OLD FRENCH SERIES · VOLUME 66

The Breton Lays

Lais

The Breton Lays

Thirteen Lays of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries

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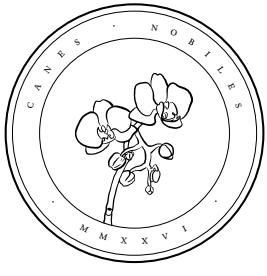
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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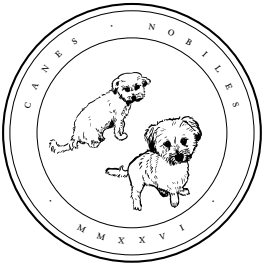

Volume 66 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows Gaston Paris's texts of Tyolet, Guingamor, Doon, the Lecheor, and Tydorel, Romania 8 (Paris, 1879); B. de Roquefort's Graelent, Poésies de Marie de France, tome I (Paris, 1820); R. Zenker's Lai de l'Épine, Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie 17 (Halle, 1893); Francisque Michel's Désiré, Lais inédits des XIIe et XIIIe siècles (Paris, 1836), and his Nabaret, in Charlemagne, an Anglo-Norman Poem (London, 1836); L.-J.-N. Monmerqué and Francisque Michel's Melion and Trot, Lai d'Ignaurès (Paris, 1832); F.-A. Wulff's restitution of the Lai du Cor (Lund, 1888) and his Conte du Mantel, Romania 14 (Paris, 1885)

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

Each lay keeps its editor's spelling and accents, save a few printer's slips and the readings the editors correct in their own notes; a verse's first letter follows the sentence. Square brackets are the editors' supplements, save in L'Espine 36–37, where Zenker brackets a crux, and a row of asterisks marks a lost verse. Zenker's and Michel's quotation marks are set as guillemets, and a guillemet an editor repeats at the head of each verse of a speech stands as printed. Wulff keeps in parentheses two verses of the Cor he would strike (353–354), and numbers his three verses 556a–c of the Mantel 556, 556a, and 556b.

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Tyolet

I

In Arthur's day knights rode by night and day seeking adventures, and the clerks of the court had them written down in Latin; now they are told in French, and the Bretons made lays of them. This one is of Tyolet, a bold youth whom a fairy taught to whistle so that every beast came to him. He lives in a forest with his widowed mother, has never seen a knight, and feeds them both by hunting.

Jadis au tens qu'Artur regna,
Formerly in-the time that-Arthur reigned
que il Bretaingne governa
that he Britain governed
qui Engleterre est apelée,
which England is called
dont n'estoit mie si puplée
then not-was at-all so peopled
conme ele ore est, ce m'est avis;
as it now is that to-me-is opinion
mes Artur, qui ert de grant pris,
but Arthur who was of great worth
avoit o lui tex chevaliers
had with him such knights
qui molt érent hardiz et fiers:
who very were bold and fierce
encor en i a il assez
still of-them there is it plenty
qui molt sont preuz et alosez,
who very are valiant and renowned

mes ne sont pas de la maniére
but not they-are at-all of the manner
qu'il estoient du tens ariére,
that-they were of-the time past
que li chevalier plus poissant,
when the knights most powerful
li miedre, li plus despendant,
the best the most free-spending
soloient molt par nuit errer,
were-wont much by night to-wander
aventures querre et trover,
adventures to-seek and to-find
et par jor ensement erroient
and by day likewise they-wandered
que il escuier nen avoient,
so-that they squire not had
si erroient si toute jor
so they-wandered thus all day
ne trovassent meson ne tor,
not they-would-find house or tower
ou dui ou troi par aventure,
either two or three by chance
et ensement par nuit oscure
and likewise by night dark
aventures beles trovoient,
adventures fair they-found
qu'il disoient et racontoient;
which-they told and recounted

a la cort érent racontées
at the court they-were recounted
si come eles érent trovées;
just as they were found
li preude clerc qui donc estoient
the worthy clerks who then were
totes escrire les fesoient:
all write them made
mises estoient en latin
put they-were in Latin
et en escrit em parchemin,
and in writing on parchment
por ce qu'encor tel tens seroit
for this that-yet such time would-be
que l'en volentiers les orroit.
that one gladly them would-hear
Or sont dites et racontées,
Now they-are told and recounted
de latin en romanz trovées;
from Latin into Romance composed
Bretons en firent lais plusors,
Bretons of-them made lays several
si con dient nos ancessors.
just as say our ancestors
Un en firent que vos dirai,
One of-them they-made which to-you I-shall-tell
selonc le conte que je sai,
according-to the tale that I know
d'un vallet bel et engingnos,
of-a youth handsome and clever

hardi et fier et coragos.
bold and fierce and spirited
Tyolet estoit apelez:
Tyolet he-was called
de bestes prendre sot assez,
of beasts to-catch he-knew much
que par son siffler les prenoit,
for by his whistling them he-caught
totes les bestes qu'il voloit;
all the beasts that-he wished
une fée ce li ora,
a fairy this to-him wished
et a sifler li enseigna:
and to whistle him taught
Dex onc nule beste ne fist
God ever any beast not made
qu'il a son sifler ne preist.
that-he at his whistling not would-take
Une dame sa mére estoit
A lady his mother was
qui en un bois adès manoit:
who in a wood ever dwelt
un chevalier ot a seignor,
a knight she-had as lord
qui mest ilec et nuit et jor;
who dwelt there both night and day
tot seul en la forest manoit,
all alone in the forest dwelt
de dis liues meson n'avoit.
for ten leagues house not-he-had

Mort ert ben ot passé quinze anz;
Dead he-was well had passed fifteen years
et Tyolet fu biaus et granz,
and Tyolet was handsome and tall
mes onques chevalier armé
but ever knight armed
n'ot veu en tot son aé,
not-he-had seen in all his age
ne autres genz gueres sovent
nor other folk much often
n'ot il pas veu ensement
not-had he at-all seen likewise
el bois o sa mere manoit.
in-the wood with his mother he-dwelt
Onques jor fors issu n'avoit:
Ever day outside gone not-he-had
en la forez ot sejorné,
in the forest he-had sojourned
car sa mére l'ot molt amé.
for his mother him-had much loved
Dont i ala quant li plesoit,
Then there he-went when to-him it-pleased
nul autre mestier ne faisoit:
any other craft not he-did
quant les bestes sifler l'ooient,
when the beasts whistle him-heard
tot erranment a li venoient:
all at-once to him they-came

de teus que il voloit tuoit
of such-ones that he wished he-killed
et a sa mére les portoit;
and to his mother them carried
de ce vivoit lui et sa mére;
of this lived he and his mother
et il n'avoit ne suer ne frére.
and he not-had either sister or brother

THE KNIGHT-BEAST

Sent to bring home a stag, Tyolet follows one to a torrent, kills a roebuck, and sees the stag cross the water and turn into an armed knight. He asks what beast a knight is, and the knight names his helm, shield, hauberk, hose, sword, and lance one by one, then shows him two hundred knights riding by. Tyolet longs to be such a beast, and the knight tells him what to say to his mother so that she will arm him.

La dame molt vaillanz estoit,
The lady very worthy was
et leaument se contenoit.
and loyally herself she-conducted
A son filz un jor demanda
To her son one day she-asked
bonement, car forment l'ama,
kindly for greatly him-she-loved
el bois alast, un cerf preist;
in-the wood he-should-go a stag he-should-take
et il son conmandement fist:
and he her command did

el bois hastivement ala
into-the wood hastily he-went
si con sa mére conmanda.
just as his mother commanded
Desqu'a tierce a el bois alé;
Until-to tierce he-has in-the wood gone
beste ne cerf n'i a trouvé.
beast or stag not-there he-has found
A soi molt corrouciez estoit
With himself very angry he-was
de ce que beste ne trouvoit;
of this that beast not he-found
droit vers meson s'en volt aler,
straight toward home himself-thence he-wished to-go
quant soz un arbre vit ester
when under a tree he-saw stand
un cerf qui ert et grant et gras,
a stag which was both great and fat
et il sifla en es le pas;
and he whistled in very the step
li cers l'oi, si regarda,
the stag him-heard so looked
ne l'atendi, ainz s'en ala:
not him-he-awaited rather himself-thence went
le petit pas du bois issi,
the little pace from-the wood went-out
et Tyolet tant le sevi
and Tyolet so-much him followed
qu'a une eve l'a droit mené:
that-to a water him-it-has straight led

le cerf s'en est outre passé.
the stag himself-thence is across passed
L'eve estoit grant et ravineuse
The-water was great and torrential
et lée et longue et perilleuse:
and wide and long and perilous
li cers outre l'eve passa,
the stag across the-water passed
et Tyolet se regarda
and Tyolet himself looked
triés soi, si vit venir errant
behind him so saw come running
un chevrel cras et lonc et grant.
a roebuck fat and long and big
Arestut soi et si sifla,
He-stopped himself and so whistled
et li chevreus vers lui ala:
and the roebuck toward him went
sa main tendi, illec l'ocist,
his hand he-stretched there him-killed
son costel trest, el cors li mist.
his knife he-drew in-the body to-him put
Endementres qu'il l'escorcha,
While that-he him-flayed

et li cers se tranfigura
and the stag itself transfigured
qui outre l'eve s'estoit mis
which across the-water itself-was put
* * *
(lacuna)
Et un chevalier resembloit:
And a knight resembled
tot armé sor l'eve s'estoit
all armed by the-water himself-stood
sor un cheval detriés comé,
on a horse behind maned
s'estoit com chevalier armé.
he-was like knight armed
Le vallet l'a aparceu,
The youth him-has perceived
onques mes tel n'avoit veu:
ever before such not-he-had seen
a merveilles l'a esgardé
at wonders him-he-has gazed-on
et longuement l'a avisé;
and long him-he-has considered
de tel chose se merveilloit
of such thing himself he-wondered
que onques mes veu n'avoit.
that ever before seen not-he-had
Ententivement l'avisa:
Intently him-he-considered
li chevaliers l'aresonna,
the knight him-addressed

a lui parla premiérement
to him spoke first
molt bel et amiablement,
very fair and amiably
demande li qui il estoit
he-asks him who he was
qu'aloit querant, quel non avoit;
what-he-went seeking what name he-had
et Tyolet li respondi,
and Tyolet him answered
qui molt estoit preuz et hardi,
who very was valiant and bold
filz a la veve dame estoit
son to the widow lady he-was
qui en la grant forez manoit,
who in the great forest dwelt
«Et Tyolet m'apele l'on,
And Tyolet me-calls one
cil qui nomer veulent mon non.
those who to-name wish my name
Or me dites, se vos savez,
Now me tell if you know
qui vos estes, quel non avez.»
who you are what name you-have
Et cil li respondi errant
And that-one him answered at-once
qui seur la rive fu estant
who on the bank was standing
que chevalier ert apelé;
that knight he-was called

et Tyolet a demandé
and Tyolet has asked
quel beste chevalier estoit,
what beast knight was
ou conversoit et dont venoit.
where it-dwelt and whence it-came
«Par foi,» fet il, «jel te dirai,
By faith says he I-it to-thee shall-tell
que ja mot ne t'en mentirai:
that ever word not thee-thereof I-shall-lie
c'est une beste molt cremue,
it-is a beast very feared
autres bestes prent et menjue,
other beasts it-takes and eats
el bois converse molt souvent,
in-the wood it-dwells very often
et a plainne terre ensement.»
and in open land likewise
«Par foi,» fet il, «merveilles oi.
By faith says he wonders I-hear
Car onques, puis que aler soi
For ever since that to-go I-knew
et que par bois pris a aler,
and that through wood I-took to go
ainz tel beste ne poi trover.
ever such beast not I-could find
Si connois je ors et lions,
So know I bears and lions
et totes autres venoisons;
and all other game

n'a beste el bois que ne connoisse
not-there-is beast in-the wood that not I-know
et que ne preigne sanz angoisse,
and that not I-take without trouble
ne mes vos que ne connois mie.
not but you whom not I-know at-all
Molt resemblez beste hardie.
Much you-resemble beast bold
Or me dites, chevalier beste,
Now me tell knight beast
que est ice sor vostre teste?
what is this on your head
Et qu'est ice qu'au col vos pent?
And what-is this that-at-the neck to-you hangs
Roge est et si reluist forment.»
Red it-is and so shines greatly
«Par foi,» fet il, «jel te dirai,
By faith says he I-it to-thee shall-tell
que ja de mot n'en mentirai:
that ever of word not-thereof I-shall-lie
c'est une coiffe, hiaume a non,
it-is a coif helm it-has-as name
si est d'acier tout environ;
so it-is of-steel all around
et cest mantel qu'ai afublé,
and this mantle that-I-have donned
c'est un escu a or bendé.»
it-is a shield with gold banded

«Et qu'est ice qu'avez vestu
And what-is this that-you-have donned
qui si est pertuisiez menu?»
which so is pierced small
«Une cote est de fer ovrée,
A coat it-is of iron worked
hauberc est par non apelée.»
hauberk it-is by name called
«Et qu'est ice qu'avez chaucié?
And what-is this that-you-have shod
Dites le moi par amistié.»
Tell it me by friendship
«Chauces de fer sont apelées,
Hose of iron they-are called
bien sont fetes et bien ovrées.»
well they-are made and well worked
«Et ce que est que ceint avez?
And this what is that girded you-have
Dites le moi se vos volez.»
Tell it me if you wish
«Espée a non, molt par est bele,
Sword it-has-as name very much is fair
trenchant et dure la lemele.»
cutting and hard the blade
«Ice lonc fust que vos portez?
This long wood that you carry
Dites le moi, ne me celez.»
Tell it me not me hide
«Veus le savoir?» «Oil par foi.»
Wilt-thou it know Yes by faith

«Une lance que port o moi.
A lance that I-carry with me
Or t'en ai dit la verité
Now thee-thereof I-have told the truth
de qanque tu m'as demandé.»
of whatever thou me-hast asked
«Sire,» fet il, «vostre merci.
Lord says he your mercy
Car pleust Dieu qui ne menti
Now might-it-please God who not lied
que j'eusse tiex garnemenz
that I-might-have such garments
con vos avez, si biaus, si genz,
as you have so fair so noble
tel cote eusse et tel mantel
such coat I-might-have and such mantle
con vos avez et tel chapel!
as you have and such hat
Or me dites, chevalier beste,
Now me tell knight beast
por Deu et por la seue feste,
by God and by the his-own feast
se il est auques de tiex bestes
if there is at-all of such beasts
ne de si beles con vos estes.»
or of so fair as you are
«Oil,» fet il, «veraiement:
Yes says he truly
ja t'en mosterré plus de cent.»
soon thee-thereof I-shall-show more than a-hundred

Ne demora que un petit,
Not it-delayed but a little
si conme li contes nos dit,
just as the tale us tells
que deus cenz chevaliers armez
that two hundred knights armed
erroient trés parmi uns prez,
were-riding right through some meadows
qui de la cort au roi venoient;
who from the court of-the king came
son conmandement fet avoient:
his command done they-had
une fort meson orent prise
a strong house they-had taken
et en feu et en charbon mise;
and in fire and in coal put
si s'en repairent tuit armé,
so themselves-thence return all armed
en trois eschiéles bien serré.
in three squadrons well close
Chevalier beste dont parla
Knight beast then spoke
a Tyolet, et conmanda
to Tyolet and commanded
c'un seul petit avant alast,
that-a single little ahead he-should-go
outre la riviére gardast;
across the river he-should-look
cil a fet son conmandement,
that-one has done his command

outre regarde isnelement,
across looks quickly
si voit errer les chevaliers
so sees ride the knights
trestoz armés sor les destriers.
all armed on the chargers
«Par foi,» fet il, «or voi les bestes
By faith says he now I-see the beasts
qui totes ont coiffes es testes;
which all have coifs on-their heads
onques mes tex bestes ne vi
ever before such beasts not I-saw
ne tiex coiffes con je voi ci.
or such coifs as I see here
Car pleust or Dieu et sa feste
Oh might-it-please now God and his feast
que je fusse chevalier beste!»
that I might-be knight beast
Cil ra donques a lui parlé
That-one in-turn-has then to him spoken
qui sor la rive estoit armé:
who on the bank was armed
«Seroies tu preuz et hardi?»
Wouldst-be thou valiant and bold
«Oil, par foi le vos afi.»
Yes by faith it to-you I-pledge
Si li a dit: «Or t'en iras,
So to-him he-has said Now thyself-thence thou-wilt-go

et quant ta mére reverras
and when thy mother thou-wilt-see-again
et ele parlera a toi,
and she will-speak to thee
ele dira: biaus filz, di moi
she will-say fair son tell me
de quoi tu penses et que as.
of what thou thinkest and what thou-hast
Et tu li di en es le pas
And thou to-her tell in very the step
que tu as assez a penser,
that thou hast much to think
que tu vorroies resembler
that thou wouldst resemble
chevalier beste que veis,
knight beast that thou-sawest
et por ce éres tu pensis.
and for this wast thou pensive
Et ele te dira briément
And she thee will-tell briefly
que ce li poise molt forment
that this to-her grieves very greatly
que tu as tel beste veue,
that thou hast such beast seen
qui autre engingne et autre tue.
which others ensnares and others kills
Et tu li di que par ta foi,
And thou to-her tell that by thy faith

que male joie avra de toi
that ill joy she-will-have of thee
se tu ne puez estre tel beste
if thou not canst be such beast
et tel coiffe avoir en ta teste;
and such coif have on thy head
et des ce qu'ele ce orra,
and as-soon this that-she this will-hear
isnelement t'aportera
quickly to-thee-she-will-bring
toute autretele vesteure,
all such clothing
cote et mantel, coiffe et ceinture,
coat and mantle coif and belt
et chauces et lonc fust plané,
and hose and long wood planed
tex con tu as ci esgardé.»
such as thou hast here gazed-on

TYOLET AT ARTHUR'S COURT

Tyolet's mother arms him in his dead father's gear and sends him to Arthur, bidding him take no companion and shun common women. He rides into the hall still armed, names himself the knight-beast, and asks to learn courtesy and arms; Arthur keeps him. A proud damsel, daughter of the king of Logres, arrives with a white hound: she will marry whoever brings her the white foot of a stag guarded by seven lions, and Arthur and she swear to the covenant.

Atant Tyolet s'en depart:
At-that Tyolet himself-thence departs
qu'en meson soit molt li est tart;
that-in house he-may-be very to-him is late
puis a a sa mére donné
then he-has to his mother given
le chevrel qu'il ot aporté,
the roebuck that-he had brought
et s'aventure li conta
and his-adventure to-her recounted
tot ainsi conme il la trova.
all just as he it found
Sa mére li respont briément
His mother him answers briefly
que ce li poise molt forment
that this to-her grieves very greatly
«Que tu as tel beste veue
That thou hast such beast seen
qui mainte autre prent et menjue.»
which many-an other takes and eats
«Par foi,» fet il, «or est ainsi:
By faith says he now is thus

si je tel beste con je vi
if I such beast as I saw
ne puis estre, bien sai et voi
not can be well I-know and see
que male joie avrez de moi.»
that ill joy you-will-have of me
Mes sa mére, quant ce oi,
But his mother when this she-heard
isnelement li respondi;
quickly him answered
totes les armes que ele a
all the arms that she has
isnelement li aporta,
quickly to-him brought
qui son seignor orent esté:
which (of-)her lord had been
molt en a bien son filz armé;
very thereof she-has well her son armed
et quant el cheval fu monté,
and when on-the horse he-was mounted
chevalier beste a bien semblé.
knight beast he-has well seemed
«Sez or, biaus filz, que tu feras?
Knowest-thou now fair son what thou wilt-do
Tot droit au roi Artur iras,
All straight to-the king Arthur thou-wilt-go
et de ce te dirai la somme:
and of this to-thee I-will-tell the sum
ne t'aconpaingnes a nul homme;
not thyself-accompany with any man

ne a fame ne donoier
nor with woman not dally
qui conmune soit de mestier.»
who common may-be of trade
Atant s'en est de li torné,
At-that himself-thence is from her turned
el l'a baisié et acolé.
she him-has kissed and embraced
Tant a erré par ses jornées,
So-much he-has journeyed by his days
que monz que terres que valées,
both mountains and lands and valleys
qu'a la cort le roi est venu,
that-to the court (of-)the king he-is come
qui cortois rois et vaillanz fu.
who courteous king and worthy was
Li rois a son mengier seoit,
The king at his meal sat
servir richement se fesoit;
serve richly himself made
et Tyolet est enz entrez
and Tyolet is in entered
si conme il vint trestoz armez;
just as he came all armed
a cheval vint devant le dois
on horse he-came before the dais
la ou seoit Artur li rois;
there where sat Arthur the king
onques un mot ne li sonna,
ever a word not to-him sounded

ne noient ne l'aresonna.
nor anything not him-addressed
«Amis,» fet li rois, «descendez,
Friend says the king dismount
et avec nos mengier venez;
and with us to-eat come
si me dites que vos querez,
so me tell what you seek
qui vos estes, quel non avez.»
who you are what name you-have
«Par foi,» fet il, «jel vos dirai,
By faith says he I-it to-you shall-tell
que ja ançois ne mengerai.
that ever before not I-shall-eat
Rois, j'ai a non chevalier beste,
King I-have as name knight beast
a mainte en ai trenchié la teste,
of many-a-one thereof I-have cut-off the head
et Tyolet m'apele l'on.
and Tyolet me-calls one
Molt sai bien prendre venoison.
Very I-know well to-take game
Filz sui, biau sire, s'il vos plest,
Son I-am fair lord if-it you pleases
a la veve de la forest;
to the widow of the forest
a vos m'envoie certement,
to you me-sends surely
tot por aprendre afetement;
all for to-learn manners

sens voil aprendre et cortoisie,
sense I-wish to-learn and courtesy
savoir voil de chevalerie,
know I-wish of chivalry
a tornoier et a joster,
to tourney and to joust
et a despendre et a donner;
and to spend and to give
car ainz ne fu ja cort de roi,
for before not was ever court of king
ne ja mes n'iert, si con je croi,
nor ever more not-will-be so as I believe
ou tant ait bien n'afetement,
where so-much may-be good or-manners
cortoisie n'ensaingnement.
courtesy or-teaching
Or vos ai dit ce que j'ai quis;
Now to-you I-have told that which I-have sought
rois, or me dites vostre avis.»
king now me tell your opinion
Li rois li dit: «Dan chevalier,
The king to-him says Sir knight
je vos retien, venés mengier.»
I you retain come to-eat
«Sire,» fet il, «vostre merci.»
Lord says he your mercy
Tyolet donques descendi,
Tyolet then dismounted
de ses armes s'est desarmé,
of his arms himself-he-is disarmed

si s'est vestu et afublé
so himself-he-is clothed and wrapped
de cote et de mantel legier;
in coat and in mantle light
ses mains léve, si va mengier.
his hands he-washes so goes to-eat
Atant es vos une pucele,
At-that behold you a maiden
une orgueilleuse damoisele;
a proud damsel
de sa biauté ne voil parler
of her beauty not I-wish to-speak
* * *
(lacuna)
Onques Dido, ce m'est avis,
Ever Dido that to-me-is opinion
ne Elainne n'ot si cler vis:
nor Helen not-had so bright face
fille au roi de Logres estoit;
daughter of-the king of Logres she-was
sor un blanc palefroi seoit,
on a white palfrey she-sat
un blanc brachet triés soi portoit;
a white hound behind her she-carried
une sonnete d'or avoit
a little-bell of-gold she-had
pendue au col du blanc brachet:
hung at-the neck of-the white hound
molt ot le poil deugié et net.
very it-had the hair fine and clean

Tot a cheval en est venue
All on horse thence she-is come
devant le roi, si le salue:
before the king so him greets
«Rois Artur, sire, Dex te saut,
King Arthur lord God thee save
le tot poissant qui maint en haut!»
the all powerful who dwells on high
«Bele amie, celui vos gart
Fair friend that-one you guard
qui les bons retient a sa part!»
who the good keeps at his side
«Sire, je sui une meschine,
Lord I am a maid
fille de roi et de roine,
daughter of king and of queen
et de Logres est rois mon pére;
and of Logres is king my father
n'ont plus enfanz li ne ma mére.
not-have more children he or my mother
Et si vos mandent par amor,
And so to-you they-send by love
conme a roi de molt grant valor,
as to king of very great worth
s'il i a de vos chevaliers
if there is of your knights
nul qui tant soit hardiz ne fiers
any who so-much may-be bold or fierce
qui le blanc pié du cerf trenchast,
who the white foot of-the stag would-cut-off

biau sire, celui me donnast:
fair lord that-one to-me would-give
icelui a seignor prendroie,
that-one as lord I-would-take
de nul autre cure n'avroie;
of any other care not-I-would-have
ja nus hon n'avra m'amistié,
ever any man not-will-have my-friendship
s'il ne me donne le blanc pié
if-he not me gives the white foot
du cerf qui est et bel et grant,
of-the stag which is both fair and great
et qui tant a le poil luisant
and which so-much has the hair shining
por poi qu'il ne semble doré:
by little that-it not seems gilded
de set lions est bien gardé.»
by seven lions it-is well guarded
«Par foi,» fet li rois, «vos creant
By faith says the king to-you I-grant
que itel soit le covenant
that such may-be the covenant
que cil a fame vos avra
that he as wife you will-have
qui le pié du cerf vos donra.»
who the foot of-the stag to-you will-give
«Et je, dan rois, si le creant
And I sir king so it grant
que itel soit le covenant.»
that such may-be the covenant

Tel covenant ont afermé,
Such covenant they-have affirmed
et entr'eus deus bien devisé.
and between-them two well settled
En la sale n'ot chevalier
In the hall not-there-was knight
qui de rien feist a prisier
who in anything might-be to prize
qui ne deist que il iroit
who not would-say that he would-go
querre le cerf, s'il le savoit.
to-seek the stag if-he it knew
«Cest brachet,» dist el, «vos menra
This hound said she you will-lead
la ou le cerf converse et va.»
there where the stag dwells and goes

THE WHITE FOOT

Lodoer goes first, but at a black and swollen river he refuses to follow the hound in and returns to be mocked, and every knight who goes after him fails the same way. Tyolet alone follows it across, finds the stag grazing, whistles it to a halt, and cuts off its white right foot. The seven lions maul his horse and tear his flesh; he kills them all but falls among their bodies, too wounded to rise.

