-have
ne en quel lieu se defendreient:
nor in what place themselves they-would-defend
n'en orent onques grant bosoing,
not-thereof they-had ever great need
toz jorz en fu l'oz auques loing.
all days thereof was the-host somewhat far

Palamedes Arrives

xxx

Palamedes reaches Tenedos with thirty ships and excuses his lateness by an illness. The Greeks fear to land under the Trojans' defenses, but Palamedes tells them that the delay shames them and only lets Troy grow stronger, and that the city must be taken by force. They agree. At dawn the ships are armed with castles and banners, and the fleet sails for Troy in waves of a hundred. The Trojans pour out to meet them on the sand, and Protesilaus lands first, under a hail of arrows.

Li Greu, ensi com nos lison, 6955
The Greeks thus as we read
erent ancore a Tenedon:
were still at Tenedos
ainz fu Palamedès venuz
before was Palamedes come
que nus s'en fust d'iluec meüz.
that any himself-thence were from-there moved
Trente nes amena chargiees
Thirty ships he-brought laden
de chevaliers e de maisniees. 6960
with knights and with households
En tote l'ost, si com jo cui,
In all the-host so as I think
n'aveit pas treis meillors de lui,
not-there-were at-all three better than him
plus sages ne plus engeignos,
more wise nor more skillful
plus hardiz ne plus corajos.
more bold nor more courageous

Blasme aveit grant qu'il n'ert venuz,
Blame he-had great that-he not-was come
mais il s'en est bien defenduz:
but he himself-thereof is well defended
dist «qu'il aveit grant mal eü,
he-said that-he had great ill had
dont il aveit longes geü;
whereof he had long lain
ne pot a Athenes venir,
not he-could to Athens come
mais si tost come il pot guarir,
but as soon as he could recover
ensi tost mut a son poëir.
thus soon he-moved to his power
Ne l'en deivent mal gré saveir:
Not to-him-thence they-ought ill will to-know
mout ot grant joie e mout li plot
very he-had great joy and much to-him it-pleased
quant guariz fu, que venir pot.»
when healed he-was that to-come he-could
Tuit furent lié de sa venue,
All were glad of his coming
mout grant merci l'en ont rendue;
very great thanks to-him-thence they-have rendered
diënt qu'il seit a lor segreiz
they-say that-he may-be at their secrets
e a doner les hauz conseiz.
and at giving the high counsels

Assez aveient engeignié
Enough they-had contrived
e par plusors feiz porchacié
and by many times sought
d'aler de nuit Troie aseeir,
of-going by night Troy to-besiege
mais onques aise ne poëir
but ever ease nor power
n'en poëient aveir eüe.
not-thereof they-could have had
Mout en cremeient la venue,
Much thereof they-feared the coming
quar ne poëient eschiver
for not they-could avoid
qu'es nes nes covenist entrer
that-into-the ships not-them it-might-behoove to-enter
por la vile plus aproismier;
for the town more to-approach
e si ne lor ert pas legier
and so not to-them it-was at-all light
des porz ne de la terre prendre
of-the ports nor of the land to-take
sor ceus qui la vuelent defendre.
upon those who it wish to-defend
D'eissir des nes ert la dotance:
Of-going-out from-the ships was the fear
mout i cremeient meschaance.
much there they-feared mischance

Lonc tens en aveient doté
Long time thereof they-had feared
e maint conseil pris e doné:
and many-a counsel taken and given
a un jor li baron josterent
at a day the barons joined
por cest afaire dont parlerent.
for this affair of-which they-spoke
Ne puis tot dire ne retraire
Not I-can all say nor recount
ço que chascuns en loë a faire;
that which each thereof advises to do
mais ço qu'en dist Palamedès
but that which-thereof said Palamedes
porreiz oïr ici après.
you-will-be-able to-hear here after
Sa parole fu bien oïe,
His speech was well heard
quar en son sen chascuns se fie:
for in his sense each himself trusts
«Seignor,» fait il, «grant deshonor
Lords says he great dishonor
«poëz aveir en cest sojor.
you-can have in this sojourn
«Bien a, ço cuit, un an passé
Well it-has that I-think a year passed
«que ici estes arivé:
that here you-are arrived
«Ancor n'avez Troie veüe.
Still not-you-have Troy seen

«Assez i a puis gent venue,
Enough there has since folk come
«qui contre vos la defendront
who against you it will-defend
«tant come il plus soz ciel porront.
as-much as they most under heaven will-be-able
«Barres e lices e fossez
Bars and palisades and ditches
«pueent puis aveir fait assez:
they-can since have made enough
«Grant leisir ont d'eus enforcier
Great leisure they-have to-themselves strengthen
«e d'ajutoire porchacier.
and of-help to-procure
«A vis lor est, si est semblant,
At opinion to-them it-is so it-is semblance
«que nos n'osons aler avant.
that we not-dare go forward
«Cuiderïez les vos sorprendre?
Would-you-think them you to-surprise
«A ço ne vos chaut a entendre,
To that not to-you it-matters to attend
«quar ja nul jor nes aserreiz
for ever any day not-them you-will-shut-in
«desci qu'a eus vos combatreiz:
until that-with them you will-fight
«A ço ne poëz pas faillir,
At that not you-can at-all fail
«que que en seit a avenir.
whatever that thereof may-be to happen

«De tant com plus lor targereiz,
By so-much as more to-them you-will-delay
«vostre grant damage fereiz;
your great harm you-will-do
«mout vos doteient plus anceis
much you they-feared more before
«que il ne feront mais des meis.
than they not will-do ever from-the months
«Qui sot or tel conseil doner
Who knew now such counsel to-give
«ques laississeiz aseürer
that-them you-might-let make-secure
«e enforcier e querre aïe?
and strengthen and seek aid
«Se fust alee la navie
If were gone the fleet
«a la vile tot dreitement,
to the town all straightway
«n'eüst mie, mien esciënt,
not-would-have-there-been at-all to-my knowledge
«grant contredit a l'ariver.
great gainsaying at the-landing
«A ço ne sai conseil doner,
At that not I-know counsel to-give
«mais le matin, sans plus targier,
but the morning without more delaying
«faisons noz nes apareillier.
let-us-make our ships make-ready

