OLD FRENCH SERIES · VOLUME 53

The Romance of Troy

Benoît de Sainte-Maure

Le Roman de Troie

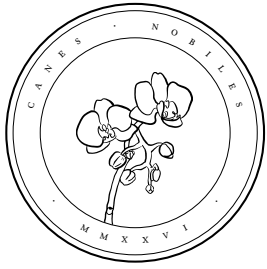
The Romance of Troy

Part Three: The Deaths of Hector and Achilles

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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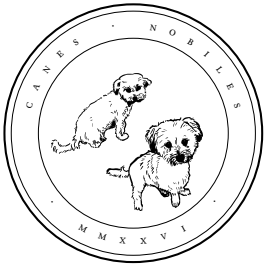

Volume 53 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

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, 1904–1907), t. III

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 third part runs from Briseida's turn to Diomedes and the death of Hector to the funeral of Achilles and the summoning of his son.

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Briseida and Diomedes

LXIV

Hector lies three weeks recovering under the truce while Paris hunts in the forest of Beletis. The Greeks weary of the long, costly siege, and Achilles thinks only of killing Hector. Diomedes, sleepless for love of Calchas's daughter, begs her mercy and often forgets what he most meant to say. Finding her gazing at the charger he took from Troilus, she chides his largesse and lends the horse back to him, warning that its former owner will try to win it again. Diomedes vows to keep it and pleads for her love. Pleased to hold him in her snares, she gives him her right sleeve for a pennon, and Troilus waits on her in vain.

Dedenz les triuës seüraines,
Within the truces secure
jut danz Hector bien treis semaines:
lay lord Hector well three weeks
toz fu respassez e guariz,
all he-was recovered and healed
ainz que li meis fust acompliz.
before that the month were fulfilled
Sovent alot chacier Paris
Often went to-hunt Paris
en la forest de Beletis;
in the forest of Beletis
e cil qui aler i voleient
and those who to-go there wished
sauvagine mout i preneient,
wild-game very there took
quar tote en ert la forest pleine.
for all thereof was the forest full

Sovent en aveit dame Heleine
Often thereof had lady Helen
longes, lardez o les deintiez,
loins larded with the dainties
cimiers e hanches e forchiez.
saddles and haunches and forks
Mout en aportent veneison,
Much thereof they-bring venison
mout en prenent a grant foison.
much thereof they-take in great plenty
Onc de dis anz que li oz tint,
Ever of ten years that the host held
n'i chaça Greus ne n'i avint,
not-there hunted Greek nor not-there came
n'onques dedenz li chevalier
nor-ever within the knights
por eus n'i laissent a chacier.
for them not-there leave to hunt
Cil de Grece sont en grant cure
Those of Greece are in great care
del siege, qui tant tient e dure.
for-the siege which so-long holds and lasts
Chascuns set bien e veit e pense
Each knows well and sees and thinks
e la grant mise e la despense
both the great outlay and the expense
qu'il lor estuet mener e faire;
which-it to-them behooves to-carry and to-make
si ne s'en puet nus d'eus retraire.
so not himself-thence can any of-them withdraw

En tel folie se sont mis
In such folly themselves they-are put
dont il ont mout sovent maumis
whereof they have very often misused
le gros del cors e les costez.
the thick of-the body and the sides
L'uevre durra ancore assez
The-work will-last yet enough
ainz qu'ele ait fin: por ço lor peise.
before that-it may-have end for that to-them it-weighs
Teus s'en rit e joë e enveise,
Such himself-thereof laughs and plays and frolics
qui en son cuer pense tot el:
who in his heart thinks all else
estre voudreit a son ostel;
to-be he-would-wish at his lodging
ne revendreit des meis ariere,
nor would-come-back of-the months back
por somonse ne por preiere.
for summons nor for prayer
Li jovencel, li bacheler
The youths the bachelors
aiment mout armes a porter,
love much arms to bear
e li sieges assez lor plaist;
and the siege enough to-them pleases
mais Achillès pas ne se taist
but Achilles at-all not himself keeps-silent
d'Ector haïr e manacier:
of-Hector to-hate and to-threaten

rien nel puet faire esleecier;
anything not-him can make gladden
ja n'avra mais joie ne ris
ever not-he-will-have more joy nor laughter
devant qu'il l'ait o mort o pris.
before that-he him-may-have or dead or taken
Qui qu'ait sojor, repos ne bien,
Whoever that-may-have rest repose nor good
li fiz Tydeüs n'en a rien:
the son (of-)Tydeus not-thereof has anything
por amor est en tel esveil
for love he-is in such wakefulness
que ne li prent en lit someil:
that not to-him takes in bed sleep
ne puet dormir n'il n'a l'ueil clos,
nor he-can sleep nor-he not-has the-eye closed
ne nuit ne jor n'est en repos.
nor night nor day not-he-is in rest
Sovent pense, sovent sospire.
Often he-thinks often he-sighs
Sovent a joie, sovent ire;
Often he-has joy often wrath
sovent s'iraist, sovent se haite.
often himself-angers often himself he-cheers
Amors li a fait tel entraite
Love to-him has made such wound
dont la color li change e mue
whereof the color to-him changes and alters
e dont par maintes feiz tressue
and whereof by many times he-sweats

qu'il nen a chaut ne qu'il nel sent:
that-he not has heat nor that-he not-it feels
tel sont li trait d'Amors sovent;
such are the shots of-Love often
cui il de rien tient en sa lace,
whom he in anything holds in his snare
sovent li pert bien a la face;
often to-him it-appears well in the face
trop par sont griés ses chevauchiees,
too very are grievous his rides
endurer fait morteus haschiees.
to-endure he-makes mortal throes
N'est mie del tot a sojor
Not-he-is at-all of-the all at rest
qui espris est de fine amor,
who inflamed is with fine love
ensi come est Diomedès
thus as is Diomedes
qui ore n'a joie ne pais.
who now not-has joy nor peace
Paor a grant: n'est mie fiz
Fear he-has great not-he-is at-all sure
que il ja seit de li saisiz.
that he ever may-be of her seized
En la fille Calcas de Troie
In the daughter (of-)Calchas of Troy
est l'esperance de sa joie;
is the-hope of his joy

crient sei que ja soz covertor
he-fears himself that ever under coverlet
ne gise o li ne nuit ne jor:
not he-may-lie with her nor night nor day
de ço se voudreit mout pener,
of that himself he-would-wish much to-strive
15030 a ço tornent tuit si penser.
to that turn all his thoughts
Se ele ensi ne li consent,
If she thus not to-him consents
morz est, senz nul recovrement.
dead he-is without any recovery
Par maintes feiz la vait veeir,
By many times her he-goes to-see
mais cele est trop de grant saveir:
but she is too-much of great wisdom
15035 mout le conoist bien as sospirs,
much him she-knows well by-the sighs
qu'a li est del tot ententis;
that-to her he-is of-the all intent
por ço l'en est treis tanz plus dure.
for that to-him-thereof she-is three times more hard
Toz jorz a femme tel nature:
All days has woman such nature
s'ele aparceit que vos l'ameiz
if-she perceives that you her-love
15040 e que por li seiez destreiz,
and that for her you-may-be distressed
sempres vos fera ses orguieuz;
at-once to-you she-will-make her prides

poi vos tornera puis ses ieuz
little to-you she-will-turn after her eyes
que n'i ait dangier ne fierté.
that not-there may-be disdain nor haughtiness
Mout avreiz ainz chier comparé
Much you-will-have before dearly paid-for
le bien qu'ele le vos deint faire.
the good that-she it to-you deigns to-do
C'est une chose mout contraire,
It-is a thing very contrary
amer ço dont om n'est amez:
to-love that whereby one not-is loved
içe avient sovent assez;
this befalls often enough
a merveille deit om tenir
at marvel ought one to-hold
com ço puet onques avenir.
how that can ever happen
Cil deprie, qui mais ne puet:
He begs who more not can
fort chose a en faire l'estuet.
strong thing has in doing it-behooves
Preier estuet Diomedès,
To-beg behooves Diomedes
qui tant aime qu'il ne puet mais
who so-much loves that-he not can more
plus sofrir ne plus endurer.
more suffer nor more endure
Sovent li vait merci criër,
Often to-her he-goes mercy to-cry

sovent li dit que por s'amor
often to-her he-says that for her-love
ne puet guarir ne nuit ne jor;
not he-can recover nor night nor day
le mangier pert e le dormir;
the eating he-loses and the sleeping
penser e lermes e sospir
thinking and tears and sighs
le font palir e esmaier.
him make pale and dismay
Mout est vilains de li preier.
Very he-is base at her begging
Ne cuit que nus qui bien amast,
Not I-think that any who well loved
tant dementres come il preiast,
so-long while as he begged
que il ne fust auques vilains:
that he not were somewhat base
en ses paroles dit mout meins
in his words he-says very less
que il ne li sereit mestiers
than he not to-him would-be needful
e dont sereit tenuz plus chiers.
and whereby he-would-be held more dear
Ja nus ne s'iert tant porpensez
Ever any not himself-will-be so-much bethought
qu'es diz ne seit mout obliëz:
that-in-the sayings not may-be much forgotten

de ço se taist que plus vaudreit
of that himself he-keeps-silent which most would-be-worth
e que greignor lieu li tendreit.
and which greater place to-him would-hold
Diomedès fait autresi:
Diomedes does likewise
soventes feiz met en obli
frequent times he-puts in forgetting
ço que il plus li voudreit dire.
that which he most to-her would-wish to-say
Longement sofri cest martire
Long he-suffered this martyrdom
ainz que de li por nul poëir
before that from her by any power
poüst delit ne joie aveir.
he-could delight nor joy have
Un jor li ert alez preier
One day to-her he-was gone to-beg
qu'ele remirot le destrier
when-she gazed-at the charger
qui son ami aveit esté.
which her friend had been
Mout li ert bien dit e conté
Much to-him it-was well said and told
com cil l'en aveit fait present:
how that-one to-her-thereof had made present
irié en ert mout e dolent;
angered thereof he-was much and grieving
bien le li cuidot metre en lieu,
well it from-him he-thought to-put in place

ainz que departissent li gieu.
before that might-part the games
Se la danzele l'osast faire,
If the damsel it-had-dared to-do
qu'el n'en crensist honte et contraire,
that-she not-thereof might-have-feared shame and trouble
volentiers li eüst tramis.
willingly to-him she-would-have sent-it
Mais tost l'en poüst estre pis,
But soon to-her-thereof could be worse
trop par en fust en l'ost haïe.
too very thereby she-would-be in the-host hated
Quant celui veit, sil contralie:
When that-one she-sees so-him she-contradicts
«Sire,» fait el, «trop grant largece
Lord says she too great largesse
«apovrist home e guaste e blece:
impoverishes man and wastes and hurts
«Li plusor en sont sofraitos.
The most thereby are needy
«Ne fusseiz pas si bosoignos
Not you-would-be at-all so needy
«l'autr'ier, el grant torneiement,
the-other-day in-the great tourney
«quant cil qui nos aime neient
when he who us loves not-at-all
«vos toli vostre milsoudor,
from-you took your thousand-sou-steed
«dont ne vos fist onc puis retor,
whereof not to-you he-made ever after return

«se lors eüsseiz cest destrier:
if then you-had-had this charger
«Il vos eüst, ço cuit, mestier.
It to-you would-have that I-think need
«Trop le partistes tost de vos.
Too it you-parted soon from you
«Crieme oi qu'en fusseiz bosoignos:
Fear I-had that-thereof you-were needy
«S'en seüsse vostre estoveir,
If-thereof I-had-known your necessity
«tost le repoüsseiz aveir.
soon it again-you-could have
«Ne fait mie mauvais doner
Not it-does at-all badly to-give
«a cui om puet si recovrer,
to whom one can so recover
«mais ne sont pas de la folet;
but not they-are at-all of the foolish
«d'estrange chose s'entremet
of-strange thing himself-meddles
«cil quis cuide desheriter
he who-them thinks to-disinherit
«e de lor terre fors geter.
and from their land out to-throw
«Chevalier sont pro e vassal.
Knights they-are valiant and vassal
«Sire», fait ele, «le cheval
Lord says she the horse
«vos presterai, nel puis muër:
to-you I-shall-lend not-it I-can help

«N'en porriëz nul tel trover.
Not-thereof you-could any such find
«Puis que le vostre avez perdu,
Since that the yours you-have lost
«mout vos en est bien avenu
much to-you thereby it-is well befallen
«quant cest avreiz: prest vos en faz.
when this you-will-have lent to-you thereof I-make
«Mais cil sont mout de grant porchaz:
But those are very of great pursuit
«Se nel guardez, il le ravront;
If not-it you-guard they it will-have-again
«sacheiz que grant peine i metront.
know that great pain there they-will-put
«Icil qui del vostre est saisiz
He who of-the yours is seized
«n'est pas coarz ne esbaïz:
not-is at-all coward nor bewildered
«Nel puet aveir nus qui tant vaille.
Not-it can have any who so-much may-be-worth
— Dame,» fait il, «ço n'est pas faille
Lady says he that not-is at-all fail
«que il ne seit mout proz de sei
that he not may-be very valiant of himself
«en grant bataille e en tornei:
in great battle and in tourney
«Mais ne fait pas a merveillier,
But not it-does at-all to marvel
«se chevaliers pert son destrier.
if knight loses his charger

«Qui bien se vueut d'armes pener
Who well himself wishes with-arms to-strive
«e les granz estors endurer
and the great fights to-endure
«guaaigne e pert soventes feiz.
gains and loses frequent times
«Trop bosoignos ne trop destreiz
Too needy nor too distressed
«n'en sui jo pas: j'en ai assez;
not-thereof am I at-all I-thereof have enough
«mais se vos le me comandez,
but if you it to-me command
«jol guarderai a mon poëir.
I-it shall-guard to my power
«Trop avrai ainz grant estoveir
Too-much I-shall-have before great necessity
«que jo le lais partir de mei:
than I it may-let part from me
«Ainz le comparront plus de trei.
Rather it will-pay-for more than three
«Dès or vei e conois e sai
From now I-see and know and am-aware
«que la grant peine que jo trai
that the great pain which I draw
«por vos, ou mis cuers tent e tire,
for you where my heart stretches and pulls
«senz aveir joie ne remire
without having joy nor reward
«ne bien ne confort ne solaz,
nor good nor comfort nor solace

«que l'atendance que jo faz,
that the-waiting which I make
«me tornera a joie entiere.
to-me will-turn to joy entire
«Tant vos ferai longe preiere
So-long to-you I-shall-make long prayer
«que vos avreiz merci de mei:
that you will-have mercy on me
«Içe atent, içe soplei,
This I-await this I-supplicate
«içe coveit, içe desir,
this I-covet this I-desire
«ici fineront mi sospir.
here will-end my sighs
«Toz sera mis jois acompliz,
All will-be my joy fulfilled
«quant jo serai de vos saisiz;
when I shall-be of you seized
«içe remaint en vostre esguart.
this remains in your regard
«Douce amie, ne vienge a tart
Sweet beloved not may-come at late
«vostre socors! Griefment m'estait,
your succor Grievously to-me-it-stands
«se vos n'en prenez autre plait.
if you not-thereof take other plea
«S'en vos n'aveie m'atendance,
If-in you not-I-had my-hope

«ja mais ne cuit qu'escuz ne lance
ever more not I-think that-shield nor lance
«fust par mei portez ne saisiz.
were by me carried nor seized
«Mieuz me vaudreit estre feniz
Better to-me it-would-be-worth to-be ended
«que vivre puis: la meie vie
than to-live after the my life
«sereit trop grief. La meie amie,
would-be too grievous The my beloved
«tornez vers mei vostre corage.
turn toward me your heart
«Tant estes bele e proz e sage
So-much you-are fair and valiant and wise
«que jo ne puis, gente façon,
that I not can noble fashion
«a rien entendre s'a vos non.
at anything to-attend if-to you not
«Or iert ensi com vos voudreiz
Now it-will-be thus as you will-wish
«e si com vos comandereiz:
and so as you will-command
«Jo n'en puis prendre autre conrei,
I not-thereof can take other counsel
«mais a vos me livre e otrei.»
but to you myself I-deliver and grant

La dameisele est mout haitiee
The damsel is very cheered
e mout se fait joiose e liee
and much herself makes joyful and glad
de ço qu'il est si en ses laz.
of that that-he is so in her snares
La destre manche de son braz
The right sleeve of her arm
nueve e fresche d'un ciclaton
new and fresh of-a ciclatoun
li baille en lieu de confanon.
to-him she-gives in place of pennon
Joie a cil qui por li se peine:
Joy has he who for her himself strives
ja est tochiee de la veine
already she-is touched by the vein
dont les autres font les forfaiz
whereof the others make the misdeeds
qui sovent sont diz e retraiz.
which often are said and recounted
Dès or puet saveir Troïlus
From now can know Troilus
que mar s'atendra a li plus.
that ill himself-will-rely on her more
Devers li est l'amor quassee,
Toward her is the-love broken
que mout fu puis chier comparee.
which very was after dearly paid-for

The Ninth Battle

LXV

When the six months end, both armies take the field and fight for twelve days. Dares records that many dukes and emirs fall, and that summer almost every wounded man dies, so heavy is the mortality. Agamemnon asks for a truce, and Priam grants thirty days; the dead are burned and buried. Priam holds close councils with his kin and his best men, and the city strengthens its defenses. The narrator laments the sorrow soon to come: what Cassandra foretold is about to be fulfilled. When the thirty days pass, both sides wait for the next day's deadly battle.

Acompli furent li sis meis:
Fulfilled were the six months
cil de la vile e li Grezeis
those of the town and the Greeks
rarmerent bien d'armes lor cors,
armed-again well with-arms their bodies
puis s'en eissirent as chans fors.
then themselves-thence they-went-out to-the fields out
Par doze jorz se combatirent,
For twelve days themselves they-fought
onc jusqu'al seir ne departirent.
ever until-the evening not they-parted
Mout i ot jostes e torneiz
Much there was jousts and tourneys
e chevaliers a mort destreiz;
and knights to death distressed
mout par i ot d'estrange guise
very much there was of-strange guise
de ça e de la grant ocise.
from here and from there great slaughter

En ceste bataille novaine,
In this battle ninth
ainz que trespassast la semaine,
before that might-pass the week
ot mout ocis de haute gent:
there-was much killed of high folk
15200 ço dit Daires, qui pas ne ment.
that says Dares who at-all not lies
Maint duc, maint amiraut preisié
Many-a duke many-a emir prized
i ot ocis e detrenchié.
there was killed and cut-to-pieces
En cel termine e en cel meis,
In that term and in that month
mout plus que n'aveit fait anceis,
very more than not-it-had done before
15205 morurent cil qui navré erent:
died those who wounded were
sacheiz mout poi en eschaperent.
know very few thereof escaped
Ensi avint qu'en cel esté
Thus it-befell that-in that summer
i ot si grant mortalité
there was so great mortality
que sempre erent li navré mort.
that at-once were the wounded dead
15210 Mout en orent grant desconfort
Much thereof they-had great discomfort
e cil defors e cil dedenz.
both those outside and those within

Tant rot duré icist contenz
So-long again-had lasted this struggle
que li damages fu si forz
that the harm was so strong
e tant i ot chevaliers morz
and so-many there were knights dead
qu'il nel porent plus endurer:
that-they not-it could more endure
triuës lor estut demander.
truces to-them it-behooved to-ask
Agamennon i a tramis,
Agamemnon there has sent
par le conseil de ses amis:
by the counsel of his friends
al rei Priant les ont requises.
of-the king Priam them they-have asked
Il les dona par teus devises
He them gave by such terms
que trente jorz seient seürs
that thirty days they-may-be secure
dedenz la vile e fors des murs.
within the town and outside the walls
Li trente jor sont afié.
The thirty days are pledged
Quant li mort furent enterré
When the dead were buried
e ars es rez e seveli,
and burned on-the pyres and shrouded

si refurent auques guarni
so again-they-were somewhat furnished
cil de la vile e afaitié:
those of the town and made-ready
lor pas orent bien esforcié.
their passes they-had well strengthened
Li reis Prianz soventes feiz
The king Priam frequent times
teneit parlemenz mout estreiz:
held parleys very close
as plus prochains de ses amis
with-the most near of his friends
e as meillors de son païs
and with-the best of his country
prent e done conseiz e arz.
he-takes and gives counsels and arts
Porveient sei de totes parz
They-provide themselves on all sides
de teus choses que lor nuireient,
against such things which them would-harm
se il guarde ne s'en preneient.
if they guard not themselves-thereof took
Ha! las, quel perte e quel dolor
Ah weary what loss and what grief
lor avendra jusqu'a brief jor!
to-them will-come up-to brief day
E com tres pesant destinee!
And how very heavy destiny
Ne sai com seit par mei contee,
Not I-know how it-may-be by me told

ne sai com nus la puisse oïr.
nor I-know how any it may hear
Le jor deüssent tuit morir
The day they-ought all to-die
qu'il lor avint, ço fust bien dreiz:
that-it to-them befell that were well right
si angoissos e si destreiz
so anguished and so distressed
furent puis tant come il durerent.
they-were after as-long as they lasted
Onc puis joie ne recovrerent,
Ever after joy not they-recovered
ne jo ne sai mie coment.
nor I not know at-all how
Dès or orreiz com faitement
From now you-will-hear how fashioned
avint de la bataille après:
it-befell of the battle after
ne cuit que nus hom oie mais
not I-think that any man may-hear ever
si grant dolor, si grant damage.
so great grief so great harm
Ço que dist Cassandra la sage
That which said Cassandra the wise
avendra tot dès ore mais.
will-come-to-pass all from now more
Icele triuë, icele pais
That truce that peace
des trente jorz fu trespassee:
of-the thirty days was passed

lor gent fu saine e respassee.
their folk was healthy and healed
Chascuns a l'endemain s'atent
Each on the-next-day himself-waits
d'estre al mortel torneiement,
of-being at-the mortal tourney
al doloros, al desfaé,
at-the grievous at-the accursed
qui mar fu onques assemblé:
which ill was ever joined
en mout male hore comença
in very evil hour it-began
e en plus male defina.
and in more evil it-ended

Andromache's Dream

LXVI

Andromache, Hector's loyal wife, has two sons, Laudamanta and the infant Astyanax. On the night the truce ends, the gods show her in visions that Hector will die if he fights that day. She begs him to stay, but he calls her dream folly and refuses to be shamed by it. She sends to Priam, who fears the danger and forbids Hector to go, then arrays the kings and battalions and orders them out without him. Enraged, Hector demands the arms she has hidden. His mother, his sisters, Polyxena, and Helen plead with him. Andromache lays Astyanax at his feet, foretells the child's orphanhood, and falls fainting, and Helen lifts her.

Andromacha apelot l'om
Andromache called-her one
la femme Hector par son dreit non,
the wife (of-)Hector by her right name
gente dame de haut parage, 15265
noble lady of high lineage
franche e corteise e pro e sage.
free and courteous and valiant and wise
Mout ert leiaus vers son seignor
Very she-was loyal toward her lord
e mout l'ama de grant amor.
and much him-she-loved with great love
De lui aveit dous beaus enfanz:
By him she-had two fair children
li graindre n'aveit pas cinc anz. 15270
the elder not-had at-all five years
Laudamanta ot non li uns,
Laudamanta had name the one

qui ne fu laiz ne neirs ne bruns,
who not was ugly nor black nor brown
mais genz e blonz e blanz e beaus
but noble and blond and white and fair
e flor sor autres dameiseaus.
and flower above other youths
Li autre ot non, ço dit l'Escriz,
The other had name that says the-Writing
Asternates; mais mout petiz
Astyanax but very small
ert li enfes e alaitanz:
was the child and suckling
n'aveit ancor mie treis anz.
not-be-had yet at-all three years
Oëz com fait demostrement!
Hear how made sign
Icele nuit demeinement
That night exactly
que la triuë fu definee,
that the truce was ended
dut bien la dame estre esfreëe:
ought well the lady to-be frightened
si fu ele, ços di de veir.
so was she that-you I-say of truth
Li dieu li ont fait a saveir
The gods to-her have made to know
par signes e par visions
by signs and by visions
e par interpretacions
and by interpretations

son grant damage e sa dolor.
her great harm and her grief
La nuit, ainz que venist le jor,
The night before that came the day
ot ele assez peine e soferte;
had she enough pain and suffered
mais de ço fu seüre e certe,
but of that she-was sure and certain
s'Ector s'en ist a la bataille,
if-Hector himself-thence goes-out to the battle
que ocis i sera senz faille:
that killed there he-will-be without fail
ja ne porra del champ eissir,
ever not he-will-be-able from-the field to-go-out
cel jor li estovra morir.
that day to-him it-will-behoove to-die
La dame sot la destinee
The lady knew the destiny
que la nuit li fu demostree:
which the night to-her was shown
s'ele ot de son seignor dotance,
if-she had for her lord doubt
crieme e paor e esmaiance,
fear and dread and dismay
ço ne fu mie de merveille.
that not was at-all of marvel
A lui meïsme se conseille:
With him same herself she-counsels

«Sire», fait el, «mostrer vos vueil
Lord says she to-show to-you I-wish
«la merveille dont tant me dueil
the marvel whereof so-much myself I-grieve
«que por un poi li cuers de mei —
that for a little the heart of me
«tel paor ai e tel esfrei! —
such fear I-have and such alarm
«ne me desment e ne me faut.
not to-me fails and not to-me gives-out
«Li soverain e li plus haut
The sovereign and the most high
«le m'ont mostré, que jol vos die,
it to-me-have shown that I-it to-you may-say
«qu'a la bataille n'ailleiz mie:
that-to the battle not-you-may-go at-all
«Par mei vos en font desfiance
Through me to-you thereof they-make forbidding
«e merveillose demostrance:
and marvelous showing
«N'en vendriëz ja mais ariere
Not-thence you-would-come ever more back
«qu'om ne vos aportast en biere.
but-that-one not you would-carry on bier
«Ne vuelent pas les Poëstez
Not wish at-all the Powers
«ne les devines Deïtez
nor the divine Deities
«que i ailleiz, mostré le m'ont:
that there you-may-go shown it to-me-they-have

«Tel desfiance vos en font,
Such forbidding to-you thereof they-make
«que, se vos eissiez a l'estor,
that if you go-out to the-fight
«ja ne trespassereiz cest jor;
ever not you-will-pass this day
«e quant il vos en font devié,
and when they to-you thereof make forbidding
«n'i ireiz pas senz lor congié,
not-there you-will-go at-all without their leave
«se m'en creez. Jol vos di bien:
if me-thereof you-believe I-it to-you say well
«Guarder devez sor tote rien
Guard you-ought above all thing
«que n'enfraigniez lor volentez
that not-you-may-break their wills
«ne rien que seit outre lor grez».
nor anything which may-be beyond their wishes
Hector vers la dame s'iraist:
Hector toward the lady grows-angry
de quant qu'il ot rien ne li plaist;
of whatever that-he hears anything not to-him pleases
ses paroles tient a falue.
her words he-holds as nonsense
Irieement l'a respondue:
Angrily her-he-has answered
«Dès or», fait il, «sai bien e vei,
From now says he I-know well and see
«n'en dot de rien ne nel mescrei,
not-thereof I-doubt in anything nor not-it I-misbelieve

«qu'en vos n'a sen ne esciënt.
that-in you not-is sense nor knowledge
«Trop avez pris grant hardement,
Too-much you-have taken great boldness
«que tel chose m'avez nonciee.
that such thing to-me-you-have announced
«Se la folie avez songiee,
If the folly you-have dreamed
«si la me venez reconter,
so it to-me you-come to-recount
«e chalongier e deveer
and to-challenge and to-forbid
«qu'armes ne port ne ne m'en isse;
that-arms not I-may-bear nor not myself-thence I-may-go-out
«mais ço n'iert ja, tant com jo puisse,
but that not-will-be ever as-long as I can
«que j'o les coilverz ne contende
that I-with the base-ones not may-contend
«e que jo d'eus ne me defende,
and that I from-them not myself may-defend
«qui mon lignage m'ont ocis
who my lineage to-me-have killed
«e en ceste cité asis.
and in this city besieged
«Se li coilvert, li de put aire
If the base-ones the of base breed
«oëient conter ne retraire,
should-hear tell nor recount
«e li chevalier d'este vile,
and the knights of-this town

«dont plus i a de dous cenz mile,
of-which more there are than two hundred thousand
«que d'un songe, se le songiez,
that by-a dream if it you-dream
«fusse si pris ne esmaiez
I-were so taken nor dismayed
«que je n'osasse fors eissir,
that I not-dared out go-out
«com me porreie plus honir? 15350
how myself could-I more shame
«Ne vueille Deus que ço m'avienge,
Not may-wish God that that to-me-may-happen
«que por iço mort dot ne crienge!
that for this death I-may-doubt nor may-fear
«N'en parlez mais, taisiez vos en,
Not-thereof speak more be-silent you thereof
«quar n'en ferai ja votre sen.»
for not-thereof I-shall-do ever your sense
Andromacha plore e sospire; 15355
Andromache weeps and sighs
si grant duel a e si grant ire
so great grief she-has and so great wrath
que por un poi le sen ne pert.
that for a little the sense not she-loses
Al rei Priant mande en apert
To-the king Priam she-sends in open
qu'il le li viet e quel retienge,
that-he it to-him may-forbid and that-him he-may-hold-back
que laiz damages ne l'en vienge: 15360
that ugly harm not to-him-thereof may-come

sor tote rien guart n'i ait faille
above all anything let-him-guard not-there may-be fail
qu'il n'aut le jor a la bataille.
that-he not-may-go the day to the battle
Crienst e dota li reis Prianz:
Feared and doubted the king Priam
le peril veit qui est si granz,
the peril he-sees which is so great
n'il n'a fiance que en lui,
nor-he not-has trust than in him
quar c'est s'entente e son refui.
for that-is his-hope and his refuge
Se il n'i vait, la perte iert lor:
If he not-there goes the loss will-be theirs
sor eus revertira le jor.
on them will-turn-back the day
Ensorquetot n'ose muër
Above-all not-he-dares to-avoid
qu'il nel retienge de l'aler.
that-he not-him may-hold-back from the-going
La dame set de grant saveir:
The lady knows of great wisdom
ne deit om mie desvoleir
not ought one at-all to-refuse
ço que por bien dit e enseigne.
that which for good she-says and teaches
Paris a pris e sa compaigne,
Paris he-has taken and his company
e Troïlus e Eneas,
and Troïlus and Aeneas

rei Mennon e Polidamas,
king Memnon and Polydamas
rei Sarpedon e rei Glaucus
king Sarpedon and king Glaucus
e de Licoine Eüfemus
and of Lycaonia Euphemus
e Cupesus le fort, le grant,
and Cupesus the strong the big
qui esteit graindre d'un jaiant,
who was bigger than-a giant
rei Steropeus, rei Acamus,
king Steropeus king Acamas
rei Epistrot, rei Adrastus,
king Epistrophus king Adrastus
rei Heseüs e rei Fortis,
king Heseus and king Fortis
qui sire esteit de Filitis,
who lord was of Filitis
Philemenis le grant, le proz,
Philemenis the big the valiant
e les autres riches reis toz
and the other rich kings all
a establiz e devisez
he-has established and arranged
e les conreiz faiz e sevrez:
and the troops made and separated
mout furent grant, riche e plenier.
very they-were great rich and full

Quant covert furent li destrier
When covered were the chargers
e les enseignes atachiees
and the banners attached
es trenchanz lances aguisiees,
on-the cutting lances sharpened
e li vassal furent armé
and the vassals were armed
e por bataille conreé,
and for battle arrayed
s'a comandé Prianz le rei
so-has commanded Priam the king
c'ui mais s'en issent li conrei.
that-today more themselves-thence may-go-out the troops
Trop tarjoënt, quar cil de la
Too-much they-delayed for those of there
sont ja as lices, grant piece a.
are already at-the barriers great while ago
Mais quant ço vit Hector e sot
But when that saw Hector and knew
que sis pere li deveot
that his father to-him forbade
qu'il n'i alast a cele feiz,
that-he not-there should-go at that time
enragiez fu e si destreiz
maddened he-was and so distressed
que por un poi n'a mout laidi
that for a little not-he-has much ill-used
cele que ço li a basti.
her who that to-him has contrived

Lui e s'amor e son cuer pert;
Him and his-love and his heart she-loses
quant el cel plait a descovert
when she that plea has uncovered
sor son devié, sor sa manace,
over his forbidding over his threat
ja mais n'iert jorz qu'il ne l'en hace,
ever more not-will-be day that-he not her-thereof may-hate
e por un poi qu'il ne la fiert.
and for a little that-he not her strikes
Ses armes li demande e quiert
His arms to-her he-asks and seeks
isnelement, senz demorance,
swiftly without delay
qu'il n'i face plus atendance.
that-he not-there may-make more waiting
La dame les aveit muciees
The lady them had hidden
e repostes e estoiees:
and concealed and stowed
duel faiseit grant e angoissos;
grief she-made great and anguished
le jor redote perillos;
the day she-dreads perilous
par maintes feiz l'estut pasmer.
by many times her-behooved to-swoon
Quant el li vit son cors armer,
When she to-him saw his body arm

mout li prie qu'il se remaigne
much him she-begs that-he himself may-remain
e que son corage refraigne;
and that his heart he-may-restrain
mout li crie sovent merci;
much to-him she-cries often mercy
mais il par est ensi marri
but he very is thus grieved
qu'ele n'i puet merci trover
that-she not-there can mercy find
ne por braire ne por criër.
nor for wailing nor for crying
Quant veit que par nule maniere,
When she-sees that by any manner
por dit, por fait ne por preiere,
by word by deed nor by prayer
ne l'en porra plus retenir,
not him-thence she-will-be-able more to-hold-back
si a les dames fait venir.
so she-has the ladies made come
Sa mere e ses beles sorors,
His mother and his fair sisters
o criz, o lermes e o plors,
with cries with tears and with weepings
l'ont depreié e conjuré
him-have begged and adjured
e en maint sen amonesté
and in many-a way admonished
qu'il ne s'en isse e qu'il n'i aille:
that-he not himself-thence may-go-out and that-he not-there may-go

n'i a preiere que rien vaille;
not-there is prayer which anything may-be-worth
ne lor monte, ne lor vaut rien:
not to-them avails nor to-them is-worth anything
«Fiz,» fait sa mere, «or sai jo bien
Son says his mother now know I well
«que tu enchiez e fauz vers mei
that thou failest and art-false toward me
«e vers ta femme e vers le rei,
and toward thy wife and toward the king
«qui noz volentez contrediz.
who our wills gainsayest
«Aies de nos merci, beaus fiz:
Have on us mercy fair son
«Ne nos laissier, ne nos guerpir,
Not us leave nor us abandon
«ne nos faire de duel morir.
nor us make of grief die
«Fiz, chiers amis, que ferions,
Son dear friend what we-would-do
«se ton cors perdu avions?
if thy body lost we-had
«N'i a celi ne s'oceïst
Not-there is one-of-us not herself-would-kill
«e que li cuers ne li partist.
and that the heart not to-her would-split
«Remanez vos, douz ami chier,
Remain you sweet friend dear
«creez les diz vostre moillier.»
believe the sayings (of-)your wife

Qui donc veïst en com grant peine
Who then had-seen in how great pain
Polixena e dame Heleine
Polyxena and lady Helen
se meteient al detenir!
themselves were-putting at-the detaining
Mais ne le pueent pas tenir.
But not him they-can at-all hold
Tant est iriez, ne set que face:
So-much he-is angered not he-knows what he-may-do
Andromacha het e manace.
Andromache he-hates and threatens
Quant ele veit que el n'en iert,
When she sees that else not-thereof will-be
o ses dous mains granz cous se fiert;
with her two hands great blows herself she-strikes
ses cheveus tuert e ront e tire,
her hair she-twists and breaks and tears
fier duel demeine e fier martire:
fierce grief she-makes and fierce martyrdom
bien resemble femme desvee.
well she-resembles woman crazed
Tote enragiee, eschevelee
All maddened disheveled
e trestote fors de son sen,
and all out of her sense
cort por son fil Asternaten.
she-runs for her son Astyanax
Des ieuz plore mout tendrement,
From-the eyes she-weeps very tenderly

entre ses braz le charge e prent;
between her arms him she-loads and takes
vient el palais o tot arieres,
she-comes into-the palace with all back
la ou chauçot ses genoillieres;
there where he-was-putting-on his knee-pieces
as piez li met e si li dit:
at-the feet to-him she-puts and so to-him says
«Sire, por cest enfant petit
Lord for this child small
«que tu engendras de ta char,
whom thou begatest of thy flesh
«te pri ne tienges a eschar
thee I-beg not thou-may-hold in mockery
«ço que jo t'ai dit e noncié;
that which I to-thee-have said and announced
«aies de cest enfant pitié:
have on this child pity
«Ja mais des ieuz ne te verra,
Ever more with-the eyes not thee he-will-see
«se assembles a ceus de la.
if thou-joinest with those of there
«Hui iert ta mort, hui iert ta fin:
Today will-be thy death today will-be thy end
«De tei remandra orfelin.
Of thee will-remain orphan
«Cruël de cuer, lou enragié,
Cruel of heart wolf maddened
«a que ne vos en prent pitié?
for what not you thereof takes pity

«Por que volez si tost morir?
For what wish-you so soon to-die
«Por que volez si tost guerpir
For what wish-you so soon to-abandon
«e mei e lui e vostre pere
both me and him and your father
«e voz freres e vostre mere?
and your brothers and your mother
«Por que nos laissereiz perir?
For what us will-you-let perish
«Com porrons nos senz vos guarir?
How shall-be-able we without you to-be-saved
«Lasse, com faite destinee!»
Alas what made destiny
Adonc chaï a denz pasmee
Then she-fell on teeth swooned
desus le pavement a quaz.
upon the pavement at flat
Cele l'en lieve entre ses braz,
That-one her-thence lifts between her arms
que angoissos duel en demeine:
who anguished grief thereof makes
c'est sa sororge, dame Heleine.
that-is her sister-in-law lady Helen

The Tenth Battle Begins

LXVII

Unmoved, Hector is about to mount when Andromache runs to Priam, tells him what the gods have shown her, and faints at his feet. Priam rides out, finds Hector in the street flushed with anger on Galatea, and forbids him by the gods to leave the city. Hector protests that staying for a madwoman's dream will shame him, but obeys and turns back, still armed. Priam sends every other man out. Diomedes and Troilus meet first; Diomedes, carrying his lady's sleeve on his lance, wounds Troilus, who wounds him in turn. Menelaus captures Merceres of Phrygia, and Polydamas, mocking those who stay home for dreams, rescues him with Troilus.

Hector de rien ne s'asopleie
Hector in anything not himself-yields
ne por l'enfant ne s'amoleie:
nor for the-child not himself-softens
nel reguarde ne n'en tient plait.
not-him he-looks-at nor not-thereof holds plea
Ja li orent son cheval trait:
Already to-him they-had his horse drawn
monter voleit, n'i aveit plus. 15495
to-mount he-wished not-there was more
Andromacha saut fors par l'us;
Andromache leaps out through the-door
plaint sei e crie a si hauz criz
laments herself and cries with so high cries
que mout par sont de loinz oïz:
that very much they-are from far heard

el grant palais perrin de Troie
in-the great palace of-stone of Troy
n'i a si sort qui cler ne l'oie.
not-there is so deaf who clear not it-may-hear
Plorer lor fait de chaudes lermes.
Weep them she-makes with hot tears
Ha! las, come aproche li termes
Ah weary how approaches the term
que chascuns voudreit estre morz!
when each would-wish to-be dead
Cele cui rien ne vaut conforz
She to-whom anything not avails comfort
vient andous ses mains detordant
comes both her hands wringing
tot dreitement al rei Priant:
all straight to-the king Priam
si grant duel a que mot ne sone.
so great grief she-has that word not she-sounds
A chief de piece l'areisone:
At end of while him-she-addresses
«Di, va,» fait ele, «iés tu desvez
Say go-on says she art thou maddened
«o de ton sen si forsenez
or of thy sense so out-of-thy-wits
«que tu n'as mais cure de tei?
that thou not-hast more care of thyself
«Saches, s'Ector vait al tornei,
Know if-Hector goes to-the tourney
«tu l'as perdu, sin seies fis:
thou him-hast lost so-thereof be sure

«Il i sera ancui ocis.
He there will-be today killed
«Je l'ai veü par demostrance:
I it-have seen by showing
«Li deu l'en ont fait desfiance
The gods to-him-thereof have made forbidding
«par mei ensi faitierement
through me thus fashioned
«que, s'il assemble a la lor gent,
that if-he joins with the their folk
«il l'ociront. Guart qu'en feras:
they him-will-kill Guard what-thereof thou-wilt-do
«Ja mais des ieuz ne le verras.
Ever more with-the eyes not him thou-wilt-see
«Va, sire, tost e sil retien.
Go lord quickly and so-him hold-back
«Asternaten, son fil e mien,
Astyanax his son and mine
«li aportai ore a ses piez;
to-him I-brought now at his feet
«de sa mere a esté preiez,
by his mother has he-been begged
«d'Eleine et de Polixenain,
by-Helen and by Polyxena
«mais ç'a esté trestot en vain:
but that-has been all in vain
«Ne nos deignot sol esguarder.
Not us he-deigned only to-look-at
«Sacheiz qu'il voleit or monter,
Know that-he wished now to-mount

«quant acorui criant a tei.
when I-ran-up crying to thee
«Va tost, sire, retien le mei.»
Go quickly lord hold-back him for-me
Ne pot plus dire: pasme sei
Not she-could more say she-swoons herself
tres de devant les piez le rei.
right in front-of the feet (of-)the king
Mout fu Prianz austers e durs,
Very was Priam stern and hard
envers ses enemis seürs;
toward his enemies secure
ne fu hastis, legiers n'estouz,
not he-was hasty light nor-rash
franc cuer ot mout e simple e douz.
free heart he-had very and simple and sweet
Quant les paroles ot retraire
When the words he-hears relate
e vit la dame tel duel faire,
and saw the lady such grief make
el cuer li prent une freidor,
in-the heart to-him takes a chill
dotance a e crieme e paor;
doubt he-has and dread and fear
sospir l'en issent granz e lons.
sighs from-him-thence come-out great and long
Une piece fu toz embrons:
A while he-was all downcast

lermes li mueillent le menton
tears to-him wet the chin
e les goles del peliçon;
and the facings of-the pelisse
son damage sent e aleine.
his harm he-feels and scents
Sor un cheval monte a grant peine;
On a horse he-mounts with great pain
fors del palais s'en est eissuz,
out of-the palace himself-thence he-is gone-out
dolenz, pensis, taisanz e muz.
grieving pensive silent and mute
Hector ataint en mi la rue,
Hector he-reaches in the-midst the street
qui toz de mautalent tressue:
who all with ill-will sweats
mout par l'aveient fait irié
very much him-they-had made angered
por la noise, por le devié
for the noise for the forbidding
d'eissir s'en fors contre Grezeis.
of-going himself-thence out against Greeks
Desoz son heaume Paviëis
Under his helmet Pavian
a le vis teint e coloré.
he-has the face stained and colored
Li ueil li sont el chief enflé:
The eyes to-him are in-the head swollen
plus les a vermeiz d'un charbon.
more them he-has red than-a coal

Plus fiers que lieparz ne lion,
More fierce than leopards nor lion
l'auberc vestu, ceinte l'espee,
the-hauberk put-on girded the-sword
sist toz armez sor Galatee,
he-sat all armed on Galatea
qui de dur mestier ert apris.
which in hard craft was taught
Prianz l'a par la resne pris:
Priam him-has by the rein taken
«Beaus fiz,» fait il, «vos remandreiz;
Fair son says he you will-remain
«sacheiz c'ui la fors n'en istreiz.
know that-today there outside not-thence you-will-go-out
«Sor ço qu'il a de mei a tei
On that which-he has of me to thee
«e sor les deus de nostre lei,
and on the gods of our law
«t'en faz devié: retorne t'en.
to-thee-thereof I-make forbidding turn-back thee-thence
«Tant deis aveir reison e sen,
So-much thou-oughtest to-have reason and sense
«ne deis faire n'a tort n'a dreit
not thou-oughtest to-do nor-in wrong nor-in right
«chose ou li miens plaisirs ne seit.
thing where the my pleasure not may-be
«Sor tei avrai tel poësté
Over thee I-shall-have such power
«que n'istras hui de la cité.
that not-thou-wilt-go-out today from the city

«Veiz quel merveille e quel criëe
See-thou what marvel and what outcry
«ont cez dames entre els levee?
have these ladies among themselves raised
«Veiz com chascune crie e brait?
See-thou how each cries and wails
«Soz ciel n'a rien pitié n'en ait.
Under heaven not-is anything pity not-thereof may-have
«Va descendre, chiers fiz, amis.»
Go dismount dear son friend
Mout par fu Hector entrepris:
Very much was Hector beset
le vié son pere n'ose enfraindre,
the forbidding (of-)his father not-be-dares to-break
ne il ne set coment remaindre.
nor he not knows how to-remain
Honiz en crient estre a sa vie:
Shamed thereby he-fears to-be in his life
«Sire», fait il, «itel folie
Lord says he such folly
«com fu solement porpensee?
as was only conceived
«Por une fole, une desvee,
For a foolish-woman a crazed-woman
«que son songe vos a retrait,
who her dream to-you has recounted
«quos entremetez de tel plait?
why-you you-meddle with such plea
«N'avenist pas! Ço di por veir,
Not-it-would-happen at-all That I-say for true

«trop i porrai grant honte aveir,
too-much there I-shall-be-able great shame to-have
«se jo remaing por tel afaire.
if I remain for such affair
«Ne vos devreit mie desplaire,
Not to-you it-ought at-all to-displease
«se j'aloë voz genz aidier,
if I-went your folk to-help
«quin avront ancui grant mestier.»
who-thereof will-have today great need
De tot içо n'a Prianz cure:
Of all this not-has Priam care
tant le prie, tant le conjure
so-much him he-begs so-much him he-adjures
qu'il l'en a fait torner ariere.
that-he him-thence has made turn back
Tant par est fiers en mi la chiere
So very he-is fierce in the-midst the face
que ne l'ose rien esguarder.
that not him-dares anyone look-at
Ne se voust onques desarmer
Not himself he-wished ever to-disarm
fors solement de sa ventaille.
except only of his ventail
Prianz enveie a la bataille
Priam sends to the battle
toz ceus qu'il a ne aveir puet:
all those whom-he has nor to-have can
tote la vile s'en esmuet.
all the town itself-thence moves

Tuit s'en issent, les armes prises,
All themselves-thence go-out the arms taken
loinz as plains chans, fors les devises.
far to-the plain fields beyond the bounds
Cil de l'ost sont mout aproismié,
Those of the-host are very approached
de bataille prest e rengié.
for battle ready and ranked
Diomedès a gent conrei,
Diomedes has noble troop
e Achillès riche endreit sei;
and Achilles rich as-for himself
Telamonius Aïaus,
Telamonian Ajax
Agamennon e Menelaus
Agamemnon and Menelaus
e li sages Palamedès
and the wise Palamedes
chevaliers ont pro e adès.
knights they-have valiant and withal
Li heaume cler e li samiz
The helmets bright and the samites
e l'ors d'Espaigne e li verniz
and the-gold of-Spain and the varnish
resplendissent par la champaigne.
shine through the plain

Diomedès o sa compaigne
Diomedes with his company
e Troïlus o les Frisains
and Troilus with the Phrygians
assemblerent toz premerains:
joined-battle all first
icist dui conrei s'entrevindrent,
these two troops came-together
qui grant partie del champ tindrent.
which great part of-the field held
Li cheval meinent grant esfrei:
The horses make great uproar
de loinz en ot l'om le trepei
from far thereof hears one the trampling
e la terre soz eus bondir.
and the earth under them resound
Baissent les fuz a l'avenir;
They-lower the shafts at the-coming
ataignent sei par mi escuz
they-reach themselves through the-midst shields
e par haubers mailliez menuz;
and through hauberks mailed fine
froissent lances e enastelent
they-shatter lances and splinter
e cors de chevaliers desselent.
and bodies of knights unsaddle
Al bien ferir e al hurter,
At-the well striking and at-the clashing

en i covint maint enverser
thereof there it-behooved many-a to-overturn
de teus qui puis ne releverent.
of such who after not rose
Cil qui as lances eschaperent
Those who from-the lances escaped
traient les branz d'acier moluz:
draw the blades of-steel ground
la ot estranges cous feruz;
there were strange blows struck
set cenz en raient les costez.
seven hundred thereof stream the sides
Tant en i a morz e navrez
So-many thereof there are dead and wounded
que toz li chans en est jonchiez.
that all the field thereof is strewn
Diomedès est mout iriez,
Diomedes is very angered
quant veit sa gent ensi morir
when he-sees his folk thus die
e Troïens si contenir.
and Trojans so bear-themselves
Le cheval point vers Troïlus:
The horse he-spurs toward Troïlus
tote la lance de benus,
all the lance of ebony
ou la manche ert de ciclaton,
where the sleeve was of ciclatoun
passe par l'escu al lion;
passes through the-shield with-the lion

delez le flanc li fait sentir.
beside the flank to-him he-makes feel-it
Cil ne refaut mie al ferir:
That-one not again-fails at-all at-the striking
l'escu li a del cors sevré
the-shield to-him he-has from-the body severed
e le hauberc bien esfondré,
and the hauberk well broken-through
si que li sans del cors li raie;
so that the blood from-the body to-him streams
mais n'i a mie mortel plaie,
but not-there is at-all mortal wound
ne que li face grant noisance
nor that to-him may-do great harm
a ferir d'espee o de lance.
at striking with-sword or with lance
Tel gieu voleient comencier,
Such game they-wished to-begin
o les clers branz trenchanz d'acier,
with the bright blades cutting of-steel
de que les testes lor saignassent,
of which the heads to-them would-have-bled
ja mais anceis ne desevrassent:
ever more before not they-would-have-parted
mais Menelaus i est venuz
but Menelaus there is come
o plus de quatre mile escuz.
with more than four thousand shields
O Mercerès, le rei de Frise,
With Merceres the king of Phrygia

josta: n'i ot autre devise.
he-jousted not-there was other division
Ataint se sont li dui seignor,
Reached themselves they-are the two lords
que les enseignes de color
so-that the banners of color
se font passer par les escuz.
themselves they-make pass through the shields
Reis Mercerès fu abatuz;
King Merceres was thrown-down
sor lui fu li trepeiz si granz
over him was the trampling so great
e des Menelaus i ot tanz
and of-the-men-of Menelaus there were so-many
que cil ne pot aveir aïe
that that-one not could have aid
de toz ceus de sa compaignie.
from all those of his company
Li reis de Frise ert retenuz:
The king of Phrygia was held
ne fust rescos ne socoruz,
not he-would-be rescued nor succored
se n'i venist Polidamas.
if not-there had-come Polydamas
Sacheiz mais hui ne cuit jo pas
Know more today not think I at-all
que il l'en meinent senz chalonge:
that they him-thence may-lead without challenge

nel tienent mie en si fort longe
not-him they-hold at-all in so strong rope
qu'il ne lor eschat jusqu'a poi:
that-he not from-them may-escape within little
«Troïlus,» fait il, «sire, avoi!
Troilus says he lord come-now
«Come estes vos si resortiz?
How are you so drawn-back
«Greu choisissent des gieus partiz:
Greeks choose of-the games divided
«Laissier nos cuident le sordeis.
To-leave us they-think the worse
«Toleit nos a Hector li Reis:
Taken from-us has Hector the King
«Nos n'avrons hui socors par lui.
We not-shall-have today help by him
«Puis cele hore que jo nez fui,
Since that hour that I born was
«n'oï mais dire ne conter
not-I-heard ever say nor tell
«chevaliers laissast a porter
knight left to bear
«armes por songe e por falue.
arms for dream and for nonsense
«Hui cornerons la recreüe.»
Today we-shall-sound the retreat
Troïlus respont: «Beaus amis,
Troilus answers Fair friend
«le rei de Frise en meinent pris:
the king of Phrygia thence they-lead taken

«Veez le la en cel tropel.
See-you him there in that throng
«Socorons le tost e isnel.»
Let-us-rescue him quickly and swiftly
Adonc laissent chevaus aler
Then they-let horses go
e, senz nul autre demorer,
and without any other delay
lor vont les haubers desmaillier
to-them they-go the hauberks to-unmail
e les forz escuz peceier.
and the strong shields to-shatter
Si par fu granz li fereïz,
So very was great the striking
li chaples et li hurteïz
the hacking and the clashing
que cent des Greus i abatierent
that a-hundred of-the Greeks there they-threw-down
ocis e mil en mahaignierent,
killed and a-thousand thereof they-maimed
si que le feie e le poumon
so that the liver and the lung
lor pert a maint desus l'arçon.
to-them appears on many-a above the-saddlebow
Ci ot grant noise e grant esfrei,
Here was great noise and great alarm
ci ot trop doloros tornei,
here was too grievous tourney
ci ocit om e navre e blece.
here kills one and wounds and hurts

Par vive force e par destrece
By lively force and by distress
ont le rei de Frise rescos,
they-have the king of Phrygia rescued
qui en esteit mout bosoignos.
who thereof was very needful
La ventaille li deslaçoënt:
The ventail from-him they-were-unlacing
puis que il vif ne l'en menoënt,
since that they alive not him-thence were-leading
sempres i perdist la caboce;
at-once there he-would-have-lost the head
mais n'en fu mie lor la force:
but not-thereof was at-all theirs the force
des poinz le lor fist om voler
from-the fists him to-them made one fly
si l'estut a mainz comparer.
so it-behooved to many to-pay-for

The Death of Margariton

LXVIII

Ajax Telamon's fresh troops drive the Trojans back and unhorse Polydamas, whom Troilus remounts, while Paris's Persian archers cut down the Greeks. Achilles leads his men in and routs the city's battalions. The Bastards rally and seize Telamon, but Achilles drives a lance through the breast of Hector's brother Margariton. He is carried to the palace and dies before Hector, who swears to avenge him and calls for his horse, though Priam holds him back with difficulty. Aeneas fights at the palisades, but the Trojans lose heart without Hector. Achilles urges Agamemnon to press on, and Philemenis of Paphlagonia smashes the teeth of the duke of Athens.

Donc vint Telamon Aïaus
Then came Telamonian Ajax
o plus de trei mile vassaus
with more than three thousand vassals
armez, es chevaus Arabeis,
armed on-the horses Arabian
d'armes e de confanons freis.
with-arms and with pennons fresh
A redoter fait cist conreiz:
To dread makes this troop
n'est pas merveille, bien est dreiz,
not-it-is at-all marvel well it-is right
quar mout par sont bon chevalier,
for very much they-are good knights
pro e hardi e bon guerrier,
valiant and bold and good warriors

e tant par ont vaillant seignor
and so very they-have worthy lord
que nule gent n'ot onc meillor.
that any folk not-had ever better
N'erent pas Troïen partiz
Not-were at-all Trojans parted
de l'estor ne del fereïz:
from the-fight nor from-the striking
por tant lor en fu mout sordeis.
for that to-them thereof it-was very worse
Cil vindrent abrivé e freis,
These came impetuous and fresh
sis vont ferir: mout i perdirent,
so-them they-go to-strike much there they-lost
onques anceis del champ n'eissirent;
ever before from-the field not-they-went-out
mais n'i porent foison aveir:
but not-there they-could abundance have
de teus i estut remaneir,
of such there it-behooved to-remain
qui mout volentiers s'en tornassent,
who very willingly themselves-thence would-have-turned
se il poüssent ne osassent.
if they could nor dared
Mout ot ici estrange perte:
Much there-was here strange loss
des morz est la terre coverte.
with-the dead is the ground covered

Vers lor batailles s'en tornerent
Toward their battalions themselves-thence turned
cil qui a grant meschief i erent:
those who in great mischief there were
vont s'en ariere desconfiz.
they-go themselves-thence back discomfited
Reis Telamon s'est avanciz:
King Telamon himself-is advanced
Polidamas vait envaïr
Polydamas he-goes to-attack
e un si pesant coup ferir
and a so heavy blow to-strike
qu'il l'abati de son cheval:
that-he him-threw-down from his horse
icist chaeirs li fist mout mal.
this falling to-him did very ill
Mais Troïlus sor lui retorne,
But Troilus over him returns
ceus d'entor lui ocit a orne;
those around him he-kills in row
o le brant d'acier le lor tout,
with the blade of-steel him from-them takes
ço sacheiz bien, grant los en ot.
that know well great praise thereof he-had
Trop gente retenue fist:
Too noble rescue he-made
n'ot compaignon qui ne guenchist.
not-he-had companion who not turned
Polidamas est remontez:
Polydamas is remounted

d'estrange gieu est eschapez,
from-strange game he-is escaped
quar, ço sacheiz, qu'iluec chaeit
for that know that-there he-fell
bien deveit estre lor par dreit.
well he-ought to-be theirs by right
D'iluec refurent derompu,
From-there again-they-were broken
e sin i ot maint abatu,
and so-thereof there were many-a thrown-down
ainz qu'il encontrassent Perseis.
before that-they met Persians
Mais cil orent les ars Turqueis,
But those had the bows Turkish
e furent bien set mile e mais
and were well seven thousand and more
quis acueillent de plain eslais.
who-them receive at full gallop
Traient saietes e quarreaus:
They-shoot arrows and bolts
n'i a d'aubers si forz claveaus
not-there are of-hauberks so strong nails
qu'il ne descloënt e desjoignent.
that-they not unnail and disjoin
Mil en navrent et mil en poignent,
A-thousand thereof they-wound and a-thousand thereof they-prick
si que d'ambedous parz del cors
so that on-both sides of-the body
lor en raie li clers sans fors.
to-them thence streams the bright blood out

Ci ot ocise de chevaus.
Here was slaughter of horses
Paris le fait come vassaus:
Paris it does as vassal
mout les damage a grant maniere.
much them he-harms in great manner
Auques les ont fait traire ariere.
Somewhat them they-have made draw back
Ci ont tant Greu des lor perdu,
Here have so-many Greeks of-the theirs lost
dont mout deivent estre irascu.
whereof much they-ought to-be angered
E si sont il: se il poëient,
And so are they if they could
cil de Troie le comparreient.
those of Troy it would-pay-for
A comparer lor covendra:
To pay-for to-them it-will-behoove
ja ainz li vespres ne vendra.
ever before the evening not will-come
De la bataille se traist près,
From the battle himself drew near
il e sa gent, danz Achillès,
he and his folk lord Achilles
vit que li suen mout i perdeient
he-saw that the his much there were-losing
e grant damage i receveient;
and great harm there were-receiving
par mi le champ vit mainte teste.
through the-midst the field he-saw many-a head

Les suens somont et amoneste
The his he-summons and admonishes
qu'il le facent proosement
that-they it may-do valiantly
tuit ensemble comunaument.
all together in-common
Lors ont les enseignes baissiees,
Then they-have the banners lowered
que ja ne seront mais dreciees,
which ever not will-be more raised
sin ierent cent ensanglantees,
so-thereof were a-hundred bloodied
en cors de chevaliers entrees.
into bodies of knights entered
Ne porreit rien conter ne dire
Not could anyone tell nor say
la merveille ne le martire
the marvel nor the martyrdom
que i sofrirent cil dedenz.
which there suffered those within
Mout se contint bien la lor genz,
Much itself bore well the their folk
mais tant fu granz li brueiz des lances
but so-much was great the din of-the lances
e tant i ot des meschaances,
and so-many there were of-the mischances
tant en i ot morz e navrez
so-many thereof there were dead and wounded
que de la place sont getez.
that from the place they-are thrown

E puis qu'il furent esmeü
And since that-they were moved
e sor eus ont levé le hu,
and over them they-have raised the hue
o le coilvert, quin fait martire,
with the base-one who-thereof makes martyrdom
qui rien ne dote ne revire,
who anything not fears nor turns-back
mout les acueillent de randon.
much them they-receive with force
La ot grant desbarateison,
There was great rout
la lor estut les dos livrer.
there to-them it-behooved the backs to-deliver
N'i ot puis rien del sojorner:
Not-there was after anything of-the resting
toz desconfiz les en ameinent;
all discomfited them thence they-lead
ço est la rien dont plus se peinent,
that is the thing whereby most themselves they-strive
de metre les par mi le pas.
of putting them through the-midst the pass
Mout s'en vait bel Polidamas,
Very himself-thence goes fairly Polydamas
e Troïlus dejoste lui.
and Troilus beside him
Sovent guenchissent ambedui:
Often turn-about both
grant merveille est come il tant durent,
great marvel it-is how they so-long last

quar maint des lor i socorurent
for many-a of-the theirs there they-rescued
qui tuit i fussent mort o pris.
who all there would-have-been dead or taken
Le brant d'acier retint Paris,
The blade of-steel held-back Paris
qui d'entor lui deront la presse;
who from-around him breaks the press
bien le refait li reis d'Aresse:
well it again-does the king of-Aresse
bel s'en vienent tres lor tropeaus.
fairly themselves-thence come right their troops
Des gieus n'ert pas lor li plus beaus,
Of-the games not-was at-all theirs the most fair
quant li Bastart les socorurent,
when the Bastards them rescued
qui entre eus afiënt e jurent
who among themselves pledge and swear
que ja le comparront li lor.
that soon it will-pay-for the theirs
Poignant en vienent a l'estor:
Spurring thence they-come to the-fight
par mi Grezeis se sont plongié,
through the-midst Greeks themselves they-are plunged
teus trente en ont deschevauchié,
such thirty thereof they-have unhorsed
dont li plus a la mort baaille.
of-whom the most at the death gapes
Ha! quel chevalier en bataille!
Ah what knights in battle

Quel por granz presses departir
What for great presses to-part
e quel por granz estors sofrir!
and what for great fights to-endure
Com vassaument icil s'aiuënt,
How valiantly these themselves-help
si que toz les conreiz remuent!
so that all the troops they-move
O les espees reluisanz
With the swords shining
lor font les heaumes toz sanglanz.
to-them they-make the helmets all bloody
Entre eus abatent Telamon:
Among them they-throw-down Telamon
saisi l'aveit Margariton,
seized him-had Margariton
quant i sorvint danz Achillès,
when there came-upon lord Achilles
qui si le fiert de plain eslais
who so him strikes at full gallop
d'une lance par la forcele
with-a lance through the breast-bone
que detrés l'en saut la lemele.
that behind from-him-thence leaps the blade
La lance froissa a plain pié.
The lance broke at full foot
Ainz qu'a terre fust trebuchié,
Before that-to earth he-were tumbled
l'en ont fors de la presse trait,
him-thence they-have out of the press drawn

ha! tant i ot crïié e brait!
ah so-much there was cried and wailed
Quar cist par esteit si vassaus,
For this-one very was so valiant
si beaus, si proz e si leiaus
so fair so valiant and so loyal
que trop en sont li suen irié.
that too-much thereof are the his angered
Ne li ont pas le tros sachié,
Not from-him they-have at-all the stump pulled
ainz l'en portent vers la cité.
rather him-thence they-carry toward the city
A com grant duel i a entré!
Ah how great grief there has entered
Com plorent dames e puceles,
How weep ladies and maidens
enfant e toses e anceles!
children and girls and handmaids
Sus el palais le meinent dreit.
Up in-the palace him they-lead straight
Quant Hector, sis frere, le veit,
When Hector his brother him sees
si li estreint li cuers e serre,
so to-him tightens the heart and squeezes
por un poi ne chaï a terre.
for a little not he-fell to earth
Sor une coute fu posez:
On a mattress he-was laid
d'angoisse s'est treis feiz pasmez.
from-anguish himself-is three times swooned

Hector demande qui ç'a fait,
Hector asks who that-has done
e cil li ont sempres retrait
and those to-him have at-once recounted
coment e ou ço li fu fait:
how and where that to-him was done
«Par Deu,» fait il, «ci a mal plait.
By God says he here is ill plea
«Bien me devreit li cuers partir,
Well to-me ought the heart to-split
«quant jo contre eus ne puis eissir.
when I against them not can go-out
«Mais jo nel puis plus endurer:
But I not-it can more endure
«La m'en estuet par force aler
There me-thence behooves by force to-go
«cestui vengier, se fairel puis.
this-one to-avenge if to-do-it I-can
«Se jo dedenz le champ les truis,
If I within the field them find
«il me lairont sempres lor guage:
they to-me will-leave at-once their pledge
«Ja lor vendrai chier cest damage.
Soon to-them I-shall-sell dear this harm
«Toz jorz sereie mais honiz,
All days I-would-be more shamed
«s'ensi lor esteie guenchiz;
if-thus from-them I-were turned-aside
«mais il le verront jusqu'a poi,
but they it will-see within little

«qui qu'en ait duel, ire ne joi.»
whoever that-thereof may-have grief wrath nor joy
Del cors li ont traiz les escliz,
From-the body to-him they-have drawn the splinters
e cil est devant lui feniz.
and that-one is before him ended
Donc demande Hector son destrier
Then asks Hector his charger
e dit que il l'ira vengier:
and says that he him-will-go to-avenge
sempres montast, mais li reis vint,
at-once he-would-have-mounted but the king came
qui a grant peine le detint.
who with great pain him held-back
Devant les lices des fossez
Before the barriers of-the ditches
s'esteit li torneiz arestez.
itself-was the tourney stopped
Grant piece lor tindrent le pas,
Great while to-them they-held the pass
quar venuz i fu Eneas
for come there was Aeneas
o teus trei mile chevaliers,
with such three thousand knights
qui mout josterent volentiers
who much jousted willingly
e mout s'i aïdierent bien.
and much themselves-there helped well
Mais por veir sacheiz une rien:
But for true know one thing

granz desconforz lor est a toz,
great discomfort to-them it-is to all
e meins en sont hardiz e proz,
and less thereby they-are bold and valiant
de ço qu'Ector nen est o eus.
for that that-Hector not is with them
Quant Achillès le sot li feus,
When Achilles it knew the felon
ne preisa puis guaires lor genz,
not he-prized after much their folk
ainz dit que ja les metront enz.
rather he-says that soon them they-will-put in
Agamennon l'est alez dire:
(to-)Agamemnon it-he-is gone to-say
«Quar chevauchiez,» fait il, «beaus sire,
Now ride says he fair lord
«sis alons toz ocire e prendre,
so-them let-us-go all to-kill and to-take
«quar il ne se porront defendre.
for they not themselves will-be-able to-defend
«N'ont pas Hector, hui ne l'avront:
Not-they-have at-all Hector today nor him-they-will-have
«Guardez por quei nos contrestont.
Guard for what us they-withstand
«Sacheiz que hui ne s'en istra.
Know that today not himself-thence he-will-go-out
«Mout le regretent cil de la:
Much him mourn those of there
«Ne se sevent senz lui aidier.
Not themselves they-know without him to-help

«Faites cez conreiz chevauchier,
Make these troops ride
«si seient ja si envaïz,
so let-them-be at-once so attacked
«mil nos en laissent de pasmiz.»
a-thousand to-us thereof let-them-leave of swooned
A tant s'esmuevent li conrei
At that move the troops
l'un avant l'autre senz desrei.
the-one before the-other without disorder
Ja i avra mereaus mestraiz:
Soon there will-be tokens misplayed
ne puet ainz remaneir li plaiz.
not can before remain the plea
Li dus d'Athenes vint premiers,
The duke of-Athens came first
bien o dis mile chevaliers,
well with ten thousand knights
sor les chevaus, les armes prises.
on the horses the arms taken
N'i ot puis fait autres devises,
Not-there was after made other divisions
mais maintenant les vont hurter
but at-once them they-go to-strike
e les forz escuz estroër.
and the strong shields to-break

Ici leva si fier estor
Here rose so fierce fight
e tant i perdirent des lor
and so-many there they-lost of-the theirs
que il n'est se merveille non.
that it not-is if marvel not
Dès ore i vuident li arçon:
From now there empty the saddlebows
iluec ot mort maint bon vassal,
there was dead many-a good vassal
par le champ fuient li cheval.
through the field flee the horses
Philemenis de Paflagloine,
Philemenis of Paphlagonia
o la soë gent, senz essoine,
with the his folk without excuse
josta o les Atheniëns:
jousted with the Athenians
sos di bien qu'en si poi de tens
so-you I-say well that-in so little of time
n'oï onques nus hom parler
not-heard ever any man speak
de tanz chevaliers decouper.
of so-many knights cut-down
Grant sont e fort Paflagoneis
Big they-are and strong Paphlagonians
e mout redotent poi Grezeis;
and very fear little Greeks
ne sevent rien de coardie,
not they-know anything of cowardice

mout fut riche lor establie.
very was rich their array
Trop le fist bien Philemenis:
Too-much it did well Philemenis
de mainz en ot le jor le pris.
over many thereof he-had the day the prize
O le duc d'Athenes josta:
With the duke of-Athens he-jousted
en la boche si le hurta,
in the mouth so him he-struck
quatre des denz li fist voler
four of-the teeth to-him he-made fly
e del cheval jus enverser.
and from-the horse down overturn
Ne li lut pas sor lui descendre
Not to-him it-was-allowed at-all over him to-dismount
ne son cors pas saisir ne prendre.
nor his body at-all seize nor take
Trop i aveit des suens assez:
Too-much there had of-the his enough
de la place fu tost levez;
from the place he-was soon lifted
vers les herberges l'en porterent
toward the lodgings him-thence they-carried
cil qui grant duel en demenerent.
those who great grief thereof made

The Death of Hector

LXIX

Palamedes drives the Trojans back through the palisades into the gates, and the city panics. Hearing the cry, Hector arms while the ladies weep and Andromache lies fainted, and rides out cheered by the common people. He kills Eurypylus, rescues Polydamas, who had been captured while rescuing Philemenis, and turns the rout, killing Leotetes, cousin of Diomedes, and the richly armed Polybetes. He wounds Achilles in the thigh. As Hector drags a captured king from the press with his shield uncovered, Achilles spears him through the body. The Trojans flee into the city. Memnon fights Achilles until both are carried off, and an Eastern physician heals Achilles.