Lodoer molt le covoita,
Lodoer much it coveted
le cerf querre premiers ala;
the stag to-seek first went
au roi Artu l'a demandé,
of-the king Arthur it-he-has asked

et il ne li a pas veé.
and he not to-him has at-all refused
Le brachet prit, si est montez,
The hound he-took so is mounted
le pié du cerf est querre alez.
the foot of-the stag he-is to-seek gone
Le brachet qui o lui ala
The hound which with him went
droit a une eve le mena,
straight to a water him led
qui molt estoit et grant et lée,
which very was both great and wide
et noire et hisdeuse et enflée:
and black and hideous and swollen
quatre cent toises ot de lé
four hundred fathoms it-had of width
et bien cent de parfondeé,
and well a-hundred of depth
et le brachet en l'eve entra;
and the hound into the-water entered
selonc son sens trés bien cuida
according-to its sense very well it-thought
que Lodoer enz se meist,
that Lodoer in himself would-put
mes de tot ce noient ne fist.
but of all that anything not he-did
Il dit que il n'i enterra,
He says that he not-there will-enter
car de morir nul talent n'a;
for of dying any desire not-he-has

a soi redit a chief de pose:
to himself says-in-turn at end of pause
«Qui soi nen a n'a nule chose;
Who himself not has not-has any thing
bon chastel garde, ce m'est vis,
good castle guards that to-me-is opinion
qui garde qu'il ne soit maumis.»
who guards that-it not be harmed
Dont s'en est li brachez issuz,
Then itself-thence is the hound gone-out
a Lodoer est revenuz,
to Lodoer it-is come-back
et Lodoer si s'en ala
and Lodoer so himself-thence went
et le brachet triés soi porta;
and the hound behind him carried
droit a la cort en vint errant,
straight to the court thence he-came at-once
ou li barnages estoit grant;
where the baronage was great
le brachet rent a la pucele
the hound he-returns to the maiden
qui molt estoit cortoise et bele;
who very was courteous and fair
dont li a li rois demandé
then to-him has the king asked
s'il avoit le pié aporté,
if-he had the foot brought

et Lodoer li respondi
and Lodoer him answered
qu'encor en ert autre escharni:
that-still thereof would-be another mocked
dont l'ont par la sale gabé,
then him-they-have through the hall mocked
et il lor a le chief crollé,
and he to-them has the head shaken
si lor a dit que il alassent
so to-them has said that they should-go
querre le pié, si l'aportassent.
to-seek the foot so it-should-bring
Querre le cerf molt i alérent,
To-seek the stag much there they-went
et la pucele demandérent:
and the maiden they-asked
n'en i ot nul qui la alast
not-thereof there was any who there should-go
q'autretel chançon ne chantast
that-such-another song not should-sing
que Lodoer chanté avoit,
as Lodoer sung had
qui vaillanz chevaliers estoit,
who worthy knight was
fors seulement un chevalier
except only one knight
qui molt estoit preuz et legier:
who very was valiant and nimble
chevalier beste ert apelé,
knight beast he-was called

et Tyolet estoit nommé.
and Tyolet he-was named
Cil s'en est droit au roi alé,
That-one himself-thence is straight to-the king gone
hastivement a demandé
hastily he-has asked
que cele gardée li soit,
that she guarded for-him may-be
que le pié blanc conquerre iroit;
that the foot white to-win he-would-go
ja mes, ce dit, ne revendra
ever more that he-says not he-will-come-back
devant ice que il avra
before this that he will-have
le pié blanc destre au cerf trenchié.
the foot white right of-the stag cut-off
Li rois li a donné congié,
The king to-him has given leave
et Tyolet s'est adoubé
and Tyolet himself-is equipped
et de ses armes bien armé,
and of his arms well armed
a la pucele dont ala:
to the maiden then went
son blanc brachet requis li a;
her white hound asked to-her he-has
el li a bonement baillié,
she it-to-him has kindly delivered
et il a pris de li congié.
and he has taken of her leave

Tant ont chevauchié et erré
So-much they-have ridden and journeyed
que andui sont venu au gué,
that both are come to-the ford
a la grant eve ravineuse,
to the great water torrential
qui molt ert parfonde et hisdeuse.
which very was deep and hideous
Le brachet s'est en l'eve mis,
The hound itself-is into the-water put
outre s'en vet noant tot dis;
across itself-thence goes swimming all the-while
après lui se met Tyolet:
after it himself puts Tyolet
tant a sui le blanc brachet,
so-much he-has followed the white hound
sor son destrier sor coi il sist,
on his charger on which he sat
que a la terre fors s'en ist.
that to the land out himself-thence goes
Dont l'a le brachet tant mené
Then him-has the hound so-much led
que il li a le cerf moustré:
that it to-him has the stag shown
set granz lions le cerf gardoient
seven great lions the stag guarded
et de molt grant amor l'amoient.
and with very great love it-they-loved

Et Tyolet garde, sel voit
And Tyolet looks so-it sees
enmi un pré ou il paissoit:
amid a meadow where it grazed
n'i avoit nul des set lions.
not-there was any of-the seven lions
Tyolet fiert des esperons,
Tyolet strikes with-the spurs
devant le cerf le fet aler.
before the stag it he-makes go
Tyolet prent lors a sifler,
Tyolet takes then to whistle
et li cerf molt beninement
and the stag very gently
vers Tyolet vient erramment,
toward Tyolet comes swiftly
et Tyolet set foiz sifla:
and Tyolet seven times whistled
li cers du tot donc s'aresta;
the stag of-the all then halted
s'espée tret isnelement,
his-sword he-draws quickly
du cerf le blanc pié destre prent,
of-the stag the white foot right he-takes
parmi la jointe li trencha,
through the joint to-it he-cut
dedenz sa huese le bouta.
inside his boot it thrust
Le cerf cria molt hautement,
The stag cried very loudly

et li lion tout erroment
and the lions all at-once
grant aleure i sont venu:
great pace there are come
Tyolet ont aparceu.
Tyolet they-have perceived
Uns des lions a si navré
One of-the lions has so wounded
le cheval ou il sist armé
the horse where he sat armed
que la destre espaule devant
that the right shoulder in-front
et cuir et char en va portant.
both hide and flesh away goes carrying
Quant Tyolet a ce veu,
When Tyolet has this seen
un des lions a si feru
one of-the lions he-has so struck
de l'espée que il porta
with the-sword that he carried
que les ners du piz li trencha:
that the sinews of-the breast to-it he-cut
de ce lion n'ot il plus guerre.
of this lion not-had he more war
Son cheval chiet soz lui a terre;
His horse falls under him to earth
donques Tyolet le guerpi,
then Tyolet it abandoned
et li lion l'ont assailli:
and the lions him-have assailed

de totes parz assailli l'ont,
on all sides assailed him-they-have
son bon hauberc rompu li ont,
his good hauberk broken to-him they-have
la char des braz et des costez;
the flesh of-the arms and of-the sides
en plusours leus est si navrez
in several places he-is so wounded
a poi que il nel devoroient;
by little that they not-him devoured
tote la char li desciroient,
all the flesh to-him they-tore
mes il les a trestoz tuez:
but he them has all killed
a poine s'en est delivrez.
with pain himself-thence he-is delivered
Dejoste les lions chai
Beside the lions he-fell
qui malement l'orent bailli
who badly him-had handled
et de son cors si domagié
and of his body so damaged
ja par li n'ert mes redrecié.
ever by himself not-would-be more raised

THE FALSE CLAIMANT

Tyolet tells his story to a passing knight and gives him the foot; the knight rides off, then turns back and runs him through so that no one will dispute it. At court he claims the maiden; Arthur asks an eight days' delay. Led by the hound, Gawain finds Tyolet and has a maiden carry him to a physician on the black mountain, who heals him. When the delay ends, Gawain declares that the claimant never cut the foot and is shaming himself with another man's deed, and the knight offers to prove his right in the field.

Es vos errant un chevalier,
Behold you riding a knight
et sist sor un ferrant destrier.
and he-sat on a iron-gray charger
Arestut soi, si resgarda:
He-stopped himself so looked
molt par le plaint et regreta;
very much him he-laments and mourned
et Tyolet les eulz ouvri,
and Tyolet the eyes opened
qui du travail ert endormi:
who from-the toil was asleep
s'aventure li a contée
his-adventure to-him he-has told
et de chief en chief racontée;
and from head to head recounted
de sa huese le pié sacha
from his boot the foot he-drew
et au chevalier le bailla;
and to-the knight it delivered

et cil l'en a molt mercié,
and that-one him-thereof has much thanked
car le pié a forment amé.
for the foot he-has greatly loved
De lui prent congié, si s'en va.
From him he-takes leave so himself-thence goes
En la voie se porpensa
On the way himself he-bethought
que se le chevalier vivoit
that if the knight lived
qui le pié donné li avoit,
who the foot given to-him had
se il ne s'en voloit fuir
if he not himself-thence wished to-flee
que mal l'en porroit avenir.
that ill to-him-thereof could befall
Ariére torne maintenant:
Back he-turns at-once
en pensé a et en talent
in thought he-has and in desire
que le chevalier ocirra,
that the knight he-will-kill
ja mes ne li chalengera.
ever more not to-him he-will-challenge
Par mi le cors bien l'asena:
Through middle the body well him-he-struck
de cele plaie bien garra:
of that wound well he-will-recover
bien le cuida avoir ocis.
well him he-thought to-have killed

Atant s'est a la voie mis.
At-that himself-he-is to the way put
Tant a son droit chemin tenu
So-much he-has his straight road held
qu'a la cort le roi est venu.
that-to the court (of-)the king he-is come
La pucele au roi demanda,
The maiden of-the king he-asked
le blanc pié du cerf li mostra,
the white foot of-the stag to-him showed
mes si n'ot pas le blanc brachet
but so not-he-had at-all the white hound
qui au cerf conduit Tyolet:
which to-the stag led Tyolet
bien le garda et main et soir;
well it he-guarded both morning and evening
mes de ce ne puet il chaloir:
but of this not can it matter
cil qui le pié ot aporté,
he who the foot had brought
qui que l'eust au cerf copé,
whoever that it-had from-the stag cut
par covenant velt la pucele
by covenant wishes the maiden
qui tant par est et noble et bele.
who so much is both noble and fair

Mes li rois qui tant sages fu
But the king who so wise was
por Tyolet qui n'ert venu
for Tyolet who not-was come
respit d'uit jors li demanda:
respite of-eight days to-him asked
adonc sa cort assemblera;
then his court he-will-assemble
n'i avoit or fors sa mesniée,
not-there was now except his household
qui molt ert franche et ensaingniée.
which very was noble and well-taught
Dont a cil le respit donné,
Then has that-one the respite given
et en la cort tant sejorné.
and in the court so-long sojourned
Mes Gauvains qui tant fu cortois
But Gawain who so was courteous
et bien apris en toutes lois
and well taught in all ways
est alé querre Tyolet:
is gone to-seek Tyolet
car repairié fu le brachet,
for returned was the hound
et il l'a avec lui mené.
and he it-has with him led
Tost le brachet l'a amené,
Swiftly the hound him-has brought

qu'il l'a trové en pasmoisons
for-he him-has found in swoons
el pré dejoste les lions.
in-the meadow beside the lions
Quant Gauvains le chevalier voit
When Gawain the knight sees
et l'ocise que fet avoit,
and the-slaughter that made he-had
molt plaint le vaillant chevalier.
much he-laments the worthy knight
Sempres descent de son destrier:
At-once he-dismounts from his charger
molt doucement l'aresonna.
very sweetly him-he-addressed
Tyolet foiblement parla,
Tyolet feebly spoke
et neporquant de s'aventure
and nevertheless of his-adventure
li a conté toute la pure.
to-him has told all the truth
Atant es vos une pucele
At-that behold you a maiden
sor une mule gente et bele:
on a mule noble and fair
Gauvain gentement salua,
Gawain nobly greeted
et Gauvains bien rendu li a,
and Gawain well returned to-her has
et puis l'a a soi apelée:
and then her-has to himself called

estroitement l'a acolée,
closely her-he-has embraced
si li prie molt doucement
so her he-begs very sweetly
et molt trés amiablement
and very most amiably
qu'ele portast cest chevalier
that-she should-carry this knight
qui molt par fesoit a proisier
who very much was to prize
a la noire montaingne au miére;
to the black mountain to-the physician
et cele a fete sa proiére:
and she has done his prayer
le chevalier en a porté,
the knight thence she-has carried
et au mire l'a conmandé:
and to-the physician him-has commended
de par Gauvain li conmanda,
on-behalf of Gawain to-him commended
cil volentiers receu l'a.
that-one gladly received him-has
De ses armes l'a despoillié,
Of his arms him-he-has stripped
sor une table l'a couchié,
on a table him-he-has laid
et ses plaies li a lavées
and his wounds to-him has washed
qui molt érent ensanglentées.
which very were bloodied

Quant il l'a par trestout curé,
When he him-has through all treated
le sanc fegié d'entor osté,
the blood clotted from-around removed
bien a veu que il garroit,
well he-has seen that he would-recover
au chief d'un mois tot sain seroit.
at-the end of-a month all sound he-would-be
Entretant fu Gauvains venu
Meanwhile was Gawain come
et en la sale descendu:
and in the hall dismounted
le chevalier i a trouvé
the knight there he-has found
qui le blanc pié ot aporté;
who the white foot had brought
tant s'est en la cort demorez
so-long himself-he-has in the court stayed
que les vuit jors sont trespassez.
that the eight days are passed
Dont vint au roi, su salua:
Then he-came to-the king so-him greeted
son covenant li demanda
his covenant to-him asked
que la pucele ot devisé
which the maiden had devised
et il endroit soi creanté,
and he for his-part granted

que qui le blanc pié li donroit
that whoever the white foot to-her would-give
que ele a seignor le prendroit.
that she as lord him would-take
Li rois dist: «Ce est verité.»
The king said This is truth
Quant Gauvains ot tot escouté,
When Gawain had all heard
en es le pas avant sailli,
in very the step forward he-leapt
et dist au roi: «N'est pas ainsi.
and said to-the king Not-is at-all thus
Se por ce non que je ne doi
If for this not that I not must
ci, devant vos qui estes roi,
here before you who are king
desmentir onques chevalier,
give-the-lie ever knight
serjant, garçon ne escuier,
sergeant boy or squire
je deisse qu'il mespreist,
I would-say that-he misdid
n'onques du cerf le pié ne prist
nor-ever of-the stag the foot not took
en la maniére que il conte.
in the manner that he tells

Molt fet aus chevaliers grant honte
Very he-does to-the knights great shame
qui d'autrui fet se velt loer
who of-another's deed himself wishes to-praise
et autrui mantel afubler,
and another's mantle to-don
et d'autrui bouzon velt bien trere
and from-another's bolt wishes well to-shoot
et loer soi d'autrui afere,
and to-praise himself of-another's affair
et par autrui main velt joster
and by another's hand wishes to-joust
et hors du buisson trainer
and out of-the bush to-drag
le serpent qui tant est cremu.
the serpent which so is feared
Or si n'i sera ja veu:
Now so not-there will-be ever seen
ce que vos dites rien ne vaut;
that which you say anything not is-worth
aillors ferez vos vostre assaut,
elsewhere will-make you your assault
aillors porchacier vos irez;
elsewhere to-seek-your-gain you will-go
la pucele n'em porterez.»
the maiden not-thence you-will-carry
«Par foi,» fet il, «sire Gauvain,
By faith says he sir Gawain
or me tenez vos por vilain,
now me hold you for base

qui me dites que n'os porter
who me say that not-I-dare carry
ma lance en estor por joster,
my lance in battle for to-joust
bien sai trere d'autrui bouzon
well I-know to-shoot from-another's bolt
et par autrui main du buisson
and by another's hand from-the bush
le serpent trere qu'avez dit.
the serpent to-drag that-you-have said
Mes n'est nul, si con croi et cuit,
But not-is any so as I-believe and think
se vers moi le voleit prover,
if toward me it he-wished to-prove
qu'en champ ne m'en peust trover.»
that-in field not me-thereof could find

TYOLET'S RETURN

Tyolet arrives, healed, and is embraced by Arthur, Gawain, Urien, Kay, Yvain, and Lodoer. Before the king he asks the claimant who killed the lions and who struck the wounded knight, names him as the man who ran him through, and offers his gage to prove it. The man, fearing death more than shame, admits it and yields; Tyolet pardons him on the barons' counsel. The foot is given to the maiden, and Tyolet marries her and becomes king in her country.

En ce qu'en cel estrif estoient,
In this that-in that quarrel they-were
par la sale gardent, si voient
through the hall they-look so see
Tyolet, qui estoit venu
Tyolet who was come
et hors au perron descendu.
and outside at-the mounting-block dismounted
Li rois contre lui s'est levez,
The king toward him himself-is risen
ses braz li a au col getez,
his arms to-him he-has on-the neck thrown
puis le baise par grant amor.
then him kisses with great love
Cil l'encline conme a seignor.
That-one him-bows as to lord
Gauvain le baise et Uriain,
Gawain him kisses and Urien
Keu et Evain, le filz Morgain;
Kay and Yvain the son (of-)Morgan
et Lodoer l'ala besier,
and Lodoer him-went to-kiss

et tuit li autre chevalier.
and all the other knights
Li chevaliers, quant il ce voit,
The knight when he this sees
qui la pucele avoir voloit
who the maiden to-have wished
par le pié qu'il ot aporté
by the foot that-he had brought
que Tyolet li ot donné,
which Tyolet to-him had given
au roi Artur dont reparla
to-the king Arthur then spoke-again
et sa requeste demanda.
and his request asked
Mes Tyolet, quant il ce sot
But Tyolet when he this knew
que la pucele demandot,
that the maiden he-asked
a lui parla molt doucement,
to him spoke very sweetly
et li demanda bonement:
and him asked kindly
«Dan chevaliers, dites le moi,
Sir knight tell it me
tant conme estes devant le roi:
so-long as you-are before the king
par quel raison volez avoir
by what reason wish-you to-have
la pucele je voil savoir.»
the maiden I wish to-know

«Par foi,» fet il, «je vos dirai:
By faith says he I to-you shall-tell
por ce que aporté li ai
for this that brought to-her I-have
le blanc pié du cerf sejorné.
the white foot of-the stag rested
Li rois et li l'ont creanté.»
The king and she it-have granted
«Trenchastes vos au cerf le pié?
Cut-off you from-the stag the foot
Se ce est voir, ne soit noié.»
If this is true not be-it denied
«Ouil,» fet il, «je li trenchai
Yes says he I from-it cut-off
et ici o moi l'aportai.»
and here with me it-brought
«Et les set lions qui ocist?»
And the seven lions who killed
Cil l'esgarda, nul mot ne dit,
That-one him-looked-at any word not says
ainz rogi molt et eschaufa.
rather he-reddened much and grew-hot
Et Tyolet dont reparla:
And Tyolet then spoke-again
«Dan chevalier, et cil qui fu
Sir knight and he who was
qui de l'espée fu feru,
who with the-sword was struck
et qui fu cil qui l'en feri?
and who was he who him-thereof struck

Dites le moi vostre merci.
Tell it me your mercy
Ce m'est avis ce fustes vos.»
This to-me-is opinion this were you
Cil s'embroncha, molt fu hontos.
That-one bowed-his-head very he-was ashamed
«Mes ce fu de bien fet col fret
But this was of well done neck broken
quant vos feistes tel forfet.
when you did such misdeed
Bonement doné vos avoie
Kindly given to-you I-had
le pié qu'au cerf trenchié avoie,
the foot that-to-the stag cut-off I-had
et vos tel loier en sousistes,
and you such reward thereof paid
por un pou que ne m'oceistes:
by a little that not me-you-killed
mort en dui estre voirement.
dead thereof I-was-to be truly
Je vos donnai, or m'en repent:
I to-you gave now me-thereof I-repent
vostre espée que vos portastes
your sword which you carried
trés parmi le cors me boutastes;
right through the body into-me you-thrust
trés bien me cuidastes ocirre.
very well me you-thought to-kill
Se vos ce volez escondire,
If you this wish to-deny

de prover voiant cest bernage
of proving in-the-sight-of this baronage
au roi Artur en tent mon gage.»
to-the king Arthur thereof I-hold-out my gage
Cil entent qu'il dit verité,
That-one hears that-he says truth
du coup li a merci crié:
for-the blow to-him has mercy cried
plus doute la mort que la honte.
more he-fears the death than the shame
De rien ne contredit son conte:
In anything not he-contradicts his tale
devant li roi a lui se rent
before the king to him himself yields
a fere son conmandement.
to do his command
Et Tyolet li pardonna,
And Tyolet him pardoned
au conseil que il pris en a
by-the counsel that he took thereof has
du roi et de toz ses barons;
of-the king and of all his barons
et cil l'en vait a genoillons:
and that-one to-him-thereof goes on knees
dont l'en eust le pié besié,
then him-thereof would-have the foot kissed
quant Tyolet l'a redrecié,
when Tyolet him-has raised-up
si l'en bese par grant amor:
so him-thereof kisses with great love

n'en oi puis parler nul jor.
not-thereof I-heard since speak any day
Li chevaliers le pié li rent,
The knight the foot to-him returns
et Tyolet donques le prent,
and Tyolet then it takes
si l'a donné a la pucele:
so it-has given to the maiden
fleur de lis ou rose novele,
flower of lily or rose new
quant primes nest el tans d'esté,
when first it-is-born in-the time of-summer
trespassoit ele de biauté.
surpassed she of beauty
Tyolet l'a donc demandée;
Tyolet her-has then asked
li rois Artur li a donnée,
the king Arthur to-him has given
et la pucele l'otroia,
and the maiden it-granted
en son pais donc le mena;
into her country then him led
rois fu et ele fu roine.
king he-was and she was queen
De Tyolet le lai ci fine.
Of Tyolet the lay here ends

Guingamor

II

Guingamor, nephew and heir of a king of Brittany, stays home one day after a bleeding and plays at the board with the seneschal. The queen sees him, falls in love, and summons him; he refuses her love as his uncle's wife. When she kisses him he leaves in anger, and his mantle tears off in her hands. Fearing he will accuse her, she has a maid quietly return it.

D'un lay vos dirai l'aventure:
Of-a lay to-you I-shall-tell the-adventure
nel tenez pas a troveure,
not-it hold at-all for invention
veritez est ce que dirai;
truth is this that I-shall-tell
Guingamor apele on le lai.
Guingamor calls one the lay
En Bretaingne ot un roi jadis,
In Brittany there-was a king formerly
la terre tint et le pais;
the land he-held and the country
molt ot en lui noble baron,
very there-was in him noble baron
ne sai por voir nomer son non;
not I-know for truth to-name his name
un sien neveu avoit li rois,
a his-own nephew had the king
qui molt fu sages et cortois:
who very was wise and courteous
Guingamor estoit apelez,
Guingamor he-was called

chevalier ert preuz et senez;
knight he-was valiant and sensible
por sa valor, por sa biauté,
for his worth for his beauty
li rois le tint en grant chierté;
the king him held in great dearness
de lui voloit faire son oir,
of him he-wished to-make his heir
car ne pooit enfant avoir.
for not he-could child have
Et il fesoit molt a amer,
And he made-himself much to love
biau sot promestre et bien doner,
fair he-knew to-promise and well to-give
molt ennoroit les chevaliers,
much he-honored the knights
les serjanz et les escuiers;
the sergeants and the squires
par toute la terre ert proisiez,
through all the land he-was prized
car molt ert franz et enseigniez.
for very he-was noble and well-taught
Li rois ala un jor chacier,
The king went one day to-hunt
en la forest esbanoier;
in the forest to-sport
ses niés estoit ce jor seingniez,
his nephew was that day bled
si estoit auques deshetiez,
so he-was somewhat unwell

ne pot le jor em bois aler;
not he-could the day into wood go
a son ostel vet sejorner:
to his lodging he-goes to-rest
pluseurs des conpaingnons le roi
several of-the companions (of-)the king
a retenuz ensemble o soi.
he-has retained together with himself
A prime de jor se leva,
At prime of day himself he-raised
por deduire el chastel ala;
for to-amuse-himself in-the castle went
le seneschal l'a encontré,
the seneschal him-has met
ses braz li a au col gité;
his arms to-him he-has on-the neck thrown
tant ont parlé qu'a un tablier
so-long they-have talked that-at a board
se sont alé esbanoier.
themselves they-are gone to-sport
La roine estoit fors issue,
The queen was out gone
a l'uis de la chambre est venue;
to the-door of the chamber she-is come
aler voloit a la chapele.
go she-wished to the chapel
Molt estoit longue et gente et bele;
Very she-was tall and noble and fair

por le chevalier esgarder
for the knight to-gaze-on
qu'ele vit au tablier jouer
whom-she saw at-the board play
une grant piéce s'arestut;
a great while she-stopped
n'ala avant ne ne se mut:
not-she-went forward nor not herself moved
bel li sembla de grant mesure
fair to-her he-seemed of great measure
de cors, de vis et de feture;
of body of face and of form
contre une fenestre seoit:
against a window he-sat
un rai de soleil li venoit
a ray of sun to-him came
el vis, qui tout l'enluminoit
on-the face which all him-lit-up
et bone color li donnoit:
and good color to-him gave
tant l'a la roine esgardé
so-much him-has the queen gazed-on
que tout en change som pensé;
that wholly thereof she-changes her thought
por sa biauté, por sa franchise,
for his beauty for his nobility
de l'amor de lui ert esprise.
of the-love of him she-was kindled
Ariére s'en vait la roine,
Back herself-thence goes the queen

si apela une meschine:
so called a maid
«Alez,» fet ele, «au chevalier
Go says she to-the knight
qui laienz siet a l'eschequier,
who in-there sits at-the chessboard
Guingamor, le neveu le roi;
Guingamor the nephew (of-)the king
si li dites qu'il viengne a moi.»
so to-him say that-he come to me
Cele est au chevalier venue,
That-one is to-the knight come
de par sa dame le salue
on-behalf of her lady him greets
et dit qu'il viengne a lui parler;
and says that-he come to her to-speak
Guingamor let le jeu ester,
Guingamor lets the game stand
o la meschine s'en ala,
with the maid himself-thence went
et la roine l'apela,
and the queen him-called
dejoste li le fist seoir:
beside her him she-made sit
cil ne se pot apercevoir
that-one not himself could perceive
por coi li fet si bel semblant;
for what to-him she-makes so fair seeming
la roine parla avant:
the queen spoke first

«Guingamor, molt estes vaillans,
Guingamor very you-are worthy
preuz et cortois et avenans:
valiant and courteous and comely
riche aventure vos atent;
rich adventure you awaits
amer pouez molt hautement.
love you-can very highly
Amie avez cortoise et bele:
A-friend you-have courteous and fair
je ne sai dame ne danzele
I not know lady or damsel
el roiaume de sa valor,
in-the kingdom of her worth
si vos aimme de grant amor:
so you she-loves with great love
bien la tenez por vostre drue.»
well her hold for your beloved
Li chevaliers l'a respondue:
The knight her-has answered
«Dame,» fet il, «ne sai conment
Lady says he not I-know how
j'amasse dame durement,
I-could-love lady hard
s'ançois ne l'eusse veue
if-before not her-I-had seen
et acointie et conneue:
and acquainted and known
onques mes n'en oi parler;
ever before not-thereof I-heard speak

ne quier ouan d'amor ovrer.»
not I-seek this-year of-love to-work
La roine li dist: «Amis,
The queen to-him said Friend
ne soiez mie si eschis:
not be at-all so shy
moi devez vos trés bien amer;
me must you very well love
je ne faz mie à refuser,
I not make-myself at-all to refuse
car je vos aim de bon corage
for I you love with good heart
et amerai tout mon aage.»
and will-love all my life
Li chevaliers s'est porpensez,
The knight himself-has bethought
si respondi conme senez:
so answered as sensible
«Bien sai, dame, qu'amer vos doi:
Well I-know lady that-to-love you I-must
fame estes mon seignor le roi,
wife you-are (of-)my lord the king
et si vos doi porter honnor
and so to-you I-must bear honor
conme a la fame mon seignor.»
as to the wife (of-)my lord
La roine li respondi:
The queen to-him answered
«Je ne di mie amer ainsi:
I not say at-all to-love thus

amer vos voil de druerie,
love you I-wish with love-as-a-lover
et que je soie vostre amie.
and that I may-be your friend
Vos estes biax et je sui gente:
You are handsome and I am noble
s'a moi amer metez entente,
if-to me to-love you-put intent
molt poons estre andui hetié.»
very we-can be both glad
Vers lui le tret, si l'a besié.
Toward her him she-draws so him-has kissed
Guingamor entent qu'ele dit
Guingamor hears what-she says
et quele amor ele requist:
and what love she sought
grant honte en a, tout en rogi;
great shame thereof he-has all thereof reddened
par mautalent se departi,
in ill-humor himself he-parted
de la chambre s'en vost issir;
from the chamber himself-thence he-wished to-go-out
la dame le vet retenir,
the lady him goes to-hold-back
par le mantel l'avoit saisi
by the mantle him-had seized
que les ataches en rompi;
so-that the clasps thereof broke
fors s'en issi toz desfublez.
out himself-thence he-went all unmantled

Au tablier dont estoit tornez
To-the board whence he-was turned
se rest assis molt triboulez;
himself in-turn-is seated very troubled
tant avoit esté esfreez
so-much had been frightened
que du mantel ne li membra;
that of-the mantle not to-him remembered
desfublez fu et si joua.
unmantled he-was and so played
La roine ert en grant effroi:
The queen was in great fear
molt fu dolente por le roi.
very she-was sorrowful for the king
Quant Guingamor a si parlé
Since Guingamor has so spoken
et de son estre tant mostré,
and of his being so-much shown
peor ot qu'il ne l'encusast,
fear she-had that-he — her-should-accuse
envers son oncle l'empirast:
toward his uncle her-should-blacken
une meschine a apelée
a maid she-has called
qui molt estoit de li privée;
who very was with her intimate
le mantel li avoit baillié,
the mantle to-her she-had delivered
a Guingamor l'a envoié;
to Guingamor it-she-has sent

ele li a entor lui mis:
she it-to-him has around him put
tant ert esfreez et pensis
so-much he-was frightened and pensive
qu'il ne sot quant el li bailla;
that-he not knew when she it-to-him delivered
et la pucele ariére ala.
and the maiden back went

THE WHITE BOAR

After supper the knights boast of their hunting, and the queen, to spite Guingamor, says none of them would dare hunt the white boar in the forest outside. The king says ten of his best knights have been lost seeking it. That night Guingamor kneels to his uncle and asks a gift, which the king grants before hearing it: his hounds, his horse, and his pack, to hunt the boar the next day.