«Quant les avrons achastelees
When them we-shall-have castled
«e por bataille conreëes,
and for battle equipped
«e nos serons tres bien armé,
and we shall-be very well armed
«si corrons dreit a la cité,
so let-us-run straight to the city
«ensemble o eus nos combatrons:
together with them us we-shall-fight
«Ne sai por quei le targissons.
Not I-know for what it we-delay
«Que qu'en vienge, mal ne contraire,
What that-thereof may-come ill nor harm
«iço nos en covient a faire:
this us thereof behooves to do
«Se par force ne sont conquis,
If by force not they-are conquered
«ja autrement ne seront pris.
ever otherwise not they-will-be taken
«Alons, chaeles! si faisons
Let-us-go come-now so let-us-do
«ço que nos a faire en avons.
that which we to do thereof have
«Se nos avions prise Troie,
If we had taken Troy
«n'i a un sol qui de grant joie
not-there is a sole who with great joy
«ne s'en tornast en son païs.
not himself-thence would-turn into his country

«N'i ait ore autre conseil pris,
Not-there may-be now other counsel taken
«mais faites en mon loëment:
but do in my advice
«Matin, senz nul porloignement,
Morning without any delaying
«seit ceste uevre si envaïe,
be this work so attacked
«qui que en plort ne qui qu'en rie,
who that thereof may-weep nor who that-thereof may-laugh
«que par force e par estoveir
that by force and by necessity
«poissons la cité aseeir».
we-may the city besiege
Tuit otreient senz contredit
All grant without gainsaying
icest conseil, grant e petit.
this counsel great and small
La nuit laissierent trespasser,
The night they-let pass
mais l'endemain, quant jor fu cler,
but the-next-day when day was bright
anceis que levast li soleiz,
before that might-rise the sun
orent toz faiz lor apareiz.
they-had all made their preparations
Les chasteaus ont es nes dreciez,
The castles they-have on-the ships raised
guarniz de lances e d'espiez:
furnished with lances and with-spears

onques gent si ne s'atorna
ever folk so not themselves-equipped
ne si bel ne s'apareilla.
nor so fair not themselves-made-ready
Des nes ont fait lor establies
Of-the ships they-have made their stations
e lor conreiz e lor parties;
and their troops and their divisions
porveü ont e ordené
provided they-have and ordained
e establi e devisé
and established and devised
les queus ireient premeraines,
the which would-go first
les queus après, queus dereraines.
the which after which last
El front devant en metent cent,
In-the front before thereof they-put a-hundred
les veiles dreciees al vent
the sails raised to-the wind
faites de porpre e de cendaus
made of purple and of sendals
e de pailes emperiaus:
and of silks imperial
mil enseignes i ot dreciees,
a-thousand banners there were raised
que al vent furent despleiees.
which to-the wind were unfurled

Mout par ont les borz bien guarniz
Very greatly they-have the sides well furnished
de darz, d'escuz, d'espiez forbiz,
with darts with-shields with-spears furbished
de haches Danesches, d'espees
with axes Danish with-swords
e de gisarmes acerees;
and with halberds steeled
e qui si faite uevre esguardot,
and who so made work looked-at
fiere merveille li semblot.
fierce marvel to-him it-seemed
Après cez cent en revont cent,
After these hundred thereof again-go a-hundred
les veiles dreciees al vent.
the sails raised to-the wind
Donc siglerent les granz compaignes,
Then sailed the great companies
ou tant par ot mars e enseignes.
where so-many greatly there-was masts and banners
Granz quinze liuës d'un tenant,
Great fifteen leagues at-one stretch
ne pareist mer ne tant ne quant.
not appeared sea nor so-much nor how-much
A la vile corent tot dreit
To the town they-run all straight
veiles levees, a espleit.
sails raised in haste
S'il truevent qui lor viet les porz,
If-they find who to-them may-forbid the ports

ja n'i avra si grant esforz
ever not-there will-have so great effort
en ceus de la ne tel poëir,
in those of there nor such power
ainz que vienge demain al seir,
before that may-come tomorrow at-the evening
en i avra mil arivees;
thereof there will-have a-thousand landed
mais ainz seront chier comparees,
but before they-will-be dearly paid-for
quar ço reconte li Escriz,
for that recounts the Writing
dès que li monz fu estabiiz,
since that the world was established
ne fu porz pris a tel meschief:
not was port taken at such mischief
le jor i perdi mainz le chief.
the day there lost many the head
Quant cil de Troie les choisirent,
When those of Troy them caught-sight-of
comunaument contre eus eissirent,
in-common against them they-went-out
a qui ainz ainz, senz nul conrei:
to who first first without any order
nus n'i atent prince ne rei,
any not-there awaits prince nor king
per ne seignor ne compaignon.
peer nor lord nor companion

Sor la marine el bel sablon
Upon the shore on-the fair sand
sont assemblé e acoru:
they-are assembled and run-up
ja i avra maint coup feru.
already there will-have many-a blow struck
Cil des nes virent bien e sorent
Those of-the ships saw well and knew
qu'autre conseil aveir ne porent
that-other counsel to-have not they-could
ne mais de laissier corre a terre:
nor more than to-let run to land
par force lor covient conquerre.
by force them behooves to-conquer
Lor enemi sont tuit guarni,
Their enemies are all furnished
dont ja seront bien recoilli.
by-whom already they-will-be well received
Chascuns s'arma come il mieuz pot
Each himself-armed as he best could
de teles armes come il ot.
with such arms as he had
N'i ot si pro qui ne dotast
Not-there was so valiant who not might-fear
e cui corages ne muast.
and whose heart not might-change
Proteselaus vint premerains,
Protesilaus came first
hardiz e proz e segurains:
bold and valiant and steadfast