Palamedès les encontra,
Palamedes them met
qui por un poi ne s'en desva,
who for a little not himself-thence went-mad
e dit que ja le comparront
and says that soon it they-will-pay-for
cil qui ç'ont fait, ja n'i faudront.
those who that-have done ever not-there they-will-fail
Les escuz ont pris e saisiz: 15945
The shields they-have taken and seized
jan i avra de toz marriz.
already-thereof there will-be of all grieved
N'i ot onc puis frein retenu:
Not-there was ever after rein held-back
a la bataille sont venu
to the battle they-are come
plus tost, ço sacheiz, que le pas;
more quickly that know than the pace

puis si les vont ferir el tas.
then so them they-go to-strike in-the heap
Froissent e peceient les fuz
They-shatter and break the shafts
o en chevaus, o en escuz,
or in horses or in shields
o par mi cors de chevaliers.
or through the-midst bodies of knights
Ci fu li estors mout pleniers,
Here was the fight very full
ci ot estrange chaplerece
here was strange backing
e de Perseis tel traerece,
and of Persians such shooting
ci ot si fait destruiement
here was so made destruction
e si mortel torneiement
and so mortal tourney
que nel porreit nus reconter.
that not-it could any recount
Nel porent pas plus endurer
Not-it they-could at-all more endure
icil dedenz: desconfit sont;
those within discomfited are
sacheiz trop laide perte i font.
know very ugly loss there they-make
Par mi les lices se sont mis:
Through the-midst the barriers themselves they-are put
mout en i ot e morz e pris.
much thereof there were both dead and taken

Es doves chieent des fossez.
In-the moats they-fall of-the ditches
Ainz qu'en fust enz li tierz entrez,
Before that-thereof were within the third entered
i orent si grant perte faite
there they-had so great loss made
que ne porreit estre retraite.
that not could be recounted
Totes les lices premeraines
All the barriers first
ont cil defors en lor demeines;
have those outside in their domains
es barbecanes les ont mis.
in-the barbicans them they-have put
La se contint mout bien Paris:
There himself bore very well Paris
o le brant d'acier de color,
with the blade of-steel of color
lor en a maint ocis le jor.
to-them thereof he-has many-a killed the day
Ha! com le fait bien Troïlus!
Ah how it does well Troilus
Ne s'en apruisme de lui nus
Not himself-thence approaches to him any
que sempres ne l'ait comparé:
that at-once not it-may-have paid-for
teus chevaliers ne fu onc né.
such knight not was ever born
Polidamas com le refait!
Polydamas how it again-does

Icil retient le brant nu trait:
This-one holds the blade naked drawn
tant en ocit, tant en mahaigne
so-many thereof he-kills so-many thereof he-maims
qu'en vermeil sanc trestoz se baigne.
that-in vermilion blood all himself he-bathes
Mout se contient proosement:
Much himself he-bears valiantly
s'il a damage, chier lor vent.
if-he has harm dear to-them he-sells-it
Philemenis li granz, li proz,
Philemenis the big the valiant
ços di por veir, i est sor toz:
that-you I-say for true there is over all
ne gete coup qu'il n'en ocie
not he-throws blow that-he not-thereof may-kill
a l'espee d'acier forbie.
with the-sword of-steel furbished
Mout le font bien: mais ço que chaut?
Much it they-do well but that what matters
Ne monte rien ne ne lor vaut.
Not avails anything nor not to-them is-worth
Puis que tel gent est resortie
Since that such folk is driven-back
e de champ sevree e partie,
and from field separated and parted
n'est mie puis chose legiere
not-it-is at-all after thing light
de faire les torner ariere.
to make them turn back

Par mi les portes de la vile
Through the-midst the gates of the town
en sont entré ja tel vint mile,
thereof are entered already such twenty thousand
n'i a un sol qui semblant face
not-there is a sole who seeming may-make
de retorner ariere en place.
of returning back into place
Li criz lieve par la cité:
The cry rises through the city
merveilles sont tuit esfreé;
marvelously are all frightened
en la vile sort tel esfrei
in the town arises such alarm
que nus n'i est seürs de sei.
that any not-there is sure of himself
Montent sor murs e sor portaus:
They-mount on walls and on gateways
li criz i est si comunaus
the cry there is so general
que sempres cuident estre pris;
that at-once they-think to-be taken
mout sont de grant paor sorpris.
much they-are by great fear surprised
Hector escoute e ot e veit
Hector listens and hears and sees
la merveille qu'il aparceit
the marvel which-he perceives
e le damage e le martire,
and the harm and the martyrdom

16010 que rien nel set conter ne dire;
that anyone not-it knows tell nor say
la cité veit tote esmeüe
the city he-sees all moved
e la novele a entendue
and the news he-has heard
que par les portes les ont mis.
that through the gates them they-have put
Li sans li est montez el vis
The blood to-him is mounted into-the face
16015 e li cuers del ventre engrossiez.
and the heart in-the belly swelled
Tant par fu desvez e iriez
So very he-was maddened and angered
que nus ne s'ose traire a lui:
that any not himself-dares draw to him
«Par Dieu,» fait il, «mout grant enui
By God says he very great vexation
«devreie aveir, quant jo suis vis.»
I-ought to-have when I am alive
16020 En son chief a son heaume asis:
On his head he-has his helmet set
lacié li a uns dameiseaus.
laced it-to-him has a youth
Adonc refu li dueus noveaus:
Then again-was the grief new
plorent, criënt par mi la sale;
they-weep they-cry through the-midst the hall
mainte gente dame i ot pale,
many-a noble lady there was pale

por la paor que de lui ont.
for the fear that for him they-have
Ha! las, ja mais nel reverront
Ah weary ever more not-him they-will-see-again
qu'en aient joie ne leece.
that-in-him they-may-have joy nor gladness
Com grant dolor, com grant tristece,
How great grief how great sadness
qu'il ne poëit cel jor sofrir
that-he not could that day endure
qu'il li deveit mesavenir!
that-it to-him was-to befall-ill
Dedenz la sale, que fu peinte,
Within the hall which was painted
monte el cheval l'espee ceinte;
he-mounts on-the horse the-sword girt
son escu prent, puis si s'en ist.
his shield he-takes then so himself-thence goes-out
Andromacha pasmee gist:
Andromache swooned lies
tel dolor a, n'ot ne ne veit.
such grief she-has not-she-hears nor not sees
Prianz nel set ne aparceit:
Priam not-it knows nor perceives
* * *
(lacuna)
N'i alast mie, se devient.
Not-there he-would-go at-all if he-knew-it

Cil qui ne dote ne ne crient
He who not fears nor not dreads
est par les rues avalez:
is through the streets gone-down
de plus de mil fu aorez;
by more than a-thousand he-was adored
mout ont grant joie receüe.
much they-have great joy received
Quant l'aparceit la gent menue,
When him-perceives the folk small
encontre lui vont tuit e corent.
toward him they-go all and run
E de pitié braient e plorent:
And from pity they-wail and weep
«Sire,» font il, «bien ont seü,
Lord say they well they-have known
«e mout l'ont bien aparceü,
and very it-have well perceived
«icil de Grece hui tote jor,
those of Greece today all day
«que n'estiëz pas en l'estor.
that not-you-were at-all in the-fight
«Bien i ont hui fait lor talant:
Well there they-have today done their will
«Des noz est la perte si grant
Of-the ours is the loss so great
«que nus nel porreit reconter.
that any not-it could recount
«Mais or lor covient comparer:
But now to-them it-behooves to-pay-for

«Jusqu'a petit n'i avra faille.»
Within little not-there will-be fail
Hector avient a la bataille,
Hector arrives at the battle
mais la presse par fu si granz
but the press very was so great
des desconfiz e des entranz
of-the discomfited and of-the entering
qu'a peine s'en pot fors eissir.
that-with pain himself-thence he-could out go-out
Sempres maneis a l'avenir
Straightway at-once at the-coming
lor geta mort Euripilus,
to-them he-threw dead Eurypylus
qui d'Orcomeine ert sire e dus.
who of-Orchomenus was lord and duke
Ifidus ert cuens de parage:
Ifidus was count of lineage
bon chevalier i ot et sage.
good knight there was and wise
A celui a le braz trenchié;
To that-one he-has the arm cut-off
si l'a navré e mahaignié
so him-he-has wounded and maimed
que ja mais ne ferra d'espee.
that ever more not he-will-strike with-sword
La ot tante enseigne escriëe;
There was many-a war-cry cried

sonent tant cor, tant meienel
they-sound so-many horn so-many trumpet
e tant olifant grant e bel,
and so-many oliphant great and fair
tuit li mural en retentissent
all the walls thereof resound
e li palais en rebondissent.
and the palaces thereof echo
Bien fu Hector reconeüz:
Well was Hector recognized
tant fu dotez li suens escuz
so-much was feared the his shield
qu'en es le pas sont resorti
that-on the-very the step are driven-back
trestuit si mortel enemi.
all his mortal enemies
Polidamas aveient pris
Polydamas they-had taken
al rescorre Philemenis;
at-the rescuing (of-)Philemenis
par mi la presse l'en menoënt.
through the-midst the press him-thence they-were-leading
Estrange joie en demenoënt,
Strange joy thereof they-were-making
quar mout les aveit faiz iriez
for much them he-had made angered
par maintes feiz e damagiez:
by many times and harmed

por ço li donoënt de granz
for that to-him they-were-giving of great
par mi le heaume de lor branz.
through the-midst the helmet with their blades
Sa rescosse ert tote obliëe,
His rescue was all forgotten
ja n'en fust mais sachiee espee.
ever not-thereof would-be more drawn sword
Sovent fu Hector regretez
Often was Hector mourned
de ceus dont mout esteit amez;
by those of-whom much he-was loved
mais bien l'orent reconeü
but well him-had recognized
cil qui ariere sont venu:
those who back are come
toz lor est li cuers revenuz.
all to-them is the heart come-back
Polidamas fu socoruz,
Polydamas was succored
qu'Ector s'ala o ceus mesler
for-Hector himself-went with those to-mingle
cui laidement fist comparer
whom uglily he-made pay-for
la saisine qu'il en aveient:
the seizing which-they of-him had
ceus a ocis qui le teneient.
those he-has killed who him held
Donc les acueut al brant d'acier,
Then them he-receives with-the blade of-steel

maint en i fait mort trebuchier;
many-a thereof there he-makes dead tumble
par mi le pas les fait passer:
through the-midst the pass them he-makes pass
trop i perdent al rentasser.
too-much there they-lose at-the crowding
Toz desconfiz les metent fors;
All discomfited them they-put out
mout gete Hector ames de cors.
much throws Hector souls from bodies
Cil dedenz furent recovré:
Those within were rallied
a la trenchiee d'un fossé
at the trench of-a ditch
rentassent si lor enemis,
they-crowd so their enemies
mout i ont d'eus morz e maumis.
much there they-have of-them dead and misused
C'est par l'esforz qu'Ector a fait.
That-is by the-effort that-Hector has made
Quos en fereie plus lonc plait?
Why-you thereof would-I-make more long speech
Loinz as plains chans les ont empeinz,
Far to-the plain fields them they-have pushed
si n'en fu pas lor li guaainz,
so not-thereof was at-all theirs the gain
amirauz ert Leotetès,
emir was Leotetes
cosins germains Diomedès,
cousin german (of-)Diomedes

riches vassaus e alosez
rich vassal and renowned
e en l'ost bien emparentez:
and in the-host well kinned
a cel traist Hector la coraille,
to that-one drew Hector the innards
quar une enseigne de Thessaille
for a banner of Thessaly
li a par mi le cors passee.
to-him he-has through the-midst the body passed
Cil chaï morz gole baee.
That-one fell dead throat gaping
Or le refont bien cil de Troie,
Now it again-do well those of Troy
dès or ront il leece e joie,
from now again-have they gladness and joy
dès or resont il par egual:
from now again-are they by equal
ço fait Hector, le bon vassal.
that does Hector the good vassal
Quant Achillès veit la merveille
When Achilles sees the marvel
qu'Ector lor fait e apareille,
which-Hector to-them does and prepares
qui toz lor princes lor ocit,
who all their princes to-them kills
a sei meïsme pense e dit
to himself same he-thinks and says
que, s'il puet vivre longement,
that if-he can live long

a duel, a mal e a torment
to grief to ill and to torment
sont tuit livré senz retor prendre.
they-are all delivered without turn to-take
Mais mout voudreit a ço entendre
But much he-would-wish to that to-attend
qu'il le poüst desavancir
that-he him could hinder
o a tel encontre venir
or to such encounter come
qu'il li feïst l'ame roter:
that-he to-him might-make the-soul belch
a ço a mis tot son penser,
to that he-has put all his thought
a el n'entent ne el ne fait,
to else not-he-attends nor else not he-does
tote autre uevre por celi lait;
all other work for that-one he-leaves
a iço a tot atorné
to this he-has all turned
e son corage e son pensé.
both his heart and his thought
Ja mais n'avra joie ne ris,
Ever more not-he-will-have joy nor laughter
devant qu'a ses mains l'ait ocis.
before that-with his hands him-he-may-have killed
La gent de Grece veit morir:
The folk of Greece he-sees die

tant a Hector force e aïr
so-much has Hector force and fury
que tot ocit e navre e tue
that all he-kills and wounds and slays
e de la place les remue.
and from the place them moves
Bien le font cil de la cité:
Well it do those of the city
fortment se sont resvigoré.
greatly themselves they-are reinvigorated
Tuit s'en eissirent fors as criz.
All themselves-thence went-out out with-the cries
Puis que li monz fu estabiliz,
Since that the world was established
ne vit nus hom tel tuëison,
not saw any man such killing
tel ocise, tel chapleison:
such slaughter such hacking
a cenz, a miliers s'entrociënt.
by hundreds by thousands they-kill-each-other
Par la cité cornent et criënt,
Through the city they-sound-horns and cry
e as herberges ensement:
and at-the lodgings likewise
ço est a vis a tote gent
that is at opinion to all folk
que la terre font soz lor piez.
that the earth melts under their feet
Des morz est toz li chans jonchiez.
With-the dead is all the field strewn

Polibetès esteit uns dus
Polybetes was a duke
d'outre les puiz de Caucasus:
from-beyond the heights of Caucasus
ço est vers Inde la Major.
that is toward India the Greater
Mout ot grant force e grant valor;
Much he-had great force and great valor
merveilles par ert proz de sei
marvelously very he-was valiant of himself
e mout aveit riche conrei.
and much he-had rich troop
Nus hom el siegle trespassé
Any man in-the world passed
n'aveit veü plus bel armé:
not-had seen more fair armed
d'or e de pierres precioses
with-gold and with stones precious
resplendissanz e merveilloses
shining and marvelous
erent si guarnement covert.
were his garments covered
Achillès l'aime, honore e sert,
Achilles him-loves honors and serves
por ço que doner li voleit
for that that to-give to-him he-wished
une soë soror qu'aveit.
a his sister that-he-had
Il ert chevaliers merveillos,
He was knight marvelous

a ceus dedenz trop perillos:
to those within too perilous
le jor lor en ot maint ocis.
the day to-them thereof he-had many-a killed
Mais Hector l'a si entrepris
But Hector him-has so beset
qu'il ne li puet plain pié foïr;
that-he not from-him can full foot flee
en la place l'a fait morir:
in the place him-he-has made die
tot le fendi desci qu'as denz.
all him he-split down that-to-the teeth
E quant il vit ses guarnemenz
And when he saw his garments
si riches e si precios,
so rich and so precious
mout fu de l'aveir coveitos:
much he-was of the-wealth covetous
oster les li voleit e traire,
take-off them from-him he-wished and draw
mais Achillès, son aversaire,
but Achilles his adversary
i est venuz, qui les li viee.
there is come who them to-him forbids
La ot mainte sele voidiee;
There was many-a saddle emptied
ci rassembla si fier estor
here again-gathered so fierce fight
dont maint perdirent la color.
whereby many-a lost the color

Hector e Achillès s'atainstrent,
Hector and Achilles reached-each-other
qui d'eus ocire ne se feinstrent.
who of-each-other to-kill not themselves feigned
Mainte colee se donerent
Many-a blow themselves they-gave
sor les heaumes, qui resonerent,
on the helmets which resounded
que tuit en rompirent li laz
that all thereof broke the laces
et tuit lor dolurent li braz.
and all to-them ached the arms
Mais Hector saisi un espié
But Hector seized a spear
cler et trenchant e aguisié;
bright and cutting and sharpened
a dous poinz en fiert Achillès
with two fists therewith he-strikes Achilles
par mi la cuisse de si près
through the-midst the thigh from so near
qu'il nel pot mie jus abatre.
that-he not-him could at-all down throw
A tant laissierent le combatre
At that left-off the fighting
cil qui esteient a l'estor:
those who were at the-fight
en sus se resont trait li lor.
in up themselves again-are drawn the theirs
Achillès fu griefment navrez;
Achilles was grievously wounded

lors ot dolor e ire assez:
then he-had grief and wrath enough
nus hom n'en ot onc plus ne tant;
any man not-thereof had ever more nor so-much
por ço en fera bien semblant.
for that thereof he-will-make well show
Sa plaie li ont estanchiee
His wound to-him they-have stanched
e d'une enseigne estreit leiëe,
and with-a banner tightly bound
puis rest montez l'eaume lacié:
then again-he-is mounted the-helmet laced
cler e trenchant tint un espié.
bright and cutting he-held a spear
En la bataille ariere torne,
Into the battle back he-turns
desoz le heaume embronc et morne,
under the helmet downcast and gloomy
Hector aguaite ensi navrez:
Hector he-watches thus wounded
mieuz en vueut estre morz getez
better thereof he-wishes to-be dead thrown
qu'il ne l'ocie, ço dit bien;
than-he not him-may-kill that he-says well
a ço entent sor tote rien.
to that he-attends above all thing
La bataille est mout aïriee:
The battle is very angered
mainte ame i ot de cors sachiee.
many-a soul there was from body drawn

Li cri i sont grant e li hu,
The cries there are great and the shouts
qu'Ector ot un rei abatu;
for-Hector had a king thrown-down
prendre le voust e retenir
take him he-wished and hold
e as lor par force tolir:
and from-the theirs by force take-away
par la ventaille le teneit,
by the ventail him he-held
fors de la presse le traeit,
out of the press him he-drew
de son escu ert descoverz.
of his shield he-was uncovered
E quant l'aparceit li coilverz, —
And when him-perceives the base-one
c'est Achillès, qui le haeit, —
that-is Achilles who him hated
cele part est alez tot dreit.
that way he-is gone all straight
Dreit a lui broche le destrier:
Straight at him he-spurs the charger
nel pot guarir l'auberc doblier
not-him could protect the-hauberk doubled
que tot le feie e le poumon
that all the liver and the lung
ne li espande sor l'arçon.
not to-him he-may-spill on the-saddlebow

Mout le trebuche tot envers:
Much him he-tumbles all backward
en poi d'ore est pales e pers.
in little of-hour he-is pale and livid
Ha! las, com pesant aventure!
Ah weary how heavy adventure
Tant par est pesme e tant est dure!
So very it-is wicked and so it-is hard
Com dolorose destinee!
How grievous destiny
N'i ot puis autre demoree:
Not-there was after other delay
vont s'en fuiant senz nul conrei,
they-go themselves-thence fleeing without any order
qu'uns sous n'i prent reguart de sei.
so-that-one alone not-there takes heed of himself
Ço lor est bel qu'om les ocie,
That to-them is fair that-one them may-kill
petit aime chascuns sa vie;
little loves each his life
getent lances, getent escuz:
they-throw lances they-throw shields
la mort Hector les a vencuz,
the death (of-)Hector them has vanquished
e si en sont descoragié,
and so thereby they-are disheartened
si angoissos e si irié
so anguished and so angered
que li plusor, estre lor gré,
that the most beyond their will

se sont en mi le champ pasmé.
themselves are in the-midst the field swooned
La les ociënt senz retor
There them they-kill without return
e, senz rescosse d'un des lor,
and without rescue of-one of-the theirs
par force sont del champ geté:
by force they-are from-the field thrown
jusqu'as portes de la cité
up-to-the gates of the city
les en meinent mout laidement.
them thence they-lead very foully
La ot maint brant d'acier sanglent:
There was many-a blade of-steel bloody
saveir poëz mout en ocistrent
know you-can much thereof they-killed
e mout en navrerent e pristrent,
and much thereof they-wounded and took
tant come il voustrent e non plus.
as-much as they wished and not more
Dès or sont il bien al desus.
From now are they well on-the above
Par mi les portes s'en entrerent
Through the-midst the gates themselves-thence entered
cil qui del champ vif eschaperent.
those who from-the field alive escaped
Iluec en ocist Achillès
There thereof killed Achilles
cinc cenz, ço dit l'Escriz, e mais.
five hundred that says the-Writing and more

Espés les truevent entassez:
Thick them they-find heaped
tant en ont morz ainz que passez
so-many thereof they-have killed before that passed
fussent, n'en puis esmee faire.
they-were not-thereof I-can estimate make
Mais, si com me reconte Daire,
But so as to-me recounts Dares
Mennon guenchi contre Achillès,
Memnon turned against Achilles
si le feri de plain eslais
so him he-struck at full gallop
que jus le porte de la sele.
that down him he-carries from the saddle
E cil, qui ses gieus renovele,
And he who his games renews
le ra feru parmi l'escu,
him again-has struck through the-shield
qu'a la terre l'a abatu;
so-that-to the earth him-he-has thrown-down
puis trait l'espee, si li saut.
then he-draws the-sword so to-him leaps
E reis Mennon ne l'en refaut,
And king Memnon not him-thereof fails-again
se cil le fiert dous cous o treis,
if that-one him strikes two blows or three
qu'il ne li rende de maneis
that-he not to-him may-render at once
par mi le heaume de desus,
through the-midst the helmet from above

si que del chief li abat jus;
so that from-the head to-him knocks down
le sanc li fait voler del vis.
the blood to-him he-makes fly from-the face
Fierement l'a Mennon requis,
Fiercely him-has Memnon attacked
fiere escremie s'ont rendue:
fierce sword-play themselves-have rendered
de lor sanc la terre empalue.
with their blood the earth muddied
Chascuns d'eus i est si gregiez
Each of-them there is so aggrieved
qu'a peines puet ester sor piez.
that-with pains he-can stand on feet
Plaié se sont e si tüé
Wounded themselves they-are and so slain
que del champ en furent porté.
that from-the field thereof they-were carried
S'eüst Mennon un poi d'aiuë,
If-had Memnon a little of-aid
si tres grant peine fust creüe
so very great pain would-be grown
a Achillès que ja mais jor
to Achilles that ever more day
ne portast armes en estor.
not he-would-bear arms in fight
Sor son escu en fu portez;
On his shield thereof he-was carried

set feiz se fu anceis pasmé
seven times himself he-was before swooned
qu'il fust dedenz son paveillon.
that-he were within his pavilion
Sor un feutre de ciclaton
On a felt of ciclatoun
le couchierent, sil desarmerent.
him they-laid so-him they-disarmed
Quant ses plaies li reguarderent,
When his wounds to-him they-looked-at
cuiderent l'ame s'en alast:
they-thought the-soul itself-thence went
ja mais sa boche ne parlast,
ever more his mouth not would-speak
ne fust uns mires d'Oriant,
were-it not a physician of-the-East
qui de plaies par saveit tant
who about wounds very knew so-much
que nus hom ne poüst morir,
that any man not could die
ou il poüst a tens venir.
where he could in time come
Cil l'a fait si asoagier
That-one him-has made so ease
qu'en es le pas le fist mangier
that-on the-very the step him he-made eat
d'un chaudel precios e sain.
of-a broth precious and healthy

Or sont tuit si ami certain
Now are all his friends certain
qu'il est a guarison tornez:
that-he is to healing turned
toz fu guariz e respassez,
all he-was healed and recovered
ainz que passassent guaires jor.
before that passed hardly days
Grant joie en demeinent li lor.
Great joy thereof make the theirs
Tote la perte qu'il ont faite,
All the loss which-they have made
que d'eus est dite ne retraite,
which of-them is said nor recounted
ne prisent il pas un denier,
not prize they at-all a penny
quant vengié sont de lor guerrier
when avenged they-are of their warrior
e de lor enemi mortal:
and of their enemy mortal
ja n'avront mais dolor ne mal,
ever not-they-will-have more grief nor ill
ço lor est vis, por nule rien.
that to-them is seeming for any thing
Mais une chose sai jo bien,
But one thing know I well
qu'ancore avront de teus jornaus,
that-yet they-will-have of such days
ou morront mil de lor vassaus.
where will-die a-thousand of their vassals

The Lament for Hector

LXX

Hector's body is carried into Troy, and the maidens lament that, left defenseless, they will be led off as slaves. Priam faints over the body again and again until his sons carry him away. Paris swears to avenge his brother, and Troilus, Polydamas, Antenor, and Aeneas grieve. Hecuba begs her son to open his eyes; the women curse the fates and recall that Cassandra and Helenus foretold this. Andromache tears her face and hair and is carried off as if dead. Hector's body is washed in wine, embalmed, and set on an ivory bed. Clergy chant all night while the Trojans watch the walls, and the Greeks rejoice at their cries.

Or vos dirai de ceus de Troie,
Now to-you I-shall-tell of those of Troy
qui puis n'orent ne bien ne joie.
who after not-had nor good nor joy
Del champ fu li cors aportez:
From-the field was the body carried
quant en la vile fu entrez,
when into the town it-was entered
onc nel vit nus sor piez estast
ever not-it saw anyone on feet stood
ne de dolor ne se pasmast.
nor from grief not himself swooned
Braient femmes, braient enfant,
Wail women wail children
toz li pueples, petit e grant;
all the people small and great
plorent li rei, plorent contor,
weep the kings weep counts

plorent demeine e vavassor.
weep lords and vavasors
Les puceles l'ont regreté
The maidens him-have mourned
e les dames de la cité:
and the ladies of the city
«Sire Hector douz, nobles guerriers,
Lord Hector sweet noble warrior
«sire nobiles chevaliers,
lord noble knight
«sire qui tant nos amiëz,
lord who so-much us loved
«sire qui toz nos guardiëz,
lord who all us guarded
«sire qui tant estiëz proz
lord who so-much were valiant
«que nos defendiëz de toz,
that us you-defended from all
«queus damages quant estes morz!
what harm when you-are dead
«Tant par est granz li desconforz!
So very is great the discomfort
«Ja mais nus biens ne nos vendra,
Ever more any good not to-us will-come
«ja mais nus hom ne vos vaudra,
ever more any man not to-you will-be-worth
«ja mais jor ne serons rescos:
ever more day not we-shall-be rescued

«Toz lor voleirs feront de nos
All their wishes they-will-do with us
«li enemi, li reneié.
the enemies the renegades
«Ha! com seront desconseillié
Ah how will-be counsel-less
«li chaitif chevalier de Troie!
the wretched knights of Troy
«La lor defense iert mais mout poie:
The their defense will-be from-now very little
«Ja n'i avra mais porte overte.
Ever not-there will-be more gate open
«Ha! lasses», font eles, «quel perte!
Ah wretched say they what loss
«Ja ne serons mais mariëes:
Ever not we-shall-be more married
«Chaitives en serons menees
Captive thence we-shall-be led
«doloroses en lor servage.
grieving in their bondage
«La vostre mort est si sauvage
The your death is so savage
«que il n'est pas dreiz ne reisons
that it not-is at-all right nor reason
«que nos ore après vos vivons.»
that we now after you may-live
Après le cors ert teus li criz
After the body was such the cry
que nus si granz ne fu oïz.
that any so great not was heard

Tuit le sivent jusqu'en la sale:
All him follow up-to-into the hall
la sont persi e freit e pale,
there they-are livid and cold and pale
la est li dueus si angoissos,
there is the grief so anguished
si pesmes e si doloros
so wicked and so grievous
que nus nel porreit reconter.
that any not-it could recount
Sor lui se vait Prianz pasmer,
On him himself goes Priam to-swoon
sor lui se gist reides e freiz,
on him himself he-lies stiff and cold
sor lui se pasme tantes feiz
on him himself he-swoons so-many times
que il n'en ist funs ne aleine.
that it not-thence comes-out vapor nor breath
Osté l'en ont a mout grant peine
Removed him-thence they-have with very great pain
si fil, si rei e si contor.
his sons his kings and his counts
En une chambre peinte a flor
In a chamber painted with flower
en est portez si come morz:
thence he-is carried so as dead
mauvais iert mais li suens conforz.
bad will-be from-now the his comfort

Estrange duel refait Paris:
Strange grief again-makes Paris
l'eve li cort a val le vis,
the-water to-him runs to below the face
de ses dous ieuz tendrement plore
from his two eyes tenderly he-weeps
e mout maudit le terme e l'ore
and much he-curses the term and the-hour
que icil jorz onc ajorna
that that day ever dawned
que la bataille començа.
when the battle began
A mort se tient e confondu
For dead himself he-holds and confounded
e dit sovent que mare i fu:
and says often that ill there he-was
«Sire, douz amis, sire chiers,
Lord sweet friend lord dear
«vaillanz sor trestoz chevaliers,
valiant above all knights
«qui fera mais les granz esforz
who will-do from-now the great efforts
«e qui vengera mais noz morz?
and who will-avenge from-now our dead
«Qui nos sera mais confanons,
Who to-us will-be from-now pennons
«chasteaus, estendarz ne dragons?
castles standards nor dragons
«Qui nos savra mais maintenir?
Who us will-know from-now to-maintain

«Li cuer nos devreient partir,
The hearts to-us ought to-split
«quant nos vos esguardons en biere.
when we you behold on bier
«La vostre mort par est si fiere
The your death very is so fierce
«que nus ne set le grant damage
that any not knows the great harm
«que receit hui nostre lignage:
which receives today our lineage
«Par vos ert vis et defenduz,
By you it-was alive and defended
«mais ore est morz e confonduz.
but now it-is dead and confounded
«Mais, se Deu plaist, cil en morra:
But if God please that-one thereof will-die
«Ja rien soz ciel ne l'en guarra.
Ever anything under heaven not him-thence will-protect
«S'il est trovez a la bataille,
If-he is found at the battle
«vengiez sereiz demain, senz faille.
avenged you-will-be tomorrow without fail
«Mei ne chaut, s'il m'aveit ocis,
To-me not matters if-he me-had killed
«mais de lui fust vengemenz pris.»
but on him were vengeance taken
Desus le cors chaï pasmez:
Upon the body he-fell swooned
lores i ot dolor assez.
then there was grief enough

Mout le regrete Troïlus,
Much him mourns Troilus
quar rien soz ciel n'amot il plus;
for anything under heaven not-loved he more
e si refait Polidamas
and so again-does Polydamas
e Antenor e Eneas,
and Antenor and Aeneas
tuit si ami e tuit si frere.
all his friends and all his brothers
Adonc vint Ecuba sa mere,
Then came Hecuba his mother
Andromacha e dame Heleine:
Andromache and lady Helen
chascune esteit si pale e vaine
each was so pale and wan
que ne se fussent ja meües;
that not themselves would-have ever moved
s'eles ne fussent sostenues,
if-they not were held-up
ne poüssent sor piez ester.
not they-could on feet stand
Qui les oïst braire e criër
Who them had-heard wail and cry
e lor paumes entreferir
and their palms strike-together
e geter lermes e sospir
and throw tears and sighs

ne poüst muër a nul fuer
not could help at any price
qu'il n'en eüst dolor al cuer.
that-he not-thereof might-have-had grief at-the heart
Quant sor le cors se sont pasmees,
When on the body themselves they-are swooned
si maudiënt les destinees,
so they-curse the destinies
que tant lor par sont felenesses:
which so-much to-them very are felonious
«Ha! Cassandra, les voz pramesses
Ah Cassandra the your promises
«sont bien veires e d'Eleni.
are well true and those-of-Helenus
«Maleüré, dolent, chaiti!
Ill-fated grieving wretched
«S'en eüssent esté creeit,
If-thereof they-had been believed
«ne nos fust pas si meschaeit.
not to-us it-would-be at-all so ill-befallen
«Meschaeit! lasses, doloroses,
Ill-befallen wretched grieving
«coment serons ja mais joioses?»
how shall-we-be ever more joyful
— «Fiz,» fait Ecuba, «quel atente!
Son says Hecuba what expectation
«En cui avrai jo mais m'entente?
In whom shall-have I from-now my-hope
«En cui sera mais mis deliz?
In whom will-be from-now my delight

«Toz li miens jois est or feniz:
All the my joy is now ended
«Perdue ai ma defension.
Lost I-have my defense
«N'aveie amor se a tei non.
Not-I-had love if to thee not
«Fiz, douz amis, parlez a mei.
Son sweet friend speak to me
«Vos n'estes mie morz, ço crei:
You not-are at-all dead that I-believe
«Ovrez cez ieuz, si m'esguardez;
Open these eyes so me-look-at
«mal faites qu'a mei ne parlez.
ill you-do that-to me not you-speak
«Fiz douz, vos nes poëz ovrir.
Son sweet you not-them can open
«La grant error e li sospir
The great distress and the sighs
«que jo aveie chascun jor
which I had each day
«senefiot ceste dolor,
signified this grief
«ceste angoisse, ceste merveille.
this anguish this marvel
«Soz vos vei la terre vermeille
Under you I-see the earth vermilion
«del sanc qui del cors vos avale.
with-the blood which from-the body to-you runs-down
«Haï! com vei cel cler vis pale!
Alas how I-see that bright face pale

«Beaus, douz e proz, sor toz vaillanz,
Fair sweet and valiant above all worthy
«que fera mais li reis Prianz?
what will-do from-now the king Priam
«Qui li fera ja mais la rien
Who to-him will-make ever more the thing
«par que il ait joie ne bien,
by which he may-have joy nor good
«confortement ne alejance?
comfort nor relief
«Ha! beaus amis, quel atendance!
Ah fair friend what expectation
«Com vos departez tost de nos!
How you part soon from us
«Dreiz est que nos moirons o vos,
Right it-is that we may-die with you
«que nos ne nos veons honir
that we not ourselves may-see shamed
«ne par force ça enz saisir
nor by force here within seized
«as enemis, cui Deus maudie,
by-the enemies whom God may-curse
«par cui avez perdu la vie.
by whom you-have lost the life
«Nel verrai ja, lasse, chaitive:
Not-it I-shall-see ever wretched wretch
«Ja Deu ne place que plus vive!
Ever God not may-it-please that more I-may-live

A tant sor lui se respasmi,
At that on him herself again-swooned
e les autres tot autresi.
and the others all likewise
Andromacha ot tant ploré
Andromache had so-much wept
e tant lo jor brait e crïé
and so-much the day wailed and cried
que parole n'en puet eissir.
that word not-thence can come-out
Sovent fait semblant de morir,
Often she-makes semblance of dying
sovent est vert e pale e vaine;
often she-is green and pale and wan
de li nen ist funs ne aleine.
from her not comes-out vapor nor breath
Mais cil qui de bon cuer l'amerent
But those who with good heart her-loved
tote por morte l'en porterent.
all as dead her-thence carried
Dedenz un lit ou l'ont posee,
Within a bed where her-they-have laid
la li ont la chiere arosee.
there to-her they-have the face sprinkled
Mout s'est maumise e empeiriee:
Much herself-has misused and damaged
tote sa chiere a depeciee,
all her face she-has torn
toz les cheveus s'a esrachiez.
all the hair herself-has torn-out

Se fust tenuz li suens deviez,
If were held the her forbidding
ancor n'eüst Troie nul mal,
yet not-would-have Troy any ill
quar cil al hardi cuer leial
for he with-the bold heart loyal
la defendist vers tote gent.
it would-defend against all folk
Li doloros destruiement
The grievous destructions
sont avenu e avendront:
are come and will-come
ja mais guaires ne demorront.
ever more much not they-will-delay
Dame Heleine ne s'est pas feinte:
Lady Helen not herself-is at-all feigned
de dolor a la color teinte;
from grief she-has the color stained
ses cheveus a rompuz e traiz
her hair she-has broken and pulled
e sovent gete criz e braiz:
and often throws cries and wails
n'i a nule que plus en face.
not-there is any who more thereof may-do
Lermes li fondent sor la face,
Tears to-her melt on the face
si que la peitrine a moilliee.
so that the breast she-has wetted
Tel dolor a e tel haschiee,
Such grief she-has and such torment

se morte fust, mout li fust bel:
if dead she-were much to-her would-be fair
mout l'en prisent mieuz li danzel,
much her-thereof prized better the youths
e mout l'en sorent puis bon gré
and much to-her-thereof knew after good will
li plus prochain del parenté.
the most near of-the kindred
De Polixena que direie,
Of Polyxena what I-would-say
quant retraire ne vos savreie
when recount not to-you I-would-know
la merveille qu'el fait de sei?
the marvel which-she makes of herself
N'i a duc, amiraut ne rei
Not-there is duke emir nor king
cui ne face des ieuz plorer.
whom not she-may-make from-the eyes weep
Se jos voleie reconter
If I-them wished to-recount
la verité de sa dolor,
the truth of her grief
içe durreit mais tote jor;
this would-last from-now all day
mais ne vos vueil pas enoier,
but not you I-wish at-all to-weary

quar il me covient repairier
for it me behooves to-return
a la serre continuër:
to the matter to-continue
dès ore i fait buen escouter.
from now there it-does good to-listen
En la sale que si resplent,
In the hall which so shines
ou tant a or e fin argent
where so-much there-is gold and fine silver
e tante preciose piere,
and so-many precious stone
ont le cors Hector mis en biere.
they-have the body (of-)Hector put on bier
Premierement l'ont desarmé
First him-they-have disarmed
e de vin blanc set feiz lavé
and with wine white seven times washed
en chieres especes boilli.
in dear spices boiled
Anceis qu'il fust enseveli,
Before that-he were shrouded
l'ont mout bien aromatizié,
him-they-have very well embalmed-with-spices
e le ventre del cors sachié.
and the belly from-the body drawn
Ostee en ont bien la coraille,
Removed thereof they-have well the innards
feie e poumon e l'autre entraille.
liver and lung and the-other entrails

Le cors dedenz ont embasmé,
The body within they-have embalmed
sin i mistrent a grant plenté,
so-thereof there they-put in great plenty
e si refirent il defors.
and so again-did they outside
D'un drap qui ert en lor tresors,
Of-a cloth which was in their treasures
qui plus valeit de dous citez,
which more was-worth than two cities
d'or e de pieres esmerez,
with-gold and with stones refined
li plus riches qui onc fust faiz
the most rich which ever were made
ne qui ja mais vos seit retraiz,
nor which ever more to-you may-be recounted
de cel li firent vesteüre
of that to-him they-made garment
bele e bien faite a sa mesure:
fair and well made to his measure
de fil d'or fu tote cosue.
with thread of-gold it-was all sewn
E quant il li orent vestue,
And when they on-him had put-it-on
semblant vos fust que toz fust vis.
seeming to-you it-would-be that all he-were alive
En un chaelit l'ont asis,
In a bedstead him-they-have seated

fors tant qu'auques se jut ariere
except so-much that somewhat he-lay back
toz apoiez a la litiere.
all leaning on the litter
Riches fu mout li chaeliz,
Rich was very the bedstead
de blanc ivoire toz faitiz.
of white ivory all made
Li pecol furent entaillié
The feet were carved
e mout soutiument deboissié
and very subtly sculpted
a bestes e a oiselez
with beasts and with little-birds
e a serpenteaus petitez,
and with serpents small
a floretes environees.
with flowerets surrounded
Les uevres erent bien dorees.
The works were well gilded
Les espondes e li limon
The sides and the shafts
esteient des denz d'un peisson
were of-the teeth of-a fish
que Plines nome en son escrit.
which Pliny names in his writing
Onques nus hom de char ne vit
Ever any man of flesh not saw
si bele uevre ne si bien faite.
so fair work nor so well made

De riche seie bien entraite
With rich silk well interlaced
fu toz li liz desoz cordez
was all the bed beneath corded
e merveilles bien atornez.
and marvelously well adorned
Feutre de paile emperial
Felt of silk imperial
i ot, nus hom ne vit onc tal,
there was any man not saw ever such
un grant paile d'Orient freis,
a great silk of-the-East fresh
qu'en son tresor aveit li reis,
which-in his treasure had the king
que mout amot de grant maniere:
which much he-loved in great manner
cil covri tote la litiere.
that-one covered all the litter
En chandelers d'or geteïz,
In candlesticks of-gold cast
qui n'esteient mie petiz,
which not-were at-all small
ot granz cierges e clers ardanz,
there-were great candles and bright burning
ne vos sai mie dire quanz.
not to-you I-know at-all to-say how-many
Tuit li poëte e li clergiez,
All the poets and the clergy
de par totes les eveschiez,
from part all the bishoprics

e li covent chascuns par sei,
and the convents each by itself
e li saint home de la lei
and the holy men of the law
vindrent al cors, si vos di bien
came to-the body so to-you I-say well
que il ne s'i feinstrent de rien
that they not themselves-there feigned in anything
de bien chanter e de bien lire:
of well singing and of well reading
tote la nuit dura a tire.
all the night it-lasted in a-row
Tuit veillierent e conte e rei,
All watched both counts and kings
mais il erent en tel esfrei,
but they were in such alarm
par mi la vile, des Grezeis,
through the-midst the town of-the Greeks
que nes sorprengent de maneis,
that not-them they-may-surprise at once
que tote nuit sont sor le mur.
that all night they-are on the wall
N'i esteient pas a seür:
Not-there they-were at-all in security
par tot aveit tel criërece,
through all there-was such crying

tel duel, tel plor, tel ullerece
such grief such weeping such wailing
que cil de l'ost cler les oëient,
that those of the-host clearly them heard
qui merveilles s'en esjoëient.
who marvelously themselves-thereof rejoiced

The Tomb of Hector

LXXI

In the morning Agamemnon tells the Greeks that Hector's death has nearly won the war. He advises waiting until Achilles heals and asks Priam for two months' truce, which the Trojans must grant. The dead are burned, and Hector lies fifteen days in Juno's temple. Three wise craftsmen build his tomb before the Thymbraean gate in Apollo's temple: a tabernacle on four golden images holding jeweled pillars, under a golden vault. Hector is seated within, his feet in balm that golden tubes carry into his body, and a golden likeness of him threatens the Greeks with a drawn sword. Undying lamps burn, a Greek inscription says Achilles killed him, and Priam endows a convent there.

Quant cele nuit fu trespassee 16575
When that night was passed
e resclarci la matinee,
and brightened the morning
si pristrent conseil li Grezeis.
so took counsel the Greeks
Agamennon parla li reis:
Agamemnon spoke the king
«Seignor», fait il, «bien nos estait.
Lords says he well to-us it-stands

«Grant bien nos a cil a toz fait,
Great good to-us has that-one to all done
«qui d'Ector nos a delivré:
who of-Hector us has delivered
«Mout l'en devons saveir bon gré.
Much to-him-thereof we-ought to-know good will
«Mout nos a nostre uevre avanciee,
Much to-us he-has our work advanced
«dès ore est el bien espleitiee:
from now is it well achieved
«Mout en devons aveir grant joie,
Much thereof we-ought to-have great joy
«mort sont e vencu cil de Troie;
dead are and vanquished those of Troy
«ne pueent mais foison aveir.
not they-can more abundance have
«Bosoing nos ert e estoveir
Need to-us it-was and necessity
«que li coilverz fust entrepris
that the base-one were beset
«qui tant rei nos aveit ocis,
who so-many kings to-us had killed
«tant baron e tant chevalier.
so-many barons and so-many knights
«Se un sol an vesquist entier,
If a single year he-had-lived whole
«tuit fussons mort pris e vencu:
all we-would-be dead taken and vanquished
«Mout nos en est bien avenu.
Much to-us thereby it-is well befallen

«Danz Achillès fu mout bleciez,
Lord Achilles was very hurt
«mais auques est asoagiez;
but somewhat he-is eased
«il guarra bien: mout a bon mire.
he will-heal well very he-has good physician
«Mais une rien vos vueil jo dire:
But one thing to-you wish I to-say
«Ne lo pas que nos combatons
Not I-advise at-all that we may-fight
«desci que sain e sauf l'aions;
until that sound and safe him-we-may-have
«atendons qu'il seit respassez,
let-us-wait that-he may-be recovered
«quar ausi somes trop lassez.
for also we-are too weary
«E del combatre sai jo bien
And of-the fighting know I well
«que cil dedenz ne feront rien:
that those within not will-do anything
«Trop ont perdu, deshaitié sont.
Too-much they-have lost disheartened they-are
«Ja ore nel se penseront,
Ever now not-it themselves they-will-think
«que vers nos issent a bataille:
that toward us they-may-go-out to battle
«Ço poëz vos creire senz faille,
That can you believe without fail
«qu'il n'en ont ore nul talant.
that-they not-thereof have now any desire

«Mandons sempres al rei Priant
Let-us-send at-once to-the king Priam
«que triuës nos donge dous meis:
that truces to-us he-may-give two months
«Si sevelirons noz Grezeis,
So we-shall-bury our Greeks
«e il les lor, ço fait a faire.»
and they the theirs that is to do
Ensi l'otreient senz contraire.
Thus it-they-grant without contrary
Li messagier montent en l'ost;
The messengers mount in the-host
a Troie vindrent assez tost.
to Troy they-came enough soon
Mout ont bien forni lor message,
Much they-have well fulfilled their message
quar li meillor e li plus sage
for the best and the most wise
de ceus dedenz donent la trieve;
of those within give the truce
e si sacheiz que mout lor grieve,
and so know that much to-them it-grieves
mais nel pueent ore eschiver:
but not-it they-can now avoid
dous meis l'ont faite aseürer.
two months it-they-have made assure
Cil de la vile ont fait les rez,
Those of the town have made the pyres
en mainz lieus les ont alumez;
in many places them they-have lit

si ont cil de l'ost autresi.
so have those of the-host likewise
Quant li mort furent seveli,
When the dead were shrouded
si retornerent en sojor.
so they-returned into rest
Troïen plorent lor seignor:
Trojans weep their lord
el riche temple Junonis,
in-the rich temple of-Juno
le guarderent bien quinze dis.
him they-guarded well fifteen days
Entre tant dis ont esguardé
Between so-much while they-have considered
ou n'en quel lieu de la cité
where nor-in what place of the city
l'en portereient enfoïr:
him-thence they-would-carry to-bury
auques en orent de leisir.
somewhat thereof they-had of leisure
Par le comun esguardement
By the common consideration
del rei Priant e de sa gent
of-the king Priam and of his folk
li ont faite sa sepouture,
to-him they-have made his sepulcher
ço me reconte l'Escriture,
that to-me recounts the-Writing
devant la porte de Timbree:
before the gate of Thymbra

ensi ert par non apelee.
thus it-was by name called
Devers l'ost des Grezeis esteit:
Toward the-host of-the Greeks it-was
un mout riche temple i aveit,
a very rich temple there there-was
fait en l'onor Apollinis,
made in the-honor of-Apollo
de marbre blanc e vert e bis.
of marble white and green and gray
Mout par i aveit granz faitures,
Very much there there-were great works
granz entailles e granz peintures;
great carvings and great paintings
mout par esteit bien atornez
very much it-was well arrayed
e mout richement aornez.
and very richly adorned
Tres de devant l'autel major,
Right in front-of the-altar major
firent trei sage engeigneor
made three wise craftsmen
un tabernacle precios,
a tabernacle precious
riche e estrange e merveillos.
rich and strange and marvelous
Quatre images firent estanz,
Four images they-made standing
eguaus de groisse e de semblanz.
equal in thickness and in likeness

Eschameaus orent soz lor piez
Stools they-had under their feet
d'or esmeré bien entailliez
of-gold refined well carved
les images, d'or ensement:
the images of-gold likewise
les dous erent de bel jovent,
the two were of fair youth
les autres dous de grant aage.
the others two of great age
Oëz que firent li trei sage:
Hear what made the three wise-men
si faitement les ont formees
so fashioned them they-have formed
e en tel guise tresgetees
and in such guise cast
que les braz destres estendeient
that the arms right they-stretched-out
ensi que les paumes ovreient.
thus that the palms they-opened
En chascune ot un pileret
In each there-was a little-pillar
d'un grant, d'un gros, auques longuet;
of-a great of-a thick somewhat longish
mais al meins e al plus eschars
but at-the least and at-the most scant
valeit li pire dous cenz mars;
was-worth the worst two hundreds marks

quar d'un jagonce grenat chier
for of-a jacinth garnet dear
firent li sage le premier,
made the wise-men the first
l'autre d'un prasme verdeiant:
the-other of-a prase greening
d'un gros esteient e d'un grant.
of-a thick they-were and of-a great
Li tierz esteit d'une egetaine:
The third was of-an agate
soz ciel n'a pierre a si grant peine
under heaven not-is stone with so great pain
seit eüe ne conquestee
may-be had nor won
ne que plus chier seit achatee.
nor that more dearly may-be bought
Bien vos deïsse ou om la prent
Well to-you I-would-say where one it takes
e ses vertuz dont ele a cent,
and its virtues of-which it has a-hundred
mais por l'interposicion
but for the-interruption
avient içø, que le laisson.
it-befalls this that it we-leave
Li quarz pilers fu d'un pedoire.
The fourth pillar was of-a pedoire
Ensi com nos retrait l'Estoire,
Thus as to-us recounts the-Story
dedenz le flun de Paradis,
within the river of Paradise

a uns arbres d'estrange pris;
there-are some trees of-strange worth
pomes chargent que al fonz vont:
apples they-bear which to-the bottom go
celes qui set anz i estont
those which seven years there stay
pierres devienent forz e dures.
stones become strong and hard
Teus vertuz ont e teus natures
Such virtues they-have and such natures
qu'ome desvé senz esciënt,
that-man maddened without knowledge
qui rien ne set ne rien n'entent,
who anything not knows nor anything not-understands
rameinent tot en son memoire:
they-bring-back all into his memory
c'est la nature del pedoire.
that-is the nature of-the pedoire
Cinc piez aveient largement:
Five feet they-had largely
a merveille tienent la gent,
at marvel hold the folk
des images qu'iluec esteient,
of-the images which-there were
com faitement les sosteneient.
how fashioned them they-supported
Des senestres mains s'apoioënt
With-the left hands they-leaned
de bastonceaus qui ne pleioënt,
on little-staffs which not bent

quar tuit esteient fait autel
for all were made likewise
d'or entaillié merveilles bel.
of-gold carved marvelously fair
Les cimaises des pilereaus,
The capitals of-the little-pillars
qui tant erent riches e beaus,
which so-much were rich and fair
erent les dous de crisolites,
were the two of chrysolites
e les autres dous d'ametistes.
and the others two of-amethysts
Sus furent voutiz li arcel,
Above were vaulted the arches
tuit par tot doble e tuit gemel.
all through all double and all twin
Mout par fu riche le civoire,
Very much was rich the ciborium
qui ne fu de chauz ne d'ivoire,
which not was of lime nor of-ivory
ainz fu de fin or e de pierres
rather it-was of fine gold and of stones
mout precioses e mout chieres.
very precious and very dear
D'iluec eissi grant la clarté;
From-there came-out great the brightness
plus resembla ciel estelé
more it-resembled heaven starred
que nule rien que seit el mont.
than any thing which may-be in-the world

Trop ont grant sen cil qui ço font.
Too-much have great sense those who that make
Sor le civoire ont fait maisiere
On the ciborium they-have made wall
tote massice e tote entiere
all solid and all whole
de marbre de plusors colors:
of marble of many colors
vint piez en dura la hautors.
twenty feet thereof lasted the height
Voute i ot faite d'or vousee.
Vault there was made with-gold vaulted
Quant ele fu tote aprestee,
When it was all prepared
s'ont un sarcueil dedenz asis,
so-they-have a coffin within set
e si n'est hom ne nez ne vis
and so not-is man nor born nor alive
qui de si riche oïst parler.
who of so rich had-heard speak
Quar pierres orent fait tribler,
For stones they-had made grind
esmeraudes, alemandines,
emeralds almandines
safirs, topaces e sardines:
sapphires topazes and sardines
en or d'Araibe sont fondues
in gold of-Arabia they-are melted
e trestotes a un venues.
and all into one come

Li trei sage devin ont fait
The three wise seers have made
un molle entaillié e portrait
a mold carved and portrayed
de la plus riche uevre que fust
of the most rich work which there-were
ne que nus hom veeir poüst.
nor which any man to-see could
L'or e les pierres i geterent,
The-gold and the stones there they-cast
d'estrange chose s'apenserent:
of-strange thing themselves-bethought
n'i bosoigna ne plus ne meins,
not-there it-needed nor more nor less
que toz li molles en fu pleins.
than all the mold thereof was full
De la chaeire que direie?
Of the chair what I-would-say
Ja tant ne m'en porpensereie
Ever so-much not myself-thereof I-would-bethink
qu'ele fust ja par mei retraite
that-it were ever by me recounted
quel ert ne coment esteit faite;
what it-was nor how it-was made
mais l'emperere d'Alemaigne,
but the-emperor of-Germany
al mien cuider, e cil d'Espaigne,
to-the my thinking and he of-Spain

ço vos puis dire senz mentir,
that to-you I-can say without lying
ne la porreient tel bastir.
not it could such build
Le cors Hector ont aporté. 16745
The body (of-)Hector they-have carried
Quant il eissi de la cité,
When he went-out from the city
lors refreschi trestoz li dueus:
then refreshed all the grief
batent paumes, tirent cheveus;
they-beat palms they-tear hair
ullent, braient, plorent e criënt;
they-bowl wail weep and cry
le termine e le jor maudiënt 16750
the term and the day they-curse
qu'il nasquirent ne qu'ont veü,
that-they were-born nor that-they-have seen
ne qu'il tant longes ont vescu
nor that-they so long have lived
que sa mort veient ne le jor
that his death they-see nor the day
de si angoissose dolor.
of so anguished grief
N'i a un sol, petit ne grant, 16755
Not-there is a sole small nor great
nes les femmes ne li enfant,
not-even the women nor the children
qui n'i vienge e grant duel n'i face:
who not-there may-come and great grief not-there may-make

maint en morurent en la place,
many-a thereof died in the place
cui li cuer del ventre partirent;
to-whom the hearts in-the belly split
tel mil e plus s'i espasmirent,
such thousand and more themselves-there swooned
qui por mort en furent porté.
who for dead thence were carried
Ne vos porreit estre conté
Not to-you could be told
la siste part de la dolor.
the sixth part of the grief
Li sage maistre e li dotor
The wise masters and the doctors
ont pris le cors, jo n'en sai plus;
have taken the body I not-thereof know more
enz en la voute de desus
right in the vault from above
l'ont gentement posé e mis
him-they-have nobly laid and put
e dedenz la chaeire asis.
and within the chair seated
Dous vaisseaus ont apareilliez
Two vessels they-have prepared
d'esmeraudes bien entailliez,
of-emeralds well carved
toz pleins de basme e d'aloès;
all full of balm and of-aloes

sor un bufet de gargatès
on a buffet of jet
les ont asis en tel endreit
them they-have set in such place
que ses dous piez dedenz teneit.
that his two feet within he-held
Del basme grant plenté i ot:
Of-the balm great plenty there was
jusqu'as chevilles i entrot.
up-to-the ankles there it-entered
Dui tuëlet d'or geteïz,
Two little-tubes of-gold cast
merveilles bel e bien faitiz,
marvelously fair and well made
desci qu'al nes li ataigneient
until that-to-the nose to-him reached
e dedenz les vaisseaus esteient,
and within the vessels were
si que la grant force e l'odor
so that the great force and the-smell
del vert basme e de la licor
of-the green balm and of the liquor
li entroënt par mi le cors.
into-him entered through the-midst the body
Granz fu l'aveirs e li tresors
Great was the-wealth and the treasure
dont la sepouture fu faite.
whereof the sepulcher was made
Quant la chose fu a chief traite,
When the thing was to end drawn

si ont une image levee
so they-have an image raised
qu'a merveille fu esguardee:
which-at marvel was gazed-at
de fin or fu resplendissant
of fine gold it-was shining
e a Hector si resemblant
and to Hector so resembling
que nule chose n'i failleit.
that any thing not-there failed
Un brant d'acier tot nu teneit,
A blade of-steel all naked it-held
Grezeis par signe manaçot:
Greeks by sign it-threatened
ço voleit dire e ço mostrot
that it-wished to-say and that it-showed
qu'ancor sereit vengiez un jor.
that-yet he-would-be avenged one day
E si fu il al chief del tor
And so was he at-the end of-the turn
si faitement com vos dirons,
so fashioned as to-you we-shall-tell
anceis qu'a la fin parveignons.
before that-to the end we-may-arrive
Oëz que firent li trei sage.
Hear what made the three wise-men
Desoz, devant chascune image,
Beneath before each image

firent lampes d'or alumer
they-made lamps of-gold light
en reverence de l'auter.
in reverence of the-altar
Teus est li feus, ja n'esteindra
Such is the fire ever not-it-will-go-out
ne ja a nul jor ne faudra:
nor ever on any day not it-will-fail
d'une pierre est de tel nature
of-a stone it-is of such nature
que toz jorz art e toz jorz dure.
that all days it-burns and all days lasts
Chier refu mout le pavement,
Dear again-was very the pavement
quar toz esteit de fin argent.
for all it-was of fine silver
E s'i ot d'or plus de set listes,
And so-there were of-gold more than seven bands
ou en greu ot letres escrites,
where in Greek there-were letters written
que diseient, qui les liseit,
which said who them read
que toz entiers iluec giseit
that all whole there lay
Hector, qui tant fu proz de sei,
Hector who so-much was valiant of himself
qu'Achillès ocist al tornei.
whom-Achilles killed at-the tourney
Mais tant vos en met bien defors,
But so-much to-you thereof he-puts well outside

nel conquist mie cors a cors,
not-him he-conquered at-all body to body
c'onques ne nasqui chevalier,
for-ever not was-born knight
dès le derrain jusqu'al premier,
from the last up-to-the first
vers cui n'eüst defension.
against whom not-he-would-have-had defense
Ne trovons pas ne ne lison
Not we-find at-all nor not we-read
qu'onques sis pers nasquist de mere,
that-ever his peer was-born of mother
si forz, si proz, si combatere.
so strong so valiant so fighting
Puis que li mondes començа,
Since that the world began
ne ja mais tant come il durra,
nor ever more so-long as it will-last
ne nasqui nus de sa valor,
not was-born any of his worth
ne ne fera ja mais nul jor.
nor not will-do ever more any day
Des vaillanz fu li soverains,
Of-the valiant he-was the sovereign
mout par ocist reis de ses mains:
very much he-killed kings with his hands
quar il ocist Proteselaus,
for he killed Protesilaus
qui mout esteit proz e vassaus;
who very was valiant and vassal

e si ocist rei Patroclus,
and so killed king Patroclus
rei Merion, rei Scedius,
king Merion king Schedius
rei Boëtès, rei Prothenor,
king Boetes king Prothenor
rei Antipus, rei Elpinor;
king Antipus king Elpenor
e si ocist Archilogus,
and so killed Archilogus
Orcomenis e Dorius,
Orcomenis and Dorius
Polixenart, rei Ifidus,
Polyxenart king Ifidus
Polibetès, Leotetus,
Polybetes Leotetes
Phelipon e Merionès.
Phelipon and Meriones
E s'il vesquist dous anz o mais,
And if-he had-lived two years or more
destruit fussent si enemi;
destroyed would-have-been his enemies
mais Aventure nel sofri
but Fortune not-it allowed
ne Envie ne Destinee:
nor Envy nor Destiny
trop ot as suens corte duree.
too-much he-had to-the his short duration
Des riches dus ne des demeines,
Of-the rich dukes nor of-the lords

des amirauz, des chevetaines,
of-the emirs of-the captains
dont il ocist plus de treis cenz,
of-whom he killed more than three hundreds
nen est ci faiz remembremenz.
not is here made remembrance
Li temples fu si estabIiz
The temple was so established
que de sainz homes e d'esliz
that of holy men and of-chosen
i a li Reis mis un covent,
there has the King put a convent
e s'i avront mout richement
and so-there they-will-have very richly
lor vivre a trestoz sofisant.
their living to all sufficient
Ne sai qu'alasse porloignant:
Not I-know why-I-should-go prolonging
mais onques cors de chevalier,
but ever body of knight
dès le derrain jusqu'al premier,
from the last up-to-the first
ne jut en terre a tel honor
not lay in earth with such honor
ne ne fera ja mais nul jor.
nor not will-do ever more any day

Palamedes Elected

LXXII

Troy falls silent in mourning; Andromache never rises from her bed, and the Greeks long for the truce to end. In council Palamedes complains that Agamemnon was made lord over him without his consent and refuses to obey him. Agamemnon answers calmly: he never sought the command, and Palamedes came a year late, after the princes had chosen him. He has led the host in peace and willingly gives the office up. The next day he puts the choice to the whole army, asking only to keep Mycenae. At Palamedes's urging they elect Palamedes himself, who thanks them, but Achilles is angered and resents those who made the change against his will.