Desqu'a vespre toute ensi fu
Until-to evening all thus she-was
en grant paor, que venu fu
in great fear until come was
li rois et qu'il vint de chacier,
the king and that-he came from hunting
et qu'il s'assist a son mengier:
and that-he himself-sat at his meal
molt ot le jor bien esploitié;
very he-had the day well achieved
si conpaingnon sont tuit hetié.
his companions are all glad
Après mengier joent et rient,
After eating they-play and laugh

lor aventures s'entredient,
their adventures to-each-other-they-tell
chascuns parole de son fet,
each speaks of his deed
qui ot failli, qui ot bien tret,
who had failed who had well shot
Guingamor n'i ot pas esté,
Guingamor not-there had at-all been
molt l'en a durement pesé;
much him-thereof has greatly grieved
em pais se tint, mot ne sonna;
in peace himself he-held word not sounded
et la roine l'esgarda:
and the queen him-looked-at
por lui grever et corroucier
for him to-vex and anger
vet tel parole conmencier
she-goes such speech to-begin
dont chascun par soi pesera.
whereof each by himself will-be-grieved
Vers les chevaliers s'en torna:
Toward the knights herself-thence turned
«Molt vos oi,» fet ele, «vanter,
Much you I-hear says she boast
et vos aventures conter.
and your adventures tell
Mes n'a ceanz nul si hardi,
But not-there-is in-here any so bold
de toz iceus que je voi ci,
of all those that I see here

qui en la forest ci defors,
who in the forest here outside
la ou converse li blans pors,
there where dwells the white boar
osast chacier ne soner cor,
would-dare to-hunt or sound horn
qui li donroit mil livres d'or.
who to-him would-give a-thousand pounds of-gold
En merveilleus los le metroit,
In marvelous praise him it-would-put
qui le sengler prendre porroit.»
who the boar take could
Tuit se taisent li chevalier,
All themselves keep-silent the knights
qui ne se veulent essaier.
who not themselves wish to-try
Guingamors a bien entendu
Guingamor has well understood
qu'elle a por lui cest plet meu.
that-she has for him this plea moved
Par la sale sont tuit pensif,
Through the hall they-are all pensive
n'i ot ne noise ne estrif;
not-there was either noise or quarrel
li rois premiers la respondi:
the king first there answered
«Dame, sovent avez oi
Lady often you-have heard
l'aventure de la forest:
the-adventure of the forest

ce sachiez vos, molt me desplet
this know you much me displeases
quant en nul leu en oi parler;
when in any place thereof I-hear speak
onques nus hom n'i pot aler
ever any man not-there could go
qui puis em peust reperier,
who afterward thence could return
por qoi le porc peust chacier;
for which the boar he-could hunt
la lande i est aventureuse
the heath there is adventurous
et la riviére perilleuse.
and the river perilous
Molt grant dommage i ai eu:
Very great harm there I-have had
diz chevaliers i ai perdu,
ten knights there I-have lost
toz les meillors de ceste terre,
all the best of this land
qui le sengler alérent querre.»
who the boar went to-seek
La parole ont atant lessie;
The speech they-have at-that left
atant departi la mesnie;
at-that dispersed the household
a lor ostex vont herbergier,
to their lodgings they-go to-lodge
et li rois est alez couchier.
and the king is gone to-lie-down

Guingamors si n'oublia mie
Guingamor so not-forgot at-all
la parole qu'il ot oie:
the speech that-he had heard
en la chambre le roi entra,
into the chamber (of-)the king entered
et devant lui s'agenoilla:
and before him himself-knelt
«Sire,» fet il, «je vos requier
Lord says he I you request
d'une chose dont j'é mestier,
of-a thing whereof I-have need
que je vos pri que me doigniez:
which I you pray that me you-grant
du donner ne m'escondisiez.»
of-the giving not me-refuse
Li rois li dist: «Je vos otroi,
The king to-him said I to-you grant
biaus niés: ce que toi plet di moi;
fair nephew that which thee pleases tell me
seurement me demandez:
surely me ask
ja cele chose ne vosdrez
ever that thing not you-will-wish
ne face vostre volenté.»
not I-may-do your will
Li chevaliers l'a mercié,
The knight him-has thanked
puis li dit qu'il li requeroit,
then to-him says that-he him requested

et quel don donné li avoit:
and what gift given to-him he-had
«En la forest ira chacier;»
In the forest he-will-go to-hunt
si li requiert son liemmier,
so him he-requests his leash-hound
205 som brachet et son chaceor
his hound and his courser
et sa muete li prest le jor.
and his pack he-may-lend him the day

THE HUNT

The king tries to take back his grant, but the queen urges it, hoping to be rid of Guingamor, and the king yields. Next morning the whole town escorts him to the forest in tears. The boar is found and runs into the forest; the king's company turns back at its edge, commending Guingamor to God. He loosens his uncle's hound, but soon loses both hound and boar, and halts on a hill in despair.

Li rois oi que ses niés dist
The king heard what his nephew said
et la requeste que il fist;
and the request that he made
molt fu dolent, ne set que fere,
very he-was sorrowful not he-knows what to-do
210 de l'otroi se voloit retraire,
from the-grant himself he-wished to-withdraw
et dist qu'il le lessast ester,
and said that-he it should-let stand
ne li doit pas ce demander,
not to-him he-must at-all this ask

ne soufreroit qu'il i alast
not he-would-suffer that-he there should-go
por qoi le blanc sengler chaçast,
for which the white boar he-should-hunt
qui son pesant d'or li donroit;
who his weight of-gold to-him would-give
car ja mes ne repereroit:
for ever more not he-would-return
se son bon brachet li prestoit,
if his good hound to-him he-lent
et son chaceor li bailloit,
and his courser to-him he-delivered
n'avoit avoir qu'il amast tant,
not-he-had wealth that-he loved so-much
ne le donroit por rien vivant,
not it he-would-give for anything living
car il les avroit lues perduz,
for he them would-have at-once lost
ja mes n'esteroient veuz;
ever more not-they-would-be seen
ce dit, se perduz les avoit,
this he-says if lost them he-had
que totjors mes dolenz seroit.
that always more sorrowful he-would-be
Guingamors respondi le roi:
Guingamor answered the king
«Sire, en la foi que je vos doi,
Lord by the faith that I to-you owe
ne lerroie por rien qui soit,
not I-would-leave-off for anything that may-be

qui tot le monde me donroit,
who all the world to-me would-give
que demain ne chaz le sengler.
that tomorrow — I-hunt the boar
Se vos ne me volez prester
If you not me wish to-lend
le brachet que tant avez chier,
the hound that so-much you-hold dear
le cheval et le liamier
the horse and the leash-hound
et la muete des autres chiens,
and the pack of-the other dogs
tex con il sont prendré les miens.»
such as they are I-shall-take the mine
La roine i est sorvenue,
The queen there is come-up
qui la parole a entendue,
who the speech has heard
ce que Guingamors demandot;
that which Guingamor asked
trés bien sachiez forment li plot.
very well know greatly to-her it-pleased
Au roi proia que il feist
To-the king she-prayed that he should-do
ce que li chevaliers requist;
that which the knight requested
delivrée en cuide estre atant,
delivered thereof she-thinks to-be at-that
nel verra mes en son vivant.
not-him she-will-see more in her lifetime

Tant l'a la roine proié
So-much him-has the queen prayed
que li rois li a ostroié.
that the king to-him has granted
Guingamor congié demanda,
Guingamor leave asked
a son ostel liez s'en ala;
to his lodging glad himself-thence went
onques ne pot la nuit dormir.
ever not he-could the night sleep
Quant il vit le jor esclarcir,
When he saw the day brighten
son oirre fet tost aprester
his journey he-makes swiftly prepare
et toz ses compaingnons mander,
and all his companions summon
toute la mesnie le roi,
all the household (of-)the king
qui por lui érent en esfroi,
who for him were in fear
qui destorbassent et nuisissent
who would-hinder and would-harm
molt volentiers se il poissent;
very gladly if they could
le chaceor le roi manda,
the courser (of-)the king he-sent-for
que la nuit devant li presta,
which the night before to-him he-lent
et le brachet et son bon cor,
and the hound and his good horn

qu'il ne donnast por son pois d'or;
which-he not would-give for its weight of-gold
deus muetes de bons chiens le roi
two packs of good dogs (of-)the king
fet Guingamors mener o soi,
makes Guingamor lead with himself
n'oublia pas son liamier.
not-forgot at-all his leash-hound
Li rois l'est alez convoier;
The king him-is gone to-escort
cil de la vile, li borjois,
those of the town the burgesses
et li vilain et li cortois
and the peasants and the courteous
le convoiérent autresi
him escorted likewise
o grant dolor et o grant cri;
with great grief and with great cry
et nes les dames i aloient,
and even the ladies there went
merveilleus duel por lui faisoient.
marvelous grief for him they-made
Au brueil plus pres de la cité
To-the thicket most near of the city
sont tuit li veneor alé;
are all the huntsmen gone
li veneor avant alérent,
the huntsmen ahead went
le liamier o eus menérent;
the leash-hound with them led

la trace quiérent du sengler
the track they-seek of-the boar
por ce qu'ilec sieut converser.
for this that-there it-is-wont to-dwell
Trovée l'ont et conneue,
Found it-they-have and known
car plusors foiz l'ont porveue;
for several times it-they-have seen
tant ont tracié qu'il l'ont trové
so-long they-have tracked that-they it-have found
en un buisson espès ramé;
in a bush thick branched
avant mainnent le liamier,
forward they-lead the leash-hound
si le lessiérent abaier;
so it they-let bay
par force l'ont du brueil geté.
by force it-they-have from-the thicket driven
Guingamor a le cor sonné;
Guingamor has the horn sounded
l'une muete fist descoupler,
the-one pack he-made uncouple
et l'autre fist avant mener:
and the-other he-made forward lead
pres de la forest l'atendront,
near of the forest it-they-will-await
mes ja dedenz nen enterront.
but ever within not they-will-enter
Guingamors conmence a chacier,
Guingamor begins to hunt

et li pors prist a tornoier,
and the boar took to turn
du brueil se part molt a envis:
from-the thicket itself parts very with reluctance
li chien le siévent a hauz cris,
the dogs it follow with high cries
pres de la forest l'ont mené,
near of the forest it-they-have led
mes il estoient tuit lassé,
but they were all weary
ne se pooient preu aidier;
not themselves they-could much help
les autres i ont fet lessier.
the others there they-have made let-go
Guingamors va sovent sonnant,
Guingamor goes often sounding
et la muete va glatissant,
and the pack goes giving-tongue
de toutes pars le siévent pres:
from all sides it follow close
el brueil ne tornera hui mes.
into-the thicket not it-will-turn today more
En la forest s'est embatuz,
Into the forest itself-is plunged
Guingamors est après venuz,
Guingamor is after come
le brachet porte detriers soi
the hound he-carries behind him
qu'il avoit emprunté au roi.
which-he had borrowed from-the king

Cil qui l'alérent convoier,
Those who him-went to-escort
li rois et tuit si chevalier
the king and all his knights
et li autre de la cité,
and the others of the city
defors le bois sont aresté:
outside the wood are stopped
n'en lesse nul aler avant.
not-thereof he-lets any go forward
Illeques sont demoré tant
There they-are remained so-long
conme il porent le cor oir
as they could the horn hear
et les chiens oirent glatir;
and the dogs heard give-tongue
ariére sont tuit retorné,
back they-are all returned
a Dieu du ciel l'ont conmandé.
to God of-the heaven him-they-have commended
Li senglers s'en va esloingnant
The boar itself-thence goes distancing
et les plusors des chiens lassant.
and the most of-the dogs tiring
Guingamors a pris le brachet,
Guingamor has taken the hound
le lien oste, après li met,
the leash he-removes after it puts
et il i corut volentiers;
and it there ran gladly

dont s'esforça li chevaliers
then exerted-himself the knight
de bien corner et d'enchaucier,
of well blowing and of-pursuing
por le brachet son oncle aidier:
for the hound (of-)his uncle to-help
molt li plesoient li doz cri;
much to-him pleased the sweet cries
mes en poi d'eure les guerpi,
but in little of-time them he-lost
et le brachet et le sengler;
both the hound and the boar
n'oi abaier ne crier;
not-he-heard bay or cry
molt est dolenz, molt li desplet:
very he-is sorrowful much him displeases
l'espoisse erre de la forest,
the-thicket he-wanders of the forest
cuide q'ait le brachet perdu;
he-thinks that-he-has the hound lost
onques mes si dolent ne fu,
ever before so sorrowful not he-was
por son oncle qui tant l'ama;
for his uncle who so-much him-loved
parmi la forest s'adreça:
through the forest he-directed-himself
en un haut tertre est arestez,
on a high hill he-is stopped
molt est dolenz et esgarez.
very he-is sorrowful and bewildered

He hears the hound again, crosses the perilous heath and river, and comes upon an empty palace of green marble with ivory gates. Returning to the chase, he finds a maiden bathing naked in a spring under an olive tree and hides her clothes in an oak. She calls him by name, rebukes him for stealing a girl's clothes, and invites him to lodge with her that night.

Li tens fu clers et li jors biaus:
The weather was clear and the day fair
de toutes parz ot les oissiaus,
from all sides he-hears the birds
mes il n'i entendoit noient;
but he not-there attended anything
n'i estut gueres longuement,
not-there he-stood much long
le brachet oi loinz crier,
the hound he-heard far cry
et il conmença a corner;
and he began to blow
angoisseus ert ainz qu'il le voie.
anxious he-was before that-he it may-see
En une clére fouteloie
In a clear beech-grove
vit venir lui et le sengler,
he-saw come it and the boar
et vers la lande trespasser;
and toward the heath pass-across
hastivement le cuide ataindre,
hastily it he-thinks to-overtake

hurte, si point, ne s'i veut faindre:
he-pushes so spurs not himself-there he-wishes to-hold-back
en son corage s'esjooit,
in his heart he-rejoiced
et a soi meismes disoit
and to himself same said
que s'il puet prendre le sengler
that if-be can take the boar
et sainz ariére retorner,
and sound back return
parlé en ert mes a toz dis,
spoken thereof will-be ever to all days
et molt en acuidra grant pris.
and much thereby he-will-acquire great praise
En la grant joie qu'il en a
In the great joy that-he thereof has
mist cor a bouche, si sonna;
he-put horn to mouth so sounded
merveilleus son donna li cors.
marvelous sound gave the horn
Par devant lui passa li pors,
By before him passed the boar
et li brachez le sieut de pres;
and the hound it follows from close
Guingamors point a grant eslès
Guingamor spurs at great gallop
parmi la lande aventureuse
through the heath adventurous
et la riviére perilleuse,
and the river perilous

tot droit parmi la praierie
all straight through the meadow
dont l'erbe estoit vert et florie:
whose grass was green and flowered
par poi ne l'aloit ataingnant,
by little not it-he-went overtaking
mes il a esgardé avant:
but he has looked ahead
d'un grant palès vit les muraus
of-a great palace he-saw the walls
qui molt estoit bien fez senz chaus:
which very was well made without lime
de vert marbre fu clos entor,
of green marble it-was enclosed around
et sor l'entrée ot une tor,
and over the-entrance there-was a tower
d'argent paroit qui l'esgardoit:
of-silver it-seemed who it-looked-on
merveilleuse clarté rendoit;
marvelous brightness it-gave-back
les portes sont de fin yvoire,
the gates are of fine ivory
d'or entaillies a trifoire;
with-gold carved in openwork
n'i ot barre ne fermeure.
not-there was bar or fastening
Guingamors vint grant aleure:
Guingamor came great pace

quant la porte vit si overte
when the gate he-saw so open
et l'entrée du tout aperte,
and the-entrance of-the all open
porpensa soi qu'il enterra,
he-bethought himself that-he will-enter
aucun preudome i trovera
some worthy-man there he-will-find
qui ce porpris a a garder;
who this enclosure has to guard
savoir vorra et demander
know he-will-wish and ask
qui sires est de ce palais;
who lord is of this palace
onques si riche ne vit mais;
ever so rich not he-saw before
molt se delite en esgarder,
much himself he-delights in gazing
a son porc cuide recovrer
to his boar he-thinks to-recover
ainz que gueres soit esloingnié,
before that much it-be distanced
por ce que molt ert traveillié.
for this that very it-was wearied
Enz est entrez tot a cheval,
In he-is entered all on horse
emmi le palès prist estal,
amid the palace he-took stand
et esgarde tout entor soi:
and looks all around him

mes n'i trueve ne ce ne qoi,
but not-there he-finds either this or what
ne trova rien se fin or non:
not he-found anything except fine gold not
neis les chambres environ
even the chambers around
sont a pierres de paradis.
are with stones of paradise
De ce li a semblé le pis
Of this to-him has seemed the worst
c'ome ne fame n'i trova,
that-man or woman not-there he-found
mes autre part se reheta
but other side himself he-cheered
que tele aventure a trovée
that such adventure he-has found
por raconter en sa contrée.
for to-recount in his country
Grant aleure vet ariére
Great pace he-goes back
parmi les prez lez la riviére:
through the meadows beside the river
n'a mie de son porc veu,
not-has at-all of his boar seen
et lui et le chien a perdu.
and it and the dog he-has lost
Or est Guingamors escharniz:
Now is Guingamor mocked
«Par foi,» fet il, «je sui traiz.
By faith says he I am betrayed

Bien me puis tenir a bricon:
Well myself I-can hold for fool
por esgarder une messon
for to-gaze-on a house
cuit avoir perdu mon travail.
I-think to-have lost my labor
Se n'ai mon chien et au porc fail
If not-I-have my dog and at-the boar I-fail
ja mes joie ne bien n'avrai,
ever more joy or good not-I-shall-have
n'en mon pais ne tornerai.»
nor-into my country not I-shall-return
Guingamors estoit molt pensis:
Guingamor was very pensive
el haut de la forest s'est mis,
on-the height of the forest himself-he-is put
et commença a escouter
and began to listen
se le brachet oist crier:
if the hound he-might-hear cry
a destre de lui l'a oi.
at right of him it-he-has heard
Tant escouta, tant entendi,
So-much he-listened so-much he-attended
qu'il l'oi loing et le sengler.
that-he it-heard far and the boar
Donques reconmence a corner:
Then he-begins-again to blow
a l'encontre lor est alez;
to the-meeting of-them he-is gone

li pors s'en est outre passez,
the boar itself-thence is beyond passed
et Guingamors après se met,
and Guingamor after himself puts
semont et hue le brachet:
he-urges and halloos the hound
enz el chief de la lande entra;
within in-the head of the heath he-entered
une fontaine illec trova
a spring there he-found
desoz un olivier foillu
under an olive-tree leafy
vert et flori et bien branchu:
green and flowered and well branched
la fontaingne ert et clére et bele,
the spring was both clear and fair
d'or et d'argent ert la gravele;
of-gold and of-silver was the gravel
une pucele s'i baingnoit,
a maiden herself-there bathed
et une autre son chief pingnoit
and an other her head combed
et li lavoit et piez et mains;
and to-her washed both feet and hands
biaus membres ot et lons et plains:
fair limbs she-had both long and smooth
el siecle n'a tant bele chose,
in-the world not-there-is so fair thing
ne fleur de liz ne flor de rose,
nor flower of lily nor flower of rose

conme cele qui estoit nue.
as she who was naked
Des que Guingamors l'ot veue,
As-soon that Guingamor her-had seen
conmeuz est de sa biauté;
moved he-is by her beauty
le frain du cheval a tiré;
the rein of-the horse he-has drawn
sor un grant arbre vit ses dras:
on a great tree he-saw her clothes
cele part vint, ne targe pas,
that way he-came not he-delays at-all
el crues d'un chiesne les a mis:
in-the hollow of-an oak them he-has put
quant il avra le sengler pris,
when he will-have the boar taken
ariére vorra retorner
back he-will-wish to-return
et a la pucele parler;
and to the maiden to-speak
bien set qu'ele n'ira pas nue.
well he-knows that-she not-will-go at-all naked
Mes ele s'est aparceue,
But she herself-has perceived
le chevalier a apelé
the knight she-has called
et fiérement aresonné:
and proudly addressed
«Guingamors, lessiez ma despoille.
Guingamor leave my clothing

Ja Deu ne place ne ne voille
Ever God not may-it-please nor not may-wish
qu'entre chevaliers soit retret
that-among knights it-be told
que vos faciez si grant mesfet
that you should-do so great misdeed
d'embler les dras d'une meschine
of-stealing the clothes of-a maid
en l'espoisse de la gaudine.
in the-thick of the wood
Venez avant, n'aiez esfroi;
Come forward not-have fear
herbergiez vos hui mes o moi.
lodge yourself today more with me
Toute jor avez traveillié,
All day you-have toiled
si n'avez gueres esploitié.»
so not-you-have much achieved

Guingamor gives back her clothes and agrees to lodge with her on her promise that he may take the boar and the hound home within three days. He asks her love and she grants it. Three hundred knights in silk ride out to meet her, and in the palace he finds the ten lost knights of his own land. He means to stay two days, but three hundred years pass; the king and all his line are dead and their cities fallen.

Guingamors est alé vers li,
Guingamor is gone toward her
ses dras li porta et tendi,
her clothes to-her he-carried and held-out
de son offre la mercia,
for her offer her thanked
et dit pas ne herbergera,
and says at-all not he-will-lodge
car il avoit son porc perdu
for he had his boar lost
et le brachet qui l'a seu.
and the hound which it-has followed
La damoisele li respont:
The damsel him answers
«Amis, tuit cil qui sont el mont
Friend all those who are in-the world
nu porroient hui mes trover,
not-it could today more find
tant ne s'en savroient pener,
so-much not themselves-thereof they-would-know-how labor
se de moi n'aviez aie.
if of me not-you-had help

Lessiez ester vostre folie;
Let stand your folly
venez o moi par tel covent,
come with me by such covenant
et je vos promet loiaument
and I to-you promise loyally
que le sengler pris vos rendrai
that the boar taken to-you I-shall-render
et le brachet vos baillerai
and the hound to-you I-shall-deliver
a porter en vostre pais
to carry into your country
jusqu'a tierz jor: je vos plevis.»
until third day I to-you pledge
«Bele,» ce dit li chevaliers,
Fair-one that says the knight
«je herbergerai volentiers
I shall-lodge gladly
par tel covent con dit avez.»
by such covenant as said you-have
Descenduz est et arestez.
Dismounted he-is and stopped
La pucele tost se vesti,
The maiden quickly herself dressed
et cele qui fu avec li
and she who was with her
li a une mule amenée,
to-her has a mule brought
de riche ator bien afeutrée,
with rich harness well saddled

avec son oes un palefroi,
with her use a palfrey
meillor nen ot ne quens ne roi.
better not had either count or king
Guingamors sivi la pucele,
Guingamor followed the maiden
quant levée l'ot en la sele,
when raised her-he-had into the saddle
puis est montez, sa resne prent;
then he-is mounted his rein takes
de bon cuer l'esgarde sovent:
with good heart her-he-gazes-on often
molt la vit bele et longue et gente,
very her he-saw fair and tall and noble
volentiers i metoit s'entente
gladly there he-put his-intent
qu'ele l'amast de druerie;
that-she him-should-love with love-as-a-lover
doucement la regarde et prie
sweetly her he-looks-at and prays
que s'amor li doint et otroit:
that her-love to-him she-may-give and grant
onques mes n'ot le cuer destroit
ever before not-he-had the heart constrained
por nule fame qu'il veist,
for any woman that-he saw
ne d'amor garde ne se prist.
nor of-love heed not himself took
Cele fu sage et bien aprise,
She was wise and well taught

Guingamor respont en tel guise
Guingamor answers in such wise
qu'ele l'amera volentiers,
that-she him-will-love gladly
dont ot joie li chevaliers.
whereof had joy the knight
Puis que l'amor fu ostroiée
Since that the-love was granted
acolée l'a et besiée.
embraced her-he-has and kissed
La meschine en ala devant,
The maid thence went ahead
el palès vint esperonnant
to-the palace came spurring
ou Guingamors avoit esté,
where Guingamor had been
molt l'a richement atorné.
very it-she-has richly adorned
Les chevaliers a fet monter
The knights she-has made mount
et encontre lor dame aler
and to-meet their lady go
por son ami qu'ele amenot:
for her friend whom-she brought
tex trois cenz ou plus en i ot,
such three hundred or more thereof there were
n'i ot celui n'eust vestu
not-there was that-one not-had donned
bliaut de soie a or batu;
tunic of silk with gold beaten

chascuns de ceus menoit s'amie:
each of those led his-friend
molt ert bele la compaingnie;
very was fair the company
vallez i ot a espreviers
youths there were with sparrowhawks
o biaus ostors fors et muiers;
with fair goshawks strong and molted
el palès en ot autretant,
in-the palace thereof there-were as-many
as tables, as eschès jouant.
at-the tables at-the chess playing
Quant Guingamors fu descenduz,
When Guingamor was dismounted
les diz chevaliers a veuz
the ten knights he-has seen
qui perdu érent de sa terre,
who lost were from his land
qui le sengler alérent querre:
who the boar went to-seek
tuit sont encontre lui levé,
all are toward him risen
a grant joie l'ont salué;
with great joy him-they-have greeted
et Guingamors les a besiez;
and Guingamor them has kissed
molt fu la nuit bien herbergiez,
very he-was the night well lodged
bons mengiers ot a grant plenté,
good meals he-had in great plenty

o grant deduit, o grant fierté,
with great delight with great pomp
sons de herpes et de vieles,
sounds of harps and of viols
chanz de vallez et de puceles;
songs of youths and of maidens
grant merveille ot de la noblece.
great wonder he-had at the nobility
De la biauté, de la richesce.
At the beauty at the riches
N'i cuida que deus jors ester,
Not-there he-thought but two days to-stay
et au tierz s'en cuida raler:
and on-the third himself-thence he-thought to-go-back
son chien et son porc volt avoir,
his dog and his boar he-wished to-have
et son oncle fere savoir
and his uncle to-make know
l'aventure qu'il ot veue;
the-adventure that-he had seen
puis reperera a sa drue.
then he-will-return to his beloved
Autrement li fu trestorné:
Otherwise to-him it-was turned
car trois cenz anz i ot esté.
for three hundred years there he-had been
Mors fu li rois et sa mesnie,
Dead was the king and his household
et toz iceus de sa lingnie,
and all those of his lineage

et les citez qu'il ot veues
and the cities that-he had seen
furent destruites et cheues.
were destroyed and fallen

GUINGAMOR'S RETURN

When he asks to go home, she warns him that three hundred years have passed and forbids him to eat or drink once across the river. A charcoal-burner tells him the king died more than three centuries ago and some old folk still tell of a nephew lost hunting. Guingamor tells him his adventure, gives him the boar's head, and turns back; hungry, he eats three wild apples, at once becomes old and feeble, and falls. The charcoal-burner sees two damsels carry him back across the river, then takes the head to the king, who has a lay made of the tale.