de Pilache ert cist reis preisiez,
of Phylace was this king prized
o les cent nes vint eslaissiez.
with the hundred ships he-came launched
Forz fu li venz qui les nes meine:
Strong was the wind which the ships leads
auques a sec en mi l'areine
somewhat at dry in the-midst the-sand
les fait ferir veiles levees,
them it-makes strike sails raised
peceiees e dequassees.
broken and shattered
De teus en ot iluec neiez
Of such thereof there-were there drowned
qui assez esteient preisiez,
who enough were prized
e si come il des nes eisseient,
and so as they from-the ships went-out
li Troïen les recoilleient,
the Trojans them received
quin faiseient mout grant martire:
who-thereof made very great martyrdom
mout se penoënt d'eus ocire.
much themselves they-pained them to-kill
Nule rien ne porreit conter
Any thing not could tell
le duel qui fu a l'ariver
the grief which was at the-landing
ne le martire ne l'ocise;
nor the martyrdom nor the-killing

quar farine que l'om tamise
for flour that one sifts
ne chiet ensi menuëment,
not falls thus finely
ne pluie ne graisle par vent,
nor rain nor hail by wind
com font saietes barbelees,
as do arrows barbed
dart e engeignes empenees.
darts and engines feathered
D'espees fierent maintenant:
With-swords they-strike forthwith
n'i cuide rien aveir guarant.
not-there thinks anything to-have warrant

The Battle on the Shore

XXXI

The first hundred ships are beaten with seven hundred Greeks dead, and the second hundred land, their three thousand crossbowmen bringing down a thousand Trojans. Protesilaus fights well, but the Greeks are driven into the sea until the archers in the ships' castles force the Trojans back. Archelaus and Prothenor, then Nestor, then Ascalaphus and Ialmenus land and fight. Philemenis wounds Ulysses, and Ulysses wounds him in the neck in return, so that his men carry him into Troy. Agamemnon, Menelaus, Ajax, and Thoas arrive and land their horses, and Protesilaus remounts to avenge his men.

Les cent nes esteient vencues,
The hundred ships were vanquished
que a la terre erent venues.
which to the land were come
N'aveient mais defension:
Not-they-had more defense
set cenz en gist par le sablon,
seven hundreds thereof lie along the sand
qui ja mais Troie n'asaudront.
who ever more Troy not-will-assail
Donc revindrent les cent d'un front:
Then again-came the hundred in-one front
eslaissiees e abrivees,
launched and driven
corent as porz veiles levees.
they-run to-the ports sails raised
Grant noise meinent e granz criz:
Great noise they-make and great cries

la fu dotanz li plus hardiz.
there was fearful the most bold
Quant les veiles furent baissiees
When the sails were lowered
e les nes furent essaiviees,
and the ships were run-aground
cil de Troie les asaillirent,
those of Troy them assailed
qui l'eissue lor defendirent.
who the-landing to-them forbade
Cil des nes orent arbalestes
Those of-the ships had crossbows
trei mile e plus, a traire prestes.
three thousand and more to shoot ready
A l'espesse traistrent des lor:
At the-thick they-shot from-the theirs
mil en i perdent la color,
a-thousand thereof there lose the color
freit e pasmé chieent a denz.
cold and swooned they-fall on teeth
Lors branlerent icil dedenz:
Then shook those within
a tant s'en eissi grant partie,
at so-much thence went-out great part
qui as autres feront aïe;
who to-the others will-make aid
ensemble sont serré e trait.
together they-are close and drawn-up
Proteselaus l'ot mout bien fait:
Protesilaus it-had very well done

mout ot sa gent bien socorue
much he-had his folk well helped
o la tranchant espee nue;
with the cutting sword naked
mout lor en i ocist le jor
many of-them thereof there he-killed the day
e mout lor rendi dur estor.
and much to-them he-rendered hard fight
Se sis cors ne fust solement,
If his body not were alone
livré fussent tuit a torment:
delivered they-would-be all to torment
ja uns n'en remansist en vie.
ever one not-thereof would-remain in life
Troïen font une envaïe:
Trojans make a charge
ja i avra trop lait damage.
already there will-have too ugly harm
Cil qui furent sor le rivage
Those who were upon the shore
ne porent endurer tanz cous,
not could endure so-many blows
ne il n'osent torner les dos;
nor they not-dare turn the backs
il ne sevent quel part foïr,
they not know which way to-flee
e grant meschief a al sofrir
and great mischief it-has in-the suffering
a set mile homes cent miliers.
to seven thousand men a-hundred thousands

Si comença li estors fiers:
So began the fight fierce
onc si pesmes ne si morteus
ever so wicked nor so mortal
ne pot veeir nus hom charneus.
not could see any man fleshly
O granz haches trenchanz e lees
With great axes cutting and broad
se porfendent jusqu'as corees;
themselves they-split up-to-the entrails
mort chaeient espessement.
dead they-fell thickly
Tuit li rivage en sont sanglent:
All the shores thereof are bloody
del sanc i aveit granz ruisseaus
of-the blood there were great streams
de ceus qui muerent a tropeaus.
of those who die in flocks
Cil de Grece se defendeient,
Those of Greece themselves defended
quar aillors guarir ne saveient:
for elsewhere to-find-safety not they-knew
mieuz vuelent a terre morir
better they-wish on land to-die
qu'en la mer neier e perir.
than-in the sea to-drown and perish
De totes parz erent enclos.
On all sides they-were shut-in
Grant peril a de tres lor dos;
Great peril there-is from behind their backs

grant noise i demeinent les ondes,
great noise there make the waves
que de la mer vienent parfondes;
which from the sea come deep
mout sont orribles e dotanz.
very they-are horrible and fearful
Devant eus rest li periz granz,
Before them again-is the peril great
quar tant i a des Troïens
for so-many there are of-the Trojans
qu'ocis en ont en poi de tens
that-killed thereof they-have in little of time
la siste part e plus assez.
the sixth part and more enough
Reüsant les ont amenez
Retreating them they-have brought
par estoveir jusqu'a la mer:
by necessity up-to the sea
lors en i covint maint entrer
then thereof there behooved many-a to-enter
plus parfont que jusqu'as aisseles.
more deep than up-to-the armpits
A mainz traïnent les boëles.
Of many they-drag the bowels
La ot grant desbaretement:
There there-was great rout
se ço lor durast longement,
if that to-them had-lasted long
n'en eschapast ne laiz ne beaus.
not-thereof would-escape nor ugly nor fair