En la cité sont mu e quei:
In the city they-are mute and quiet
dreiz est, quar bien i a de quei.
right it-is for well there there-is of what
Tel perte ont faite e recovree,
Such loss they-have made and received
que ne verront mais restoree.
that not they-will-see more restored
Nus n'i joë ne nus n'i rit;
Any not-there plays nor any not-there laughs
n'en i a nul, grant ne petit,
not-thereof there is any great nor small
qui pas oblit la grant dolor
who at-all may-forget the great grief
qu'ont receü de lor seignor.
which-they-have received for their lord

Malade en ont geü assez
Sick thereof have lain enough
cil de cui esteit plus amez.
those by whom he-was most loved
Onques puis del lit ne leva,
Ever after from-the bed not rose
que il fu morz, Andromacha:
when he was dead Andromache
ço pesot li qu'el ne moreit,
that weighed-on her that-she not died
tant par aveit son cuer destreit.
so very she-had her heart distressed
Ensi furent senz aveir joie
Thus they-were without having joy
lonc tens après icil de Troie.
long time after those of Troy
En l'ost defors furent haitié:
In the-host outside they-were cheered
mout ont le terme coveitié
much they-have the term coveted
que la triuë fust acomplie,
that the truce were fulfilled
tote derompue e faillie.
all broken and failed
Trop volentiers se combatront,
Very willingly themselves they-will-fight
puis qu'il Hector ne troveront.
since that-they Hector not will-find

A un jor que furent josté
On a day that were assembled
tuit li haut home e li sené,
all the high men and the wise
se complainst mout Palamedès
himself complained much Palamedes
e dist qu'il ne soferra mais
and said that-he not will-suffer more
qu'il ait sor lui seignorement,
that-he may-have over him lordship
poësté ne comandement:
power nor command
ne vueut estre en subjection
not he-wishes to-be in subjection
a rei ne prince ne baron,
to king nor prince nor baron
se par sa volenté n'esteit.
if by his will not-it-were
Li plus diënt que il a dreit:
The most say that he has right
«Onc, par Deu,» fait il, «tel ne vi,
Ever by God says he such not I-saw
«quant sor mei a prince establi
when over me he-has prince established
«senz ço qu'en fust parlé a mei
without that that-thereof were spoken to me
«ne qu'il le fust par mon otrei.
nor that-be it were by my grant
«Mei n'est pas bel, n'en quier mentir,
To-me not-it-is at-all fair not-thereof I-seek to-lie

«por ço nel vueil plus consentir.
for that not-it I-wish more to-consent
«Est or ço bien, reison e dreit
Is now that well reason and right
«que danz Agamennon maistreit
that lord Agamemnon may-master
«ne mei ne rien que a mei taigne?
nor me nor anything that to me may-pertain
«Le valissant d'une chastaigne
The value of-a chestnut
«ne fereie jo pas por lui.
not would-do I at-all for him
«Ço peise mei que onques fui
That weighs-on me that ever I-was
«en leu ou sor mei seignorast
in place where over me be-lorded
«ne de ma gent rien comandast.
nor of my folk anything commanded
«Il ne sera or plus mis sire.
He not will-be now more my lord
«De vos e de trestot l'empire
Of you and of all the-empire
«seit or mais soë la maistrie:
let-be now more his the mastery
«Sor mei n'avra plus seignorie
Over me not-be-will-have more lordship
«se cele non qu'il i aveit
if that not which-he there had
«al tens que sis pere viveit.»
at-the time when his father lived

Agamennon fu proz et sage:
Agamemnon was valiant and wise
oiant les reis e le barnage,
hearing the kings and the baronage
respondi tant come senez
he-answered as-much as wise
que il n'en dut estre blasmez:
that he not-thereof ought to-be blamed
«Sire,» fait il, «ço sai jo bien.
Lord says he that know I well
«Que pris avez sor tote rien.
That worth you-have above all thing
«Se ne fusseiz, tuit fussons morz:
If not you-were all we-would-be dead
«Nus ne se prent a vostre esforz.
Any not himself takes to your effort
«N'i a nul de nos qui rien vaille
Not-there is any of us who anything may-be-worth
«vers vos en estor n'en bataille.
toward you in fight nor-in battle
«Mout dotent cil de la vostre ire.
Much fear those of the your wrath
«Mout devez bien aveir l'empire:
Much you-ought well to-have the-empire
«Tant par estes sages e proz,
So very you-are wise and valiant
«que maistreier nos devez toz
that to-master us you-ought all
«e enseignier e governer.
and to-teach and to-govern

«Ou trovereit l'om vostre per?
Where would-find one your peer
«Que ferions, se n'estiëz?
What would-we-do if not-you-were
«Mais itant vueil que me diëz,
But so-much I-wish that to-me you-may-say
«se j'ai eü ceste baillie,
if I-have had this charge
«quel damage ne quel folie,
what harm nor what folly
«quel honte e quel avilement
what shame and what debasement
«en est venu a nostre gent.
thereof is come to our folk
«Ai lor jo rien fait essaier
Have to-them I anything made try
«ne teus ovraignes comencier
nor such works begin
«dont se tiengent a maumenez
whereby themselves they-may-hold for ill-led
«ne dont jo deie estre blasmez?
nor whereby I ought to-be blamed
«Se jo l'ai fait, ço peise mei.
If I it-have done that weighs-on me
«En l'ueil me fiere de son dei,
In the-eye me may-strike with his finger
«seit rei, seit prince, seit baron,
be-it king be-it prince be-it baron
«cui j'aie fait rien se bien non.
to-whom I-may-have done anything if good not

«E vos, quin avez tel envie,
And you who-thereof have such envy
«anceis qu'eüssons vostre aïe,
before that-we-had your aid
«lor orent mestier mi conseil;
to-them had need my counsels
«e si sacheiz mout me merveil
and so know much myself I-marvel
«que desvolez ne ça ne la
that you-refuse nor here nor there
«ço que vuelent tel cent i a.
that which wish such hundred there are
«N'en ai oï nul refusos
Not-thereof I-have heard any refusing
«de cest afaire fors que vos.
of this affair except than you
«A vos desplaist e desagree
To you it-displeases and disagrees
«que la princez me fu donee:
that the princedom to-me was given
«L'om ne vos i pot apeler
One not you there could call
«ne querre otrei ne demander,
nor seek grant nor ask
«quar bien d'un an trestot entier
for well of-a year all entire
«ne venistes al comencier;
not you-came at-the beginning
«maint grant esguart, ço m'est a vis,
many-a great consideration that to-me-is at opinion

«e maint conseil eümes pris,
and many-a counsel we-had taken
«ainz que fusseiz jostez o nos.
before that you-were joined with us
«Mais, par la fei que jo dei vos,
But by the faith that I owe you
«nel porchaçai ne nel requis,
not-it I-pursued nor not-it I-requested
16960 «e quant sor mei se furent mis,
and when over me themselves they-were put
«plus m'en pesa qu'il ne m'en plot.
more to-me-thereof weighed than-it not to-me-thereof pleased
«Onques ancore hom tant ne sot
Ever yet man so-much not knew
«cui toz sis sens n'eüst mestier
to-whom all his sense not-would-have-had need
«a si faite gent maistreier.
for so made folk to-master
16965 «Jos ai seignoriz jusque ci
I-them have lorded until here
«auques en pais, la lor merci:
somewhat in peace the their thanks
«Onc ne lor fis honte ne lait,
Ever not to-them I-did shame nor ugliness
«ne il de rien nel ront mei fait;
nor they in anything not-it again-have to-me done
«ne me plaing d'eus, ne il de mei.
not myself I-complain of-them nor they of me
16970 «Or facent prince, jo l'otrei,
Now let-them-make prince I-it grant

«a lor voleir e a lor gré:
at their will and at their liking
«Ne l'ai en fieu n'en herité.
Not it-I-have in fief nor-in heritage
«Jo ne demant en eus maistrie
I not ask in them mastery
«s'amistié non e compaignie:
if-friendship not and company
«Volentiers la lais e guerpis. 16975
Willingly it I-leave and abandon
«Senz ço qu'a nul en vienge pis,
Without that that-to any thereof may-come worse
«eslisent prince a lor talant,
let-them-elect prince at their desire
«e j'en serai par tot aidant
and I-thereof shall-be through all helping
«sonc mon poëir e ma valor:
according-to my power and my worth
«Ja ne m'en defendrai nul jor.» 16980
Ever not myself-thereof I-shall-defend any day
La parole remest ensi:
The speech remained thus
irié en furent e marri
angered thereof they-were and grieved
tuit li plusor e li auquant.
all the most and the some
Que vos ireie porloignant?
Why to-you would-I-go prolonging

A l'endemain resont josté
On the-next-day again-they-are joined
tuit li pro d'ome e li ainz né,
all the valiant of-men and the elder born
e li pueples comunaument
and the people in-common
resont josté al parlement.
again-are joined at-the parley
Agamennon toz les manda;
Agamemnon all them summoned
quant venu sont, si lor mostra:
when come they-are so to-them he-showed
«Seignor», fait il, «ço sacheiz vos,
Lords says he that know you
«que onques ne fui coveitos
that ever not I-was covetous
«d'aveir sor tanz reis la maistrie
of-having over so-many kings the mastery
«ne poësté ne seignorie.
nor power nor lordship
«Ne fusse dignes de tel chose,
Not I-were worthy of such thing
«jo l'ai eüe une grant pose.
I it-have had a great while
«Or n'i a plus, vos la dorreiz
Now not-there is more you it will-give
«cui vos plaira e vos voudreiz,
to-whom to-you it-will-please and you will-wish
«quar jo l'otrei mout bonement:
for I it-grant very gladly

«Sacheiz ne m'en peise neient.
Know not to-me-thereof it-weighs in-nothing
«Une chose me sofireit:
One thing to-me would-suffice
«Ja li miens cuers plus ne voudreit,
Ever the my heart more not would-wish
«ne mais que victoire eüssons
nor more than victory we-might-have
«e noz enemis vengissons,
and our enemies we-might-avenge
«qu'il fussent mort, pris o vencu.
that-they were dead taken or vanquished
«Sacheiz mout i ai entendu
Know much thereto I-have attended
«e entendrai a mon poëir.
and I-shall-attend to my power
«N'ai coveitié d'empire aveir,
Not-I-have coveted empire to-have
«fors de Miceine e de l'onor:
except of Mycenae and of the-honor
«La me tient om bien a seignor
There me holds one well as lord
«e tendra tant com jo vivrai;
and will-hold as-long as I shall-live
«a mes heirs iert quant jo morrai.
to my heirs it-will-be when I shall-die
«Vostre eslection poëz faire
Your election you-can make
«senz mauvoleir e senz contraire:
without ill-will and without contrary

«Parout e die qui voudra,
Let-him-speak and let-him-say who will-wish
«e seit oï que il dira;
and let-it-be heard what he will-say
«seit esleüz al los de toz
let-be elected at-the praise of all
«teus qui seit riche, sage e proz.»
such who may-be rich wise and valiant
Parlé i ot, ço fu adès;
Spoken there was that was promptly
mais mout par vueut Palamedès
but much very wishes Palamedes
que sor lui voist l'eslection:
that over him may-go the-election
dit lor «tant a discrecion
he-tells them so-much has discretion
e sen en lui, que bien eslire
and sense in him that well to-elect
le deivent a tenir l'empire:
him they-ought to hold the-empire
e c'iert li mieuz qu'il puissent faire.»
and that-will-be the best that-they could do
Cui que fust enui ne contraire,
To-whom that it-were vexation nor contrary
esleü l'ont e prince fait,
elected him-they-have and prince made
si com l'Estoire me retrait;
so as the-Story to-me recounts

si lor en sot merveillos grez
so to-them thereof he-knew marvelous thanks
e sis en a mout merciëz.
and so-them thereof he-has much thanked
Mais Achillès mout s'en iraist:
But Achilles much himself-thereof angers
mout li peise, mout li desplaist,
much to-him it-weighs much to-him it-displeases
e dit que il ja n'en jorront
and says that they ever not-thereof will-enjoy
del remuëment que il font.
of-the change which they make
Mout par le tient a grant folie:
Much very it he-holds for great folly
par son voleir nen est ço mie,
by his will not is that at-all
ainz est contre sa volenté.
rather it-is against his will
Mout par en set a ceus mal gré
Much very thereof he-knows to those ill will
qui ço ont fait e otreié
who that have done and granted
sor son defens e sor son vié;
over his prohibition and over his forbidding
mal lor en vueut a toz mout grant,
ill to-them thereof he-wishes to all very great
si lor fist bien aparissant.
so to-them he-made well apparent

The Eleventh Battle

LXXIII

When the truce ends, Priam vows to avenge Hector. He leads the Trojans out with Deiphobus, Paris, and Troilus, while Palamedes orders the Greeks. Guarded by his sons, Priam unhorses Palamedes and fights so fiercely, watched by the ladies on the walls, that all give him the prize. Sarpedon of Lycia drives the Greeks back, and when Tlepolemus of Rhodes unhorses him, Sarpedon cuts off his thigh. The king of Persia brings seven thousand archers, but Greek reinforcements under the duke of Athens, Ajax, Nestor, and Menelaus surround the Trojans and kill him, and Sarpedon is badly wounded. Priam's three thousand chosen knights and the archers on the causeway cover the retreat. The fighting goes on for days, and Priam is its champion.

Que qu'il enoiast Achillès,
Whatever that-it might-vex Achilles
l'empire tint Palamedès.
the-empire held Palamedes
Les triuës furent acomplies
The truces were fulfilled
e trespassees e fenies.
and passed and ended
La nuit josterent cil dedenz,
The night assembled those within
e si fu teus li parlemenz
and so was such the parley
qu'enz en l'aube del cler matin
that-right in the-dawn of-the bright morning
se metreient fors al chemin
themselves they-would-put out on-the road

dreit vers les tentes, tuit rengié
straight toward the tents all ranked
e de bataille apareillié.
and for battle prepared
A toz crie Prianz merciz,
To all cries Priam mercy
qu'or seit vengiez Hector sis fiz:
that-now may-be avenged Hector his son
«Seignor,» fait il, «ne sai que dire,
Lords says he not I-know what to-say
«mais le damage e la grant ire
but the harm and the great wrath
«dont nos somes espris e plein
with-which we are inflamed and full
«pareisse contre ceus demain
may-appear against those tomorrow
«qui mal nos ont fait e feront
who ill to-us have done and will-do
«toz les jorz mais que il vivront.
all the days more that they will-live
«Seient si faitement requis
Let-them-be so fashioned attacked
«que i aions honor e pris,
that there we-may-have honor and worth
«e que la venjance en seit prise
and that the vengeance thereof may-be taken
«en tel maniere e en tel guise
in such manner and in such guise

«que ne cuident nostre enemi
that not may-think our enemies
«que nos seions del tot guenchi
that we may-be of-the all turned-aside
«ne vencu ensi pleinement.
nor vanquished thus fully
«E jo vos di veraiement
And I to-you say truly
«que m'en istrai le cuer irié,
that me-thence I-shall-go-out the heart angered
«l'auberc vestu, l'eaume lacié.
the-hauberk put-on the-helmet laced
«Ma grant ire e ma grant dolor
My great wrath and my great grief
«comparront, se jo puis, li lor.
will-pay-for if I can the theirs
«Bien dei dès ore armes porter,
Well I-ought from now arms to-bear
«qu'a tort me vei desheriter:
for-at wrong myself I-see disinherit
«Ne sui pas ancor si afliz
Not I-am at-all yet so afflicted
«que ja mis escuz seit guenchiz
that ever my shield may-be turned-aside
«contre le cors d'un chevalier.
against the body of-a knight
«Demain, el grant estor plenier,
Tomorrow in-the great fight full

«sera mis hardemenz provez,
will-be my boldness proved
«ainz que soleiz seit esconsez.»
before that sun may-be set
Ço plaist as Troïens, senz faille,
That pleases to-the Trojans without fail
que li Reis aut a la bataille:
that the King may-go to the battle
plus en vaudront as granz bosoinz.
more thereby they-will-be-worth in-the great needs
Ne fu li termes guaire loinz:
Not was the term much far
tres par matin, quant l'aube brande,
right by morning when the-dawn flames
ainz que la grant chalor s'espande,
before that the great heat may-spread
furent guarni par la cité;
they-were furnished through the city
par les osteus se sont armé
through the lodgings themselves they-are armed
d'eaumes e d'aubers e d'escuz.
with-helmets and with-hauberks and with-shields
Deïphebus s'en est eissuz,
Deiphobus himself-thence is gone-out
Prianz, Paris e Troïlus,
Priam Paris and Troilus
e des autres cent mile e plus.
and of-the others a-hundred thousand and more
Fors des lices, es plains graviers,
Outside of-the barriers on-the plain gravels

ont departiz lor chevaliers
they-have divided their knights
e lor batailles desevrees,
and their battalions separated
puis chevauchent lances levees.
then they-ride lances raised
Les enseignes al vent baleient;
The banners in-the wind wave
le pas vers l'ost des Greus se traient.
the pace toward the-host of-the Greeks themselves they-draw
E cil resont apareillié,
And those again-are prepared
qui ne se sont pas atargié.
who not themselves are at-all delayed
Palamedès gent les conreie,
Palamedes nobly them arrays
ses fereors avant enveie;
his strikers ahead he-sends
de bien faire les atalente,
of well doing them he-heartens
sa cure i met tote e s'entente:
his care there he-puts all and his-intent
mout en est sages et apris.
much thereof he-is wise and learned
D'ambedous parz sont enemis
On-both sides they-are enemies
pesmes, morteus e haïnos:
wicked mortal and hateful

por ço seront ancui terros
for that will-be today earthy
l'agu des heaumes de mil d'eus.
the-point of-the helmets of a-thousand of-them
Dès ore espessera li dueus.
From now will-thicken the grief
A que fereie demoree?
For what would-I-make delay
La ot si estrange assemblee
There was so strange gathering
de lances trenchanz e aguës
of lances cutting and sharp
e de bones espees nues
and of good swords naked
par mi escuz, par mi haubers!
through the-midst shields through the-midst hauberks
Ha! las, tant en i chiet envers,
Ah weary so-many thereof there falls backward
qui ja mais ne releveront!
who ever more not will-rise
Dou mile lances tot d'un front
Two thousand lances all at-one front
i veïsseiz enasteler
there you-would-have-seen splinter
e sor escuz granz tros voler.
and over shields great stumps fly
La ot d'enseignes tel traïn,
There was of-banners such train
tuit en sont jonchié li chemin.
all thereof are strewn the roads

Li conrei sont entraprochiez:
The troops are approached-each-other
puis que li monz fu comenciez,
since that the world was begun
ne fu bataille si meslee,
not was battle so mingled
n'ou tant eüst feru d'espee,
nor-where so-much might-have-been struck with-sword
ne ou tant escu estroassent,
nor where so-many shield they-pierced
ne ou tant heaume esquartelassent,
nor where so-many helmet they-quartered
ne ou plus dolorosement
nor where more grievously
s'entrabatissent mort sanglent.
they-threw-each-other-down dead bloody
La n'ot onc joste aplaideïce.
There not-was ever joust courtly
Li reis Prianz fu fors la lice
The king Priam was outside the barrier
o bien vint mile chevaliers:
with well twenty thousand knights
les escuz pris, sor les destriers,
the shields taken on the chargers
sont avenu al fier estor.
they-are come to-the fierce fight
Tres par mi l'escu peint a flor
Right through the-midst the-shield painted with flower
feri Prianz Palamedès,
struck Priam Palamedes

que del cheval l'esloigne adès;
so-that from-the horse him-be-distances at-once
par mi l'escu, qui d'or rogeie,
through the-midst the-shield which with-gold reddens
li mist le confanon de seie.
to-him he-put the pennon of silk
L'espee trait li riches reis,
The-sword draws the rich king
puis si se met entre Grezeis.
then so himself he-puts among Greeks
S'il a ire, chier la lor vent;
If-he has wrath dear it to-them he-sells
d'Ector son fil venjance prent:
for-Hector his son vengeance he-takes
onques nus hom de son aage
ever any man of his age
ne fist de sei tel vasselage.
not did of himself such prowess
Tant s'est le jor abandonez,
So-much himself-is the day abandoned
des murs de Troie fu mirez
from-the walls of Troy he-was gazed-at
de mil dames, de mil puceles:
by a-thousand ladies by a-thousand maidens
sovent en oënt teus noveles
often thereof they-hear such news
que lor font toz les cuers joios.
which to-them make all the hearts joyful

N'i a nul si chevaleros
Not-there is any so knightly
ne qui tant griet ses enemis.
nor who so-much may-grieve his enemies
Tant lor en a le jor ocis
So-many of-them thereof he-has the day killed
que tot l'en ont le pris doné
that all him-thereof they-have the prize given
d'eus e de ceus de la cité.
of-them and of those of the city
Bones guardes a près de sei,
Good guards he-has near to himself
qui de cuer l'aiment e de fei:
who with heart him-love and with faith
ço sont si fil, qui font merveilles.
those are his sons who do marvels
Lor espees portent vermeilles
Their swords they-carry vermilion
del sanc de ceus qu'il heent tant.
with-the blood of those whom-they hate so-much
Deïphebus, li fiz Priant,
Deiphobus the son (of-)Priam
lor a une envaïe faite
on-them has an attack made
dont mainte grosse lance est fraite
whereby many-a thick lance is broken
e maint fort escu desboclé
and many-a strong shield unbossed
e maint chevalier enversé
and many-a knight overturned

pale, navré, de la mort près.
pale wounded to the death near
Bien le refait Palamedès,
Well it again-does Palamedes
e cil devers lui comunal:
and those toward him in-common
sovent lor ont livré estal,
often to-them they-have delivered stand
sovent les chacent e remuent,
often them they-chase and move
sovent les escriënt e huent,
often at-them they-cry and hoot
sovent lor font les dos torner,
often to-them they-make the backs turn
sovent lor font les chiés voler,
often to-them they-make the heads fly
sovent les rameinent ariere,
often them they-bring-back back
que mainz des lor remaint en biere.
so-that many of-the theirs remains on bier
A l'estor vint li reis de Lice,
To the-fight came the king of Lycia
qui les suens de bien faire entice:
who the his to well doing entices
Sarpedon esteit apelez,
Sarpedon he-was called
mout ert vassaus e renomez,
very he-was vassal and renowned

e mout ot gente compaignie
and much he-had noble company
e bien armee e bien guarnie
both well armed and well furnished
d'eaumes e d'aubers e d'escuz
with-helmets and with-hauberks and with-shields
d'or emboclez e d'or voluz.
with-gold bossed and with-gold rounded
Sor ceus de l'ost ont pris le poindre,
On those of the-host they-have taken the charge
les escuz pris alerent joindre.
the shields taken they-went to-join
La rot si fait peceieïz
There again-was so made shattering
de lances e d'espiez forbiz,
of lances and of-spears furbished
la rot tant chevalier navré!
there again-was so-many knight wounded
La sont Grezeis mout reüsé,
There are Greeks much driven-back
ci les ont il auques laidiz:
here them have they somewhat ill-used
o volentiers o a enviz,
or willingly or at unwillingness
les ont chaciez dous lanz e plus.
them they-have chased two throws and more
Lors i avint Telepolus,
Then there arrived Tlepolemus
qui de l'isle de Rode ert reis:
who of the-isle of Rhodes was king

en tot l'empire des Grezeis
in all the-empire of-the Greeks
n'aveit nul meillor chevalier,
not-was-there any better knight
plus grant, plus large, plus plenier,
more great more broad more full
ne d'armes nul plus engeignos,
nor in-arms any more ingenious
plus hardi ne plus vertuös.
more bold nor more mighty
Cil amena tel mil Rodeis,
That-one brought such thousand Rhodians
mieuz vaut li pire que uns reis.
better is-worth the worst than a king
En la bataille se sont mis,
Into the battle themselves they-are put
irié contre lor enemis.
angered against their enemies
Fierent de lances e d'espees:
They-strike with lances and with-swords
la rot testes ensanglentees
there again-were heads bloodied
e teint en sanc maint confanon,
and dyed in blood many-a pennon
e si rot voidié maint arçon,
and so again-was emptied many-a saddlebow
dont li seignor gisent a denz.
whose the lords lie on teeth

Enz el mi lieu del grant contenz
Right in-the mid place of-the great struggle
s'entrecontrerent li dui rei.
met-each-other the two kings
Telepolus li granz, d'Argei,
Tlepolemus the big of-Argos
feri Sarpedon en l'escu,
struck Sarpedon in the-shield
que d'ore en autre l'a fendu.
so-that from-rim to other it-he-has split
L'aubers fu forz, ne fausa mie;
The-hauberk was strong not failed at-all
e la lance, que pas ne plie,
and the lance which at-all not bends
l'a fait des arçons avaler
him-has made from-the saddlebows descend
e les dous estriers delivrer:
and the two stirrups leave
a denz chaï en mi la place.
on teeth he-fell in the-midst the place
E cil ne fist autre manace,
And that-one not made other threat
mais sus li corut maintenant.
but over to-him ran at-once
En sa main tint tot nu le brant:
In his hand he-held all naked the blade
teus quatre cous l'en fiert o set,
such four blows him-thereof he-strikes or seven
dont cil vuide le sanc a hait.
whereby that-one empties the blood at will

Reis Sarpedon se resvertue,
King Sarpedon himself reinvigorates
si a traite l'espee nue;
so he-has drawn the-sword naked
un tel coup fiert Telepolon
a such blow he-strikes Tlepolemus
que la cuisse o tot le braon
that the thigh with all the flesh
li a trenchiee. Cil rechiet,
to-him he-has cut That-one again-falls
e si sai bien, ainz qu'il se liet,
and so I-know well before that-he himself may-raise
amera poi sa vie e sei.
he-will-love little his life and himself
Cist afie hui mais le tornei
This-one renounces today more the tourney
e ceus dedenz que plus nes fiere
and those within so-that more not-them he-may-strike
estre lor gré, senz lor preiere.
beyond their will without their prayer
Lor meslee, lor contençon,
Their melee their contention
ainz qu'il chaïst sor le sablon,
before that-he fell on the sand
dura assez, mais Sarpedon
lasted enough but Sarpedon
en fu li mieudre, ço savon.
thereof was the better that we-know

La bataille est mout aïriee:
The battle is very angered
mainte ame i ot de cors sachiee.
many-a soul there was from body drawn
Li reis Perseis i fu venuz
The king of-the-Persians there was come
o plus de set mile ars tenduz.
with more than seven thousand bows bent
Sa venue fu mout dotee,
His coming was much dreaded
quar mainte saiete empenee,
for many-a arrow feathered
trenchant, aguë e entoschiee,
cutting sharp and poisoned
i est en sanc de Greus baigniee.
there is in blood of Greeks bathed
Reis Sarpedon fut socoruz,
King Sarpedon was succored
qui merveilles s'ert combatuz:
who marvelously himself-had fought
mout ot sofert e enduré,
much he-had suffered and endured
en maint lieu l'ont el cors navré;
in many-a place him-they-have in-the body wounded
mout l'a le jor fait vassaument,
very it-he-has the day done valiantly
mais de la engrossa lor gent.
but from there thickened their folk

Li dus d'Athenes i avint
The duke of-Athens there arrived
e Aïaus, qui Logres tint,
and Ajax who Logres held
Nestor li vieuz e Menelaus,
Nestor the old and Menelaus
o plus de vint mile vassaus.
with more than twenty thousand vassals
Cez troverent trop loinz des lor,
These found too far from-the theirs
qui trop orent seü l'estor;
who too-much had followed the-fight
cil furent sempres envaï.
those were at-once attacked
D'ambedous parz mout en chaï,
On-both sides much thereof fell
tant dont la terre fu jonchiee.
so-many whereby the earth was strewn
Ci endurerent grant haschiee.
Here they-endured great torment
Li Troïen ne porent mie
The Trojans not could at-all
des lor aveir socors n'aïe.
from-the theirs have help nor-aid
Enclos furent dedenz Grezeis,
Enclosed they-were within Greeks
s'i fu ocis li reis Perseis
so-there was killed the king of-the-Persians
e mout des suens: ço fu damage.
and many of-the his that was harm

Mout mainteneit cil le barnage,
Much was-maintaining that-one the baronage
grant lieu teneit a ceus dedenz:
great place he-held to those within
mout par en fu chascuns dolenz.
very much thereby was each grieving
Por lui del tot afebleierent
For him of-the all they-weakened
e merveilles s'en esmaierent.
and marvelously themselves-thereof dismayed
En l'estor n'esteit pas Paris,
In the-fight not-was at-all Paris
quant li reis Perseis fu ocis:
when the king of-the-Persians was killed
entor le rei Priant s'estot,
around the king Priam he-stood
avuec ses freres le guardot,
with his brothers him he-guarded
qui mout i font chevalerie.
who much there do chivalry
Sarpedon e sa compagnie
Sarpedon and his company
fu desconfiz: trop i perdirent;
was discomfited too-much there they-lost
onques mais gent tant ne sofrirent.
ever more folk so-much not suffered

Mout fu navrez, mout fu bleciez
Much he-was wounded much he-was hurt
par mi le cors de dous espiez
through the-midst the body by two spears
e par le chief de treis espees:
and through the head by three swords
les dous en furent embarrees
the two thereof were driven-in
par mi le heaume jusqu'al test.
through the-midst the helmet up-to-the skull
Tel le veient cui mout desplaist
Such him see to-whom much it-displeases
que poi en prenent de venjance.
that little thereof they-take of vengeance
N'i ot puis autre demorance:
Not-there was after other delay
par dreite force e par jostice
by right force and by justice
les hurterent jusqu'a la lice.
them they-drove up-to the barrier
Se lors ne fust Prianz li reis,
If then not had-been Priam the king
mout en eüssent le sordeis;
much thereof they-would-have-had the worse
trop i perdist la soë gent.
too-much there would-have-lost the his folk
Mais il le fist mout sagement,
But he it did very wisely

quar treis mil chevaliers esliz
for three thousand knights chosen
lor fist guenchir en mi les piz:
to-them he-made turn in the-midst the chests
o les fers trenchanz acerez
with the irons cutting steeled
lor depercierent les costez.
to-them they-pierced the sides
Teus treis mil lances peceierent,
Such three thousand lances they-shattered
que en vermeil sanc se baignierent.
that in vermilion blood themselves they-bathed
L'espeisse i fu grant e li tas;
The-thickness there was great and the heap
sor les heaumes ot si fait glas
on the helmets there-was so made clang
des espees d'acier trenchanz,
of-the swords of-steel cutting
se lors ne fust li reis Prianz,
if then not had-been the king Priam
tel perte i receüst sa gent,
such loss there would-have-received his folk
dont toz jorz mais fussent dolent.
whereby all days more they-would-be grieving
Sacheiz que grant esforz i firent
Know that great effort there they-made
cil qui devant le pas guenchirent:
those who before the pass turned

tant sofrirent e endurerent
so-much they-suffered and endured
que tuit li autre s'en entrerent. 17310
that all the others themselves-thence entered
Mais il i furent trop grevé,
But they there were too oppressed
quar Greu sont sor eus recovré,
for Greeks are over them rallied
qui par mi le pas les ont mis.
who through the-midst the pass them have put
Trop par fussent iluec maumis,
Too very they-would-be there misused
mais la geude se fu rengiee 17315
but the militia itself was ranged
d'ambedous parz de la chauciee,
on-both sides of the causeway
qui traistrent engeignes aguës
who shot engines sharp
e granz saietes esmolues
and great arrows ground
si grant foison, si grant plenté
so great abundance so great plenty
que toz en est li airs troblé. 17320
that all thereby is the air troubled
Navrez i ot treis cenz vassaus
Wounded there were three hundreds vassals
e getez morz cinc cenz chevaus.
and thrown dead five hundreds horses
N'i ose hom descovrir la face.
Not-there dares man uncover the face

Se auques fussent en la place,
If somewhat they-were in the place
perdissent i de grant maniere,
they-would-lose there in great manner
mais tost se retraistrent ariere:
but soon themselves they-drew back
por quant s'i laissent maint destrier
for all-that themselves-there they-leave many-a charger
e maint bon cors de chevalier.
and many-a good body of knight
Torné s'en sont, li chans est lor:
Turned themselves-thence they-are the field is theirs
mout par l'orent bien fait le jor.
very much it-they-had well done the day
Par plusors jorz se combatirent,
By many days themselves they-fought
d'ambedous parz mout i perdirent:
on-both sides much there they-lost
contes, dus, amirauz preisiez
counts dukes emirs prized
i ot mout morz e detrenchiez.
there were many dead and cut-to-pieces
Prianz li reis i ot grant pris,
Priam the king there had great worth
ensi come en l'Estoire truis:
thus as in the-Story I-find
mout en navra, mout en ocist
much thereof he-wounded much thereof he-killed
e de riches prisons i prist.
and of rich prisoners there he-took

Mieuz l'a li suens cors fait dous tanz
Better it-has the his body done two times
que trei de toz les mieuz vaillanz
than three of all the best worthy
qui seient de ça ne de la:
who may-be from here nor from there
senz nul desdit le pris en a.
without any gainsaying the prize thereof he-has
A merveille s'en esjoïrent
At marvel themselves-thereof rejoiced
trestuit li suen, quant il l'oïrent.
all the his when they it-heard

The Truce and the Supplies

LXXIV

The Trojans ask for a truce and bury their dead, mourning above all the king of Persia, their most faithful ally. His nephew Memnon and Paris lament him, and after three days' vigil his embalmed body is sent home in a jeweled chariot to lie among his ancestors; he leaves two sons to rule after him. Famine strikes the Greek camp, where a loaf costs a bezant. Palamedes sends Agamemnon for food, which he gathers from Thesidas, Carantes, Demophoon, and Mysia, where Telephus sends grain. Telephus is angry that Agamemnon was deposed, but Agamemnon says he gave up the command gladly. Palamedes repairs the ships and fortifies the camp while the Trojans strengthen their walls.

Quant ço rot grant piece duré,
When that again-had great while lasted
s'ont conseil pris en la cité
so-they-have counsel taken in the city
que triuës querront as Grezeis,
that truces they-will-seek of-the Greeks
ne truis pas quanz jorz ne quanz meis.
not I-find at-all how-many days nor how-many months
Li message vindrent en l'ost,
The messengers came into the-host
ço qu'il quistrent troverent tost:
that which-they sought they-found soon
la triuë ont Greu aseüree.
the truce have Greeks assured
Quant d'ambes parz fu afiëe,
When on-both sides it-was pledged
donc furent seveli li mort.
then were shrouded the dead

Troïen ont grant desconfort
Trojans have great discomfort
del rei de Perse qu'ont perdu:
for-the king of Persia whom-they-have lost
onc si granz dueus veüz ne fu
ever so great griefs seen not were
come en ont fait les soës genz.
as thereof have made the his folk
Ha! quel damage a ceus dedenz!
Ah what harm to those within
Come il en sont ore afebli!
How they thereby are now weakened
Mout i aveient bon ami:
Much there they-had good friend
mout mainteneit cist bien l'estor,
much was-maintaining this-one well the-fight
mout i ont perdu bon retor
much there they-have lost good return
e bone aïde e bon conseil.
and good aid and good counsel
N'aveient ami plus feeil:
Not-they-had friend more faithful
por tant en mostrent bien semblant,
for so-much thereof they-show well semblance
al duel qu'en font, petit e grant.
in-the grief which-thereof make small and great
Del champ fu li cors aportez:
From-the field was the body carried
quant en la vile fu entrez,
when into the town it-was entered

onques nus hom tel duel ne vit
ever any man such grief not saw
17370 come en firent grant e petit.
as thereof made great and small
Sis niés Mennon n'a soing de rage:
His nephew Memnon not-has care of rage
por un petit de duel n'enrage.
for a little from grief not-he-goes-mad
Mout le regrete e mout le plaint:
Much him he-mourns and much him laments
si fait sa gent e autre maint.
so does his folk and other many
17375 Paris, sor ceus de la cité,
Paris above those of the city
l'a le jor plaint et regreté.
him-has the day lamented and mourned
En un temple l'ensevelirent,
In a temple him-they-buried
d'emperiaus dras le vestirent.
with-imperial cloths him they-dressed
Treis jorz e treis nuiz le veillierent,
Three days and three nights him they-watched
17380 petit i burent e mangierent.
little there they-drank and ate
Entre tant dis esguardé ont
Between so-much while considered they-have
qu'en son païs l'enveieront,
that-to his country him-they-will-send

e si gerra a grant honor
and so he-will-lie with great honor
la ou gisent si ancessor:
there where lie his ancestors
c'est lor conseil, c'est lor esguart.
that-is their counsel that-is their judgment
Treis jorz veillierent, mais al quart
Three days they-watched but at-the fourth
se sont o tot mis a la veie:
themselves they-are with all put on the way
estranges pueples le conveie.
strange peoples him escort
Com plore al departir Prianz
How weeps at-the parting Priam
e sis niés Mennon li vaillanz!
and his nephew Memnon the worthy
Com fait duel Paris i demeine!
What made grief Paris there makes
Mout s'en retornent a grant peine.
Much themselves-thence they-return with great pain
Angoissos fu mout li conveiz:
Anguished was very the escort
pasmerent sei par maintes feiz
swooned themselves by many times
plusor de ses charneus amis;
many of his blood friends
mais sor toz est destreiz Paris,
but above all is distressed Paris
quar mout l'amot de grant maniere.
for much him-he-loved in great manner

Icil errerent o la biere
These traveled with the bier
dedenz un curre riche e bel,
within a chariot rich and fair
dont plus valeient d'un chastel
of-which more were-worth than-a castle
sol les pierres e l'or vermeil.
only the stones and the-gold vermilion
Par lor gré e par lor conseil,
By their will and by their counsel
si faitement ert embasmez
so fashioned he-was embalmed
que la chalor ne li estez
that the heat nor the summers
nel poëit faire mal oleir.
not-him could make ill smell
N'est mie morz del tot senz heir,
Not-he-is at-all dead of-the all without heir
quar dous fiz a beaus de sa femme,
for two sons he-has fair from his wife
qui après lui tendront son regne.
who after him will-hold his realm
Ensi avint a cele feiz.
Thus it-befell at that time
En l'ost des Greus sont mout destreiz:
In the-host of-the Greeks they-are very distressed
une chierté i ot si grant
a dearth there was so great
que uns pains valeit un besant,
that a loaf was-worth a bezant

la char d'un buef dous mars o treis.
the meat of-an ox two marks or three
Palamedès e li Grezeis
Palamedes and the Greeks
pristrent conseil que il fereient
took counsel what they would-do
ne queus d'eus i enveiereient.
nor which of-them there they-would-send
Ne sai se fu par mauvoillance,
Not I-know if-it was by ill-will
mais ço sai jo bien senz dotance
but that know I well without doubt
qu'Agamennon i fu tramis,
that-Agamemnon there was sent
qui de rien ne s'en fist eschis.
who in anything not himself-thereof made reluctant
Palamedès l'i enveia,
Palamedes him-there sent
e cil de rien nel refusa.
and that-one in anything not-it refused
De grant sen ert: ne voleit mie
Of great sense he-was not he-wished at-all
que noise en sorsist ne folie
that noise thereof might-arise nor folly
ne destorbier ne desacort:
nor hindrance nor discord
meins en fussent vaillant e fort.
less thereby they-would-be valiant and strong

O chevaliers e o serjanz
With knights and with sergeants
proz, defendables e aidanz,
valiant defensible and helpful
fist Agamennon cest afaire.
did Agamemnon this affair
Ainz que il fussent el repaire,
Before that they were in-the return
orent a Thesidas tramis
they-had to Thesidas sent
por vitaille de lor amis;
for victuals from their friends
si firent il a Carantès,
so did they to Carantes
ou il en troverent adès.
where they thereof found promptly
Par Demophoon repairierent:
By Demophoon they-returned
iluec vos di qu'il se chargierent,
there to-you I-say that-they themselves loaded
quar la terre ert plenteürose
for the land was plentiful
e de trestoz biens abondose.
and of all goods abounding
En Mese alerent, n'en sai plus:
To Mysia they-went not-thereof I-know more

comandé ert que Telephus
commanded it-was that Telephus
enveiast en l'ost le forment
should-send to the-host the wheat
del regne tot qu'a lui apent;
of-the realm all which-to him belongs
e il si fist senz contredit.
and he so did without gainsaying
Onc nus hom tel joie ne vit
Ever any man such joy not saw
come il a Agamennon faite.
as he has to-Agamemnon made
Quant la chose li fu retraite
When the thing to-him was recounted
de la princé, que ert muëe
of the princedom which was changed
e a Palamedès donee,
and to Palamedes given
e come il l'en aveit soztrait
and how he him-thence had taken-away
par felenie e par aguait,
by felony and by ambush
mout l'en pesa, grant ire en ot;
much to-him-thereof weighed great wrath thereof he-had
onques plus rien ne li desplot.
ever more anything not to-him displeased

Mais Agamennon li a dit
But Agamemnon to-him has said
que ne de grant ne de petit
that nor of great nor of small
ne l'en pesa, ainz en fu liez;
not to-him-thereof weighed rather thereof he-was glad
ja mare en sereit point iriez:
ever ill thereby he-would-be at-all angered
«Tot de mon gré demis m'en sui;
All by my will removed myself-thence I-am
«de rien ne me torne a enui.»
in anything not to-me it-turns to vexation
Mout fu bien faiz icist afaires:
Very was well done this affair
s'il esturent, ço ne fu guaires
if-they stood that not was much
lonc tens fu puis enavancie
long time was after advanced
l'ost de vitaille e replenie.
the-host with victuals and replenished
Tant dis se rest apareilliez,
So-much while himself again-is prepared
come sages e veiziiez,
as wise and shrewd
Palamedès par son grant sens.
Palamedes by his great sense
Mout ot grant vice e grant porpens:
Much he-had great skill and great forethought

les nes refait apareillier
the ships he-makes-again make-ready
e bien horder e chevillier.
and well board and peg
Içо faiseit mout bien a faire,
This it-made very well to do
e mout lor esteit necessaire:
and very to-them was necessary
que qu'avenist ne que que non,
what that-might-befall nor what that not
ço esteit bien dreit e reison
that was well right and reason
que lor nes fussent aprestees
that their ships were prepared
e guarnies e atornees.
and furnished and arrayed
L'ost guarni bien de totes parz:
The-host he-furnished well on all sides
bien fu creüz li suens esguarz.
well was believed the his judgment
Anoner a faites les tors,
Anew he-has made the towers
sin ont asises les plusors
so-thereof they-have set the most
de teus qu'onc mais ne reguarderent.
of such that-ever before not they-looked-at
Dedenz mout bien se ratornerent,
Within very well themselves they-re-prepared
quar, la ou il sont meins seür,
for there where they are less secure

font hautes tors e contremur,
they-make high towers and counterwall
fossez e vaus e desrubiers.
ditches and dales and ravines
A force trenchent les rochiers;
By force they-cut the rocks
17485 lor defensions apareillent:
their defenses they-prepare
a ço entendent, a ço veillent,
to that they-attend to that they-watch
a ço laborent chascun jor;
at that they-labor each day
poi ont repos e poi sojor.
little they-have rest and little rest

Achilles in Love

LXXV

On the anniversary of Hector's death Troy holds a splendid feast, and his body is seen still fresh in the tomb. Hecuba, Polyxena, and Helen keep vigil, and under the truce Greeks come to watch, Achilles among them, unarmed. He sees Polyxena, and her beauty strikes him with a love that will cost him his life. He watches until the ladies leave, then lies sick in his tent. He laments that he loves his mortal enemy, whose brother he killed, and compares himself to Narcissus, who died loving his own shadow. He resolves to seek some counsel that might win her pity.

Quant icil anz fu acompliz
When that year was fulfilled
qu'Ector fu morz e seveliz,
that-Hector was dead and buried
si vos puet hom por veir retraire
so to-you can one for true recount
qu'onques si riche aniversaire
that-ever so rich anniversary
ne fu el siecle celebrez
not was in-the world celebrated
com li a fait sis parentez
as to-him has made his kindred
e toz li pueples comunaus.
and all the people common
Mout fu festivez li anvaus:
Much was feasted the anniversary
mout par i chanta li clergiez,
very much there sang the clergy
mout fu icil jorz essauciez.
much was that day exalted

Mout par i despendi li Reis.
Very much there spent the King
N'i ot chevalier ne borgeis
Not-there was knight nor burgher
qui icel jor ne festivast
who that day not feasted
e qui a son voleir n'entrast
and who at his will not-entered
dedenz la riche sepouture,
within the rich sepulcher
ou li cors est senz porreture.
where the body is without rotting
Le jor le virent bel e freis
The day him saw fair and fresh
chevalier, dames e borgeis:
knights ladies and burghers
onc n'enlaidi ne n'empeira,
ever not-grew-ugly nor not-worsened
quar cil qui l'aromatiza
for he who him-embalmed-with-spices
l'en guardast bien jusqu'al joïse,
him-thence would-keep well until-the judgment
se la cité ne fust ainz prise.
if the city not were before taken
Ecuba e Polixenain,
Hecuba and Polyxena
tote la nuit e l'endemain,
all the night and the-next-day
veillent a dolor e a peine;
watch in grief and in pain

ensemble o eles dame Heleine.
together with them lady Helen
Mainte dame, mainte pucele
Many-a lady many-a maiden
e mainte riche dameisele
and many-a rich damsel
aveit o eles de grant pris.
there-was with them of great worth
Ensi com jo el Livre truis,
Thus as I in-the Book find
por esguarder le sacrefise,
for to-see the sacrifice
l'aniversaire e le servise
the-anniversary and the service
e les gieus qui sont establiz,
and the games which are established
qu'i font poëtes e esliz,
which-there make poets and chosen
e por les dames remirer,
and for the ladies to-gaze-at
i vindrent de l'ost bacheler.
there came from the-host bachelors
Li ostelain rien ne cremeient,
The townsmen anything not feared
quar ferme triuë entre eus aveient.
for firm truce between them they-had
Des plus preisiez de l'ost Grezeis,
Of-the most prized of the-host Greek
qu'il fussent amirauz ne reis,
that-they were emirs nor kings

i veneient por esguarder
there were-coming for to-see
l'aniversaire celebrer.
the-anniversary celebrate
Nes meïsmes danz Achillès
Even same lord Achilles
i vint toz desarmez si près
there came all unarmed so near
que bien poüst o eus parler,
that well he-could with them speak
mais mieuz l'en venist consirer.
but better to-him-thence it-would-come to-forbear
Mare i porta onques les piez,
Ill there he-carried ever the feet
quar, ainz qu'il s'en seit repairiez
for before that-he himself-thence may-be returned
ne de la feste retornez,
nor from the feast come-back
sera il si mal atornez,
will-be he so ill arranged
sa mort avra mise en son sein.
his death he-will-have put in his breast
Veüe i a Polixenain
Seen there he-has Polyxena
apertement en mi la chiere:
openly in the-midst the face

c'est l'acheison e la maniere
that-is the-occasion and the manner
par qu'il sera getez de vie
by which-he will-be thrown from life
e l'ame de son cors partie.
and the-soul from his body parted
Oëz com fait destinement!
Hear how made destiny
Hui mais orreiz com faitement
Today more you-will-hear how fashioned
il fu destreiz por fine amor:
he was distressed for fine love
mar vit onc ajorner le jor.
ill he-saw ever dawn the day
Mout est fort chose d'Aventure,
Very it-is strong thing of-Adventure
mout est as plusors aspre et dure.
very it-is to-the most harsh and hard
Granz maus vient par poi d'acheison.
Great ills come by little of-occasion
La grant beauté e la façon
The great beauty and the fashion
qu'Achillès vit en la pucele
which-Achilles saw in the maiden
l'a cuit el cuer d'une estencele
him-has burned in-the heart with-a spark
que ja par li nen iert esteinte.
which ever by her not will-be quenched
En son cuer l'a escrite e peinte:
In his heart her-he-has written and painted

ses tres beaus ieuz vairs e son front
her very fair eyes gray and her forehead
e son bel chief, qu'ele a si blont
and her fair head which-she has so blond
que fins ors resemble esmerez,
that fine gold it-resembles refined
totes denote ses beautez;
all he-notes her beauties
n'a rien sor li qu'il ne retraie
not-there-is anything on her that-he not may-recount
e ne li face mortel plaie.
and not to-him may-make mortal wound
La resplendor qu'ist de sa face
The radiance which-comes-out of her face
li met el cors freidor e glace.
to-him puts in-the body chill and ice
Sis nes, sa boche e sis mentons
Her nose her mouth and her chin
le resprenent de teus arsons,
him again-take with such burnings
dont ardra mais dedenz son cors:
whereby he-will-burn from-now within his body
pinciez sera d'Amors e mors.
pinched he-will-be by-Love and bitten
Sis tres beaus cors e sa peitrine
Her very fair body and her breast
li font prendre tel decepline
to-him make take such discipline

que ja n'iert mais ne nuit ne jors
that ever not-will-there-be more nor night nor day
ne sente le verjant d'Amors
not he-may-feel the rod of-Love
sovent plus de quatorze feiz.
often more than fourteen times
Dès or sera mais si destreiz
From now he-will-be henceforth so distressed
qu'il ne se savra conseillier, 17575
that-he not himself will-know to-counsel
dès or li estovra veillier
from now to-him it-will-behoove to-watch
les longes nuiz senz clore l'ueil.
the long nights without closing the-eye
Tost a Amors plaissié orgueil:
Soon has Love bent pride
poi li vaudra ci sis escuz
little to-him will-avail here his shield
e sis haubers mailliez menuz. 17580
and his hauberk mailed fine
Ja s'espee trenchant d'acier
Ever his-sword cutting of-steel
ne li avra ici mestier:
not to-him will-have here need
force, vertu ne hardement
force strength nor boldness
ne valent contre Amors neient.
not are-worth against Love anything

Achillès mire la pucele:
Achilles gazes-at the maiden
ço li est vis que mout est bele.
that to-him is opinion that very she-is fair
E si est ele, senz desdit:
And so is she without gainsaying
onques si gente nus ne vit,
ever so noble any not saw
ne ne sera jamais nul jor.
nor not will-be ever any day
Plusor se mistrent el retor,
Several themselves put on-the return
quar la grant gent se departeit
for the great folk itself was-parting
que iluec assemblee esteit.
which there assembled was
Vers le palais totes iriees
Toward the palace all angered
s'en sont les dames repairiees.
themselves-thence are the ladies returned
D'Ector plorent e ploreront
For-Hector they-weep and will-weep
toz les jorz mais qu'eles vivront:
all the days more that-they will-live
n'est pas damage a oblïer
not-it-is at-all harm to forget
ne perte qu'om puist restorer.
nor loss that-one may restore
O eles vait Polixenain:
With them goes Polyxena

pris est Achillès de son hain,
taken is Achilles by her hook
qui de s'amor est aeschiez.
who by her-love is baited
Onques ne remua ses piez
Ever not he-moved his feet
tant com des ieuz la pot veeir:
as-long as with-the eyes her he-could see
ja ne s'en queïst mais moveir
ever not himself-thence he-would-seek more to-move
tant come ele fust en la place.
as-long as she were in the place
Sovent mue color sa face:
Often changes color his face
sovent l'a pale, et puis vermeille.
often it-he-has pale and then vermilion
A sei meïsme se conseille
With himself same himself he-takes-counsel
que ço puet estre que il sent,
what that can be which he feels
qu'ensi freidist e puis resprent.
which-thus grows-cold and then catches-fire
Sempres li estreint si le cuer,
At-once to-him tightens so the heart
ne se meüst a nes un fuer
not himself he-would-move at not-even one price
tant come il la poüst choisir;
as-long as he her could make-out
del cuer li issent lonc sospir.
from-the heart to-him come-out long sighs

Quant ne la veit, adonc s'en torne:
When not her he-sees then himself-thence he-turns
mout fait pensive chiere e morne.
very he-makes pensive face and gloomy
Mout vait petit ne s'arestace
Very he-goes little not himself-stops
por remirer ancor la place
for to-gaze-at yet the place
ou la dameisele ot veüe.
where the damsel he-had seen
Toz sis estres li change e mue.
All his manner to-him changes and alters
Tant i pense, tant i entent
So-much thereon he-thinks so-much thereon he-attends
que il n'ot mais ne il n'entent
that he not-hears more nor he not-understands
rien nule que dite li seit:
anything any which said to-him may-be
tant l'a Amors griefment destreit!
so-much him-has Love grievously distressed
Mout malades, mout deshaitiez,
Very sick very disheartened
s'est en son paveillon couchiez:
himself-is in his pavilion laid
n'a si privé qui i remaigne,
not-he-has so intimate who there may-remain
dès ore a pro de qu'il se plaigne;
from now he-has enough of what himself he-may-complain
e si fait il, qu'il n'en puet mais.
and so does he that-he not-thereof can more

Amors li a chargié tel fais
Love to-him has loaded such burden
qui mout est griés a sostenir.
which very is grievous to sustain
Autre covient o lui partir
Another it-behooves with him to-share
quil sostienge de l'autre part:
who-it may-sustain from the-other side
cest socors avra il a tart.
this help will-have he at late
E de la coment li vendreit?
And from there how to-him would-it-come
Soz ciel n'a rien que el mont seit
Under heaven not-is anything which in-the world may-be
qu'il heent tant come il font lui:
that-they hate so-much as they do him
«Ha! las,» fait il, «tant mare i mui!
Ah weary says he so-much ill there I-moved
«Tant mare alai veeir les lor!
So-much ill I-went to-see the theirs
«Tant mare i vi la resplendor
So-much ill there I-saw the radiance
«dont mis cuers sent mortel dolor
whereby my heart feels mortal grief
«senz aveir en aucun retor!
without having thereof any return
«E jo de quei la blasmereie?
And I of what her would-blame
«Ço sai jo bien, tort en avreie.
That know I well wrong thereof I-would-have

«Se jo m'en plaing, qu'en puet el mais?
If I myself-thereof complain what-thereof can she more
«Autre la virent il adès,
Others her saw they straightway
«cui rien n'en fu ne rien n'en est.
to-whom anything not-thereof was nor anything not-thereof is
«Trop m'a trové hui Amors prest;
Too-much me-has found today Love ready
«trop m'esteie en sa veie mis:
too-much myself-I-had in his way put
«Por ço m'a si lacié e pris
For that me-he-has so laced and taken
«que jo ne li puis eschaper.
that I not from-him can escape
«Dès or m'estuet merci criër:
From now me-behooves mercy to-cry
«E jo, a cui la criërai?
And I to whom it shall-cry
«Ja mais des ieuz ne la verrai.
Ever more with-the eyes not her I-shall-see
«E! Deu merci, se jol saveie,
Ah God thanks if I-it knew
«ja guaires longes ne durreie.
ever much long not I-would-last
«N'est el ma mortel enemie?
Not-is she my mortal enemy
«Oïl, mais or sera m'amie.
Yes but now she-will-be my-beloved
«Veire, quar bien est a mon chois!
Truly for well it-is at my choice

«Jo meïsmes me trich e bois,
I same myself trick and deceive
«jo me deceif, mien esciënt,
I myself deceive my knowledge
«quar jo sai bien certainement
for I know well certainly
«qu'el me voudreit aveir ocis.
that-she me would-wish to-have killed
«Trop laidement sui entrepris,
Too foully I-am beset
«qui amer vueil ço que me het.
who to-love wish that which me hates
«E! Deus, beaus sire, qu'el ne set
Ah God fair lord that-she not knows
«le cuer de mei e le pensé,
the heart of me and the thought
«com jo l'ai tot vers li torné,
how I it-have all toward her turned
«com jo m'i doing, com m'i otrei,
how I myself-there give how myself-there grant
«come est Amors saisiz de mei!
how is Love seized of me
«Ço me donast mout grant confort,
That to-me would-give very great comfort
«mais el voudreit que fusse mort:
but she would-wish that I-were dead
«Ja n'avrai mal qu'el ne vousist
Ever not-I-shall-have ill that-she not would-wish
«que cent itanz m'en avenist.
that a-hundred such to-me-thereof might-befall

«Son frere Hector li ai ocis;
Her brother Hector to-her I-have killed
«si grant duel ai en son cuer mis,
so great grief I-have in her heart put
«ja mais jor ne voudra mon bien:
ever more day not she-will-wish my good
«Ço m'ocira sor tote rien.
That me-will-kill above all thing
«Se j'esperasse e atendisse
If I-hoped and waited
«que jo al loinz rien conqueïsse,
that I at-the far anything might-win
«ço me donast confortement;
that to-me would-give comfort
«mais jo n'i vei ne n'i entent
but I not-there see nor not-there understand
«que jo ja rien vers li conquiere.
that I ever anything toward her may-win
«Onc mais ne cuit qu'en tel maniere
Ever more not I-think that-in such manner
«amast nus hom: jo sui desvez
loved any man I am maddened
«e de mon sen si forsenez
and of my sense so out-of-my-wits
«que jo ne sai que jo me faz.
that I not know what I myself do
«S'auques estreint Amors ses laz,
If-somewhat tightens Love his snares
«bien sai de veir que jo sui mort:
well I-know of truth that I am dead

«De nule part nen ai confort.
From any part not I-have comfort
«Narcisus sui, ço sai e vei,
Narcissus I-am that I-know and see
«qui tant ama l'ombre de sei
who so-much loved the-shadow of himself
«qu'il en morut sor la fontaine.
that-he thereof died over the fountain
«Iceste angoisse, iceste peine
This anguish this pain
«sai que jo sent: jo raim mon ombre,
I-know that I feel I again-love my shadow
«jo aim ma mort e mon encombre;
I love my death and my trouble
«ne plus que il la pot baillier
nor more than he it could hold
«ne acoler ne embracier, —
nor embrace nor clasp
«que rien nen est ne rien ne fu,
for anything not is nor anything not was
«ne il ne pot estre sentu, —
nor it not could be felt
«plus ne puis jo aveir leisor
more not can I have leisure
«de li aveir ne de s'amor.
of her to-have nor of her-love
«Faire m'estuet, jo n'en sai plus,
Do me-behooves I not-thereof know more
«iço que fist danz Narcisus,
that which did lord Narcissus

«qui tant plora, criant merci,
who so-much wept crying mercy
«que l'ame del cors li parti.
that the-soul from-the body to-him parted
«Ço iert ma fin, que que il tart,
That will-be my end however-much that it may-delay
«quar jo n'i vei nul autre esguart.
for I not-there see any other regard
«Narcisus por amer mori,
Narcissus for loving died
«e jo referai autresi.
and I shall-do-again likewise
«Deceüz fu en sa semblance:
Deceived he-was in his likeness
«Ne rai pas meillor atendance,
Not again-I-have at-all better expectation
«quar jo n'en puis aïde aveir
for I not-thereof can aid have
«ne plus qu'il ot, ço sai de veir.
nor more than-he had that I-know of truth
«E ne por quant penser devreie,
And nor for all-that think I-ought
«saveir s'en nul sen porverreie
to-know if-in any way I-would-foresee
«chose que a pro me tornast.
thing which to profit to-me might-turn
«Mais mout me coit e mout me hast:
But much me presses and much me hastens
«A ço covendreit grant leisir.
To that it-would-behoove great leisure

«Veire, qui tant poüst sofrir?
Truly who so-much could suffer
«Mais jo porreie tant atendre,
But I could so-long wait
«senz rien aveir e senz rien prendre,
without anything having and without anything taking
«que jo ne me porreie aidier
that I not myself could help
«ne mei ne autrui conseillier.
nor me nor another counsel
«Qui le mal sent venir sor sei
Who the ill feels come over himself
«si en deit prendre tel conrei
so thereof he-ought to-take such measure
«que guarir puisse e respasser:
that to-heal he-may and to-recover
«Tot autresi dei jo penser.
All likewise ought I to-think
«Malades sui: s'or ne porquier
Sick I-am if-now not I-seek
«aucun conseil qui m'ait mestier,
some counsel which to-me-may-have need
«morz sui en fin, jol sai e sent.
dead I-am in end I-it know and feel
«Mout en ai grief comencement:
Much thereof I-have grievous beginning
«Mout en voudreie estre devin,
Much thereof I-would-wish to-be seer
«saveir quel en sera la fin.
to-know what thereof will-be the end

«Assez la cuit, assez la pens.
Enough it I-think enough it I-ponder
«Trop sui conquis en poi de tens;
Too-much I-am conquered in little of time
«trop me deshait e trop m'esmai.
too-much myself I-dishearten and too-much myself-I-dismay
«Jo n'en puis mais, quar de fi sai
I not-thereof can more for of certain I-know
«que ci iert toz mis jois feniz,
that here will-be all my joy ended
«o ci sera toz acompliz.
or here will-be all fulfilled
«Mais jo dot l'un plus ne faz l'al:
But I fear the-one more not do the-other
«Por ço me fait al cuer grant mal.
For that to-me it-makes at-the heart great ill
«Desesperance me confont.
Despair me confounds
«A Deu pri jo que il me dont
To God beg I that he to-me may-give
«tel conseil prendre e tel conrei
such counsel to-take and such measure
«par que ele ait merci de mei.»
by which she may-have mercy on me

The Offer to Hecuba

LXXVI

Achilles sends a trusted friend in secret to Hecuba. He regrets killing Hector and asks for Polyxena as his wife, promising to go home with his Myrmidons, break up the siege, and crown her a queen. Hecuba answers that the request is hard but that she will put it to the king and give her answer on the third day. Overjoyed, Achilles thanks the gods. Hecuba tells Priam that Troy is losing its sons and knights by the thousand and urges him to accept. Priam replies that Achilles is beneath his rank and that the other kings would never leave for his sake. Still, if Achilles can send the Greeks home, he will forgive him, give him Polyxena, and swear to it.