Guingamor a le congié pris
Guingamor has the leave taken
de reperier en son pais;
of returning into his country
le porc et son brachet requist
the boar and his hound he-requested
a sa mie qu'el li rendist.
of his friend that-she to-him should-render
«Amis,» fet ele, «vos l'avrez,
Friend says she you it-will-have
mes por noient vos en irez:
but for nothing you thence will-go
trois cenz anz a, si sont passé,
three hundred years has so are passed
que vos avez ici esté.
that you have here been

Mors est vostre oncles et sa gent,
Dead is your uncle and his people
n'i avez ami ne parent;
not-there you-have friend or kinsman
une chose vos di ge bien:
one thing to-you tell I well
n'i a home si ancien
not-there is man so ancient
qui vos en sache riens conter,
who to-you thereof may-know anything to-tell
tant n'en savriez demander.»
so-much not-thereof you-could ask
«Dame,» fet il, «ne puis pas croire
Lady says he not I-can at-all believe
que ceste parole soit voire;
that this speech be true
et s'ainsi est con dit avez
and if-thus it-is as said you-have
tost iére ariére retornez:
soon I-shall-be back returned
ci revendrai, je vos afi.»
here I-shall-come-back I to-you pledge
Ele li dist: «Je vos chasti,
She to-him said I you warn
quant la riviére avrez passée
when the river you-will-have crossed
por raler en vostre contrée,
for to-go-back into your country

que ne bevez ne ne mengiez
that not you-drink nor not eat
por nule fain que vos aiez,
for any hunger that you may-have
de si que serez reperiez:
until so that you-will-be returned
tost en seriez engingniez.»
soon thereby you-would-be ensnared
Son cheval li fet amener
His horse she-makes to-him bring
et le grant sengler aporter;
and the great boar carry
après li a rendu son chien,
after to-him has rendered his dog
rendu li a par le lien.
rendered to-him she-has by the leash
Il prist la teste du sengler:
He took the head of-the boar
n'en pooit mie plus porter;
not-thereof he-could at-all more carry
el cheval monte, si s'en va,
on-the horse he-mounts so himself-thence goes
et sa mie le convoia,
and his friend him escorted
a la riviére l'a mené,
to the river him-has led
s'est el batel outre passé:
he-is in-the boat across passed
a Dieu l'a conmandé, sel let.
to God him-she-has commended so-him leaves

Le chevalier avant s'en vet,
The knight forward himself-thence goes
le jor erra jusqu'a midi,
the day he-journeyed until noon
de la forest onques n'issi.
from the forest ever not-he-went-out
Tant la vit laide et haut creue
So-much it he-saw ugly and high grown
que toute l'a desconneue;
that wholly it-he-has failed-to-know
loing sor senestre oi taillier
far on left he-heard chop
a sa coingnie un charpentier:
with his axe a woodworker
son feu fesoit et son charbon:
his fire he-made and his charcoal
cele part vint a esperon,
that way he-came with spur
le pauvre homme avoit salué,
the poor man he-had greeted
enquis li a et demandé
inquired of-him he-has and asked
ou li rois ses oncles estoit,
where the king his uncle was
et a quel chastel i manoit.
and in what castle there he-dwelt
Li charboniers respont briément:
The charcoal-burner answers briefly
«Par foi, sire, n'en sai noient.
By faith lord not-thereof I-know anything

Icil rois dont vos demandez
That king of-whom you ask
plus a de trois cenz anz passez
more has of three hundred years passed
que il morut, mien escient,
that he died to-my knowledge
il et tuit si homme et sa gent;
he and all his men and his people
et les corz que avez nomées
and the courts that you-have named
sont grant tens a totes gastées.
are great time has all laid-waste
Tex i a de la vielle gent
Such there are of the old people
qui racontent assez sovent
who recount quite often
de ce roi et de son neveu,
of this king and of his nephew
que il avoit merveilles preu:
whom he had marvelously valiant
dedenz ceste forez chaça,
within this forest he-hunted
mes onques puis ne retorna.»
but ever since not he-returned
Guingamor oi ce qu'il dit,
Guingamor heard that which-he said
merveilleuse pitié l'em prist
marvelous pity him-thereof took
du roi qu'il ot ainsi perdu.
for-the king whom-he had thus lost

Au charbonier a respondu:
To-the charcoal-burner he-has answered
«Entent a moi, ce que dirai.
Attend to me this that I-shall-tell
M'aventure reconterai:
My-adventure I-shall-recount
ce sui je qui alai chacier;
this am I who went to-hunt
ariére cuidai reperier
back I-thought to-return
et aporter le grant sengler.»
and to-bring the great boar
Dont li conmença a conter
Then to-him he-began to tell
du palès qu'il avoit trové,
of-the palace that-he had found
et conment ot dedenz esté,
and how he-had within been
de la pucele qu'il trova,
of the maiden whom-he found
conment ele le herberga
how she him lodged
deus jors entiers, «puis m'en parti,
two days whole then me-thence I-parted
mon porc et mon chien me rendi.»
my boar and my dog to-me she-rendered
La teste du porc li donna,
The head of-the boar to-him he-gave

et a garder li conmanda
and to keep to-him commanded
tant qu'a sa meson revenist,
until that-to his house he-should-return
et as genz du pais deist
and to-the people of-the country should-say
conme il avoit a lui parlé.
how he had with him spoken
Li povres hon l'a mercié;
The poor man him-has thanked
Guingamors prent de lui congié,
Guingamor takes of him leave
ariére vient, si l'a lessié.
back he-comes so him-has left
Ja estoit bien none passée,
Already was well nones passed
li jor torna a la vesprée:
the day turned to the evening
si grant fain prist au chevalier
so great hunger took to-the knight
qu'il se cuida vif enragier:
that-he himself thought alive to-go-mad
lez le chemin que il erra
beside the road that he journeyed
un pomier sauvage trova,
a apple-tree wild he-found
de grosses pomes fu chargiez;
with big apples it-was laden
il est cele part aprouchiez,
he is that way approached

trois en a prises, ses menja:
three of-them he-has taken so-them ate
de ce fist mal qu'il oublia
of this he-did ill that-he forgot
ce que s'amie ot conmandé.
that which his-friend had commanded
Si tost comme il en ot gouté,
So soon as he of-them had tasted
tost fu desfez et envielliz,
swiftly he-was undone and aged
et de son cors si afoibliz
and of his body so weakened
que du cheval l'estut cheoir;
that from-the horse him-it-behooved to-fall
ne pot ne pié ne main avoir.
not he-could either foot or hand have
Foiblement, quant il pot parler,
Feebly when he could speak
se conmença a dementer:
himself he-began to lament
li charboniers l'avoit seu:
the charcoal-burner him-had followed
bien voit con li est avenu;
well he-sees how to-him it-is befallen
ne cuidoit mie au sien espoir
not he-thought at-all in-the his-own reckoning
qu'il peust vivre jusqu'au soir:
that-he could live until-the evening
vers lui voloit aler avant;
toward him he-wished to-go forward

deus damoiseles voit errant
two damsels he-sees riding
de riche ator et bien vestues;
of rich array and well clothed
lez Guingamor sont descendues,
beside Guingamor they-are dismounted
molt blamérent le chevalier
much they-blamed the knight
et commencent a reprouchier
and begin to reproach
le conmandement trespassé,
the command transgressed
que mauvesement l'a gardé;
that badly it-he-has kept
belement et souef l'ont pris,
gently and softly him-they-have taken
si l'ont sor un cheval asis,
so him-they-have on a horse seated
a la riviére le menérent,
to the river him they-led
en un bastel outre passérent
in a boat across they-passed
son brachet et son chaceor.
his hound and his courser
Li vilains se mist el retor,
The peasant himself put on-the return
a son ostel la nuit ala;
to his lodging the night went
la teste du sengler porta,
the head of-the boar carried

par trestout conte l'aventure,
through all he-tells the-adventure
par serement l'aferme et jure,
by oath it-he-affirms and swears
et au roi presenta la teste:
and to-the king presented the head
mostrer la fait a mainte feste.
show it he-makes at many-a feast
Por l'aventure recorder
For the-adventure to-record
en fist li rois un lai trover:
thereof made the king a lay compose
de Guingamor retint le non;
of Guingamor it-kept the name
einsi l'apelent li Breton.
thus it-call the Bretons

Doon

III

At Daneborc in the north a proud maiden held her land and would take no lord except one who could ride in a single day from Southampton to her castle. Many tried. Those who arrived were led, weary, to soft beds, where they died in their sleep, and the lady rejoiced to be avenged on them.

Doon, cest lai sévent plusor:
Doon this lay know many
n'i a gueres bon harpeor
not-there is much good harper
ne sache les notes harper;
not may-know the notes to-harp
mes je vos voil dire et conter
but I to-you wish to-tell and to-recount
l'aventure dont li Breton
the-adventure whereby the Bretons
apelérent cest lai Doon.
called this lay Doon
Ce m'est avis, se droit recort,
This to-me-is opinion if rightly I-recall
des Daneborc qui est au nort
of Daneborc which is to-the north
manoit jadis une pucele
dwelt formerly a maiden
a merveille cortoise et bele.
at marvel courteous and fair
Le pais ot en heritage:
The country she-had in heritage

n'i orent autre seignorage;
not-there they-had other lordship
et a Daneborc conversoit,
and at Daneborc she-dwelt
ce ert le leu que molt amoit:
this was the place that much she-loved
por li et por ses damoiseles
for her and for her damsels
fu dit le chastel as puceles.
was called the castle of-the maidens
La pucele dont je vos di
The maiden of-whom I to-you tell
por sa richesce s'orgueilli:
for her wealth herself-grew-proud
toz desdaignoit ceus du pais.
all she-disdained those of-the country
N'en i ot nul de si haut pris
Not-thereof there was any of so high worth
qu'ele vousist amer ne prendre,
that-she would love or take
ne de li fere a li entendre:
nor of her make to him attend
ne se voloit metre en servage
not herself she-wished to-put into servitude
por achoison de mariage.
for occasion of marriage
Tuit li preudomme de la terre
All the worthy-men of the land
sovent l'en alérent requerre:
often her-thereof went to-ask

seignor voloient qu'el preist;
lord they-wished that-she should-take
mes el du tout les escondist:
but she of-the all them refused
ja ne prendra, ce dit, seignor,
ever not she-will-take this she-says lord
se tant ne feist por s'amor
if so-much not he-should-do for her-love
qu'en un seul jor vosist errer
that-in a single day he-would ride
de Suthantone sor la mer
from Southampton on the sea
desi que la ou ele estoit;
as-far as there where she was
ce lor a dit, celui prendroit:
this to-them she-has said that-one she-would-take
par tant se cuidoit delivrer;
by so-much herself she-thought to-deliver
et cil la lessiérent ester,
and they her let stand
mes ne pot remanoir ensi.
but not it-could remain thus
Qant cil du pais l'ont oi,
When those of-the country it-have heard
la verité vos en dirai,
the truth to-you thereof I-shall-tell
plusor se mistrent en essai
many themselves put to-the trial
par les chemins qu'errer devoient;
by the roads that-to-ride they-had

sus granz chevaus tantost montoient
on great horses at-once they-mounted
et fors et bons por bien errer,
both strong and good for well to-ride
car ne voloient demorer.
for not they-wished to-tarry
Li plusor n'i porent durer
The most not-there could last
ne la jornée parerrer;
nor the day's-journey finish
de tex i ot qui parvenoient,
of such there were who arrived
mes las et traveilliez estoient:
but weary and toiled they-were
quant ill estoient descendu
when they were dismounted
et au chastel amont venu,
and to-the castle up come
la pucele contre eus aloit,
the maiden toward them went
molt durement les ennoroit,
very greatly them she-honored
puis les fesoit par eus mener
then them she-made by themselves lead
en ses chambres por reposer:
into her chambers for to-rest
liz lor fesoit apareillier,
beds for-them she-made prepare
por eus ocirre et engingnier,
for them to-kill and ensnare

de bones coutes, de bons dras:
of good quilts of good sheets
cil qui pené furent et las
those who toiled were and weary
se couchoient et se dormoient;
themselves laid-down and themselves slept
el soef lit dormant moroient;
in-the soft bed sleeping they-died
li chanbellenc mort les trovoient,
the chamberlains dead them found
et a lor dame racontoient:
and to their lady recounted
et cele en ert durement lie,
and she thereof was greatly glad
por ce que d'eus estoit vengie.
for this that of-them she-was avenged

Doon, a knight of Brittany beyond the sea, trusting his swift horse Baiart, sends word from Southampton and makes the ride in a day. Lodged in a chamber, he refuses the bed, keeps awake all night by a fire he has lit, and lies down only at dawn, so he is found alive. She then demands that he ride as far in a day as a swan can fly; after a rest Baiart outruns the swan, and her barons counsel her to take Doon as lord.

Loing fu portée la novele
Far was carried the news
de l'orgueilleuse damoisele;
of the-proud damsel
en Bretaingne dela la mer
in Brittany beyond the sea
l'oi un chevalier conter,
it-heard a knight tell
qui molt estoit preuz et vaillanz,
who very was valiant and worthy
sage et cortois et enprenanz:
wise and courteous and enterprising
Doon avoit non le vassal;
Doon had-as name the vassal
icil avoit un bon cheval,
that-one had a good horse
Baiart ot non, molt fu isniaus;
Baiart it-had-as name very it-was swift
il nu donast por deus chastiaus.
he not-it would-give for two castles

Por la fiance du destrier
For the trust of-the charger
voudra cele oevre conmencier,
he-will-wish that work to-begin
por la meschine et por la terre,
for the maid and for the land
savoir s'il la porra conquerre.
to-know if-he her will-be-able to-win
A l'ainz qu'il pot est mer passez,
At the-soonest that-he could he-is sea crossed
a Suthantone est arivez,
at Southampton he-is arrived
a la damoisele envoia:
to the damsel he-sent
par son mesage li manda
by his message to-her he-sent-word
qu'el pais estoit arivez,
that-in-the country he-was arrived
envoiast li de ses privez
she-should-send him of her intimates
qui li deissent verité
who to-him should-tell truth
q'au jor qu'el lor avoit nommé
that-on-the day that-she to-them had named
* * *
(lacuna)
* * *
(lacuna)
Quant ele vit ses mesagiers,
When she saw his messengers

a lui envoia volentiers:
to him she-sent gladly
le jor li a nomé et mis
the day to-him she-has named and set
quant el vendra en son pais.
when he will-come into her country
Ce fu un samedi matin
It was a Saturday morning
que Doon s'est mis el chemin,
that Doon himself-is put on-the road
tant erra que en la vesprée
so-much he-rode that in the evening
ot parfornie sa jornée,
he-had accomplished his day's-journey
et a Daneborc est venuz:
and at Daneborc he-is come
a grant joie fu receuz.
with great joy he-was received
Li chevalier et li sergant,
The knights and the sergeants
n'i ot un seul petit ne grant
not-there was one single small or great
ne l'ennorast et nu servist
not him-should-honor and not-him should-serve
et bel semblant ne li feist.
and fair seeming not to-him should-make
Quant a la pucele a parlé,
When to the maiden he-has spoken

en une chambre l'ont mené
into a chamber him-they-have led
por reposer quant lui plera;
for to-rest when him it-will-please
li chevalier lor commanda
the knight them commanded
que seche buche li trovassent
that dry wood for-him they-should-find
et en la chambre l'aportassent,
and into the chamber it-they-should-carry
puis le lessassent reposer,
then him should-let rest
car traveilliez ert de l'errer;
for toiled he-was from the-riding
cil ont fete sa volenté.
they have done his will
Il a l'uis clos et bien fermé,
He has the-door closed and well fastened
ne velt pas que nus d'eus l'agait;
not he-wishes at-all that any of-them him-may-watch
o un fusil a du feu fait,
with a steel he-has of-the fire made
pres du feu vint, si se chaufa;
near to-the fire he-came so himself warmed
onques la nuit ne se coucha
ever the night not himself laid-down
el lit qu'il ot apareillié:
in-the bed that-he had prepared

s'il qui fu las et traveillié
if-he who was weary and toiled
en ce bon lit voloit gesir,
in this good bed would lie
molt tost l'em pot mesavenir.
very soon him-thereof could mishap
Qui plus dur gist tant se deult mains,
Who more hard lies so-much himself grieves less
et plus hastivement est sains.
and more hastily is sound
Au matin quant il ajorna
In-the morning when it dawned
il vint a l'uis, sel desferma,
he came to the-door so-it unfastened
el lit coucha, si se covri
on-the bed he-lay so himself covered
que bons li fu, si se dormi.
for good to-him it-was so himself slept
Cil le cuidérent mort trover
They him thought dead to-find
qui la chambre deurent garder;
who the chamber had to-guard
mes il le virent tot hetié,
but they him saw all hale
entr'eus en sont joieus et lié.
among-themselves thereof they-are joyful and glad
A prime de jor est levé
At prime of day he-is risen
si s'est vestu et afublé,
so himself-is clothed and wrapped

a la pucele vet parler
to the maiden he-goes to-speak
et ses covenanz demander.
and his covenants to-ask
La pucele li respondi:
The maiden him answered
«Amis, ne puet pas estre ensi.
Friend not it-can at-all be thus
Plus vos estovra traveillier
More you it-will-behoove to-toil
vostre cors et vostre destrier:
your body and your charger
en un jor vos estuet errer
in one day you it-behooves to-ride
tant conme uns cisnes puet voler;
as-much as a swan can fly
puis vos prendré sans contredit.»
then you I-shall-take without gainsaying
Il en a demandé respit
He thereof has asked respite
tant que Baiart soit sejorné
until that Baiart be rested
et il meisme reposé.
and he himself reposed
Au quart jor fu li termes pris.
On-the fourth day was the term taken
Doon fu a la voie mis:
Doon was to the way put
Baiart erre, le cisne vole;
Baiart runs the swan flies

c'est merveille qu'il ne l'afole;
it-is marvel that-he not it-kills
le cisne ne pot tant voler
the swan not could so-much fly
conme Baiart pooit errer.
as Baiart could run
La nuit sont en un leu venu
The night they-are into a place come
a un chastel qui riche fu;
to a castle which rich was
ilec est il bien herbergiez
there is he well lodged
et son cheval bien aaisiez;
and his horse well eased
tant con lui plot si sejorna,
so-long as him it-pleased so he-sojourned
quant bon li fu si s'en ala,
when good to-him it-was so himself-thence went
et a Daneborc est alez,
and to Daneborc he-is gone
ses covenanz a demandez.
his covenants he-has asked
Cele nu pot avant mener,
She not-it could further lead
toz ses barons a fet mander:
all her barons she-has made summon
par lor conseil a Doon pris,
by their counsel she-has Doon taken
seignor l'a fet de son pais.
lord him-she-has made of her country

Three days after the wedding Doon leaves for his own country. He tells his wife she will bear a son and leaves her a gold ring for the boy, who is to be sent to the king of France. Grown and knighted there, the son tourneys at Mont-Saint-Michel and unhorses his father, who does not know him. Doon sees the ring on his hand, recognizes his son, and the two go to England, where the son brings him back to his mother.

Quant espousée ot la pucele,
When wedded he-had the maiden
trois jors tint cort et grant et bele;
three days he-held court both great and fair
au quart s'est par matin levez,
on-the fourth himself-he-is in-the morning risen
son cheval li est amenez,
his horse to-him is brought
sa fame a a Dieu conmandée,
his wife he-has to God commended
qu'aler s'en velt en sa contrée.
for-to-go himself-thence he-wishes into his country
La dame pleure et grant duel fet
The lady weeps and great grief makes
de ce que ses amis s'en vet;
for this that her friend himself-thence goes
merci li crie doucement,
mercy to-him she-cries sweetly
mes ce ne li valut noient;
but this not to-her availed anything
de remanoir merci li crie,
of remaining mercy to-him she-cries

et bien li dit qu'il l'a traie;
and well to-him she-says that-he her-has betrayed
il ne la volt de rien oir,
he not her wished in anything to-hear
car tart li est du departir:
for late to-him it-is for-the departing
«Dame,» fet il, «je m'en irai;
Lady says he I myself-thence shall-go
ne sai se mes vos troverai.
not I-know if ever you I-shall-find
Vos estesençainte de moi,
You are with-child by me
un filz avrez, si con je croi;
a son you-will-have so as I believe
mon anel d'or li garderoiz;
my ring of-gold for-him you-will-keep
quant il ert granz si li donroiz,
when he will-be grown so to-him you-will-give
bien li conmandez a garder,
well him command to keep
par l'anel me porra trover.
by the-ring me he-will-be-able to-find
Au roi de France l'envoiez,
To-the king of France him-send
la soit norriz et ensaingniez.»
there may-he-be nurtured and taught
L'anel li baille, ele le prent:
The-ring to-her he-delivers she it takes
atant s'em part, plus n'i atent;
at-that himself-thence he-parts more not-there he-waits

alez s'en est, plus n'i remaint.
gone himself-thence he-is more not-there he-remains
Molt est dolente et molt se plaint;
Very she-is sorrowful and much herself laments
ençainte fu, c'est veritez.
with-child she-was it-is truth
Au terme que son filz fu nez
At-the term that her son was born
grant joie en orent si ami.
great joy thereof had her friends
Tant le garda, tant le cheri,
So-much him she-guarded so-much him cherished
que li enfes pot chevauchier,
that the child could ride
aler em bois et rivoier;
go into wood and hawk-by-river
l'anel son pére li bailla,
the-ring (of-)his father to-him she-delivered
et a garder li conmanda.
and to keep to-him commanded
Li vallez fu appareilliez
The youth was made-ready
et au roi de France envoiez;
and to-the king of France sent
assez porta or et argent,
much he-carried gold and silver
si despendi molt largement;
so he-spent very largely
en la cort se fist molt amer,
in the court himself he-made much love

car il ert larges de donner;
for he was generous of giving
molt fu de bon afetement.
very he-was of good breeding
En France fu si longuement
In France he-was so long
que li rois en fist chevalier,
that the king thereof made knight
et il erra por tornoier,
and he rode for to-tourney
querant son pris et pres et loing;
seeking his praise both near and far
n'oi parler de nul besoing
not-he-heard speak of any need
ne vosist estre li premiers;
not he-would be the first
molt fu amez de chevaliers;
much he-was loved by knights
a merveille fu de grant pris,
at marvel he-was of great worth
n'ot si vaillant homme el pais,
not-there-was so worthy man in-the country
de chevaliers ot grant compaingne.
of knights he-had great company
Au mont saint Michiel en Bretaingne
To-the mount saint Michael in Brittany
ala li vallez tornoier:
went the youth to-tourney
as Bretons se volt acointier;
with-the Bretons himself he-wished to-acquaint

n'i ot un seul tant i jostast
not-there was one single so-much there jousted
ne de sa main tant gaaingnast.
nor by his hand so-much gained
Ses péres ert de l'autre part,
His father was on the-other side
molt durement li estoit tart
very greatly to-him it-was late
qu'il eust josté au vallet:
that-he had jousted with-the youth
lance levée el ranc se met,
lance raised in-the rank himself he-puts
envie avoit du bien de lui.
envy he-had of-the good of him
De grant eslais muevent andui;
With great rush move both
granz cox se sont entreferu;
great blows themselves they-are each-other-struck
le filz a le pére abatu:
the son has the father struck-down
s'il seust que son pére fust,
if-he had-known that his father it-was
molt li pesast que fet l'eust;
much to-him would-have-grieved that done it-he-had
mes il ne sot que il estoit,
but he not knew who he was
ne Doon ne le connoissoit;
nor Doon not him knew
el braz le navra durement.
in-the arm him he-wounded grievously

Au partir du tornoiement
At-the parting of-the tournament
Doon fet le vallet mander
Doon makes the youth summon
que il venist a lui parler,
that he should-come to him to-speak
et cil i vait a esperon;
and that-one there goes with spur
et Doon l'a mis a raison:
and Doon him-has put to reason
«Qui es tu,» fet il, «biaus amis,
Who art thou says he fair friend
qui de mon cheval m'as jus mis?»
who from my horse me-hast down put
Li damoisiaus a respondu:
The young-lord has answered
«Sire, ne sai conment il fu;
Lord not I-know how it was
ce sévent cil qui furent la.»
this know those who were there
Doon l'oi, si l'apela:
Doon it-heard so him-called
«Mostre ça tost,» fet il, «tes mains.»
Show here quickly says he thy hands
Li vallez ne fu pas vilains,
The youth not was at-all base
ses ganz oste hastivement,
his gloves he-removes hastily
andeus ses mains li mostre et tent.
both his hands to-him he-shows and holds-out

Quant vit les mains au damoisel,
When he-saw the hands of-the young-lord
en son doit reconnut l'anel
on his finger he-recognized the-ring
qu'il ot a sa fame baillié;
which-he had to his wife delivered
molt ot le cuer joieus et lié:
very he-had the heart joyful and glad
par l'anel que il a veu
by the-ring that he has seen
a bien son filz reconneu
he-has well his son recognized
que ses filz ert, il l'engendra;
that his son he-was he him-begot
oiant toz li dit et conta:
in-hearing-of all to-him he-says and told
«Vallet,» fet il, «bien m'aparçui,
Youth says he well I-perceived
quant tu jostas a moi jehui,
when thou didst-joust with me today
que tu éres de mon lingnage;
that thou wast of my lineage
molt a en toi grant vasselage:
much there-is in thee great prowess
onques por coup a chevalier
ever for blow of knight
ne chai mes de mon destrier,
not I-fell before from my charger
ne ja mes nul ne m'abatra,
nor ever more any not me-will-strike-down

ja si grant coup ne me donra.
ever so great blow not to-me will-give
Vien moi besier, je sui ton pére;
Come me to-kiss I am thy father
molt ert orgueilleuse ta mére;
very was proud thy mother
par grant travail la porchaçai;
by great toil her I-pursued
quant prise l'oi, si m'en tornai,
when taken her-I-had so myself-thence I-turned
onques puis ne la regardai;
ever since not her I-looked-at
cel anel d'or li conmandai,
that ring of-gold to-her I-entrusted
et dis qu'ele le vos donnast,
and said that-she it to-you should-give
quant en France vos envoiast.»
when into France you she-should-send
«Sire,» fet il, «c'est vérité.»
Lord says he it-is truth
Baisié se sont et acolé,
Kissed each-other they-are and embraced
merveilleuse joie menérent:
marvelous joy they-made
a un ostel ensemble alérent.
to a lodging together they-went
En Engleterre sont alé:
Into England they-are gone

li filz a le pére mené
the son has the father led
a sa mére, qui molt l'amot
to his mother who much him-loved
et durement le desirrot;
and greatly him desired
el le reçut conme seignor;
she him received as lord
puis vesquirent a grant honor.
then they-lived in great honor
De lui et de son bon destrier,
Of him and of his good charger
et de son filz qu'il ot molt chier,
and of his son whom-he held very dear
et des jornées qu'il erra
and of-the day's-journeys that-he rode
por la dame que il ama,
for the lady whom he loved
firent les notes li Breton
made the notes the Bretons
du lay c'om apele Doon.
of-the lay that-one calls Doon

Le Lecheor

IV · THE LAY OF THE LECHER

At the feast of Saint Pantaleon the Bretons gathered to tell the year's adventures and make lays of the best. Eight ladies sit apart, and one asks why the knights speak of tourneys and love but never of the thing for which all their deeds are done. She names it plainly, the cunt, and proposes a lay in its honor. The others compose it and the court takes it up; most call it the Lay of the Lecher, and the poet will not say its true name.

Jadis a saint Pantelion,
Formerly at saint Pantaleon
ce nos racontent li Breton,
this to-us recount the Bretons
soloient granz genz asembler
were-wont great folk to-assemble
por la feste au saint honorer,
for the feast of-the saint to-honor
les plus nobles et les plus beles
the most noble and the most fair
du pais, dames et puceles,
of-the country ladies and maidens
qui dont estoient el pais;
who then were in-the country
n'i avoit dame de nul pris
not-there was lady of any worth
qui n'i venist a icel jor;
who not-there would-come on that day

molt estoient de riche ator
very they-were of rich array

* * *

(lacuna)

Chascuns i metoit son pooir
Each there put his power

en lui vestir et atorner.
in himself dressing and adorning

* * *

(lacuna)

La estoient tenu li plet,
There were held the talks

et la érent conté li fet
and there were told the deeds

des amors et des drueries
of-the loves and of-the love-affairs

et des nobles chevaleries;
and of-the noble knightly-deeds

ce que l'an estoit avenu
that which the-year was befallen

tot ert oi et retenu:
all was heard and retained

lor aventure racontoient
their adventure they-recounted

et li autre les escoutoient.
and the others them listened-to

Tote la meillor retenoient
All the best they-retained

et recordoient et disoient;
and recorded and told

sovent ert dite et racontée,
often it-was told and recounted
tant que de touz estoit loée;
until that by all it-was praised
un lai en fesoient entr'eus,
a lay thereof they-made among-themselves
ce fu la costume d'iceus;
this was the custom of-those
cil a qui l'aventure estoit
he to whom the-adventure was
son non meismes i metoit:
his name itself there put
après lui ert li lais nomez,
after him was the lay named
sachoiz ce est la veritez;
know this is the truth
puis estoit li lais maintenuz
then was the lay maintained
tant que partout estoit seuz;
until that everywhere it-was known
car cil qui savoient de note
for those who knew of note
en viele, en herpe et en rote
on viol on harp and on rote
fors de la terre le portoient
out of the land it carried
es roiaumes ou il aloient.
into-the kingdoms where they went

A la feste dont je vos di,
At the feast of-which I to-you tell
ou li Breton venoient si,
where the Bretons came so
en un grant mont fu l'asemblée
on a great hill was the-assembly
por ce que miex fust escoutée.
for this that better it-might-be listened-to
Molt i ot clers et chevaliers,
Much there were clerks and knights
et plusors genz d'autres mestiers;
and several folk of-other crafts
dames i ot nobles et beles,
ladies there were noble and fair
et meschines et damoiseles.
and maids and damsels
Quant du mostier furent parti,
When from-the minster they-were parted
au leu qu'il orent establi
to-the place that-they had established
conmunement sont assemblé;
in-common they-are assembled
chascuns a son fet reconté;
each has his deed recounted
s'aventure disoit chascuns,
his-adventure told each
avant venoient uns et uns.
forward came one and one

Dont aloient apareillant
Then they-went preparing
lequel il metroient avant.
which they would-put forward
Huit dames sistrent d'une part,
Eight ladies sat on-one side
si disoient de lor esgart;
so they-spoke of their judgment
sages érent et ensaingnies,
wise they-were and well-taught
franches, cortoises et proisies:
noble courteous and prized
c'estoit de Bretaigne la flors
it-was of Brittany the flower
et la proesce et la valors.
and the prowess and the worth
L'une parla premiérement,
The-one spoke first
et dit molt afichiement:
and says very insistently
«Dames, car me donnez conseil
Ladies now me give counsel
d'une rien dont molt me merveil:
of-a thing whereof much myself I-wonder
molt oi ces chevaliers parler
much I-hear these knights speak
de tornoier et de joster,
of tourneying and of jousting
d'aventures, de drueries,
of-adventures of love-affairs

et de requerre lor amies:
and of wooing their friends
d'icelui ne tiénent nul plet
of-that-one not they-hold any talk
por qui li grant bien sont tuit fet.
for whom the great goods are all done
Par cui sont li bon chevalier?
By whom are the good knights
Por qoi aimment a tornoier?
For what love-they to tourney
Por qui s'atornent li danzel?
For whom adorn-themselves the young-lords
Por qui se vestent de novel?
For whom themselves clothe-they of new
Por qui envoient lor joieaus,
For whom send-they their jewels
lor treceors et lor aneaus?
their hair-bands and their rings
Por qui sont franc et debonere?
For whom are-they noble and gracious
Por qoi se gardent de mal fere?
For what themselves keep-they from ill doing
Por qoi aimment le donoier,
For what love-they the dallying
et l'acoler et l'embracier?
and the-hugging and the-embracing
Savez i vos nule achoison
Know there you any reason
fors sol por une chose non?
except only for one thing not

Ja n'avra nus tant donoié
Ever not-will-have any so-much dallied
ne biau parlé ne biau proié,
nor fair spoken nor fair begged
ainz qu'il s'em puisse departir,
before that-he himself-thence may depart
a ce ne veille revertir;
to this not may-wish to-return
d'ice viénent les granz douçors
of-this come the great sweetnesses
por coi sont fetes les honors;
for which are done the honors
maint homme i sont si amendé
many-a man there are so amended
et mis em pris et em bonté,
and put into praise and into goodness
qui ne vausissent un bouton
who not would-be-worth a button
se par l'entente du con non.
except by the-intent of-the cunt not
La moie foi vos em plevis,
The my faith to-you thereof I-pledge
nule fame n'a si bel vis
any woman not-has so fair face
por qu'ele eust le con perdu,
provided that-she had the cunt lost
ja mes eust ami ne dru.
ever more she-would-have friend or beloved
Quant tuit li bien sont fet por lui,
Since all the goods are done for it

nu metons mie sor autrui:
not-it let-us-put at-all on another
faisons du con le lai novel;
let-us-make of-the cunt the lay new
si l'orront tel cui ert molt bel.
so it-will-hear such to-whom it-will-be very fair
Conmant qui miex savra noter:
Let-command who best will-know-how to-set-notes
ja verrez toz vers nos torner.»
soon you-will-see all toward us turn
Les set li ont acreanté,
The seven to-her have granted
dient que molt a bien parlé:
they-say that very she-has well spoken
le lai commencent aitant,
the lay they-begin at-that
chascune i mist et son et chant,
each there put both sound and song
et douces notes a haut ton:
and sweet notes at high tone
le lai firent cortois et bon.
the lay they-made courteous and good
Tuit cil qui a la feste estoient
All those who at the feast were
le lai lessiérent qu'il faisoient,
the lay left that-they made
vers les dames se sont torné,
toward the ladies themselves they-are turned
si ont lor fet forment loé:
so have their deed greatly praised

ensemble o eles le lai firent,
together with them the lay they-made
quant la bone matire oirent;
when the good matter they-heard
et as clers et as chevaliers
and by-the clerks and by-the knights
fu li laiz maintenuz et chiers;
was the lay maintained and dear
molt fu amez, molt fu joiz,
much it-was loved much it-was enjoyed
encore n'est il mie haiz.
still not-is it at-all hated
D'icest lai dient li plusor
Of-this lay say the most
que c'est le lai du lecheor;
that this-is the lay of-the lecher
ne voil pas dire le droit non,
not I-wish at-all to-tell the right name
c'on nu me tort a mesprison.
that-one not-it to-me may-turn to fault
Selonc le conte que j'oi
According-to the tale that I-heard
vos ai le lai einsint feni.
to-you I-have the lay thus finished

Tydorel

v

A king of Brittany and his queen are ten years childless. At Nantes the queen falls asleep in an orchard and wakes to see a fair knight, who asks her love. She grants it if she may know who he is, and he rides his horse into a lake and out on the far side, his way of coming and going. He foretells a son, Tydorel, who will never sleep, and a daughter whose line will run to Count Alan and his son Conan. The queen conceives, and the king rejoices, not knowing the child is not his.