Mais cil qui erent es chasteaus
But those who were in-the castles
qui par les nes erent drecié
which on the ships were raised
ont ensemble trait e lancié:
have together shot and hurled
par force les font traire en sus,
by force them they-make draw in up
des lor i laissent mil e plus.
of-the theirs there they-leave a-thousand and more
A tant ariva Archelaus
At so-much arrived Archelaus
e Prothenor o lor vassaus:
and Prothenor with their vassals
veiles levees ont port pris,
sails raised they-have port taken
peist o place lor enemis.
it-may-weigh or it-may-please their enemies
De lor cinquante nes guarnies
From their fifty ships furnished
s'en eissirent les compaignies,
thence went-out the companies
armé por defendre lor cors;
armed for to-defend their bodies
mais ainz qu'il fussent as chans fors,
but before that-they were in-the fields out
les orent Troïen gregiez,
them had Trojans harmed
ocis e morz e detrenchiez.
slain and dead and cut-down

Mais dès qu'il se furent josté
But as-soon-as they themselves were joined
e o les autres assemblé,
and with the others assembled
si lor retindrent la meslee,
so to-them they-held-up the melee
tant que la gent fu arivee
until that the folk was arrived
que Nestor amena o sei,
which Nestor brought with himself
qui de Pile esteit sire e rei.
who of Pylos was lord and king
O seisante nes eschipees,
With sixty ships manned
vindrent as porz veiles levees:
they-came to-the ports sails raised
mout lor est tart que josté seient
very to-them it-is late that joined they-may-be
avuec ceus cui combatre veient.
with those whom fight they-see
Grant presse ot a l'eissir des nes:
Great press there-was at the-going-out of-the ships
poi en i a dedenz remés:
little thereof there is within remained
grant desirier ont de combatre.
great desire they-have of fighting
Qui lores les veïst embatre
Who then them might-have-seen plunge
es greignors presses que il truevent!
into-the greatest presses that they find

Tote la terre des morz cuevrent,
All the land with-the dead they-cover
tot detrenchent quant qu'il ataignent;
all they-cut-down as-much as-they reach
de l'ariver pas ne se feignent.
of the-landing at-all not themselves they-feign
Archelaus est en mi l'estor,
Archelaus is in the-midst the-fight
qui grant damage fait des lor:
who great harm makes of-the theirs
com bons chevaliers s'i aiuë
as good knight himself-there helps
o la trenchant espee nue.
with the cutting sword naked
Prothenor est de l'autre part,
Prothenor is on the-other part
fiers e hardiz plus d'un liepart;
fierce and bold more than-a leopard
ne dote coup ne mortel plaie,
not he-fears blow nor mortal wound
Troïens de rien ne manaie:
Trojans in anything not he-spares
entre eus s'embat, fiert les sovent.
between them himself-he-plunges strikes them often
Mout li rociënt de sa gent.
Much to-him again-kill of his folk
Reis Ascaloz, reis Almenus
King Ascalaphus king Ialmenus
de l'ariver ne targent plus:
of the-landing not delay more

o trente nes ont terre prise,
with thirty ships they-have land taken
e si sacheiz bien senz devise
and so know well without exception
qu'eissu s'en sont senz demorance.
that-gone-out themselves-thence they-are without delay
Mout ont grant duel e grant pesance
Very they-have great grief and great sorrow
de ço qu'il ont tant demoré; 7265
for that that-they have so-long delayed
le petit pas, estreit serré,
at-the little pace tight close
sont venu dreit al chapleïz.
they-are come straight to-the hacking
Sans i mua as plus hardiz.
Blood there changed to-the most bold
Trei mile sont novel e freis:
Three thousand they-are new and fresh
o l'autre aïde des Grezeis, 7270
with the-other aid of-the Greeks
ont Troïens fait remuër;
they-have Trojans made move-back
mais chier le durent comparer,
but dear it they-were-to pay-for
quar cil sont recovré sor eus,
for those are recovered upon them
qui mout lor sont cruëus e feus.
who very to-them are cruel and felon
Desci qu'as nes les ramenerent, 7275
Up to-the ships them they-led-back

onc jusqu'a la mer n'aresterent:
ever as-far-as the sea not-they-stopped
s'il trovassent large charriere,
if-they had-found wide road
ja mais n'en tornast uns ariere.
ever more not-thereof would-turn one back
Por la presse, que si fu granz,
For the press which so was great
jo ne sai mie queus ne quanz
I not know at-all which nor how-many
en i neia, ne pot autre estre:
thereof there drowned not could other be
li plus hardiz n'i vousist estre.
the most bold not-there would-have-wished to-be
Trop lor alot ja malement,
Too-much to-them went already badly
quant Ulixès vint o sa gent:
when Ulysses came with his folk
des cinquante nes qu'il ameine
from-the fifty ships which-he leads
traist sa gent fors en mi l'areine.
he-drew his folk out into the-midst the-sand
Mout furent lor cors bien armé,
Very were their bodies well armed
mais de ço furent maumené,
but in that they-were mistreated
qu'as autres ne porent vertir:
that-to-the others not they-could turn
bien vos puis dire senz mentir,
well to-you I-can say without lying