Un suen ami, un suen feeil,
A his friend a his liegeman
qui mout esteit de son conseil,
who very was of his counsel
a fait venir dedevant sei,
he-has made come before himself
puis li descuevre son segrei.
then to-him he-uncovers his secret
Tot li a dit come il li vait:
All to-him he-has said how it to-him goes
nule celee ne l'en fait.
any concealment not to-him-thereof he-makes
Bien li encharge son message:
Well to-him he-charges his message
«A Ecuba,» fait il, «la sage,
To Hecuba says he the wise
«la femme al riche rei Priant,
the wife of-the rich king Priam

«diras tot ço que jo li mant.
thou-wilt-say all that which I to-her send
«Salue la de meie part
Greet her on my part
«e di que mout me sereit tart
and say that much to-me it-would-be late
«qu'o li eüsse acordement.
that-with her I-might-have accord
«Vers li me sui trop malement
Toward her myself I-am too badly
«meslez: trist en ai le corage.
mixed sad thereof I-have the heart
«Trop li ai fait pesme damage;
Too-much to-her I-have done wicked harm
«en grant dolor ai son cuer mis,
in great grief I-have her heart put
«qu'Ector son fil li ai ocis.
for-Hector her son to-her I-have killed
«Mei en peise, j'en sui irié;
To-me thereof it-weighs I-thereof am angered
«sovent m'en prent al cuer pitié.
often me-thereof takes at-the heart pity
«Dreit l'en vueil faire a sa merci
Right to-her-thereof I-wish to-do at her mercy
«tel dont me tienge por ami:
such whereby me she-may-hold for friend
«Sa fille me doint a moillier,
Her daughter to-me may-she-give as wife

«e s'el la me fait otreier
and if-she her to-me makes grant
«al rei Priant e a Paris,
to-the king Priam and to Paris
«jo m'en irai en mon païs.
I me-thence shall-go into my country
«Merrai en mes Mirmidoneis:
I-shall-lead thence my Myrmidons
«Ja puis n'iert si hardiz Grezeis
Ever after not-will-be so bold Greek
«que ici remaigne après mei.
that here he-may-remain after me
«Trestot leiaument li otrei
All loyally to-her I-grant
«que jo ferai l'ost departir:
that I shall-make the-host part
«En bone pais porront tenir
In good peace they-will-be-able to-hold
«lor cité mais e lor païs.
their city from-now and their country
«J'en osterai lor enemis:
I-thence shall-remove their enemies
«Puis que d'eus me serai partiz,
Since that from-them myself I-shall-be parted
«n'en iert ja puis escuz saisiz
not-thence will-be ever after shield seized
«ne hom tochié ne adesé.
nor man touched nor struck
«Mout riche plait ont encontré,
Very rich plea they-have met

«se il devers eus ne remaint:
if it toward them not remains
«Ja ne troveront plus les aint
Ever not they-will-find more them may-love
«que jo ferai d'ore en avant.
than I shall-do from-now in forward
«Lor fille o le cors avenant
Their daughter with the body comely
«sera guarie e honoree,
will-be protected and honored
«quar richement iert mariëe:
for richly she-will-be married
«El chief li aserrai corone.
On-the head to-her I-shall-set crown
«E se Deus tant vivre me done
And if God so-long to-live to-me gives
«que jo de li saisiz me veie,
that I with her seized myself may-see
«toz mes buens acompliz avreie;
all my goods fulfilled I-would-have
«tant me sereie amanantiz
so-much myself I-would-be enriched
«e sor toz autres enrichiz
and above all others enriched
«que del monde, qu'ensi est lez,
that of-the world which-thus is wide
«sereie li plus asasez
I-would-be the most sated
«e cil qui greignor joie avreit.
and he who greater joy would-have

«Comenciez vostre eirre ore endreit:
Begin your journey now straightway
«Deus doint que ço seit de bone hore!
God grant that that may-be of good hour
«Mout me targe, mout me demore
Very me it-delays very me it-tarries
«que jo vos reveie el repaire.
that I you may-see-again in-the return
«A la reïne de bon aire
To the queen of good nature
«direiz tot ço que jo li mant.»
you-will-say all that which I to-her send
Li mes s'en est tornez a tant:
The messenger himself-thence is turned at that
celeement e a privé
secretly and in private
en est venuz en la cité.
thence he-is come into the city
Cil fu mout sages e bien duiz:
That-one was very wise and well taught
es chambres entre o bons conduiz.
into-the chambers he-enters with good guides
A la reïne saluz rent
To the queen greetings he-renders
de son seignor priveement;
from his lord privately
après li a dit son message:
after to-her he-has said his message
«Ecuba, dame, or seiez sage.
Hecuba lady now be wise

«Or poëz aveir a ami
Now you-can have as friend
«vostre plus mortel enemi.
your most mortal enemy
«Par lui estes trop damagiee:
By him you-are too harmed
«Or vos fera joiose e liee,
Now you he-will-make joyful and glad
«or vos fera honor e dreit
now to-you he-will-do honor and right
«de quant que il vos a toleit.
for whatever that he from-you has taken
«Vostre fille prendra a femme:
Your daughter he-will-take as wife
«Ja mais en trestot vostre regne
Ever more in all your realm
«ne trovereiz chalonge i mete
not you-will-find challenge there may-put
«ne de guerreier s'entremete.
nor of warring himself-meddle
«Tote est remese vostre guerre:
All is ended your war
«En pais remandra vostre terre,
In peace will-remain your land
«quar, quel hore qu'il s'en ira,
for which hour that-he himself-thence will-go
«ja uns toz sous n'i remandra;
ever one all alone not-there will-remain
«en lor contrees s'en iront,
into their countries themselves-thence they-will-go

«ja mais ici ne revendront.
ever more here not they-will-come-back
«Ore en pensez, senz nul respit,
Now thereof think without any delay
«come por vostre grant profit
as for your great profit
«e por vos vies aquiter
and for your lives to-free
«e por vostre regne sauver.»
and for your realm to-save
Ecuba fu merveilles sage:
Hecuba was marvelously wise
«Beaus amis», fait ele al message,
Fair friend says she to-the messenger
«grief chose est mout ço que requiers:
grievous thing is very that which thou-askest
«Por quant jol voudrai volentiers,
For all-that I-it shall-wish willingly
«se jol puis trover vers le rei.
if I-it can find toward the king
«D'ui en tierz jor revien a mei:
From-today in third day come-back to me
«Lores en savrai son talent.
Then thereof I-shall-know his desire
«Ton seignor di que jo li mant
Thy lord tell that I to-him send
«qu'en mei ne remandra il mie.
that-in me not will-remain it at-all
«En grant dolor a mis ma vie:
In great grief he-has put my life

«Jo n'ai leece ne deport;
I not-have gladness nor pleasure
«assez voudreie mieuz la mort
enough I-would-wish better the death
«que vivre en si faite dolor
than to-live in so made grief
«com mis cuer suefre nuit e jor.
as my heart suffers night and day
«Mais, se ceste uevre ert achevee
But if this work were achieved
«que nos avons ci porparlee,
which we have here discussed
«ancor m'ireit il auques bien.
yet to-me-would-go it somewhat well
«D'ui en tierz jor a mei revien.
From-today in third day to me come-back
«De ço que jo avrai apris
By that which I shall-have learned
«a mon seignor e a Paris,
from my lord and from Paris
«sonc ço respondre te savrai:
according-to that to-answer thee I-shall-know
«S'il le vuelent, jo le voudrai.»
If-they it wish I it shall-wish
Li messages ensi l'otreie:
The messenger thus it-grants
erraument s'est mis a la veie.
swiftly himself-is put on the way

Senz ço qu'en fust aparcevance
Without that that-thereof there-were perceiving
ne retraçon ne reparlance,
nor tale nor talk
repairiez est a son seignor,
returned he-is to his lord
qui mout esteit en grant error,
who very was in great distress
saveir qu'il li raportereit.
to-know what-he to-him would-bring-back
Grant joie a mout quant il le veit:
Great joy he-has very when he him sees
«Di mei,» fait il, «com tu l'as fait.»
Tell me says he how thou it-hast done
E cil li a sempres retrait
And that-one to-him has at-once recounted
tot le respons a la reïne;
all the answer of the queen
le jor devise e le termine
the day he-tells and the term
qu'ele li a posé e mis:
which-she to-him has set and put
«Se ne s'en fait li reis eschis,
If not himself-thereof makes the king reluctant
«vostre bosoigne iert achevee.»
your need will-be achieved
Ore ot il mout que li agree,
Now hears he much that to-him pleases
or li est li cuers revenuz:
now to-him is the heart come-back

«Or font,» fait il, «li deu vertuz
Now do says he the gods miracles
«por mei, tres bien le vei e sai,
for me very well it I-see and know
«quant aucun conseil trové ai
when some counsel found I-have
«par que jo porrai acomplir
by which I shall-be-able to-fulfill
«ço que tant vueil e tant desir,
that which so-much I-wish and so-much desire
«par que jois m'iert acomunez,
by which joy to-me-will-be shared
«par que j'avrai mes volentez
by which I-shall-have my wills
«de la rien que jo plus coveit,
of the thing which I most covet
«por cui jo sui en tel destreit;
for whom I am in such distress
«e se a ço ne parveneie,
and if to that not I-arrived
«d'ire e de dueil sai que morreie.»
from-wrath and from grief I-know that I-would-die
En une chambre peinte a flor,
In a chamber painted with flower
al rei Priant, son chier seignor,
to-the king Priam her dear lord
parole Ecuba la reïne:
speaks Hecuba the queen

«Sire,» fait ele, «mout decline
Lord says she much declines
«nostre valor: nostre barnage,
our worth our baronage
«noz fiz e nostre grant lignage,
our sons and our great lineage
«noz reis, noz dus, noz chevaliers
our kings our dukes our knights
«perdons a cenz e a miliers.
we-lose by hundreds and by thousands
«Hector, ou ert nostre esperance,
Hector where was our hope
«nostre vie, nostre atendance,
our life our expectation
«ne sai coment nos defendons,
not I-know how ourselves we-defend
«dès que nos lui perdu avons.
since that we him lost have
«Mout est ceste uevre perillose
Very is this work perilous
«e a noz ues trop damajose.
and for our needs too harmful
«Senz plus sofrir, senz plus atendre,
Without more to-suffer without more to-wait
«en fereit bien conseil a prendre:
thereof one-would-do well counsel to take
«Mais ne sai quil sache doner.
But not I-know who-it may-know to-give

«Achillès fait a mei parler
Achilles makes to me speak
«priveement e a segrei,
privately and in secret
«que nel set nus fors vos e mei.
so-that not-it knows any except you and me
«Polixenain quiert e demande,
Polyxena he-seeks and asks
«e si oëz que il vos mande:
and so hear what he to-you sends
«Corone el chief li aserra
Crown on-the head to-her he-will-set
«e riche dame la fera;
and rich lady her he-will-make
«le jor qu'il iert de li saisiz,
the day that-he will-be with her seized
«sera li sieges departiz.
will-be the siege parted
«Torner fera en lor païs
Turn he-will-make into their country
«trestoz noz morteus enemis;
all our mortal enemies
«ne serons puis requis par eus.
not we-shall-be after attacked by them
«Si nos sera amis feeus,
So to-us he-will-be friend faithful
«aidanz nos iert vers tote gent.
helping us he-will-be against all folk
«Jo n'ai mie grant esciënt,
I not-have at-all great knowledge

«mais del peril en que nos somes,
but from-the peril in which we are
«noz fiz, noz filles e noz homes,
our sons our daughters and our men
«fereit bien teus plaiz a receivre.
one-would-do well such pleas to receive
«E si vos vueil bien amenteivre
And so to-you I-wish well to-recall
«qu'a grant meschief devez pais querre:
that-at great mischief you-ought peace to-seek
«Trop a fort gent en nostre terre,
Too-much there-is strong folk in our land
«si est pechiez et trop granz maus
so it-is sin and too great ill
«que tanz hauz homes, tanz vassaus
that so-many high men so-many vassals
«muerent a si faite dolor
die in so made grief
«es granz batailles chascun jor.
in-the great battles each day
«Periz i a de tantes parz,
Perils there are from so-many sides
«bien i avreit mestier esguarz.»
well there would-have need regard
Li reis Prianz baissa son vis.
The king Priam lowered his face
Une grant piece fu pensis,
A great while he-was pensive

après en a dit son viaire
after thereof he-has said his opinion
a la reïne de bon aire:
to the queen of good nature
«Dame,» fait il, «ne puis veeir
Lady says he not I-can see
«ne conoistre n'aparceveir
nor know nor-perceive
17935 «en nes un sen n'en nes un plait
in not-even one way nor-in not-even one plea
«coment ço poüst estre fait.
how that could be done
«Quar, s'Achillès ert mis amis
For if-Achilles were my friend
«si come il est mis enemis,
so as he is my enemy
«si n'est il pas de mon parage.
so not-is he at-all of my lineage
17940 «Trop baissereie mon lignage:
Too-much I-would-lower my lineage
«Pesera mei, ço sacheiz bien,
It-will-weigh-on me that know well
«se endreit mei baisse de rien.
if as-for me it-lowers in anything
«E s'il esteit de li saisiz,
And if-he were with her seized
«com sereie seürs e fiz
how I-would-be secure and sure
17945 «qu'il feïst departir le siege?
that-he would-make part the siege

«Cuide me il prendre a la piege?
Thinks me he to-take in the snare
«Trop sereie por fol tenuz
Too-much I-would-be for fool held
«s'ensi esteie deceüz
if-thus I-were deceived
«par l'ome que plus dei haïr.
by the-man whom most I-ought to-hate
«Tant i a rei de grant aïr
So-many there are kings of great fury
«plus riche de lui contre nos!
more rich than him against us
«E donc si cuideriëz vos
And then so would-think you
«que il por lui s'en departissent?
that they for him themselves-thence would-part
«Ja jor por lui ça ne venissent,
Ever day for him hither not they-would-have-come
«ne ja por lui rien ne fereient,
nor ever for him anything not they-would-do
«ne ainz ne s'en departireient.
nor before not themselves-thence they-would-part
«E ne por quant, s'il ço puet faire
And nor for all-that if-he that can do
«que Greu se metent el repaire,
that Greeks themselves may-put in-the return
«de lui sera pais e de nos,
of him will-be peace and of us
«ne li serons plus haïnos;
not to-him we-shall-be more hateful

«pardoné seront li mesfait:
pardoned will-be the misdeeds
«Ja ne li seront mais retrait.
Ever not to-him they-will-be more reproached
«Ma fille avra, bien li otrei:
My daughter he-will-have well to-him I-grant
«Sor toz les deus de nostre lei
On all the gods of our law
17965 «l'en ferai faire seürtance,
to-him-thereof I-shall-make make assurance
«por ço qu'il n'ait de nos dotance.
for that that-be not-may-have of us doubt
«S'ensi puet estre, ensi l'agré
If-thus it-can be thus it-I-agree
«e ensi iert ma volenté.»
and thus will-be my will

Priam's Terms

LXXVII

On the third day the messenger returns to the queen and greets Polyxena on his lord's behalf. She makes no reply and shows neither displeasure nor pleasure, and the queen gives Priam's terms: Achilles will have Polyxena once he makes the Greeks leave, and the matter must be kept secret. Meanwhile Achilles suffers all that Love imposes on his servants. He laments that no one ever loved more foolishly, recalls that Samson, David, and Solomon could not resist Love, and resolves to do whatever it takes. Achilles meets the returning messenger with joy and fear, as lovers do, and learns the terms: he will have the maiden only after the host has gone.

Quant la chose fu porparlee,
When the thing was discussed
que mout fu puis chier comparee,
which very was after dearly paid-for
si departirent lor conseil.
so they-parted their counsel
Anceis que levast le soleil,
Before that rose the sun
fu li mes al tierz jor tornez:
was the messenger on-the third day returned
mout fu li termes desirez,
very was the term desired
anceis que il fust acompliz.
before that it were fulfilled
Dedenz la chambre as ars voutiz
Within the chamber with-the arches vaulted
en est venuz a la reïne.
thence he-is come to the queen

Cent saluz rent a la meschine
A-hundred greetings he-renders to the girl
de part son seigneur, qui li mande
on part-of his lord who to-her sends
qu'a li se done e se comande,
that-to her himself he-gives and himself commends
del tot se met en son voleir,
of-the all himself he-puts in her will
lui e sa terre e son aveir.
him and his land and his wealth
N'i puet longe parole faire,
Not-there he-can long speech make
quar la reïne de bon aire
for the queen of good nature
est dedevant, que ne li lait;
is before so-that not to-him leaves
e cele n'en tient autre plait,
and she not-thereof holds other plea
n'el nel receit, n'el ne li dit
nor-she not-him receives nor-she not to-him says
orgueil n'outrage ne despit;
pride nor-outrage nor scorn
ne fait semblant que point l'en peist
nor she-makes semblance that at-all to-her-thereof may-weigh
ne que de rien bel ne li seit.
nor that in anything fair not to-her may-be
La reïne, que mout est sage,
The queen who very is wise

parole, si dit al message
speaks so says to-the messenger
tot le respons al rei Priant:
all the answer of-the king Priam
bien devise le covenant
well she-sets-out the covenant
que Achillès seürs sera,
that Achilles secure will-be
ja devers eus ne remandra.
ever toward them not it-will-remain
«Ensi,» fait el, «li puez retraire.
Thus says she to-him thou-canst recount
«Ci a grant uevre e grant afaire:
Here there-is great work and great affair
«Celee seit tant qu'ele iert faite,
Concealed let-it-be until that-it will-be done
«ja ne seit dite ne retraite.»
ever not let-it-be said nor recounted
Que vos ireie porloignant?
Why to-you would-I-go prolonging
Congié a pris li mes a tant.
Leave has taken the messenger at that
A son seignor est repairiez,
To his lord he-is returned
qui mout esteit desconseilliez,
who very was counsel-less
qu'Amors li mostre de ses gieus
for-Love to-him shows of his games
e come om tient de lui ses fieus:
and how one holds of him his fiefs

a ceus ou est li suens plaisirs
to those where is the his pleasure
fait geter plainz e granz sospirs;
he-makes throw laments and great sighs
veillier les fait e geüner
watch them he-makes and fast
e totes uevres obliër
and all works forget
por estre a la rien ententis
for to-be on the thing intent
dont om est mornes e pensis.
whereby one is gloomy and pensive
La sont li cuer e nuit e jor
There are the hearts both night and day
en crieme, en soing e en error
in fear in care and in distress
d'ataindre ço que il desirent,
of-reaching that which they desire
dont si destreitement sospirent,
whereby so distressingly they-sigh
espris d'amor e de voleir,
inflamed with-love and with will
senz bien e senz repos aveir,
without good and without rest to-have
icil qui en ço ont entente.
those who in that have intent

C'est li servises e la rente
That-is the service and the rent
que Amors prent mainte feiee
which Love takes many-a time
de ceus qui sont de sa maisniee.
from those who are of his household
De ceus est bien danz Achillès:
Of those is well lord Achilles
a lui a trait Amors de près.
to him has drawn Love from near
Bien li apert en mi le vis
Well to-him it-appears in the-midst the face
qu'a son ues l'a saisi e pris;
that-for his needs him-he-has seized and taken
amer le fait outre mesure:
to-love him he-makes beyond measure
«Ha! las,» fait il, «quel aventure!
Ah weary says he what adventure
«Com sui destreiz! com sui sozpris!
How I-am distressed how I-am surprised
«Com sui de tote rien eschis!
How I-am from all thing estranged
«Ne vueil que om parout o mei.
Not I-wish that one may-speak with me
«Se fui sages, dès or folei,
If I-was wise from now I-am-foolish
«quant en tel lieu me sui donez
when in such place myself I-am given
«dont ja n'avrai mes volentez.
whereby ever not-I-shall-have my wills

«Jos en avrai? E jo coment?
I-them thereof shall-have And I how
«Ja sai jo bien certainement,
Already know I well certainly
«puis que li mondes començа,
since that the world began
«ne ja mais tant come il durra,
nor ever more so-long as it will-last
«n'amera rien plus folement.
not-will-love anything more foolishly
«Se mis corages me reprent,
If my heart me reproaches
«ço que me vaut? Bien sai de veir
that what to-me avails Well I-know of truth
«que ci ne m'a mestier saveir
that here not to-me-has need wisdom
«ne hardement ne vasselage.
nor boldness nor prowess
«Qui est qui contre amor est sage?
Who is-it who against love is wise
«Ço ne fu pas Fortis Sanson,
That not was at-all Strong Samson
«li reis Daviz ne Salemon,
the king David nor Solomon
«cil qui de sen fu soverains
he who in sense was sovereign
«sor toz autres homes humains.
above all other men human
«Qu'en puis jo mais, se jo desvei,
What-thereof can I more if I go-mad

«se jo refail, se jo folei?
if I fail-again if I am-foolish
«N'i a neient de l'escurder.
Not-there is nothing of the-refusing
«Jo ne puis mie contrester
I not can at-all withstand
«de ço dont li sage ancessor
of that whereof the wise ancestors
«ne porent prendre d'eus retor.
not could take of-themselves return
«Or n'i a donc nule autre rien:
Now not-there is then any other anything
«Jo vei e sai e conois bien
I see and know and recognize well
«qu'a ço me covient a entendre,
that-to that me behooves to attend
«coment que il m'en deie prendre.
however that it me-thence may take
«Se en mei a point de valor,
If in me there-is point of worth
«bien i parra, jusqu'a brief jor,
well there it-will-appear up-to brief day
«en penser e en porchacier
in thinking and in pursuing
«d'acomplir mon grant desirier:
of-fulfilling my great desire
«Soz ciel n'a rien que jo n'en face.
Under heaven not-is anything that I not-thereof may-do
«E qui voudra puis, si m'en hace.
And who will-wish after so me-for-it may-hate

«Se tote gent ont lor talent,
If all folk have their desire
«e jo n'en ai ne tant ne quant,
and I not-thereof have nor so-much nor how-much
«ço que me vaut? Jo dei penser
that what to-me avails I ought to-think
«coment j'aie joie d'amer.
how I-may-have joy of-loving
«Joie en avrai, se tant puis faire
Joy thereof I-shall-have if so-much I-can do
«que la douce, la de bon aire,
that the sweet the of good nature
«la resplendor de beauté fine,
the radiance of beauty fine
«en cui est tote ma destine,
in whom is all my destiny
«tote ma vie e ma santé,
all my life and my health
«se jo de li esteie amé,
if I by her were loved
«conquis avreie tot a tant.
conquered I-would-have all at that
«Haï! fine de bel semblant,
Ah fine-one of fair look
«esperital, enluminee,
spiritual illumined
«sor totes autres desiree,
above all others desired
«sor totes cele que plus vaut,
above all she who most is-worth

«come aigrement Amors m'asaut
how sharply Love me-assails
«por vostre semblance delite,
for your likeness delightful
«qu'en mon cuer port peinte e escrite!
which-in my heart I-carry painted and written
«Quant la recort, ne sui pas sain:
When it I-recall not I-am at-all sound
«Sovent en devieng pale e vain,
Often thereof I-become pale and wan
«sovent m'en refreidist li cors.
often me-thereof grows-cold the body
«Tant m'a Amors pincié e mors,
So-much me-has Love pinched and bitten
«s'ensi me tient, s'ensi m'aspreie,
if-thus me he-holds if-thus me-he-presses
«ja guaires longes ne vivreie.
ever much long not I-would-live
«Que me demandereit il plus?
What of-me would-ask he more
«De son plaisir rien ne refus;
Of his pleasure anything not I-refuse
«en mei n'a mais point de dangier.
in me not-is more point of resistance
«Par sa merci li vueil preier
By his mercy him I-wish to-beg
«que il me face le socors
that he to-me may-make the help
«cui il sueut faire as ameors
which he is-wont to-make to-the lovers

«e ne perde en mei sa costume;
and not may-lose in me his custom
«la douçor e la soatume
the sweetness and the softness
«qu'il done as autres me redont
which-he gives to-the others to-me may-he-give-again
«cil qui sire est de tot le mont;
he who lord is of all the world
«teus noveles m'en doint oïr
such news to-me-thereof may-he-grant to-hear
«que mon cuer puissent esjoïr.»
which my heart may gladden
Ensi destreiz, ensi pensis,
Thus distressed thus pensive
ensi en amor ententis,
thus in love intent
consira tant e atendi
he-forbore so-much and waited
que sis messages reverti.
that his messenger returned
Quant il le vit, joie ot e creime:
When he him saw joy he-had and fear
c'est costume de rien que aime.
that-is custom of thing which loves
Enquis li a e demandé,
Asked to-him he-has and demanded
saveir qu'om li aveit mandé.
to-know what-one to-him had sent
E cil ne l'en a fait celee:
And that-one not him-thereof has made concealment

tote l'uevre li a mostree,
all the-work to-him he-has shown
toz les respons, les covenanz
all the answers the covenants
que li tendra li reis Prianz,
which to-him will-hold the king Priam
e la requeste qu'il li font,
and the request which-they to-him make
e coment il l'aseürront
and how they him-will-assure
que lor fille li iert donee
that their daughter to-him will-be given
e que volentiers lor agree:
and that willingly to-them it-pleases
«Pensez,» fait il, «com l'ost s'en aut:
Think says he how the-host itself-thence may-go
«Tant sai jo bien, si Deus me saut,
So-much know I well if God me may-save
«ses poëz faire departir
if-them you-can make part
«e en lor terres revertir,
and into their lands return
«saisiront vos de la pucele,
they-will-seize you of the maiden
«que sor totes autres est bele;
who above all others is fair
«ainz n'en sereiz vos ja saisiz
but not-thereof will-be you ever seized
«devant qu'il s'en seient partiz.
until that-they themselves-thence may-be parted

«S'en ceste chose dotez rien,
If-in this thing you-doubt anything
«il vos en aseürront bien
they you thereof will-assure well
«tot ensi com devisereiz
all thus as you-will-set-out
«e com vos dire le savreiz.»
and as you to-say it will-know

Achilles Counsels Peace

LXXVIII

After a sleepless night Achilles calls the princes to council. He argues that they are being killed every day for one woman's sake: in more than five years they have achieved nothing. The Greeks once carried off Hesione, so Paris may keep Helen, and Menelaus can find another wife. He swears never to arm again and urges them all to go home to their kingdoms and families. Thoas rebukes him: so valiant a man should not counsel a dishonorable retreat. The Greeks have already crippled Troy, and they would rather die than go home beaten. They fight for honor and glory, not for Menelaus or Helen.

Achillès ot qu'el n'en sera:
Achilles hears that-otherwise not-thereof will-be
de mout parfont cuer sospira.
from very deep heart he-sighed
Ire a e joie e atendance:
Wrath he-has and joy and expectation
mout par li plaist la covenance,
very much to-him pleases the covenant

mais grief chose est a acomplir
but grievous thing it-is to fulfill
içо qu'il lor a fait ofrir,
that which-he to-them has made offer
e ne por quant a l'essaier
and nor for all-that at the-trying
sera demain senz plus targier.
it-will-be tomorrow without more delaying
Assez traist ainz peine e dolor
Enough he-drew before pain and grief
que fust trespassé icel jor:
that were passed that day
mout li fu lons e enoios;
much to-him it-was long and tedious
destreiz fu mout e angoissos.
distressed he-was much and anguished
La nuit après veilla senz faille:
The night after he-watched without fail
mout ert sis cuers en grant bataille;
much was his heart in great battle
en son lit fist la nuit maint tor.
in his bed he-made the night many-a turn
E quant il aparçut le jor,
And when he perceived the day
s'a pris conseil e engeignié
so-he-has taken counsel and contrived
com li haut home e li preisié,
how the high men and the prized
li duc, li prince e li demeine,
the dukes the princes and the lords

li amiraut e li chataine
the emirs and the captains
seient mandé a parlement;
may-be summoned to parley
s'i sont il tuit hastivement.
so-there are they all hastily
Li concires fu mout pleniers;
The council was very full
mout i ot riches chevaliers.
much there were rich knights
Parlé i ot en mainz endreiz,
Spoken there was in many places
en audience e en conseiz;
in audience and in councils
de maintes riens i ot traitié.
of many things there was treated
Achillès s'est levez en pié.
Achilles himself-is risen on foot
Bien fu oïz e escoutez,
Well he-was heard and listened-to
quar cremuz ert e redotez
for feared he-was and dreaded
e honorez e essauciez.
and honored and exalted
Sages fu mout e veziiez:
Wise he-was very and shrewd
si come il sot qu'il fist a faire,
so as he knew that-he made to do
comence a dire son afaire:
he-begins to tell his affair

«Seignor,» fait il, «mostrer vos vueil
Lords says he to-show to-you I-wish
«que par sorfait e par orgueil
that by excess and by pride
«nos faisons chascun jor ocire:
we make each day to-kill
«Jan i a morz teus trente mile
Already-thereof there are dead such thirty thousand
«qui mout erent hardiz e proz;
who very were bold and valiant
«a ço revertirons nos toz.
to that shall-return we all
«Par cele fei que jo dei vos,
By that faith which I owe to-you
«ja n'en eschapera uns sous
ever not-thence will-escape one alone
«qu'il ne seit a la mort aquis,
that-he not may-be to the death delivered
«ainz que cist regnes seit conquis,
before that this realm may-be conquered
«se autre conseiz n'en est pris.
if other counsels not-thereof is taken
«Trop fol plait avons entrepris,
Too foolish plea we-have undertaken
«qui por l'acheison d'une femme
who for the-occasion of-a woman
«avons guerpi tant riche regne,
have abandoned so-many rich realm
«tant reiaume, tant bon païs.
so-many kingdom so-many good country

«Plus de cinc anz avons ci sis:
More than five years we-have here sat
«Ancor n'i avons chose faite
Yet not-there we-have thing done
«que en bien puisse estre retraite.
which in good may be recounted
«A grant angoisse, a grant ahan
In great anguish in great toil
«somes ici le plus de l'an;
we-are here the most of the-year
«nostre gent est trop bosoignose
our folk is too needy
«e trop malement sofraitose.
and too badly in-want
«Mout me merveil estrangement
Much myself I-marvel strangely
«que tant a ici sage gent
that so-much there-is here wise folk
«qui n'en ont pris autre conrei,
who not-thereof have taken other counsel
«tuit n'i veient ço que j'i vei.
all not-there see that which I-there see
«Mout est mauvaise l'acheison
Very is bad the-occasion
«de nostre grant destrucion:
of our great destruction
«Cil d'Eürope e cil d'Aufrique,
Those of-Europe and those of-Africa

«cil d'outres porz de Salenique
those from-beyond ports of Salonica
«sont asemblé a mort receivre;
are assembled to death receive
«e si vos sai bien amenteivre
and so to-you I-know well to-recall
«ne fu onc mais graindre folages
not was ever more greater folly
«ne graindre orguieuz ne graindre outrages,
nor greater pride nor greater outrages
«que por une femme morons
than for a woman we-die
«e que por li nos destruions.
and that for her ourselves we-destroy
«Mais, beau seignor, içe que deit?
But fair lords this what ought-it
«Se danz Paris l'a, soë seit.
If lord Paris her-has his let-her-be
«Ja en menerent Greu s'antain,
Already thence led Greeks his-aunt
«soror son pere, Esionain,
sister (of-)his father Hesione
«que mout fu quise e demandee:
who much was sought and asked-for
«Se cist en ra ceste menee,
If this-one thence again-has this-one led

«quel tort, quel honte e quel damage
what wrong what shame and what harm
«i puet aveir nostre lignage
there can have our lineage
«ne nos meïsme, qui ci somes?
nor we same who here are
«Toz avons ja perdu noz homes;
All we-have already lost our men
«maint riche rei, maint duc preisié
many-a rich king many-a duke prized
«en sont ja mort e aqueisié.
thereof are already dead and quieted
«Sacheiz, quant nos reconoistrons
Know when we shall-acknowledge
«la folie que faite avons,
the folly which done we-have
«mout nos en tendrons a musarz.
much ourselves thereby we-shall-hold for fools
«Se creüz est li miens esguarz,
If believed is the my judgment
«a tant remandra la folie,
at that will-remain the folly
«que folement fu envaïe;
which foolishly was undertaken
«si serons riche e honoré
so we-shall-be rich and honored
«es granz regnes dont somes né,
in-the great realms whence we-are born
«e si reverrons noz maisniees,
and so we-shall-see-again our households

«que de nos sont desconseilliees;
who for us are counsel-less
«si remarierons plusors
so we-shall-remarry many
«nieces e filles e sorors,
nieces and daughters and sisters
«cui bosoinz est e granz mestiers.
to-whom need is and great want
«Mieuz vueil jo estre chevaliers
Better wish I to-be knight
«en ma terre que en estrange:
in my land than in foreign
«Jo n'ai mais cure de cest change.
I not-have more care of this exchange
«Mieuz aim mon regne que l'autrui.
Better I-love my realm than the-other's
«En l'ost des Greus ne sont pas dui
In the-host of-the Greeks not are at-all two
«qui o damage e o dolor
who with harm and with grief
«e o mout grant perte des lor
and with very great loss of-the theirs
«ne s'en torgent, ço est verté.
not themselves-thence may-turn that is truth
«Quant om a fait grant foleté,
When one has done great folly
«si la ramende l'om après.
so it amends one after

«Sacheiz ço est danz Achillès
Know that is lord Achilles
«qui ja a plus ne s'en metra
who ever to more not himself-thereto will-put
«ne son heaume n'en lacera.
nor his helmet not-thereof will-lace
«D'ore en avant seit qui ço vueille,
From-now in forward let-be who that may-wish
«qui s'en combate e qui s'en dueille,
who himself-thereof may-fight and who himself-thereof may-grieve
«qui seit navrez, qui seit ocis,
who may-be wounded who may-be killed
«quar leiaument le vos plevis,
for loyally it to-you I-pledge
«ja n'en serai mais abatuz,
ever not-thereof I-shall-be more thrown-down
«n'autre n'en iert par mei feruz.
nor-another not-thereof will-be by me struck
«Trop puet trover danz Menelaus
Too-much can find lord Menelaus
«gentes dames a cuers leiaus:
noble ladies with hearts loyal
«Sin prenge une qui seit preisiee
So-thereof let-him-take one who may-be prized
«e laist ester ceste feiee
and let-him-leave be this time
«cesti, dès qu'aveir ne la puet:
this-one since that-to-have not her he-can
«A vis m'est qu'a faire l'estuet.
At opinion to-me-is that-to it-do it-behooves

«N'en avra mie, par semblant,
Not-thereof he-will-have at-all by seeming
«tant com seit vis le rei Priant.
as-long as may-be alive the king Priam
«Autre de mei la conquerra:
Another for me her will-conquer
«C'est cil qui ja plus n'en fera,
It-is that-one who ever more not-thereof will-do
«ne mei ne home que jo aie;
nor me nor man whom I may-have
«e quil vueut, en mal sil retraie,
and who-it wishes in ill so-it let-him-recount
«quar, par mon chief, jol pris mout poi».
for by my head I-it prize very little
Donc dit Thoas: «Avoi! avoi!
Then says Thoas Come-now come-now
«Sire Achillès, vos dites mal.
Lord Achilles you say ill
«Tant par estes pro e vassal
So very you-are valiant and vassal
«que ne devez pas consentir
that not you-ought at-all to-consent
«n'uevre loër a maintenir
nor-work to-praise to maintain
«ou point aiez de deshonor.
where at-all you-may-have of dishonor
«Sor toz vaillanz avez valor
Above all worthy you-have worth
«e pris e honor e proëce:
and prize and honor and prowess

«N'abaissiez pas vostre hautece,
Not-lower at-all your highness
«ne maumetez ço qu'est en vos.
nor misuse that which-is in you
«Oï l'avons ja de plusors,
Heard it-we-have already of many
«qui toz jorz l'aveient si fait
who all days it-had so done
«qu'en bien esteit par tot retrait,
that-in good it-was through all recounted
«après tornoënt a neient
after they-turned to nothing
«e a eschar de tote gent:
and to mockery of all folk
«Mauvaise e vil en ert la fin.
Bad and vile thereof was the end
«Onc mais ne fustes vos devin:
Ever more not were you seer
«Or l'avez comencié trop tost.
Now it-you-have begun too soon
«N'a si haut prince en tote l'ost,
Not-is so high prince in all the-host
«s'il deïst ço que vos oi dire,
if-he said that which you I-hear say
«ne l'en deüsseiz contredire,
not him-thereof you-ought gainsay
«e tenir l'en a vil coart.
and hold him-thereof for vile coward

«Trop nos avez doné a tart
Too-much to-us you-have given at late
«icest conseil, oëz coment:
this counsel hear how
«Ci avons ja sis longement
Here we-have already sat long
«por la vile, que volons prendre,
for the town which we-wish to-take
«fondre e ardeir e metre en cendre;
to-melt and to-burn and to-put into ash
«o seit folie, o seit saveir,
or be-it folly or be-it wisdom
«fait en avons nostre poëir;
done thereof we-have our power
«o eus nos somes combatu,
with them we are fought
«auques avons ja abatu
somewhat we-have already thrown-down
«lor grant orgueil e lor grant pris.
their great pride and their great worth
«Mais mout i a e morz e pris
But much there are both dead and taken
«e de noz reis e de noz dus;
both of our kings and of our dukes
«chevaliers trente mile e plus
knights thirty thousand and more
«nos ont il ja en champ toleiz.
us have they already in field taken-away

«Por quant si les avons destreiz
For all-that so them we-have distressed
«qu'il n'ont vigne ne champ semé,
that-they not-have vine nor field sown
«port ne rente n'arpent de pré.
port nor rent nor-acre of meadow
«Sovent lor faisons granz damages,
Often to-them we-make great harms
«mout vait dechaant lor barnages;
much goes declining their baronage
«mais n'avons pas ancor tant fait
but not-we-have at-all yet so-much done
«qu'a nostre honor feïssons plait.
that-to our honor we-might-make peace
«Puis qu'avons l'uevre comenciee,
Since that-we-have the-work begun
«s'ensi vilment esteit laissiee
if-thus vilely it-were left
«com jo vos oi ici loër
as I you hear here advise
«e a nos toz amonester,
and to us all admonish
«ço pueent tuit de fi saveir,
that can all of certain know
«grant honte i porrions aveir.
great shame there we-could have
«Jo voudreie mieuz estre ocis
I would-wish better to-be killed
«o forsjurer tot mon pais,
or forswear all my country

«que ja mais nul jor n'i entrasse,
so-that ever more any day not-there I-might-enter
«que jo ensi m'en retornasse
than I thus me-thence might-return
«vencuz, fuitis e recreanz.
vanquished fugitive and craven
«Trop par i sont les pertes granz 18310
Too very there are the losses great
«a guerpir les si desvengiees:
to abandon them so unavenged
«Ainz en soferront granz haschiees
Rather thereof will-suffer great torments
«seisante mile chevalier
sixty thousand knights
«qu'ensi s'en vueillent repairier.
than-thus themselves-thence they-may-wish to-return
«N'i somes pas por ço venu: 18315
Not-there we-are at-all for that come
«Tuit serons ainz mort e vencu,
All we-shall-be rather dead and vanquished
«o cil de la cité conquis,
or those of the city conquered
«qu'uns sous en tort en son païs.
than-one alone thence may-turn into his country
«Jo nes tieng mie a si afliz
I not-them hold at-all as so afflicted
«ne de ceste uevre si guenchiz 18320
nor from this work so turned-aside

«qu'il en vousissent chose faire
that-they thereof would-wish thing to-do
«qu'om lor poüst en mal retraire
which-one to-them could in ill recount
«ne reprochié fust a lor heirs:
nor reproached were to their heirs
«Il n'ont mie si fous saveirs
They not-have at-all so foolish wits
«que ja sol en pensé lor vienge.
that ever only in thought to-them may-come
«Deus seit quis guart e quis maintienge!
God may-be who-them may-guard and who-them may-maintain
«Quar li vostre amonestemenz
For the your admonition
«n'est, s'il vos plaist, ne beaus ne genz.
not-is if-it to-you pleases nor fair nor noble
«Ne somes pas en ceste peine
Not we-are at-all in this pain
«por Menelaus ne por Heleine,
for Menelaus nor for Helen
«qui por aveir honor e pris.
but for to-have honor and worth
«Puis que si bien l'avez empris,
Since that so well it-you-have undertaken
«ja n'en partirons senz victoire,
ever not-thence we-shall-part without victory
«si que de nos iert fait memoire.
so that of us will-be made memory

«Mout est honiz qui recreüe
Much is shamed who retreat
«corne, tant com d'espee nue
sounds as-long as with-sword naked
«puisse ferir en grant bataille:
he-may strike in great battle
«Blasmez en sereiz mout, senz faille,
Blamed thereby you-will-be much without fail
«s'om set qu'a certes l'aiez dit.»
if-one knows that-in earnest it-you-may-have said

Achilles Withdraws

LXXIX

The duke of Athens, smiling, declares that he would rather be torn limb from limb than agree to such a retreat, which would shame them all if the Trojans heard of it. A brave man fears death less than dishonor, and they will fight tomorrow. The whole council applauds and leaves in uproar. Achilles, furious, forbids his men on their lives to fight in any battle or skirmish for two years. Since the Greeks rejected his counsel, they will learn what his help was worth. The narrator excuses him: no one is wise against Love, as Solomon learned. His men weep with shame that they may not bear arms, but Achilles cares nothing for it.

Li dus d'Athenes s'en sozrit.
The duke of-Athens himself-thereof smiled
D'une chape d'un drap en graine —
Of-a cape of-a cloth in grain
onc si buens ne fu faiz de laine —
ever so good not was made of wool
traist ariere le chaperon,
he-drew back the hood

puis s'apoia sor un baron
then himself-leaned on a baron
qui delez lui esteit asis:
who beside him was seated
longement ot esté pensis,
long he-had been pensive
mais ja dira tot son voleir,
but already he-will-say all his will
qui qu'après s'en deie doleir.
whoever that-after himself-thereof may grieve
Iriez fu mout de la parole,
Angered he-was much at the speech
sacheiz que mout la tint a fole:
know that much it he-held as foolish
«Dès or», fait il, «m'est il a vis
From now says he to-me-is it at opinion
«que conquerrons noz enemis:
that we-shall-conquer our enemies
«Semblant en est, n'en dirai plus.
Seeming thereof it-is not-thereof I-shall-say more
«Mais, par les deus del ciel la sus,
But by the gods of-the heaven there above
«se tuit voleient otreier,
if all wished to-grant
«loër e dire e conseillier
to-praise and to-say and to-counsel
«que l'oz ensi s'en repairast
that the-host thus itself-thence should-return
«que nus de nos plus ne s'armast
so-that any of us more not himself-should-arm

«senz plait aveir, tot a voz grez,
without plea to-have all at your wishes
«mieuz voudreie estre desmembrez
better I-would-wish to-be dismembered
«qu'eüsse esté a cest conseil.
than-I-might-have been at this counsel
«E sacheiz bien mout me merveil
And know well much myself I-marvel
«dont ceste parole est eissue:
whence this speech is gone-out
«Ne deüst pas la recreüe
Not ought at-all the retreat
«ja estre cornee entre nos.
ever to-be sounded among us
«Cist parlemenz est trop hontos:
This parley is too shameful
«A nos toz iert avilemenz,
To us all will-be debasement
«sel sevent cil de la dedenz:
if-it know those of there within
«Ne fust pas en tel mal escrit,
Not it-would-be at-all in such ill written
«s'uns de nos autres l'eüst dit.
if-one of us others it-had said
«E si ne sai içо que vaut.
And so not I-know this what it-is-worth
«Tant riche rei, tant amiraut,
So-many rich king so-many emir

«tant duc preisié e tant baron
so-many duke prized and so-many baron
«a ci a ceste assembleison,
there-are here at this assembly
«qui mieuz voudreient estre pris,
who better would-wish to-be taken
«mort e detrenchié e ocis,
dead and cut-to-pieces and killed
«qu'ensi s'en fussent repairié.
than-thus themselves-thence they-were returned
«N'est pas en tel sen comencié:
Not-it-is at-all in such way begun
«Tot autrement, ne puet muër,
All otherwise not it-can change
«covient ceste uevre definer:
it-behooves this work to-end
«N'i a neient del desconfort.
Not-there is nothing of-the discomfort
«Proz d'ome ne deit doter mort
Valiant of-man not ought to-fear death
«contre si faite deshonor.
against so made dishonor
«Demain nos combatrons as lor:
Tomorrow we shall-fight with-the theirs
«O les lances d'acier brunies
With the lances of-steel burnished
«e o les espees forbies
and with the swords furbished
«sera li sieges aproismiez;
will-be the siege approached

«en ferant iert pris li congiez.
in striking will-be taken the leave
«Demain seient si salüé
Tomorrow let-be so greeted
«cil qui istront de la cité
those who will-go-out from the city
«que mil des plus outrecuidez
that a-thousand of-the most presumptuous
«nos otreient noz volentez
to-us may-grant our wills
«e toz noz buens a acomplir.
and all our goods to fulfill
«Faisons la chose parvenir
Let-us-make the thing arrive
«hastivement a ço que deit:
hastily to that which it-ought
«Ja mais n'iert uns jorz que ne seit
Ever more not-will-be a day that not may-be
«la nostre gent contre la lor.»
the our folk against the theirs
A ço respondent li plusor:
To that answer the most
«Bien dit! bien dit! ço est li mieuz!»
Well said well said that is the best
N'i a si jovne ne si vieuz
Not-there is so young nor so old
qui ço ne lot, quel cuer qu'il ait.
who that not may-praise what heart that-he may-have
Que vos en fereie autre plait?
Why to-you thereof would-I-make other plea

O noise, o ire e o tençons
With noise with wrath and with quarrels
s'en revont a lor paveillons.
themselves-thence they-go-back to their pavilions
Assez ont or de que parler,
Enough they-have now of what to-speak
e Achillès de que penser.
and Achilles of what to-think
S'il est iriez, nus nel demant:
If-he is angered any not-it may-ask
trop par en fait chiere e semblant.
too very thereof he-makes face and semblance
Rien ne li ose mot soner.
Anyone not to-him dares word to-sound
Sa gent a fait a sei mander,
His folk he-has made to himself summon
puis lor a dit qu'il guardent bien,
then to-them he-has said that-they may-guard well
sor lor vies, sor tote rien,
on their lives above all thing
qu'uns sous n'en ceigne mais espee
that-one alone not-thereof may-gird more sword
a bataille ne a meslee
for battle nor for melee
ne a tornei ne a cembel:
nor for tourney nor for skirmish
«Ne m'est,» fait il, «ne buen ne bel
Not to-me-it-is says he nor good nor fair
«de vos seient Greu socoru.
by you may-be Greeks succored

«Quant de mon conseil sont eissu,
When from my counsel they-are gone-out
«mostrer lor vueil que jo lor vail.
to-show to-them I-wish what I to-them am-worth
«Mout i ai bien sauf le travail
Much there I-have well safe the toil
«que j'ai sofert bien a cinc anz!
which I-have suffered well at five years
«Ne lor serai or plus aidanz,
Not to-them I-shall-be now more helping
«ne jo ne rien que a mei taigne:
nor I nor anything that to me may-pertain
«N'i orront mais criër m'enseigne
Not-there they-will-hear more cry my-war-cry
«devant dous ans, ço sachent il.
before two years that let-them-know they
«Ainz en avront perdu vint mil
Rather thereof they-will-have lost twenty thousand
«e autres vint, que mais m'en mueve.
and other twenty than more myself-thence I-may-move
«Qui orgueil a e orgueil trueve,
Who pride has also pride finds
«ço est bien dreiz: ore iert veü
that is well right now it-will-be seen
«e esprové e coneü,
and proved and known
«saveir quel conseil lor donoë
to-know what counsel to-them I-gave
«e se de rien lor aïdoë,
and if in anything them I-helped

«ne s'il m'eüssent a oïr
nor if-they me-would-have to hear
«ne ma parole a consentir.
nor my speech to consent
«Par eus le feront or senz nos:
By themselves it they-will-do now without us
«Guardez n'i ait un sol de vos
Guard not-there may-be a single of you
«ja s'en mueve, por rien qu'il oie;
ever himself-thence may-move for anything that-he may-hear
«ne noisiez mais a ceus de Troie.
nor harm more to those of Troy
«E qui mon vié en enfraindreit
And who my forbidding thereof would-break
«ja mais a mei ne tornereit,
ever more to me not would-turn
«ne ja mais ne sereit des miens,
nor ever more not would-be of-the mine
«ne par mei ne li vendreit biens.»
nor by me not to-him would-come good
Cest devié lor fait Achillès:
This forbidding to-them makes Achilles
se il mesfait, qu'en puet il mais,
if he misdoes what-thereof can he more
quant cil li tout sen e mesure,
when that-one from-him takes sense and measure
qui ne guarde lei ne dreiture,
who not keeps law nor right
noblece, honesté ne parage?
nobility honesty nor lineage

Qui est qui vers Amors est sage?
Who is-it who toward Love is wise
Ço n'est il pas ne ne puet estre:
That not-is it at-all nor not can be
en Amors a trop grevos maistre;
in Love there-is too grievous master
trop par lit grevose leçon.
too very he-reads grievous lesson
Ço parut bien a Salemon:
That appeared well in Solomon
mout monta poi vers lui sis sens.
very rose little against him his sense
De trestoz homes fait ses buens:
Of all men he-does his goods
creance e fei, pere e seignor
belief and faith father and lord
en ont ja relenqui plusor,
thereof have already abandoned many
e granz terres e granz païs.
and great lands and great countries
Qui tres bien est d'amor espris,
Who very well is with-love inflamed
il n'a en sei sen ne reison.
he not-has in himself sense nor reason
Ensi, par iceste acheison,
Thus by this occasion
laissa armes danz Achillès:
left arms lord Achilles
blasmez en fu lonc tens après.
blamed thereby he-was long time after

La soë gent e sa maisniee
The his folk and his household
en ert dolorose e iriee:
thereof was grieving and angered
de duel les veïst om plorer,
for grief them would-have-seen one weep
qu'il n'osoënt armes porter.
that-they not-dared arms to-bear
Hontos en erent e destreit,
Shamed thereby they-were and distressed
mais a lor seignor n'en chaleit.
but to their lord not-thereof it-mattered
Qui qu'en parlast ne bas ne haut,
Whoever that-thereof might-speak nor low nor high
petit l'en est e poi l'en chaut.
little to-him-thereof it-is and little to-him-thereof it-matters
Mal est bailliz, quar poi espleite
Ill he-is handled for little he-achieves
de ço que tant vueut e coveite.
of that which so-much he-wishes and covets

The Twelfth Battle: Resa and Deiphobus

LXXX

When the truce ends, Palamedes leads the Greeks against the city, and a great battle begins. Deiphobus kills Resa, lord of Aresse, and the Trojans drive seven Greek companies back until Diomedes and Palamedes stop the rout. Telamon of Salamis maims the Bastard Sicilien, and Deiphobus unhorses Telamon. The duke of Athens then knocks Deiphobus down, and he is trampled before Troilus, Aeneas, Paris, and Polydamas rescue him. When Deiphobus charges Palamedes, Palamedes drives a lance through his breast. Paris carries his brother to the city with the shaft still in him, and Deiphobus asks him to avenge him on Palamedes before the shaft is drawn.

La triuë fu tote acomplie,
The truce was all fulfilled
d'ambedous parz tote faillie:
on-both sides all ended
en pais trespasserent la nuit.
in peace they-passed the night
Cil qui en sont usé e duit
Those who thereof are used and trained
se ratornerent par matin.
themselves re-prepared by morning
Es grosses lances de sapin
On-the thick lances of fir
sont les enseignes atachiees,
are the banners attached
d'orfreis, de paile entreseigniees.
with-orphrey of silk marked
Li hauberc sont blanc e safré,
The hauberks are white and gilded

dont li plusor se sont armé;
with-which the most themselves are armed
e li heaume cler e bruni
and the helmets bright and burnished
e li bon brant d'acier forbi
and the good blades of-steel furbished
trenchant o les ponz d'or massiz,
cutting with the pommels of-gold massive
li escu peint e li verniz
the shields painted and the varnish
font resclarcir la matinee.
make brighten the morning
N'i ot puis autre demoree:
Not-there was after other delay
quant les batailles sont rengiees
when the battalions are ranked
e de combatre apareilliees,
and for fighting prepared
de la vile se traistrent près.
from the town themselves they-drew near
Premerains vait Palamedès,
First goes Palamedes
qui mout est sages e apris
who very is wise and learned
de bien grever ses enemis.
in well grieving his enemies
Cil de Troie s'en sont eissu,
Those of Troy themselves-thence are gone-out
prest de bataille e fervestu.
ready for battle and iron-clad

Genz conreiz ont e bones genz,
Noble troops they-have and good folk
beles armes, beaus guarnemenz.
fair arms fair garments
De ciclatons e de cendaus
With ciclatouns and with sendals
e de pailes emperïaus
and with silks imperial
sont li destrier covert soz eus.
are the chargers covered under them
Hui i avra damage e dueus
Today there will-have harm and griefs
granz, teus com vos orreiz, senz faille,
great such as you will-hear without fail
ainz que seit fin de la bataille.
before that may-be end of the battle
Li renc sont large e li conrei,
The ranks are wide and the troops
e li chevalier mu e quei,
and the knights mute and quiet
feus soz les heaumes e iriez.
fierce under the helmets and angered
La terre crolle soz lor piez
The earth shakes under their feet
de la friente, del trepeïz
from the noise of-the trampling
que font les destriers Arabiz.
which make the chargers Arabian

La noise par i est si granz
The noise very there is so great
del son qui ist des olifanz
from-the sound which comes-out of-the oliphants
que li haut pui e li grant val,
that the high hills and the great dales
les hautes tors e li mural
the high towers and the walls
en resonent e retentissent.
thereof resound and ring
D'ambedous parz s'entrenvaïssent:
On-both sides they-attack-each-other
jostent lances, traient maneis
they-joust lances they-shoot at-once
trenchanz saietes d'ars Turqueis.
cutting arrows from-bows Turkish
Tel mil enseignes i baissierent,
Such thousand banners there lowered
que en vermeil sanc se baignierent.
that in vermilion blood themselves they-bathed
La ot de lances grant pecei,
There was of lances great shattering
la assembla mortel tornei,
there gathered mortal tourney
ci esfondrerent li escu,
here broke-through the shields
ci se sont il entrabatu,
here themselves are they thrown-down-each-other
mort e navré, envers, a denz:
dead and wounded backward on teeth

ici ot doloros contenz.
here was grievous struggle
Ci sont les espees sachiees,
Here are the swords drawn
quant les forz lances sont brisiees;
when the strong lances are broken
sor heaumes font marteleïz
on helmets they-make hammering
e sor escuz peinz a verniz;
and on shields painted with varnish
as encontres es vis s'ataignent,
at-the encounters in-the faces they-reach-each-other
que morz des bons chevaus s'empeignent.
so-that dead from-the good horses they-are-thrust
Onc si dolorose assemblee
Ever so grievous gathering
ne pot veeir nus hom jostee.
not could see any man joined
Cil crie e brait qui la mort sent.
That-one cries and wails who the death feels
Enz el mi lieu del grant content,
Right in-the mid place of-the great struggle
la ou esteit graindre la presse,
there where was greatest the press
se combatirent cil d'Aresse.
themselves fought those of-Aresse
Resa ot non li sire d'eus,
Resa had name the lord of-them
qui mout esteit cruëus e feus:
who very was cruel and felon

riches reis ert de grant parage,
rich king he-was of great lineage
mais mout par faiseit grant damage
but very much he-was-doing great harm
de ceus dedenz, ços sai bien dire.
to those within that-you I-know well to-say
Deïphebus en ot grant ire:
Deiphobus thereof had great wrath
l'espee el poing li corut sore.
the-sword in-the fist to-him he-ran over
Teus treis cous li done en poi d'ore
Such three blows to-him he-gives in little of-hour
sor le heaume, tot l'a fendu
on the helmet all it-he-has split
e del cheval mort abatu.
and from-the horse dead thrown-down
Le destrier prent, crie s'enseigne.
The charger he-takes cries his-war-cry
Adonc n'i a nul qui s'en feigne:
Then not-there is any who himself-thereof may-feign
Troïen lor laissent aler,
Trojans to-them let go
as Grezeis font estal muër.
to-the Greeks they-make stand change
Tel set conrei tornent les dos,
Such seven troops turn the backs

ou n'en ot guaires de si os
where not-thereof there-were much of so bold
qui d'eus i preïssent retor
who on-them there might-take return
ne qui tornassent contres lor.
nor who might-turn against-the theirs
Esfreë fu mout la chace:
Frightened was very the chase
tant en gist morz par mi la place
so-many thereof lie dead through the-midst the place
que nus n'en set esmee faire.
that any not-thereof knows estimate to-make
Tant vos puis bien dire e retraire,
So-much to-you I-can well say and recount
se donc ne fust Diomedès
if then not had-been Diomedes
e li conreiz Palamedès,
and the troop (of-)Palamedes
desconfit fussent senz retor.
discomfited they-would-be without return
Mais cil avindrent a l'estor,
But those arrived at the-fight
e furent bien dis mile e mais.
and were well ten thousand and more
Les escuz pris, de plain eslais,
The shields taken at full gallop
ont encontrez les enchauçanz.
they-have met the pursuers
Li brieuz des lances fu mout granz:
The breaking of-the lances was very great

par mi escuz, par mi chevaus
through the-midst shields through the-midst horses
e tres par mi cors de vassaus
and right through the-midst bodies of vassals
passent fer e fust e penon.
pass iron and wood and pennon
Ci ot si fiere contençon
Here was so fierce contention
qu'om ne s'i set vis conseillier,
that-one not himself-there knows alive to-counsel
a peines s'i puet nus aidier:
with pains himself-there can any help
qui done un coup set en receit.
who gives a blow seven thereof receives
Ci furent li coart destreit
Here were the cowards distressed
e esbaï e entrepris;
and bewildered and beset
mais cil qui ont honor e pris
but those who have honor and worth
font les compaignes resbaudir
make the companies take-heart
e les verz heaumes retentir
and the green helmets resound
o les branz d'acier esmoluz.
with the blades of-steel ground
Bien i furent Greu socoruz:
Well there were Greeks succored

arestez ont lor enemis,
stopped they-have their enemies
mais mout par i a d'eus ocis.
but very much there there-are of-them killed
Quant les granz genz furent jostees
When the great folks were joined
des batailles desmesurees,
of-the battalions beyond-measure
si firent rens par plusors lieus:
so they-made ranks in many places
dès ore orreiz queus fu li gieus.
from now you-will-hear what was the game
Josterent i, mais bien savon
They-jousted there but well we-know
qu'onc chevaliers n'ot raençon
that-ever knight not-had ransom
qui i fust retenuz ne pris:
who there were held nor taken
sempres maneis esteit ocis.
at-once straightway he-was killed
Reis Telamon de Salemine
King Telamon of Salamis
o les fiz Priant s'acosine:
with the sons (of-)Priam himself-reckons-kinship
estrangement al brant d'acier
strangely with-the blade of-steel
son parenté lor vent trop chier.
his kindred to-them he-sells too dear
Felon le truevent e engrès:
Felon him they-find and fierce

mout les requiert le jor de près.
much them he-attacks the day from near
Un des Bastarz, Siciliën,
One of-the Bastards Sicilien
qui chevalier esteit mout buen,
who knight was very good
a del braz destre mahaignié:
he-has in-the arm right maimed
onc puis ne pot ferir d'espié.
ever after not he-could strike with-spear
Deïphebus en ot grant duel:
Deiphobus thereof had great grief
vengera le, s'il puet, son vuel.
he-will-avenge him if-he can his wish
Tant atendi qu'il en vit aise.
So-long he-waited that-he thereof saw ease
Sor un cheval sist de Roaise:
On a horse he-sat of Edessa
l'escu saisi, la lance prise,
the-shield seized the lance taken
le vait ferir par tel devise
him he-goes to-strike by such device
qu'escu e braz li cost al cors.
that-shield and arm to-him he-sews to-the body
D'estrange lieu sera estors,
From-strange place he-will-be turned

se il en vit, mais ne por quant
if he thereof lives but nor for how-much
e lui ensemble e l'auferrant
and him together and the-charger
a fait a terre trebuchier.
he-has made to earth tumble
Puis mist la main al brant d'acier;
Then he-put the hand to-the blade of-steel
cous estranges li done e meist
blows strange to-him he-gives and puts
desus le heaume, cui qu'en peist,
upon the helmet to-whom that-thereof it-may-weigh
e dist: «Vassaus, poi estes sage,
and said Vassal little you-are wise
«qui si volez nostre lignage
who so wish our lineage
«desheriter e abaissier:
to-disinherit and to-lower
«N'i a mais rien del manacier.
Not-there is more anything of-the threatening
«Anceis que vienge la vespree,
Before that may-come the evening
«vos donge Deus male colee,
to-you may-give God evil blow
«si que de vos en plaist l'orguieuz
so that from you thereof may-bend the-pride
«e que m'antain en plort des ieuz!»
and that my-aunt thereof may-weep from-the eyes

Deïphebus ert mout iriez:
Deiphobus was very angered
ja fust sis frere bien vengiez,
already would-be his brother well avenged
mais li bons dus Atheniëns
but the good duke Athenian
vint apoignant par mi les rens,
came spurring through the-midst the ranks
sor un cheval bai d'Aragon:
on a horse bay of-Aragon
escu e lance e confanon
shield and lance and pennon
ot de l'uevre Saragoceise.
he-had of the-work Saragossan
Ire a e duel e mout li peise
Wrath he-has and grief and much to-him weighs
de Telamon, qu'il veit laidir.
for Telamon whom-he sees ill-used
Deïphebon ala ferir
Deiphobus he-went to-strike
par mi la targe peinte a flor,
through the-midst the targe painted with flower
si que l'enseigne de color
so that the-banner of color
li est passee lez le piz.
to-him is passed beside the chest
Ainz qu'il se fust d'iluec partiz,
Before that-he himself were from-there parted

l'orent Greu entre eus abatu
him-had Greeks among themselves thrown-down
e desor lui maint coup feru,
and above him many-a blow struck
quant Troïlus e Eneas,
when Troïlus and Aeneas
Paris e danz Polidamas
Paris and lord Polydamas
i avindrent o grant esforz:
there arrived with great effort
ici rot mout chevaliers morz.
here again-were many knights dead
Deïphebon vuelent rescorre,
Deiphobus they-wish to-rescue
mais chaeiz est en si male hore,
but fallen he-is in so evil hour
nel pueent faire remonter
not-him they-can make remount
ne de la presse fors geter.
nor from the press out throw
Entres chevaus chiet plusors feiz
Among horses he-falls many times
si angoissos e si destreiz
so anguished and so distressed
que par la boche sans li raie.
that through the mouth blood to-him streams
Ne li portent point de manaie
Not to-him carry at-all of mercy
cil de Grece, quant il l'ataignent:
those of Greece when they him-reach

o les lances d'acier l'empeignent;
with the lances of-steel him-they-thrust
a denz le refont trebuchier;
on teeth him again-they-make tumble
sor lui s'en passent mil destrier.
over him themselves-thence pass a-thousand chargers
Par mi les mailles del blançon
Through the-midst the mails of-the hauberk
vuide le sanc sor le sablon.
he-empties the blood on the sand
Ço dura mout, mais nequeden
That lasted much but nevertheless
tant s'esforcierent Troïen
so-much themselves-strove Trojans
qu'il le traistrent fors de la presse.
that-they him drew out of the press
Sor un cheval le rei d'Aresse
On a horse (of-)the king of-Aresse
est remontez en es le pas,
he-is remounted on the-very the step
puis les revait ferir el tas.
then them again-he-goes to-strike in-the heap
Del brant d'acier lor fait present:
With-the blade of-steel to-them he-makes present
s'il l'ont laidi, chier le lor vent.
if-they him-have ill-used dear it to-them he-sells

Le jor i ot mortel bataille.
The day there was mortal battle
Palamedès mout se travaille
Palamedes much himself labors
com ceus dedenz ait reüsez
how those within he-may-have driven-back
dreit as trenchiees des fossez.
straight to-the trenches of-the ditches
Les suens somont, sovent s'escrie
The his he-summons often himself-cries
e sovent fait chevalerie.
and often he-does chivalry
A lui brocha Deïphebus:
At him spurred Deiphobus
d'une grant lance de benus
with-a great lance of ebony
l'a si feru que toz chancele;
him-he-has so struck that all he-totters
por un poi ne guerpi la sele.
for a little not he-left the saddle
Cil ne ra pas a lui failli,
That-one not again-has at-all to him failed
qu'une lance d'acier bruni
for-a lance of-steel burnished
li a mis par mi la forcele.
to-him he-has put through the-midst the breast-bone
Ha! com ci a freide novele
Ah how here there-is cold news
al rei Priant e a Paris!
to-the king Priam and to Paris

Ici n'ot pas eschar ne ris,
Here not-was-there at-all mockery nor laughter
que duel estrange e merveillos:
but grief strange and marvelous
onc om ne vit si angoissos.
ever one not saw so anguished
Paris li beaus l'en a porté
Paris the fair him-thence has carried
o tot le tros vers la cité:
with all the stump toward the city
n'est pas feniz, mais il morra
not-he-is at-all ended but he will-die
si tost com del cors li istra.
so soon as from-the body to-him it-will-come-out
Le duel qu'il fait ne sait nus dire:
The grief which-he makes not knows anyone tell
o s'espee se vueut ocire;
with his-sword himself he-wishes to-kill
sor lui se pasme e se devore
over him himself he-swoons and himself tears
e mout maudit le terme e l'ore
and much he-curses the term and the-hour
que il tant vit; mais icel jor
that he so-much lives but that day
se refera ocire as lor:
himself he-will-make-again kill by-the theirs
«Frere, après vos ne vivrai plus».
Brother after you not I-shall-live more
Les ieuz ovri Deïphebus,
The eyes opened Deiphobus

a lui parla e dist itant:
to him he-spoke and said so-much
«Amis» fait il «jo vos comant
Friend says he I you command
«que retorgeiz a la bataille,
that you-return to the battle
«e si guardez qu'il n'i ait faille: 18700
and so guard that-there not-there may-be fail
«De Palamedès me vengiez,
On Palamedes me avenge
«ainz que li tros me seit sachiez.
before that the stump from-me may-be drawn
«Metez i tot vostre poëir,
Put there all your power
«quar, se jo sa mort puis saveir,
for if I his death can know
«senz ço qu'en seit m'ame marrie 18705
without that that-thereof may-be my-soul grieved
«trespasserai de ceste vie;
I-shall-pass from this life
«tant retendrai mon esperite
so-long I-shall-hold-back my spirit
«que la verité m'en iert dite.
until the truth to-me-thereof will-be told
«Hastez vos mout, quar poi s'en faut
Hasten you much for little itself-thence fails
«que li cuers ne me ment e faut.» 18710
that the heart not to-me fails and gives-out

The Deaths of Sarpedon and Palamedes

LXXXI

Paris returns to the battle lamenting, with a bow of horn sent to Priam by King Fegor of Leutiz. Palamedes rallies the Greeks and presses the Trojans hard. Sarpedon, the young king who has borne arms ten years, wounds him on the helmet, but Palamedes cuts off his thigh and he dies. Then Paris shoots Palamedes through the neck, and he falls dead. Their prince's death dismays the Greeks, and the Trojans rout them back to their tents. Menelaus, Telamon, Ajax, Thoas, Ulysses, Diomedes, and the duke of Athens defend the camp, but more than ten thousand Trojans fight on foot among the tents. They take five hundred pavilions full of gold and silver plate.