L'aventure d'un lai novel,
The-adventure of-a lay new
que l'en apele Tydorel,
which one calls Tydorel
vous conterai conme ele avint.
to-you I-shall-tell as it befell
Li sires qui Bretaingne tint
The lord who Brittany held
et rois en fu par heritage
and king thereof was by heritage
après plusors de son lignage
after several of his lineage
en sa jovente fame prist,
in his youth wife took
fille a un duc, que il requist:
daughter to a duke whom he sought
por sa biauté, por sa franchise,
for her beauty for her nobility
l'a li sire des Bretons prise;
her-has the lord of-the Bretons taken

molt la chieri et ennora,
much her he-cherished and honored
et ele durement l'ama.
and she greatly him-loved
Onques ne fu jalous de li,
Ever not he-was jealous of her
et cele onques nu deservi.
and she ever not-it deserved
Ensemble furent ben dis anz,
Together they-were well ten years
qu'il ne porent avoir enfanz.
so-that-they not could have children
En mi esté, ce m'est avis,
In mid summer this to-me-is opinion
si con dient cil du pais,
just as say those of-the country
li rois a Nantes sejorna
the king at Nantes sojourned
por la forest que il ama.
for the forest that he loved
Un jor estoit alez chacier,
One day he-was gone to-hunt
et la roine esbanoier
and the queen to-sport
estoit en un vergier entrée,
was into an orchard entered
après mengier, de relevée.
after eating in-the afternoon
Dames, puceles i mena;
Ladies maidens there she-led

ensemble o elles sejorna;
together with them she-stayed
molt demenérent grant deduit;
much they-made great delight
li plusor ont mengié du fruit.
the most have eaten of-the fruit
La roine s'apesanti
The queen grew-drowsy
soz une ente qu'ele choisi;
under a grafted-tree that-she chose
desor l'erbe s'estoit couchiée,
on the-grass herself-she-had laid
sor une meschine apuiée:
on a maid leaning
se la roine fu pesanz,
if the queen was heavy
la pucele fu quatre tanz:
the maiden was four times
endormi soi, son chief clina;
she-fell-asleep herself her head she-bowed
et la roine s'esveilla.
and the queen awoke
Après les autres volt aler,
After the others she-wished to-go
mes n'en porra nule trover:
but not-thereof she-will-be-able any to-find
molt durement s'en merveilla.
very greatly herself-thereat she-wondered
Contreval le jardin garda,
Down the garden she-looked

si vit un chevalier venir,
so saw a knight come
soef le pas, tout a loisir:
soft the pace all at leisure
ce fu li plus biaus hon du mont,
this was the most fair man of-the world
de toz iceus qui ore i sont;
of all those who now there are
de raineborc estoit vestuz,
of fine-silk he-was clothed
genz ert et granz et bien membruz.
noble he-was and tall and well limbed
Quant el le voit venir vers soi,
When she him sees come toward her
grant honte en ot et grant esfroi,
great shame thereof she-had and great fear
un poi s'estut et si pensa.
a little she-stood and so thought
Savez que la dame cuida?
Know-you what the lady thought
Que ce fust aucun riche ber
That this were some rich baron
qui fust venuz au roi parler,
who was come to-the king to-speak
et quant il le roi ne trova
and when he the king not found
qu'a li venist, sel salua.
that-to her he-came so-him greeted

Li chevaliers cortoisement
The knight courteously
par la main senestre la prent,
by the hand left her takes
mercie la de ses saluz.
thanks her for her greetings
«Dame,» fet il, «ci sui venuz
Lady says he here I-am come
por vos que molt aim et desir:
for you whom much I-love and desire
si me dites vostre plesir,
so me tell your pleasure
se vos savez et vos cuidiez
if you know and you think
que vos amer me peussiez
that you to-love me could
d'itele amor con je vos quier,
with-such love as I you seek
ne me fetes longues proier:
not me make long pray
je vos ameré loiaument;
I you shall-love loyally
et si ne puet estre autrement,
and if not it-can be otherwise
je m'en irai, vos remaindrez:
I myself-thence shall-go you will-remain
sachiez ja mes joie n'avrez.»
know ever more joy not-you-will-have

La dame l'a molt esgardé
The lady him-has much gazed-on
et son semblant et sa biauté;
and his seeming and his beauty
angoisseusement l'aama,
anxiously him-she-loved
otroie li qu'el l'amera,
she-grants him that-she him-will-love
s'ele seust qui il estoit,
if-she might-know who he was
conment ot non et dont venoit.
how he-had-as name and whence he-came
«Par foi,» fet il, «je vos dirai:
By faith says he I to-you shall-tell
noient ne vos en mentirai.
at-all not to-you thereof I-shall-lie
Venez o moi, si le verrez,
Come with me so it you-will-see
car ja autrement nu savrez.»
for ever otherwise not-it you-will-know
Il l'a menée ensemble o lui;
He her-has led together with him
fors du vergier viénent andui;
out of-the orchard come both
son cheval truevent aresnié
his horse they-find bridled
qu'il ot a un arbre atachié:
which-he had to a tree tied
li destriers fu blans conme flor,
the charger was white as flower

soz ciel n'ot plus bel ne meillor;
under heaven not-there-was more fair or better
s'espée et ses armes trova,
his-sword and his arms he-found
hastivement illec s'arma,
hastily there himself-he-armed
puis est montez, la dame a prise,
then he-is mounted the lady has taken
sor le col du cheval l'a mise;
on the neck of-the horse her-has put
o li s'en vet si faitement.
with her himself-thence goes so thus
N'ot erré gueres longuement,
Not-he-had ridden much long
lez la forest, en un pendant,
beside the forest on a slope
desoz un tertre lé et grant
under a hill wide and great
l'a descendue, sor un lai
her-he-has set-down on a lake
ou plusor firent lor essai:
where many made their trial
qui le lac peust tresnoer,
who the lake could swim-across
ja ne seust de cuer penser
ever not would-know of heart to-think
nule chose qu'il ne l'eust,
any thing that-he not it-had
et qanque desirrast seust.
and whatever he-might-desire would-know

Sor la rive seoir la fist;
On the bank to-sit her he-made
tot el cheval el lac se mist:
all on-the horse into-the lake himself put
l'eve li clot desus le front,
the-water to-him closes over the forehead
et il se met el plus parfont;
and he himself puts into-the most deep
qatre loées i estut:
four leagues there he-stayed
onques la dame ne se mut.
ever the lady not herself moved
De l'autre part est fors issuz,
On the-other side he-is out gone
si est a la dame venuz:
so he-is to the lady come
«Dame,» fet il, «desoz cest bois
Lady says he beneath this wood
par ceste voie vien et vois:
by this way I-come and go
ne me demandez noient plus.»
not me ask anything more
Sor le cheval la liéve sus.
On the horse her he-lifts up
«Longuement nos entrameron,
Long we shall-love-each-other
desi qu'aparceu seron.
until that-perceived we-shall-be
De moi avrez un fiz molt bel,
Of me you-will-have a son very fair

sel ferez nomer Tydorel:
so-him you-will-make name Tydorel
molt ert vaillanz et molt ert prouz,
very he-will-be worthy and very he-will-be valiant
de biauté sormontera touz
in beauty he-will-surpass all
les chevaliers de ceste terre,
the knights of this land
ne ja nul ne li fera guerre;
nor ever any not on-him will-make war
toz ses voisins sormontera,
all his neighbors he-will-surpass
car grant proesce en li avra;
for great prowess in him there-will-be
de Bretaigne seignor sera,
of Brittany lord he-will-be
mes ja des eulz ne dormira.
but ever of-the eyes not he-will-sleep
Quant il avra aage et sens,
When he will-have age and sense
fetes o li veillier toz tens;
make with him watch all times
ou qu'il onques soit a sejor,
where that-he ever may-be at stay
de chascune meson entor
of each house around
face un home prendre a son tor
let-him-make a man take in his turn
qui chant et face grant baudor,
who may-sing and may-make great mirth

et si li cont aucune rien,
and so to-him may-tell some thing
ce qu'il savra, ou mal ou bien.
that which he-will-know either ill or good
Nel porroient la gent soffrir,
Not-it could the folk suffer
q'aucun n'en esteust morir.
that-some not-thereof would-have-to die
Puis avrez une fille bele:
Then you-will-have a daughter fair
qant creue ert la damoisele,
when grown will-be the damsel
a un conte sera donnée
to a count she-will-be given
en meismes ceste contrée:
in same this country
deus filz avra preuz et vaillanz,
two sons she-will-have valiant and worthy
preuz et hardiz et combatanz,
valiant and bold and combative
preuz et cortois et vertuos,
valiant and courteous and virtuous
et molt seront chevaleros;
and very they-will-be knightly
molt seront bel a desmesure,
very they-will-be fair beyond measure
molt s'en entremetra nature,
much herself-thereof will-busy nature
car molt seront preuz et vaillanz;
for very they-will-be valiant and worthy

et si ravront assez enfanz;
and so in-turn-will-have plenty children
mes par lignage dormiront
but by lineage they-will-sleep
molt miex que autre gent ne font.
much better than other folk — do
De ceus istra li quens Alains,
Of those will-come-forth the count Alan
et puis après ses filz Conains.»
and then after his son Conan
Quant tot li ot dit son talent,
When all to-her he-had told his desire
el jardin vient, si la descent,
into-the garden he-comes so her sets-down
la l'amena ou il la prist,
there her-he-brought where he her took
toute sa volenté en fist:
all his will thereof he-did
de li se part, si prent congié.
from her himself he-parts so takes leave
Quant il fu issu du vergié,
When he was gone-out from-the orchard
les puceles sont reperies,
the maidens are returned
qui ainz estoient esloingnies.
who before were distanced
Et la roine s'en ala,
And the queen herself-thence went
s'aventure trés bien cela;
her-adventure very well concealed

sovent parloit a son ami,
often she-spoke to her friend
car assez reperoit o li.
for much he-returned with her
Son ventre crut et engroissa;
Her belly grew and swelled
li rois le sot, grant joie en a
the king it knew great joy thereof he-has
de ce qu'ençainte ert la raine,
for this that-with-child was the queen
mes ne sot pas tout le covine.
but not he-knew at-all all the plot
Li vilains dit a son voisin
The peasant says to his neighbor
par mal respit en son latin:
by ill proverb in his language
«Tex cuide norir son enfant,
Such-a-one thinks to-nurture his child
ne li partient ne tant ne qant.»
not to-him belongs either so-much or how-much
Issi fist li rois de cestui:
Thus did the king with this-one
n'iert mie siens, ainz ert autrui;
not-it-was at-all his rather it-was another's
a merveille liez en estoit
at marvel glad thereof he-was
que la roine enceinte estoit,
that the queen with-child was

et tuit si homme et si ami:
and all his men and his friends
ne sorent pas qu'il fust ainsi.
not they-knew at-all that-it was thus

THE SLEEPLESS KING

Tydorel is born and never sleeps, so men watch with him each night telling tales. The knight visits the queen for years until a wounded vassal, come to beg her help, sees them together; the knight leaves and never returns, and the vassal dies the next day. The old king dies and Tydorel rules ten years in peace. At Nantes each house must send a man to keep the night watch; a widow's son, a goldsmith, is ordered to go, and his mother tells him to answer that one who never sleeps is not born of man.

Li termes vint, li filz fu nez
The term came the son was born
et bien norriz et bien gardez;
and well nurtured and well guarded
Tydorel le firent nomer
Tydorel him they-made name
en droit baptesme et apeler.
in right baptism and call
Onques des eulz ne someilla
Ever of-the eyes not he-slumbered
ne ne dormi; totjors veilla;
nor not slept always he-watched
a grant merveille l'ont tenu
at great marvel him-they-have held
tuit si homme qui l'ont veu.
all his men who him-have seen

Quant en aage fu venuz,
When into age he-was come
et il estoit granz et creuz,
and he was tall and grown
firent o lui veillier la gent
they-made with him watch the folk
chascune nuit diversement;
each night variously
fables contoient et respit,
fables they-told and proverbs
si con sa mére li ot dit.
just as his mother to-him had said
La suer qui fu aprés lui née
The sister who was after him born
a un conte fu mariée.
to a count was married
Li chevaliers ques engendra
The knight who-them begot
a la roine repera
to the queen returned
soventes foiz, car molt l'amot
many times for much her-he-loved
et ele lui, que plus ne pot,
and she him that more not she-could
tant que furent aperceuz
until that they-were perceived
par un vassal ques a veuz.
by a vassal who-them has seen

Uns chevaliers gisoit plaiez
A knight lay wounded
en la vile, forment bleciez;
in the town greatly hurt
de secors eust grant mestier,
of help he-had great need
failli li érent si denier.
failed to-him were his pennies
Il s'est esforciez et levez,
He himself-has exerted and risen
a la roine en est alez,
to the queen thence he-is gone
a li requerre et demander
to her entreat and ask
que du sien li face donner;
that of-the hers to-him she-may-make give
car ele acostumé avoit
for she accustomed had
as besoingneus assez donoit:
to-the needy much she-gave
dras et chevaus, or et argent,
cloths and horses gold and silver
as besoigneus donoit sovent.
to-the needy she-gave often
L'uis de la chambre ou ele gist
The-door of the chamber where she lies
trova overt, dedenz se mist:
he-found open within himself put
lez la roine vit celui,
beside the queen he-saw him

dont il ot puis ire et ennui;
whereof he had since wrath and grief
entre ses braz la dame tint:
between his arms the lady he-held
dont s'en ala, puis ne revint.
then himself-thence he-went since not he-came-back
Et cil amaladi le jor,
And that-one fell-sick the day
et empoira de sa dolor:
and worsened in his pain
l'endemain a l'eure fina
the-next-day at the-hour he-ended
que il les vit et esgarda.
that he them saw and looked-on
Après cest fet que je vos di
After this deed that I to-you tell
li rois de Bretaingne feni:
the king of Brittany ended
de Tydorel firent seignor.
of Tydorel they-made lord
Onques n'orent eu meillor,
Ever not-they-had had better
tant preu, tant cortois, tant vaillant,
so valiant so courteous so worthy
tant large, ne tant despendant,
so generous nor so free-spending
ne miex tenist em pes la terre:
nor better should-hold in peace the land
nus ne li osa fere guerre;
anyone not on-him dared make war

de puceles ert molt amez
by maidens he-was much loved
et de dames molt desirrez;
and by ladies much desired
li sien l'amoient et servoient,
the his-own him-loved and served
et li estrange le cremoient.
and the strangers him feared
Dis anz fu rois poesteis,
Ten years he-was king powerful
si con dient cil du pais.
just as say those of-the country
Quant li dis anz furent passé
When the ten years were passed
qu'il ot tenu em poesté,
that-he had held in power
a Nantes ala sejorner:
to Nantes he-went to-sojourn
molt pot cele contrée amer
much he-could that country love
por sa mére qui la manoit,
for his mother who there dwelt
et ou tot son conseil estoit.
and where all his counsel was
Tant conme il i a sejorné,
So-long as he there has sojourned
par les mesons de la cité
through the houses of the city
prenoient hommes chascun jor,
they-took men each day

einsi conme il venoit en tor,
just as it came in turn
qui o le roi la nuit veillassent,
who with the king the night should-watch
fables deissent et contassent.
fables should-tell and recount
Un samedi, oi conter,
A Saturday I-heard tell
si conme il vint a l'avesprer,
just as it came to the-evening
sont a une meson venu,
they-are to a house come
l'ome semons au roi meu;
the-man summoned to-the king moved
car trop avoient demoré;
for too-much they-had delayed
il estoient dedenz entré.
they were within entered
Une veve laienz manoit,
A widow in-there dwelt
foible et viele, malade estoit;
feeble and old sick she-was
un filz avoit ensemble o li
a son she-had together with her
qu'ele ot molt longuement norri.
whom-she had very long nurtured
Onques ne volt de lui partir
Ever not she-wished from him to-part
ne fors de la cité issir.
nor out of the city to-go-out

A un orfévre l'out baillié,
To a goldsmith him-she-had delivered
apris l'avoit et ensaignié;
taught him-he-had and trained
assez savoit de son mestier:
much he-knew of his craft
de ce qu'il pooit gaaingnier
from that which-he could earn
pessoit sa mere chascun jor
he-fed his mother each day
et conreoit a grant honor.
and provided with great honor
Cil le ruevent apareillier
They him bid make-ready
d'aler ensemble o eus veillier
of-going together with them to-watch
en la chambre le roi la nuit;
in the chamber (of-)the king the night
si gart qu'il sache aucun deduit.
so may-he-see-to-it that-he may-know some delight
Il lor respont: «Alez avant!
He to-them answers Go ahead
Onques n'en soi ne tant ne quant;
Ever not-thereof I-knew either so-much or how-much
je ne sai fable ne chançon,
I not know fable or song
ne bien conter une reson.»
nor well to-tell a tale
Li mesage furent irié,
The messengers were angry

le bacheler ont menacié,
the young-man they-have threatened
se il n'i veut par bel aler,
if he not-there wishes by fair to-go
il l'i feront par mal mener,
they him-there will-make by ill lead
et si sera en tel leu mis
and so he-will-be in such place put
dont a totjors li ert mes pis.
whence for always to-him it-will-be ever worse
Sa mére ot grant poor d'iceus:
His mother had great fear of-those
«Biaus filz,» fet ele, «alez o eus.»
Fair son says she go with them
Il li respont: «Lessiez m'ester.
He to-her answers Let me-stay
Se je ne savoie chanter,
If I not knew to-sing
en sa prison me getera
into his prison me he-will-throw
et un des eulz me crevera.»
and one of-the eyes for-me he-will-put-out
«Biaus fiz,» fet ele, «entent a moi:
Fair son says she attend to me
tu iras veillier o le roi;
thou wilt-go to-watch with the king
quant il te rovera conter,
when he thee will-bid to-tell
ne fable dire, ne chanter,
or fable to-say or to-sing

respon que tu n'en sez noient.
answer that thou not-thereof knowest anything
S'il se corrouce durement,
If-he himself angers greatly
si li di tant que n'est pas d'ome
so to-him tell so-much that not-is at-all of-man
qui ne dort ne qui ne prent some:
who not sleeps nor who not takes sleep
par tant le feras tu penser,
by so-much him wilt-make thou to-think
et si qu'il te lera ester.
and so that-he thee will-let be
Va t'en, biau fiz, tot asseur:
Go thyself-thence fair son all assured
Diex te doint vers lui bon eur!»
God thee give toward him good fortune

THE LAKE

The young man tells the king he knows no tales, only that a man who never sleeps is not of human birth. Tydorel takes his sword to his mother's bed and threatens her until she tells him the truth: the knight in the orchard, the lake, the prophecy, and the twenty years of visits. He arms, rides his horse into the deepest part of the lake, and never returns. The Bretons made the lay and hold it true.

Quant cil oi l'enseignement,
When that-one heard the-teaching
a la cort vint hastivement;
to the court he-came hastily
es chambres le roi est entrez,
into-the chambers (of-)the king he-is entered

cil sont a lor ostiex alez;
they are to their lodgings gone
celui lessérent o le roi,
him they-left with the king
qui l'apela dejoste soi.
who him-called beside him
Quant vespres fu et anuitié,
When evening was and night-fallen
li chambellenc se sont couchié.
the chamberlains themselves are laid-down
Li rois seoit sor un haut lit,
The king sat on a high bed
celui apele, si li dist:
him he-calls so to-him said
«Amis, di moi aucune rien
Friend tell me some thing
ou j'entendré; si feras bien.»
where I-shall-attend so thou-wilt-do well
«Sire,» fet il, «onc ne contai,
Lord says he ever not I-told
si m'ait Dex, ne ne chantai.
so me-may-help God nor not sang
Bien a quinze anz mort fu mon pére,
Well has fifteen years dead was my father
une povre fame est ma mére,
a poor woman is my mother
a grant angoisse m'a norri;
with great anguish me-she-has nurtured
onques de li ne departi;
ever from her not I-parted

petit ai oi et veu,
little I-have heard and seen
et encor ai mains retenu.»
and still I-have less retained
Li rois li dist: «Merveilles oi!
The king to-him said Marvels I-hear
Il n'est nus hom tant sache poi
There not-is any man so-much may-know little
conme tu sés, si con tu dis:
as thou knowest just as thou sayest
dont es tu molt fol esbahiz.
thus art thou very foolish dismayed
Mes ja si ne m'en gaberas:
But ever so not me-thereof thou-wilt-mock
quant tu de moi departiras
when thou from me wilt-part
n'avras tu talent de gaber,
not-wilt-have thou desire of mocking
ne de nul autre homme afoler.»
nor of any other man to-make-a-fool
Molt le conmence a menacier
Much him he-begins to threaten
* * *
(lacuna)
«Sire,» fet il, «si con je di,
Lord says he just as I say
petit ai veu et oi,
little I-have seen and heard

fors tant que j'ai oi parler
except so-much that I-have heard speak
et a plusors genz raconter
and to several folk recount
por verité que n'est pas d'ome
for truth that not-is at-all of-man
qui ne dort ne qui ne prent somme.»
who not sleeps nor who not takes sleep
Li rois se tut, son chief clina,
The king himself silenced his head bowed
molt angoisseusement pensa
very anxiously he-thought
d'ice qu'il onques ne dormi;
of-this that-he ever not slept
bien set que cil avoit oi
well he-knows that that-one had heard
qu'il n'estoit mie d'ome nez;
that-he not-was at-all of-man born
dolenz en est et trespensez,
sorrowful thereof he-is and troubled
que toz li mondes reposoit,
that all the world rested
et il par nuit et jor veilloit.
and he by night and day watched
Il s'est levez hastivement,
He himself-has risen hastily
soz son chevez s'espée prent,
under his pillow his-sword takes
en la chambre sa mére entra;
into the chamber (of-)his mother entered

a son lit vint, si l'esveilla.
to her bed he-came so her-awoke
Quant el le vit, si s'est drecie,
When she him saw so herself-is raised
sor son coute s'est apuie:
on her elbow herself-is leaned
«Filz,» fet ele, «por Deu merci,
Son says she for God mercy
qu'est ce? que querez vos ici?»
what-is this what seek you here
«Par Deu!» fet il, «toute i morrez;
By God says he wholly here you-will-die
ja de mes mains n'eschaperez
ever from my hands not-you-will-escape
se vos ne me dites le voir:
if you not me tell the truth
qui filz je sui je veil savoir.
whose son I am I wish to-know
Cil qui o moi devoit veillier
He who with me was-to watch
ce dit orainz en reprovier,
this said just-now in proverb
ce m'est avis, se droit recort,
this to-me-is opinion if rightly I-recall
que n'est pas d'ome qui ne dort.
that not-is at-all of-man who not sleeps
Totes genz dorment et je veil:
All folk sleep and I watch
or l'ai oi, si m'en merveil.»
now it-I-have heard so myself-thereat I-wonder