vint mile e plus ot entredous
twenty thousand and more there-were between-two
d'eus destruire toz desiros.
them to-destroy all desirous
Contre eus guenchissent a eslais.
Against them they-turn at gallop
Cist i sofrirent trop grant fais,
These there suffered too great burden
quar, ainz qu'il eüssent aïe,
for before that-they had aid
fu lor force mout afeblie.
was their force much weakened
Mais ne por quant bon seignor ont,
But not for how-much good lord they-have
qui les chadele e les somont
who them leads and them urges
e les defent a son poëir:
and them defends to his power
mout en devra grant pris aveir,
much thereof he-will-be-due great worth to-have
se il vis en puet eschaper.
if he alive thence can escape
Philemenis d'outre la mer
Philemenis from-beyond the sea
l'arguë mout de grant maniere:
him-presses much in great manner
ne laissera qu'il nel requiere.
not he-will-leave that-he not-him may-attack
A cheval fu e cil a pié,
On horse he-was and he on foot

mais a dous mains tint son espié.
but with two hands he-held his spear
Philemenis le vait ferir:
Philemenis him goes to-strike
mout l'a ataint de grant aïr;
much him-he-has reached with great force
par mi l'escu peint a lion
through the-midst the-shield painted with lion
li a passé son confanon;
to-him he-has passed his pennon
le bon hauberc li a fausé,
the good hauberk to-him he-has pierced
por poi que ne l'a mort geté.
for little that not him-he-has dead thrown
Ne pot le grant coup endurer:
Not he-could the great blow endure
a terre l'a fait enverser,
to ground him-it-has made overturn
mais maintenant en piez sailli.
but forthwith on feet he-leapt
Lancié li a l'espié forbi:
Hurled to-him he-has the-spear furbished
par sus la pene de l'escu
through above the edge of the-shield
li a l'auberc tot derompu;
to-him has the-hauberk all broken
el col le fiert soz le menton,
in-the neck him he-strikes under the chin
ne sai s'il en vivra o non.
not I-know if-he thereof will-live or not

Toz fu sempres ensanglentez,
All he-was at-once bloodied
de l'angoisse chaï pasmez.
from the-anguish he-fell swooned
Mout en fu sa gent esbahie:
Much thereof was his folk dismayed
chascuns en plore e brait e crie.
each thereof weeps and bawls and cries
Del cors n'i vuelent laissier mie,
Of-the body not-there they-wish to-leave at-all
ne lor chaut mais qui les ocie;
not to-them it-matters more who them may-kill
plorent, criënt, grant noise font,
they-weep they-cry great noise they-make
plusor de duel neier se vont,
many from grief to-drown themselves go
qui cuidoënt que il fust morz.
who thought that he were dead
Auques l'ont esloignié des porz;
Somewhat him-they-have distanced from-the ports
sor son escu l'en ont porté
upon his shield him-thence they-have carried
tot dreitement en la cité.
all straight into the city
De lor gent orent mout perdu,
Of their folk they-had much lost
ainz que del champ fussent eissu.
before that from-the field they-were gone-out

Ulixès fu sor la marine,
Ulysses was upon the shore
mais, se ne fust tel la destine
but if not were such the destiny
que avint de Philemenis,
which befell of Philemenis
tuit fussent sempres mort e pris.
all would-be at-once dead and taken
Entre tant dis fu arivez
Between so-much while was arrived
Thoas li proz, li alosez,
Thoas the valiant the renowned
Telamonius Aïaus,
Telamonian Ajax
Agamennon e Menelaus.
Agamemnon and Menelaus
Cil furent as porz essaivié,
These were at-the ports run-aground
qu'il n'ot a eus trait ne lancié,
that-there not-was at them shot nor hurled
quar li autre les defendeient,
for the others them defended
qu'o Troïens se combateient.
who-with Trojans themselves fought
Des nes traistrent fors les chevaus
From-the ships they-drew out the horses
coverz de porpre e de cendaus,
covered with purple and with sendals
sors e baucenz e pomelez,
sorrel and piebald and dappled

ferranz oscurs, destre comez.
iron-gray dark right maned
Bien s'armerent de conoissances,
Well themselves-armed with devices
lacent enseignes en lor lances,
they-lace banners on their lances
sor les haubers vestent bliauz.
upon the hauberks they-put-on tunics
Beaus fu li jorz, leva li chauz,
Fair was the day rose the heat
e li escu teint d'or vermeil
and the shields dyed with-gold vermilion
resplendissent contrel soleil.
shine against-the sun
E quant lor gent fu ordenee,
And when their folk was ordered
n'i ot onc puis resne tiree:
not-there was ever after rein drawn
les escuz pris, lances baissiees,
the shields taken lances lowered
lor vont rescorre lor maisniees.
for-them they-go to-rescue their households
Cil qui par ire se requierent
Those who in wrath themselves attack
par mi les escuz s'entrefierent.
through the-midst the shields strike-each-other
Brisent lances, volent asteles
They-break lances fly splinters
e chevalier guerpissent seles;
and knights abandon saddles

traient espees, chaplent fort:
they-draw swords hack strongly
tant i ot d'eus navrez a mort,
so-many there were of-them wounded to death
nus nel sot dire ne esmer.
any not-it knew to-say nor reckon
La oïsseiz hauz criz criër:
There you-would-have-heard high cries cry
qui la mort sent, cui l'om mahaigne,
he-who the death feels whom one maims
ne puet muër ne braie e plaigne.
not can help not may-bawl and moan
Proteselaus se traist ariere:
Protesilaus himself drew back
mout l'ot bien fait de grant maniere;
very it-he-had well done in great manner
trop ot sofert e pris colees,
too-much he-had suffered and taken blows
maintes en rot as lor donees.
many thereof again-he-had to-the theirs given
Sa gent vit morte environ sei
His folk he-saw dead around him
lez le rivage, el sablonei:
beside the shore in-the sandy-ground
mout l'en pesa, si dut il faire;
much him-thereof it-weighed so ought it to-do
mais n'ert iluec lieus de duel faire,
but not-was there place for grief to-make
entre tant dis que ço fu fait,
between so-much while that that was done