Paris, pleins d'ire e de dolor,
Paris full of-wrath and of grief
est remontez el milsoudor:
is remounted on-the thousand-sou-steed
l'eve des ieuz li file a val,
the-water from-the eyes to-him streams to below
a grant peine estait el cheval;
with great pain he-stood on-the horse
18715 plaint e regrete son damage
he-laments and mourns his harm
e la perte de son lignage;
and the loss of his lineage
Destinee maudit sovent
Destiny he-curses often
e qui s'i creit e s'i atent:
and who himself-thereon trusts and himself-thereon waits
«Chaitis», fait il, «tant m'est pesante!
Wretch says he so-much to-me-it-is heavy

«A qu'en tendreie jo mais cante
For what-thereof I-would-hold I more count
«que biens me vienge? Ne puet estre.
that good to-me may-come Not can be
«Jo me deüsse o ma main destre
I me ought with my hand right
«ferir par mi les dous costez.
to-strike through the-midst the two sides
«Ha! las, jo cuit qu'il iert assez
Ah weary I think that-it will-be enough
«desci a brief terme quil face.
until at brief term who-it may-do
«Vivrai jo donc? Ja Deu ne place
Shall-live I then Ever God not may-it-please
«que jo après mes freres vive!
that I after my brothers may-live
«Ha! Ecuba, mere chaitive,
Ah Hecuba mother wretched
«com grant haschiee vos atent!
how great torment you awaits
«Tant avreiz vostre cuer dolent,
So-much you-will-have your heart grieving
«quant vos verreiz vostre fil mort!
when you will-see your son dead
«Beaus douz frere, quel desconfort!
Fair sweet brother what discomfort
«Bien somes mort e confondu,
Well we-are dead and confounded
«quant ensi vos avons perdu.
when thus you we-have lost

«Mout par coveit, mout par desir
Very much I-covet very much I-desire
«vostre voleir a acomplir:
your will to fulfill
«Vengerai vos, n'i faudrai mie,
I-shall-avenge you not-there I-shall-fail at-all
«o jo perdrai anceis la vie.
or I shall-lose before the life
«Enjoint m'avez grant penitance,
Enjoined to-me-you-have great penance
«mais de fi sache senz dotance
but of certain let-him-know without doubt
«Palamedès, que jo vois querre,
Palamedes whom I go to-seek
«de l'un de nos sera la guerre
of the-one of us will-be the war
«achevee jusqu'a petit.»
finished within little
Ensi com reconte l'Escrit,
Thus as recounts the-Writing
un arc tendu de cor faitiz —
a bow bent of horn made
Fegor, li reis de Leütiz,
Fegor the king of Leutiz
l'aveit le rei Priant tramis,
it-had to-the king Priam sent
e il l'aveit doné Paris;
and he it-had given (to-)Paris
forz ert li ars e bien traianz:
strong was the bow and well shooting

n'en preïst mie mil besanz —
not-for-it he-would-take at-all a-thousand bezants
une saiete a encochiee
an arrow he-has nocked
reide e trenchant e aguisiee.
stiff and cutting and sharpened
Donc prie as deus que il ne faille,
Then he-prays to-the gods that he not may-fail
grant eirre en vient a la bataille,
great pace thence he-comes to the battle
que mout ert grant e perillose
which much was great and perilous
e d'ambedous parz damajose.
and on-both sides harmful
Granz huz i a e granz menees
Great shouts there are and great rushes
e sor heaumes granz cous d'espees:
and on helmets great blows of-swords
sovent chacent, sovent s'en vont;
often they-chase often themselves-thence they-go
sovent tornent, sovent s'estont;
often they-turn often themselves-stand
li un les autres envaïssent;
the some the others attack
a miliers muerent e fenissent.
by thousands they-die and end
Palamedès est premerains,
Palamedes is first
qui mout damage Troïains:
who much harms Trojans

ceus de Grece chadele e meine.
those of Greece he-leads and guides
Son poëir met tot e sa peine
His power he-puts all and his pain
a desconfire Troïens.
to discomfit Trojans
A haute voiz escrie as suens:
With high voice he-cries to-the his
«Franc chevalier, alons lor sore:
Noble knights let-us-go on-them over
«Li chans iert nostre en petit d'ore;
The field will-be ours in little of-hour
«se vos volez esvertuër,
if you wish to-exert-yourselves
«ja lor verreiz les dos torner;
soon to-them you-will-see the backs turn
«ja en sera la perte lor,
soon thereof will-be the loss theirs
«se un poi maintenez l'estor.
if a little you-maintain the-fight
«Faisons les hurter as destreiz,
Let-us-make them drive into-the narrow-passes
«sin i remandra mil de freiz.»
so-thereof there will-remain a-thousand of cold
Un graile a fait lez lui soner,
A trumpet he-has made beside him sound
puis lor laissent chevaus aler;
then to-them they-let horses go
fierent de lances e d'espees.
they-strike with lances and with-swords

Adonc i rot de granz meslees.
Then there again-were of great melees
Bien se sont Troïen tenu:
Well themselves are Trojans held
ne lor ont pas le champ tolu,
not from-them they-have at-all the field taken
mais mout i perdent, c'est la fin.
but much there they-lose that-is the end
Reis Sarpedon ert un meschin
King Sarpedon was a youth
mout beaus, mout genz, mout afaitiez,
very fair very noble very well-bred
e mout esteit d'armes preisiez.
and very he-was in-arms prized
Cil aveit la cité guarnie:
That-one had the city garrisoned
mout aveit riche compaignie.
very he-had rich company
Dis anz aveit armes portees
Ten years he-had arms borne
e de teus uevres achevees
and of such works achieved
dont il esteit mout coneüz,
whereby he was very known
quar en mainz lieus s'ert combatuz;
for in many places himself-had fought
maint esforz aveit fait de sei.
many-a effort he-had made of himself

Cil vit le doloros tornei
That-one saw the grievous tourney
e le damage de si près
and the harm from so near
que lor fait reis Palamedès:
which to-them does king Palamedes
o ses paroles, o ses diz,
with his words with his sayings
a ceus de Grece resbaudiz;
he-has those of Greece emboldened
veit qu'il a mort Deïphebus:
he-sees that-he has killed Deiphobus
iriez fu tant qu'il ne pot plus.
angered he-was so-much that-he not could more
Le brant d'acier del fuerre trait;
The blade of-steel from-the scabbard he-draws
le cheval broche, si li vait.
the horse he-spurs so to-him goes
Sor le heaume le fiert maneis,
On the helmet him he-strikes at-once
ne sai, dous cous mout granz o treis:
not I-know two blows very great or three
les mailles li sont embarrees
the mails to-him are driven-in
e soz le heaume el chief entrees;
and under the helmet into-the head entered
el sanc burent, teus quinze i ot.
in-the blood drank such fifteen there were
Mais, al plus tost qu'il onques pot,
But at-the most soon that-he ever could

l'en rendi mortel guerredon:
to-him-thereof he-rendered mortal reward
la cuisse o tot le vif braon
the thigh with all the live flesh
li a trenchiee. Cil chancele;
to-him he-has cut That-one totters
li cors chaï jus de la sele.
the body fell down from the saddle
En poi d'ore ot le sanc voidié;
In little of-hour he-had the blood emptied
morz est: ço est duel e pechié.
dead he-is that is grief and sin
Mout ert de lui grant renomee,
Much was of him great renown
mais itel ert sa destinee:
but such was his destiny
ne la poëit pas eschiver
not it he-could at-all escape
ne le mortel jor trespasser.
nor the mortal day pass
Quant reis Sarpedon fu feniz,
When king Sarpedon was ended
assez i ot noises e criz.
enough there were noises and cries
Cil de Grece ont joie e baudor,
Those of Greece have joy and exultation
e Troïen ire e dolor:
and Trojans wrath and grief

al cors traire fors des chevaus
at-the body drawing out from-the horses
perdent les chiés mainz bons vassaus.
lose the heads many good vassals
Mout s'en peinent, mais ne puet estre.
Much themselves-thereto they-strive but not it-can be
Palamedès, qui d'eus est maistre,
Palamedes who of-them is master
les damage de son poëir.
them harms to his power
Par force e par vif estoveir
By force and by lively necessity
les remuërent de la place:
them they-moved from the place
bien cuit qu'assez durast la chace
well I-think that-enough would-have-lasted the chase
desci qu'as doves des fossez,
until that-to-the moats of-the ditches
mais Paris vint toz entesez.
but Paris came all aiming
Bien a choisi Palamedès,
Well he-has chosen Palamedes
contre li vait de plain eslais;
against him he-goes at full gallop
lui avisa, d'aïr a trait.
him he-aimed with-fury he-has shot
Ici a bien estrange plait:
Here there-is well strange plea
ne li a fait nul autre mal,
not to-him he-has done any other harm

mais l'os e la veine orguenal
but the-bone and the vein windpipe
li a trenchié par la ventaille,
to-him he-has cut through the ventail
que morz chaï en la bataille.
so-that dead he-fell in the battle
Mout par a fait beau trait Paris,
Very much has made fair shot Paris
damagiez a ses enemis:
harmed he-has his enemies
onques si grant duel ne reçurent.
ever so great grief not they-received
Cil qui a la bataille furent
Those who at the battle were
virent la fiere destinee:
saw the fierce destiny
la sort teus braiz e tel criëe,
there arises such wails and such outcry
teus plainz, teus plors e tel dolor!
such laments such weeping and such grief
Quant Greu virent mort lor seignor
When Greeks saw dead their lord
e le maistre prince de toz,
and the master prince of all
si s'en esmaia li plus proz
so himself-thereof dismayed the most valiant
que toz les cuers en fin perdirent,
that all the hearts in end they-lost
o ço que cil bien le refirent.
with that that those well it again-did

Resbaudi furent Troïen:
Emboldened were Trojans
n'i a cel d'eus nel face bien.
not-there is that-one of-them not-it may-do well
Sevent qu'est morz Palamedès:
They-know that-is dead Palamedes
lors brochierent de plain eslais,
then they-spurred at full gallop
les branz nuz traiz, feus e iriez.
the blades naked drawn fierce and angered
La en ot mout des detrenchiez,
There thereof were many of-the cut-to-pieces
des navrez e des abatuz;
of-the wounded and of-the thrown-down
maintenant fu li chans vencuz.
at-once was the field vanquished
Desconfit furent Greu le jor,
Discomfited were Greeks the day
trop par i perdirent des lor:
too very there they-lost of-the theirs
n'i ot conrei qui se tenist
not-there was troop which itself might-hold
e qui le jor mout n'i perdist.
and which the day much not-there lost
Assez i torna Menelaus
Enough there turned Menelaus
e Telamon e Aïaus,
and Telamon and Ajax
Thoas li reis e Ulixès,
Thoas the king and Ulysses

e si refist Diomedès
and so again-did Diomedes
e li bons dus Atheniiens:
and the good duke Athenian
cil damagent mout Troiiens.
these harm much Trojans
Ne s'en vont pas come esbaï,
Not themselves-thence they-go at-all as bewildered
quar o les branz d'acier forbi
for with the blades of-steel furbished
font rescosses assez sovent.
they-make rescues enough often
Mout se defendent vassaument,
Much themselves they-defend valiantly
mais poi ont qui a eus s'apongent,
but few they-have who to them themselves-join
as Troïens les dos ne dongent.
to-the Trojans the backs not they-give
Solonc l'Autor en dirai veir:
According-to the-Author thereof I-shall-say true
par force e par vif estoveir,
by force and by lively necessity
les mistrent senz recovrement
them they-put without recovery
par mi les tentes laidement.
through the-midst the tents foully
La se defendent por la mort,
There themselves they-defend against the death
mais mout i ot grant desconfort,
but much there was great discomfort

quar mout perdent de grant maniere;
for much they-lose in great manner
bataille suefrent grant e fiere.
battle they-suffer great and fierce
Dis mile e plus des citeains,
Ten thousand and more of-the citizens
que fiz, que freres, que germains,
both sons and brothers and cousins
i descendent de lor chevaus,
there dismount from their horses
e Greu lor ont livré estaus.
and Greeks to-them have delivered stands
Li tref e li bon paveillon
The tents and the good pavilions
lor sont paliz, mur e donjon:
to-them are palisades wall and keep
fort se defendent al veir dire.
strongly themselves they-defend to-the truth say
Ha! las, quel duel e quel martire!
Ah weary what grief and what martyrdom
Qui onc vit mais si faite ocise?
Who ever saw more so made slaughter
La farine que l'om tamise
The flour which one sifts
ne chiet pas si espés d'assez
not falls at-all so thick by-much
com darz e quarreaus empenez.
as darts and bolts feathered

Poi i valent hauberc doblier
Little there avail hauberks doubled
contre les javeloz d'acier:
against the javelins of-steel
muerent, fenissent a monceaus.
they-die they-end in heaps
Cinc cenz paveillons buens e beaus, 18900
Five hundred pavilions good and fair
toz pleins de robe e de vaissele
all full of robes and of vessels
d'or e d'argent cherisme e bele,
of-gold and of-silver very-dear and fair
i ont guaaignié cil dedenz.
there have won those within

The Ships Set on Fire

LXXXII

During the fight Paris and Troilus ride to the shore and burn more than seven hundred ships. Ajax Telamon rescues the rest and, as Dares records, saves the whole host that day. Wounded Greeks go to Achilles in his tent, and the dying son of Heber of Thrace calls him a traitor and a coward before he dies. Messengers from Ajax beg him to help, but Achilles goes on playing chess. Nightfall ends the battle. In Troy, Deiphobus asks three times whether he is avenged, has the lance drawn out, and dies; Paris swoons over him, and Priam faints again and again. Troy mourns Sarpedon, the Greeks mourn Palamedes, and at Nestor's urging they choose Agamemnon as their prince again.

Tant dis com dura li contenz,
So-long while as lasted the struggle
Paris li beaus e Troïlus,
Paris the fair and Troilus
o chevaliers vint mile e plus,
with knights twenty thousand and more
chevauchierent dreit a la mer,
rode straight to the sea
si ont les nes fait alumer.
so they-have the ships made set-alight
Al chaut furent les nes sechiees,
With-the heat were the ships dried
que al port erent essaiviees:
which at-the port were drawn-ashore
o ço qu'auques est forz li venz,
with that that-somewhat is strong the wind
en i arstrent plus de set cenz.
thereof there they-burned more than seven hundreds

Mar fust venuz icist jornaus,
Ill would-have-been come this day
ne fust Telamon Aïaus;
were-it not Telamonian Ajax
tote fut arse la navie,
all was burned the fleet
mais o trop riche compaignie
but with very rich company
l'ala rescorre, c'est vertez.
it-he-went to-rescue that-is truth
Les suens a bien amonestez;
The his he-has well admonished
«vez», fait lor il, «ci n'a prison
see says to-them he here not-there-is prison
«ne ostage ne raençon:
nor hostage nor ransom
«Nus ne s'i rent, nus n'i est pris,
Any not himself-there surrenders any not-there is taken
«sempres maneis ne seit ocis.
at-once straightway not may-be killed
«Cist nos sont mortel enemi,
These to-us are mortal enemies
«quar nos l'avons bien deservi.
for we it-have well deserved
«Quant tel en est la destinee,
When such thereof is the destiny
«seit lor nostre ire demostree
let-be to-them our wrath shown
«e qu'il a en nos de valor.
and that-which-there is in us of worth

«Morir deit chascuns a son jor:
To-die ought each at his day
«Par la nos en covient passer.
By there us thereof behooves to-pass
«Or n'i a plus rien del torner,
Now not-there is more anything of-the turning
«mais del faire proosement.
but of-the doing valiantly
«Sacheiz, se cil sont mi parent,
Know if those are my kinsmen
«ja ne s'en savront aparceivre
ever not themselves-thereof they-will-know perceive
«que n'en face des ames seivre
that not-thereof I-may-make from-the souls sever
«toz ceus que porrai damagier.
all those whom I-shall-be-able to-harm
«Vez le bosoing e le mestier!
See the need and the necessity
«Poignons e sis alons ferir,
Let-us-spur and so-them let-us-go to-strike
«quar n'i a rien del plus sofrir.
for not-there is anything of-the more suffering
«Chascuns defende son escu
Each let-defend his shield
«e la teste desor le bu.»
and the head above the trunk
Adonc laissent chevaus aler:
Then they-let horses go
soz eus font la terre croller.
under them they-make the earth shake

La sonent graile e meienel.
There sound trumpets and horns
Qui a enseigne o panoncel,
Who has banner or pennon
baniere o confanon de seie,
banner or pennon of silk
sil lait aler e sil despleie:
so-it let-him-let go and so-it unfurl
qui cest conrei veit chevauchier
who this troop sees ride
si puet bien dire e afichier
so can well say and affirm
qu'orgueil i a grant senz mentir.
that-pride there is great without lying
Troïens sont alé ferir
Trojans are gone to-strike
si durement que des plançons
so harshly that from-the shafts
volent asteles e tronçons
fly splinters and stumps
e que penons d'orfreis brosdez
and that pennons with-orphrey embroidered
lor remainent par les costez.
to-them remain through the sides
Ci en verserent teus set cenz,
Here thereof overturned such seven hundreds
qui toz les cors orent sanglenz,
who all the bodies had bloody
que puis n'ont mestier d'esporon;
that after not-have need of-spur

ici ot chaple e contençon
here was hacking and contention
e estor fel e pesme e dur.
and fight felon and wicked and hard
Les feus veient de sor le mur
The fires they-see from above the wall
e la bataille perillose,
and the battle perilous
que le jor fu mout angoissose:
which the day was very anguished
a cri s'en issent de la vile,
with cry themselves-thence they-go-out from the town
senz nul conrei, plus de vint mile.
without any order more than twenty thousand
A la bataille vienent freis,
To the battle they-come fresh
mais mout se defendent Grezeis.
but much themselves defend Greeks
Sor toz Telamon Aïaus
Above all Telamonian Ajax
proz fu le jor e teus vassaus
valiant was the day and such vassal
que, s'il ne fust, ço dit l'Escrit
that if-he not had-been that says the-Writing
e Daires, qu'a ses ieuz le vit,
and Dares who-with his eyes it saw
mort fussent tuit e les nes arses,
dead would-be all and the ships burned
que el gravier erent esparses:
which on-the gravel were scattered

ja n'en i remansissent treis,
ever not-thereof there would-have-remained three
e si savons bien que c'est veirs;
and so we-know well that it-is true
le jor fust la guerre fenie,
the day would-be the war ended
ne fust cil e sa compaignie.
were-it not that-one and his company
Merveille i firent si dui braz:
Marvel there made his two arms
le pris en ot d'ambedous parz,
the prize thereof he-had on-both sides
e sil dut il tres bien aveir.
and so-it ought he very well to-have
Li meillor trei, ço sai de veir,
The best three that I-know of truth
n'i firent tant come il toz sous:
not-there did so-much as he all alone
o le brant d'acier perillos
with the blade of-steel perilous
venqui le jor teus vint estors,
won the day such twenty fights
dont Greu erent les sordeiors.
whereby Greeks were the worse
Mais ço que chaut? Trop sont gregié
But that what matters Too-much they-are aggrieved
e mort e navré e blecié.
and dead and wounded and hurt

Cil qui nel porent endurer
Those who not-it could endure
le vont a Achillès mostrer.
it they-go to Achilles to-show
Il ert dedenz son paveillon:
He was within his pavilion
n'aveit home ne compaignon
not-be-had man nor companion
qui s'i osast armer le jor;
who himself-there dared arm the day
por ço en ont mout grant dolor,
for that thereof they-have very great grief
n'osent enfraindre la manace.
not-they-dare break the threat
Li fiz Heber, al rei de Trace,
The son (of-)Heber of-the king of Thrace
chevaliers beaus e coneüz,
knight fair and known
est, sei disime, a lui venuz.
is himself the-tenth to him come
Ne sembloënt pas chevalier
Not they-seemed at-all knights
qui venissent de doneier,
who might-come from courting
quar des heaumes bruniz d'acier
for of-the helmets burnished of-steel
furent fait pieces e quartier:
were made pieces and quarters
n'orent ne lance ne escu,
not-they-had nor lance nor shield

lor bon hauberc sont derompu;
their good hauberks are broken
par mi le cors ont gros tronçons;
through the-midst the body they-have thick stumps
pert lor le feie e les poumons;
appears to-them the liver and the lungs
detrenchié sont par mi les vis.
cut-to-pieces they-are through the-midst the faces
Si sont empeirié e maumis,
So they-are damaged and misused
n'i a mie d'eus dous ne treis
not-there is at-all of-them two nor three
qui ja veient la fin del meis.
who ever may-see the end of-the month
Un confanon o tot le fer
A pennon with all the iron
ot enz el cors li fiz Heber;
had right in-the body the son (of-)Heber
le braz ot trenchié en travers.
the arm he-had cut in across
Ensanglentez, pales e pers,
Bloodied pale and livid
si come il pot parler a peine, —
so as he could speak with pain
quar ja sent la mort e aleine, —
for already he-feels the death and scents
a Achillès mis a reison:
he-has Achilles put to reason

«Coilverz», fait il, «de traïson
Base-one says he of treason
«devriëz bien estre apelez,
you-ought well to-be called
«qu'a ocire nos esguardez.
that-to killing us you-look-on
«Hui somes mort, pris e vencu:
Today we-are dead taken and vanquished
«Onc n'en preïstes vostre escu
Ever not-thereof you-took your shield
«ne n'eümes par vos socors.
nor not-we-had by you help
«La honte e les granz deshonors
The shame and the great dishonors
«que hui receit nostre ligniee
which today receives our lineage
«deüst par vos estre vengiee.
ought by you to-be avenged
«Vis recreanz, a toz jorz mais
Vile craven to all days more
«en sereiz tenuz por mauvais,
thereby you-will-be held for bad
«qui c'endurez por nule rien,
who that-endure for any thing
«qu'ensi nos veinquent Troïien.
that-thus us vanquish Trojans
«Failliz nos estes al bosoing.
Failed to-us you-are at-the need

«Ha! las, que cist tres est si loing
Ah weary that this tent is so far
«des premerains de devers eus!
from-the first from toward them
«Recreanz e coarz e feus,
Craven and coward and felon
«quel vergoigne devez aveir!
what shame you-ought to-have
«E si cuit jo, par estoveir
And so think I by necessity
«le vos covendra a laissier,
it to-you will-behoove to leave
«quar mout sont près lor chevalier.
for very near are their knights
«Bien vei nes i atendreiz mie,
Well I-see not-them there you-will-await at-all
«quar proëce vos est faillie;
for prowess to-you is failed
«e si n'avez vos ou foïr,
and so not-have you where to-flee
«qu'as nes n'est rien del revertir:
for-to-the ships not-is-there anything of-the returning
«Arses sont hui a feu Grezeis.»
Burned they-are today by fire Greek
Adonc vindrent messagiers treis
Then came messengers three
de part Telamon Aïaus:
on part-of Telamonian Ajax
«Sire,» font il, «nobles vassaus,
Lord say they noble vassal

«ço te mande nostre seignor,
that to-thee sends our lord
«que tant s'est combatuz as lor,
that so-much himself-is fought with-the theirs
«le mieuz de sa gent a perdue:
the best of his folk he-has lost
«Se or ne li vas faire aiuë,
If now not to-him thou-goest to-make aid
«les nes sont arses e perdues,
the ships are burned and lost
«qu'il a vassaument defendues.
which-he has valiantly defended
«Sire, mout ont perdu Grezeis,
Lord much have lost Greeks
«mais ore, o ço que tu iés freis,
but now with that that thou art fresh
«s'i veniëz, tei e tes genz,
if-there you-came thou and thy folk
«mort sereient ja cil dedenz.
dead would-be already those within
«Il n'ont conrei ne gent, senz faille,
They not-have troop nor folk without fail
«ne seit venue a la bataille:
not may-be come to the battle
«Vien, beaus sire, sis desconfis;
Come fair lord so-them discomfit
«si en sera toz tuens li pris.»
so thereof will-be all thine the prize
Li fiz Heber, al rei de Trace,
The son (of-)Heber of-the king of Thrace

a respondu: «Ja Deu ne place
has answered Ever God not may-it-please
«que ja mais chose puisse faire
that ever more thing he-may do
«que nus hom puisse en bien retraire!»
which any man may in good recount
Li sans li ist del cors a fais:
The blood to-him comes-out from-the body in burden
«Jo ne puis vivre,» fait il, «mais:
I not can live says he more
«Toz les deus pri e cri merci
All the gods I-beg and cry mercy
«qu'ainz que cist meis seit acompli,
that-before that this month may-be fulfilled
«sive la soë ame les noz.»
may-follow the his soul the ours
Ne parla mie puis dous moz:
Not he-spoke at-all after two words
el cors li est li cuers partiz;
in-the body to-him is the heart split
en mout poi d'ore fu feniz.
in very little of-hour he-was ended
Achillès fait chiere e semblant
Achilles makes face and semblance
que lui n'en seit ne tant ne quant.
that to-him not-thereof may-be nor so-much nor how-much
N'i respont mot ne n'i entent:
Not-there he-answers word nor not-there attends

o uns eschas d'or e d'argent
with some chessmen of-gold and of-silver
joë a un chevalier des suens;
he-plays with a knight of-the his
pense qu'ancore avra ses buens,
he-thinks that-yet he-will-have his goods
quar Greu feront par estoveir
for Greeks will-do by necessity
trestot son buen e son voleir.
all his good and his will
Li trei li font mout grant preiere,
The three to-him make very great prayer
mais onc n'en leva sol la chiere
but ever not-thereof he-raised even the face
ne ne fist semblant dels oïr.
nor not made seeming them-of hearing
Ç'afiche Daires, senz mentir,
That-affirms Dares without lying
s'eüst li jorz greignor duree,
if-had the day greater duration
tote fust la guerre finee:
all would-be the war ended
fin en esteit, ne fust li seirs
end thereof it-was were-it not the evening
e l'airs del ciel oscurs e neirs,
and the-air of-the sky dark and black
qui covri la clarté del jor.
which covered the brightness of-the day

Troïen partent de l'estor.
Trojans part from the-fight
Corné ont plusor la retraite:
Sounded have many the retreat
s'il n'eüssent tel perte faite,
if-they not-had such loss made
mout eüssent bien espleitié,
very they-would-have well achieved
mais n'i a cel ne seit irié
but not-there is that-one not may-be angered
de ço qu'est morz Deïphebus.
for that that-is dead Deiphobus
Torné s'en sont, jo n'en sai plus.
Turned themselves-thence they-are I not-thereof know more
Par les osteus de la cité
Through the lodgings of the city
sont descendu e desarmé.
they-are dismounted and disarmed
Cil s'aaisa qui fairel pot:
That-one himself-eased who to-do-it could
ço sacheiz bien, grant duel i ot.
that know well great grief there was
De Deïphebus sont marri,
For Deiphobus they-are grieved
triste, ploros e amorni.
sad tearful and gloomy
N'esteit pas morz, ancore ert vis;
Not-he-was at-all dead yet he-was alive
mout desirot veeir Paris.
much he-desired to-see Paris

Il ert amuïz: piece aveit
He was gone-mute while-ago it-had
qu'il n'oëit mais ne n'entendeit.
that-he not-heard more nor not-understood
Sor lui se rest Paris pasmez:
Over him himself again-is Paris swooned
li dueus fu trop desmesurez.
the grief was too beyond-measure
E icil, cui la mort demeine,
And that-one whom the death leads
ovri les ieuz a mout grant peine:
opened the eyes with very great pain
de parler tant s'esvertua
of speaking so-much himself-exerted
que par treis feiz li demanda
that by three times to-him he-asked
s'il ert vengiez. Quant il le sot,
if-he was avenged When he it knew
mout l'en fu bel e mout li plot:
much to-him-thereof it-was fair and much to-him pleased
«Dès or,» fait il, «m'ostez la lance:
From now says he from-me-remove the lance
«Ne me fait mais la mort pesance.
Not to-me makes more the death heaviness
«L'ame d'Ector, mon chier seignor,
The-soul of-Hector my dear lord
«verrai, se jo puis, ainz le jor.
I-shall-see if I can before the day
«Dreit a la soë ira la meie:
Straight to the his will-go the mine

«Dès or m'est tart que jo i seie.
From now to-me-it-is late that I there may-be
«Confortez mei,» fait il, «mon pere,
Comfort me says he my father
«e sor trestote rien ma mere:
and above all thing my mother
«Li deu lor seient en aïe!»
The gods to-them may-be in aid
La parole li est faillie:
The speech to-him is failed
clos a les ieuz, morz est entre eus.
closed he-has the eyes dead he-is among them
Adonc comença granz li dueus.
Then began great the grief
Del cors li ont le tros osté,
From-the body to-him they-have the stump removed
puis l'en portent en la cité.
then him-thence they-carry into the city
Sacheiz qu'a grant duel i entra:
Know that-with great grief there it-entered
ja mais nus hom greignor n'orra.
ever more any man greater not-will-hear
Tuit le plaignent e tuit le plorent;
All him lament and all him weep
a lor poëir le cors honorent.
to their power the body they-honor
Li reis Prianz est si destreiz
The king Priam is so distressed
que pasmez s'est plus de cent feiz.
that swooned himself-is more than a-hundred times

De la reïne que direie,
Of the queen what I-would-say
ne a que vos acontereie
nor for what to-you I-would-recount
la merveille de sa destrece,
the marvel of her distress
de sa dolor, de sa tristece?
of her grief of her sadness
En grant angoisse e en torment
In great anguish and in torment
furent la nuit frere e parent:
were the night brothers and kinsmen
tant orent duel, ire e contraire,
so-much they-had grief wrath and trouble
ne vos en sai le quart retraire.
not to-you thereof I-know the fourth recount
Sarpedon fu mout regretez
Sarpedon was much mourned
e de trestoz plainz e plorez.
and by all lamented and wept
Trop sont de lui afebleié:
Too-much they-are by him weakened
n'aveit dedenz nul plus preisié,
not-it-had within any more prized
plus aidable ne plus vaillant.
more helpful nor more worthy
En l'ost refont un duel si grant
In the-host again-they-make a grief so great
que nus nel savreit reconter:
that any not-it would-know recount

qui oïst a toz regreter
who had-heard to all mourn
Palamedès bien poüst dire
Palamedes well he-could say
qu'assez eüssent duel e ire.
that-enough they-had grief and wrath
Son grant saveir e sa bonté
His great knowledge and his goodness
e sa sciënce e sa beauté
and his science and his beauty
e son douz cuer e sa franchise
and his sweet heart and his nobility
ont regreté en mainte guise.
they-have mourned in many-a way
La nuit orent assez dolor;
The night they-had enough grief
blecié, navré sont li plusor.
hurt wounded are the most
Assez i ot ire e deshait:
Enough there was wrath and dismay
diënt que malement lor vait,
they-say that badly to-them it-goes
quant Palamedès ont perdu:
when Palamedes they-have lost
«Mort sont,» ço diënt, «e vencu.»
Dead they-are that they-say and vanquished
Ne se sevent ou conseillier,
Not themselves they-know where to-counsel
ne qui l'ost sache maistreier.
nor who the-host may-know master

Empor cest grant deshaitement,
For this great dismay
josterent Greu un parlement.
assembled Greeks a parley
Nestor li vieuz, li plus senez,
Nestor the old the most wise
les en a toz areisonez:
them thereof has all addressed
«Seignor,» fait il, «ensi vait ore.
Lords says he thus it-goes now
«Nos ne nos devons pas ancore
We not ourselves ought at-all yet
«desesperer d'aveir victoire.
to-despair of-having victory
«Ne nos fera mais ajutoire
Not to-us will-make more aid
«Palamedès, qui est feniz:
Palamedes who is ended
«Por ço en somes maubailliz.
For that thereof we-are ill-handled
«Mout saveit bien l'ost governer
Much he-knew well the-host to-govern
«e les riches conseiz doner;
and the rich counsels to-give
«merveillos chevaliers esteit;
marvelous knight he-was
«nus de son cors plus ne valeit.
any of his body more not was-worth
«Perdu l'avons: ne puet autre estre.
Lost him-we-have not can other be

«Or savons bien, ne poons estre
Now we-know well not we-can be
«senz prince ne senz chevetaine
without prince nor without captain
«qui tote l'ost ait en demeine,
who all the-host may-have in domain
«a cui nos seions ententif.
to whom we may-be attentive
«Or n'i ait noise ne estrif,
Now not-there let-there-be noise nor strife
«mais maintenant seit esleüz;
but at-once let-be elected
«e se j'en esteie creüz,
and if I-thereof were believed
«Agamennon i sereit mis:
Agamemnon there would-be put
«Mout est de cest afaire apris;
Much he-is in this affair learned
«nus n'en sot onques la meitié.
any not-thereof knew ever the half
«Tant come il nos a maistreié,
As-long as he us has mastered
«ne nos vint onques se bien non.
not to-us came ever if good not
«Jo lo tres bien quel reslison,
I advise very well that-him we-may-re-elect
«e si reseit princes de nos,
and so again-let-him-be prince of us
«que, par la fei que jo dei vos,
for by the faith which I owe to-you

«nos n'i poons meillor eslire,
we not-there can better elect
«qui si seit dignes de l'empire
who so may-be worthy of the-empire
«ne ou meins ait de descordance;
nor where less there-may-be of discord
«quar bien sevent tuit senz dotance
for well know all without doubt
«qu'il ne porreient mieuz choisir.
that-they not could better choose
«Or sin dites vostre plaisir.»
Now so-thereof say your pleasure
Tuit l'otreient senz contredit
All it-grant without gainsaying
qui seit de grant ne de petit.
which may-be of great nor of small
Ensi le ront d'eus fait seignor:
Thus him again-they-have of-them made lord
ço li fu puis a grant honor.
that to-him was after to great honor
Trestot ala puis par ses mains;
All went after by his hands
sor toz fu princes soverains.
over all he-was prince sovereign

The Thirteenth Battle

LXXXIII

At dawn the Trojans march out, and Agamemnon urges the Greeks to avenge the day before. They fight in wind and rain under clouds of Persian arrows. Late in the day Troilus arrives with a thousand knights and drives the Greeks back to their tents, which they defend until sunset. The Trojans return to a well-supplied city, rest briefly, and fight again at dawn while the ladies watch and weep from the towers. Troilus kills many Greek counts and dukes. The battle lasts seven days, until the Greeks ask for a truce, which Priam grants for two months. The Greeks bury Palamedes in a splendid tomb, and Troy buries Deiphobus and Sarpedon richly.

Dès or porreiz oïr hui mais
From now you-will-be-able to-hear today more
la trezime bataille après:
the thirteenth battle after
Beneeiz, qui l'Estoire dite,
Benoît who the-Story told
oëz queinement l'a escrite.
hear how it-has written
La nuit passa e l'oscurté:
The night passed and the-darkness
quant del jor parut la clarté,
when of-the day appeared the brightness
anceis que levast li soleiz,
before that rose the sun
ront dedenz fait lor apareiz.
again-have those-within made their preparations
Armé se sont el fil del jor;
Armed themselves they-are at-the edge of-the day

covert resont li milsoudor
covered again-are the thousand-sou-steeds
e les enseignes atachiees
and the banners attached
es trenchanz lances aguisiees.
on-the cutting lances sharpened
Eissu s'en sont de la cité,
Gone-out themselves-thence they-are from the city
prest de bataille e conreé:
ready for battle and arrayed
hastivement, jol vos plevis,
hastily I-it to-you pledge
vont requerre lor enemis.
they-go to-attack their enemies
E cil de l'ost se rapareillent,
And those of the-host themselves re-prepare
o Agamennon se conseillent,
with Agamemnon themselves they-counsel
qui les arguë e les enseigne
who them urges and them teaches
e prie que nus ne se feigne:
and begs that any not himself may-feign
del jornal d'ier prengent venjance.
for-the day of-yesterday let-them-take vengeance
N'i ot puis autre demorance:
Not-there was after other delay
vestent les haubers doblentins
they-put-on the hauberks double-meshed
e ceignent les branz acerins;
and gird-on the blades steeled

lacent les heaumes clers bruniz.
they-lace the helmets bright burnished
De ciclatons e de samiz
With ciclatouns and with samites
sont gent covert li milsoudor;
are nobly covered the thousand-sou-steeds
de maint chier paile de color
of many-a dear silk of color
sont les enseignes atachiees,
are the banners attached
que al vent furent despleiees:
which in-the wind were unfurled
l'airs en est jaunes e vermeiz,
the-air thereby is yellow and vermilion
mout fu riches lor apareiz.
very was rich their array
Il sont monté es auferranz
They are mounted on-the chargers
buens e isneaus e tost coranz.
good and swift and quickly running
Les escuz pris, chevauchent dreit
The shields taken they-ride straight
vers Troïens a grant espleit.
toward Trojans at great speed
Il nes ont mie trop loinz quis.
They not-them have at-all too far sought
Soz les ormes, as perrons bis,
Under the elms by-the stones gray
se sont li premier entrataint,
themselves are the first reached-each-other

feru se sont si e empeint
struck themselves they-are so and thrust
que li escu sont estroé
that the shields are broken
e li hauberc doblier fausé.
and the hauberks doubled failed
Tel cent en versent en l'areine,
Such hundred thereof they-overturn onto the-sand
dont puis n'eissi funs ne aleine.
from-whom after not-came-out smoke nor breath
Greu e la gent al rei Priant
Greeks and the folk of-the king Priam
sont haïnos e mauvoillant:
are hateful and ill-willed
por ço se requierent de près,
for that themselves they-attack from near
e sin i chiet sovent d'envers
and so-thereof there falls often backward
pasmez e freiz, senz esperiz.
swooned and cold without spirit
Onc teus chaples ne fu oïz
Ever such hackings not was heard
ne teus resons d'espees nues.
nor such ringings of-swords naked
Les batailles sont avenues:
The battalions are come
lors comença li fereïz
then began the striking
sor les heaumes d'acier bruniz;
on the helmets of-steel burnished

beivre les font jusqu'es cerveles.
drink them they-make up-to-the brains
Espessement vuident les seles.
Thickly they-empty the saddles
Las! qui vit mais si fier martire?
Weary who saw ever so fierce martyrdom
Nel savreit nus conter ne dire.
Not-it would-know anyone tell nor say
Persant traient e Arabeis
Persians shoot and Arabians
trenchanz saietes d'ars Turqueis:
cutting arrows from-bows Turkish
plus espés chieent que gresille.
more thick they-fall than hail
Ne clot pas ieuz si tost ne cille
Not shuts at-all eyes so soon nor blinks
com chevalier i chieent morz.
as knights there fall dead
D'ambedous parz est granz l'esforz:
On-both sides is great the-effort
Greu perdent mout, mais maintes feiz
Greeks lose much but many-a time
les remeinent jusqu'as destreiz,
them bring-back up-to-the narrow-passes
Troïen eus jusqu'as herberges.
Trojans them up-to-the lodgings
Cel jor fu mout li cieus tenerges;
That day was very the sky dark
senz recesser venta e plut:
without ceasing it-blew and rained

ço fu la rien qui plus lor nut.
that was the thing which most them harmed
Tuit sont moillié jusqu'as arteiz,
All they-are wet up-to-the toes
e ne por quant par maintes feiz
and nor for all-that by many times
se sont remüé li conrei:
themselves are moved the troops
trop i aveit pesme tornei
too-much there was wicked tourney
e trop meslé e trop requis,
and too-much mixed and too-much attacked
e trop i ot homes ocis.
and too-many there were men killed
Ja ert del jor passez li plus,
Already was of-the day passed the most
quant lors i avint Troïlus.
when then there arrived Troïlus
Bien ot o sei mil chevaliers:
Well he-had with himself a-thousand knights
les escuz pris, sor les destriers,
the shields taken on the chargers
vienent as rens, si laissent corre.
they-come to-the ranks so they-let run
Tant en abatent en poi d'ore
So-many thereof they-throw-down in little of-hour
que cil de l'ost sont resorti
that those of the-host are drawn-back
e par force ont le champ guerpi.
and by force have the field abandoned

Ensi les ont mis a la veie:
Thus them they-have put on the way
sacheiz que l'om les enconveie
know that one them escorts
o vint mile nuz branz d'acier;
with twenty thousand naked blades of-steel
sovent les fait om trebuchier
often them makes one tumble
morz e navrez de lor chevaus.
dead and wounded from their horses
Ha! las, com doloros jornaus!
Ah weary how grievous day
Com faite uevre, com fait pechié!
What made work what made sin
Tant regne en seront eissillié,
So-many realm thereby will-be exiled
dont la gent muert ci a dolor
whose the folk dies here in grief
par grant forfait et par folor
by great misdeed and by folly
e par mout petit d'acheison!
and by very little of-occasion
Se ne fussent li paveillon
If not had-been the pavilions
e les herberges e li tré,
and the lodgings and the tents
ou tant se sont defendu Gré
where so-much themselves are defended Greeks
que li soleiz fu resconsez,
until the sun was set

sacheiz qu'il perdissent assez.
know that-they would-have-lost enough
Mout lor estot mauvaisement,
Very to-them it-stood badly
quant la clarté del firmament
when the brightness of-the firmament
se roscurci en l'anuitant.
itself again-darkened in the-nightfall
Departi se sont a itant.
Parted themselves they-are at that
A la cité, le petit pas,
To the city the little pace
s'en retornerent mat e las,
themselves-thence they-returned dejected and weary
blecié, navré e travaillié.
hurt wounded and labored
De pluie e de sanc sont moillié,
With rain and with blood they-are wet
mais de ço lor vait auques bien,
but by that to-them goes somewhat well
qu'aaisié sont sor tote rien,
that-eased they-are above all thing
quar osteus ont buens e guarniz
for lodgings they-have good and furnished
e de vitaille repleniz.
and with victuals replenished
Marchié truevent grant e plenier
Market they-find great and full
de quant qu'a cors d'ome a mestier.
of whatever that-to body of-man has need

Cele nuit ot corte duree
That night had short duration
a ceus qui l'orent desiree,
for those who it-had desired
as queus ert de repos mestier:
to-the which was of rest need
lor vuel, durast un meis entier,
their wish it-would-have-lasted a month whole
mais poi i avront de sojor.
but little there they-will-have of rest
Si tost com resclarci le jor,
So soon as brightened the day
enz en l'aube del cler matin,
right in the-dawn of-the bright morning
se resont mis fors el chemin:
themselves again-they-are put out on-the road
es chiés ont les heaumes laciez;
on-the heads they-have the helmets laced
lor enemis vont querre iriez.
their enemies they-go to-seek angered
Trovez les ont, jol vos plevis:
Found them they-have I-it to-you pledge
ne les ont mie trop loinz quis.
not them they-have at-all too far sought
Dis mile lances esmolues,
Ten thousand lances ground

cleres e trenchanz e aguës —
bright and cutting and sharp
n'i a cele ou ne pende enseigne
not-there is that-one where not may-hang banner
de drap de seie d'Alemaigne —
of cloth of silk of-Germany
baissié lor ont en mi les ieuz.
lowered to-them they-have in the-midst the eyes
D'ambes parz fu granz li orguieuz;
On-both sides was great the pride
ferir se vont de plain eslais,
to-strike themselves they-go at full gallop
que des escuz fendent les ais.
so-that of-the shields they-split the boards
Fausent hauberc e auqueton.
They-pierce hauberk and padded-coat
Mil enseignes de ciclaton
A-thousand banners of ciclatoun
se baignent en cler sanc vermeil.
themselves bathe in bright blood vermilion
La sont chaeit en mal trepeil;
There they-are fallen into evil trampling
defolé sont e esquachié.
trodden they-are and crushed
Teus est li torneiz comencié
Such is the tourney begun
qu'anceis qu'il departent hui mais,
that-before that-they may-part today more
en i morront dou mile e mais.
thereof there will-die two thousand and more

Poi i a jostes eslaissiees,
Few there are jousts at-gallop
quar les espees ont sachiees,
for the swords they-have drawn
de qu'il se vont entreferir
with which-they themselves go to-strike-each-other
e teus colees departir
and such blows to-deal
que des heaumes rompent li laz.
that of-the helmets break the laces
Trenchent sei chiés e cors e braz
They-cut themselves heads and bodies and arms
e fendent sei jusqu'as arçons.
and split themselves up-to-the saddlebows
Li dueus, la noise e li resons
The grief the noise and the ringing
en est oïz par le païs
thereof is heard through the country
e par les tors de marbre bis,
and through the towers of marble gray
ou les dames sont en error,
where the ladies are in distress
en crieme, en lermes e en plor;
in fear in tears and in weeping
quar chascun jor creist li damages
for each day grows the harm
des plus prochains de lor lignages,
of-the most near of their lineages
de lor freres e de lor fiz.
of their brothers and of their sons

Tant ont sovent les cuers marriz
So-much they-have often the hearts grieved
que tote en ont joie obliëe.
that all thereof they-have joy forgotten
He! tante lerme i ot ploree
Ah so-many tear there was wept
19365 e tant sospir fait doloros!
and so-many sigh made grievous
Cist jornaus fu trop damajos
This day was too harmful
a ceus de l'ost, quar Troïlus
to those of the-host for Troilus
lor a ocis contes e dus
to-them has killed counts and dukes
e riches amirauz preisiez,
and rich emirs prized
19370 de que Greu sont mout damagiez.
of which Greeks are much harmed
Grant ocise ot d'ambedous parz,
Great slaughter there-was on-both sides
quar o saietes e o darz
for with arrows and with darts
n'i poëit rien l'ueil descovrir:
not-there could anyone the-eye uncover
trop par en i estut morir.
too very thereof there it-behooved to-die

Iceste bataille trezaine
This battle thirteenth
toz les set jorz de la semaine
all the seven days of the week
dura a tire, senz cesser.
lasted in a-row without ceasing
Nel reporent plus endurer
Not-it again-they-could more endure
icil de l'ost: triuës ont prises
those of the-host truces have taken
al rei Priant, par teus devises
of-the king Priam by such terms
qu'il les dona al loëment
that-he them gave at-the advice
de Troïlus e de sa gent.
of Troilus and of his folk
Li Troïen e li Grezeis
The Trojans and the Greeks
les ont plevies a dous meis.
them have pledged at two months
En l'ost fu plainz Palamedès,
In the-host was lamented Palamedes
e si n'orra nus hom ja mais
and so not-will-hear any man ever more
plus richement cors sevelir:
more richly body bury
soëf fu fait e par leisir.
gently it-was done and at leisure
Tel sepouture e tel tombel,
Such sepulcher and such tomb

ne si precios ne si bel
nor so precious nor so fair
ne fu onc fait ne ainz ne puis,
not was ever made nor before nor after
ensi com jo el Livre truis,
thus as I in-the Book find
com li firent comunaument
as for-him made in-common
tuit cil de Grece e si parent.
all those of Greece and his kinsmen
Tant com li siegles tient e dure,
As-long as the world holds and lasts
pareistra mais sa sepouture
will-appear from-now his sepulcher
riche desci qu'al finement.
rich until that-at-the ending
Lor dus, lor contes, l'autre gent
Their dukes their counts the-other folk
ont seveliz e enterrez
they-have shrouded and buried
e mis en sarquieuz e en rez.
and put in coffins and on pyres
Ne sai que aloignasse plus:
Not I-know why I-should-lengthen more
seveli ront Deïphebus,
buried again-they-have Deiphobus
mais ainz fu plainz e regretez
but before he-was lamented and mourned
e tendrement as ieuz plorez.
and tenderly with-the eyes wept

Mis l'ont en riche monument
Put him-they-have in rich monument
tot fait de pierres e d'argent
all made of stones and of-silver
e de fin or Arabiëis.
and of fine gold Arabian
Si refu Sarpedon li reis
So again-was Sarpedon the king
a grant honor e hautement,
with great honor and highly
come il plus porent richement.
as they most could richly

The Embassy to Achilles

LXXXIV

During the truce Agamemnon sends Ulysses, Nestor, and Diomedes to Achilles, who sits sleepless and despairing for love. Ulysses reminds him that Hector fell by his hand and Troy is weakened, and warns that a man who withdraws loses his glory. The host begs him to fight again and finish the war. Achilles replies that the war was begun on a worthless pretext, and he regrets ever coming. He will not die for Menelaus's wife; let them fight for Helen if they love honor. The best men and the royal lineages are perishing, and base men will inherit the world. He urges them to seek peace and asks never to be summoned to arms again.

Grant esmai ot entre Grezeis:
Great dismay there-was among Greeks
dedenz la triuë de dous meis,
within the truce of two months
a enveié a Achillès
has sent to Achilles
Agamennon dant Ulixès,
Agamemnon lord Ulysses
19415 o lui Nestor le vieil, le sage,
with him Nestor the old the wise
qui forni ot maint haut message;
who fulfilled had many-a high message
e s'i tramist avuec cez dous
and so-there he-sent with these two
Diomedès le corajos.
Diomedes the courageous
Tuit trei furent sage a merveille,
All three were wise at marvel

e Agamennon lor conseille
and Agamemnon them counsels
que ço sera que il diront.
what that will-be which they will-say
Dreit a son paveillon en vont,
Straight to his pavilion thence they-go
qui toz fu faiz de pailes chiers.
which all was made of silks dear
O grant plenté de chevaliers,
With great plenty of knights
ses homes liges naturaus,
his men liege native
hardiz et proz e bons vassaus,
bold and valiant and good vassals
s'estut dedenz mornes, pensis,
he-stood within gloomy pensive
com cil qui d'amor est espris,
as he who by-love is inflamed
qui ne se set vis conseillier,
who not himself knows alive to-counsel
qui ne puet beivre ne mangier,
who not can drink nor eat
qui n'a repos de nuit ne jor.
who not-has rest of night nor day
Si le travaille fine amor
So him torments fine love
qu'il nen a joie ne deport.
that-he not has joy nor pleasure
Rien ne li puet doner confort,
Anything not to-him can give comfort

qu'il trait la peine que cil traient
for-he draws the pain which those draw
qui por amor sovent s'esmaient,
who for love often themselves-dismay
qui en tel lieu ont lor cuer mis
who in such place have their heart put
dont n'ont deport ne gieu ne ris,
whence not-they-have pleasure nor game nor laughter
aise, voleir ne atendance:
ease will nor expectation
icez ocit desesperance.
these kills despair
Ic'est la rien dont Achillès
This-is the thing of-which Achilles
porte e sostient le greignor fais.
bears and sustains the greater burden
Sovent s'esmaie e se despeire;
Often himself-dismays and himself despairs
ne sait que cuider ne que creire:
not he-knows what to-think nor what to-believe
une feiz pense aveir confort,
one time he-thinks to-have comfort
autre feiz dit que c'est la mort
other time he-says that it-is the death
qu'il sent le jor plus de cent feiz.
which-he feels the day more than a-hundred times
Onc ne fu mais hom si destreiz.
Ever not was ever man so distressed

Li vieuz Nestor e li dui rei
The old Nestor and the two kings
devant le paveillon tuit trei
before the pavilion all three
sont des palefreiz descenduz.
are from-the palfreys dismounted
Achillès contre eus est venuz:
Achilles toward them is come
toz treis les acole e embrace,
all three them he-embraces and clasps
quar n'i a nul des treis qu'il hace.
for not-there is any of-the three whom-he may-hate
Sor un tapiz freis de color,
On a carpet fresh of color
qui vint del regne a l'Aumaçor,
which came from-the realm of the-Almanzor
se sont tuit quatre ensemble asis:
themselves they-are all four together seated
n'i furent plus, si com m'est vis.
not-there were more so as to-me-is opinion
Premiers parla danz Ulixès,
First spoke lord Ulysses
e si li dist: «Sire Achillès,
and so to-him said Lord Achilles
«Agamennon, li vostre amis
Agamemnon the your friend
«nos a ici a vos tramis
us has here to you sent
«por mostrer vos e por requerre.
for to-show to-you and for to-request

«Venu somes en ceste terre
Come we-are into this land
«por Troie prendre e por guaster
for Troy to-take and for to-waste
«e Troïens desheriter.
and Trojans to-disinherit
«Ne ferons mie lons sermons:
Not we-shall-make at-all long sermons
«Bien en savez les acheisons.
Well thereof you-know the reasons
«Venu en somes a itant,
Come thereof we-are to so-much
«perte i avons receü grant,
loss there we-have received great
«e cil de la trop male assez.
and those of there too-much evil enough
«Ci est toz li mondes jostez.
Here is all the world assembled
«Cil nos defendent les païs,
Those against-us defend the countries
«mais mout les avons fort requis:
but much them we-have strongly attacked
«Toleiz lor avons les passages
Taken from-them we-have the passages
«e toz les autres guaaignages.
and all the other tilled-lands
«Hector o la fiere poissance,
Hector with the fierce power
«en cui ert tote lor fiance,
in whom was all their trust

«qui de proëce ert soverains,
who in prowess was sovereign
«vos l'oceïstes a voz mains.
you him-killed with your hands
«Or ront perdu Deïphebus,
Now again-they-have lost Deiphobus
«dont il sont mout morne e confus,
whereby they are very gloomy and confused
«e chevaliers teus trente mile,
and knights such thirty thousand
«dont mout sont feible par la vile.
whereby much they-are feeble through the town
«Victoire nos en est pramise:
Victory to-us thereof is promised
«Bien en avons la chose enquise;
Well thereof we-have the thing inquired
«certains en estes, jol sai bien.
certain thereof you-are I-it know well
«Or si vos mostrons une rien:
Now so to-you we-show one thing
«Preisiez estes e honorez
Prized you-are and honored
«plus que nus hom de mere nez;
more than any man of mother born
«e sacheiz bien par ceste ovraigne,
and know well by this work
«coment qu'a cez autres en preigne,
however that-to these others thereof may-take
«est vostre pris doblez cent feiz.
is your worth doubled a-hundred times

«Or si guardez que nel baisseiz:
Now so guard that not-it you-may-lower
«A l'abaissier estes venuz,
At the-lowering you-are come
«s'autre conseiz n'en est creüz;
if-other counsel not-thereof is believed
«pris puet l'om tost aveir conquis,
worth can one soon have conquered
«mais al guarder, ço m'est a vis,
but at-the keeping that to-me-is at opinion
«covient grant sen e grant valor.
it-behooves great sense and great valor
«En grant pris ont esté plusor,
In great worth have been many
«qui puis baissoënt e chaeient
who after lowered and fell
«e qui eus e lor faiz perdeient.
and who themselves and their deeds lost
«Ja nus de pris n'avra tant fait,
Ever any for worth not-will-have so-much done
«s'auques s'en esloigne e retrait,
if-somewhat himself-thence he-distances and withdraws
«que ja mais jor retort ariere.
that ever more day he-may-return back
«Ço n'est mie chose legiere,
That not-is at-all thing light
«qui son pris pert, del recovrer:
who his worth loses of-the recovering
«Por ço vos vueil dire e mostrer.
For that to-you I-wish to-say and to-show

«Ne faites pas que la gent die
Not do at-all that the folk may-say
«que proëce vos seit faillie,
that prowess to-you may-be failed
«ne que seiez mauvais ne tes
nor that you-may-be bad nor such
«qu'ensi seiez del tot remés.
that-thus you-may-be of-the all remained
«Sacheiz de veir, parlé en ont,
Know of truth spoken thereof they-have
«lor contes en meinent e font.
their tales thereof they-carry-on and make
«Se n'en prenez autre conrei,
If not-thereof you-take other counsel
«que vos reveigneiz al tornei,
that you may-come-back to-the tourney
«ou vostre pris est toz periz,
where your worth is all perished
«recreanz estes e failliz,
craven you-are and failed
«sacheiz que li criz de la gent
know that the cry of the folk
«torra sor vos si faitement
will-turn on you so fashioned
«qu'ainceis qu'acompliz seit li anz,
that-before that-fulfilled may-be the year
«sera del mal dit plus set tanz
will-be of-the ill said more seven times
«qu'il n'en fu onques jor dit bien.
than-it not-thereof was ever day said good

«Ensorquetot li Troïien
Above-all the Trojans
«vos ont toleit de teus amis,
from-you have taken of such friends
«dont bien devez, ço m'est a vis,
whereby well you-ought that to-me-is at opinion
«aveir al cuer ire e pesance.
to-have at-the heart wrath and sorrow
«Aspre en deit estre la venjance:
Harsh thereof ought to-be the vengeance
«Si sera el, se vos volez;
So will-be it if you wish
«tost les avreiz desheritez,
soon them you-will-have disinherited
«morz e vencuz, chaciez e pris.
dead and vanquished chased and taken
«Quant a tant vos en estes mis,
When to so-much you thereof are put
«se volez, or si maintenez,
if you-wish now so maintain
«ço dont vos estes honorez
that whereby you are honored
«e coneüz par tot le mont.
and known through all the world
«Tote l'ost vos prie e somont
All the-host to-you begs and summons
«que les guardeiz e mainteneiz,
that them you-may-guard and maintain
«com vos avez fait autre feiz;
as you have done other time

«ne les laissiez endamagier.
not them let harm
«Bosoing lor est e grant mestier
Need to-them it-is and great want
«que de ceste uevre faceiz fin.
that of this work you-may-make end
«Trop somes povre e orfelin,
Too-much we-are poor and orphan
«quant senz vos somes en l'estor.
when without you we-are in the-fight
«Mout s'en deshaitent li plusor,
Much themselves-thereby dishearten the most
«dès qu'il ne veient vostre escu:
since that-they not see your shield
«Ja ne seront puis socoru.
Ever not they-will-be after succored
«Por Deu, ne maumetez por rien
For God not misuse for anything
«ço qu'est en vos, si fereiz bien.
that which-is in you so you-will-do well
«Tant estes proz, riches e sages,
So-much you-are valiant rich and wise
«trop par sereit pesmes damages
too very it-would-be wicked harm
«que li pris de vos abaissast,
that the worth of you should-lower
«mais qu'il creüst e qu'il montast.
but that-it should-grow and that-it should-rise

«Seit or la perte restoree
Let-be now the loss restored
«que si grant avons recovree,
which so great we-have received
«dès puis que nos i plot venir.
from since that us there it-pleased to-come
«Or nos poëz toz resbaudir
Now us you-can all embolden
«e metre en cuer e faire proz,
and put in heart and make valiant
«tant que cil aillent al desoz.
until that those may-go to-the below
«Sacheiz que jo vos doing conseil
Know that I to-you give counsel
«leial, dreiturier e feeil.»
loyal righteous and faithful
Embrons e taisanz e pensis
Downcast and silent and pensive
fu Achillès e mout eschis
was Achilles and very reluctant
vers l'uevre dont cil l'areisone.
toward the-work about-which that-one him-addresses
D'une grant piece mot ne sone,
For-a great while word not he-sounds
puis li a dit: «Sire Ulixès,
then to-him he-has said Lord Ulysses
«ço sai jo bien, ja n'orrai mais
that know I well ever not-I-shall-hear more
«jor que jo vive home parler,
day that I may-live man speak

«mieuz sache un haut conseil doner;
better who-may-know a high counsel give
«si conois bien e sai e vei
so I-know well and am-aware and see
«que mout amez l'onor de mei:
that much you-love the-honor of me
«Par bien e par sen me loëz
By good and by sense me you-advise
«trestot le mieuz que vos savez.
all the best that you know
«Bien oi qu'Agamennon me mande,
Well I-hear that-Agamemnon to-me sends
«qu'il me prie, qu'il me comande.
that-he me begs that-he me commands
«Bien sai par conseil neientos,
Well I-know by counsel worthless
«povre, mauvais, vil e hontos
poor bad vile and shameful
«cuidames cest regne conquerre:
we-thought this realm to-conquer
«Cinc anz en a duré la guerre;
Five years thereof has lasted the war
«trop i avons grant perte faite.
too-much there we-have great loss made
«Or ne me plaist ne ne me haite
Now not to-me pleases nor not me cheers
«que plus en face a ceste feiz.
that more thereof I-may-do at this time

«Tant vueil jo bien que vos sacheiz
So-much wish I well that you may-know
«qu'irié en sui e repentant
that-angered thereof I-am and repentant
«que jo onques m'en mis en tant
that I ever myself-thereto put to so-much
«ne que onques i ving n'i fui.
nor that ever there I-came nor-there I-was
«Por ço que jo ne me destrui
For that that I not myself destroy
«por la femme dant Menelaus,
for the wife (of-)lord Menelaus
«com ja sont fait cent mil vassaus,
as already are done a-hundred thousand vassals
«qui tuit en sont mort a dolor,
who all thereof are dead in grief
«s'ai por ço perdu ma valor,
so-I-have for that lost my valor
«mon los et mon pris d'en ariere?
my praise and my worth from back
«E se par force o par preiere
And if by force or by prayer
«ne port armes, si sui failliz,
not I-bear arms so I-am failed
«mauvais, recreanz e guenchiz,
bad craven and turned-aside
«e sui del tot aneientez?
and am-I of-the all brought-to-nothing

«Par les devines poëstez
By the divine powers
«des cieus e par les soverains,
of-the heavens and by the sovereign-ones
«seürs seient Greu e certains,
secure let-be Greeks and certain
«n'i avront mais par mei aiüe.
not-there they-will-have more by me aid
«Seit la folie maintenue
Let-be the folly maintained
«par eus, tant come bon lor iert.
by them as-long as good to-them it-will-be
«C'est Achillès qui ja ne quiert
It-is Achilles who ever not seeks
«qu'il me prisent: n'en ai que faire.
that-they me may-prize not-thereof I-have what to-do
«Sacheiz de veir jo ne pris guaire
Know of truth I not prize much
«toz lor parlers ne toz lor diz.
all their speeches nor all their sayings
«Vos qui amez honor e priz,
You who love honor and worth
«vos combatez por dame Heleine,
you fight for lady Helen
«quar jo n'en serai plus en peine.
for I not-thereof shall-be more in pain
«Vos en morreiz, ço iert honor,
You thereof will-die that will-be honor
«si come en sont ja fait plusor.
so as thereof are already done many

«Fait i avreiz que bons vassaus,
Done there you-will-have as good vassals
«sos la rendez dant Menelaus:
so-you her render (to-)lord Menelaus
«Sacheiz de veir n'en avra mie
Know of truth not-thereof he-will-have at-all
«par mei ne par la meie aïe;
by me nor by the my aid
19615 «n'ier ja por li ne morz ne pris.
not-will-be ever for her nor dead nor taken
«En fiere uevre vos estes mis,
In fierce work you are put
«qui senz honor e senz reison
who without honor and without reason
«e por si mauvaise acheison
and for so bad occasion
«vos faites ci toz detrenchier.
you make here all cut-to-pieces
19620 «Se Menelaus a sa moillier
If Menelaus has his wife
«e tuit en seiez a mort trait,
and all thereof you-may-be to death drawn
«mout i avreiz grant guaaing fait!
much there you-will-have great gain made
«Or en est Palamedès morz,
Now thereof is Palamedes dead
«e bien cent reis riches e forz:
and well a-hundred kings rich and strong
19625 «Donc ne fust mieuz, que vos est vis?
Then not would-it-be better than to-you is seeming

«Que sain fussent en lor païs
That sound they-might-be in their country
«a governer lor riches regnes,
to govern their rich realms
«a maintenir enfanz e femmes,
to maintain children and wives
«que en remandront esguarees
who thereof will-remain bewildered
«e en seront desheritees?
and thereby will-be disinherited
«Par ceste ovraigne en seront mil
By this work thereof will-be a-thousand
«desherité e en eissil.
disinherited and in exile
«L'ore ait dahé qu'el començа,
The-hour may-have curse that-it began
«quar tante gent le comparra
for so-many folk it will-pay-for
«e tantes l'ont ja comparé!
and so-many it-have already paid-for
«Ja li monz n'iert mais restoré
Ever the world not-will-be more restored
«se de vil gent non e frarine:
if from vile folk not and wretched
«En chaitivier torne e decline.
Into wretchedness it-turns and declines
«Ci perissent tuit li meillor
Here perish all the best
«e li reial engendreor,
and the royal begetters

«dont li bon heir fussent estrait.
from-whom the good heirs would-be sprung
«Ici a trop doloros plait:
Here there-is too grievous plea
«Par ceste uevre ierent abaissiees
By this work will-be lowered
«e destruites les granz ligniees
and destroyed the great lineages
«e les lignages soverains;
and the lineages sovereign
«de basse gent e de vilains
by low folk and by peasants
«sera li mondes restorez.
will-be the world restored
«Par ço perira nobletez,
By that will-perish nobility
«hautece, pris, joie e honor:
highness worth joy and honor
«C'est damages e grant dolor.
It-is harm and great grief
«Periz est li monz e perduz,
Perished is the world and lost
«se l'afaires est maintenuz.
if the-affair is maintained
«Mais tant estes sage e vassal
But so-much you-are wise and vassal
«e tant i conoissiez le mal,
and so-much there you-know the ill
«la perte e la destrucion,
the loss and the destruction

«que vos e li autre baron
that you and the other barons
«devriëz porchacier e querre
ought to-pursue and to-seek
«coment fust pais de ceste guerre.
how there-might-be peace of this war
«Ço vos di jo veraiement,
That to-you say I truly
«desci qu'al jor del finement, 19660
until that-at-the day of-the ending
«n'iert mais la perte restoree.
not-will-be more the loss restored
«Trop a eü longe duree:
Too-much it-has had long duration
«Pechié faites del maintenir;
Sin you-do of-the maintaining
«tart en vendreiz al repentir,
late thereby you-will-come at-the repenting
«se ço auques tient mais ne dure. 19665
if that somewhat holds more nor lasts
«Par leiauté e par dreiture
By loyalty and by right
«vos lo e pri qu'en voilleiz pais;
you I-advise and beg that-thereof you-may-wish peace
«e si ne m'en apelez mais
and so not me-thereof call more
«que j'en aie la teste armee
that I-thereof may-have the head armed
«ne que jo plus en ceigne espee. 19670
nor that I more thereof may-gird sword

«Tant vos porriëz travaillier:
So-much you could labor
«Mais, come sage chevalier,
But as wise knight
«traitiez ensi iceste ovraigne
treat thus this work
«que ceste merveille remaigne,
that this marvel may-remain
19675 «ceste ocise, cist deableis,
this slaughter this devilry
«e si s'en raillent li Grezeis.
and so themselves-thence may-go-back the Greeks
«Cest en sera, ço sacheiz bien:
This thereof will-be that know well
«Ja ne m'en metrai plus en rien.»
Ever not me-thereof I-shall-put more in anything

The Council After the Embassy

LXXXV

Nestor urges Achilles to fight once more so that the Greeks can make peace from strength, but Achilles refuses. Diomedes taunts him that his mind is elsewhere than on battle, and Achilles answers that Diomedes's father Tydeus brought ruin on Thebes. Nestor ends the quarrel, and the envoys report to Agamemnon, who asks the princes for counsel. Menelaus says that leaving without victory would shame them forever and that Troy is weak without Hector. Ulysses and Diomedes answer that he speaks for his wife: without Achilles they risk shame and death. Diomedes adds that Troilus is as strong as Hector. Calchas then warns that the gods would drown them if they made peace, and the talk of peace ends.