Ele respont: «Ce que j'en sai
She answers That which I-thereof know
volentiers, biaus fiz, vos dirai.
gladly fair son to-you I-shall-tell
Tu es mes filz, je sui ta mére;
Thou art my son I am thy mother
li rois ne fu pas vostre pére.
the king not was at-all your father
Nos fumes ensemble dis anz,
We were together ten years
ne peusmes avoir enfanz.
not we-could have children
En ceste vile molt sovent
In this town very often
sejornoit li rois o sa gent;
sojourned the king with his people
un jor ala em bois chacier,
one day he-went into wood to-hunt
et je m'alai esbanoier
and I myself-went to-sport
en un vergier, por la chalor,
into an orchard for the heat
sor l'erbe fresche et sor la flor.
on the-grass fresh and on the flower
De mes puceles i menai;
Of my maidens there I-led
ensemble o eles me joai,
together with them myself I-played
assez menasmes grant deduit;
much we-made great delight

li plusor menjoient du fruit.
the most ate of-the fruit
Assis moi soz une ente bele:
I-seated myself under a grafted-tree fair
o moi avoit une pucele;
with me was a maiden
molt durement m'apesanti
very greatly I-grew-drowsy
et la damoisele autresi
and the damsel likewise
endormi soi si fetement
fell-asleep herself in-such manner
ne la poi esveillier noient.
not her I-could wake at-all
Je m'esveillai, si m'esfreai,
I myself-awoke so myself-frightened
grant peor oi, si la lessai.
great fear I-had so her I-left
Quant verité dire vos doi,
Since truth tell to-you I-must
la vint un chevalier a moi:
there came a knight to me
molt estoit biaus a desmesure,
very he-was fair beyond measure
por estuide l'ot fet nature;
with study him-had made nature
nature ot en li asemblé
nature had in him assembled
qanque sot fere de biauté;
whatever she-knew to-make of beauty

et si estoit molt bien vestuz,
and so he-was very well clothed
et granz et larges et membruz.
and tall and broad and limbed
De druerie me requist,
Of love-as-a-lover me he-sought
menaça moi, et si me dist,
threatened me and so to-me said
se je ne l'amoie d'amor,
if I not him-loved with-love
ja mes n'avroie bien nul jor;
ever more not-I-would-have good any day
il s'en iroit, je remaindroie,
he himself-thence would-go I would-remain
ja mes joie ne bien n'avroie;
ever more joy or good not-I-would-have
forment en fui espoerie.
greatly thereof I-was frightened
Molt me requist ma druerie;
Much me he-sought my love-as-a-lover
tant le vi bel et avenant,
so-much him I-saw fair and comely
et si cortois et si parlant,
and so courteous and so well-spoken
que je l'amai molt durement,
that I him-loved very greatly
et il moi angoisseusement;
and he me anxiously
demandai li qui il estoit,
I-asked him who he was

dit moi qu'il le me mostreroit:
he-said to-me that-he it to-me would-show
il m'en mena fors du vergié,
he me-thence led out of-the orchard
ou son cheval ot atachié;
where his horse he-had tied
toutes ses armes i trouva
all his arms there he-found
que il avec soi aporta,
which he with himself brought
armez s'en est molt gentement:
armed himself-thence he-is very nobly
molt furent bel si garnement;
very were fair his garments
delivrement s'estoit armez,
nimbly himself-he-had armed
puis est sor son cheval montez,
then he-is on his horse mounted
par la main destre dont me prist,
by the hand right then me he-took
sor le col du cheval m'asist;
on the neck of-the horse me-he-set
o lui alai si faitement:
with him I-went in-such manner
sachiez de riens ne vos en ment.
know in anything not to-you thereof I-lie
Desoz ce bois, en ce grant lai,
Beneath this wood in this great lake
la ou les genz font lor essai,
there where the folk make their trial

me porta, si me descendi:
me he-carried so me set-down
ilec m'asis, si atendi.
there myself-I-seated so I-waited
Ce sachiez bien veraiement,
This know well truly
de moi parti isnelement,
from me he-parted quickly
a cheval est el lai entrez,
on horse he-is into-the lake entered
el plus parfont, trestoz armez;
into-the most deep all armed
quatre loées demora,
four leagues he-stayed
a moi revint et reparla,
to me he-came-back and spoke-again
et si me dit que il venoit
and so to-me said that he came
de son pais quant il voloit;
from his country when he wished
par illec venoit et aloit
by there he-came and went
si fetement quant li plesoit;
in-such manner when to-him it-pleased
n'avoit cure d'ome mener
not-he-had care of-man to-lead
ne au venir ne a l'aler;
either in-the coming or in-the going
il seus ses garnemenz portoit,
he alone his garments carried

tot sol venoit, tot sol aloit,
all alone he-came all alone he-went
n'avoit cure de conpaingnie.
not-he-had care of company
Onques, tant con je fui s'amie,
Ever so-long as I was his-friend
ne vi garçon ne escuier
not I-saw boy or squire
qui o lui deust chevauchier.
who with him should ride
O moi revint trestot ainsi,
With me he-came-back all thus
et maintes foiz me desfendi
and many-a time me forbade
por ma vie bien me gardasse
for my life well myself I-should-guard
que je plus ne li demandasse
that I more not of-him should-ask
de son estre; plus ne l'enquis,
of his being more not of-him-I-inquired
car son conmandement bien fis;
for his command well I-did
bien gardai son conmandement,
well I-kept his command
car plus ne li enquis noient.
for more not of-him I-inquired anything
Longuement, ce dit, m'ameroit
Long this he-says me-he-would-love
de ci qu'aparceuz seroit;
until so that-perceived he-would-be

il savoit bien certainement,
he knew well certainly
et bien le me disoit sovent,
and well it to-me said often
que il seroit aparceuz
that he would-be perceived
et enterchiez et conneuz;
and discovered and known
«Et si avrez de moi un fis,
And so you-will-have of me a son
«qui molt sera preuz et gentis
who very will-be valiant and noble
«et biaus et genz et avenanz,
and fair and handsome and comely
«larges, cortois et despendanz,
generous courteous and free-spending
«et preuz a pié et a cheval;»
and valiant on foot and on horse
en vos avroit noble vassal,
in you there-would-be noble vassal
petiz serez ne gueres granz,
small you-will-be nor much tall
mes molt serez preuz et vaillanz,
but very you-will-be valiant and worthy
mes ja someil ne vos prendra;
but ever sleep not you will-take
«Ne nuit ne jor ne dormira;»
Either night or day not he-will-sleep
quant il avroit entendement,
when he would-have understanding

chascune nuit diversement
each night variously
meisse gent o lui veillier
I-should-put folk with him to-watch
por chanter et por fabloier.
for singing and for telling-fables
Quant tot m'ot dit et enseignié,
When all to-me-he-had told and taught
si m'amena desqu'au vergié:
so me-he-brought until-to-the orchard
biau fiz, ce est la verité,
fair son this is the truth
ce jor fustes vos engendré.
this day were you begotten
Longuement repera a moi,
Long he-returned to me
plus de vint anz, si con je croi,
more than twenty years so as I believe
tant c'uns chevaliers l'aparçut,
until that-a knight him-perceived
qui de male mort en morut;
who of evil death thereof died
il s'en ala, puis ne revint,
he himself-thence went since not he-came-back
ne je ne sai qex voies tint.»
nor I not know what ways he-held
Quant Tydorel a tot oi,
When Tydorel has all heard
de sa mére se departi;
from his mother himself he-parted

en ses chambres est reperiez,
into his chambers he-is returned
ses chambellans a esveilliez,
his chamberlains he-has awakened
ses armes rova aporter
his arms he-bade bring
et son bon cheval amener.
and his good horse lead
Cil ont fet son conmandement,
They have done his command
et il s'arma delivrement;
and he himself-armed nimbly
si tost conme il se fu armez,
so soon as he himself was armed
sor son cheval estoit montez;
on his horse he-was mounted
poignant en est au lai venuz,
spurring thence he-is to-the lake come
el plus parfont s'est enz feruz:
into-the most deep himself-he-is in struck
illec remest, en tel maniére
there he-remained in such manner
que puis ne retorna ariére.
that since not he-returned back
Cest conte tiénent a verai
This tale hold for true
li Breton qui firent le lai.
the Bretons who made the lay

Graelent

VI

Graelent, a noble Breton, serves the king in his wars. The queen hears him praised, loves him by report, and sends her chamberlain to bring him to her, then asks whether he has a lady. He answers with a discourse on love: many talk of it who know nothing of it, love demands chastity in deed, word, and thought, and it cannot be shared or false, so he dares not undertake it.

L'aventure de Graelent
The-adventure of Graelent
vus dirai si que jeo l'entent:
to-you I-shall-tell so as I it-understand
bun en sunt li Lai à oïr
good thereof are the Lays to hear
e les notes à retenir.
and the notes to retain
Graalent fu de Bretuns nés,
Graelent was of Bretons born
gentix è bien enparentés;
noble and well kinned
gent ot le cors è franc le cuer,
noble he-had the body and noble the heart
pur çou ot nun Graalent-Muer
for this he-had-as name Graelent-the-Great
Li Reis qui Bretaigne teneit
The King who Brittany held
vers ses veisins grant guerre aveit;
against his neighbors great war had
chevaliers manda et retint,
knights he-summoned and retained

bien sai que Graelens i vint.
well I-know that Graelent there came
Li Rois le retint vulentiers
The King him retained gladly
pur çou qu'il iert biax Chevaliers,
for this that-he was fair Knight
mut le chéri è honera,
much him he-cherished and honored
e Graelent mut se péna
and Graelent much himself strove
de turnoier è de joster,
of tourneying and of jousting
e de ses anemis grever.
and of his enemies harming
La Roïne l'oï loer,
The Queen him-heard praise
e les biens de lui racunter:
and the goods of him recount
dedens sun cuer l'en aama,
within her heart him-thereof she-loved
sun Chanbrelenc en apela.
her Chamberlain thereupon she-called
Diva, dist-ele, ne me celer,
Come-now said-she not me hide
n'as-tu suvent oï parler
not-hast-thou often heard speak
del' bel Chevalier Graelent?
of-the fair Knight Graelent
Mut est amis à tute gent.
Very he-is friend to all folk

Dame, dist-il, mult par est prox
Lady said-he very much he-is worthy
e mult se fait aimer à tox.
and much himself makes love by all
La Dame lués li respundi,
The Lady at-once to-him answered
de lui veul faire mun ami:
of him I-wish to-make my friend
jeo sui pur lui en grant effrei,
I am for him in great fright
va, si li di qu'il vigne à mei,
go so to-him tell that-he come to me
m'amor li metrai à bandun.
my-love to-him I-shall-put at disposal
Mout li dunrés, dist-cil, grant dun,
Much to-him you-will-give said-that-one great gift
merveille est se il n'en ad joie:
marvel it-is if he not-thereof has joy
n'a si boin Abé dusque à Troie,
not-there-is so good Abbot as-far-as to Troy
s'il esgardeit vostre visage
if-he looked-at your face
ne changeast mult tost sun curage.
not would-change very soon his heart
Cil s'en turna, la Dame lait,
That-one himself-thence turned the Lady leaves
a l'ostel Graelent s'en vait:
to the-lodging (of-)Graelent himself-thence goes
avenamment l'a salué,
becomingly him-he-has greeted

sun message li a cunté
his message to-him he-has told
k'à la Roïne voist parler,
that-to the Queen he-may-go to-speak
e n'ait cure de demurer.
and not-may-have care to delay
Ce li respunt li Chevaliers,
That to-him answers the Knight
alés avant, biaus amis chiers.
go ahead fair friend dear
Li Chambrelens s'en est alés,
The Chamberlain himself-thence is gone
e Graelens s'est aturnés;
and Graelent himself-is made-ready
sur un cheval ferrant munta;
on a horse iron-gray he-mounted
un Chevalier od lui mena.
a Knight with him he-led
Al chastel sunt andui venu
To-the castle are both come
e en la sale descendu,
and in the hall dismounted
par devant le Roi trespassèrent,
by before the King they-passed
es cambres la Roïne entrèrent.
into-the chambers (of-)the Queen entered
Quant el les voit, sis apela,
When she them sees so-them called
mut les chéri è honera,
much them she-cherished and honored

entur ses bras prist Graelent
around her arms she-took Graelent
si l'acola estreitement:
so him-embraced closely
de joste li séir le fist
by side her sit him she-made
sor un tapi, puis si li dist:
on a carpet then so to-him said
mut boinement a esgardé
very kindly she-has gazed-on
sun cors, sun vis, è sa biauté;
his body his face and his beauty
a lui parla curteisement,
to him she-spoke courteously
e il li respunt sinplement,
and he her answers simply
ne li dist rien qui bien ne sièce.
not to-her says anything that well not may-befit
La Roïne pensa grant pièce,
The Queen thought great while
merveille est s'ele ne li prie
marvel it-is if-she not him begs
que il l'amast par druerie:
that he her-should-love by love-as-a-lover
l'amurs de lui la fait hardie
the-love of him her makes bold
demande lui s'il a Amie,
asks him if-he has Friend
ne se d'amurs est arestés,
nor if in-love he-is fixed

car il deveit bien estre amés.
for he ought well to-be loved
Dame, dist-il, jeo n'aime pas,
Lady said-he I not-love at-all
d'amurs tenir n'est mie gas;
of-love to-hold not-is at-all jest
cil deit estre de mut grant pris
he must be of very great worth
qui s'entremet qu'il seit amis:
who himself-undertakes that-he be friend
tel cinc cent parolent d'amur,
such five hundred speak of-love
n'en sevent pas le pior tur,
not-thereof they-know at-all the worst turn
ne que est loiax druerie.
nor what is loyal love-as-a-lover
Ains lor rage è lor folie,
Rather their rage and their folly
perece, wiseuse è faintise
sloth idleness and feigning
enpire amor en mainte guise.
worsen love in many-a way
Amors demande caasté,
Love asks chastity
en fais, en dis è en pensé:
in deeds in words and in thought
se l'uns des amans est loiax,
if the-one of-the lovers is loyal
e li autre est jalox è faus,
and the other is jealous and false

si est amors entr'ex fausée,
so is love between-them falsified
ne puet avoir lunge durée.
not it-can have long duration
Amors n'a soing de compagnun,
Love not-has care of companion
boin amors n'est se de Dex nun,
good love not-is except of two not
de cors en cors, de cuer en cuer,
from body to body from heart to heart
autrement n'est prex à nul fuer.
otherwise not-it-is worth at any price
Tulles qui parla d'amistié,
Tully who spoke of-friendship
dist assés bien en son ditié,
said quite well in his treatise
que veut amis, ce veut l'amie
that-which wishes the-friend this wishes the-friend
dunt est boine la compaignie,
whereby is good the company
s'ele le veut è il l'otreit.
if-she it wishes and he it-grants
Dunt la druerie est à dreit,
Thus the love-as-a-lover is in right
puisque li uns l'autre desdit,
since the one the-other gainsays
n'i a d'amors fors c'un despit;
not-there is of-love but a spite
assés puet-um amors trover,
much can-one loves find

mais sens estuet al' bien garder,
but sense it-behooves at-the well guarding
douçour è francise, è mesure.
sweetness and nobility and measure
Amors n'a de grant forfait cure,
Love not-has of great misdeed care
loialté tenir è pramettre,
loyalty to-hold and to-promise
pur çou ne m'en os entremetre.
for this not myself-thereof I-dare undertake

THE WHITE HIND

The queen offers him her love and he refuses, since he is the king's sworn man. Her gifts refused, she comes to hate him, maligns him to the king, and has his wages withheld until he is penniless. Alone in May, he rides out on his old nag with a borrowed saddle and bridle, chases a white hind to a spring, and finds a maiden bathing there. He seizes her clothes; she demands at least her shift.

La Roine oi parler Graelent,
The Queen heard speak Graelent
qui tant parla curteisement,
who so-much spoke courteously
s'ele n'éust talent d'amer,
if-she not-had desire to-love
si l'en estéut-il parler;
so her-thereof it-behooved speak
bien set è voit, n'en dute mie,
well she-knows and sees not-thereof doubts at-all
qu'en lui a sens è curteisie.
that-in him there-is sense and courtesy

A lui parla tut en apert,
To him she-spoke all in open
sun cuer li a tut descuvert;
her heart to-him she-has all uncovered
amis, dist-ele, Graelent,
friend said-she Graelent
jeo vus aim mut parfitement,
I you love very perfectly
unques n'amai fors mun Seignur,
ever not-I-loved except my Lord
mais jeo vus aim de bune amur.
but I you love with good love
Jeo vus otroi ma druerie,
I to-you grant my love-as-a-lover
soiés amis è jou amie.
be friend and I friend
Dame, dist-il, vostre merci,
Lady said-he your mercy
mais il peut pas estre ensi,
but it can not be thus
car jeo sui saudoiers le Roi,
for I am soldier (of-)the King
loiauté li pramis è foi,
loyalty to-him I-promised and faith
e de sa vie è de s'anor,
and of his life and of his-honor

quant à lui remés l'autre jor
when with him I-remained the-other day
jà par moi hunte n'i ara:
ever by me shame not-there he-will-have
dunt prist cungié, si s'en ala.
then he-took leave so himself-thence went
La Roïne l'en vit aler,
The Queen him-thence saw go
si cummença à suspirer,
so began to sigh
dolante est mult, ne sait que faire,
sorrowful she-is very not she-knows what to-do
ne s'en voleit par tant retraire;
not herself-thereof she-wished by so-much to-withdraw
suventes feiz le requereit,
many times him she-entreated
ses mésages li trameteit,
her messages to-him she-sent
riches présens li envoieit,
rich presents to-him she-sent
e il trestus les refuseit.
and he all them refused
La Roïne mult l'en haï
The Queen much him-thereof hated
quant ele à lui del' tut failli,
when she in him of-the all failed
a sun Seignur mal le meteit,
to her Lord ill him she-put
e volentiers en mesdiseit.
and gladly of-him she-spoke-ill

Tant cum li Rois maintint la guerre,
So-long as the King maintained the war
remest Graelent en la terre;
remained Graelent in the land
tant despendi qu'il n'ot que prendre,
so-much he-spent that-he not-had what to-take
car li Rois le faiseit atendre,
for the King him made wait
ki li deteneit ses saudées.
who to-him withheld his wages
Ne l'en aveit nules dunnées,
Not to-him-thereof he-had any given
la Roïne li desturneit,
the Queen to-him diverted-them
au Roi diseit è cunseilleit
to-the King she-said and counseled
ke nule rien ne li donast
that any thing not to-him he-should-give
fors le cunroi qu'il n'en alast:
except the provision that-he not-thence should-go
povre le tenist entur lui,
poor him he-should-keep around him
qu'il ne péust servir autrui.
so-that-he not could serve another
Que fera ore Graelens?
What will-do now Graelent
N'est merveille s'il est dolens;
Not-is marvel if-he is sorrowful
ne li remest que engagier,
not to-him remained what to-pawn

fors un runcin n'est gaires chier:
except a nag not-is much dear
il ne puet de la vile aler
he not can from the town go
car il n'aveit sor quoi munter.
for he not-had on what to-mount
Graelens n'atent nul securs;
Graelent not-awaits any help
ce fu en mai en des luns jurs,
this was in May in the long days
ses Hostes fu matin levés,
his Host was in-the-morning risen
od sa Femme est el burc alés
with his Wife he-is to-the borough gone
chiés un de ses veisins mengier.
at-the-house-of one of his neighbors to-eat
Tut seul laisça le Chevalier,
All alone left the Knight
od li n'en eut en la maisun
with him not-thereof there-was in the house
escuier, sergant, ne garçun,
squire sergeant or boy
fors seul la File à la Burgeise,
except only the Daughter of the Burgess-wife
une Mescine mult curteise.
a Maid very courteous
Quant vint à l'eure du disner,
When came at the-hour of-the dinner
au Chevalier ala parler,
to-the Knight she-went to-speak

mult li pria qu'il se hastast,
much him she-begged that-he himself should-hasten
e qu'il ensanble od li mengast.
and that-he together with her should-eat
Il ne se puet pas rehaitier,
He not himself can at-all cheer
si apela sun escuiier,
so called his squire
dist li k'amaint sun cacéor,
said to-him that-he-should-bring his courser
sa sele mete et tot l'ator;
his saddle should-put and all the-gear
là hors irai esbanoier,
there out I-shall-go to-sport
car jeo n'ai cure de mangier.
for I not-have care of eating
Il li respunt, n'ai point de sele.
He to-him answers not-I-have whit of saddle
Amis, ce dist la Dameisele,
Friend that said the Damsel
une sele vus presterai,
a saddle to-you I-shall-lend
e un boin frain vus baillerai.
and a good bridle to-you I-shall-deliver
Cil a le cheval amené,
That-one has the horse brought
en la maison l'a enselé:
in the house it-he-has saddled
Graelent est desus muntés,
Graelent is upon mounted

parmi le burc est trespassés;
through the borough he-is passed
unes viés piax ot afulées
some old skins he-had donned
que trop lungement ot portées.
which too long he-had worn
Cil è celes qui l'esgardèrent,
Those and those-women who him-looked-at
l'escarnirent mult è gabèrent:
him-mocked much and jeered
tex est custume de burgeis,
such is custom of burgesses
n'en verrés gaires de curteis.
not-thereof you-will-see many of courteous
Il ne se prent de ce regart,
He not himself takes of this heed
fors de la vile aveit un gart,
outside of the town there-was a wood
une forest grant è plénière,
a forest great and full
parmi cureit une rivière:
through ran a river
cele part ala Graelent,
that way went Graelent
très pensix, mornes è dolent.
very pensive gloomy and sorrowful
N'eut gaires par le bos erré,
Not-be-had much through the wood ridden

en un boisson espés ramé
in a bush thick branched
voit une Bisse tute blance
he-sees a Hind all white
plus que n'est nois nule sor brance:
more than is snow any on branch
devant lui la Bisse sailli,
before him the Hind leapt
il la hua, si puinst à li.
he her halloed so spurred to her
Il ne la cunsivra jamès,
He not her will-overtake ever-more
purquant si la suit-il de près,
nevertheless so her follows-he from near
tant qu'en une lande l'en maine,
until that-into a heath him-thence she-leads
devers le sors d'une fontaine,
toward the source of-a spring
dunt l'iave esteit è clère è bele.
whose water was both clear and fair
Dedens baigneit une Pucele,
Within bathed a Maiden
dex Dameiseles la serveient:
two Damsels her served
sor l'eur de la fontaine esteient.
on the-edge of the spring they-were
Li drap dunt ele ert despoulie,
The cloths of-which she was stripped
erent dedens une foillie.
were within a bower

Graelens a celi véue
Graelent has her seen
qui en la fontaine esteit nue.
who in the spring was naked
De la Bisse n'eut-il puis cure,
Of the Hind not-had-he then care
cele part va grant aléure.
that way he-goes great pace
Tant la vit graisle è escanie,
So-much her he-saw slender and slim
blanche è gente è colorie;
white and noble and colored
les ex rians è bel le frunt,
the eyes laughing and fair the brow
il n'a si bel en tut le munt:
there not-is so fair in all the world
ne la veut en l'iave tuchier,
not her he-wishes in the-water to-touch
par loisir la laisse baignier.
at leisure her he-lets bathe
Sa despoulle est alés saisir,
Her clothing he-is gone to-seize
par tant le cuide retenir
by so-much her he-thinks to-hold-back
ses Dameiseles s'aperçurent
her Damsels themselves-perceived
del' Chevalier, en effroi furent.
of-the Knight in fright they-were
Lor Dame l'a araisuné,
Their Lady him-has addressed

par mautalent l'a apelé:
in ill-humor him-she-has called
Graelent, lai mes dras ester,
Graelent leave my clothes stand
ne t'en pués gaires amender,
not thee-thereby thou-canst much better
se tu od toi les emporteies,
if thou with thee them didst-carry-off
e ensi nue me laisseies;
and thus naked me didst-leave
trop sanleroit grant cunveitise.
too-much it-would-seem great covetousness
Rent moi se viax nun ma chemise,
Give me if at-least not my shift
li mantiax puet bien estre tuens,
the mantle can well be thine
denier en prens, car il est buens.
pennies thereof take for it is good

Graelent gives her the shift and asks her love, which she scorns. He takes her by force in the forest, then begs her mercy, and she grants him her love on one condition: he must never boast of her. She will come to him unseen and make him rich. At his lodging a youth arrives with a charger and gold from her, and Graelent pays his debts, feasts the poor knights and prisoners of the town, and is honored by all.

Graelent respunt en riant,
Graelent answers in laughing
ne sui pas fix à marchéant,
not I-am at-all son of merchant
n'a Borgois pur vendre mantiax:
nor-of Burgess for to-sell mantles
s'il valoit ore trois castiax,
if-it were-worth now three castles
si n'enporteroie-jeo mie:
so not-would-carry-off-I at-all
isciés de cele iave, Amie,
come-out of that water Friend
prenés vos dras, si vus vestés
take your clothes so yourself dress
ançois que vus à mei parlés.
before that you to me speak
Je n'en voil pas, dist-ele, iscir,
I not-thereof wish at-all said-she to-come-out
que de mei vus puisiés saisir;
so-that of me you may seize-hold
n'ai cure de vostre parole,
not-I-have care of your speech

ne sui nient de vostre escole.
not I-am at-all of your school
Il li respunt, je sofferai,
He to-her answers I shall-wait
vostre despoulle garderai,
your clothing I-shall-guard
desque vus isterés ça fors:
until you will-come-out here out
bele, mut avés gent le cors.
fair-one very you-have noble the body
Qant ele voit qu'il veut atendre,
When she sees that-he wishes to-wait
e que ses dras ne li veut rendre;
and that her clothes not to-her he-wishes to-render
séurté demande de lui
surety she-asks of him
k'il ne li face nul anui.
that-he not to-her may-do any harm
Graelent l'a aséuré;
Graelent her-has assured
sa chemise li a dunée:
her shift to-her he-has given
cele s'en ist de maintenant,
she herself-thence comes-out of at-once
il li tint le mantel devant,
he to-her held the mantle in-front
puis l'afula è si li rent.
then her-he-wrapped and so to-her renders
Par la main senestre la prent,
By the hand left her he-takes

des autres dex l'a eslungié;
from-the others two her-be-has distanced
d'amors l'a requise è proiié
of-love her-be-has sought and begged
e que de lui face son dru.
and that of him she-may-make her beloved
E ele li a respundu:
And she to-him has answered
ge! tu quiers grant utrage,
ha thou seekest great outrage
ge ne te tieng noient pur sage,
I not thee hold at-all for wise
durement me doi merveiller,
greatly myself I-must wonder
que m'oses de çou araisnier.
that me-thou-darest of this address
Tu ne dois estre si hardis,
Thou not must be so bold
t'en sereis tost malbaillis;
thee-thereby thou-wilt-be soon ill-treated
jà n'afiert pas à tun parage
ever not-befits at-all to thy rank
nule femme de mun lingnage.
any woman of my lineage
Graelent la truve si fière
Graelent her finds so proud
e bien entent que par proiière
and well understands that by prayer
ne fera point de sun plaisir,
not she-will-do whit of his pleasure

n'il ne s'en veut ensi partir:
nor-he not himself-thence wishes thus to-part
en l'espèse de la forest
in the-thick of the forest
a fet de li ce que li plest.
he-has done with her that which him pleases
Qant il en ot fet sun talent,
When he thereof had done his desire
merci li prie dolcement
mercy of-her he-begs sweetly
que vers lui ne soit trop irée,
that toward him not she-be too angered
mais or soit et france et sénée,
but now may-she-be both noble and wise
si li otroie sa druerie,
so to-him may-she-grant her love-as-a-lover
e il fera de li s'Amie;
and he will-make of her his-Friend
loialment è bien l'amera,
loyally and well her-he-will-love
jamès de li ne partira.
ever-more from her not he-will-part

La Dameisele ot è entent
The Damsel hears and understands
la parole de Graelent,
the speech of Graelent
e voit qu'il est curteis è sage,
and sees that-he is courteous and wise
buns Chevaliers è prox è large,
good Knight and valiant and generous

e set se il départ de li,
and knows if he departs from her
jamais n'aura si boin Ami,
ever-more not-she-will-have so good Friend
s'amur li a bien otreié;
her-love to-him she-has well granted
e il l'a ducement baisié.
and he her-has sweetly kissed
A lui parole en itel guise:
To him she-speaks in such wise
Graelent, vus m'avés souprise,
Graelent you me-have overcome
jeo vus amerai vraiement,
I you shall-love truly
mais une chose vus deffent,
but one thing to-you I-forbid
que ne dirés parole aperte,
that not you-will-say speech open
dunt notre amurs seit descuverte.
whereby our love may-be uncovered
Jeo vus dunrai mult richement
I to-you shall-give very richly
deniers è dras, or è argent,
pennies and cloths gold and silver
mult ert l'amurs bone entre nus,
very will-be the-love good between us
nuit è jur g'irai aveuc vus;
night and day I-shall-go with you
dalés vus me verés aler,
beside you me you-will-see go

a mei purrés rire et parler,
with me you-will-be-able to-laugh and speak
n'aurés cunpaignun qui me voie,
not-you-will-have companion who me may-see
ne qui jà sace qui je soie.
nor who ever may-know who I may-be
Graelent, vos estes loiaus
Graelent you are loyal
prox è curtois et assés biax:
valiant and courteous and quite fair
pur vus ving-jou à la fontaine,
for you came-I to the spring
pur vus souferai-jou grant paine;
for you shall-suffer-I great pain
bien savoie ceste aventure,
well I-knew this adventure
mais or soiiés de grant mesure.
but now be of great measure
Gardés que pas ne vus vantés
Take-care that at-all not you boast
de chose par qoi me perdés;
of thing by which me you-may-lose
un an vus cunvenra, Amis,
a year you it-will-behoove Friend
séjorner près de cest païs:
to-sojourn near of this country
errer poés dex mois entiers,
ride you-can two months whole
mais ça seit vostre repairiers,
but here be your returning

pur çou que j'aim ceste cuntrée.
for this that I-love this country
Alés vus ent, none est sonée,
Go yourself away nones is sounded
mun Mésage vus trametrai,
my Messenger to-you I-shall-send
ma vulenté vus manderai.
my will to-you I-shall-send-word
Graelens prent à li cungié,
Graelent takes from her leave
elle l'acole et a baisié.
she him-embraces and has kissed
Il est à sun ostel venus,
He is to his lodging come
de sun cheval est decendus.
from his horse he-is dismounted
En une chambre seus entra,
Into a chamber alone he-entered
a la fenestre s'apoia,
at the window himself-leaned
de s'aventure mut pensis.
over his-adventure very pensive
Vers le bos a turné sun vis,
Toward the wood he-has turned his face
un Varlet vit venir errant
a Youth he-saw come riding
desor un palefroi anblant;
on a palfrey ambling

desi à l'ostel Graelent
as-far-as to the-lodging (of-)Graelent
en est venus q'ainc ne descent.
thence he-is come that-ever not he-dismounts
Au Chevalier en est venus,
To-the Knight thence he-is come
e il est cuntre lui salus;
and he is toward him leapt
demande li dunt il veneit:
he-asks him whence he came
cum aveit nun è qui esteit.
how he-had-as name and who he-was
Sire, dist-il, ne dutez mie,
Lord said-he not doubt at-all
jeo suis mésagés vostre Amie,
I am messenger (of-)your Friend
cest destrier par mei vus enveie,
this charger by me to-you she-sends
ensanble od vus veut que jeo seie:
together with you she-wishes that I may-be
vos gages vus aquiterai,
your pledges for-you I-shall-redeem
de vostre hostel garde prendrai.
of your lodging care I-shall-take
Qant Graelent ot la novele,
When Graelent hears the news
qui mult li sanble boine è bele;
which very to-him seems good and fair
le Vallet baise boinement,
the Youth he-kisses kindly

e puis ad reçut le présent,
and then has received the present
le destrier sos ciel n'a si bel,
the charger under heaven not-there-is so fair
ne mius corant, ne plus isnel;
nor better running nor more swift
en l'estable pur sei le met,
in the-stable for himself it he-puts
e le cacéor au Varlet.
and the courser to-the Youth
Cil a sa male destorsée,
That-one has his bag unstrapped
en la canbre l'en a portée,
into the chamber it-thence he-has carried
puis l'a uverte è deffremée
then it-he-has opened and unfastened
une grant coute en a getée:
a great quilt thence he-has thrown
d'un riche paile ovrée fu
of-a rich silk worked it-was
d'autre part d'un riche boufu,
on-the-other side of-a rich brocade
met le sor le lit Graelent;
he-puts it on the bed (of-)Graelent
après met sus or è argent,
after he-puts on-it gold and silver
buins dras à sun Segnur vestir,
good cloths for his Lord to-clothe
après fait sun oste venir,
after he-makes his host come

deniers li baille ad grant plenté,
pennies to-him he-delivers in great plenty
si li a dit è cumandé
so to-him has said and commanded
que ses Sires ert aquités,
that his Lord would-be redeemed
e ses hostez bien acuntés:
and his host well paid
gart qu'assés i ait à mangier,
let-him-see-to-it that-much there may-be to eat
e s'en la vile a Chevalier
and if-in the town there-is Knight
qui séjorner voille tut coi,
who to-stay may-wish all quiet
q'il l'en amaint ensanle od soi.
that-he him-thither should-bring together with him
Li Hostes fu prex è curteis,
The Host was worthy and courteous
e mult vaillant cumme Burgeis:
and very valiant as Burgess
riche cunroi fist aturner,
rich provision he-made prepare
par la vile fet demander
through the town he-makes ask
les Chevaliers mesaaisiés,
the Knights needy
e les prisuns è les croisiés;
and the prisoners and the crusaders
a l'ostel Graelent les maine,
to the-lodging (of-)Graelent them he-leads

del' honerer forment se paine,
of-the honoring greatly himself he-strives
assés i eut joué la nuit
much there was played the night
d'estrumens è d'autre déduit.
of-instruments and of-other delight
Le jur fu Graelent haitiés,
The day was Graelent glad
e ricement apareilliés.
and richly arrayed
Grans duns duna as harpéors
Great gifts he-gave to-the harpers
as prisuns è as guoors;
to-the prisoners and to-the jongleurs
n'aveit berguis en la cité
not-there-was burgess in the city
qui li éust aveir presté,
who to-him had wealth lent
qui ne li doinst è face honur,
who not to-him may-give and may-do honor
tant qu'il le tienent à Seignur.
so-much that-they him hold as Lord

Graelent lives a year in joy with his lady. At the king's Pentecost feast the queen is shown to the barons, and all praise her beauty except Graelent, who smiles and bows his head. Pressed by the king, he says one can find a fairer woman, worth thirty of her. The queen demands justice, and the king has Graelent seized, then grants him a year's respite: he must bring his lady to the next feast or be judged.