furent des nes li cheval trait.
were from-the ships the horses drawn
O tant de gent come il en ot,
With as-much of folk as he thereof had
que de neient aidier se pot,
who in nothing help himself could
monte por son duel esclairier
he-mounts for his grief to-relieve
e por sa maisniee vengier.
and for his household to-avenge
Tel mil le sivent en l'estor,
Such thousand him follow into the-fight
qui assez ont pris e valor:
who enough have worth and valor
n'i a cel n'ait cheval corant,
not-there is that-one not-may-have horse running
heaume e escu resplendissant,
helmet and shield shining
hauberc e lance e bone espee.
hauberk and lance and good sword
Poignant vienent a la meslee;
Spurring they-come to the melee
d'ire e de mautalent espris,
with-wrath and with ill-temper inflamed
vont encontre lor enemis,
they-go against their enemies
mais n'alerent mie le pas:
but not-they-went at-all the pace
la ou virent le greignor tas,
there where they-saw the greatest heap

lor laissierent chevaus aler.
to-them they-let horses go
La oïsseiz un hu lever
There you-would-have-heard a shout rise
e une noise e uns teus criz,
and a noise and some such cries
e crois de lances e d'escliz.
and crack of lances and of-splinters
Froissent escuz, fausent haubers;
They-shatter shields pierce hauberks
la chieent chevalier envers
there fall knights backward
morz e navrez, pales e freiz.
dead and wounded pale and cold
Grant fu la noise e li trepeiz:
Great was the noise and the trampling
trenchanz espees resortissent
cutting swords rebound
sor les heaumes qui resplendissent.
upon the helmets which shine
Bien ont resvigorez les lor.
Well they-have reinvigorated the theirs

The Death of Protesilaus

XXXII

Xerxes' archers drive the Greeks into the sea until Palamedes charges with a thousand knights and kills Sicamor, Memnon's brother. Hector arrives on a bay Spanish horse and splits Protesilaus' heart with one blow, and the poet laments him. Hector's presence turns the fight each time he comes, until at evening Achilles arrives with three thousand fresh knights and chases the Trojans to their gates, where Paris and Troilus hold the entrance. The Greeks pitch their tents on the plain, keep watch all night, and the poet says many ladies will be widowed before evening.

Li reis Sersès vint en l'estor:
The king Xerxes came into the-fight
teus set mile homes meine o sei,
such seven thousand men he-leads with himself
chascuns l'ama e porta fei.
each him-loved and bore faith
Mout fu li reis proz e hardiz,
Very was the king valiant and bold
e si ot chevaliers esliz:
and so he-had knights chosen
en tote l'ost n'ot tel compaigne,
in all the-host not-there-was such company
si hardie ne si grifaigne.
so bold nor so grim
Chevaus de pris ont Arabeis
Horses of worth they-have Arabian
e saietes e ars Turqueis.
and arrows and bows Turkish

Le petit pas, estreit serré,
At-the little pace tight close
s'en eissirent de la cité.
thence they-went-out from the city
Chascuns porta son arc tendu,
Each carried his bow drawn
e quant il furent la venu,
and when they were there come
si poinstrent tuit e s'escriërent
so spurred all and themselves-cried-out
que tuit li val en resonerent.
that all the valleys thereof resounded
La ot si faite traerece
There there-was so made shooting
e de cordes tel croisserece,
and of strings such cracking
e tel ocise e tel damage
and such killing and such harm
de ceus qui sont sor le rivage,
of those who are upon the shore
mil en abatent a cel poindre,
a-thousand thereof they-throw-down at that charge
cui puis ne prist talent de joindre.
to-whom after not took desire to join
Nel porent li Grezeis sofrir:
Not-it could the Greeks endure
vers la mer pristrent a foïr
toward the sea they-took to flee
tuit desconfit, senz retor prendre.
all discomfited without turn to-take

Ne se poëient mais defendre:
Not themselves they-could more defend
fiert s'en en mer set cenz e mais.
strike themselves-thence into sea seven hundreds and more
Se lors ne fust Palamedès,
If then not were Palamedes
ceus qui en la mer ne neiassent,
those who in the sea not might-have-drowned
li Troïen les decopassent.
the Trojans them would-have-cut-down
Palamedès vit le martire:
Palamedes saw the martyrdom
si grant duel a e si grant ire
so great grief he-has and so great wrath
que por un poi toz vis n'enrage.
that for a little all alive not-he-goes-mad
Mout par ot en lui vasselage:
Very greatly there-was in him prowess
soz ciel n'a rien, que il dotast,
under heaven not-is anything which he might-fear
qu'autre chevaliers faire osast.
that-other knight to-do might-dare
Armé se furent el gravei
Armed themselves were on-the gravel
mil compaignon, qu'il ot o sei
a-thousand companions whom-he had with himself
proz e delivres e vassaus.
valiant and nimble and vassals

Beles armes e beaus chevaus
Fair arms and fair horses
orent, coverz de conoissances;
they-had covered with devices
lor escuz pristrent e lor lances,
their shields they-took and their lances
puis chevauchierent par grant ire.
then they-rode in great wrath
Palamedès lor prist a dire:
Palamedes to-them began to say
«Seignor,» fait il, «veeir poëz
Lords says he see you-can
«com Troïen ont reüsez
how Trojans have driven-back
«les noz: n'ont mais defension;
the ours not-they-have more defense
«trop lait damage i recevon.
too ugly harm there we-receive
«Onc ne vi mais gent si laidie:
Ever not I-saw before folk so ill-used
«Oëz com chascuns brait e crie.
Hear how each bawls and cries
«Socorons les, bien i bosoigne;
Let-us-help them well there it-is-needed
«e qui de rien m'a chier, si poigne.
and who in anything me-has dear so let-him-spur
«Si durement les encontrons
So harshly them let-us-meet
«qu'ariere el champ les retornons,
that-back into-the field them we-may-turn