Après parla li vieuz Nestor,
After spoke the old Nestor
qui tint les puiz de Libanor: 19680
who held the heights of Libanor
«Içe», fait il, «sereit granz biens,
This says he would-be great good
«quil trovereit es Troïiens;
who-it would-find in-the Trojans
«mais en mal point, ço m'est a vis,
but in bad point that to-me-is at opinion
«sereient or de pais requis.
they-would-be now for peace asked
«Laidiz e desconfiz nos ont: 19685
Ill-used and discomfited us they-have
«Plus fier, plus orgoillos en sont;
More fierce more proud thereby they-are
«la pais bien tost eschivereient.
the peace very soon they-would-avoid

«Dès qu'il al bosoing ne vos veient,
Since that-they at-the need not you see
«cuident que vos seiez failliz;
they-think that you may-be failed
«sacheiz mout en sont esbaudiz:
know much thereby they-are emboldened
«Por tant l'avons chier comparé,
For so-much it-we-have dearly paid-for
«n'a pas ancore uit jorz passé.
not-there-are at-all yet eight days passed
«Mais, beaus sire, venez o nos,
But fair lord come with us
«ceint le brant d'acier perillos,
girt the blade of-steel perilous
«si les metons en tel esfrei
so them let-us-put in such alarm
«qu'uns n'i prenge retor de sei.
that-one not-there may-take heed of himself
«E quant les avrons esfreïz,
And when them we-shall-have frightened
«chaciez del champ e desconfiz,
chased from-the field and discomfited
«sin fera donc meillor parler.»
so-thereof it-will-make then better to-speak
Fait Achilles: «Laissiez ester:
Says Achilles Let be
«Ceste parole n'a mestier.
This speech not-has need
«Sos le revolez comencier,
If-you it again-wish to-begin

«senz mei ireiz, fei que vos dei,
without me you-will-go faith that to-you I-owe
«e senz la gent qui sont o mei.
and without the folk who are with me
«Jo conois bien ou vos tendez,
I know well where you aim
«que porchaciez e que querez:
what you-pursue and what you-seek
«Qu'en la folie me remete.
That-into the folly me I-may-put-again
«Ja de ço nus ne s'entremete.
Ever of that any not himself-may-meddle
«L'uevre ai guerpie e ci la lais:
The-work I-have abandoned and here it I-leave
«Parout en tort e en travers
Let-him-speak thereof in-wrong and in across
«qui que voudra, quar mei n'en chaut.
whoever that will-wish for to-me not-thereof matters
«Tel i iront e lié e baut,
Such there will-go both glad and merry
«quin seront raporté en biere.
who-thence will-be brought-back on bier
«Ne m'en faites ja plus preiere,
Not to-me-thereof make ever more prayer
«quar c'est la fin: jol vos di bien,
for that-is the end I-it to-you say well
«ne m'en entremetrai de rien.»
not myself-thereof I-shall-meddle in anything

Diomedès ne set que dire,
Diomedes not knows what to-say
mais nequedent mout a grant ire;
but nevertheless very he-has great wrath
de ço qu'il ot ne se puet taire:
of that which-he hears not himself can keep-silent
«Par Deu», fait il, «hontos afaire
By God says he shameful affair
«a ci, se bien i guardiëz.
there-is here if well there you-looked
«Sire Achilles, mout i baissiez
Lord Achilles much there you-lower
«e mout i recevez grant honte.
and much there you-receive great shame
«Bien sai e vei que rien ne monte
Well I-know and see that anything not avails
«nostre sermons ne noz conseiz;
our sermons nor our counsels
«n'en fereiz rien a ceste feiz.
not-thereof you-will-do anything at this time
«Si vos en laist om tot ester:
So you thereof let one all be
«Jo n'en quier mais plus a parler.
I not-thereof seek more more to speak
«De folie s'entremetreit
In folly himself-would-meddle
«qui plus de vos vos amereit.
who more than you you would-love

«Mare aiez vos le pris conquis
Ill may-have you the worth conquered
«ci e en tanz autres païs!
here and in so-many other countries
«Se ne l'osez prendre o laissier,
If not it-you-dare to-take or to-leave
«n'estes mais mie a chastiier.
not-you-are more at-all to chastise
«Bien vos i pert a la color 19735
Well to-you there it-appears in the color
«qu'aillors pensez que a l'estor:
that-elsewhere you-think than to the-fight
«Cil qui en demeinent tel plait
Those who thereof make such plea
«ne sevent pas come il vos vait;
not know at-all how it to-you goes
«chascuns juge ço que il vueut.
each judges that which he wishes
«Autre est li cuers que il ne sueut: 19740
Other is the heart than he not is-wont
«N'i a neient de l'esforcier.
Not-there is nothing of the-forcing
«Or nos en poons repairier.
Now us thereof we-can return
«J'en saveie bien autretant:
I-thereof knew well as-much

«Ço m'est a vis, d'ore en avant
That to-me-is at opinion from-now in forward
«en recevrons senz vostre aïe
thereof we-shall-receive without your aid
«e le guaaing e la folie,
both the gain and the folly
«le pris, le los e le damage.
the worth the praise and the harm
«Celui deit om tenir por sage
That-one ought one to-hold for wise
«qui son cors garde e por vassal.
who his body keeps and for vassal
«Vos n'i avez plus chier chatal:
You not-there have more dear chattel
«Cel esduireiz, ço m'est a vis,
That-one you-will-lead-away that to-me-is at opinion
«de la veie a voz enemis.»
from the way of your enemies
Achillès s'oï ramponer,
Achilles himself-heard mocked
si l'en comença a peser:
so him-thereof began to weigh
s'il ne seüst Diomedès
if-he not had-known Diomedes
si entencif e si engrès,
so eager and so fierce
ja li deïst que li pesast,
already to-him he-would-say what to-him would-weigh
ainz que d'iluec se remuast.
before that from-there himself he-moved

N'en a mie fait grant semblant,
Not-thereof he-has at-all made great semblance
e ne por quant si dist itant:
and nor for all-that so he-said so-much
«Sire, jo ne me merveil mie
Lord I not myself marvel at-all
«se vos amez chevalerie:
if you love chivalry
«Si faites vos, ne poëz plus.
So do you not you-can more
«Mar fusseiz vos fiz Tydeüs,
Ill would-be you son (of-)Tydeus
«s'ele par vos n'ert maintenue.
if-it by you not-were maintained
«Por quant, si est chose seüe
For all-that so it-is thing known
«que par lui sont Thebes guastees,
that by him are Thebes wasted
«que ja ne fussent reguardees
which ever not would-have-been looked-at
«ne asises, se par lui non:
nor besieged if by him not
«Puis en ot itel guerredon
Then thereof he-had such reward
«qu'uns mauvais guarz le geta mort.
that-a bad guard him threw dead
«A grant pechié e a grant tort
With great sin and with great wrong
«fist maint riche regne eissillier,
he-made many-a rich realm exiled

«dont les homes fist detrenchier
whose the men he-made cut-to-pieces
«al siege ou il les assembla:
at-the siege where he them assembled
«Jusqu'a mil anz le comparra
Up-to a-thousand years it will-pay-for
«li siegles qui a venir est.
the world which to come is
«Or vos revei haitié e prest
Now you I-see-again cheered and ready
«de faire autretel o sordeis.»
to do the-same or worse
Lors respondi Nestor li reis:
Then answered Nestor the king
«Sire, tot ço puet bien remaindre.
Lord all that can well remain
«Dès que nos ne poons ataindre
Since that we not can reach
«vers vos ço que nos voudrions,
toward you that which we would-wish
«sos plaist, si nos en tornerons.
if-you-it please so we thence shall-turn
«Sacheiz que nos amons tuit trei
Know that we love all three
«le bien de vos par bone fei.»
the good of you by good faith
S'ensemble les leüst ester,
If-together them one-had-let be
a el poüst bien tost torner;
to else it-could well soon turn

de teus paroles se deïssent,
of such words themselves they-would-have-said
dont bien tost mal s'entrevousissent.
whereby well soon ill they-would-have-wished-each-other
Mais cil issent del paveillon,
But those go-out of-the pavilion
qui n'orent cure de tençon;
who not-had care of quarrel
ne distrent plus a cele feiz.
not they-said more at that time
Toz deshaitiez e toz destreiz,
All disheartened and all distressed
sont Agamennon repairié:
they-are (to-)Agamemnon returned
tot li ont dit e tot noncié
all to-him they-have said and all announced
ço qu'en Achillès ont trové.
that which-in Achilles they-have found
Mout en furent desconforté.
Much thereby they-were discomforted
Enz en meïsme la semaine
Right in same the week
furent mandé li chevetaine.
were summoned the captains
Agamennon lor a retrait,
Agamemnon to-them has recounted
saveir come il l'aveient fait
to-know how they it-had done
d'Achillès somondre e preier,
of-Achilles to-summon and to-beg

mais n'i porent rien espleitier:
but not-there they-could anything achieve
«S'aïde avons perdu senz faille:
His-aid we-have lost without fail
«Ne vendra plus a la bataille.
Not he-will-come more to the battle
«Ço li est vis que trop perdons;
That to-him is seeming that too-much we-lose
«de pais faire nos a somons.
of peace to-make us he-has summoned
«Or si guardez que vos voudreiz
Now so consider what you will-wish
«e quel conseil vos en prendreiz;
and what counsel you thereof will-take
«chascuns en die son plaisir:
each thereof let-say his pleasure
«Prez sui del faire e de l'oïr.
Ready I-am of-the doing and of the-hearing
«Bien en sivrai voz volentez,
Well thereof I-shall-follow your wills
«toz voz voleirs e toz voz grez.»
all your wishes and all your likings
Premiers respont reis Menelaus:
First answers king Menelaus
«Par Dieu,» fait il, «mout est vassaus
By God says he very he-is vassal
«danz Achillès; bien deit l'om faire
lord Achilles well ought one to-do
«tot son talent e son viaire:
all his desire and his opinion

«Mais jo ne sai pas ne ne vei
But I not know at-all nor not see
«coment tant prince ne tant rei
how so-many prince nor so-many king
«se honissent si faitement.
themselves shame so fashioned
«Desci qu'al jor del finement
Until that-to-the day of-the ending
«en serons mais clamé vencu,
thereby we-shall-be from-now called vanquished
«dès puis que ci somes venu,
from since that here we-are come
«se nos en tornons senz victoire.
if we us-thence turn without victory
«N'a ne son sen ne sa memoire,
Not-be-has nor his sense nor his memory
«qui tel conseil receit ne done.
who such counsel receives nor gives
«Chascuns deit guarder sa corone,
Each ought to-guard his crown
«s'onor, son pris e sa hautece.
his-honor his worth and his highness
«Par estoveir e par destrece
By necessity and by distress
«les devons toz desheriter
them we-ought all to-disinherit
«e de la terre fors geter,
and from the land out to-throw

«les tors abatre e les maisons
the towers to-throw-down and the houses
«e les palais e les donjons.
and the palaces and the keeps
«Bien nos en ont aseürez
Well us thereof have assured
«les soveraines deïtez.
the sovereign deities
«Ne nos devons pas esmaier
Not ourselves we-ought at-all to-dismay
«por ço, s'il ne nos vient aidier;
for that if-he not to-us comes to-help
«mais somonge chascuns sa gent,
but let-summon each his folk
«si qu'al premier torneiement
so that-at-the first tourney
«seient des noz tel conreez,
let-be of-the ours such arrayed
«mil nos en laissent des pasmez;
a-thousand to-us thereof let-them-leave of-the swooned
«mort seient, ou ques ataignons.
dead let-be where who-them we-may-reach
«Cui ont il mais que nos cremons?
Whom have they more that we may-fear
«Donc nen ont il Hector perdu,
Then not have they Hector lost
«par qu'il esteient maintenu?
by which-they were maintained
«N'ont mais o eus quil contrevaille.
Not-they-have more with them who-him may-equal

«Ja contre nos n'avront bataille;
Ever against us not-they-will-have battle
«s'un poi vos en volez pener,
if-a little you thereto wish to-strive
«il ne nos pueent plus durer.»
they not us can more last
A ço respondi Ulixès,
To that answered Ulysses
qui de parole sot adès:
who of speech knew promptly
«Mal dites, sire, ço sacheiz.
Ill you-say lord that know
«Se esteit par les miens otreiz,
If it-were by the my grants
«ja n'en diriëz loëment:
ever not-thereof you-would-say advice
«Or cuident tuit comunaument
Now think all in-common
«por vostre moillier l'aiez dit.
for your wife it-you-may-have said
«N'i a un sol, grant ne petit,
Not-there is a sole great nor small
«qui por Achillès ne s'esmait:
who for Achilles not himself-may-dismay
«Dreiz est que chascuns s'en deshait.
Right it-is that each himself-thereof may-dishearten
«De mei vos di jo bien senz faille,
Of me to-you say I well without fail
«mieuz l'amereie a la bataille,
better him-I-would-love at the battle

«qui que m'en tienge por bricon,
whoever that me-for-it may-hold for fool
«que aveir plus que nos n'avon
than to-have more than we not-have
«mil chevaliers: al suen esforz
a-thousand knights to-the his effort
«ne se prenent de rien li noz.
not themselves take in anything the ours
«Bien i pareist e pareistra:
Well there it-appears and will-appear
«Ja ainz li gieus ne remandra.
Ever before the game not will-remain
«Se nos avons a lui failli,
If we have to him failed
«poi nos crembront nostre enemi.
little us will-fear our enemies
«Semblant nos en font chascun jor:
Seeming to-us thereof they-make each day
«Bien en somes li sordeior.
Well thereof we-are the worse
«Quant son cors n'i poons aveir,
When his body not-there we-can have
«par bosoing e par estoveir
by need and by necessity
«nos covendra son talent faire;
us will-behoove his desire to-do
«quar, par mon chief, ço m'est viaire,
for by my head that to-me-is opinion
«dès que nos lui n'i avrions,
since that we him not-there would-have

«se plus l'uevre maintenions,
if more the-work we-maintained
«honte e damage e deshonor
shame and harm and dishonor
«porrions aveir el sojor
we-could have in-the resting
«e el combatre e en l'ester.
and in-the fighting and in the-staying
«Por tant fereit bien a loër
For so-much it-would-do well to praise
«que ceste uevre fust si traitiee
that this work were so treated
«e si faitement conseilliee
and so fashioned counseled
«qu'ensi noz cors ne livrisson
that-thus our bodies not we-might-deliver
«a mort ne a perdicion.
to death nor to perdition
«Totes veies i a honor,
All ways there is honor
«qui de dous maus prent le meillor.
who of two ills takes the best
— Seignor» fait sei Diomedès,
Lords says himself Diomedes
«mout avons enchargié granz fais,
much we-have loaded great burden
«plus perillos e plus mortaus
more perilous and more mortal
«que ne pense danz Menelaus,
than not thinks lord Menelaus

«qui ci nos somont a ocire
who here us summons to killing
«e a livrer toz a martire.
and to delivering all to martyrdom
«Lui ne chaudreit quin fust feniz,
Him not it-would-matter who-thereof were ended
«mais de sa femme fust saisiz.
but of his wife he-were seized
«A cez autres en laist parler:
To these others thereof let-him-leave to-speak
«Ne deit mie tel rien loër
Not he-ought at-all such anything to-praise
«que l'om ne vueille oïr ne faire.
that one not may-wish to-hear nor to-do
«Si com mei semble e est viaire,
So as to-me seems and is opinion
«ne conoist mie bien les lor:
not he-knows at-all well the theirs
««N'ont mais ne force ne valor
Not-they-have more nor force nor valor
««vers nos,» ço dit, «ne grant vertu;
toward us that he-says nor great strength
««dès que il ont Hector perdu,
since that they have Hector lost
««n'i a mais nul qu'a criembre face.»
not-there is more any that-to fear may-make
«Mais tant vueil jo bien que il sace,
But so-much wish I well that he may-know
«en tot le mont, qu'ensi est grant,
in all the world which-thus is great

«n'a chevalier de nul semblant
not-there-is knight of any semblance
«qui plus del cors Troïlus vaille
who more of-the body (of-)Troïlus may-be-worth
«en grant estor ne en bataille. 19910
in great fight nor in battle
«N'est pas meins forz d'Ector son frere;
Not-be-is at-all less strong than-Hector his brother
«trop est hardiz e combatere;
too-much he-is bold and fighting
«mout est de grant proëce pleins:
very he-is of great prowess full
«Ne cuit qu'il vaille de rien meins.
Not I-think that-he may-be-worth in anything less
«N'oï onc chevalier nomer 19915
Not-I-heard ever knight name
«cui plus vousisse resembler:
whom more I-would-wish to-resemble
«J'en ai essaié ne sai quanz,
I-thereof have tried not I-know how-many
«mais trop est cist proz e vaillanz.»
but too-much is this-one valiant and worthy
Autretel dist reis Ulixès:
The-same said king Ulysses
cil dui vousissent bien la pais. 19920
those two would-wish well the peace
Menelau ont mout contredit;
Menelaus they-have much gainsaid
nel sopleient grant ne petit:
not-him yield great nor small

le combatre ont mout desloé.
the fighting they-have much dissuaded
Ja fust en autre sen alé,
Already it-would-be into other way gone
quant Calcas sorst, li vieuz de Troie.
when Calchas rose the old-man of Troy
A haute voiz dist, que l'om l'oie:
With high voice he-said so-that one him-might-hear
«Seignor,» fait il, «que volez dire?
Lords says he what wish-you to-say
«Fol plait a ci e fol concire,
Foolish plea there-is here and foolish council
«quant vos d'aler avez porpens
when you of-going have thought
«ne de pais faire as Troïens.
nor of peace to-make with-the Trojans
«Sor le devié as deus sereit:
Over the forbidding of-the gods it-would-be
«Sacheiz tant lor en pesereit
Know so-much to-them thereof it-would-weigh
«qu'en mer vos fereient perir;
that-in sea you they-would-make perish
«neienz sereit del revertir.
nothing it-would-be of-the returning
«Acomplir estuet lor esguart.
To-fulfill behooves their judgment
«Tant vos di jo de la lor part
So-much to-you say I on the their part
«que vos veintreiz voz enemis:
that you will-vanquish your enemies

«Ainz que veez mais voz païs,
Before that you-may-see more your countries
«ne puet estre destruit ne seient.
not it-can be destroyed not they-may-be
«Il sevent bien que il porveient:
They know well what they foresee
«Lor providence e lor segreiz
Their providence and their secrets
«e les lor hauz devins conseiz
and the their high divine counsels
«sont mout repost as cuers humains;
are much hidden to-the hearts human
«por quant si seiez toz certains
for all-that so be all certain
«que de ceste uevre avreiz honor;
that from this work you-will-have honor
«e s'il en sont or li meillor,
and if-they thereof are now the best
«ne vos torge ja a esmai.
not to-you may-it-turn ever to dismay
«Par les devins respons le sai,
By the divine answers it I-know
«qu'il seront mort e eissillié
that-they will-be dead and exiled
«e de cest regne fors chacié.»
and from this realm out chased
Par l'amonestement Calcas,
By the-admonition (of-)Calchas

ço truis lisant, ne voustrent pas
that I-find reading not they-wished at-all
parler de pais a cele feiz:
to-speak of peace at that time
ensi departi li conseiz.
thus parted the council

The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Battles

LXXXVI

After two months of truce Agamemnon sets Ajax and Telamon in the front ranks, then Diomedes and Menelaus. Troilus avenges his brothers and drives the Greeks back to their tents, and Dares gives him the prize over two hundred thousand knights. Within the week the fifteenth battle is fought. Troilus spears Diomedes through the body and taunts him: let him lie with Calchas's daughter, whose faithlessness has earned him this wound, and keep watch over her, for she will soon take others. Thinking Diomedes dead, Agamemnon attacks fiercely until Troilus cuts open his helmet and wounds his head. The Greeks lose three men to the Trojans' one and ask for six months' truce, which Priam grants over his sons' objections.

19955 En triuës furent li Grezeis.
In truces were the Greeks
O Troïens toz les dous meis:
With Trojans all the two months
n'i ot trait ne feru d'espee,
not-there was shot nor struck with-sword
bien fu tenue e bien guardee.
well it-was held and well kept
Entre tant dis se sont guarni.
Between so-much while themselves they-are furnished

Quant li termes fu acompli,
When the term was fulfilled
si n'i ot mais de l'assembler.
so not-there was more of the-assembling
Cele nuit font haubers roller;
That night they-make hauberks roll
es grosses lances de sapin
on-the thick lances of fir
sont mis li bon fer acerin
are put the good irons steely
e les enseignes de color.
and the banners of color
Si tost com resclarci le jor,
So soon as brightened the day
s'armerent sempres comunal.
they-armed-themselves at-once in-common
Bien furent covert li cheval
Well were covered the horses
de cendaus d'Andre e de bofuz
with sendals of-Andre and with bofus
e de pailes a or batuz.
and with silks with gold beaten
Ses conreiz fait Agamennon:
His troops makes Agamemnon
rei Aïaus, rei Telamon
king Ajax king Telamon
met toz premiers as fereors.
he-puts all first to-the strikers
Cist ne sont mie des peiors:
These not are at-all of-the worst

sacheiz mout a bons chevaliers
know very there-are good knights
en icez dous conreiz premiers.
in these two troops first
Diomedès e Menelaus
Diomedes and Menelaus
ront grant plenté de bons vassaus,
again-have great plenty of good vassals
de prode gent e d'aduree
of valiant folk and of-hardened
e que richement fu armee,
and which richly was armed
e d'armes sevent quant qu'en est.
and of-arms they-know whatever that-thereof is
Quant tuit furent guarni e prest,
When all were furnished and ready
si chevauchent vers ceus dedenz,
so they-ride toward those within
qui ne refurent mie lenz.
who not again-were at-all slow
En la champaigne sablonose,
In the plain sandy
que n'est desegual ne taiose,
which not-is uneven nor hilly
s'entrecontrerent li conrei.
met-each-other the troops
Dis mile confanon desplei
Ten thousand pennons unfurled
i baissierent a l'assembler:
there lowered at the-assembling

la covint escuz estroër,
there it-behooved shields to-break
la volent lances en asteles,
there fly lances in splinters
la guerpissent chevalier seles,
there abandon knights saddles
la fausent hauberc e bliaut,
there fail hauberk and tunic
que li trenchant fer de Gontaut
so-that the cutting irons of Gontaut
passent par piz e par forceles:
pass through chests and through breast-bones
hui i sordront freides noveles.
today there will-arise cold news
La ot mil branz d'acier nuz traiz
There were a-thousand blades of-steel naked drawn
e sor heaumes oschiez e fraiz;
and on helmets notched and broken
la s'entrefont les chiés voler;
there they-make-each-other the heads fly
la oïst om braire e criër
there would-have-heard one wail and cry
hauz criz, morteus e doloros.
high cries mortal and grievous
Tuit sont sanglent li champ herbos
All are bloody the fields grassy
e plein de lances e d'escuz:
and full of lances and of-shields
mil en i gist des abatuz,
a-thousand thereof there lie of-the thrown-down

qui ne se pueent redrecier.
who not themselves can raise-again
La vont tuit vuit li bon destrier,
There go all empty the good chargers
qu'il n'est qui nul en baut ne prenge.
for-it not-is who any thereof in-hand not may-take
E Troïlus ses freres venge
And Troïlus his brothers avenges
si faitement, ço dit l'Escrit,
so fashioned that says the-Writing
que tot detrenche e tot ocit.
that all he-cuts-to-pieces and all kills
La ou plus veit la force d'eus,
There where most he-sees the force of-them
lor laisse corre iriez e feus.
at-them he-lets run angered and felon
Nel puet tenir presse ne fole:
Not-him can hold press nor throng
entre eus s'embat, entre eus se cole;
among them himself-rushes among them himself he-slips
lors fiert e chaple environ sei.
then he-strikes and hacks around himself
N'i a si orgoillos conrei
Not-there is so proud troop
qu'il ne remut, quant il i vient.
that-he not may-move when he there comes

Tant le dote chascuns e crient
So-much him fears each and dreads
que si plus mortel enemi
that his most mortal enemies
li ont le jor le champ guerpi.
to-him have the day the field abandoned
Jusqu'as tentes les conveierent:
Up-to-the tents them they-escorted
onques anceis ne les laissierent.
ever before not them they-left
A ço faire ot bones aiuës,
To that doing he-had good aids
plus de vint mile espees nues.
more than twenty thousand swords naked
De la bataille d'icel jor
Of the battle of-that day
furent Troïen li meillor.
were Trojans the best
Sacheiz, por veir le vos plevis,
Know for true it to-you I-pledge
mout laidirent lor enemis;
much they-ill-used their enemies
mout lor tolirent de lor gent,
much from-them they-took of their folk
qui el champ jurent mort sanglent;
who in-the field lay dead bloody
e plus assez lor en tolissent,
and more enough from-them thereof they-would-have-taken
mais por la nuit se departissent.
but for the night themselves they-parted

De dous cenz mile chevaliers,
Of two hundreds thousand knights
se Daires n'en est mençongiers,
if Dares not-thereof is liar
ot le pris cel jor Troïlus.
had the prize that day Troïlus
Ne sai que aloignasse plus:
Not I-know why I-should-lengthen more
estreit serré, le pas, rengié,
tight closed the pace ranked
sont en la vile repairié.
they-are into the town returned
Li mort sont plaint, mais li navré
The dead are lamented but the wounded
furent la nuit bien ostelé:
were the night well lodged
volentiers lor fait om tel rien
willingly to-them does one such thing
ques asoage e fait grant bien.
which-them eases and does great good
En l'ost sont morne e mu e quei:
In the-host they-are gloomy and mute and quiet
chascuns i a reguart de sei.
each there has regard of himself
Mout sont irié e entrepris.
Much they-are angered and beset
N'i ot la nuit joie ne ris:
Not-there was the night joy nor laughter

sovent perdent e poi guaaignent
often they-lose and little gain
e ont maint navré qui se plaignent,
and have many-a wounded who themselves lament
dont ja ne guarra la meitié,
of-whom ever not will-heal the half
n'escuz n'iert mais par eus baillié.
nor-shield not-will-be more by them handled
Cil qui pueent armes porter
Those who can arms bear
ne lor sevent conseil doner,
not to-them know counsel to-give
fors tant que lor prochain parent
except so-much that their near kinsmen
en plorent des ieuz tendrement.
thereof weep from-the eyes tenderly
Ensi avient de tel ovraigne:
Thus it-befalls of such work
dreiz est que l'om s'en rie e plaigne.
right it-is that one himself-thereof may-laugh and lament
Senz triuë que entre eus fust prise
Without truce which between them were taken
ne demandee ne requise,
nor asked nor requested
josta la bataille quinzaine,
joined the battle fifteenth
ainz que trespassast la semaine:
before that might-pass the week
grant fu merveilles a desrei;
great it-was marvelously to disorder

trop i morurent conte e rei
too-many there died counts and kings
e amiraut e duc preisié.
and emirs and dukes prized
Bien se sont Troïen vengié;
Well themselves are Trojans avenged
vassaument se sont contenu
valiantly themselves they-are borne
e chierement lor ont vendu
and dearly to-them they-have sold
la conqueste qu'il cuident faire:
the conquest which-they think to-make
dou mile en ont laissié le braire,
two thousand thereof they-have left the wailing
qui el champ gisent pale e freit.
who in-the field lie pale and cold
Sacheiz griefment furent destreit.
Know grievously they-were distressed
Navrez i fu Diomedès
Wounded there was Diomedes
par mi le cors de plain eslais
through the-midst the body at full gallop
d'une lance grosse e poignal,
with-a lance thick and of-a-fist
si que l'enseigne de cendal
so that the-banner of sendal
li remest par mi les costez:
to-him remained through the-midst the sides
por morz en fu del champ portez.
for dead thence he-was from-the field carried

Al joster li fist Troïlus,
At-the jousting to-him did Troilus
veant mil chevaliers e plus,
in-sight-of a-thousand knights and more
e si li dist en reprovier:
and so to-him said in reproach
«Or sojornez o la moillier,
Now rest with the wife
«avuec la fille al vieil Calcas,
with the daughter of-the old Calchas
«que ne vos het, ço diënt, pas.
who not you hates that they-say at-all
«Por soë amor vos manaidasse,
For her love you I-would-have-spared
«se plus par tens m'en apensasse.
if more in time me-thereof I-had-bethought
«E ne por quant sa corte fei,
And nor for all-that her short faith
«sa tricherie e son beslei
her trickery and her disloyalty
«e ço qu'ele a vers mei boisié
and that which-she has toward me cheated
«vos a tot ço apareillié:
to-you has all that prepared
«Sis pechiez vos a encombré
Her sin you has encumbered
«e ço qu'el m'a d'amor fausé.
and that which-she to-me-has in-love falsified
«Par vos li mant qu'or somes dui:
By you to-her I-send that-now we-are two

«S'esté avez la ou jo fui,
If-been you-have there where I was
«pro i avra des acoilliz,
plenty there will-be of-the welcomed
«ainz que li sieges seit feniz;
before that the siege may-be ended
«assez avreiz qu'escharguaitier.
enough you-will-have that-to-watch
«S'ensi l'avez senz parçonier,
If-thus it-you-have without sharer
«ne s'est ancor pas arestee,
not herself-is yet at-all stopped
«dès que li mestiers li agree;
since that the trade to-her pleases
«quar, se tant est qu'un poi li plaise,
for if so-much it-is that-a little to-her it-may-please
«li ostelain i avront aise.
the lodgers there will-have ease
«Ço sera sens, s'el se porpense
That will-be sense if-she herself bethinks
«dont ele traie sa despense.»
whence she may-draw her expense
Cist afit furent bien oï.
These taunts were well heard
Ne les ont pas mis en obli
Not them they-have at-all put in forgetting
ne cil dedenz ne li Grezeis:
nor those within nor the Greeks

ne fu puis jorz de tot le meis
not was after day of all the month
qu'en cent lieus ne fussent retrait.
that-in a-hundred places not they-were recounted
Assez ot la crïé e brait,
Enough there-was there cried and wailed
ou Diomedès fu navrez:
where Diomedes was wounded
onques nus hom de mere nez
ever any man of mother born
ne vit plorer tant chevalier
not saw weep so-many knight
ne plus se peinent del vengier.
nor more themselves strive of-the avenging
Dis mile lances i croissirent,
Ten thousand lances there cracked
que maint chevalier abatirent,
which many-a knight threw-down
e autretant espees nues,
and as-many swords naked
que sor heaumes furent ferues.
which on helmets were struck
Comparee fu la venjance:
Paid-for was the vengeance
mainz cors i fist d'ame sevrance.
many bodies there it-made of-soul separation
Agamennon, ço truis lisant,
Agamemnon that I-find reading
por la presse, qu'il vit si grant,
for the press which-he saw so great

cuida Diomedès fust morz.
thought Diomedes were dead
O tant com pot aveir d'esforz
With as-much as he-could have of-effort
ala Troïens envaïr;
he-went Trojans to-attack
e si sacheiz bien, senz mentir,
and so know well without lying
qu'estrange estor i ot rendu,
that-strange fight there was rendered
dès que sis cors i fu venu.
since that his body there was come
Mout le fist bien il de sa main:
Very it did well he with his hand
de cent n'en sont pas li vint sain,
of a-hundred not-thereof are at-all the twenty sound
qu'il a toz ocis o navrez.
whom-he has all killed or wounded
Mais trop les a chier comparez,
But too-much them he-has dearly paid-for
quar Troïlus l'ala requerre:
for Troilus him-went to-attack
entre dous rens li mut tel guerre
between two ranks to-him he-moved such war
o le bon brant forbi d'acier
with the good blade furbished of-steel
que del heaume trenche un quartier.
that from-the helmet he-cuts a quarter
Plaié l'a mout el chief griefment:
Wounded him-he-has much in-the head grievously

tuit cil de l'ost en sont dolent.
all those of the-host thereof are grieving
En perillos lieu est la plaie.
In perilous place is the wound
De la mort se crient e esmaie:
Of the death himself he-fears and dismays
s'a dreit i ferist Troïlus,
if-at straight there had-struck Troilus
n'i covenist recovrer plus;
not-there it-would-have-behooved to-recover more
mais beslivant ala li cous,
but slantwise went the blow
por quant del test pareist li os:
for all-that from-the skull appears the bone
a grant peril i est tailliez.
at great peril there he-is cut
Apres içо qu'il fu bleciez,
After this that-he was hurt
en furent Greu li sordeior;
thereof were Greeks the worse
ne se tindrent onc plus le jor.
not themselves they-held ever more the day
Mout en a Troïlus ocis.
Many thereof has Troilus killed
Ne truis les termes ne les dis
Not I-find the terms nor the days
que ceste bataille dura:
that this battle lasted
mais cil dedenz e cil de la,
but those within and those of there

ço dist Daires, qui a tot fu,
that said Dares who at all was
miliers d'omes i ont perdu.
thousands of-men there have lost
Mais la perte fu assez maire
But the loss was enough greater
a ceus de l'ost, ços sai retraire;
to those of the-host that-you I-know to-recount
perdu en ont encontre un treis:
lost thereof they-have against one three
nel porent plus sofrir Grezeis.
not-it could more suffer Greeks
Agamennon vit le martire
Agamemnon saw the martyrdom
e le plus de sa gent ocire
and the most of his folk killed
e la perte sor eus torner,
and the loss on them turn
qu'il ne lor pueent contrester
that-they not to-them can withstand
ne champ tenir ne freis aveir.
nor field hold nor fresh-ones have
Par bosoing e par estoveir,
By need and by necessity
por la feire, que tant les grieve,
for the fair which so-much them grieves
requistrent demi an de trieve.
they-requested half year of truce

Ses messages i a tramis
His messengers there he-has sent
sages, corteis e bien apris,
wise courteous and well taught
qui bien fornirent le message.
who well fulfilled the message
Prianz, qui mout fu pro e sage,
Priam who very was valiant and wise
en prist conseil o ses norriz,
thereof took counsel with his nurtured
o ses barons e o ses fiz.
with his barons and with his sons
Tuit li ont dit comunaument
All to-him have said in-common
«qu'a ço n'acordent il neient
that-to that not-agree they at-all
que si grant triuë prenge o eus,
that so great truce he-may-take with them
mais, a lor grez e a lor vueus,
but at their likings and at their wishes
se combatront tant o les lor
themselves they-will-fight so-long with the theirs
que il en aient le peior
that they thereof may-have the worse
e qu'il i perdent tuit les vies
and that-they there may-lose all the lives
e que toz seit ars li navies,
and that all may-be burned the fleet

qu'il ne lor puissent eschaper
that-they not from-them may escape
ne en lor terres retorner
nor into their lands return
que tuit ne seient mort e pris:
that all not may-be dead and taken
trop ont grant terme assez requis».
too they-have great term enough requested
Sacheiz que mout fu contendue,
Know that much it-was contested
mais, ne sai par la cui aiuë,
but not I-know by the whose aid
fu totes veies otreiee:
it-was all ways granted
sis meis dura cele feiee;
six months lasted that time
ne fu maumise ne enfraite.
not it-was misused nor broken
Quant la chose fu a chief traite
When the thing was to end drawn
des cors ardeir e sevelir,
of-the bodies to-burn and to-bury
si ont eü assez leisir
so they-have had enough leisure
d'eus sojorner e porchacier,
of-themselves to-rest and to-forage
e cil dedenz d'eus enforcier.
and those within of-themselves to-strengthen

Briseida Yields to Diomedes

LXXXVII

Diomedes, Menelaus, and Agamemnon lie gravely wounded, and good physicians heal them before the truce ends. Calchas's daughter can no longer hide her grief and love for Diomedes. Despite her father's warnings she visits his tent often, and her heart has wholly turned to him. Alone, she admits that she has wronged Troilus, who never deserved it. No good song will ever be written of her, and the ladies of Troy will repeat her treachery. Yet she was alone among the Greeks, without friend or counsel, and would have died without some comfort. She cannot go back, so she wishes Troilus well and resolves to give Diomedes his desire.

Diomedès e Menelaus
Diomedes and Menelaus
orent plaies granz e mortaus;
had wounds great and mortal
en grant crieme e en grant sospeis
in great fear and in great suspense
rest mout Agamennon li reis.
again-is much Agamemnon the king
Mires ont buens a lor talent,
Physicians they-have good at their desire
por quant sin jurent longement.
for all-that so-thereof they-lay long
Socors orent e tel aiuë,
Help they-had and such aid
ainz que la triuë fust rompue,
before that the truce were broken
furent guariz e respassez.
they-were healed and recovered

Quant Diomedès fu navrez
When Diomedes was wounded
e la fille Calcas le sot,
and the daughter (of-)Calchas it knew
conforta s'en tant com plus pot,
she-comforted herself-thereof as-much as most she-could
mais n'en pot pas son cuer covrir
but not-thereof she-could at-all her heart cover
que plor e lermes e sospir
so-that weeping and tears and sighs
n'issent de li a nes un fuer.
not-come-out of her at not-even one price
Semblant fait bien que de son cuer
Semblance she-makes well that from her heart
l'aime sor tote rien vivant:
him-she-loves above all thing living
nen aveit onc fait grant semblant,
not she-had ever made great semblance
jusqu'a cel jor, de lui amer,
up-to that day of him loving
mais lores ne s'en pot celer;
but then not herself-thereof she-could hide
mout a grant duel e grant pesance.
very she-has great grief and great sorrow
Ne laisse pas por deparlance
Not she-leaves at-all for talk
qu'el nel veie dedenz sa tente:
that-she not-him may-see within his tent
dès ore est tote en lui s'entente,
from now is all in him her-intent

dès or l'aime, dès or l'en tient,
from now him-she-loves from now him-thereof she-holds
mais de lui perdre mout se crient.
but of him losing much herself she-fears
Mout fu perillose la plaie:
Very was perilous the wound
li oz des Greus mout s'en esmaie, 20220
the host of-the Greeks much itself-thereof dismays
e ele en plore o ses dous ieuz.
and she thereof weeps with her two eyes
Ne remaint por Calcas le vieuz,
Not she-remains for Calchas the old
ne por chasti ne por manace,
nor for chastising nor for threat
ne por devié que il l'en face,
nor for forbidding which he to-her-thereof may-make
que ne l'aille sovent veeir. 20225
that-she not him-may-go often to-see
Dès or puet om aparceveir
From now can one perceive
que vers lui a tot atorné:
that toward him she-has all turned
s'amor, son cuer e son pensé.
her-love her heart and her thought
Si set el bien certainement
So knows she well certainly
qu'el se mesfait trop laidement. 20230
that-she herself misdoes too foully

A grant tort e a grant boisdie
With great wrong and with great deceit
s'est si de Troïlus partie,
herself-is so from Troilus parted
mesfait a mout, ço li est vis,
misdone she-has much that to-her is seeming
e trop a vers celui mespris
and too-much she-has toward that-one wronged
qui tant est beaus, riches e proz,
who so-much is fair rich and valiant
e qui as armes les veint toz.
and who in-the arms them vanquishes all
A sei meïsme pense e dit:
To herself same she-thinks and says
«De mei n'iert ja fait bon escrit
Of me not-will-be ever made good writing
«ne chantee bone chançon.
nor sung good song
«Tel aventure ne tel don
Such adventure nor such gift
«ne vousisse ja jor aveir.
not I-would-wish ever day to-have
«Mauvais sen oi e fol, espeir,
Bad sense I-had and foolish perhaps
«quant jo trichai a mon ami,
when I cheated on my friend
«qui onc vers mei nel deservi.
who ever toward me not-it deserved
«Ne l'ai pas fait si com jo dui:
Not it-I-have at-all done so as I ought

«Mis cuers deüst bien estre en lui
My heart ought well to-be in him
«si atachiez e si fermez
so attached and so fixed
«qu'autre n'en fust ja escoutez;
that-another not-thereof were ever listened-to
«fause fui e legiere e fole
false I-was and light and foolish
«la ou j'en entendi parole: 20250
there where I-thereof heard speech
«Qui leiaument se vueut guarder
Who loyally herself wishes to-guard
«n'en deit ja parole escouter;
not-thereof ought ever speech to-listen-to
«par parole sont engeignié
by speech are tricked
«li sage e li plus veziié.
the wise and the most shrewd
«Dès ore avront pro que retraire 20255
From now will-have enough to recount
«de mei cil qui ne m'aiment guaire;
of me those who not me-love much
«lor paroles de mei tendront
their speeches of me will-hold
«les dames que a Troie sont.
the ladies who at Troy are
«Honte i ai fait as dameiseles
Shame there I-have done to-the damsels
«trop lait e as riches puceles: 20260
too ugly and to-the rich maidens

«Ma tricherie e mis mesfaiz
My trickery and my misdeeds
«lor sera mais toz jorz retraiz.
to-them will-be from-now all days recounted
«Peser m'en deit, e si fait el:
Weigh me-thereof it-ought and so does it
«Trop est mis cuers muable e fel.
Too-much is my heart changeable and false
«Qu'ami aveie le meillor
For-friend I-had the best
«cui mais pucele doint s'amor:
to-whom ever maiden may-give her-love
«Ceus qu'il amast deüsse amer
Those whom-he loved I-ought to-love
«e ceus haïr e eschiver
and those to-hate and to-shun
«qui porchaçassent son damage.
who should-pursue his harm
«Ici pert il com jo sui sage,
Here appears it how I am wise
«quant a celui qu'il plus haeit,
when to that-one whom-he most hated
«contre reison e contre dreit,
against reason and against right
«ai ma fine amor otreiee:
I-have my fine love granted
«Trop en serai mais despreisiee.
Too-much thereby I-shall-be from-now despised
«E que me vaut, se m'en repent?
And what to-me avails if me-thereof I-repent

«En ço n'a mais recovrement.
In that not-there-is more recovery
«Serai donc a cestui leiaus,
I-shall-be then to this-one loyal
«qui mout est proz e bons vassaus.
who very is valiant and good vassal
«Jo ne puis mais la revertir
I not can more there return
«ne de cestui mei resortir:
nor from this-one myself draw-back
«Trop ai ja en lui mon cuer mis,
Too-much I-have already in him my heart put
«por c'en ai fait ço que j'en fis.
for that-thereof I-have done that which I-thereof did
«E n'eüst pas ensi esté,
And not-it-would-have at-all thus been
«se fusse ancore en la cité:
if I-were still in the city
«Ja jor mis cuers ne se pensast
Ever day my heart not itself would-have-thought
«qu'il tressaillist ne qu'il chanjast.
that-it would-leap nor that-it would-change
«Mais ci esteie senz conseil
But here I-was without counsel
«e senz ami e senz feeil:
and without friend and without liegeman
«Si m'ot mestier tel atendance
So to-me-had need such expectation
«que m'ostast d'ire e de pesance.
which me-might-remove from-wrath and from sorrow

«Trop poüsse ore consirer
Too-much I-could now refrain
«e plaindre e mei desconforter
and lament and me discomfort
«e endurer jusqu'a la mort:
and endure up-to the death
«N'eüsse ja de la confort.
Not-I-would-have ever from there comfort
«Morte fusse, piece a, ço crei,
Dead I-would-be a-while ago that I-believe
«se n'eüsse merci de mei.
if not-I-had mercy on me
«Senz ço que jo ai fait folor,
Without that that I have done folly
«des gieus partiz ai le meillor:
of-the games divided I-have the best
«Tel hore avrai joie e leece
Such hour I-shall-have joy and gladness
«que mis cuers fust en grant tristece;
when my heart would-be in great sadness
«teus en porra en mal parler,
such thereof will-be-able in ill to-speak
«qui me venist tart conforter.
who to-me would-come late to-comfort
«Ne deit om mie por la gent
Not ought one at-all for the folk
«estre en dolor e en torment.
to-be in grief and in torment
«Se toz li mondes est haitiez,
If all the world is cheered

«e mis cuers seit triz e iriez,
and my heart may-be sad and angered
«içó ne m'est nule guaaigne,
this not to-me-is any gain
«mais mout me dueut li cuers e saigne
but much to-me aches the heart and bleeds
«de ço que jo sui en error;
for that that I am in distress
«quar nule rien que a amor
for any thing which has love
«la ou sis cuers seit point tiranz,
there where its heart may-be at-all torn
«trobles, dotos ne repentanz,
troubled doubtful nor repentant
«ne puet estre sis gieus verais.
not can be its game true
«Sovent m'apai, sovent m'irais;
Often myself-I-appease often myself-I-anger
«sovent m'est bel e bien le vueil;
often to-me-it-is fair and well it I-wish
«sovent resont ploros mi ueil:
often again-are tearful my eyes
«Ensi est or, jo n'en sai plus.
Thus it-is now I not-thereof know more
«Deus donge bien a Troïlus!
God may-give good to Troïlus
«Quant nel puis aveir, ne il mei,
When not-him I-can have nor he me
«a cestui me doing e otrei.
to this-one myself I-give and grant

«Mout voudreie aveir cel talent
Much I-would-wish to-have that desire
«que n'eüsse remembrement
that not-I-might-have remembrance
«des uevres faites d'en ariere:
of-the works done from back
«Ço me fait mal a grant maniere.
That to-me does ill in great manner
«Ma consciënce me reprent,
My conscience me reproaches
«que a mon cuer fait grant torment.
which to my heart does great torment
«Mais or m'estuet a ço torner
But now me-behooves to that to-turn
«tot mon corage e mon penser,
all my heart and my thought
«vueille o ne vueille, dès or mais,
I-may-wish or not I-may-wish from now henceforth
«com faitement Diomedès
how fashioned Diomedes
«seit d'amor a mei atendanz,
may-be of-love to me waiting
«si qu'il en seit liez e joianz,
so that-he thereof may-be glad and joyful
«e jo de lui, puis qu'ensi est.
and I of him since that-thus it-is
«Or truis mon cuer hardi e prest
Now I-find my heart bold and ready
«de faire ço que lui plaira:
of doing that which to-him will-please

«Ja plus orgueil n'i trovera.
Ever more pride not-there he-will-find
«Par parole l'ai tant mené
By speech him-I-have so-long led
«qu'or li ferai sa volenté
that-now to-him I-shall-do his will
«e son plaisir e son voleir.
and his pleasure and his wish
«Deus m'en doint joie e bien aveir!» 20340
God to-me-thereof may-give joy and good to-have

The Sixteenth Battle and the Myrmidons

LXXXVIII

During the truce Agamemnon and Nestor beg Achilles to fight. He refuses because of his vow, but against his heart lends them his Myrmidons, marked in purple. In the sixteenth battle Troilus unhorses the duke of Athens and wins his charger, and the Myrmidons force the Trojans to free King Thoas. Surrounded in Nestor's battalion, Troilus loses his horse and is rescued by Paris and the Bastards, though Hermagoras is killed. Troilus then routs the Myrmidons and takes a hundred knights and a hundred horses. Hecuba and the ladies disarm him in the Chamber of Alabaster and fear for his life. He mocks Briseida's faithlessness, and the Trojan damsels scorn her.

Dedenz l'espace des sis meis
Within the-space of-the six months
pristrent maint conseil li Grezeis,
took many-a counsel the Greeks
maint concire, maint parlement,
many-a council many-a parley

a esguarder com faitement
to consider how fashioned
traireient de lor uevre a chief.
they-would-draw of their work to end
Trop par lor torne a grant meschief
Too-much very to-them turns to great mischief
de ço que il n'ont Achillès:
of that that they not-have Achilles
c'est cil qui sosteneit le fais,
it-is that-one who sustained the burden
qui les granz estors mainteneit
who the great fights maintained
e qui les granz esforz faiseit,
and who the great efforts made
cui aveneient aventures;
to-whom befell adventures
qui les batailles forz e dures
who the battles strong and hard
faiseit a cheval e a pié.
made on horse and on foot
Mout ont perdu, poi guaaigné,
Much they-have lost little gained
puis qu'armes laissa a porter
since that-arms he-left-off to bear
e eus socorre e aïder.
and them to-succor and to-aid
Par la sentence e par l'esguart
By the verdict and by the-judgment
que chascuns fait de soë part,
which each makes from his part

i ont Agamennon tramis:
there they-have Agamemnon sent
sevent que mout est sis amis.
they-know that much is his friend
Nestor i meine ensemble o sei,
Nestor there he-leads together with himself
qui mout ert sages de lor lei.
who much was wise of their law
Ambedui l'ont mis a reison
Both him-have put to reason
sol a sol en son paveillon:
alone with alone in his pavilion
mout li ont bien l'uevre mostree,
much to-him they-have well the-matter shown
mais poi li plaist e li agree.
but little to-him it-pleases and to-him suits
Preié li ont mout e requis
Begged him they-have much and asked
qu'al grant bosoing lor seit aidis:
that-at-the great need to-them he-may-be helper
mout lor tarde, mout lor demore.
much to-them it-is-late much to-them it-delays
Mout li priënt qu'il les socore;
Much him they-beg that-he them may-succor
en mainte guise l'en somonent
in many-a guise him-thereof they-summon
e en maint sen l'en areisonent,
and in many-a sense him-thereof they-address

mais onc nel porent amener
but ever not-him they-could bring
a ço qu'il vueille armes porter:
to that that-he may-wish arms to-bear
«D'iço», fait il, «mar parlereiz:
Of-this says he ill you-will-speak
«Sacheiz ja el n'i trovereiz.
Know ever other not-there you-will-find
«Pais faites, si fereiz que sage,
Peace make so you-will-do as wise
«quar trop a ci pesme damage,
for too-much there-is here dire harm
«e trop i sera grant e fier,
and too-much there will-be great and fierce
«ainz que veez un meis entier.
before that you-see one month whole
«Ore en est mort Palamedès
Now thereof is dead Palamedes
«e trente rei riche home adès,
and thirty kings rich men moreover
«dont damage est e grant dolor
whereof harm is and great sorrow
«e dont li siegles iert peior:
and whereby the world will-be worse
«Ja, tant com li monz ait duree,
Ever as-long as the world may-have duration
«n'iert mais la perte restoree.
not-will-be ever the loss restored

«E sacheiz bien jo nel lais mie
And know well I not-it leave at-all
«por paor ne por coardie,
for fear nor for cowardice
«mais por ço que si fait hontage
but for that that so made shame
«ne fu onques ne tel outrage,
not was ever nor such outrage
«ne tel forfait ne tel orgueil.
nor such crime nor such pride
«Nos aiderai plus que ne sueil;
Not-you I-shall-aid more than not I-am-wont
«nos i atendez pas a mei:
not-you there wait at-all on me
«Jo n'enfraindreie pas ma lei,
I not-would-break at-all my law
«le vo qu'en ai fait e juré.
the vow that-thereof I-have made and sworn
«Mais tant nos somes entramé,
But so-much we are loved-each-other
«que jo ne puis ensi de bot
that I not can thus at-a stroke
«mei de vos desevrer del tot.
myself from you separate at-the all
«Al grant damage maintenir,
To-the great harm maintaining
«dont mout vos verrai repentir,
whereof much you I-shall-see repent
«vos baillerai mes chevaliers;
you I-shall-hand my knights

«e si nel faz pas volentiers,
and yet not-it I-do at-all willingly
«mais tant vos aim que ne sai mie
but so-much you I-love that not I-know at-all
«coment del tot vos escondie.
how at-the all you I-may-refuse
«Desor mon cuer e sor mon peis,
Above my heart and above my wish
«en menreiz mes Mirmidoneis:
thereof you-will-lead my Myrmidons
«Senz mei les i porreiz mener;
Without me them there you-will-be-able to-lead
«e si vos poëz bien vanter
and so you can well boast
«n'est hui hom vis por cuil feïsse
not-is today man alive for whom-it I-would-do
«ne por cui les i trameïsse.»
nor for whom them there I-would-send
Agamennon merciz l'en rent,
Agamemnon thanks to-him-thereof renders
e li reis Nestor ensement:
and the king Nestor likewise
tuit joios en sont e tuit lié.
all joyful thereof they-are and all glad
Ensi ont pris de lui congié.
Thus they-have taken from him leave

La triuë dura tant e tint
The truce lasted so-much and held
que li termes e li jorz vint
that the term and the day came
que d'ambes parz fu de[s]mandee.
that from-both parts was challenged
Quant resclarci la matinee,
When grew-bright the morning
si orent tuit lor cors armez
so they-had all their bodies armed
e lor conreiz faiz e sevrez,
and their troops made and divided
prez de combatre e d'asaillir
ready to fight and to-assail
e de grant estor maintenir.
and of great fight maintaining
Achillès fait le suen conrei:
Achilles makes the his troop
armer les fait de devant sei,
arm them he-makes from before himself
gent les ordene e apareille.
fairly them he-orders and prepares
D'une chiere porpre vermeille
With-a dear purple vermilion
les a toz faiz entreseignier,
them he-has all made marked
e dit lor: «Seignor chevalier,
and says to-them Lords knights

«senz chadel e senz chevetaigne
without leader and without captain
«sera hui la vostre compaigne:
will-be today the your company
«Guardez por ço ne faceiz faille.
Look for that not you-make fault
«Quant vos sereiz en la bataille,
When you will-be in the battle
«par ço vos entreconoistreiz,
by that you each-other-will-know
«par ço ensemble vos tendreiz.
by that together you you-will-hold
«Mout me grieve, par bone fei,
Much me grieves by good faith
«de ço que i alez senz mei.»
of that that there you-go without me
Li ueil l'en mueillent de pitié,
The eyes him-thereof are-wet with pity
e cil ont pris de lui congié.
and those-ones have taken from him leave
Joie ont si grant, nus nel set dire:
Joy they-have so great any not-it knows to-tell
mout le lor a fait bien lor sire,
much it to-them has done well their lord
qui lor en a doné congié.
who to-them thereof has given leave
Mort esteient e engeignié
Dead they-were and deceived
de ço qu'il ne portoënt armes:
of that that-they not bore arms

ancui lor fera l'om teus charmes,
today to-them will-make one such charms
dont lor saigneront li costé.
whereof to-them will-bleed the sides
Le petit pas, estreit serré,
The little pace narrow packed
laciez les verz heaumes bruniz,
laced the green helmets burnished
sor les bons destriers Arabiz,
on the good chargers Arabian
en sont venu al grant tornei,
thereof they-are come to-the great tourney
qui comenciez fu el gravei.
which begun was on-the gravel
Ja i aveit mil jostes faites
Already there had-been a-thousand jousts made
e mil lances par escuz fraites
and a-thousand lances through shields broken
e mil enseignes despleiees
and a-thousand banners unfurled
en sanc de chevaliers baigniees
in blood of knights bathed
e mil blans haubers esfondrez
and a-thousand white hauberks staved-in
e mil heaumes esquartelez,
and a-thousand helmets quartered
dont par mi saillent les cerveles.
whereof through middle leap-out the brains

Plus de dou mile arçons de seles
More than two thousand saddlebows of saddle
i a delivres senz seignor,
there are free without lord
qui a denz gisent en l'estor,
which on teeth lie in the-fight
freit e pasmé e pale e pers.
cold and swooned and pale and livid
Cil les abat sovent envers,
That-one them fells often on-their-backs
qui en mi eus lor livre estaus:
who in middle of-them to-them delivers stands
c'est Troïlus, li bons vassaus.
it-is Troilus the good vassal
Bien fiert de lance e mieuz d'espee:
Well he-strikes with lance and better with-sword
trop est sa force redotee;
too-much is his strength dreaded
poi en ataint qu'en dous ne fende
few thereof he-reaches that-in two not he-may-split
e qu'a la terre ne l'estende.
and that-to the earth not him-he-may-stretch
O le duc d'Athenes josta,
With the duke of-Athens he-jousted
qu'a la terre le trebucha,
so-that-to the earth him he-tumbled
si qu'il en retint le destrier,
so that-he thereof kept the charger
qui cent livres valeit d'or mier.
which a-hundred pounds was-worth of-gold pure

Li granz, li proz Philemenis
The great the valiant Philemenis
i ot le jor d'armes grant pris,
there had the day of-arms great prize
e mout en rot Polidamas.
and much thereof again-had Polydamas
Pris aveient le rei Thoas,
Taken they-had the king Thoas
quant la gent Achillès i vint:
when the folk Achilles there came
guerpir l'estut celui quil tint,
to-abandon him-it-behooved that-one who-him held
qu'il furent freis e desirant,
for-they were fresh and eager
hardi e pro e combatant.
bold and valiant and fighting
Plongié se sont en Troïens;
Plunged themselves they-are into Trojans
ocis en ont en poi de tens
killed thereof they-have in little of time
tant qu'il n'est se merveille non.
so-much that-it not-is if marvel not
Bien en sont teint lor confanon
Well thereof are dyed their pennons
en sanc vermeil; mout i ont fait.
in blood vermilion much there they-have done
Se li Perseis n'eüssent trait,
If the Persians not-had shot

qui lor depercent les costez
who to-them pierce-through the sides
o les trenchanz darz empenez,
with the cutting darts feathered
trop chier vendissent lor sojor,
too dear they-would-have-sold their stay
mil lor en tolissent le jor;
a-thousand to-them thereof they-would-have-taken the day
mais cil les ont mout damagiez
but those-ones them have much damaged
e en mainz lieus les cors plaiez.
and in many places the bodies wounded
Troïlus fut mout entrepris
Troilus was much beset
en la bataille Nestoris.
in the battalion of-Nestor
Trop s'ert entre eus abandonez:
Too-much himself-had among them abandoned
sis chevaus li fu morz getez.
his horse to-him was dead thrown
Cent colees a receües
A-hundred blows he-has received
de lances e d'espees nues,
of lances and of-swords naked
ainz qu'il poüst aveir socors.
before that-he could have succor
Paris o ses freres menors,
Paris with his brothers younger

li bon Bastart, li fil le rei
the good Bastards the sons (of-)the king
l'ont socoru par bone fei.
him-have succored by good faith
Morz o pris i fust Troïlus,
Dead or taken there would-have-been Troilus
se li socors li tarjast plus.
if the succor to-him had-delayed more
Mais bien vos di certainement,
But well to-you I-say certainly
cil l'escostrent si faitement
those-ones him-rescued so fashioned
que cent de ceus qui le teneient
that a-hundred of those who him held
n'oënt puis gote ne ne veient.
not-hear afterward drop nor not see
Par estoveir lor ont tolu,
By necessity from-them him-they-have taken
mais trop lor est mal avenu,
but too-much to-them is ill befallen
qu'Ermagoras i est ocis,
for-Hermagoras there is killed
uns des Bastarz, frere Paris.
one of-the Bastards brother (of-)Paris
Mout en fu iriez Troïlus
Much thereof was angered Troilus
e dit qu'il nel soferra plus:
and says that-he not-it will-suffer more
le champ lor covendra guerpir;
the field to-them it-will-behoove to-abandon

n'i a neient del plus sofrir.
not-there is nothing of-the more enduring
Soner a fait dous olifanz:
Sound he-has made two horns
la ou la bataille ert plus granz,
there where the battle was most great
ou esteient Mirmidoneis,
where were Myrmidons
les est alez ferir maneis.
them he-is gone to-strike at-once
Iluec rot estor grant e fier,
There again-had fight great and fierce
quar cil esteient chevalier
for those-ones were knights
que teus n'aveit en tote l'ost.
that such not-had in all the-host
Philemenis s'i est apost
Philemenis himself-there is set
o toz ses Paflagoniëns;
with all his Paphlagonians
Paris i rest o toz les suens,
Paris there again-is with all the his
li Bastart e Polidamas.
the Bastards and Polydamas
La ot maint escu frait e quas,
There there-was many-a shield broken and smashed
la ot si fait gieu comencié
there there-was so made game begun
dont set cent remestrent irié:
whereof seven hundred remained angered

n'i a un sol qui seit en sele
not-there is one only who may-be in saddle
cui ne parisse la boële.
of-whom not may-appear the bowel
Sacheiz que la gent Achillès
Know that the folk (of-)Achilles
sofri ici estrange fais.
suffered here strange burden
Ensemble sont en un tropel
Together they-are in one troop
e ont fait d'eus mur e chastel,
and have made of-themselves wall and castle
e si ne sont mie legier
and so not they-are at-all easy
a desconfire n'a percier.
to rout nor-to pierce
Mout le font bien, mais sovenet
Much it they-do well but often
les endamage e les maumet
them damages and them maims
Troïlus, qui mout les aspreie:
Troilus who much them presses
por poi que nes met a la veie.
for little that not-them he-puts on the way
Ne sont si serré ne si clos
Not they-are so packed nor so closed
qu'il ne lor trenche e char e os.
that-he not to-them may-cut and flesh and bone

Al socors vint Agamennon,
To-the succor came Agamemnon
Reis Menelaus, reis Telamon,
King Menelaus king Telamon
li dus d'Athene e Ulixès
the duke of-Athens and Ulysses
e o ses genz Diomedès:
and with his people Diomedes
cil vindrent abrivé e freis.
those-ones came spurred and fresh
Ci fu josters mis en defeis;
Here was jousting put in ban
ici muërent les corages
here changed the courages
as plus hardiz e as plus sages;
to-the most bold and to-the most wise
ici tremblerent li coart;
here trembled the cowards
ci volent saietes e dart
here fly arrows and darts
e grosses lances en tronçons;
and thick lances in pieces
ci ot traïns de confanons
here there-was trains of pennons
e d'enseignes a or batues;
and of-ensigns with gold beaten
ici ot trait espees nues,
here there-was drawn swords naked

ici ot heaumes descerclez
here there-was helmets uncircled
e blans haubers ensanglentez; 20560
and white hauberks bloodied
ci ot de chevaliers traïn;
here there-was of knights train
ici moillierent li chemin
here grew-wet the paths
del sanc qui del cors lor avale;
of-the blood which from-the body to-them runs-down
icin ot maint envers e pale;
here-thereof there-was many-a on-his-back and pale
ici ot mortel assemblee: 20565
here there-was mortal assembly
onc plus pesme ne fu jostee;
ever more dire not was joined
ici ot plainz e braiz e criz.
here there-was laments and shouts and cries
Ci furent Greu del champ partiz,
Here were Greeks from-the field parted
mais ne fu pas chose legiere:
but not was at-all thing easy
tant en gist morz par la poudriere 20570
so-many thereof lie dead through the dust
que tuit en sont li champ covert.
that all thereof are the fields covered

Ço dit li Livres en apert
That says the Book in open
que Greu furent le jor confus
that Greeks were the day confounded
par le grant esforz Troïlus.
by the great effort (of-)Troïlus
Par la grant force de ses braz
By the great strength of his arms
sont desconfiz, vencuz e maz.
they-are discomfited vanquished and beaten
Perdu i ont Mirmidoneis
Lost there have Myrmidons
cent chevaliers proz e corteis.
a-hundred knights valiant and courtly
Ne fust Telamon Aïaus,
Not were-it Telamonian Ajax
n'en eschapassent mie ataus;
not-thereof would-have-escaped at-all so-many
cent paveillons en aportassent
a-hundred pavilions thereof they-would-have-carried-off
des meillors que il i trovassent.
of-the best which they there might-find
Mais lisant truis qu'il recovra:
But reading I-find that-he recovered
tant sofri e tant endura
so-much he-suffered and so-much endured
que puis fu dit assez le seir
that afterward was said enough the evening
qu'il en deveit le pris aveir.
that-he thereof ought the prize to-have

Ço fu bien chose coneüe:
That was well thing known
par lui e par la soë aiuë
by him and by the his aid
e par son grant esforcement
and by his great exertion
a mout defendue sa gent
has much defended his folk
d'estrange perte aveir le jor.
from-strange loss to-have the day
Il ne voust onc guerpir l'estor
He not wished ever to-abandon the-fight
desci qu'a haute relevee,
until that-at high afternoon
que la bataille est desevree.
that the battle is divided
Lié e haitié e venqueor
Glad and cheered and victors
sont Troïen mis el retor.
are Trojans put on-the return
De ceste bataille sezaine
Of this battle sixteenth
ot Troïlus en son demeine
had Troilus in his domain
cent chevaliers riches prisons
a-hundred knights rich prisoners
e cent chevaus avuec mout bons.
and a-hundred horses with-them much good
Arivé sont a mauvais port:
Arrived they-are at bad port

mieuz lor venist qu'il fussent mort.
better to-them would-have-come that-they were dead
Mout s'esjoïst li reis Prianz
Much rejoices the king Priam
des damages qu'a faiz si granz,
at-the harms which-has made so great
cel jor, ses morteus enemis:
that day his mortal enemies
semblant li est bien e a vis
seeming to-him is well and at opinion
que livré sont tuit a torment,
that delivered are all to torment
se Troïlus vit longement.
if Troilus lives long
Mout le cherist e mout l'onore.
Much him he-cherishes and much him-honors
Toz li pueples comuns l'aore:
All the people common him-adores
sacrefises e oreisons
sacrifices and prayers
font, que de mort e de prisons
they-make that from death and from prisons
le lor guardent li soverain,
him to-them may-guard the sovereigns
qui tot le mont ont en lor main.
who all the world have in their hand
Sa mere e ses beles sorors,
His mother and his fair sisters
o dous cenz filles de contors,
with two hundred daughters of counts

dedenz la Chambre de labastre,
within the Chamber of Alabaster
ou onc n'ot ne glai ne mentastre,
where ever not-there-was nor iris nor mint
le desarmerent icel seir.
him disarmed that evening
Le cors ot blef e pers e neir:
The body he-had bruised and livid and black
en dous cenz lieus ont fait lor merc
in two hundred places have made their mark
les dures mailles del hauberc;
the hard mails of-the hauberk
sanc en ont trait en plusors lieus.
blood thereof they-have drawn in many places
A lui apert queus est li gieus:
On him appears what-like is the game
de darz trenchanz e acerez
of darts cutting and steeled
est toz sis cors depointurez;
is all his body painted
gros e enflé ot tot le vis.
big and swollen he-had all the face
Un mantel d'escarlate gris
A mantle of-scarlet gray
li geterent a ses espaules:
on-him they-threw at his shoulders
«Fiz,» fait la mere, «a chieres aunes
Son says the mother at dear ells
«nos vendent Greu nostre païs;
to-us sell Greeks our country

«aveir en ont eü e pris
wealth thereof they-have had and taken
«tel, dont li cuers de mei acore.
such whereof the heart of me is-slain
«Morir m'estuet, jo ne guart l'ore:
To-die me-behooves I not await the-hour
«Ço est honte que jo tant vif
It is shame that I so-long live
«e que jo vers la mort estrif.
and that I against the death strive
«Trop ai perdu a vivre après:
Too-much I-have lost to live after
«Ja femme tant ne perdra mais.
Ever woman so-much not will-lose more
«Morte fusse se por tei non.
Dead I-would-be if for thee not
«Or ai en tei m'entencion:
Now I-have in thee my-intention
«Tu me sostiens, vivre me fais,
Thou me sustainest to-live me thou-makest
«mais li miens cuers n'est mie en pais;
but the my heart not-is at-all in peace
«de tei se crient, de tei se dote.
for thee itself fears for thee itself dreads
«Fiz, en tei est ma vie tote:
Son in thee is my life all
«Se jo te pert, jo te di bien
If I thee lose I to-thee say well
«que jo ne vivrai plus por rien.
that I not shall-live more for anything

«Sol la paor que j'en alein
Only the fear that I-thereof breathe
«m'estreint mil feiz le cuer el sein
me-wrings a-thousand times the heart in-the breast
«si faitement que jo nel sent
so fashioned that I not-it feel
«ne de mei n'ist espirement.
nor from me not-comes-out breath
«Si com m'est bosoing e mestier,
So as to-me-is need and want
«si te guardent sain e entier,
so thee may-guard sound and whole
«ensi come il le pueent faire,
thus as they it can do
«cil qui es cieus ont lor repaire,
those-ones who in-the heavens have their dwelling
«e com jol quier e com jol vueil».
and as I-it seek and as I-it wish
Adonc plorerent si dui ueil.
Then wept her two eyes
Ses braz li met al col e lace;
Her arms to-him she-puts at-the neck and laces
les ieuz e la boche e la face
the eyes and the mouth and the face
li a baisié plus de cent feiz.
to-him she-has kissed more than a-hundred times
Ha! las, come iert sis cuers destreiz
Ah weary how will-be her heart distressed
de lui desci que a brief terme!
for him until that at short term

Ou prendra ele tante lerme
Where will-take she so-many tears
com li covendra a plorer?
as to-her it-will-behoove to weep
Mout la set bel reconforter
Much her he-knows fair to-comfort
e gentement e o beaus diz.
and nobly and with fair words
Après s'est assez escharniz
After himself-is enough mocked
de s'amie qui l'a guerpi
of his-love who him-has abandoned
e a amé son enemi.
and has loved his enemy
Les dames claime tricheresses;
The ladies he-calls cheaters
e les puceles menteresses,
and the maidens liars
dit mal fiër se fait en eles,
he-says ill to-trust it does in them
quar mout en i a poi de celes
for much thereof there is few of those
que leiaument seient amies
that loyally may-be loves
senz fauseté e senz boisdies:
without falsehood and without deceits
«Qui que s'en jot, ne m'en jo pas:
Whoever that himself-thereof may-rejoice not myself-thereof I-rejoice at-all
«Trichié m'a la fille Calcas.»
Cheated me-has the daughter (of-)Calchas

Ele aprent or sovent noveles:
She learns now often news
mout s'en riënt les dameiseles;
much themselves-thereof laugh the damsels
mout la heent, grant mal li vuelent;
much her they-hate great ill to-her they-wish
ne l'aiment pas tant come els suelent. 20680
not her-they-love at-all so-much as they are-wont
Honte lor a a totes fait:
Shame to-them she-has to all done
por ço li sera mais retrait.
for that to-her will-be from-now reproached
Cele nuit furent Troïien
That night were Trojans
haitié: auques lor estut bien.
cheered somewhat to-them it-stood well
Laidement ont endamagié 20685
Foully they-have damaged
Grezeis, qui mout en sont irié:
Greeks who much thereof are angered
sacheiz que chier le lor vendreient
know that dear it to-them they-would-sell
mout volentiers, se il poëient.
much willingly if they could
Mout ont entre eus ire e deshait
Much they-have among them wrath and distress
e diënt malement lor vait. 20690
and say badly to-them it-goes

Love Rebukes Achilles

LXXXIX

When Achilles sees his Myrmidons dead, Love and Misdeed come to him. Love reproaches him for breaking his word by sending his men to fight. Polyxena has complained, and he will pay for it with his life: Love will now torment him. Achilles laments all night, calling Polyxena a work of divine nature and giving himself up to her. The seventeenth battle lasts more than a week, and Troilus makes such slaughter of the Myrmidons that Achilles longs to avenge them. But Love holds him captive and will not let him go. Agamemnon asks for a short truce to bury the dead.