Desor est Graelent à aise,
Henceforth is Graelent at ease
ne voit mès rien qui li déplaise;
not he-sees more anything that to-him may-displease
s'Amie voit lés lui aler,
his-Friend he-sees beside him go
a li se puet rire et juer.
with her himself he-can laugh and play
La nuit le sent de juste lui,
The night her he-feels by side him
cument puet-il aveir anui?
how can-he have trouble
Graelent oire mult suvent;
Graelent journeys very often
el païs n'a turneiement,
in-the country not-there-is tourney
dunt il ne seit tus li premiers,
whereof he not may-be all the first
mut est amés des Chevaliers.
much he-is loved by-the Knights

Or a Graelent boine vie
Now has Graelent good life
e mult grant joie de s'Amie;
and very great joy of his-Friend
se ce li puet lunges durer,
if this to-him can long last
jà ne devreit-el demander.
ever not should-he ask
Ensi fu bien un an entier,
Thus it-was well a year whole
tant que li Reis dut ostoier.
until that the King had to-make-war
A Pentecuste chascun an
At Pentecost each year
semouneit ses Baruns par ban,
he-summoned his Barons by ban
tus cex qui de lui rien teneient,
all those who of him anything held
e à sa Cort od lui mangeient:
and at his Court with him ate
serveient le par grant amur.
they-served him with great love
Quant mengié aveient le jur,
When eaten they-had the day
la Roïne faiseit munter
the Queen he-made mount
sor un haut banc è deffubler,
on a high bench and unmantle
puis demandeit à tus ensanble,
then he-asked of all together

segnur Barun, que vus en sanble?
lords Barons what to-you thereof seems
A sous ciel plus bele Roïne?
Is-there under heaven more fair Queen
Pucele, Dame ne Mescine;
Maiden Lady or Maid
a tox le conveneit loer,
by all it behooved to-praise
e au Roi dire et afremer
and to-the King to-say and to-affirm
k'il ne sevent nule si bele
that-they not know any so fair
mescine, Dame ne Pucele:
maid Lady or Maiden
n'i ot un seul ne le prisast,
not-there was one single not her should-prize
e sa biaté ne li loast,
and her beauty not to-him should-praise
fors Graelent qui s'en taiseit,
except Graelent who himself-thereof kept-silent
a sei méisme surieit:
to himself same he-smiled
en sun cuer penseit à s'Amie,
in his heart he-thought of his-Friend
des autres teneit à folie
of-the others he-held for folly
ki de tutes parts s'escrioient,
who from all parts cried-out
e la Roïne si looient:
and the Queen so praised

sun cief cuvri, sun vis baissa
his head he-covered his face he-lowered
e la Roïne l'esgarda,
and the Queen him-looked-at
le Roi le mustra sun Seignur,
(to-)the King it showed her Lord
voiés, Sire, quès deshonur!
see Lord what dishonor
N'avez Barun ne m'ait loée,
Not-you-have Baron not me-may-have praised
fors Graelent qui m'a gabée.
except Graelent who me-has mocked
Bien sai qu'il m'a piéça haïe,
Well I-know that-he me-has long hated
jeo cuit qu'il a de moi envie.
I think that-he has of me envy
Li Rois apela Graelent,
The King called Graelent
demanda li, oïant la gent,
asked him in-hearing-of the folk
par la foi que il li deveit,
by the faith that he to-him owed
qui ses naturex hum esteit
who his natural man was
ne li celast, ains le désist
not from-him should-hide rather it should-tell
pur-qoi baisa sun cief et rist.
for-what he-lowered his head and laughed

Graelens respundi au Rei,
Graelent answered to-the King
sire, dit-il, entent à mei:
lord says-he attend to me
unques mais hum de tun parage
ever before man of thy rank
ne fist tel fait ne tel folage;
not did such deed or such folly
de ta femme fais mustrisun,
of thy wife thou-makest show
qu'il n'a çaiens un seul Barun,
so-that-there not-is in-here one single Baron
cui tu ne le faces loer,
whom thou not her may-make praise
dient qu'il n'a sous ciel sa per:
they-say that-there not-is under heaven her peer
pur veir vus di une nuvele,
for truth to-you I-tell a news
on puet assés truver plus bele.
one can much find more fair
Li Reis l'oï, mult l'en pesa,
The King it-heard much him-thereof grieved
par sairement le cunjura
by oath him he-conjured
s'il en saveit nule plus gente:
if-he thereof knew any more noble
oïl, dist-il, qui vaut tès trente.
yes said-he who is-worth such thirty

La Roïne mut s'en mari,
The Queen much herself-thereof distressed
a sun Segnur cria merci,
to her Lord cried mercy
k'au Chevalier face amener
that-to-the Knight he-may-make bring
celi qu'il i oï loer,
her whom-he there heard praise
e dunt i fet si grant vantance:
and of-whom there he-makes so great boast
entre nos dex seit la mustrance;
between us two let-be the showing
s'ele est si bele, quite en seit,
if-she is so fair quit thereof may-he-be
u se ce nèn, fètes m'en dreit
or if this not make me-thereof right
del' mesdit è de la blastenge.
of-the slander and of the reproach
Li Rois cumande k'on le prenge,
The King commands that-one him take
n'aura de lui amur ne pais,
not-he-will-have of him love or peace
de prisun n'istera jamais,
from prison not-he-will-go-out ever-more
se cele n'est avant mustrée
if she not-is before shown
que de biauté a tant loée.
whom of beauty he-has so-much praised

Graelens est pris è tenus,
Graelent is taken and held
mix le venist estre téus:
better to-him it-would-come to-be silent
al Rei a demandé respit,
of-the King he-has asked respite
bien s'aperçeit qu'il a mesdit;
well himself-perceives that-he has misspoken
s'Amie en cuide aveir perdue,
his-Friend thereby he-thinks to-have lost
d'ire è de mautalent tressue.
with-anger and with ill-humor he-sweats
Jà est bien dreis que mal li tort,
Already is well right that ill to-him may-turn
plusur l'en plaignent en la Cort.
several him-thereof pity in the Court
Le jur eut entur lui grant presse,
The day there-was around him great press
duq'à l'autre an li Reis le lesse,
until-to the-next year the King him leaves
ke sa feste rasanblera;
when his feast he-will-reassemble
tus ses amis i mandera,
all his friends there he-will-summon
e ses Baruns è ses Fievés.
and his Barons and his Fiefholders
Là seit Graelent amenés,
There let-be Graelent brought

celi amaint ensanble od sei
her let-him-bring together with him
que tant loa devant le Rei:
whom so-much he-praised before the King
s'ele est si bele è si vaillans,
if-she is so fair and so worthy
bien li pura estre varans,
well to-him she-will-be-able to-be warrant
quites en ert, rien n'i perdra;
quit thereof he-will-be anything not-there he-will-lose
e s'el ne vient jugiés sera,
and if-she not comes judged he-will-be
en la merci le Roi en iert,
in the mercy (of-)the King thereof he-will-be
assés set çeu qu'il i affiert.
much he-knows that which to-it belongs

THE JUDGMENT

His lady no longer comes, and Graelent wastes with grief all year. At the feast the king calls for judgment; two maidens arrive and ask the court to wait, then two more, fairer than the queen. Last comes their lady on a fine palfrey, richly dressed, and she tells the king that Graelent spoke the truth. All agree that she is as fair as the queen, and the king declares Graelent acquitted.

Graelens est de Cort partis
Graelent is from Court departed
tristes, coreçous è maris,
sad angered and grieved
muntés est sor un buin destrier,
mounted he-is on a good charger

a sun hostel va herbegier:
to his lodging he-goes to-lodge
sun Canbrelanc a demandé,
his Chamberlain he-has asked-for
mais il n'en a mie truvé
but he not-thereof has at-all found
que s'Amie li eut tramis.
whom his-Friend to-him had sent
Or est Graelent entrepris,
Now is Graelent in-straits
mix vaureit estre mors que vis.
better he-would-wish to-be dead than alive
En une chanbre s'est sul mis,
In a chamber himself-he-has alone put
a s'Amie crie merci,
to his-Friend he-cries mercy
por Diu qu'il puist parler à li,
for God that-he may speak to her
ne li vaut rien, ni parlera,
not to-him avails anything not-there she-will-speak
devant un an ne le verra,
before a year not him she-will-see
ne jà n'aura de li confort
nor ever not-he-will-have from her comfort
ains ert jugiés près de le mort.
rather he-will-be judged near to the death
Graelens maine grant dolur,
Graelent leads great grief
il n'a repos ne nuit ne jur,
he not-has rest either night or day

qant s'Amie ne puet aveir.
since his-Friend not he-can have
Sa vie met en noncaleir,
His life he-puts in neglect
q'ançois que li ans fust passés,
that-before that the year was passed
fu Graelens si aduilés,
was Graelent so wasted
que il n'a force ne vertu:
that he not-has strength or vigor
ce dient cil qui l'unt véu
this say those who him-have seen
merveille est qu'il a tant duré.
marvel it-is that-he has so-long lasted
Al jur que li Rois ot numé,
On-the day that the King had named
ke sa feste deveit tenir,
when his feast he-was-to hold
li Reis a fait grant gent venir.
the King has made great folk come
Li Plege amainent Graelent
The Pledges bring Graelent
devant le Rei en sun present.
before the King in his presence
Il li demande ù est s'Amie.
He him asks where is his-Friend
Sire, dist-il, nel' amain mie,
Lord said-he not-her I-bring at-all

jeo ne la puis noient avoir,
I not her can at-all have
faites de moi vostre voloir.
do with me your will
Li Reis respunt: Dans Graelent,
The King answers Sir Graelent
trop parlastes vilainement;
too-much you-spoke basely
vers la Roïne mespréistes,
toward the Queen you-misdid
e tus mes Baruns desdéistes:
and all my Barons you-gainsaid
jamès d'autre ne mesdirés,
ever-more of-another not you-will-speak-ill
qant de mes mains départirés.
when from my hands you-will-depart
Li Reis parole hautement,
The King speaks loudly
segnur, dist-il, del' jugement
lords said-he of-the judgment
vus pri que ne le déportés
you I-pray that not him you-spare
selunc le dit q'oï avés,
according-to the speech that-heard you-have
ke Graelent oïant vus dist,
that Graelent in-hearing-of you said
e en ma Curt hunte me fist:
and in my Court shame to-me did
ne m'aime pas de boine amur,
not me-loves at-all with good love

qui ma Femme dist deshonur.
who my Wife says dishonor
Ki volentiers fiert vostre chien,
Who gladly strikes your dog
jà mar querés qu'il vus aint bien.
never in-ill-hour you-seek that-he you may-love well
Cil de la Curt sunt fors alé,
Those of the Court are out gone
al jugement sunt asanblé:
to-the judgment they-are assembled
une grande pièce sunt tut coi,
a great while they-are all quiet
qui n'i ot noise ni effroi
so-that not-there was noise or fright
mult lur poise del' Chevalier,
much to-them grieves for-the Knight
s'il le vaulent par mal jugier.
if-they him wish by ill to-judge
Ains que nus dex mot i parlast,
Before that any of-them word there spoke
ne le parole racuntast,
or the speech recounted
vint un Vallés qui lor a dit
came a Youth who to-them has said
qu'il atendissent un petit.
that-they should-wait a little
En la Cort vienent dex Puceles,
Into the Court come two Maidens
al Roiame n'aveit plus beles;
in-the Kingdom not-there-were more fair

al Chevalier mult aiderunt
to-the Knight much they-will-help
si Diu plaist, sel' délivrerunt.
if God please so-him they-will-deliver
Cil unt vulentiers atendu,
They have gladly waited
ains que d'iloeuc soient méu,
before that from-there they-be moved
sunt les Dameiseles venues
are the Damsels come
de grant biauté è bien vestues:
of great beauty and well clothed
bien sunt en deus bliaus lacies,
well they-are in two tunics laced
graisles furment è bien delgies.
slender greatly and well slim
De lur palefreis descendirent,
From their palfreys they-dismounted
a dex Varlés tenir les firent:
to two Youths to-hold them they-made
en la sale vindrent au Rei.
into the hall they-came to-the King
Sire, dist l'une, entent à mei,
Lord said the-one attend to me
ma Dameiselle nus cumande,
my Damsel us commands
e par nus dex vus pri et mande.
and by us two you she-prays and sends-word
C'un poi faites sufrir cest plait,
That-a little you-make suspend this plea

e qu'il n'i ait jugement fait:
and that-there not may-be judgment made
ele vient ci à toi parler
she comes here to thee to-speak
pur le Chevalier délivrer.
for the Knight to-deliver
Ains que cele éust dist son cunte
Before that she had told her tale
eut la Roïne mut grant hunte;
had the Queen very great shame
ne demoura gaires après,
not it-delayed much after
devant le Rei en son palès
before the King in his palace
vinrent dex autres mult plus gentes,
came two others much more noble
de colur blanches è roventes,
of color white and ruddy
au Rei dient qu'il atendist
to-the King they-say that-he should-wait
tant que lor Dameisele venist.
until that their Damsel should-come
Mut furent celes esgardées,
Much were they gazed-on
e lor biauté de tuz loées:
and their beauty by all praised
de plus beles en i aveit
of more fair thereof there were
que la Roïne n'en esteit.
than the Queen not-thereof was

E qant lor Dameisele vint,
And when their Damsel came
tote la Curt à li se tint:
all the Court to her itself held
mut ert bele de grant manière,
very she-was fair of great manner
a dox sanblant, od simple cière,
with sweet look with simple face
biax ex, biax vis, bele façun,
fair eyes fair face fair fashion
en li n'a nient de mesproisun.
in her not-there-is anything of blame
Tot l'esgardèrent à merveille,
All her-looked-at with marvel
d'une porpre tute vermeille
in-a purple all crimson
a or brosdée estreitement,
with gold embroidered closely
esteit vestue richement;
she-was clothed richly
ses mantiax valeit un castel.
her mantle was-worth a castle
Un palefroi ot buin et bel:
A palfrey she-had good and fair
ses frains, sa sele è ses lorains,
its bridle its saddle and its harness
valoit mil livres de çartains.
was-worth a-thousand pounds for certain
Pur la véoir issent tut hors,
For her to-see they-come all out

sun vis loerent è sun cors,
her face they-praised and her body
e sun sanlant è sa faiture.
and her look and her form
Ele ne vait grant aléure:
She not goes great pace
devant le Roi vint à cheval,
before the King she-came on horse
nus ne li puet turner à mal;
anyone not it-to-her can turn to ill
a pié descent emmi la place,
on foot she-alights amid the square
sun palefrei pas n'i atace.
her palfrey at-all not-there she-ties
Au Roi parla curteisement,
To-the King she-spoke courteously
sire, fait-ele, à moi entent,
lord says-she to me attend
e vus trestout, Segnur Barun,
and you all Lords Barons
entendés ça à ma raisun.
attend here to my speech
Asés savés de Graelent
Well you-know of Graelent
qu'il dist au Roi devant sa gent,
what-he said to-the King before his folk
au tans à se grant asanblée,
at-the time of his great assembly
qant la Roïne fu mustrée,
when the Queen was shown

ke plus bele femme ot véue.
that more fair woman he-had seen
Ceste parole est bien séue,
This speech is well known
vérités est, il mesparla,
truth it-is he misspoke
puisque li Rois s'en coreça;
since the King himself-thereby angered
mais de ce dist-il vérité,
but of this said-he truth
n'est nule de si grant biauté
not-is any of so great beauty
que autresi bele ne seit:
that likewise fair not may-be
or esgardez, s'en dites dreit,
now look so-thereof say right
se par moi s'en puet aquiter,
if by me himself-thereof he-can acquit
li Rois li doit quite clamer.
the King him must quit declare
N'i ot un seul, petit ne grant,
Not-there was one single small or great
ki ne désist bien en oïant,
who not said well in hearing
qu'ensanble li a tel mescine,
that-together with-him there-is such maid
qui de biauté vaut la Roïne;
who in beauty is-worth the Queen

li Rois méismes a jugié
the King himself has judged
devant sa Cort è otroié
before his Court and granted
que Graelent est aquités,
that Graelent is acquitted
bien doit estres quites clamés.
well he-must be quit declared

THE RIVER

She rides away and Graelent follows, begging her mercy, to a river in the forest. She warns him he will drown; he follows, goes under, and she drags him out and sends him back. When she crosses again he rides in after her, and the current sweeps him off his horse. Her maidens plead for him, and she turns back, pulls him from the water, and leads him into her land, where he is said to live still. His horse returns to the forest and is heard neighing each year at that season, and the Bretons made the lay.

Dementiers que li plais dura,
While that the plea lasted
Graelent pas ne s'ublia;
Graelent at-all not himself-forgot
sun blanc cheval fist amener,
his white horse he-made bring
od s'Amie s'en veut aler.
with his-Friend himself-thence he-wishes to-go
Quant ele ot fait çou qu'ele quist,
When she had done that which-she sought
e ot oï que li Cors dist,
and had heard what the Court said

cungié demande et prent del' Roi,
leave she-asks and takes of-the King
e munte sor sun palefroi:
and mounts on her palfrey
de la sale se départi,
from the hall herself she-departed
ses Puceles ensanble od li.
her Maidens together with her
Graelent munte et vait après
Graelent mounts and goes after
parmi la vile à grant eslès;
through the town at great gallop
tuz-jurs li va merci criant,
always to-her he-goes mercy crying
ele ne respunt ne tant ne quant.
she not answers either so-much or how-much
Tant unt lor droit chemin tenu,
So-long they-have their straight road held
qu'il sunt à la forest venu;
that-they are to the forest come
parmi le bos lor voie tinrent,
through the wood their way they-held
desi qu'à le rivière vinrent,
as-far-as to the river they-came
ki en une lande sorteit,
which in a heath sprang
e parmi la forest coureit.
and through the forest ran
Mut en ert l'iave blanche et bele,
Very thereof was the-water white and fair

dedens se met la Dameisele:
within herself puts the Damsel
Graelent i veut après aler,
Graelent there wishes after to-go
mais ele li cumence à crier:
but she to-him begins to cry
fui, Graelent, n'i entre pas,
flee Graelent not-there enter at-all
se tu t'i mès, tu noieras.
if thou thee-there puttest thou wilt-drown
Il ne se prent de ce regart,
He not himself takes of this heed
après se met, trop li est tart:
after himself he-puts too-much to-him it-is late
l'eve li clot deseur le frunt,
the-water to-him closes over the brow
a grant paine resort à-munt;
with great pain he-rises-again up-high
mais el l'a par la renne pris,
but she him-has by the rein taken
a terre l'a arière mis,
to land him-she-has back put
puis li dit qu'il ne puet passer,
then to-him says that-he not can cross
jà tant ne s'en sara pener,
ever so-much not himself-thereof he-will-know-how to-labor
cummande li que voist arière.
she-commands him that he-may-go back
Ele se met en la rivière,
She herself puts into the river

mais il ne puet mie sufrir
but he not can at-all suffer
que de lui le voie partir:
that from him her he-may-see part
en l'eve entre tut à cheval,
into the-water he-enters all on horse
l'unde l'enporte cuntreval;
the-wave him-carries-off downstream
départi l'a de sun destrier.
parted him-it-has from his charger
Graelent fu près de noiier,
Graelent was near to drowning
qant les Puceles s'escrièrent,
when the Maidens cried-out
ki aveuc la Damoisele èrent:
who with the Damsel were
damoisele; por Diu, merci,
damsel for God mercy
aiés pitié de vostre ami;
have pity on your friend
véés, il noie à grant dolur.
see he drowns in great grief
A las! mar vit unques le jur
Ah alas in-ill-hour he-saw ever the day
que vus primes à lui parlastes,
that you first to him spoke
e vostre amur li otroiastes:
and your love to-him granted
dame, voiiés, l'unde l'enmaine,
lady see the-wave him-carries-off

por Diu, c'or le jetés de paine
for God that-now him throw from pain
mut est grant dex s'il doit morir,
very is great grief if-he must die
coment le poent vos cœurs sufrir?
how it can your hearts suffer
Trop par li estes ore dure,
Too much to-him you-are now hard
aidiés li, car en prenés cure.
help him now of-it take care
Damoisele, vostre amis nie,
Damsel your friend drowns
soffrés qu'il ait un peu d'aïe;
suffer that-he may-have a little of-help
vus avés de lui grant pécié.
you have of him great sin
La Damoisele en ot pitié
The Damsel thereof had pity
de çou qu'ele les ot se plaindre,
of this that-she them hears themselves lament
ne se puet mais celer ne faindre.
not herself she-can more hide or feign
Hastiuement est returnée,
Hastily she-is returned
a la rivière en est alée,
to the river thence she-is gone
par les flancs saisist son ami,
by the flanks she-seizes her friend
si l'en amaine ensanble od li.
so him-thence she-leads together with her

Qant d'autre part sunt arivé,
When on-the-other side they-are arrived
ses dras mulliés li a osté,
his clothes wetted from-him she-has removed
de sun mantel l'a afublé,
with her mantle him-she-has wrapped
en sa terre l'en ad mené
into her land him-thence she-has led
encor dient cil du païs
still say those of-the country
que Graelent i est tous vis.
that Graelent there is all alive
Ses destriers qui d'eve eschapa,
His charger which from-the-water escaped
pur sun Segnur grant dol mena:
for its Lord great grief led
en la forest fist son retur,
into the forest it-made its return
ne fu en pais ne nuit ne jur;
not it-was in peace either night or day
des piés grata, furment heni,
with-the feet it-scraped strongly it-neighed
par la cuntrée fu oï.
through the country it-was heard
Prendre cuident è retenir,
To-take they-think and to-hold-back
unques nus d'aus nel' pot saisir:
ever any of-them not-it could seize
il ne voleit nului atendre,
it not wished anyone to-await

nus ne le puet lacier ne prendre.
anyone not it can noose or take
Mut lunc-tans après l'oï-un
Very long-time after it-heard-one
chascun an en cele saisun,
each year in that season
que se Sire parti de li,
that its Lord parted from it
la noise et le friente, et le cri
the noise and the stamping and the cry
ke li bons chevaus demenot
that the good horse made
pur sun Seignur que perdu ot.
for its Lord whom lost it-had
L'aventure du bun destrier,
The-adventure of-the good charger
l'aventure du Chevalier
the-adventure of-the Knight
cum il s'en ala od sa Mie,
how he himself-thence went with his Friend
fu par tute Bretaigne oïe,
was through all Brittany heard
un Lai en firent li Bretun,
a Lay thereof made the Bretons
Graalent-Mor l'apela-un.
Graelent-the-Great it-called-one

L'Espine

VII · THE THORN

The poet vouches for his tale from histories kept at Caerleon. A king's son and his queen's daughter by another lord grow up together and love each other first as children, then as lovers. One day the youth lies down in a chamber with a headache, and the girl joins him; the queen finds them in bed together, drags the girl away, and punishes her harshly.

Qui que lays tiengne a mençonge,
Whoever that lays may-hold for lie
sachiez je nes tiens pas a songe.
know I not-them hold at-all for dream
Les aventures qu'ai trovées,
The adventures that-I-have found
qui diversement sont contées,
which variously are told
nes ai pas dites sanz garant;
not-them I-have at-all told without warrant
les estoires en trai avant
the histories thereof I-draw forward
qui encor sont a Carlion
which still are at Caerleon
enz el mostier saint Aaron
within in-the minster (of-)saint Aaron
et en Bretaingne conneües
and in Brittany known
et en plusors leus sont veües.
and in several places are seen
Por ce que les truis en estoire,
For this that them I-find in history

ramener vous voil en memoire
bring-back to-you I-wish into memory
de dous enfanz une aventure
of two children an adventure
qui lonc tens a esté oscure.
which long time has been obscure
En Bretaingne ot un dameisel,
In Brittany there-was a young-lord
sage et corteis et pro et bel,
wise and courteous and valiant and fair
né de soignant et fis de rei;
born of concubine and son of king
pere et marrastre aveit o sei.
father and stepmother he-had with him
Li reis l'ot chier, que plus n'en ot,
The king him-held dear for more not-thereof he-had
et la reïne molt l'amot.
and the queen much him-loved
De l'autre part une meschine,
On the-other side a maid
d'autre seignor l'ot la reïne;
by-another lord her-had the queen
sage et corteise ert la pucele,
wise and courteous was the maiden
fille ert de rei et gente et bele.
daughter she-was of king and noble and fair
Ambedui erent d'un parage,
Both were of-one rank
mais n'esteient pas d'un aage;
but not-they-were at-all of-one age

li ainznez n'aveit que set anz:
the elder not-had but seven years
c'est li vallez qui plus ert granz.
it-is the youth who more was big
Li dui enfant molt bel esteient;
The two children very fair were
selonc l'entente qu'il aveient
according-to the-understanding that-they had
volentiers ensemble jooent
gladly together they-played
et en tel guise s'entramoent,
and in such wise each-other-they-loved
que li uns d'eus riens ne valeit,
that the one of-them anything not was-worth
se li autres dales n'esteit.
if the other beside not-was
Norri orent esté ensemble
Brought-up they-had been together
li enfant, tant con furent [iemble
the children as-long as they-were [?]
celie ensemble o lie aler]
[?] together with her to-go
et cil qui garder les deveit
and he who to-guard them had
de trestout lor donot congié
of all-things to-them gave leave
ne de rien ne lor faiseit vié,
nor in anything not to-them made forbidding
ne de beivre ne de mangier,
neither of drinking nor of eating

fors sol tant qu'ensemble couchier,
except only so-much as-together lying
mais de ce n'orent il pas gré.
but for this not-had they at-all thanks
Tantost con furent de l'eé
As-soon as they-were of the-age
qu'en sei le pot soufrir nature,
that-in itself it could suffer nature
en eus amer mistrent lor cure;
into themselves loving they-put their care
si faut lor enfantis amor
so fails their childish love
que tenue aveient maint jor
which held they-had many-a day
et une amor s'i herberga
and a love itself-there lodged
que nature lor aporta.
which nature to-them brought
N'i a nul d'eus qui ne la sente;
Not-there is any of-them who not it may-feel
en ce lor a donné entente
in this to-them has given intent
de lor deduit a ce torner,
of their delight to this to-turn
en eus baisier et acoler.
into themselves kissing and embracing

Tant les mena qu'au chief du tor
So-much them it-led that-at-the end of-the turn
les mist ensemble cele amor
them put together that love
et tot lor corage dariere
and all their heart backward
lor torna en autre maniere.
to-them it-turned in another manner
Comme chascuns plus s'aparçut,
As each more himself-perceived
tant plus lor amor entr'eus crut,
so-much more their love between-them grew
plus s'entramerent loiaument.
more they-loved-each-other loyally
S'il eüssent tel escïent
If-they had-had such knowledge
de bien lor amor a garder,
of well their love to guard
comme il orent en eus amer,
as they had in themselves loving
a paine fussent deceü;
with pain they-would-have-been deceived
mais tost furent aparceü.
but soon they-were perceived
Einsi avint que li danziaus
Thus befell that the young-lord
qui tant par est corteis et biaus
who so much is courteous and fair
ert venuz de riviere un jor;
was come from hawking one day

mal ot el chief por la chalor.
pain he-had in-the head for the heat
En une chambre a recelée
In a chamber in secret
por la noise et por la criée
for the noise and for the outcry
privéement s'ala couchier
privately himself-he-went to-lie
por un pou son mal alegier.
for a little his pain to-ease
En ses chambres o la reïne,
In her chambers with the queen
qui molt bonement la doctrine,
who very kindly her instructs
devant sa mere esteit sa drue;
before her mother was his beloved
tantost con el sot sa venue,
as-soon as she knew his coming
n'i atent per ne compaignon
not-there she-awaits peer or companion
ne el ne dit ne o ne non,
nor she not says either yes or no
en la chambre s'en vait tot dreit
into the chamber herself-thence goes all straight
ou ses amis sous se geseit.
where her friend alone himself lay
Il l'a bonement receüe,
He her-has kindly received
car ne l'aveit le jor veüe,
for not her-he-had the day seen

et cele qui rien ne douta
and she who anything not feared
tout empres lui si se coucha,
all close-by him so herself laid
cent feiz le baise par amor,
a-hundred times him she-kisses by love
se il i font ciert grant folor;
if they there do there-will-be great folly
car la reïne s'aparceit.
for the queen herself-perceives
Ves la chambre s'en vait tot dreit,
Toward the chamber herself-thence goes all straight
molt soavet ses pas atient,
very softly her steps she-holds-back
fermeüre ne la detient;
fastening not her holds-back
la chambre trova desfremée,
the chamber she-found unlocked
eneslepas est enz entrée,
at-once she-is in entered
et vait avant ses a trovez
and goes forward so-them she-has found
el lit gisant entracolez.
in-the bed lying embraced
L'amor connut tot en apert
The-love she-knew all in open
de quei li uns d'eus l'autre sert.
of which the one of-them the-other serves
Molt fu dolente la reïne,
Very was sorrowful the queen

par le poing saisist la meschine,
by the fist she-seizes the maid
du lit la trait a qui que painne,
from-the bed her she-drags with what soever pain
ariere en sa chambre la maine.
back into her chamber her leads
Molt la laidi a cele feiz,
Much her she-reviled at that time
apres la mist en granz desreiz
after her she-put in great distress
et la tint en grant decepline;
and her she-held in great discipline
molt sueffre paine la meschine.
much suffers pain the maid

THE YOUTH KNIGHTED

The youth hears her punished and grieves. The king agrees with the queen to keep the two apart. The youth asks to be knighted so that he may seek his fortune abroad; the king dubs him but makes him stay a year at court. The lovers are guarded so closely that they cannot speak or even see each other.