«tant que li nostre recovrassent
until that the ours might-recover
«e que tuit cil autre arivassent.
and that all those others might-arrive
«Se faire ensi le poïons,
If to-do thus it we-could
«estrange honor i avrions.
strange honor there we-would-have
«Or me sivez, franc chevalier.»
Now me follow noble knights
A tant brochierent lor destrier.
At so-much spurred-on their charger
Palamedès avant toz vait
Palamedes before all goes
assez plus loing qu'uns ars ne trait.
enough more far than-a bow not shoots
Sor un cheval sist d'Alemaigne,
On a horse he-sat of-Germany
mais onques teus n'eissi d'Espaigne.
but ever such not-went-out from-Spain
A goles ot escu d'argent.
In gules he-had shield of-silver
Si come il vint premierement,
So as he came first
si ala joindre a Sicamor,
so he-went to-join with Sicamor
frere germain le rei Mennor:
brother german (of-)the king Memnon
del rei Sersès teneit sa terre,
of-the king Xerxes he-held his land

e si n'estoveit mie querre
and so not-it-behooved at-all to-seek
nul meillor chevalier de lui.
any better knight than him
Cil s'encontrerent ambedui:
These met-each-other both
ferirent sei de plain eslais;
they-struck themselves at plain gallop
mais la lance Palamedès
but the lance (of-)Palamedes
li a percié les dous costez.
to-him has pierced the two sides
Sicamor est morz craventez.
Sicamor is dead overthrown
Ço fu granz dueus e granz damages,
That was great grief and great harm
quar mout ert beaus e proz e sages.
for very he-was fair and valiant and wise
Li chevalier i sont venu,
The knights there are come
qui Palamedès ont seü;
who Palamedes have followed
lances baissiees vont joster.
lances lowered they-go to-joust
Teus cent en i firent verser,
Such hundred thereof there they-made overturn
qui onques puis ne redrecierent,
who ever after not rose-up
ne contre Greus ne chevauchierent.
nor against Greeks not rode

Palamedès sovent lor done:
Palamedes often to-them gives
maint en ocit, maint en estone,
many-a thereof he-kills many-a thereof he-stuns
maint en abat, maint en mahaigne.
many-a thereof he-fells many-a thereof he-maims
Des suens n'i a nul qui se feigne:
Of-the his not-there is any who himself may-feign
bien s'i aïdent, ço sacheiz,
well themselves-there they-help that know
grant pris en ont a cele feiz.
great worth thereof they-have at that time
Tant i chaplent e tant i fierent
So-much there they-hack and so-much there they-strike
e si asprement les requierent
and so harshly them they-attack
qu'un poi les ont fait traire en sus:
that-a little them they-have made draw in up
treis cenz lor en ont morz e plus.
three hundreds of-them thereof they-have dead and more
A tant li autre recovrerent,
At so-much the others recovered
qui volentiers lor redonerent
who willingly to-them gave-back
granz colees de maintenant.
great blows from now
Menez les ont ensi ferant
Led them they-have thus striking
sis archiees o plus de set.
six bowshots or more than seven

Del recovrer n'i aveit plait,
Of-the recovering not-there was plea
n'en faiseient nes un semblant,
not-thereof they-made not-even a show
quant i avint Hector poignant
when there came Hector spurring
sor un cheval d'Espaigne bai:
on a horse of-Spain bay
de nul meillor parler ne sai.
of any better to-speak not I-know
Escu ot d'or a dous lions,
Shield he-had of-gold with two lions
iteus resteit sis confanons.
such again-was his pennon
Par mi la presse broche e point;
Through the-midst the press he-spurs and pricks
Proteselau trueve, o lui joint.
Protesilaus he-finds with him he-joins
Tel li dona par mi l'escu
Such to-him he-gave through the-midst the-shield
e par l'auberc qu'il ot vestu
and through the-hauberk that-he had put-on
qu'en dous meitiez le cuer li part.
that-in two halves the heart to-him he-parts
Dès or pueent aveir reguart
From now can have regard
cil qui veie ne li feront
those who way not to-him will-make
e qui a dreit coup l'atendront.
and who at straight blow him-will-await

Proteselaus, bons chevaliers,
Protesilaus good knight
nobles e proz, riches guerriers,
noble and valiant rich warrior
queus damages quar estes morz!
what harm for you-are dead
Premiers preïstes vos les porz.
First took you the ports
Ha! tant i aviëz sofert!
Ah so-much there you-had suffered
Queus damages que l'om vos pert!
What harm that one you loses
Jamais n'iert jorz ne seiez plainz,
Ever not-will-be day not you-may-be mourned
ancor sereiz plorez de mainz.
still you-will-be wept by many
De vos s'est hui estrenez cil
On you himself-has today made-first-trial he
qui de Grezeis fera eissil.
who of Greeks will-make exile
Maint en morront par sa main destre:
Many-a thereof will-die by his hand right
ne puet la chose autrement estre.
not can the thing otherwise be
Hector ne cesse ne ne fine:
Hector not ceases nor not ends
martire fait e decepline.
martyrdom he-makes and scourging
En son poing tint s'espee nue,
In his fist he-held his-sword naked

ceus qu'il ataint ocit e tue.
those whom-he reaches he-kills and slays
En poi d'ore l'ont coneü:
In little of-hour him-they-have known
le jor sorent bien qui il fu.
the day they-knew well who he was
Comparé ont sa conoissance
Paid-for they-have his device
e le trenchant fer de sa lance.
and the cutting iron of his lance
Tant come Hector est en l'estor,
As-long as Hector is in the-fight
en ont Grezeis tot le peior;
thereof have Greeks all the worst
quant il s'en part e il est las,
when he himself-thence parts and he is weary
si recuevrent en es le pas;
so they-recover on the-very the step
e quant ço est qu'il i revient,
and when that is that-he there returns
tant le criement, nus ne s'i tient.
so-much him they-fear any not himself-there holds
Set feiz o dis avint le jor,
Seven times or ten it-befell the day
tant qu'Achillès vint a l'estor.
until that-Achilles came to the-fight
Quant il i vint, vespres ert bas.
When he there came evening was low
Mout esteient li plusor las:
Very were the most weary