Quant Achillès vit sa maisniee
When Achilles saw his household
morte e laidie e empeiriee, —
dead and shamed and impaired
de cent n'en est uns repairié,
of a-hundred not-thereof is one returned
qu'el champ sont mort e detrenchié;
for-in-the field they-are dead and cut-to-pieces
des vis i a plusors navrez,
of-the living there are many wounded
qui les cors ont ensanglentez, —
who the bodies have bloodied
s'il ot ire, nus nel demant:
if-he had wrath any not-it may-ask
puis en mostra assez semblant,
afterward thereof he-showed enough semblance
que qu'il tarjast; mais, ço sacheiz,
whatever that-he may-have-delayed but that know

cele nuit fu il mout destreiz.
that night was he much distressed
Bien se sont acointié a lui
Well themselves they-are acquainted with him
Amors e Mesfaiz ambedui.
Love and Misdeed both
Amors li dit: «Que vueus tu faire
Love to-him says What wishest thou to-do
«ne a quel chief en vueus tu traire?
nor to what end thereof wishest thou to-draw
«D'aveir Polixenain t'amie?
Of-having Polyxena thy-love
«Ensi ne me servent il mie,
Thus not me serve they at-all
«li mien sougiet, li mien amant.
the my subjects the my lovers
«Tu as mostré e fait semblant
Thou hast shown and made semblance
«que tu te vueus partir de mei:
that thou thyself wishest to-part from me
«Mais mout conois poi mon segrei.
But much thou-knowest little my secret
«Jo te faiseie estre atendant
I thee was-making to-be waiting
«a la bele fille Priant,
on the fair daughter (of-)Priam
«que de beauté est resplendor
who of beauty is splendor
«e d'autres dames mireor:
and of-other ladies mirror

«E tu as enfraite ma lei.
And thou hast broken my law
«Ne deüsses pas al tornei
Not thou-oughtest at-all to-the tourney
«enveier tes Mirmidoneis:
to-send thy Myrmidons
«Cele que plus blanche est que neis
She who more white is than snow
«s'en est griefment a mei clamee.
herself-thereof is grievously to me complained
«Ceste uevre sera comparee:
This work will-be paid-for
«Dreit en avra a son plaisir.
Right thereof she-will-have at her pleasure
«Grief le t'estuet espeneïr,
Grievously it thee-behooves to-atone
«fort en sera la penitance:
strong thereof will-be the penance
«De sa forme e de sa semblance
Of her form and of her likeness
«cuit bien que t'estovra morir.
I-think well that thee-will-behoove to-die
«Ne me vueus pas ensi servir
Not me wishest-thou at-all thus to-serve
«qu'o genz respons e o beaus diz
as-with gentle answers and with fair words
«e o estre toz tens guarniz
and with being all times ready

«de faire mon comandement,
of doing my command
* * *
(lacuna)
«E si guarz bien qu'a tote gent
And so take-care well that-to all folk
«seies larges, simples e douz
thou-mayest-be generous simple and sweet
«e que les miens honors sor toz?
and that the mine thou-honor above all
«Itel sont cil de ma maisniee:
Such are those of my household
«A ceus ai ma joie otreiee;
To those I-have my joy granted
«icil sevent de quel savor
those-ones know of what savor
«jo sui après la grant dolor.
I am after the great sorrow
«Mais tu nen iés pas a dou deie
But thou not art at-all at two fingers
«que tu sentes mei ne la meie.
that thou may-feel me nor the mine
«Jo ne faz pas a guerreier,
I not am at-all to warring-on
«qui humblement a depreier,
who humbly has to-pray
«e tot laissier e tot guerpir
and all to-leave and all to-abandon
«por ma volenté acomplir.
for my will to-fulfill

«Remembre tei que tu atenz.
Remember thee what thou awaitest
«Donc n'est t'amie la dedenz?
Then not-is thy-love there within
«Ne li as tu son frere mort?
Not to-her hast thou her brother killed
«Damage li as fait e tort.
Harm to-her thou-hast done and wrong
«N'aveies tu en covenant
Not-hadst thou in covenant
«a la reïne al cors vaillant
to the queen of-the body valiant
«que ja mais nes guerreiereies
that ever more not-them thou-wouldst-war-on
«ne lor mal ne porchacereies?
nor their harm not thou-wouldst-pursue
«N'iés tu de covenant eissuz
Not-art thou from covenant gone-out
«e de parole derompuz,
and from word broken
«la ou tu ta gent trameïs
there where thou thy folk didst-send
«eus damagier? Mei est a vis
them to-damage To-me it-is at opinion
«qu'il se sont mout bien defendu:
that-they themselves are much well defended
«De cent n'en sont dui revenu.
Of a-hundred not-thereof are two come-back
«Ses tu com tu as espleitié?
Knowest thou how thou hast succeeded

«Bien t'iés en treis sens damagié.
Well thou-art in three senses damaged
«Tes homes perz: ço m'est a vis
Thy men thou-losest that to-me-is at opinion
«que tu n'i as honor ne pris,
that thou not-there hast honor nor prize
«quant ensi faitement senz tei
when thus fashioned without thee
«vont en estor ne en tornei;
they-go into fight nor into tourney
«tu perz ton pris e ta valor,
thou losest thy prize and thy worth
«e si perz t'amie e t'amor.
and so thou-losest thy-love and thy-love
«N'en avras mie, ensi morras:
Not-thereof thou-wilt-have at-all thus thou-wilt-die
«Ja mais par li socors n'avras.
Ever more by her succor not-thou-wilt-have
«E si n'en iras pas a tant:
And so not-thereof thou-wilt-go at-all at that
«Jo vueil qu'el face son talant
I wish that-she may-do her desire
«de tei ocire e cruciier,
of thee to-kill and to-torment
«qu'el te toille beivre e mangier,
that-she thee may-take-away to-drink and to-eat
«dormir, repos e alejance,
to-sleep rest and relief
«senz bon espeir, senz atendance.
without good hope without expectation

«Dès or li apareil e faz
From now for-her I-prepare and make
«come el te destreigne en ses laz.»
how she thee may-constrain in her snares
Ensi faitement aparlez
Thus fashioned addressed
e cruciiez e tormentez
and tormented and tortured
fu Achillès desci qu'al jor.
was Achilles until that-at-the day
En duel, en lermes e en plor
In grief in tears and in weeping
est por amor, que sil destreint.
he-is for love which so-him constrains
Mout est iriez e mout se plaint;
Much he-is angered and much himself complains
mout sospire, mout a travail:
much he-sighs much he-has travail
ne sont pas suen li enviail;
not are at-all his the stakes
des gieus partiz n'a pas le chois:
of-the games divided not-he-has at-all the choice
«Jo meïsmes,» fait il, «me bois;
I myself says he me deceive
«nus ne me fait mal se jo non.
any not me does ill if I not
«Trop ai le cuer pesme e felon:
Too-much I-have the heart dire and cruel
«Il me destruit, il me deceit.
It me destroys it me deceives

«Mes maus conoist e aparceit:
My ills it-knows and perceives
«Ne m'en esloigne, ainz m'i atrait.
Not me-thereof it-removes rather me-there it-draws
«Haï! bele, tant mal me vait!
Alas fair so-much ill to-me it-goes
«Tant sui por vos desavanciez
So-much I-am for you set-back
«e de joie desconseilliez!
and of joy without-counsel
«Fors vos ne me puet rien valeir.
Except you not me can anything avail
«Iço me torne a desespeir,
This to-me turns to despair
«que jo ne puis a vos parler
that I not can to you speak
«ne vostre face remirer
nor your face behold
«ne conter vos ma grant dolor.
nor tell to-you my great sorrow
«Ha! douce, fine, fresche flor,
Ah sweet fine fresh flower
«sor les beles esperitaus
above the beautiful spiritual
«e sor totes angeliaus,
and above all angelic
«come jo pert por vos la vie
how I lose for you the life
«senz aveir socors ne aïe!
without having succor nor aid

«Uevre de nature devine,
Work of nature divine
«sor trestotes beautez reïne,
above all beauties queen
«a vos s'en vait mis esperiz;
to you itself-thereof goes my spirit
«mais, las! ja n'i iert acoilliz,
but alas ever not-there it-will-be welcomed
«qu'Amors me nuist, jol sai e vei:
for-Love me harms I-it know and see
«Ne s'en tient mie devers mei.
Not itself-thereof holds at-all toward me
«Polixena, a vos m'otrei.
Polyxena to you myself-I-grant
«Se n'en prenent li deu conrei,
If not-thereof take the gods measure
«j'en ferai ço que jo ne dei.
I-thereof shall-do that which I not ought
«Ne sai que dire, mais muir mei.»
Not I-know what to-say but I-die me

Es laz ou ont esté plusor
In-the snares where have been many
fu Achillès ensi maint jor,
was Achilles thus many-a day
tant que Grezeis e Troïens,
until that Greeks and Trojans
ainz que passast guaires de tens,
before that passed hardly of time
rassemblerent a la bataille,
reassembled to the battle

ou trop par ot mort gent, senz faille:
where too very there-had dead folk without fail
ço fu l'uevre dis e setaine,
that was the-work ten and seventh
que plus dura d'une semaine.
which more lasted than-a week
Tuit li haut prince e tuit li rei
All the high princes and all the kings
qu'Agamennon ot devers sei
whom-Agamemnon had toward himself
i furent prest, ço sai de veir,
there were ready that I-know of truth
o quant que chascuns pot aveir.
with as-much as each could have
E cil dedenz, joios e lié,
And those within joyful and glad
de rien ne s'i sont esparnié,
of anything not themselves-there are spared
ainz se requistrent mortelment:
rather themselves they-sought-out mortally
por c'i parut estrangement.
for that-there it-appeared strangely
D'ambedous parz ot teus damages,
From-both parts there-was such harms
que li plus proz e li plus sages
that the most valiant and the most wise
qui d'eus i fu ot grant esmai.
who of-them there was had great dismay
Mais jo vos di, qui bien le sai,
But I to-you say who well it know

que Troïlus i fist merveille:
that Troilus there did marvel
après lui lait l'erbe vermeille.
after him he-leaves the-grass vermilion
Onques li cors d'un chevalier,
Ever the body of-a knight
del dererain jusqu'al premier,
from-the last up-to-the first
ne fu plus cremu ne doté.
not was more feared nor dreaded
Mout a laidi e maumené
Much he-has shamed and mistreated
e apeticié le tropel
and diminished the troop
de celui cui n'ert mie bel:
of that-one to-whom not-it-was at-all fair
c'est Achillès, qui s'en enrage.
it-is Achilles who himself-thereof enrages
Par maintes feiz a en corage
By many times he-has in heart
d'aler les socorre e vengier,
of-going them to-succor and to-avenge
mais ne s'en set vis conseillier,
but not himself-thereof he-knows alive to-counsel
qu'Amors le li defent e viee:
for-Love it to-him forbids and refuses
por qu'il suefre mortel haschiee.
for which he-suffers mortal torment
E sa proëce le renvie,
And his prowess him challenges-again

que tel hore est que toz s'oblie:
that such hour is that wholly himself-forgets
si est desvez, si est iriez
so he-is maddened so he-is angered
qu'il ne li membre d'amistiez.
that-it not to-him remembers of-friendships
Aler i vueut, mais en poi d'ore
To-go there he-wishes but in little of-time
li rest Amors si coruz sore
to-him again-is Love so run upon
qu'il n'i ose le pié porter.
that-he not-there dares the foot to-carry
Proëce e sen li tout amer
Prowess and sense to-him takes to-love
e hardement e vasselage.
and boldness and prowess
Mout est destreiz en son corage;
Much he-is distressed in his heart
il n'est de rien sire de sei,
he not-is in anything master of himself
qu'Amors le tient pris en son brei,
for-Love him holds taken in his snare
qu'il ne li lait sa gent aidier,
that-it not to-him lets his folk to-aid
qu'il veit ocire e detrenchier:
whom-he sees killed and cut-to-pieces
ço fait li fiz Priant li proz,
that does the son (of-)Priam the valiant
qui en bataille les veint toz,
who in battle them vanquishes all

quis desconfist e qui les chace,
who-them discomfits and who them chases
a cui ne pueent tenir place.
before whom not they-can hold place
Quant ceste bataille ot duré
When this battle had lasted
uit jorz toz les plus lons d'esté,
eight days all the most long of-summer
si vit Agamennon l'ocise
so saw Agamemnon the-slaughter
e sa gent navree e maumise, —
and his folk wounded and harmed
plus ont perdu que cil dedenz, —
more they-have lost than those within
mout par en fu sis cuers dolenz.
much very thereof was his heart grieving
Triuës a quises e mandees,
Truce he-has sought and asked-for
mais mout furent cortes donees,
but much were short given
sol tant que seient enterré
only so-much that may-be buried
li mort e li champ delivré.
the dead and the fields cleared
Ensi l'ont fait: seveli furent
Thus it-they-have done buried they-were
solonc lor lei, si come il durent.
according-to their law so as they ought

N'i remest cors a enterrer
Not-there remained body to bury
ne chans ne place a delivrer.
nor fields nor place to clear

The Eighteenth Battle

XC

The Trojans march out in ten battalions and the Greeks in twenty. Paris and Menelaus unhorse each other, Menestheus unhorses Antenor, and Philemenis nearly kills Agamemnon until Telamon strikes at him, then unhorses Telamon. Antilochus, Nestor's son, kills Brun the Twin, one of the Bastards. Troilus avenges his brother and drives the Greeks to Achilles's tent, where the fleeing men reproach him for failing them. Forgetting Love, Achilles arms and falls on the Trojans like a wolf among lambs. He and Troilus unhorse each other, and Achilles is wounded in the arm. The Bastards seize him until his Myrmidons rescue him, and Troilus leads off his charger. Troilus takes the prize of the battle's six remaining days.

Après revint l'uevre cruël,
After came-back the-work cruel
la dolorose, la mortel, 20880
the sorrowful the mortal
dont mort furent mil chevaliers
whereof dead were a-thousand knights
en sol les quatre jorz premiers.
in only the four days first
Le jor de cest assemblement,
The day of this assembly
i ot mout grant torneiement:
there was much great tourney

de ceus dedenz i fu la flor
of those within there was the flower
e li plus riche e li meillor,
and the most rich and the best
baut e haitié. Ço m'est a vis,
bold and cheered That to-me-is at opinion
poi dotent mais lor enemis:
little they-fear now their enemies
laidiz les ont e desconfiz
shamed them they-have and discomfited
par set feiees o par diz.
by seven times or by ten
Sor les chevaus sont Arabeis,
On the horses they-are Arabian
laciez les heaumes Paviëis.
laced the helmets Pavian
En dis batailles granz e fieres
In ten battalions great and fierce
e redotees e plenieres
and dreaded and full
sont desevrez e departiz.
they-are separated and divided
Mout resclarcist l'aciers bruniz
Much shines the-steel burnished
e li verniz e l'ors d'Espaigne.
and the varnish and the-gold of-Spain
Greu revienent par mi la plaigne
Greeks come-back through middle the plain
en vint conreiz fiers e dotez:
in twenty troops fierce and dreaded

el menor a dou mile armez.
in-the least has two thousand armed
Lor cheval ne sont pas poutrel,
Their horses not are at-all colts
ainz sont corant, fort e isnel.
rather they-are running strong and swift
Haubers ont blans, durs e serrez
Hauberks they-have white hard and close
e forz escuz d'or emboclez.
and strong shields with-gold bossed
Li heaume e le fin or vermeil
The helmets and the fine gold vermilion
resplendissent contrel soleil;
shine against-the sun
li brant sont trenchant d'Alemaigne.
the blades are cutting of-Germany
Ne m'est mie a vis que remaigne
Not to-me-is at-all at opinion that it-may-remain
devant ço que mil chevalier
before that that a-thousand knights
en chieent mort de lor destrier.
thereof fall dead from their charger
Les compaignes s'entraproismierent,
The companies each-other-approached
que par grant ire se requierent.
for by great wrath each-other they-seek-out
D'ambedous parz s'entrenvaïrent:
From-both parts each-other-they-assailed
dis mile lances i croissirent;
ten thousand lances there cracked

maint bel escu i ot percié
many-a fair shield there was pierced
e maint blanc hauberc desmaillié
and many-a white hauberk unmailed
e mainte enseigne ensanglentee,
and many-a banner bloodied
vert e vermeille, d'or brosdee.
green and vermilion with-gold embroidered
Mout par en est granz li traïns;
Much very thereof is great the trail
jonchiez en est toz li chemins,
strewn thereof is all the path
sentier e veies e herbos.
footpath and ways and grassy
Li chevalier sont aïros
The knights are angry
e defensable e fort e fier:
and defensible and strong and fierce
por ço i a des branz d'acier
for that there is of-the blades of-steel
sor les heaumes tel fereiz
on the helmets such striking
que mil en i gist d'espasmiz,
that a-thousand thereof there lie of-swooning
cui des cors issent les boëles
whose from-the bodies come-out the bowels
e cui pareissent les cerveles,
and whose appear the brains

qui ne pueent ester sor piez,
who not can stand on feet
que toz les cors ont detrenchiez.
for all the bodies they-have cut-to-pieces
Avenu sont li grant conrei:
Arrived are the great troops
donc par i ot si grant tornei,
whereby very there was so great tourney
si fort estor e teus meslees,
so strong fight and such melees
tot maintenant o les espees,
all at-once with the swords
grant merveille est e iert toz dis
great marvel is and will-be all days
com chevaliers en estort vis:
how knight thereof escapes alive
o Paris josta Menelaus,
with Paris jousted Menelaus
que jus chaïrent des chevaus;
so-that down they-fell from-the horses
Polidamas o Ulixès.
Polydamas with Ulysses
Icele ne fu pas de pais:
That-one not was at-all of peace
en estrange merel fu faite;
in strange game it-was made
mainte bone espee i ot traite,
many-a good sword there was drawn
oschiee e teinte en sanc vermeil.
notched and dyed in blood vermilion

Mainte uevre i ot fait senz conseil.
Many-a work there was done without counsel
Por ç'i pareistra ainz le seir:
For that-there it-will-appear before the evening
ne puet anceis mais remaneir.
not can sooner but remain
Menesteüs, li dus preisiez,
Menestheus the duke esteemed
vint par les rens toz eslaissiez.
came through the ranks all at-a-gallop
Par les enarmes l'escu pris,
By the straps the-shield taken
vers Antenor s'est ademis.
toward Antenor himself-is thrown
Ne failli mie a lui ferir:
Not he-failed at-all at him striking
les dous arçons li fist guerpir;
the two saddlebows him he-made to-abandon
al meins i perdi son destrier,
at-the least there he-lost his charger
e si i ot maint chevalier
and so there was many-a knight
feru por son cors remonter.
struck for his body to-remount
Philemenis d'outre la mer,
Philemenis from-beyond the sea
le fort, le vertuös, le grant,
the strong the mighty the great
qui esteit graindre d'un jaiant,
who was greater than-a giant

cil josta a Agamennon;
that-one jousted with Agamemnon
e se ne fust reis Telamon,
and if not were king Telamon
ocis l'eüst sempres maneis.
killed him-he-would-have at-once at-once
Cist fait martire de Grezeis:
This-one makes martyrdom of Greeks
devant son coup n'a rien vertu,
before his blow not-has anything strength
hauberc, ne heaume ne escu;
hauberk nor helmet nor shield
autresi les detrenche e tue
likewise them he-cuts-to-pieces and kills
come la fauz fait l'erbe drue.
as the scythe does the-grass thick
Reis Telamon l'a si sorpris
King Telamon him-has so surprised
qu'un confanon vermeil e bis
that-a pennon vermilion and gray
li a passé mout près del cors.
to-him he-has passed much near the body
E cil ne li est mie estors
And that-one not to-him is at-all escaped
qu'il ne li doint itel colee
that-he not to-him may-give such blow
que mout par fu desmesuree.
which much very was beyond-measure
Voidier li a fait les arçons,
Empty to-him he-has made the saddlebows

mais cil ot vassaus compaignons
but that-one had valiant companions
qui tost le firent remonter;
who quickly him made remount
si ne s'i sot onc si guarder
so not himself-there knew ever so guard
Philemenis qu'en treze lieus
Philemenis that-in thirteen places
ne li fust parissanz li gieus:
not to-him were appearing the game
teus cent colees i a pris,
such a-hundred blows there he-has taken
de qu'uns autre ne fust pas vis.
whereof that-an other not would-be at-all alive
Antilogus fu fiz Nestor:
Antilochus was son (of-)Nestor
la chiere ot brune e le chief sor;
the face he-had brown and the head fair
dreiz fu e lons e beaus e granz,
straight he-was and tall and fair and great
e chevaliers proz e vaillanz.
and knight valiant and worthy
Jovnes esteit de poi d'aage,
Young he-was of little age
mais mout par aveit vasselage.
but much very he-had prowess
Son pere alot faire socors,
His father he-went to-make succor
mais uns des Bastarz li est sors,
but one of-the Bastards on-him is risen

qui avoit non Bruns li Gemeaus:
who had name Brun the Twin
chevaliers ert hardiz e beaus.
knight he-was bold and fair
En mi les rens se sont ataint,
In middle the ranks themselves they-have reached
que des chevaus se sont empeint.
so-that from-the horses themselves they-are thrust
Antilogus en estait bien,
Antilochus thereof stands well
qu'a cele feiz n'i perdi rien,
for-at that time not-there he-lost anything
mais feru a Brun le Gemel
but struck has Brun the Twin
tot a dreit coup par le forcel,
all with straight blow through the breast
si qu'en la place est morz remés.
so that-in the place he-is dead remained
La ot josté dis mile Gres
There had jousted ten thousand Greeks
e dous itanz de Troïens.
and two as-many of Trojans
En poi d'ore e en poi de tens
In little of-time and in little of time
en fu la place si jonchiee,
thereof was the place so strewn
mil en sofrirent la haschiee
a-thousand thereof suffered the torment
de mort, non pas d'autre dolor.
of death not at-all of-other sorrow

Ici aveit trop pesme estor,
Here was-there too dire fight
quant Troïlus li proz i vint,
when Troilus the valiant there came
mais onques puis Greus ne s'i tint.
but ever afterward Greek not himself-there held
De son frere sot la novele:
Of his brother he-knew the news
por ço l'en mueille la maissele
for that him-thereof wets the cheek
de chaudes lermes. Grant duel fait,
of hot tears Great grief he-makes
mais o le brant qu'il a nu trait
but with the blade which-he has naked drawn
en prent venjance. Ire a e duel;
thereof he-takes vengeance Wrath he-has and grief
maint en i fent jusqu'al braiel:
many-a thereof there he-splits up-to-the breeches-belt
onc chevaliers mais ço ne fist.
ever knight more that not did
Ja puis uns sous ne s'i tenist,
Ever afterward one alone not himself-there would-have-held
ne fussent la gent Achillès.
not were the folk (of-)Achilles
Mais cil furent dou mile e mais:
But those-ones were two thousand and more
sor les destriers d'armes guarniz,
on the chargers with-arms furnished
avenu sont al fereïz.
come they-are to-the striking

Ne sai que plus vos en devis:
Not I-know what more to-you thereof I-may-tell
receü ont lor enemis
received they-have their enemies
as trenchanz lances acerees.
at-the cutting lances steeled
La rot tant seles delivrees,
There again-had so-many saddles freed
dont li seignor sont departi
whereof the lords are departed
e en mout poi d'ore feni!
and in much little of-time ended
Bien i fierent Mirmidoneis
Well there strike Myrmidons
o les trenchanz branz Viëneis:
with the cutting blades Viennese
sacheiz que mout ont chier vendue
know that much they-have dear sold
as Troïens lor avenue.
to-the Trojans their arrival
S'il estassent tant en la place
If-they had-stood so-long in the place
que recovree fust la chace,
that recovered were the chase
trop i perdissent cil dedenz;
too-much there would-have-lost those within
mais ne recovra pas lor genz:
but not recovered at-all their folk
dreit vers les tentes s'en alerent.
straight toward the tents themselves-thereof they-went

Trop sai que cist i demorerent:
Too-much I-know that these there remained
por poi n'en eschapa uns sous;
for little not-thereof escaped one alone
trop par i furent angoissos.
too very there they-were anguished
Onc chevalier si ne s'aidierent:
Ever knights so not themselves-helped
n'est merveille s'il i perdierent,
not-is marvel if-they there lost
quar lor gent ne recovra mie,
for their folk not recovered at-all
e cil qui de mort les desfie —
and that-one who to death them defies
c'est Troïlus, quis en enveie —
it-is Troilus who-them thereof sends
après les autres les conveie.
after the others them escorts
Doloros est trop li conveiz:
Sorrowful is too-much the escort
mout en i chiet a mort destreiz.
much thereof there falls to death distressed
Li criz e la noise est levee,
The cry and the noise is raised
n'i ot onc puis resne tiree:
not-there was ever after rein drawn
par mi les tentes les ont mis.
through middle the tents them they-have put

Tant en ont morz, navrez e pris
So-many thereof they-have dead wounded and taken
que nus n'en set le conte dire.
that any not-thereof knows the count to-tell
Por la noise e por le martire
For the noise and for the martyrdom
e por la grant desconfiture,
and for the great rout
que jusqu'al tref Achillès dure,
which up-to-the tent (of-)Achilles lasts
tel mil s'en passent par devant,
such a-thousand themselves-thereof pass by before
qui ne font chiere ne semblant
who not make face nor semblance
qu'en eus ait plus defension.
that-in them may-be more defense
Grant noise font al paveillon;
Great noise they-make at-the pavilion
sovent s'escriënt: «Achillès,
often they-cry-out Achilles
«vostre enemi sont ja si près
your enemies are already so near
«que, se ci les volez atendre,
that if here them you-wish to-await
«jan i verreiz teus mil descendre,
already-thereof there you-will-see such a-thousand dismount
«n'i avra cel qui ne vos meisse,
not-there will-be that-one who not to-you may-put
«honte e damage nos i creisse.
shame and harm to-us there may-grow

«Perdu avez hui vostre gent:
Lost you-have today your folk
«Detrenchié sont, mort e sanglent.
Cut-to-pieces they-are dead and bloody
«Al bosoing nos estes failliz,
At-the need to-us you-are failed
«mais cil vos en rendront merciz
but those-ones to-you thereof will-render thanks
«qui o vos n'ont ne pais ne trieve.»
who with you not-have nor peace nor truce
Mout li desplaist e mout li grieve
Much him displeases and much him grieves
ço que il ot e que il veit:
that which he hears and which he sees
angoissos est e si destreit
anguished he-is and so distressed
que il n'a sen ne remembrance.
that he not-has sense nor memory
Isnelement, senz demorance,
Swiftly without delay
gete son hauberc en son dos:
he-throws his hauberk on his back
mout a le cuer del ventre gros.
much he-has the heart of-the belly big
El chief li ont son heaume asis:
On-the head to-him they-have his helmet set
ne sai que plus vos en devis,
not I-know what more to-you thereof I-may-tell
mais montez est el milsoudor,
but mounted he-is on-the charger

pris son escu peint a color.
taken his shield painted with color
Une lance grosse e poignal
A lance thick and fit-for-the-fist
o une enseigne de cendal
with a banner of sendal
li a baillié uns dameiseaus,
to-him has handed a squire
puis fait soner dous meieneaus.
then he-makes to-sound two middling-horns
Ne li membre, tant a iror,
Not to-him remembers so-much he-has of-wrath
adonc d'amie ne d'amor:
then of-sweetheart nor of-love
ne fait semblant qu'il l'en seit rien.
not he-makes semblance that-be to-him-thereof may-be anything
Dès or se guardent Troïien;
From now themselves may-guard Trojans
dès or criem mout que li choisiz
from now I-fear much that the choice
ne seit pas lor des gieus partiz.
not may-be at-all theirs of-the games divided
Tot autresi com sueut li lous
All likewise as is-wont the wolf
entre les aigneaus fameillos,
among the lambs famished
qui destreiz est de jeüner
which distressed is of fasting
e qui ne[l] puet plus endurer,
and which not-it can more endure

e cui ne chaut qui que le veie,
and to-whom not matters who that him may-see
quant il vueut acoillir sa preie;
when he wishes to-seize his prey
tot autresi fait Achillès:
all likewise does Achilles
qui quel veie, ne li chaut mais.
who whoever-him may-see not to-him matters more
Fel e desvez e d'ire espris,
Felon and maddened and with-wrath inflamed
sailli entre ses enemis.
he-leapt among his enemies
D'eus fait ensi com lous d'oëilles:
Of-them he-does thus as wolf of-sheep
plus de dous cenz testes vermeilles
more than two hundred heads vermilion
lor i a fait en petit d'ore;
to-them there he-has made in little of-time
il est li lous qui tot devore.
he is the wolf who all devours
Es greignors presses se treslance,
Into-the greatest presses himself he-hurls
fiert de l'espee e de la lance.
he-strikes with the-sword and with the lance
Mout rest feruz, mais ço que vaut?
Much again-he-is struck but that what avails
Rien nel prise ne ne l'en chaut.
Anything not-it he-prizes nor not to-him-thereof matters
Les granz presses part e deseivre,
The great presses he-parts and separates

son brant d'acier fait sovent beivre
his blade of-steel he-makes often to-drink
en cerveles e en corailles;
in brains and in entrails
totes remue les batailles.
all he-stirs the battalions
Tant fu dotez li suens escuz,
So-much was dreaded the his shield
dès que il fu reconeüz,
from-when that he was recognized
tote a sa gent resvigoree:
all he-has his folk reinvigorated
por lui rest tote el champ entree,
for him again-is all on-the field entered
par lui resont tuit esbaudi.
by him again-are all emboldened
E Troïen sont resorti:
And Trojans are driven-back
sor eus est granz levez li huz;
on them is great raised the hue
mout i chiet morz des abatuz.
much there falls dead of-the thrown-down
En l'estor sont Mirmidoneis,
In the-fight are Myrmidons
por lor seignor novel e freis:
for their lord new and fresh
lor ire vendent e lor perte.
their wrath they-sell and their loss
Des morz est la terre coverte.
Of-the dead is the earth covered

En poi d'ore e en poi de tens
In little of-time and in little of time
i ont mout grevé Troïens:
there they-have much harmed Trojans
loinz as plains chans sont reüsez,
far to-the plain fields they-are driven-back
e si i ont perdu assez.
and so there they-have lost enough
Trop vent Achillès son sojor:
Too-much sells Achilles his stay
comparé l'ont ja mil des lor
paid-for it-have already a-thousand of-the theirs
e comparront. Mais Troïlus
and they-will-pay-for But Troïlus
nel pot sofrir n'endurer plus;
not-it could suffer nor-endure more
d'ire desvez, prent un espié
with-wrath maddened he-takes a spear
cler e trenchant e aguisié;
bright and cutting and sharpened
par les enarmes l'escu tient,
by the straps the-shield he-holds
les menuz sauz as rens en vient.
the small leaps to-the ranks thereof he-comes
O les Bastarz, qui sont vaillant, —
With the Bastards who are valiant
jo di avuec les fiz Priant, —
I say with the sons (of-)Priam

o les nobiles chevaliers
with the noble knights
s'esteit meslez li aversiers:
himself-was mixed the adversary
sempre i eüst merel mestrait,
at-once there would-have-had game lost
mais Troïlus les sauz li vait.
but Troilus the leaps to-him goes
Bien le rechoisi Achillès.
Well him spied Achilles
Ne s'entrevindrent pas de près,
Not each-other-they-met at-all from near
qui de plus loinz d'une versaine.
who from more far than-a furrow
Dure est la terre, egual e plaine,
Hard is the earth level and flat
e li cheval fort e corsier;
and the horses strong and runners
aduré sont li chevalier;
hardened are the knights
mout se heent de mortel guerre:
much each-other they-hate with mortal war
par grant ire se vont requerre.
by great wrath themselves they-go to-seek
Tost les portent li auferrant;
Quickly them carry the chargers
des lances tornent li trenchant:
of-the lances they-turn the edges

par mi les escuz se ferirent
through middle the shields each-other they-struck
si que les lances en croissirent.
so that the lances thereof cracked
As cors lor sont josté li braz.
To-the bodies to-them are joined the arms
Si se hurtent des talevaz
So each-other they-crash with-the bucklers
qu'il n'i a temple ne s'en dueille,
that-it not-there has temple not itself-thereof may-ache
ne nul d'eus dous tant le desvueille
nor any of-them two so-much it may-wish-otherwise
que le heaume n'en ait terros.
that the helmet not-thereof may-have earthy
Andui chaïrent en l'erbos;
Both fell on the-grass
sor eus verserent li cheval:
on them toppled the horses
assez en fussent par egual,
enough thereof they-would-be by equal
mais Achillès fu mout navrez,
but Achilles was much wounded
por le hauberc, qui fu fausez,
for the hauberk which was pierced
el gros del braz e par les deiz.
in-the thick of-the arm and through the fingers
A grant merveille en fu destreiz:
To great marvel thereof he-was distressed
onc puis le jor ne l'endemain,
ever afterward the day nor the-next-day

ne reçurent coup de sa main
not received blow of his hand
ne chevalier ne home a pié.
nor knight nor man on foot
De grant maniere fu blecié.
Of great manner he-was hurt
Saisi l'aveient li Bastart;
Seized him-had the Bastards
mais hui eüst socors a tart,
but today he-would-have-had succor too late
ne fussent si Mirmidoneis.
not were his Myrmidons
Mais cil o les branz Viëneis
But those-ones with the blades Viennese
ont entor lui desfait la presse,
have around him undone the press
e Troïlus mie n'i laisse
and Troïlus at-all not-there leaves
del bon destrier, anceis l'en meine.
of-the good charger rather him-thereof he-leads
De tant com durt mais la semaine,
Of as-much as may-last more the week
ne se verra il en l'estor.
not himself will-see he in the-fight
Dès or li ra mestier sojor:
From now to-him again-has need rest
mostrer en puet tres bien l'essoigne.
show thereof he-can very well the-excuse

Par mi les mailles de la broigne
Through middle the mails of the byrnie
esteit bleciez mout durement,
he-was hurt much hard
s'en laissent le torneiement.
themselves-thereof they-leave the tourney
Por lui departi li torneiz:
For him parted the tourney
n'i ot plus fait a cele feiz.
not-there was more done at that time
Mout par i ot morz chevaliers.
Much very there were dead knights
Toz les autres sis jorz entiers
All the other six days whole
se combatirent, ço dit Daire,
themselves they-fought that says Dares
e si vos puet om bien retraire
and so to-you can one well recount
que Troïlus le pris en ot.
that Troilus the prize thereof had

The Death of Troilus

XCI

Priam swears that Achilles will never have Polyxena and blames Hecuba for believing him, and Polyxena is grieved. Achilles orders his Myrmidons to seek only Troilus in the nineteenth battle. Troilus routs the Greeks until the Myrmidons surround him and kill his horse. Achilles cuts off his unhelmed head and drags his body behind his horse. The Trojans cry out in grief, and Memnon rebukes Achilles for this cruelty. He wounds him and wins back the body. Achilles is carried from the field, returns, and fights Memnon again until the press parts them.

Mais quant li reis Prianz le sot,
But when the king Priam it knew
que Achillès contre eus esteit,
that Achilles against them was
mout l'en pesa, si ot grant dreit,
much him-thereof weighed so he-had great right
qu'il n'i entent rien de son pro.
for-he not-there intends anything of his profit
Son sairement fist e son vo
His oath he-made and his vow
que ja mais sa fille n'avreit
that ever more his daughter not-he-would-have
n'a bien n'a mal, n'a tort n'a dreit.
nor-for good nor-for ill nor-for wrong nor-for right
Dures paroles en parla
Hard words thereof he-spoke
avuec la reïne Ecuba:
with the queen Hecuba
«Dame,» fait il, «poi saviëz,
Lady says he little you-knew

«quant vos le coilvert creïez,
when you the villain believed
«le desfaé, le reneié,
the faithless the renegade
«qui tant nos a hui damagié,
who so-much us has today damaged
«que pais ne triuë nos tenist
that peace nor truce to-us he-would-hold
«ne qu'il Polixenain preïst.
nor that-he Polyxena would-take
«Or poëz conoistre e saveir
Now you-can know and know
«qu'ensi nos cuidot deceveir,
that-thus us he-thought to-deceive
«e se j'en creüsse voz diz,
and if I-thereof had-believed your words
«trop laidement fusse honiz;
too foully I-would-be shamed
«a toz jorz mais m'en repentisse,
for all days more me-thereof I-would-repent
«se vostre conseil en creïsse.
if your counsel thereof I-had-believed
— Sire,» fait ele, «ensi est ore,
Lord says she thus it-is now
«mais chierement vousisse encore
but dearly I-would-wish still
«que il nos en mostrast semblant.
that he to-us thereof might-show semblance

«Bien a esté aparissant
Well it-has been apparent
«qu'il n'esteit pas as granz meslees:
that-he not-was at-all at-the great melees
«Plus de mil testes a sauvees
More than a-thousand heads has saved
«la parole qu'en a esté.
the word which-thereof has been
«Cil de la l'ont chier comparé:
Those of there it-have dear paid-for
«Par set batailles o par dis
By seven battles or by ten
«en a esté si lor li pis
thereof it-has been so theirs the worst
«que por poi ne s'en sont alé.
that for little not themselves-thereof are gone
«Ore a autre conseil trové:
Now he-has other counsel found
«Ço peise mei, mout dot e criem ge
That weighs me much I-dread and fear I
«que laiz damages ne nos vienge.
that ugly harms not to-us may-come
«Deus nos en guart, n'en sai el dire,
God us thereof may-guard not-thereof I-know other to-say
«ensi com mis cuers le desire!»
thus as my heart it desires
Polixena sot cez noveles:
Polyxena knew these news
sacheiz ne li furent pas beles.
know not to-her they-were at-all fair

Maintes paroles, mainz conseiz,
Many words many counsels
mainz parlemenz e mainz segreiz
many parleys and many secrets
aveit o li tenu sa mere:
had with her held her mother
mout li plaiseit e bel li ere
much to-her it-pleased and fair to-her it-was
qu'il la deveit prendre a moillier.
that-he her ought to-take to wife
Oï aveit del messagier
Heard she-had from-the messenger
qu'il esteit mout por li destreiz,
that-he was much for her distressed
e bien saveit qu'as granz torneiz
and well she-knew that-to-the great tourneys
ne veneit pas: tant cuidot faire
not he-came at-all so-much he-thought to-make
que l'ost se meïst el repaire.
that the-host itself might-put on-the return
Essaiez s'i esteit lonc tens:
Tried himself-there he-was long time
quant ore a pris autre porpens,
when now he-has taken other purpose
ço peise li, si deit il faire.
that weighs to-her so ought it to-do

Dès or porreiz oïr retraire
From now you-will-be-able to-hear recounted
la bataille dis e novaine
the battle ten and ninth
e la dolor e la grant peine
and the sorrow and the great pain
qu'i avint puis a ceus dedenz.
which-there befell afterward to those within
Mout par fu Achillès dolenz,
Much very was Achilles grieving
mout fu angoissos e iriez:
much he-was anguished and angered
veit que trop par est engeigniez.
he-sees that too-much very he-is deceived
Demorez s'est d'armes porter
Delayed himself-is from-arms bearing
por la fille Priant amer;
for the daughter (of-)Priam loving
sofert en a mortel dolor
suffered thereof he-has mortal sorrow
senz bien aveir ne nuit ne jor,
without good to-have nor night nor day
senz ço que ja li vaille rien.
without that that ever to-him may-avail anything
N'en avra mie, ço set bien:
Not-thereof he-will-have at-all that he-knows well
dès or ne s'i atent il mais;
from now not himself-there awaits he more

por quant s'en suefre si grant fais
for all-that himself-thereof he-suffers so great burden
qu'il n'a repos, joie ne bien;
that-he not-has rest joy nor good
destreiz en est sor tote rien.
distressed thereof he-is above all thing
Quant l'en remembre, toz s'oblie;
When him-thereof remembers wholly himself-forgets
mais mis se rest en la folie,
but put himself again-he-is in the folly
ne sait coment il s'en retraie.
not he-knows how he himself-thereof may-withdraw
Ire e dolor li fait sa plaie;
Wrath and sorrow to-him makes his wound
pense, s'il en esteit guariz,
he-thinks if-he thereof were healed
se celui trueve el fereïz,
if that-one he-finds in-the striking
chier le li fera comparer,
dear it to-him he-will-make pay-for
par mi ses mains l'estuet passer:
through middle his hands him-it-behooves to-pass
o seit a dreit, o seit a tort,
or be-it at right or be-it at wrong
seürs puet estre de la mort.
sure he-can be of the death
Vers lui a mout le cuer enflé:
Toward him he-has much the heart swollen
por ço li sera bien mostré.
for that to-him it-will-be well shown

C'iert granz damages, senz mentir,
It-will-be great harm without lying
mais ensi ert a avenir.
but thus it-was to come-about
Del jor qui fist a redoter
Of-the day which made to fear
vint li termes senz demorer.
came the term without delaying
Armé se sont dedenz la vile;
Armed themselves they-are within the town
plus s'en ist de seisante mile;
more themselves-thereof come-out than sixty thousand
n'i a cel n'ait cheval corant,
not-there is that-one not-may-have horse running
fort e legier e mal traiant;
strong and light and ill drawing
n'i a cel n'ait escu e broigne,
not-there is that-one not-may-have shield and byrnie
heaume e espee de Saissoigne
helmet and sword of Saxony
o Loherenge o d'Alemaigne.
or Lorrainer or of-Germany
Es lances parut mainte enseigne
On-the lances appeared many-a banner
e maint penon ovré d'orfreis.
and many-a pennon worked with-orphrey
Trestuit s'en issent demaneis;
All themselves-thereof come-out at-once

fors des lices, es plains graviers,
out of-the lists into-the plain gravels
ont devisez lor chevaliers.
they-have divided their knights
Cil de l'ost vienent encontre eus,
Those of the-host come against them
prez de bataille, iriez e feus.
ready for battle angered and cruel
En forz conreiz e en pleniers
In strong troops and in full
duit Achillès ses chevaliers
leads Achilles his knights
e endotrine a son voleir:
and instructs at his will
«Tant,» fait il, «vos faz a saveir
So-much says he to-you I-make to know
«que n'ailleiz pas al fereïz
that not-you-may-go at-all to-the striking
«tant qu'il aient les noz partiz
until that-they may-have the ours parted
«de champ, de bataille e de place;
from field of battle and from place
«e si vueil bien que chascuns sace
and so I-wish well that each may-know
«que jo ne hé nule rien tant
that I not hate any thing so-much
«com Troïlus, le fil Priant.
as Troilus the son (of-)Priam

«Trop m'a laidi e empeirié
Too-much me-he-has shamed and impaired
«e de ma gent trop damagié;
and of my folk too-much damaged
«le sanc m'a fait del cors eissir,
the blood me-he-has made from-the body to-come-out
«si s'en devreit bien repentir.
so himself-thereof he-ought well to-repent
«Si fera il, ne puet remaindre:
So he-will-do he not can remain
«A vos m'en dei clamer e plaindre.
To you me-thereof I-ought to-claim and complain
«Quant les noz en verreiz venir,
When the ours thereof you-will-see come
«si n'i ait rien del plus sofrir:
so not-there may-be anything of-the more enduring
«Donc chevauchiez estreit serré,
Then ride narrow packed
«e quant vos l'avreiz encontré,
and when you him-will-have encountered
«si guardez bien qu'il ne s'en aut.
so take-care well that-he not himself-thereof may-go
«De nul des autres ne me chaut,
Of any of-the others not me matters
«mais que de lui prenez venjance
but that on him you-take vengeance
«des plaies que m'a fait sa lance.
for-the wounds which me-has made his lance
«N'aiez ja mais fiance en mei,
Not-may-you-have ever more trust in me

«s'il s'en revait sains del tornei.
if-he himself-thereof goes-back sound from-the tourney
«Or verrai que vos en fereiz.
Now I-shall-see what you thereof will-do
«Jo vos di bien que m'i avreiz
I to-you say well that me-there you-will-have
«al grant mestier e al bosoing:
at-the great want and at-the need
«Ne serai mie de vos loing;
Not I-shall-be at-all from you far
«mais jo ne m'os pas travaillier,
but I not myself-dare at-all to-exert
«qu'en mes plaies me criem blecier.»
for-in my wounds myself I-fear to-hurt
Ensi devise son afaire,
Thus he-devises his affair
mais jo cuit mieuz l'en venist taire:
but I think better to-him-thereof would-come to-be-silent
se cil en aveient la force,
if those-ones thereof had the strength
guage i metreit de la caboce;
pledge there he-would-put of the noggin
e s'est quil vos sache conter,
and if-there-is who-it to-you may-know to-tell
a ço porra il bien torner.
to that will-be-able it well to-turn
Cil de l'ost sont tuit a cheval,
Those of the-host are all on horse
porpris ont ja le champ mortal:
taken they-have already the field mortal

en la grant plaigne sablonose
in the great plain sandy
assembla l'uevre perillose.
joined the-work perilous
Greu chevauchent vers Troïens
Greeks ride toward Trojans
par granz eschieles e par rens:
by great squadrons and by ranks
quant des herberges as plains issent,
when from-the lodgings to-the plains they-come-out
cent mile heaumes i resclarcissent;
a-hundred thousand helmets there shine
vint mile enseignes i ventelent,
twenty thousand banners there flutter
que d'or reluisent e freselent
which with-gold gleam and shimmer
contre la raie del soleil.
against the ray of-the sun
Senz demander autre conseil,
Without asking other counsel
se sont requis en tel maniere
themselves they-have sought-out in such manner
qu'en ensanglenta la poudriere.
that-one-thereof bloodied the dust
A bandon metent les peitrines
At abandon they-put the breasts
el brueil de mil lances fraisnines:
in-the thicket of a-thousand lances ashen

n'i vaut escu n'auberc doblier
not-there avails shield nor-hauberk double
que li cler fer trenchant d'acier
that the bright irons cutting of-steel
ne trespercent piz e corailles.
not may-pierce-through breasts and entrails
Avenues sont les batailles
Arrived are the battalions
e li conrei comunaument:
and the troops in-common
adonc i ot torneiement
then there was tourney
si doloros e si tres fier
so sorrowful and so very fierce
que nus ne s'i set conseillier
that any not himself-there knows to-counsel
ne n'i cuide aveir guarison.
nor not-there thinks to-have safety
Sanglent en sont li confanon.
Bloody thereof are the pennons
Li sons est granz e li tambeis,
The sound is great and the din
desor les heaumes Paviëis,
above the helmets Pavian
des espees d'acier brunies.
of-the swords of-steel burnished
La ot mil cors getez de vies;
There there-were a-thousand bodies thrown from lives
la ot presse, la ot grant fole:
there there-was press there there-was great throng

teus s'i embat e teus s'i cole,
such himself-there thrusts and such himself-there slips
qui ja n'en tornera ariere,
who ever not-thereof will-turn back
se l'om ne l'en reporte en biere.
if one not him-thereof carries-back on bier
Par mi la place en i gist maint,
Through middle the place thereof there lies many-a
qui a la mort baaille e plaint;
who at the death gasps and moans
mout en i ra des deshaitiez,
much thereof there again-has of-the stricken
qui ne pueent ester sor piez
who not can stand on feet
ne eus aidier ne autrui nuire:
nor themselves to-help nor another to-harm
ne puet estre qu'il n'en i muire.
not can be that-it not-thereof there may-die
Tant ot la bataille duré
So-long had the battle lasted
que bien fu ja midi passé.
that well was already noon passed
A tant i vint, ne tarja plus,
At that there came not delayed more
o mout grant force Troïlus:
with much great force Troilus
trei mile l'en sivent al dos.
three thousand him-thereof follow at-the back

Adonc n'i ot Grezeis si os
Then not-there was Greek so bold
qui sempres ne chanjast estal.
who at-once not might-change stand
Lors furent brochié li cheval:
Then were spurred the horses
21375 la ot chacié e abatu;
there there-was chased and thrown-down
la sont li cri, la sont li hu;
there are the cries there are the hues
tel noise i font li olifant
such noise there make the horns
que l'om n'i oïst Deu tonant.
that one not-there would-hear God thundering
La ot si fait abateïz
There there-was so made felling
21380 que Greu s'en vont toz desconfiz.
that Greeks themselves-thereof go all discomfited
S'est qui fuie, pro est qui chace:
So-is-there who may-flee enough is-there who chases
sacheiz mout perdent en la place.
know much they-lose in the place
Ja esteient des tentes près,
Already they-were of-the tents near
quant sorst la maisniee Achillès:
when rose-up the household (of-)Achilles
21385 dou mile sont en un conrei,
two thousand they-are in one troop

senz ço qu'en seient pas li trei
without that that-thereof may-be at-all the three
senz fort escu e senz fort broigne.
without strong shield and without strong byrnie
Senz demander nule autre essoigne,
Without asking any other excuse
vont encontre lor enemis,
they-go against their enemies
lances baissiees, escuz pris.
lances lowered shields taken
E cil les ont bien recoilliz
And those-ones them have well received
enz es pointes des fers bruniz
in on-the points of-the irons burnished
si durement que li chaciers
so hard that the chasing
remest de toz les chevaliers:
remained of all the knights
n'orent corage ne talent,
not-they-had heart nor desire
ço di por veir, d'aler avant.
that I-say for true of-going forward
Al socors des Mirmidoneis
At-the succor of-the Myrmidons
recovrerent sempres Grezeis:
recovered at-once Greeks
la rot si faites assemblees,
there again-there-were so made assemblies
teus ocises e teus meslees,
such slaughters and such melees

que nus nel vos porreit conter.
that any not-it to-you could tell
Ne voustrent pas cil oblïer
Not wished at-all those-ones to-forget
la preiere de lor seignor:
the prayer of their lord
Troïlus cerchent par l'estor;
Troilus they-seek through the-fight
a la soë eschiele s'aponent.
to the his squadron themselves-set
Donc s'acueillent e donc se donent
Then each-other-they-greet and then each-other they-give
de lances e d'espees nues:
with lances and of-swords naked
la ot testes par mi fendues
there there-were heads through middle split
e trenchiez poinz e piez e braz;
and cut-off fists and feet and arms
la fu estranges li baraz.
there was strange the fray
Troïlus est toz forsenez,
Troilus is all maddened
quant entor lui veit assemblez
when around him he-sees assembled
ceus qui por mort le vont querant.
those who for dead him go seeking
Trait a le brant d'acier trenchant;
Drawn he-has the blade of-steel cutting
donc les acueut, donc les detrenche:
then them he-greets then them he-cuts-to-pieces

n'a nul reguart que toz nes venche.
not-he-has any regard that all not-them he-may-vanquish
En la greignor presse lor vait:
In the greatest press at-them he-goes
cui il ataint, de lui est fait.
whom he reaches of him is done
Onques nus hom, ço nos dist Daire,
Ever any man that to-us said Dares
ne vit a cors d'ome ço faire,
not saw at body of-man that do
tel ocise ne tel maisel:
such slaughter nor such butchery
de sanc i corent grant ruissel.
of blood there run great brook
Toz les aveit desbaretez,
All them he-had thrown-into-disorder
ocis, detrenchiez e navrez;
killed cut-to-pieces and wounded
a la veie les aveit mis,
to the way them he-had put
quant sis chevaus li fu ocis.
when his horse to-him was killed
Feruz esteit de dous espiez,
Struck it-was by two spears
ne poëit mais ester sor piez:
not it-could more stand on feet
en mi la place s'estendi,
in middle the place itself-stretched
e Troïlus sor lui chaï.
and Troilus on it fell

N'ot o lui compaignon ne per:
Not-he-had with him companion nor peer
ainz qu'il s'en poüst relever,
before that-he himself-thereof could raise-up
fu Achillès sor lui venuz.
was Achilles on him come
Ha! las, tanz cous i ot feruz
Ah weary so-many blows there were struck
sor lui d'espees maintenant!
on him with-swords forthwith
E Achillès se mist en tant
And Achilles himself put into so-much
qu'il ot la teste desarmee.
that-he had the head unarmed
Grant defense, dure meslee
Great defense hard melee
lor a rendu: mais ço que chaut?
to-them he-has rendered but that what matters
Rien ne li monte ne ne vaut,
Anything not to-him amounts nor not avails
quar Achillès, le reneié,
for Achilles the renegade
li a anceis le chief trenchié
to-him has rather the head cut-off
qu'il puisse aveir socors n'aïe.
than-he may have succor nor-aid
Grant cruëuté, grant felenie
Great cruelty great felony
a fait: bien s'en poüst sofrir;
he-has done well himself-thereof he-could refrain

ancor s'en puisse il repentir!
still himself-thereof may he repent
A la coë de son cheval
At the tail of his horse
atache le cors del vassal;
he-ties the body of-the vassal
adonc le traïne après sei,
then him he-drags after himself
si quel virent cil del tornei.
so that-him saw those of-the tourney
La novele fu tost seüe.
The news was quickly known
Quant Troïen l'ont entendue,
When Trojans it-have heard
fremissent tuit e se restreignent,
they-shudder all and themselves draw-together
braient, criënt, plorent e plaignent;
they-bray cry weep and lament
en la bataille e en l'estor
in the battle and in the-fight
en chaïrent pasmé plusor.
thereof fell swooned many
Paris le sot e Eneas,
Paris it knew and Aeneas
Reis Mennon e Polidamas.
King Memnon and Polydamas
Tel ire e teus dueus lor en prent
Such wrath and such griefs to-them thereof takes
que uns sous d'eus a rien n'entent:
that one alone of-them at anything not-attends

or renovele lor pesance,
now is-renewed their sorrow
or amenuise lor poissance;
now diminishes their power
dès ore ont il assez que faire.
from now have they enough to do
Quant Mennon vit le cors detraire
When Memnon saw the body dragged
vilment a coës de chevaus,
vilely at tails of horses
isnelement o ses vassaus
swiftly with his vassals
l'ala rescorre maintenant,
him-went to-rescue forthwith
mais mout i fu la presse grant.
but much there was the press great
Perseis, si home natural,
Persians his men native
font après lui tel batestal
make after him such clatter
o les espees esmolues
with the swords sharpened
que les presses ont derompues.
that the presses they-have broken
Desci qu'al cors en sont venu:
Until that-at-the body thereof they-are come
la ot maint chief sevré de bu.
there there-was many-a head severed from trunk
Mennon li dist: «Ça le laireiz,
Memnon to-him said Here him you-will-leave

«coilverz; griefment le comparreiz.
villain grievously it you-will-pay-for
«Cruëus, coment l'avez pensé,
Cruel how it-you-have thought
«que feïstes tel cruëuté
that you-did such cruelty
«que le fil le rei traïnastes?
that the son (of-)the king you-dragged
«De grant orgueil vos apensastes.
Of great pride yourselves you-bethought
«Assez avez dès or vescu:
Enough you-have from now lived
«Trop avez lonc landon eü.
Too-much you-have long rein had
«Ceste honte sera vengiee:
This shame will-be avenged
«Ja n'iert mais guaires respitiee.
Ever not-it-will-be more much put-off
«Trop est granz dueus que vos vivez
Too-much is great grief that you live
«ne que vos tant armes portez.
nor that you so-long arms bear
«Hector e cestui avez mort
Hector and this-one you-have killed
«a grant pechié e a grant tort:
with great sin and with great wrong
«Onc teus damages ne fu faiz.
Ever such harms not was done
«Mais mout en estes loinz de paiz:
But much thereof you-are far from peace

«Icist miens branz vos en desfie.»
This my blade you thereof defies
A haute voiz s'enseigne escrie,
At high voice his-war-cry he-cries
le cheval fiert des esporons;
the horse he-strikes with-the spurs
par mi l'escu a dous lions
through middle the-shield with two lions
e par l'auberc lez la peitrine
and through the-hauberk beside the breast
li fait passer l'anste fraisnine:
to-him he-makes pass the-shaft ashen
sanglent en furent li languel
bloody thereof were the pennons
e de la lance li coutel;
and of the lance the blade
a poi fust la venjance faite.
at little were-it the vengeance done
Reis Mennon a l'espee traite:
King Memnon has the-sword drawn
sor le heaume bruni d'acier
on the helmet burnished of-steel
li vait la preie chalongier;
to-him he-goes the prey to-claim
treis cous i fiert desmesurez,
three blows there he-strikes beyond-measure
que li cercles en est volez.
so-that the circlet thereof is flown
Li sans l'en file contre val.
The blood him-thereof streams down below

Jus l'abati de son cheval
Down him-he-felled from his horse
tot espasmi: por poi n'est morz.
all swooned for little not-he-is dead
Par grant proëce e par esforz
By great prowess and by efforts
fu li cors Troïlus rescos.
was the body (of-)Troilus rescued
Mout en i ot ainz d'angoissos
Much thereof there were before of-anguished
e de navrez e de bleciez
and of wounded and of hurt
e d'ocis e de detrenchiez.
and of-killed and of cut-to-pieces
Al cors rescorre ot grant trepei
At-the body rescuing there-was great tumult
e grief meslee e fier tornei.
and grievous melee and fierce tourney
Bien i fu navrez Achillès,
Well there was wounded Achilles
bien le requist Mennon de près:
well him sought-out Memnon from near
rescosse li a si sa preie,
rescued from-him he-has so his prey
que tote la place en rogeie.
that all the place thereof reddens
Chaeiz fu, mais senz demorer
Fallen he-was but without delaying
l'ont fait si home remonter,
him-have made his men remount

qui mainte colee i reçurent:
who many-a blow there received
mout i suefrent e i endurent.
much there they-suffer and there endure
De la bataille l'ont fors trait:
From the battle him-they-have out drawn
vers les tentes tot dreit s'en vait.
toward the tents all straight himself-thereof he-goes
E reis Mennon li est guenchiz:
And king Memnon to-him is turned
bien o trei mile fervestiz,
well with three thousand iron-clad
o lui s'est de rechief meslez.
with him himself-is from anew mixed
Puis que li monz fu estorez,
Since that the world was made
ne vit nus hom plus dur estor,
not saw any man more hard fight
plus senz merci, plus senz amor.
more without mercy more without love
Grant los en a Mennon li reis:
Great praise thereof has Memnon the king
mout le fait bien o ses Perseis;
much it he-does well with his Persians
granz envaïes fait sovent
great assaults he-makes often
a Achillès e a sa gent.
on Achilles and on his folk

E quant il plus ne pot sofrir
And when he more not could suffer
e vit Mennon si contenir
and saw Memnon so bear-himself
e la soë gent damagier,
and the his folk damage
n'ot plus en lui que corrocier:
not-there-was more in him than anger
contre lui torne, en haut s'escrie.
against him he-turns on high himself-cries
Lors i rot fait chevalerie.
Then there again-was done chivalry
Il e Mennon se sont ataint,
He and Memnon themselves have reached
qui de neient ne se sont feint.
who in nothing not themselves are feigned
Mout irieement se requierent,
Much angrily each-other they-seek
desmesurez cous s'entrefierent,
beyond-measure blows each-other-they-strike
mais la presse les departi,
but the press them parted
qu'il ne porent plus faire ancui.
for-they not could more do today

The Death of Memnon

XCII

Healed, Achilles orders his Myrmidons to trap Memnon. They cut him off from his Persians, and Achilles hacks him to pieces, though Achilles is himself wounded in fifteen places. Without Troilus and Memnon the Trojans lose heart and are driven into the city. Philemenis, Paris, and Polydamas hold the gate while the ladies wail on the walls. Hecuba laments that she has lost three sons, curses the gods, and lies three days as if dead. Paris and Polydamas mourn Troilus. Priam sends for a thirty days' truce, the Persians mourn Memnon, and Priam's engineers build their tombs.