mout aveient le jor mautrait,
very they-had the day suffered
josté, feru, lancié e trait.
jousted struck hurled and shot
N'i vint mie sous Achillès;
Not-there came at-all alone Achilles
trei mile en ot o sei e mais:
three thousand thereof he-had with himself and more
n'i ot un sol n'eüst cheval
not-there was a sole not-might-have-had horse
covert de porpre o de cendal.
covered with purple or with sendal
Les escuz pris, isnelement
The shields taken swiftly
vindrent al grant torneiement,
they-came to-the great tourney
ou tant ot fait chevalerie
where so-much had made chivalry
e tant ame de cors partie.
and so-much soul from body parted
Chacié aveient li Grezeis:
Chased had the Greeks
o les autres qui vindrent freis
with the others who came fresh
lor alerent si faitement
to-them they-went so fashioned
qu'onc puis n'i ot recovrement;
that-ever after not-there was recovery
onc puis ne porent tenir place,
ever after not they-could hold place

jusqu'as portes dura la chace.
up-to-the gates lasted the chase
Merveilles i fist Achillès:
Marvels there made Achilles
cent en i a ocis e mais;
a-hundred thereof there he-has killed and more
estrangement les enconveie.
strangely them he-escorts
Autresi fuient de sa veie
Just-so they-flee from his way
com fait li cers devant les chiens.
as does the stag before the hounds
Desconfiz ont les Troïens:
Discomfited they-have the Trojans
n'en remest un defors les murs
not-thereof remained one outside the walls
qui de la mort ne fust seürs.
who of the death not were sure
Paris defendi mout l'entree:
Paris defended much the-entrance
maint en i ocist o s'espee,
many-a thereof there he-killed with his-sword
mout s'i contint hardiement;
very himself-there he-bore boldly
si fist Troïlus ensement.
so did Troilus likewise
Mainte envaïe lor i firent:
Many-a charge to-them there they-made
ço sacheiz bien, mout i sofrirent.
that know well much there they-suffered

Tant lor dura icist contenz
So-long to-them lasted this strife
que par force se mistrent enz:
that by force themselves they-put in
en la vile es les vos entrez.
into the town behold them you entered
Al partir perdirent assez:
At-the parting they-lost enough
as portes ot grant foleïz,
at-the gates there-was great crush
la nuit les a a tant partiz.
the night them has at so-much parted
Mout orent Greu bien espleitié:
Very had Greeks well succeeded
vont s'en ariere baut e lié;
they-go themselves-thence back bold and glad
de lor gent i ont perte fait,
of their folk there they-have loss made
mais c'est costume de tel plait,
but it-is custom of such plea
que teus i pert qui puis guaaigne.
that such there loses who after gains
Lez le rivage, en mi la plaigne,
Beside the shore in the-midst the plain
les fist Agamennon venir,
them made Agamemnon come
por ordener e establir
for to-order and to-establish
coment li tref seront tendu.
how the tents will-be pitched

Quant il orent tot porveü,
When they had all provided
sis ont dreciez par plusors lieus:
so-them they-have raised in many places
dès or est comenciez li gieus.
from now is begun the game
Ne me vueil pas ci demorer
Not myself I-wish at-all here to-delay
por descrire, por aconter
for describing for recounting
quel paveillon ot Achillès,
what pavilion had Achilles
quel Menelaus, quel Ulixès,
what Menelaus what Ulysses
ne queus fu cil al vieil Nestor;
nor what was that-of the old Nestor
mais por cent livres de fin or
but for a-hundred pounds of fine gold
ne fu pas faiz, tel i aveit:
not it-was at-all made such there was
merveille sei qui tot ço veit.
may-marvel himself who all that sees
Les genz des diverses contrees
The folk of-the different countries
que iluec erent ajostees,
which there were joined
que asise ont la grant cité,
who besieged have the great city
sont departi e devisé,
are divided and apportioned

chascun prince sa gent o sei
each prince his folk with himself
e ses tentes e son conrei.
and his tents and his troop
Quant des nes sont les genz eissues,
When from-the ships are the folk gone-out
e les herberges sont tendues,
and the lodgings are pitched
merveilles durent d'un tenant.
marvels they-last at-one stretch
Maint aigle d'or resplendissant
Many-a eagle of-gold shining
e maint chier paile d'Oriant,
and many-a dear silk of-Orient
vert e vermeil e Aufricant,
green and vermilion and African
i puet l'om veeir senz mesure:
there can one see without measure
ja n'iert la nuit ensi oscure
ever not-will-be the night so dark
qu'il ne veient com par cler jor.
that-they not may-see as by bright day
La nuit sofrirent cest labor:
The night they-suffered this labor
poi mangierent e poi dormirent,
little they-ate and little they-slept
estrange peine par sofrirent.
strange pain greatly they-suffered
Ancor lor estait auques bien,
Still to-them it-stands somewhat well

mais ne lairont li Troïen
but not will-let the Trojans
qu'il nes asaillent par matin:
that-they not-them may-assail by morning
ja mais a eus ne prendront fin.
ever more with them not they-will-take end
Comunaument s'escharguaitierent,
In-common themselves-they-kept-watch
quar la nuit li plusor veillierent.
for the night the most watched
Tant entendirent a ovrer
So-much they-attended to working
que li beaus jorz aparut cler.
that the fair day appeared bright
Assez eüssent grant mestier
Enough they-would-have great need
lores de lor cors aaisier
then of their bodies to-ease
e de mangier e de dormir
and of eating and of sleeping
e de lor morz ensevelir
and of their dead to-bury
e de mires querre as navrez:
and of doctors to-seek for-the wounded
mais mout les en ont bien guardez.
but much them thereof they-have well guarded
Estranges jorz lor i ajorne:
Strange day to-them there dawns
mainte pucele en sera morne,
many-a maiden thereof will-be gloomy

mainte dame en iert esvevee,
many-a lady thereof will-be widowed
anceis que vienge la vespree.
before that may-come the evening