Uit jorz dura li fereïz,
Eight days lasted the striking
si com reconte li Escriz,
so as recounts the Writing
que Achillès pas n'i veneit
that Achilles at-all not-there came
por ses plaies, dont il giseit.
for his wounds whereof he lay
Mais anceis qu'en fust triuë prise,
But before that-thereof were truce taken
si com la Letre nos devise,
so as the Text to-us tells
refu il ja tant respassez
again-was he already so-much recovered
qu'a la bataille vint armez.
that-to the battle he-came armed
Mennon haï a grant merveille:
Memnon he-hated to great marvel

as suens le dit e le conseille,
to-the his it he-says and it counsels
qu'il guardent qu'il seit entrepris
that-they may-take-care that-he may-be beset
ensi qu'il n'en estorce vis:
so that-he not-thereof may-escape alive
«Laidi m'a,» fait il, «e mal fait,
Shame me-has done he and ill done
«le sanc del cors m'a sovent trait;
the blood from-the body me-he-has often drawn
«mais, se jo puis, il i metra
but if I can he there will-put
«des plus chiers membres que il a.
of-the most dear members which he has
«Jo n'eüsse hauberc vesti
I not-would-have hauberk put-on
«jusqu'a un meis tot acompli,
up-to one month all completed
«se por lui non, qu'ocire vueil.
if for him not whom-to-kill I-wish
«Ensi ira baissant l'orgueil
Thus will-go lowering the-pride
«de ceus dedenz poi e petit.»
of those within little and little
Trestot ensi come il l'a dit,
All thus as he it-has said
l'ont fait le jor en la bataille,
it-they-have done the day in the battle
qu'onques de rien n'i firent faille.
for-ever in anything not-there they-made fault

Mesler s'alerent as Perseis
To-mix themselves-went with-the Persians
comunaument Mirmidoneis:
in-common Myrmidons
onc teus estors ne fu veüz,
ever such fight not was seen
n'ou tant eüst des abatuz;
nor-where so-much might-have-been of-the thrown-down
si vos di bien, poi en i chiet
so to-you I-say well few thereof there fall
qui en estorge ne quin liet.
who thereof may-escape nor who-thereof may-rejoice
Achillès et Mennon josterent,
Achilles and Memnon jousted
que des chevaus jus se porterent;
so-that from-the horses down themselves they-carried
après traistrent les branz moluz,
afterward they-drew the blades sharpened
dont mout granz cous se sont feruz.
whereof much great blows each-other they-are struck
Mirmidoneis s'esvertuërent
Myrmidons exerted-themselves
tant i ferirent e chaplerent
so-much there they-struck and hacked
qu'as Perseis tolent lor seignor.
that-from-the Persians they-take their lord
Ha! las, tant i ot duel e plor!
Ah weary so-much there was grief and weeping
Tot le detrencha Achillès,
All him cut-to-pieces Achilles

mais vos n'orreiz parler ja mais
but you not-will-hear to-speak ever more
de si angoissose escremie.
of so anguished fencing
S'eüst Mennon un poi d'aïe,
If-had Memnon a little of-aid
n'i morist pas, ço cuidons nos:
not-there would-have-died at-all that think we
ço fust granz biens, s'il fust rescos,
that were great good if-he were rescued
quar onc en cest siegle vivant
for ever in this world living
nen ot chevalier plus vaillant,
not there-was knight more valiant
plus franc, plus large, plus hardi
more noble more generous more bold
ne plus aidant a son ami.
nor more helping to his friend
Quant li coilverz, li enemis
When the villain the enemy
l'ot ensi vencu e ocis,
him-had thus vanquished and killed
sil detrencha tot par morseaus:
so-him he-cut-to-pieces all by morsels
dès ore a il bien ses aveaus,
from now has he well his desires
mais ne por quant en quinze lieus
but nor for all-that in fifteen places
li est aparissanz li gieus.
to-him is appearing the game

Li sans li cort jusqu'al talon
The blood to-him runs up-to-the heel
par les mailles del haubergeon:
through the mails of-the hauberk
tant en i pert que mout sovent
so-much thereof there he-loses that much often
li faut li cuers e li desment.
to-him fails the heart and to-him gives-way
Porté l'en ont, senz plus atendre,
Carried him-thereof they-have without more waiting
plus neir, plus pale que n'est cendre:
more black more pale than not-is ash
li un diënt qu'il en morra,
the some say that-he thereof will-die
e li autre que non fera.
and the others that not will-do
A plaindre a assez veirement,
To lament he-has enough truly
que de son cors, que de sa gent:
as-much of his body as-much of his folk
perdu en a plus de cinc cenz,
lost thereof he-has more than five hundred
puis qu'il ralerent al contenz.
since that-they went-again to-the contest
Il n'a en l'ost prince ne rei
There not-is in the-host prince nor king
qui tant ait perdu endreit sei.
who so-much may-have lost as-regards himself

Non pas por ço qu'estrangement
Not at-all for that that-strangely
n'aient perdu comunaument, —
not-may-they-have lost in-common
si come en l'Estoire trovon,
so as in the-Story we-find
n'i ot mais tel ocision, —
not-there was more such killing
mais puis que reis Mennon fu morz,
but since that king Memnon was dead
qui mainteneit les granz esforz,
who maintained the great efforts
e Troïlus li proz, li sages,
and Troilus the valiant the wise
si s'esmaia toz li barnages,
so itself-dismayed all the baronage
tuit furent mort e acoré,
all they-were dead and slain-at-heart
esbaï e desesperé,
bewildered and despairing
e si durent il estre bien.
and so ought they to-be well
Onc puis n'i ot fait autre rien,
Ever afterward not-there was done other anything
mais de la place haïnose,
but from the place hateful
pesme, mortel e dolorose
dire mortal and sorrowful
se partirent com plus tost porent,
themselves they-parted as most soon they-could

tot sagement, al mieuz qu'il sorent.
all wisely at-the best that-they knew
Mais se ne fust Philemenis
But if not were Philemenis
e Polidamas e Paris,
and Polydamas and Paris
quis sostindrent, mal lor alast:
who-them upheld ill to-them would-have-gone
ja la meitié n'en eschapast.
ever the half not-thereof would-have-escaped
Trop par i sofrirent grant fais:
Too very there they-suffered great burden
tant com li siegles durra mais,
as-long as the world will-last more
ne soferront chevalier tant.
not will-suffer knights so-much
Iluec fu bien aparissant
There was well apparent
queus vassaus ert Philemenis,
what-like vassal was Philemenis
quel li Bastart e queus Paris,
what-like the Bastards and what-like Paris
queus reis Fion, queus reis Edras.
what-like king Fion what-like king Edras
Cist defendirent tant le pas
These-ones defended so-long the pass
que lor gent s'en fu tote entree.
that their folk itself-thereof was all entered

Par mi la vile ot grant criëe
Through middle the town there-was great outcry
e granz esmais e granz dolors.
and great dismays and great sorrows
Es murs batailliez e es tors
On-the walls battlemented and on-the towers
a mil dames e mil puceles
there-are a-thousand ladies and a-thousand maidens
cui l'eve cort par les maisseles,
to-whom the-water runs through the cheeks
que hauz criz criënt e hauz braiz:
who loud cries cry and loud shrieks
ja mais teus dueus ne sera faiz.
ever more such grief not will-be made
Mout se dotent que li Grezeis
Much themselves they-fear that the Greeks
prengent la vile de maneis.
may-take the town from once
Cil qui furent fors des trenchiees
Those-ones who were outside of-the trenches
endurerent morteus haschiees:
endured mortal torments
Reis Telamon, reis Menelaus,
King Telamon king Menelaus
Menesteüs e Aïaus,
Menestheus and Ajax
Thoas li proz e Ulixès,
Thoas the valiant and Ulysses
e desor toz Diomedès,
and above all Diomedes

les enchaucent e les destreignent,
them pursue and them press
e les ociënt e mahaignent.
and them kill and maim
Par estoveir les ont enz mis,
By necessity them they-have in put
mais mout par i ot des ocis:
but much very there were of-the killed
mout ont perdu, c'est la verté.
much they-have lost it-is the truth
Cil s'en sont en la vile entré:
Those-ones themselves-thereof are in the town entered
les portes clostrent e serrerent,
the gates they-closed and locked
e cil de l'ost s'en retornerent,
and those of the-host themselves-thereof returned
quar la nuit esteit ja venue.
for the night was already come
Estrange perte i ont eüe:
Strange loss there they-have had
mout s'en vont plaignant li plusor.
much themselves-thereof go lamenting the most
Qui son ami o son seignor,
Who his friend or his lord
son frere o son cosin germain,
his brother or his cousin german

o aucun suen parent prochain
or some his kinsman near
veit el champ mort, ne puet muër
sees in-the field dead not can avoid
qu'al cuer ne l'en deie peser.
that-at-the heart not him-thereof ought to-weigh
Ainz fu li cieus cler estelé
Before was the sky bright starred
que il se fussent desarmé.
that they themselves were unarmed
Assez i ot regretemenz
Enough there were lamentations
e braiz e criz e ploremenz,
and shrieks and cries and weepings
mais ço lor est mout granz conforz,
but that to-them is much great comfort
que Troïlus li proz est morz
that Troilus the valiant is dead
e reis Mennon, le plus vaillant
and king Memnon the most valiant
qui seit remés al rei Priant:
who may-be remained to-the king Priam
por ço vos di que mout s'apaient.
for that to-you I-say that much themselves-appease
E li mire pas ne s'esmaient
And the physicians at-all not themselves-dismay
qu'Achillès ne guarisse bien:
that-Achilles not may-heal well
ços conforte sor tote rien.
that-them comforts above all thing

Cele nuit sont en la cité
That night they-are in the city
morne e pensif e abosmé.
gloomy and pensive and downcast
Nus hom n'i but ne n'i manja,
Any man not-there drank nor not-there ate
ne nes desvesti ne coucha.
nor not-themselves undressed nor lay-down
Por Troïlus sont demi mort —
For Troilus they-are half dead
rien ne lor puet doner confort —
anything not to-them can give comfort
e por Mennon, le rei Persant.
and for Memnon the king Persian
Si angoissos duel fait Priant,
So anguished grief makes Priam
que rien nel veit qui bien ne die
that anyone not-him sees who well not may-say
que mout par iert corte sa vie:
that much very would-be short his life
ne parole n'a rien n'entent.
nor he-speaks nor-to anything not-attends
Ancor vait il plus malement
Still goes it more badly
a la reïne cent itanz:
to the queen a-hundred times-as-much
quant perdu a ses treis enfanz,
when lost she-has her three children
morir l'estuet, ne vivra plus:
to-die her-behooves not she-will-live more

«Beaus fiz,» fait ele, «Troïlus,
Fair son says she Troilus
«tant par a ci freides noveles!
so very has-there here cold news
«Por qu'alaitastes mes mameles?
For-what you-suckled my breasts
«Por quei nasquistes vos de mei?
For what were-born you of me
«Quant devant mei ocis vos vei,
When before me killed you I-see
«beaus sire douz, beaus sire amis,
fair lord sweet fair lord friend
«por quei vif jo, por quei languis?
for what live I for what languish
«Fu mais mere, que ço sofrist,
Was ever mother who that might-suffer
«que o ses mains ne s'oceïst?
that with her hands not herself-would-kill
«Trop me peise que jo sui vive.
Too-much me weighs that I am alive
«Fu onc mais mere si chaitive?
Was ever more mother so wretched
«Lasse! com freide porteüre
Alas how cold bearing
«e com dolorose aventure!
and how sorrowful adventure
«Haï! reis Mars, reis Jupiter!
Ah king Mars king Jupiter
«Haï! Pluto, li deus d'enfer!
Ah Pluto the god of-hell

«Quel merveille, quel cruëuté!
What marvel what cruelty
«Tant par m'avez coilli en hé!
So very me-you-have taken in hate
«Quant il ensi l'estoveit estre,
When it thus it-behooved to-be
«por quei me sofristes a naistre?
for what me you-suffered to be-born
«Por quei sofristes que jo fusse
For what you-suffered that I might-be
«ne que jo onc enfanz eüsse?
nor that I ever children might-have
«Por quei mes avez vos toleiz?
For what me-them have you taken-away
«Ne defendeient il lor dreiz,
Not defended they their rights
«mei e lor pere e lor païs?
me and their father and their country
«Por qu'amez plus noz enemis?
For what-you-love more our enemies
«Quel parenté ont il vers vos
What kinship have they toward you
«ne quel vaillance ne que nos?
nor what worth nor than we
«Si ont, veir: mostré lor avez.
So they-have true shown to-them you-have
«A grant tort nos desheritez.
At great wrong us you-disinherit
«Mout a ici doloros plait:
Much there-is here sorrowful case

«Tant sacrefise vos ai fait,
So-much sacrifice to-you I-have made
«tant riche temple precios!
so-many rich temples precious
«Por ço m'estes si haïnos
For that to-me-you-are so hateful
«quos ne me poëz plus gregier,
that-you not me can more grieve
«plus tolir ne plus abaissier.
more take-away nor more lower
«De mortel glaive o ploremenz,
With mortal sword with weepings
«de braiz, de criz e d'ullemenz
with shrieks with cries and with-howlings
«avez replenie m'entraille,
you-have filled my-entrails
«mon esperit et ma coraille.
my spirit and my heart
«Fiz Troïlus, por vos viveie,
Son Troïlus for you I-was-living
«quant por Hector ne me moreie;
when for Hector not myself I-was-dying
«por vos m'esteie aseüree.
for you myself-I-was assured
«Piece a ma vie fust finee,
A-while ago my life would-be ended
«mais m'ame en tei se reposot,
but my-soul in thee itself rested
«e mis espirs s'i delitot:
and my spirit itself-there delighted

«Or n'i a mais atendement;
Now not-there is more waiting
«fiz, ço sacheiz veraiement,
son that know truly
«que ele s'en ira a vos,
that it itself-thereof will-go to you
«le cors guerpira doloros.
the body it-will-abandon sorrowful
«Ja voudreie qu'ele en fust fors.»
Already I-would-wish that-it thereof were out
Adonc se pasma sor le cors,
Then herself she-swooned on the body
si qu'il n'en ist funs ne aleine.
so that-it not-thereof comes-out vapor nor breath
Porter l'en a fait dame Heleine
Carry her-thereof has made lady Helen
dedenz la Chambre que resplent.
within the Chamber which shines
Iluec jut assez longement:
There she-lay enough long
onc de treis jorz ne resperi
ever in three days not she-revived
ne a rien vivant n'entendi.
nor to anyone living not-attended
Nus ne cuidast qu'ele vesquist
Any not would-think that-she might-live
ne que ja mais les ieuz ovrist.
nor that ever more the eyes she-would-open

Dames, borgeises e puceles
Ladies burgesses and maidens
e les preisiees dameiseles
and the esteemed damsels
font si grant duel que rien vivant
make so great grief that anyone living
ne vit onc mais faire si grant:
not saw ever more make so great
trop l'amoënt, trop ert preisiez
too-much him-they-loved too-much he-was esteemed
e douz e frans e enseigniez.
and sweet and noble and well-taught
Ne sai que die de Paris:
Not I-know what I-may-say of Paris
mieuz vousist estre morz que vis;
better he-would-wish to-be dead than alive
cent feiz se pasme de dolor.
a-hundred times himself he-swoons for sorrow
En une nuit e en un jor
In one night and in one day
nos avreie pas reconté
not-to-you I-would-have at-all recounted
le duel qu'il font par la cité.
the grief which-they make through the city
Sovent le plaint Polidamas,
Often him laments Polydamas
qu'il ne s'amoënt mie a guas:
for-they not each-other-loved at-all in jest

onc, ço sacheiz, dui chevalier
ever that know two knights
el siegle plus ne s'orent chier.
in-the world more not each-other-held dear
Mout esteient andui feeil:
Much they-were both faithful
por ço ne set de sei conseil.
for that not he-knows of himself counsel
Oëz qu'ensi faitierement
Hear that-thus fashioned
furent en peine e en torment
they-were in pain and in torment
tote la nuit li Troïien:
all the night the Trojans
onc nus n'i ot repos ne bien.
ever any not-there had rest nor good
N'ont point del cors Mennon le rei:
Not-they-have at-all of-the body (of-)Memnon the king
morz esteit remés al tornei.
dead it-was remained at-the tourney
De duel s'en ocit sa maisniee, —
For grief themselves-thereof kill his household
trop par en ert desconseilliee, —
too very thereof it-was without-counsel
e tuit cil qui a Troie sont
and all those who at Troy are
comunaument grant duel en ont.
in-common great grief thereof have

Dreiz est, quar n'a pas remasu
Right it-is for not-has at-all remained
dedenz la vile tel escu,
within the town such shield
si riche ne si defensable
so rich nor so defensible
ne si vaillant ne si aidable.
nor so valiant nor so helpful
La nuit passa e vint la die,
The night passed and came the day
e quant l'aube fu resclarcie,
and when the-dawn was brightened
s'a pris Prianz ses messagiers
so-has taken Priam his messengers
sages, corteis e bons parliers:
wise courtly and good speakers
par le conseil de ses amis,
by the counsel of his friends
les a Agamennon tramis;
them he-has (to-)Agamemnon sent
de ço le requiert e somont,
of that him he-asks and summons
que triuë prenge e triuë dont.
that truce he-may-take and truce may-give
A son conseil en a parlé,
To his council thereof he-has spoken
e il li ont testuit loé
and they to-him have all advised
qu'a trente jorz seit afïee.
that-at thirty days it-may-be pledged

Tot ensi l'ont acreantee:
All thus it-they-have granted
afïé sont li trente jor.
pledged are the thirty days
Adonc n'i ot point de sojor
Then not-there was at-all of delay
a doner as cors sepouture:
to give to-the bodies burial
lor lei lor font e lor dreiture.
their law to-them they-do and their right
Le cors Mennon ont ajosté,
The body (of-)Memnon they-have joined
qu'Achillès aveit decoupé:
which-Achilles had cut-up
n'en fu a dire piez ne braz.
not-thereof was to say feet nor arms
Autre conte ne vos en faz,
Other tale not to-you thereof I-make
mais onques puis ne fu hom nez
but ever afterward not was man born
dont si faiz dueus fust demenez.
for-whom so made griefs were held
Plusor, ço sai, de sa maisniee
Many that I-know of his household
en morurent a tel haschiee
thereof died at such torment
qu'onc puis lor boche ne manja.
that-ever afterward their mouth not ate

Li reis Prianz apareilla
The king Priam prepared
e fist a ses engeigneors
and made to his engineers
e a ses plus maistres dotors
and to his most master doctors
faire a chascun son monument.
to-make for each his monument
Or cuit e pierres e argent
Gold refined and stones and silver
lor livra tant come il en quistrent:
to-them he-delivered as-much as they thereof sought
se diseie come il les mistrent,
if I-would-say how they them put
en queus sarquieuz n'en quel façon,
in what coffins nor-in what fashion
trop vos fereie lonc sermon.
too-much to-you I-would-make long sermon
Mais jo ne cuit pas ne ne crei
But I not think at-all nor not believe
que amiraut, conte ne rei
that emir count nor king
geüssent mais si richement,
might-lie ever-more so richly
si bien, si preciosement.
so well so preciously

Quant li osseques fu feniz
When the obsequy was ended
e li mestiers fu acompliz
and the office was fulfilled
des cors ardeir e enterrer,
of-the bodies burning and burying
si se reporent sojorner:
so themselves they-could-again rest
21835 si firent il mout volentiers,
so did they much willingly
quar mout lor en ert granz mestiers.
for much to-them thereof was great need
Trop aveient sofert grant peine.
Too-much they-had suffered great pain

Hecuba's Plot

XCIII

Hecuba, dying of grief, resolves to avenge her sons on Achilles by treachery. She summons Paris and makes him promise to obey. Achilles is to be invited secretly to Apollo's temple at the Thymbraean gate, where Paris and his men will kill him. Paris answers that treason shames the man who does it, but he will not refuse his mother. Her messenger finds Achilles in his tent and offers him Polyxena in marriage from Priam and Hecuba, who promise peace. Overjoyed, Achilles swears to be their son and protector and to come to the temple secretly the next evening. Hecuba tells Paris to choose bold companions, and he vows that Achilles will leave his skin.

La reïne ne fu pas saine
The queen not was at-all sound
ne haitiee ne tant ne quant:
nor cheered nor so-much nor how-much
ne fait de vivre nul semblant.
nor she-makes of living any semblance
Muert sei Ecuba la reïne;
Dies herself Hecuba the queen
ne nuit ne jor sis dueus ne fine;
nor night nor day her grief not ends
rien ne li puet confort doner.
anything not to-her can comfort give
Un jor comença a penser
One day she-began to think
com sereient si fil vengié
how would-be her sons avenged
del traïtor, del reneié
of-the traitor of-the renegade

qui les li a morz e toleiz.
who them from-her has killed and taken
Pensé i a par maintes feiz:
Thought there she-has by many times
s'ele engigne par traïson
if-she may-contrive by treason
sa mort e sa destrucion,
his death and his destruction
com de lui se puisse vengier,
how on him herself she-may avenge
ne s'en deit nus hom merveillier
not himself-thereof ought any man to-wonder
n'a mal ne a blasme atorner.
nor-to ill nor to blame to-turn
Paris a fait a sei mander:
Paris she-has made to herself to-summon
il ert de ço toz coneüz,
he was of that all known
qu'il ert de covenant menuz.
that-he was of covenant small
A li vint mornes e pensis,
To her he-came gloomy and pensive
qu'en lui nen a joie ne ris.
for-in him not is joy nor laughter
Sa mere conforte et sermone.
His mother he-comforts and admonishes
Mais poi de haitement li done.
But little of cheer to-her he-gives

«Fiz,» fait Ecuba la reïne,
Son says Hecuba the queen
«tu veiz qu'a grant dolor define
thou seest that-in great sorrow ends
«la vie que el cors me dure:
the life which in-the body to-me lasts
«De si dolorose aventure
Of so sorrowful adventure
«n'oï onc mais nus hom parler.
not-heard ever more any man speak
«Jo ne puis mais longes durer:
I not can more long last
«Morir m'estuet, tu le veiz bien.
To-die me-behooves thou it seest well
«Mais por Deu te pri d'une rien:
But for God thee I-beg of-a thing
«Done a m'ame confortement
Give to my-soul comfort
«e a ton chier pere ensement;
and to thy dear father likewise
«done a ma vie sostenance
give to my life sustenance
«e aliege un poi ma pesance;
and relieve a little my sorrow
«done confort a mon deshait:
give comfort to my distress
«Saches que malement me vait.
Know that badly to-me it-goes
«Oste de mon cuer la dolor,
Take-away from my heart the sorrow

«e tol a mes dous ieuz le plor.
and take from my two eyes the weeping
«En cest lit plaing, plor e sospir:
In this bed I-lament weep and sigh
«Couchiee m'i sui por morir.
Lain-down myself-there I-am for to-die
«Mis esperiz me vueut guerpir:
My spirit me wishes to-abandon
«Nel puis mais longement tenir.
Not-it I-can more long hold
«Saches ja mais n'en leverai
Know ever more not-thereof I-shall-rise
«ne de mes ieuz ne te verrai,
nor with my eyes not thee I-shall-see
«se tu n'acomplis mon voleir:
if thou not-fulfillest my will
«Iço saches tu bien de veir.
This know thou well of truth
«Guarde que tu m'en respondras,
Take-care what thou me-thereof wilt-answer
«e si me di que tun feras.»
and so to-me say that thou-it wilt-do
Paris respont: «Dame, por quei
Paris answers Lady for what
«avez de ço dote de mei,
you-have of that doubt of me
«seit maus, seit biens, sens o folie,
be-it ill be-it good sense or folly
«que de rien nule vos desdie?
that in anything any you I-may-refuse

«Comandez mei, prez sui del faire,
Command me ready I-am of-the doing
«a quel que chief j'en deie traire.
at what that end I-thereof ought to-draw
— De ço te rent jo granz merciz.
For that to-thee render I great thanks
«Or entent donc a mei, beaus fiz.
Now attend then to me fair son
«Veiz, tu ses bien, cist enemis
Seest thou knowest well this enemy
«t'a tes freres ensi ocis:
thee-has thy brothers thus killed
«Par lui perdons nostre heritage,
By him we-lose our heritage
«par lui perist nostre lignage,
by him perishes our lineage
«par lui morra le rei Priant,
by him will-die the king Priam
«quar, se mi fil fussent vivant,
for if my sons were living
«ja ne fust mais de guerre afliz.
ever not he-would-be more by war afflicted
«Trop malement nos a bailliz,
Too badly us he-has handled
«trop nos a grant damage fait,
too-much to-us he-has great harm done
«n'ancor de rien ne s'en retrait.
nor-yet in anything not himself-thereof withdraws
«Laidement s'est vers mei mené:
Foully himself-has toward me conducted

«Pramis m'aveit e afïé
Promised me-he-had and pledged
«que ta soror prendreit a femme
that thy sister he-would-take to wife
«e qu'il delivrereit cest regne
and that-he would-deliver this realm
«de toz noz morteus enemis.
from all our mortal enemies
«Mout a esté de li espris;
Much he-has been with her inflamed
«amee l'a de grant maniere
loved her-he-has in great manner
«e mout m'en a fait grant preiere;
and much to-me-thereof he-has made great prayer
«mout par en a fait son poëir:
much very thereof he-has done his power
«Ço sai jo bien de fi por veir,
That know I well of sure for true
«que il nes en puet faire aler.
that he not-them thereof can make go
«Or le nos fait chier comparer:
Now it to-us he-makes dear pay-for
«En pais e en tel atendance —
In peace and in such expectation
«ne m'en aveit fait desfiance —
not to-me-thereof he-had made defiance
«mon fil m'a mort, le pro, le sage.
my son me-he-has killed the valiant the wise
«Jo li vueil trametre un message,
I to-him wish to-send a message

«que il vienge parler a mei
that he may-come to-speak to me
«celeement e en requei,
secretly and in hiding
«par nuit oscure e a celee,
by night dark and in secret
«fors de la porte de Timbree,
outside of the gate of Thymbra
«dedenz le temple Apollinis.
within the temple of-Apollo
«E tu te seies dedenz mis
And thou thyself may-be within put
«o tant de gent qu'il ne t'estorce:
with so-much of folk that-he not thee-may-escape
«Guarde que toë en seit la force.
Take-care that thine thereof may-be the strength
«Guart que vengié seient ti frere
Take-care that avenged may-be thy brothers
«e fai le desirier ta mere.
and do the desire (of-)thy mother
«Jo ne dot pas ne ne me criem ge
I not doubt at-all nor not myself fear I
«que volentiers a mei ne vienge,
that willingly to me not he-may-come
«dès qu'il orra cest covenant
from-when that-he will-hear this covenant
«e cest otrei del rei Priant:
and this grant of-the king Priam

«A la saisine e as otrez
At the seisin and at-the grants
«sai qu'al terme sera toz prez.
I-know that-at-the term he-will-be all ready
«E tu guarde qu'il seit ocis
And thou take-care that-he may-be killed
«e que por rien n'en eschat vis:
and that for anything not-thereof he-may-escape alive
«Ensi m'avras reconfortee,
Thus me-thou-wilt-have comforted
«de mort a vie retornee.»
from death to life returned

Paris respont: «De dous periz
Paris answers Of two perils
«m'avez estranges gieus partiz.
me-you-have strange games divided
«Morir vos vei: ne sai coment
To-die you I-see not I-know how
«jo ne face vostre talent;
I not may-do your desire
«n'os desdire vostre plaisir.
not-I-dare to-refuse your pleasure
«Bien sai que vos dei obeïr,
Well I-know that you I-ought to-obey
«mais ci a mout grant mespreison:
but here has-there much great wrongdoing
«Puis qu'uevre torne a traïson,
Since that-work turns to treason
«s'i a honte cil qui la fait.
so-there has shame that-one who it does

«Trop me sera en mal retrait:
Too-much to-me it-will-be in ill reproached
«Baissier en criem e meins valeir.
To-sink thereby I-fear and less to-be-worth
«Ensorquetot n'os desvoleir
Above-all not-I-dare to-refuse
«nule rien, mere, que vos place:
any thing mother which you may-please
«Por ço vos otrei que jol face.
For that to-you I-grant that I-it may-do
«A que que tort, prest m'i avreiz:
At what that it-may-turn ready me-there you-will-have
«Ja mar por mei le demorreiz.»
Ever ill for me it you-will-delay
Quant ceste uevre fu si emprise,
When this work was so undertaken
sempres n'i ot autre devise:
at-once not-there there-was other plan
prist la reïne un messagier
took the queen a messenger
sage, corteis e bon parlier;
wise courtly and good speaker
ses paroles e son corage
her words and her heart
li dit e enseigne e encharge.
to-him she-says and teaches and charges
E cil a pris de li congié.
And that-one has taken from her leave
N'esteit ancor pas anuitié:
Not-it-was yet at-all nightfall

vers les herberges vait grant pas;
toward the lodgings he-goes great pace
quant il i vint, vespres fu bas.
when he there came evening was low
El paveillon soutil ovré,
In-the pavilion subtly worked
d'or et de pierres esmeré,
with-gold and with stones refined
ou li aigles d'or cler resplent,
where the eagle of-gold bright shines
trueve Achillès entre sa gent.
he-finds Achilles among his folk
Li messagiers, come afaitiez,
The messenger as well-bred
devant lui s'est agenoilliez.
before him himself-is kneeled
En un chier lit Turqueis faitiz,
In a dear bed Turkish made
fait de pierres e d'or massiz,
made of stones and of-gold massive
s'esteit, n'aveit guaires, couchiez,
himself-was not-had much lain-down
auques pensis e deshaitiez.
somewhat pensive and distressed
Cil li reconte son message:
That-one to-him recounts his message
«Sire, Ecuba», fait il, «la sage,
Lord Hecuba says he the wise

«m'enveie a vos, si vos dit bien
me-sends to you so to-you says well
«que ne laisseiz por nule rien
that not you-may-leave for any thing
«que ne veigneiz o li parler,
that not you-may-come with her to-speak
«quar sa fille vos vueut doner.
for her daughter to-you she-wishes to-give
«Demain a seir, senz demoree,
Tomorrow at evening without delay
«ainz que la lune seit levee,
before that the moon may-be risen
«vos mande que a li veigneiz
to-you she-commands that to her you-may-come
«e que de fi la trovereiz
and that for sure her you-will-find
«dedenz le temple Apollinis:
within the temple of-Apollo
«Polixenain o le cler vis
Polyxena with the bright face
«vos vueut doner en mariage.
to-you she-wishes to-give in marriage
«Li reis Prianz, qu'om tient a sage,
The king Priam whom-one holds for wise
«le vueut de bon cuer e desire.
it wishes with good heart and desires
«Entre eus e vos n'avra mais ire:
Between them and you not-will-there-be more wrath
«Ço sevent bien, e sin sont fiz,
That they-know well and so-thereof they-are sure

«dès que sereiz de li saisiz,
from-when that you-will-be of her seised
«quos porchacereiz puis lor bien
that-you will-pursue afterward their good
«e lor honor sor tote rien.
and their honor above all thing
«De vos cuident bon ami traire,
Of you they-think good friend to-draw
«e c'est li mieuz qu'il puissent faire:
and it-is the best that-they can do
«Esté avez lor plus noisanz,
Been you-have their most harmful
«or resereiz lor plus aidanz;
now again-you-will-be their most helping
«en vos restoreront lor fiz.
in you they-will-restore their sons
«Ainz que d'eus seiez departiz,
Before that from-them you-may-be departed
«sereiz tuit un: par sairemenz
you-will-be all one by oaths
«sera icist ajostemenz.
will-be this joining
«Joie pleniere vos atent,
Joy full you awaits
«quar, tant com tient le firmament,
for as-long as holds the firmament
«n'a dous femmes, tant seient beles,
not-are-there two women so-much may-they-be fair
«seient dames, seient puceles,
may-they-be ladies may-they-be maidens

«se lor beauté ert tote en une,
if their beauty were all in one
«que ne fust neire e pale e brune
that not would-be black and pale and brown
«envers celi dont la saisine
toward her whereof the seisin
«vos fait sa mere la reïne.
to-you makes her mother the queen
«Bien est qu'o eus vos apaiez,
Well it-is that-with them you may-appease-yourself
«quar trop les avez damagiez.
for too-much them you-have damaged
«Oï avez que jos ai quis
Heard you-have that I-you have sought
«ne por quei sui a vos tramis:
nor for what I-am to you sent
«Respondez m'en vostre plaisir,
Answer me-thereof your pleasure
«quar mout m'est tart del revertir.»
for much to-me-it-is late of-the returning
Un poi s'est teüz Achillès.
A little himself-is silent Achilles
Or a joie, si grant n'ot mais;
Now he-has joy so great not-he-had ever
or ot ço que plus desirot
now he-had that which most he-desired
e que sis cuers plus coveitot:
and which his heart most coveted

«Amis,» fait il, «ço puez retraire
Friend says he that thou-canst recount
«a la reïne de bon aire,
to the queen of good nature
«que jo l'en rent mout granz merciz.
that I to-her-thereof render much great thanks
«D'ore en avant serai sis fiz
From now on-forward I-shall-be her son
«leiaus, feeiz e senz boisdie,
loyal faithful and without deceit
«a toz les jorz mais de ma vie.
for all the days more of my life
«Par mei, se longement puis vivre,
By me if long I-can live
«sera Troie tote delivre.
will-be Troy all delivered
«Ço li afi e jur e vo,
That to-her I-pledge and swear and vow
«ja ne voudra mais plus mon pro
ever not I-shall-wish ever more my profit
«que autretant le suen ne vueille.
that as-much the hers not I-may-wish
«En tel amor pri que m'acueille
In such love I-pray that she-me-may-receive
«que ses pertes restort en mei.
that her losses she-may-restore in me
«Ço qu'el me mande bien otrei;
That which-she me commands well I-grant
«a li irai demain a seir, —
to her I-shall-go tomorrow at evening

«Deus m'en doint joie e bien aveir! —
God to-me-thereof may-give joy and good to-have
«Dreit al temple, si come el mande.
Straight to-the temple so as she commands
«Ainz que li clers del jor s'espande,
Before that the light of-the day itself-may-spread
«reserai ci, quar ne vueil pas,
again-I-shall-be here for not I-wish at-all
«a gieus n'a certes ne a guas,
in games nor-in earnest nor in jest
«que ceste chose seit seüe
that this thing may-be known
«ne par nul home aparceüe:
nor by any man perceived
«Ne porreie pas puis si bien
Not I-would-be-able at-all afterward so well
«lor pro cerchier por nule rien.
their profit to-seek for any thing
«Va t'en, e si la me salue.
Go thee-thence and so her to-me greet
«Di a ma dame e a ma drue
Say to my lady and to my love
«que toz sui suens e serai mais:
that wholly I-am hers and I-shall-be ever
«Par li iert cist regnes en pais.»
By her will-be this realm in peace
Cil prent congié, si s'en repaire:
That-one takes leave so himself-thereof returns
bien a espleitié son afaire.
well he-has accomplished his affair

A la reïne vint tot dreit.
To the queen he-came all straight
Mout li est bel, quant el le veit;
Much to-her it-is fair when she him sees
mout li est tart qu'ele ait oï,
much to-her it-is late that-she may-have heard
saveir se cil vendra a li.
to-know if that-one will-come to her
E cil li dit com faitement
And that-one to-her says how fashioned
il a empris le parlement
he has undertaken the parley
e queinement il s'en fait liez:
and how he himself-thereof makes glad
«Pensez», fait il, «e espleitiez
Think says he and accomplish
«com vos en voudreiz a chief traire,
how you thereof will-wish to end to-draw
«quar il n'i a mais que del faire.»
for it not-there has more than of-the doing
La reïne fu engeignose
The queen was ingenious
e de ceste uevre curiose.
and of this work careful
A sei a fait venir Paris.
To herself she-has made come Paris
Ne sai que plus vos en devis:
Not I-know what more to-you thereof I-may-tell

conté li a tot e retrait
told to-him she-has all and recounted
com sis messages l'aveit fait,
how her messenger it-had done
e come cil joiosement
and how that-one joyfully
vendra senz faille al parlement:
will-come without fail to-the parley
«Demain,» fait ele, «t'apareille.
Tomorrow says she thyself-prepare
«A teus t'en porvei e conseille,
With such thee-thereof provide and counsel
«qui t'aïdent al grant bosoing:
as thee-may-aid at-the great need
«Icist termes n'est guaires loing.
This term not-is much far
«Compaignons prent esliz e taus
Companions take chosen and such
«qui hardiz seient e vassaus
who bold may-be and valiant
«e adurez e defensables
and hardened and defensible
«e en toz estoveirs metables,
and in all needs dependable
«quar cil est si proz e si forz
for that-one is so valiant and so strong
«qu'a peine iert ja ne pris ne morz.»
that-with pain he-will-be ever nor taken nor dead
Paris respont: «D'el ne me criem ge,
Paris answers Of-other-thing not myself fear I

«mais que sol laist que il n'i vienge;
but that only it-may-leave that he not-there may-come
«quar, se tant est que estre puisse
for if so-much it-is that be it-may
«que dedenz le temple le truisse,
that within the temple him I-may-find
«el m'i laira que le mantel:
other-thing to-me-there he-will-leave than the mantle
«Ço iert del sanc e de la pel.
That will-be of-the blood and of the skin
«Prez en sui d'aler a l'essai
Ready thereof I-am to-go to the-trial
«demain: ja plus ne targerai.»
tomorrow already more not I-shall-delay
Ecuba l'a plorant baisié,
Hecuba him-has weeping kissed
après li a doné congié.
afterward to-him she-has given leave

The Death of Achilles

XCIV

Paris hides twenty chosen knights in the temple where Hector lies buried. Blind with love, like Leander, Achilles comes at nightfall with Antilochus, Nestor's son, unarmored and carrying only swords. The ambush falls on them with darts. Achilles wraps his arm in his mantle and kills seven, and Antilochus fights beside him, but both bleed from many wounds. Antilochus falls with fifteen wounds and blames Achilles's folly, and Paris wounds Achilles with two spears. Achilles grieves that Love's trap has killed his friend and fights on until Paris cuts his arm and face. Paris kills them both and throws the bodies out of the temple. The Greeks despair of taking Troy, though some blame Achilles.

Quant cele nuit fu trespassee
When that night was passed
e l'endemain, a l'avespree,
and the-next-day at the-evening
s'est bien Paris apareilliez:
himself-is well Paris prepared
pris a vint chevaliers preisiez,
taken he-has twenty knights esteemed
teus dont il esteit bien certains
such whereof he was well certain
que proz erent e seürains.
that valiant they-were and sure
A l'anuitant se sont tuit mis
At the-nightfall themselves they-are all put
dedenz le temple Apollinis.
within the temple of-Apollo

Crotes e voutes e chanceaus
Crypts and vaults and chancels
i ot assez riches e beaus:
there there-was enough rich and fair
por Hector, qu'i ert seveliz,
for Hector who-there was buried
esteit li lieus fortment cheriz.
was the place greatly cherished
En quatre parz se deviserent;
In four parts themselves they-divided
teus entreseinz s'entredonerent:
such signs each-other-they-gave
si tost come il iert tens e hore,
so soon as it will-be time and hour
saudront ensemble senz demore.
they-will-leap-out together without delay
Cist ont les repostauz guarniz:
These-ones have the hiding-places garrisoned
bien puet estre seürs e fiz
well can be sure and certain
danz Achillès, s'il s'i embat,
lord Achilles if-he himself-there thrusts
qu'il l'i enverseront tot plat.
that-they him-there will-overturn all flat
En ço a mis si son porpens
In that he-has put so his purpose
qu'il n'i cuide ja estre a tens.
that-he not-there thinks ever to-be in time

Mout li demore l'avesprer
Much to-him delays the-evening
e qu'il fust termes de l'aler;
and that-it were term of the-going
mout le desire e mout le vueut.
much it he-desires and much it wishes
Or est espris plus qu'il ne sueut.
Now he-is inflamed more than-he not is-wont
Amors li a le sen toleit:
Love to-him has the sense taken-away
ne set, ne veit ne n'aparceit;
not he-knows nor sees nor not-perceives
ne dote mort, ne l'en sovient.
nor fears death nor to-him-thereof remembers
Ço fait Amors, qui rien ne crient.
That does Love who anything not fears
Tot autresi com Leandès,
All likewise as Leander
cil qui neia en mer Ellès,
that-one who drowned in sea Helles
qui tant ama Ero s'amie
who so-much loved Hero his-love
que, senz batel e senz navie,
that without boat and without ship
se mist en mer par nuit oscure,
himself he-put in sea by night dark
ne redota mesaventure:
not dreaded misadventure
tot autresi Achillès fait.
all likewise Achilles does

De rien ne tient conte ne plait;
Of anything not he-holds count nor case
ne crient peril ne encombrier,
nor fears peril nor hindrance
qu'Amors li fait le sen changier,
for-Love to-him makes the sense change
qui home fait sort, cec e mu.
which man makes deaf blind and mute
Si l'a sorpris e deceü
So him-it-has surprised and deceived
que nule rien plus ne desire
that any thing more not he-desires
qu'aler al doloros martire
than-to-go to-the sorrowful martyrdom
e a sa pesme destinee.
and to his dire destiny
Polixenain mar vit onc nee:
Polyxena ill he-saw ever born
bien se traï, bien se tua,
well himself he-betrayed well himself he-killed
le jor que il veeir l'ala.
the day that he to-see her-went
La resplendor de sa semblance
The splendor of her likeness
le fait ester en tel errance
him makes stand in such wandering
qu'il ne puet onc puis aveir bien.
that-he not can ever afterward have good

Or desire sor tote rien
Now he-desires above all thing
que cist termes seit avenuz.
that this term may-be come
Uns chevaliers esteit sis druz:
A knight was his friend
Antilocus aveit cil non,
Antilochus had that-one name
jovnes, senz barbe e senz grenon.
young without beard and without mustache
Al vieil Nestor ert heirs e fiz,
To-the old Nestor he-was heir and son
e si sacheiz qu'il ert hardiz
and so know that-he was bold
e proz e sages e corteis
and valiant and wise and courtly
e mout preisiez entre Grezeis.
and much esteemed among Greeks
Mout par l'amot danz Achillès:
Much very him-loved lord Achilles
parent esteient auques près.
kin they-were somewhat near
A cestui a s'uevre gehie.
To this-one he-has his-work confessed
O seit saveirs o seit folie,
Or be-it wisdom or be-it folly
otreie li que o lui aut:
he-grants to-him that with him he-may-go
trestoz en est prez, ne l'en faut.
wholly thereof he-is ready not him-thereof fails

Ja començot a anuitier
Already it-began to grow-dark
e la lune cler a raier.
and the moon bright to shine
Quant il partirent des herberges,
When they departed from-the lodgings
oscurs ert li cieus e tenerges:
dark was the sky and murky
ne fust ço que raiot la lune,
not were that that shone the moon
mout fust la nuit oscure e brune.
much would-be the night dark and brown
Dreit al temple tienent lor veie:
Straight to-the temple they-hold their way
rien ne les siut ne nes conveie.
anything not them follows nor not-them escorts
N'i ont escu n'auberc doblier,
Not-there they-have shield nor-hauberk double
fors solement les branz d'acier.
except only the blades of-steel
Tant ont erré qu'al temple vindrent:
So-long they-have journeyed that-at-the temple they-came
onques anceis resne ne tindrent.
ever before rein not they-held
Li lieus fu soutis e segreiz:
The place was subtle and secret
hisdor lor en prist e esfreiz.
horror to-them thereof took and fright
Descendu sont li dui vassal:
Dismounted are the two vassals

chascuns aresne son cheval;
each tethers his horse
li sans lor monte a mont el vis.
the blood to-them mounts at high in-the face
Dedenz le temple Apollinis
Within the temple of-Apollo
s'en entrerent: merveille ont grant
themselves-thereof they-entered marvel they-have great
qu'il n'i troverent rien vivant.
that-they not-there found anything living
Esbaï sont en lor corage:
Bewildered they-are in their heart
ja i parra come il sont sage.
now there it-will-appear how they are wise
De quatre parz lor sont sailli,
From four parts at-them are leapt
a une voiz e a un cri,
with one voice and with one cry
li vint qui erent embuschié.
the twenty who were ambushed
Vint darz d'acier lor ont lancié:
Twenty darts of-steel at-them they-have hurled
feru en sont de plus de diz
struck thereof they-are by more than ten
par les costez e par le piz.
through the sides and through the chest
Escrïé sont e asailli
Shouted-at they-are and assailed
e de totes parz envaï.
and from all parts attacked

Quant Achillès veit e entent
When Achilles sees and understands
que traïz est tot pleinement,
that betrayed he-is all fully
son braz mout tost e mout isnel
his arm much quickly and much swiftly
a bien entors de son mantel;
he-has well wrapped with his mantle
s'espee trait, si lor cort sore:
his-sword he-draws so on-them runs upon
set lor en ocit en poi d'ore.
seven of-them thereof he-kills in little of-time
Antilocus fort s'i raiuë:
Antilochus strongly himself-there again-aids
mainte colee i ra ferue;
many-a blow there again-he-has struck
par mi le temple les dechace.
through middle the temple them he-chases
E Paris mout les suens manace:
And Paris much the his threatens
«Por quei fuiez, franc chevalier?
For what flee-you noble knights
«Ne veez vos treis darz d'acier
Not see you three darts of-steel
«qu'il a par mi le cors toz dreiz?
which-he has through middle the body all straight
«Rasaillons les une autre feiz
Let-us-assail-again them an other time
«comunaument: ja seront mort.»
in-common already they-will-be dead

A toz done cuer e confort:
To all he-gives heart and comfort
tuit les rasaillent e refierent
all them assail-again and strike-again
e tuit vassaument les requierent.
and all valiantly them seek-out
E cil se sont mout defendu,
And those-ones themselves have much defended
mais de lor armes sont tuit nu:
but of their arms they-are all bare
s'eüssent les haubers vestiz,
if-they-had the hauberks put-on
mar les eüssent asailliz;
ill them they-would-have assailed
ja d'eus nen eschapast uns piez.
ever of-them not would-have-escaped one foot
Mais par mainz lieus les ont plaiez:
But by many places them they-have wounded
li sans lor ist des cors a fais,
the blood to-them comes-out from-the bodies in bulk
qui trop lor done granz esmais;
which too-much to-them gives great dismays
n'est merveille s'il afebleient.
not-it-is marvel if-they weaken
Lor mort sentent e lor mort veient,
Their death they-feel and their death they-see
mais ne por quant trop chier se vendent,
but nor for all-that too dear themselves they-sell
dure bataille e fort lor rendent.
hard battle and strong to-them they-render

Des cors ont fait chastel e mur,
Of-the bodies they-have made castle and wall
mais malement sont a seür:
but badly they-are at safety
nus nes ataint n'i face plaie;
any not-them reaches not-there may-make wound
por le sanc qui del cors lor raie
for the blood which from-the body to-them streams
lor faut li cuers e espasmist.
to-them fails the heart and swoons
Antilocus premiers s'asist:
Antilochus first himself-sat
ne poëit plus ester sor piez,
not he-could more stand on feet
qu'en quinze lieus esteit plaiez.
for-in fifteen places he-was wounded
En plorant dist a Achillès:
In weeping he-said to Achilles
«Beaus douz sire, ne vos puis mais
Fair sweet lord not you I-can more
«aidier: ço poëz bien veeir,
aid that you-can well see
«qu'essoigne ai grant e estoveir,
that-need I-have great and necessity
«quant jo vos fail. Las! queus damages
when I you fail Weary what harm
«que ci perist li vasselages
that here perishes the valor
«e la grant hautece de vos!
and the great highness of you

«Iriez en sui e angoissos.
Angered thereof I-am and anguished
«Vostre maus sens nos a traïz.»
Your ill sense us has betrayed
A cest mot rest en piez sailliz,
At this word again-he-is on feet leapt
qu'Achillès esteit trebuchiez:
for-Achilles was fallen
Paris l'aveit de dous espiez
Paris him-had with two spears
feru en lançant mortelment.
struck in hurling mortally
Del redrecier fust mais neient,
Of-the rising-again were-it more nothing
quant Antilocus lor cort sore,
when Antilochus at-them runs upon
dous lor en ocit en poi d'ore;
two of-them thereof he-kills in little of-time
de sor lui les a reüsez.
from above him them he-has driven-back
Achillès rest en piez levez;
Achilles again-is on feet risen
l'un des espiez lance a Paris:
the-one of-the spears he-hurls at Paris
feru l'eüst en mi le vis,
struck him-he-would-have in middle the face
s'il nel veïst vers sei venir;
if-he not-it had-seen toward himself come
a grant peine li pot guenchir.
with great pain from-it he-could swerve

Antilocus se rest pasmez
Antilochus himself again-is swooned
el pavement, qui fu listez.
on-the pavement which was banded
E Achillès mout longement
And Achilles much long
22250 s'estait sor lui e le defent.
himself-stands over him and him defends
Pitié en a plus que de sei:
Pity thereof he-has more than for himself
«Amis,» fait il, «ço peise mei,
Friend says he that weighs me
«que de mort vos sui acheison:
that of death to-you I-am occasion
«Se jo dotasse traïson,
If I had-feared treason
22255 «il alast or tot autrement.
it would-go now all otherwise
«Deceüz sui trop malement.
Deceived I-am too badly
«Tot cest plait m'a basti Amors:
All this case me-has built Love
«Sentir m'en fait morteus dolors.
To-feel me-thereof it-makes mortal sorrows
«Ne somes pas des premerains,
Not we-are at-all of-the first
22260 «ne ne serons des dererains,
nor not we-shall-be of-the last
«qui en morront ne quin sont mort.
who thereof will-die nor who-thereof are dead

«Beaus douz amis, n'i a confort:
Fair sweet friend not-there is comfort
«Dejoste vos, o peist o place,
Beside you or it-may-weigh or it-may-please
«m'estuet morir en ceste place.
me-behooves to-die in this place
«Ne me puis mais guaires aidier:
Not myself I-can more much help
«Por quant, o cest mien brant d'acier,
For all-that with this my blade of-steel
«vos vengerai, se fairel puis.
you I-shall-avenge if to-do-it I-can
«Se jo Paris ataing e truis,
If I Paris reach and find
«ja li rendrai le guerredon
now to-him I-shall-render the reward
«de ceste mortel traïson.»
of this mortal treason
Li temples ert cler alumé
The temple was bright lit
e mout i ert grant la clarté;
and much there was great the brightness
mais la veüe li troblot
but the sight to-him troubled
del sanc qui del cors li raiot
from-the blood which from-the body to-him streamed
a tel foison, près morz esteit;
in such abundance nearly dead he-was
a grant peine se sosteneit.
with great pain himself he-sustained

Faite lor a une envaïe
Made to-them he-has an assault
o l'espee d'acier forbie:
with the-sword of-steel furbished
dous en a morz e cinc navrez.
two thereof he-has killed and five wounded
E Paris li rest sore alez:
And Paris to-him again-is upon gone
le braz li trenche e le viaire.
the arm to-him he-cuts and the face
Lez Antilocon s'en repaire:
Beside Antilochus himself-thereof he-returns
iluec se rest mout defenduz,
there himself again-he-is much defended
mais a force fu abatuz.
but by force he-was thrown-down
A genoillons e en gisant,
On knees and in lying
desci qu'il ne pot en avant,
until that-he not could in forward
defent son compaignon e sei.
he-defends his companion and himself
Paris li dist: «Or vos otrei
Paris to-him said Now to-you I-grant
«que compareiz cez druëries.
that you-pay-for these love-affairs
«Mare ont par vos perdu les vies
Ill have by you lost the lives
«Hector e Troïlus mi frere:
Hector and Troilus my brothers

«Par le comandement ma mere
By the command (of-)my mother
«les vengerai de vostre cors.
them I-shall-avenge on your body
«Trop par vos estiëz amors
Too very you were keen
«a nos laidir e damagier,
to us to-shame and to-damage
«mais or le comparreiz mout chier,
but now it you-will-pay-for much dear
«quar ci morreiz; ço iert grant joie
for here you-will-die that will-be great joy
«a trestote la gent de Troie.»
to all the folk of Troy
Desus le pavement listé
Upon the pavement banded
s'esteient ambedui pasmé:
themselves-were both swooned
n'aveient mais defension.
not-they-had more defense
Ne trovon pas ne ne lison
Not we-find at-all nor not we-read
qu'onc chevalier tant se tenissent
that-ever knights so-much themselves might-hold
ne que lor cors tant defendissent,
nor that their bodies so-much might-defend
qui d'armes fussent desguarniz.
who of-arms were stripped
Ço nos reconte li Escriz,
That to-us recounts the Writing

Paris les a toz detrenchiez:
Paris them has all cut-to-pieces
bien a ses dous freres vengiez.
well he-has his two brothers avenged
Del temple les a fors geté,
From-the temple them he-has out thrown
ainz que del jor parust clarté.
before that of-the day appeared brightness
E quant il prist a esclarcir,
And when it began to grow-light
si fist les suens ensevelir:
so he-made the his bury
ço vos sai bien dire, de maint
that to-you I-know well to-say of many-a
furent assez ploré e plaint.
they-were enough wept and lamented
Riches sarquieuz fist faire a toz,
Rich coffins he-made make for all
quar mout erent vassaus e proz.
for much they-were vassals and valiant
Ceste novele fu seüe:
This news was known
tost fu par mainz lieus espandue.
quickly it-was through many places spread
Quant Greu le sorent, ço sacheiz,
When Greeks it knew that know
angoissos furent e destreiz:
anguished they-were and distressed

onc si granz dueus ne fu veüz
ever so great grief not was seen
com fu en l'ost de toz renduz.
as was in the-host by all rendered
Dès or sont il desconseillié:
From now are they without-counsel
vint mil en plorent de pitié;
twenty thousand thereof weep for pity
dès or n'ont il mais nul espeir
from now not-have they more any hope
de la cité par force aveir;
of the city by force to-have
dès or s'en voudreient aler,
from now themselves-thereof they-would-wish to-go
n'i a mais rien del plus ester;
not-there is more anything of-the more staying
dès or sont il taisant e mu,
from now are they silent and mute
tuit se tienent a confondu.
all themselves hold for confounded
E se ne fust por cele alee
And if not were for that going
qu'il aveit faite en recelee,
which-he had made in secret
de qu'il l'ont trop entre eus blasmé,
whereof that-they him-have too-much among them blamed
mout l'eüssent plus regreté.
much him-they-would-have more mourned

The Funeral of Achilles

XCV

Paris wants to leave Achilles's body to the dogs and ravens, but Helenus persuades him to return it. Nestor mourns Antilochus, his only heir, and sends him home for burial. The Greeks raise a marvelous tomb of colored marble, sealed so that no one can find its entrance. On top stands a golden image of Polyxena holding a ruby vessel with his ashes. Polyxena grieves in secret and resents her mother. In a three-day council the Greeks cannot agree whether to go home. An oracle tells them that Achilles's heir will end the war. Ajax names Neoptolemus, Achilles's fifteen-year-old son by Lycomedes's daughter, and Menelaus goes to fetch him. Meanwhile a battle leaves seven hundred dead.

De sa maisniee que direie,
Of his household what I-would-say
quant reconter ne vos savreie
when recount not to-you I-would-know
le duel qu'il font de lor seignor?
the grief which-they make for their lord
Laissié s'en sont morir plusor.
Let themselves-thereof are die many
Aler vuelent querre le cors.
To-go they-wish to-seek the body
Ja esteient des tentes fors:
Already they-were of-the tents out
qui ques ocie ne lor chaut;
who who-them may-kill not to-them matters
braient, criënt, plorent en haut.
they-shriek cry weep on high

A eus retorner met grant peine
To them to-turn-back puts great pain
Agamennon, quis en rameine:
Agamemnon who-them thereof brings-back
dit lor que sempres maintenant
he-says to-them that at-once now
querra le cors al rei Priant.
he-will-ask the body of-the king Priam
E si fist il, ne tarja guaire.
And so did he not he-delayed much
Mais ore oëz que cuidot faire
But now hear what thought to-do
Paris del cors. Il n'aveit cure
Paris with-the body He not-had care
qu'eüst mestier ne sepouture:
that-it-might-have office nor burial
mangier le voust faire a guadeaus
to-eat it he-wished to-make by dogs
e a voutors e a corbeaus.
and by vultures and by ravens
Tant par le het, ne vueut sofrir
So very him he-hates not he-wishes to-suffer
que Greu le puissent sevelir.
that Greeks him may bury
Venu i sont tuit cil de Troie;
Come there are all those of Troy
sor le cors demeinent grant joie.
over the body they-hold great joy

Quant veient qu'Achillès est morz,
When they-see that-Achilles is dead
ne cuident mais, par nul esforz,
not they-think more by any effort
que Greu lor puissent grantment nuire
that Greeks to-them may greatly harm
ne lor riche cité destruire:
nor their rich city destroy
mout sont joios e mout sont lié.
much they-are joyful and much they-are glad
De toz esteit bien otreié
By all was well granted
ço que Paris en voleit faire;
that which Paris thereof wished to-do
mais Helenus prist a retraire
but Helenus began to object
qu'il n'esteit pas reisons ne dreiz:
that-it not-was at-all reason nor right
laissier lor fist a cele feiz.
let-go to-them he-made at that time
Ensi furent li cors rendu.
Thus were the bodies rendered
Onc si faiz dueus oïz ne fu
Ever so made griefs heard not was
com firent Greu, quant il les virent.
as made Greeks when they them saw
Mout hautement les sevelirent.
Much highly them they-buried
Mais Nestor est si angoissos,
But Nestor is so anguished

si destreiz e si doloros
so distressed and so sorrowful
por son dreit heir Antilocus,
for his right heir Antilochus
qu'il n'aveit fil ne fille plus.
for-he not-had son nor daughter more
Il l'amot plus assez que sei:
He him-loved more enough than himself
al repairier le feïst rei.
at-the returning him he-would-have-made king
Si home l'ont mout regreté
His men him-have much mourned
e longement plaint e ploré:
and long lamented and wept
mout i eüssent bon seignor.
much there they-would-have-had good lord
Nestor se muert de la dolor:
Nestor himself dies of the sorrow
tant s'est pasmez qu'a rien n'entent.
so-much himself-is swooned that-to anything not-be-attends
Ne puet mais vivre longement,
Not he-can more live long
quar mout est vieuz, si li durra
for much he-is old so to-him will-last
toz les jorz mais que il vivra.
all the days more that he will-live
Trop fu li dueus cruëus e fiers.
Too-much was the grief cruel and fierce
Agamennon prist messagiers,
Agamemnon took messengers

e si manda al rei Priant
and so sent to-the king Priam
quel vueille e place e qu'il comant
that-he may-wish and may-please and that-he may-command
qu'Achillès facent sepouture,
that-to-Achilles they-may-make burial
quar c'est bien reisons e dreiture:
for it-is well reason and right
«Tant a esté vaillanz e proz
So-much he-has been worthy and valiant
«e sire e maistre desor toz,
and lord and master above all
«tant par i ot bon chevalier
so very there there-was good knight
«que bien le lor deit otreier».
that well it to-them he-ought to-grant
Fait en a son plaisir li reis:
Done thereof has his pleasure the king
triuës lor a doné un meis.
truces to-them he-has given a month
Dès ore ont il terme e leisir
From now have they term and leisure
d'eus enterrer e sevelir.
of-them burying and entombing
Une semaine tote entiere
A week all whole
tindrent andous les cors en biere,
they-held both the bodies on bier

enoinz e aromatiziez
anointed and embalmed
e richement apareilliez.
and richly prepared
Ploré esteient come rei
Wept they-were as king
e porchanté solonc lor lei.
and chanted-over according-to their law
Li soverain engeigneor
The sovereign engineers
e cil qui sont maistre dotor
and those who are master doctors
ont fait, de marbre vert e blé,
have made of marble green and blue
inde, vermeil, menu goté,
indigo vermilion small dotted
une uevre si tres merveillose
a work so very marvelous
e si riche e si preciose
and so rich and so precious
que nes uns peintres a peincel
that not-even one painter with brush
ne formast si beste n'oisel
not would-form so beast nor-bird
ne flor ne laz environez
nor flower nor knot encircled
com fu li marbres colorez.
as was the marble colored
Soz ciel nen a deboisseüre,
Under heaven not is-there carving

n'uevre que l'om face en peinture,
nor-work which one may-make in painting
qu'il n'i forment si parissanz
that-they not-there may-form so appearing
que toz jorz mais seront duranz:
which all days more will-be lasting
par tantes feiz com moilleront,
by as-many times as they-will-get-wet
par tantes feiz resclarciront.
by as-many times they-will-shine-again
De fort betun e de ciment,
Of strong pitch and of cement
que ja desci qu'al finement
that ever until that-at-the end
n'en charra tant com monte uns peis,
not-thereof will-fall as-much as amounts a weight
mout plus en haut qu'uns ars Turqueis
much more on high than-a bow Turkish
ne traireit fu l'uevre levee,
not would-shoot was the-work raised
que merveilles fu esguardee.
which marvels was looked-at
De la hautor fu fiere chose,
Of the height it-was fierce thing
ne hom ne rien ester n'i ose.
nor man nor anything to-stand not-there dares
N'i ot ne voutes ne arceaus
Not-there there-was nor vaults nor arches
ne cimaises ne pilereaus,
nor cornices nor pillars

fors une viz faite a eschale,
except a stair made with steps
par ont li maistre s'en avale.
by where the master himself-thereof comes-down
Rien que la veie ne dit mie
Anything which it may-see not says at-all
qu'onques tel uevre fust bastie.
that-ever such work were built
Une image d'or tresgeterent,
An image of-gold they-cast
e sacheiz bien mout s'en penerent
and know well much themselves-thereof they-labored
qu'a Polixenain fust semblant:
that-to Polyxena it-might-be like
ne fu ne mendre ne plus grant.
not it-was nor smaller nor more great
Triste la firent e plorose
Sad it they-made and tearful
e par semblant mout angoissose,
and by seeming much anguished
por Achillès qui morz esteit,
for Achilles who dead was
qui a femme la requereit:
who to wife her sought
formee l'ont en tel maniere
formed it-they-have in such manner
que mout en fait dolente chiere.
that much thereof it-makes grieving face
E si fist el: ço sacheiz bien,
And so did she that know well

qu'il l'en pesa sor tote rien:
that-it her-thereof weighed above all thing
s'osast, qu'en mal ne fust retrait,
if-she-had-dared that-in ill not it-were reproached
merveillos duel en eüst fait.
marvelous grief thereof she-would-have made
Vers sa mere en fu mout iriee,
Toward her mother thereof she-was much angered
que l'uevre aveit apareilliee.
who the-work had prepared
Por li est morz, e si l'en peise.
For her he-is dead and so her-thereof weighs
Mais n'est pas fole ne borgeise;
But not-she-is at-all foolish nor townswoman
sage est, si ne vueut faire mie
wise she-is so not she-wishes to-do at-all
rien qu'om li tort a vilenie.
anything that-one to-her may-turn to villainy
Por ço s'en tot, si fist que sage:
For that herself-thereof she-kept-silent so she-did as wise
grant mal l'en vousist son lignage.
great ill her-thereof would-have-wished her lineage
En son cuer ot puis grant iror
In her heart she-had afterward great wrath
de ço qu'il ert morz por s'amor:
of that that-he was dead for her-love
onc puis ne fu ne l'en pesast
ever afterward not it-was not her-thereof might-weigh
e que sa mere n'en blasmast.
and that her mother not-thereof she-might-blame

L'image fu de sa semblance
The-image was of her likeness
formee o ire e o pesance;
formed with wrath and with sorrow
entre ses braz tint un vaissel
between its arms it-held a vessel
d'un robin precios e bel.
of-a ruby precious and fair
Por ço que li cors ert plaiez
For that that the body was wounded
e par mainz lieus toz detrenchiez,
and by many places all cut-to-pieces
ne poüst aveir sepouture
not it-could have burial
que ne tornast a porreture:
that not it-might-turn to rotting
por ço l'arstrent. La cendre ont prise,
for that it-they-burned The ash they-have taken
dedenz le chier vaissel l'ont mise.
within the dear vessel it-they-have put
Ja hom l'image n'esguardast,
Ever man the-image not-would-look-at
qui o ses dous ieuz ne plorast.
who with his two eyes not would-weep
Bien plaist a toz comunaument:
Well it-pleases to all in-common
diënt bien est a lor talent.
they-say well it-is to their desire
Levee l'ont sor l'uevre en haut;
Raised it-they-have on the-work on high

iluec ou ele achieve e faut,
there where it ends and stops
asise l'ont sor un pomel
set it-they-have on a knob
fait d'un topace chier e bel:
made of-a topaz dear and fair
de Troie fu tot cler veüe.
from Troy it-was all clearly seen
Fiere parole en ont tenue:
Proud talk thereof they-have held
diënt qu'onques plus richement
they-say that-ever more richly
n'ot chevaliers enterrement;
not-had knight burial
rendu li ont a la destrece
rendered to-him they-have at the distress
grant guerredon de sa proëce.
great reward of his prowess
Quant la chose fu achevee,
When the thing was finished
si ont la viz si seelee
so they-have the stair so sealed
que rien ne poüst porpenser
that anything not could devise
par ou om i deüst entrer:
by where one there ought to-enter
l'estopeüre ne l'entree
the-stopping nor the-entrance
n'iert mais jusqu'a la fin trovee.
not-will-be ever up-to the end found

Bele fu trop l'uevre defors.
Fair was too-much the-work outside
Son fil a pris li vieuz Nestors,
His son has taken the old Nestor
si l'a tramis en son païs:
so him-he-has sent into his country
la vueut qu'il seit en terre mis,
there he-wishes that-he may-be in earth put
e si fu il si richement
and so was he so richly
que nus plus preciosement
that any more preciously
ne jut el siegle trespassé.
not lay in-the world passed
Longement l'ont plaint et ploré:
Long him-they-have lamented and wept
toz les jorz puis de sa vieillece
all the days after of his old-age
en fu sis pere en grant tristece.
thereof was his father in great sadness
En l'ost ont grant deshaitement.
In the-host they-have great distress
Josté i ont un parlement:
Joined there they-have a parley
conseil pristrent quel la fereient
counsel they-took how-it there they-would-do
e coment il se contendreient.
and how they themselves would-conduct
Agamennon lor mostre e dit:
Agamemnon to-them shows and says

«Seignor, n'i a grant ne petit
Lords not-there is great nor small
«ne deie aveir ire e pesance:
not ought to-have wrath and sorrow
«Tant par est grant la meschaance
So very is great the mischance
«que nus ne la puet restorer.
that any not it can restore
«Se vos en vei desconforter,
If you thereof I-see to-be-dismayed
«sacheiz que point ne m'en merveil.
know that at-all not myself-thereof I-wonder
«Or en prenez si haut conseil
Now thereof take so high counsel
«que a toz nos seit honorables,
that to all us may-be honorable
«dreiz e leiaus e profitables.
right and loyal and profitable
«Josté estes ci tant vaillant
Joined you-are here so-many valiant
«e tant riche home e tant poissant,
and so-many rich men and so-many powerful
«ja, se Deu plaist, ne fereiz jor
ever if God pleases not you-will-do day
«rien que vos tort a deshonor.
thing that to-you may-turn to dishonor
«Ici a granz esguarz mestier.
Here has great judgments need

«Qui or nos savreit conseillier
Who now us would-know to-counsel
«si ne seit pas taisanz ne muz,
so not let-him-be at-all silent nor mute
«bien seit oïz e entenduz.
well let-him-be heard and understood
«Qui mieuz savra, si i ament,
Who better will-know so there may-amend
«quar, ço sacheiz certainement,
for that know certainly
«ne somes pas ci tuit a aise:
not we-are at-all here all at ease
«Poi en i a cui ne desplaise.»
Few thereof there are whom not it-may-displease
Teü se sont tuit li plusor
Silent themselves are all the most
e li plus sage e li meillor:
and the most wise and the best
ne vueut chascuns chose loër
not wishes each thing to-advise
que tuit ne vueillent creanter.
that all not may-wish to-grant
Cist parlemenz granz e pleniers
This parley great and full
dura treis jorz trestoz entiers.
lasted three days all whole
As uns esteit mout a plaisir
To-the some it-was much at pleasure
en lor contrees revertir,
into their countries to-return

e as autres de traire a chié
and to-the others to draw to end
ço qu'il aveient comencié.
that which-they had begun
De divers cuers diversement
Of different hearts differently
furent treis jorz. Onc autrement
they-were three days Ever otherwise
ne porent traire a un acort,
not they-could draw to one accord
tant que li sage e li plus fort
until that the wise and the most strong
e li comuns a esguardé
and the commons has considered
e establi e devisé
and established and devised
qu'il enveient prendre respons:
that-they may-send to-take answer
ço fu toz li briés e li lons.
that was all the short and the long
Esleüz ont ceus qui i aillent,
Chosen they-have those who there may-go
que il cuident qui plus i vaillent.
whom they think who most there may-be-worth
Jo ne truis pas escriz lor nons,
I not find at-all written their names
mais ço lor distrent li respons
but that to-them said the answers
que il facent querre e cerchier,
that they may-make seek and search

senz demorer e senz targier,
without delaying and without tarrying
le germe Achillès e son heir;
the seed (of-)Achilles and his heir
«quar, ço sacheiz de fi por veir,
for that know for sure for true
«par lui iert fin de la bataille:
by him will-be end of the battle
«A ço ne puet pas aveir faille;
To that not can at-all have fail
«ensi est en la destinee
thus it-is in the destiny
«que par lui seit l'uevre achevee.»
that by him may-be the-work finished
Li segreiz fu a toz retrait,
The secret was to all recounted
si n'i a nul qui ne s'en hait
so not-there is any who not himself-thereof may-rejoice
e qui n'en seit joios e liez.
and who not-thereof may-be joyful and glad
Aïaus est sailliz en piez:
Ajax is leapt on feet
«Seignor,» fait il, «dès or vait bien.
Lords says he from now it-goes well
«Or lo que façons une rien.
Now I-advise that we-may-do one thing
«Seient tramis nostre message
May-be sent our messengers
«al rei Licomedès le sage,
to-the king Lycomedes the wise

«quar il fait norrir un vaslet,
for he makes nourish a youth
«fil de sa fille, auques grandet:
son of his daughter somewhat biggish
«Por quant bien puet aveir quinze anz,
For all-that well he-can have fifteen years
«a chevalier est assez granz.
for knight he-is enough great
«Neptolemus est apelez.
Neoptolemus he-is called
«Cil fu d'Achillès engendrez:
That-one was by-Achilles begotten
«Forme e image e contenance,
Form and image and bearing
«senz un sol point de dessemblance,
without one single point of unlikeness
«a autel com sis pere aveit:
like such as his father had
«Qui onc vit l'un e l'autre veit
Who ever saw the-one and the-other sees
«ja ne dira que rien vivant
ever not will-say that anything living
«puisse estre a autre si semblant.
may be to other so like
«Cil qui ont lor seignor perdu,
Those who have their lord lost
«dont teus dueus est, graindre ne fu,
whereof such griefs is greater not was
«facent de cestui lor chadel,
may-make of this-one their leader

«quar mout est sage e pro e bel.
for much he-is wise and valiant and fair
«Il est lor heirs: jo lor di bien
He is their heir I to-them say well
«qu'il iert hardiz sor tote rien:
that-he will-be bold above all thing
«Son pere vengera, ço crei.»
His father he-will-avenge that I-believe
N'i ot baron, prince ne rei
Not-there there-was baron prince nor king
qui bien ne vueille qu'il seit quis.
who well not may-wish that-he may-be sought
Cest afaire ont posé e mis
This affair they-have placed and put
sor Menelaus, qui volentiers
on Menelaus who willingly
en fu querrere e messagiers.
thereof was seeker and messenger
Il i ala, ço truis lisant;
He there went that I-find reading
e si sacheiz bien qu'entretant
and so know well that-meanwhile
qu'il demora al repairier,
that-he delayed at-the returning
i ot tornei estrange e fier
there there-was tourney strange and fierce
e bataille grant e pleniere,
and battle great and full
tel dont set cent jurent en biere.
such whereof seven hundred lay on bier

22595 Que qu'il tarjast, li termes vint
Whatever that-he may-have-delayed the term came
que cele triuë plus ne tint.
that that truce more not held
Donc i rot fait granz apareiz:
Then there again-there-was made great preparations
dès ore en i avra de freiz.
from now thereof there will-have of fresh-ones