Li dameisiaus remest dolenz,
The young-lord remained sorrowful
quant ot oï les batemenz,
when he-had heard the beatings
la decepline et le chasti
the discipline and the chastisement
que sa mere faiseit de li.
that her mother made of her

Ne sait que face ne que die,
Not he-knows what he-may-do nor what he-may-say
bien sait qu'ele est en fin honie
well he-knows that-she is in end shamed
et que il est en fin traï,
and that he is in end betrayed
car du tot a a li failli.
for of-the all he-has to her failed
De s'amie fu angoissous
For his-friend he-was anguished
et de l'uevre si doulerous,
and over-the deed so grieving
de la chambre n'ose issir fors;
from the chamber not-he-dares go out
a duel faire livre son cors:
to grief make he-gives-up his body
«Helas, fait il, que la ferai?
Alas says he what there shall-I-do
Ja sanz li viure ne porrai.
Ever without her to-live not I-shall-be-able
Diex! quel eür et quel pechié!
God what fortune and what sin
Folement me sui chastié.
Foolishly myself I-am chastised
Certes se je ne rai m'amie,
Certainly if I not again-have my-friend
bien sai por li perdrai la vie.»
well I-know for her I-shall-lose the life
Endementres que ce duel fait,
Meanwhile that this grief he-makes

la reïne au rei s'en vait,
the queen to-the king herself-thence goes
de chief en chief li a conté
from head to head to-him she-has told
comment il aveient ovré.
how they had done
Li reis respont a la reïne
The king answers to the queen
que desormais gart la meschine,
that henceforth she-may-guard the maid
et il le vallet gardera
and he the youth will-guard
et sa cort sieure li fera.
and his court follow him will-make
Einsi seront bien dessevré:
Thus they-will-be well separated
«Esgardez que ce seit celé.»
Look that this be hidden
Atant laissent lor parlement.
At-that they-leave their parley
Mais cil, qui a duel faire entent,
But he who to grief make attends
por nule riens plus n'i demore,
for any thing more not-there stays
a son pere vient en cele ore;
to his father he-comes in that hour
jentement le met a raison:
nobly him puts to reason
«Sire, fait il, je quier un don,
Lord says he I seek a gift

se de rien me volez aidier,
if in anything me you-wish to-help
que vous me faciez chevalier;
that you me may-make knight
car aler voil en autre terre
for to-go I-wish into another land
en soudées por mon pris querre.
into pay for my praise to-seek
Trop ai gardé la cheminée
Too-much I-have guarded the hearth
et si sai bien ferir d'espée.»
and so I-know well to-strike with-sword
Li reis pas ne l'en escondist,
The king at-all not him-thereof refused
tote sa requeste li fist.
all his request for-him he-did
Puis li a dit que il demort
Then to-him he-has said that he may-stay
jusqu'a un an et en sa cort
until a year and in his court
entretant sieve les torneiz
meanwhile he-may-follow the tourneys
et gart les pas et les destreiz,
and guard the passes and the straits
ou sovent avient en la terre
where often happens in the land
aventure, qui la velt querre.
adventure for-whoever it wishes to-seek
Li dameisiaus li otreia,
The young-lord to-him granted

qui escondire ne l'osa.
who refuse not-it dared
En la cort remest o son pere,
In the court he-remained with his father
la meschine es chambres sa mere.
the maid in-the chambers (of-)her mother
Mais andui si gardé esteient,
But both so guarded were
ensemble parler ne poeient,
together speak not they-could
ne de rien n'aveient leisir,
nor of anything not-they-had leisure
ne del veeir ne de l'oïr,
neither of-the seeing nor of the-hearing
par mesage ne par semblant;
by message nor by sign
tant ert l'amor plus destraingnant.
so-much was the-love more constraining

At court before Saint John's day, a maid says that more adventures happen at the Ford of the Thorn on Saint John's night than in all the year. The young knight vows to watch there and rides out. His beloved prays in an orchard to be with him and falls asleep under a tree; she wakes at the ford beside him. He comforts her, and they rejoice.

Huit jors devant la Saint-Johan —
Eight days before the Saint-John
enz en meïsmes icel an
within in same that year
c'on fist del vallet chevalier —
that-one made of-the youth knight
li reis ert venuz de gibier,
the king was come from game
qui pris ot a molt grant foison
who taken had in very great abundance
et voleïlle et veneison.
both fowl and venison
La nuit, quant vint apres souper,
The night when it-came after supper
li reis s'asist por deporter
the king himself-sat for to-amuse-himself
sor un tapi devant le deis,
on a carpet before the dais
o lui maint chevalier corteis;
with him many-a knight courteous
ensemble o lui esteit ses fis.
together with him was his son

Le lai escoutent d'Aelis
The lay they-hear of-Aelis
que uns Ireis sone en ra rote,
which an Irishman sounds on his rote
molt doucement le chante et note.
very sweetly it he-sings and plays
Empres celui autre encommence,
After that-one another he-begins
nus d'eus ne noise ne ne tence;
any of-them not makes-noise nor not quarrels
le lai lor sone d'Orpheï,
the lay to-them he-sounds of-Orpheus
et quant icel lai ot feni,
and when that lay he-had finished
li chevalier sempres parlerent,
the knights at-once spoke
les aventures ramembrerent
the adventures they-recalled
que soventes feiz ont veües
which many times they-have seen
qu'en Bretaingne sont avenues.
which-in Brittany are befallen
Entr'eus aveit une meschine,
Among-them there-was a maid
cele dist: «Au gué de l'espine
she said At-the ford of-the thorn
a la nuit de la Saint-Johan
on the night of the Saint-John
en avient plus que en tot l'an.
thereof befalls more than in all the-year

Mais ja nul coart chevalier
But ever any coward knight
cele nuit n'i ira guaitier.»
that night not-there will-go to-watch
Li dameisiaus ot et entent,
The young-lord hears and understands
que molt ot en lui hardement,
for much he-had in him boldness
et onques, pus qu'il ceinst espée,
and ever since that-he girded sword
n'aveit aventure trovée
not-had adventure found
dont il l'esteüst par destresce
whereby it him-should-have-behooved by necessity
faire mauvaistié ne proesce.
to-do cowardice or prowess
Apres le dit de la pucele
After the speech of the maiden
le rei et les barons apele;
the king and the barons he-calls
«Seignor, fait il, a vous me vant, —
Lords says he to you myself I-boast
que tuit l'oent, petit et grant, —
so-that all it-hear small and great
que la nuit que dit la meschine
that the night that tells the maid
gaiterai au gué de l'espine
I-shall-watch at-the ford of-the thorn
et prendrai illec m'aventure,
and I-shall-take there my-adventure

quel qu'ele seit, o mole o dure.
what that-it may-be either soft or hard
Quant li reis l'ot, s'en ot pesance,
When the king it-hears so-thereof he-had grief
la parole tint a enfance.
the speech he-held for childishness
«Biax fis, dist il, lai la folie.»
Fair son said he leave the folly
Cil dist qu'il ne la laira mie,
He said that-he not it will-leave at-all
que toutes voies i ira.
for all the-same there he-will-go
Quant li reis ot qu'il nel laira,
When the king hears that-he not-it will-leave
ne l'en velt avant faire vié;
not him-thereof he-wishes further to-make forbidding
«or va, fait il, a deu congié,
now go says he with God's leave
et si seies proz et seürs
and so be valiant and sure
et diex t'i doingne bons eürs.»
and God thee-there may-give good fortunes
Cele nuit s'alerent couchier.
That night themselves-they-went to-lie
Einsi soufri li chevalier,
Thus waited the knight
desi qu'il vint au seme jor.
until that-it came to-the seventh day
S'amie en fu en grant freör;
His-friend thereof was in great fear

car bien ot oï noveler
for well she-had heard report
que ses amis deveit aler
that her friend was-to go
gaitier au gué aventuros
to-watch at-the ford adventurous
icele nuit tot a estros.
that night all at once
Quant li jors se trait vers le seir,
When the day itself draws toward the evening
li chevaliers ot bon espeir;
the knight had good hope
de bones armes s'est armez,
with good arms himself-he-is armed
si est en bon cheval montez,
so he-is on good horse mounted
dreit au gué de l'espine vait.
straight to-the ford of-the thorn goes
Et la dameisele que fait?
And the damsel what does-she
Sole s'en torne en un vergier,
Alone herself-thence she-turns into an orchard
car por son ami velt preier
for for her friend she-wishes to-pray
que dex sain et sauf le ramaint;
that God sound and safe him may-bring-back
giete un soupir et pus se plaint,
she-heaves a sigh and then herself laments
pus s'est assise souz une ente,
then herself-is seated under a grafted-tree

a li meïsmes se demente:
to herself same herself laments
«Diex, fait ele, pere celestre,
God says she father celestial
s'onques avint ne ja pot estre
if-ever befell or ever could be
qu'onques avenist orement
that-ever should-befall now
ne aventure a nule gent
or adventure to any folk
par quei il fussent rehaitié,
by which they were cheered
biau sire dex, or vos em prié
fair lord God now you thereof I-pray
que li miens amis o mei fust
that the my friend with me were
et je o lui s'estre peüst.
and I with him if-be could
Hé dex! com sereie garie,
Ah God how I-would-be healed
nus ne sait com j'ai dure vie,
anyone not knows how I-have hard life
ne nus saveir ne le porreit,
nor anyone to-know not it could
fors sol icil qui amereit
except only he who would-love
la rien qu'il n'aureit a nul fuer;
the thing that-he not-would-have at any price
mais cil le sait trestout par cuer.»
but he it knows wholly by heart

Einsi parleit la dameisele,
Thus spoke the damsel
et seeit soz l'ente novele.
and sat under the-grafted-tree new
Assez fu quise et demandée,
Much she-was sought and asked
mais ains ne pot estre trovée;
but ever not she-could be found
car nel i sait chose qui vive.
for not-her there knows thing that lives
Tant fu a s'amor ententive
So-much she-was to her-love attentive
et au plorer et au duel faire
and to-the weeping and to-the grief making
que li jors faut, la nuit repaire.
that the day fails the night returns
Adonques fu auques lassée,
Then she-was somewhat weary
desouz l'ente s'est acoutée,
under the-grafted-tree herself-is leaned
li cuers un petit li tressaut,
the heart a little to-her leaps
un poi se dormi por le chaut.
a little herself she-slept for the heat
N'i ot pas dormi longuement, —
Not-there had at-all slept long
mais je ne sai confaitement, —
but I not know how

que desoz l'ente illec fu prise
that under the-grafted-tree there she-was taken
et au gué de l'espine mise,
and at-the ford of-the thorn put
la ou li chevalier guaitot;
there where the knight watched
mais n'i fu guaires que le sot.
but not-there it-was much that it he-knew
Cant repairiez est a l'espine,
When returned he-is to the-thorn
dormant i trueve la meschine.
sleeping there he-finds the maid
Por la freör cele s'esveille,
For the fear she herself-awakes
ne sait ou est, molt se merveille,
not she-knows where she-is much herself wonders
son chief covri, grant poor a.
her head she-covered great fear she-has
Li chevaliers l'aseüra:
The knight her-reassured
«Diva, fait il, por nient t'esfreies;
Come-now says he for nothing thee-thou-frightenest
se est chose que parler deies,
if it-is thing that to-speak thou-oughtest
seürement parole a mei.
safely speak to me
Por sol tant que feme te vei,
For only so-much that woman thee I-see
s'en dieu as part, seies seüre,
if-in God thou-hast part be sure

mais que me dies t'aventure,
provided that to-me thou-tell thy-adventure
par quel guise et confaitement
in what guise and how
tu venis ci soudainnement».
thou camest here suddenly
La meschine s'aseüra,
The maid herself-reassured
ses sens li vint, si s'amembra
her senses to-her came so herself-remembered
qu'elle n'esteit pas el vergier;
that-she not-was at-all in-the orchard
dont a parlé au chevalier:
then she-has spoken to-the knight
«Ou sui je donc?» fait la meschine.
Where am I then says the maid
«Dameisele, au gué de l'espine
Damsel at-the ford of-the thorn
ou il avient mainte aventure,
where there befalls many-an adventure
a la feiz bone, a la feiz dure».
at the time good at the time hard
«Hé diex, fait ele, or sui garie,
Ah God says she now I-am healed
sire, ja sui je vostre amie.
lord already am I your friend
Diex a oïe ma preiere.»
God has heard my prayer

Ce fu l'aventure premiere
This was the-adventure first
que la nuit vint au chevalier.
which the night came to-the knight
S'amie le cort embracier,
His-friend him runs to-embrace
et il tantost a pié descent,
and he at-once on foot dismounts
entre ses braz soëf la prent;
between his arms softly her takes
par cent feiz baise la meschine,
by a-hundred times he-kisses the maid
et pus l'asiet desoz l'espine.
and then her-he-seats beneath the-thorn
Cele li conte tout et dit
She to-him tells all and says
comment el vergier s'endormit,
how in-the orchard she-fell-asleep
et comment el fu de si la,
and how she was up till there
que illec dormant la trova.
that there sleeping her he-found

A knight in red arms on a white horse with red ears appears across the ford. The youth crosses, and both are unhorsed; in the second joust he overthrows the red knight and gives his horse to the girl. Two more knights come; the youth fights one with swords until the other parts them and warns him that the night's perils are beyond him, and that the horse of Castile is his so long as he never takes off its bridle.

Quant il ot trestot escouté,
When he had all listened
un regart fist outre le gué
a look he-made beyond the ford
et vit venir un chevalier
and saw come a knight
lance levée le gravier.
lance raised along-the gravel
Ses armes sont totes vermeilles
His arms are all crimson
et du cheval les dous oreilles
and of-the horse the two ears
et li autres cors ert toz blans,
and the other body was all white
bien fu estrains parmi les flans;
well it-was narrow through the flanks
mais n'a mie passé le gué,
but not-has at-all passed the ford
de l'autre part s'est aresté.
on the-other side himself-is stopped

Et li danziaus dit a s'amie
And the young-lord says to his-friend
que faire veut chevalerie;
that to-do he-wishes knightly-deed
d'ilec esgart, pas ne se mueve.
from-there let-her-look at-all not herself may-move
Saut el cheval, sa joste trueve,
He-leaps on-the horse his joust he-finds
mais primes passe le rivier
but first he-crosses the river
de l'autre part au chevalier.
on the-other side to-the knight
Tant com chevaus pueent randir,
As-much as horses can gallop
granz cox se vont entreferir
great blows themselves they-go each-other-to-strike
en son le vermeil des escuz
at top the crimson of-the shields
que touz les ont fraiz et fenduz;
that all them they-have broken and split
les lances brisent de quartier,
the lances they-break in quarter
sanz maumestre et sanz empeirier
without mishap and without harm
verserent andui el sablon;
fell both on-the sand
n'i orent per ne compaingnon
not-there they-had peer or companion
qui les aidast a relever;
who them should-help to rise-again

or penst chascun du remonter.
now let-think each of-the remounting
Li graviers fu plains et igaus.
The gravel was flat and level
Quant il refurent es chevaus,
When they again-were on-the horses
les escuz joingnent as peitrines
the shields they-join to-the breasts
et baissent les lances fraisnines.
and lower the lances of-ash
Li dameisiax ot honte eüe
The young-lord had shame had
qu'a terre l'ot veü sa drue
that-to earth him-had seen his beloved
a cele joste premeraine.
at that joust first
Si feri a la derreaine
So he-struck at the last
que de l'escu perent les ais,
that of-the shield appear the boards
et cil refiert lui tot ades;
and that-one strikes-back him all forthwith
des hantes font les trons voler,
of-the shafts they-make the stumps fly
le quel que seit estut verser.
the which that may-be it-behooved to-fall
Ce fu cil as vermeilles armes;
This was he with-the crimson arms

de l'escu guerpi les enarmes
of-the shield he-let-go the straps
et du corant destrier la sele.
and of-the running charger the saddle
Voiant les eulz a la pucele
In-the-sight-of the eyes of the maiden
ses amis l'empaint el gravier,
her friend him-thrusts on-the gravel
par les resnes prent le destrier,
by the reins takes the charger
el gué se met, outre s'en vait,
into-the ford himself puts beyond himself-thence goes
de l'autre part gesir le lait.
on the-other side lying him leaves
A s'amie vint a l'espine,
To his-friend he-came at the-thorn
du bon cheval li fait saisine.
of-the good horse to-her he-makes seisin
Cil n'i jut mie longuement,
That-one not-there lay at-all long
car secors ot assez briement.
for help he-had quite briefly
Vers lui viennent dui chevalier,
Toward him come two knights
monter le font en un destrier,
mount him they-make on a charger
et li dui passerent le gué.
and the two crossed the ford
Li danziaus en fu effreé,
The young-lord thereby was frightened

por qu'il n'esteient per a per;
for that-they not-were peer to peer
mais ne l'en esteüst douter:
but not him-thereof it-would-behoove to-fear
ja nus n'aura del autre aïe;
ever any not-will-have of-the other help
se faire veut chevalerie,
if to-do he-wishes knightly-deed
faire le puet corteisement
do it he-can courteously
a chascun par lor senglement.
with each by their singleness
Quant a chevaus furent tuit trei,
When on horses were all three
corteisement e sanz desrei
courteously and without disorder
le gué passa li derreain;
the ford crossed the last
quant outre furent en certain,
when across they-were in certain
ne l'araisonnent tant ne quant,
not him-they-address so-much or how-much
mais de joster li font semblant.
but of jousting to-him they-make semblance
Li uns d'eus fu coiz et restis,
The one of-them was quiet and still
li autres s'est as armes mis;
the other himself-is to-the arms put

corteisement atent et bel
courteously he-awaits and fairly
la joste aveir du dameisel.
the joust to-have of-the young-lord
Quant cil le veit de tel mesure,
When that-one him sees of such measure
eneslepas se raseüre
at-once himself reassures
et si s'est tres bien porpensé:
and so himself-is very well bethought
por ce vint el gravier au gué,
for this he-came to-the gravel at-the ford
por pris, por aventure querre;
for praise for adventure to-seek
le vassal velt aler requerre.
the vassal he-wishes to-go to-challenge
Lance levée, l'escu pris
Lance raised the-shield taken
el gravier s'est contre lui mis.
on-the gravel himself-is against him put
Andui poignent, ensemble muevent,
Both spur together they-move
as fers des lances s'entretruevent,
at-the irons of-the lances each-other-they-find
si que des fus en font esteles;
so that of-the shafts thereof they-make splinters
mais ne perdirent pas les seles.
but not they-lost at-all the saddles

Tant furent fort li chevalier
So were strong the knights
qu'aquastroné sont li destrier,
that-worn-out are the chargers
chascuns d'eus a mis pié a terre,
each of-them has put foot to earth
o les bons brans se vont requerre.
with the good blades themselves they-go to-assail
Ja fust li chaples commenciez
Already would-have-been the slaughter begun
et si i fust aucuns bleciez,
and so there would-have-been some wounded
quant li chevaliers les depart
when the knight them parts
qui de loing vint de l'autre part.
who from far came from the-other side
Des dous desseivre la mellée,
Of-the two he-separates the melee
n'i ot plus coup feru d'espée.
not-there was more blow struck with-sword
Pus a parlé au dameisel,
Then he-has spoken to-the young-lord
corteisement li dit et bel:
courteously to-him says and fairly
«Amis, fait il, car remontez
Friend says he now remount
et une feiz a mei jostez:
and one time with me joust
pus vous em porreiz bien aler,
then you thence will-be-able well to-go

ne vous chaut plus a demorer;
not to-you it-matters more to stay
car la peine de cest trespas
for the pain of this passage
vous ne la sosferriëz pas,
you not it would-suffer at-all
ainz que li jors deie esclarcir,
before that the day may brighten
por toute la cité de Tir.
for all the city of Tyre
Se vos i estiëz maumis
If you there were ill-handled
ou par mesaventure ocis,
or by misadventure killed
vostre pris auriëz perdu,
your praise you-would-have lost
ja ne seriëz menteü.
ever not you-would-be mentioned
Nus ne saureit vostre aventure,
Anyone not would-know your adventure
ainz sereit mais toz jors oscure;
rather it-would-be ever-more all days obscure
menée en sereit la pucele
led-away thence would-be the maiden
et li bon destrier de Castele
and the good charger of Castile
que avez conquis par proesce.
that you-have won by prowess
Onques n'eüstes tel richesce:
Ever not-you-had such riches

que tant com le frain li lairez,
for so-long as the bridle on-it you-will-leave
jamar que mengier li donrez,
never that eat to-it you-will-give
et toz jors l'aurez cras et bel,
and all days it-you-will-have fat and fair
ains ne veïstes plus isnel
ever not you-saw more swift
ne de toutes bontez meillor
nor of all goodnesses better
ne mieux feïst a josteör.
nor better would-do for jouster
Mais ne seiez pas esbahiz,
But not be at-all dismayed
por ce qu'estes proz et hardiz
for this that-you-are valiant and bold
tres que li frains sera cheuz,
as-soon-as that the bridle will-be fallen
eneslepas sera perduz.
at-once it-will-be lost

The youth jousts once more with the knight and they fight on with swords; the frightened girl begs his earlier opponent to part them, and he does, and the knights cross back. The youth brings her and the horse home to his father's court, where his story is told before the assembled barons. He marries her and keeps the horse until his wife, to test the warning, removes the bridle and the horse is lost. The Bretons named the lay after the thorn.

Li dameisiaus ot et entent
The young-lord hears and understands
qu'il parole resnablement,
that-he speaks reasonably
et se c'est veir qu'il li destine,
and if it-is true what-he to-him foretells
aler s'en velt a la meschine,
go himself-thence he-wishes to the maid
mais primes velt a lui joster,
but first he-wishes with him to-joust
pus ert plus bel du dessevrer;
then it-will-be more fair of-the separating
o les enarmes joint la resne
with the straps he-joins the rein
et prent une lance de fraisne,
and takes a lance of ash
esloingniez s'est du chevalier
distanced himself-he-is from-the knight
et prennent lor cors el gravier,
and they-take their course on-the gravel
por asembler ensemble poingnent,
for to-meet together they-spur

les lances baissent et aloingnent.
the lances they-lower and extend
Desus les escuz a argent
Upon the shields with silver
s'entreferent si durement
each-other-they-strike so hard
que toz les ont fraiz et fenduz;
that all them they-have broken and split
mais les estriers n'ont pas perduz.
but the stirrups not-they-have at-all lost
Pus quant icil s'est bien tenu,
Then when that-one himself-has well held
si l'a li danziaus si feru
so him-has the young-lord so struck
que toz en fust venuz aval,
that wholly thereof he-would-have-been come down
quant au col se tint du cheval;
when to-the neck himself he-held of-the horse
et li vallez outre s'empasse,
and the youth beyond himself-presses-on
son escu et sa lance quasse,
his shield and his lance shatters
son tor fait, cele part s'adresce;
his turn he-makes that way himself-directs
et li chevaliers se redresce.
and the knight himself straightens-again
Au repairier tot prest le trueve,
At-the returning all ready him he-finds
chascuns de son escu se cuevre,
each of his shield himself covers

et si ont traites les espées;
and so they-have drawn the swords
pus s'entredonent granz colées,
then each-other-they-give great blows
que de lor escuz font esteles,
so-that of their shields they-make splinters
mais si se sont tenuz as seles
but so themselves they-are held to-the saddles
que por chapler ne por ferir
that for hacking nor for striking
ne vorent les estriers guerpir.
not they-wished the stirrups to-abandon
La meschine fu esfraée,
The maid was frightened
qui d'eus esgarde la mellée;
who of-them watches the melee
grant poor ot de son ami,
great fear she-had for her friend
au chevalier cria merci
to-the knight she-cried mercy
qui a lui ot josté avant
who with him had jousted before
qu'il les departist a itant.
that-he them should-part at that
Cil fu corteis et afaitiez,
That-one was courteous and well-bred
cele part vint toz eslaissiez,
that way he-came all at-full-speed
entr'eus se met, departi sont,
between-them himself puts parted they-are

l'eve passent si s'en revont.
the-water they-cross so themselves-thence go-back
Li dameisiaus plus n'i demore,
The young-lord more not-there stays
a s'amie vient eneslore,
to his-friend he-comes at-once
qui paorouse ert soz l'espine,
who fearful was under the-thorn
devant lui lieve la meschine,
before him he-lifts the maid
le bon cheval en destre emmaine;
the good horse at right-hand he-leads
bien a achevée sa painne.
well he-has achieved his pain
Tant a erré que nuit que jor
So-much he-has journeyed both night and day
qu'il vint a la cort son seingnor;
that-he came to the court (of-)his lord
li reis le vit, molt en fu liez,
the king him saw very thereof was glad
mais de ce s'est molt merveilliez,
but at this himself-is much wondered
ou il a prise la meschine;
where he has taken the maid
pus a mandée la reïne.
then he-has summoned the queen
Cel jor, si con j'oï conter,
That day just as I-heard tell
ot fait li reis sa cort mander,
had made the king his court summon

et ses barons et autre gent,
both his barons and other folk
por endreit d'un acordement
for the-sake of-an accord
de dous barons qui se mellerent,
of two barons who themselves quarreled
par devant le rei s'acorderent.
by before the king themselves-they-reconciled
Oiant tote cele assemblée
In-hearing-of all that assembly
ja fu l'aventure contée
already was the-adventure told
comment avint au chevalier
how befell to-the knight
au gué ou il ala guaitier:
at-the ford where he went to-watch
premierement de la meschine,
first of the maid
com la trova desoz l'espine,
how her he-found beneath the-thorn
pus des jostes et du cheval
then of-the jousts and of-the horse
que il gaaingna au vassal.
which he won from-the vassal

Li chevaliers et pres et loing
The knight both near and far
le mena puis en maint besoing
it led since into many-a need
et richement garder le fist
and richly guard it he-made
et la meschine a feme prist.
and the maid as wife took
Tant garda et tint le destrier
So-long he-guarded and held the charger
que la dame, por essaier,
that the lady for to-test
se ert du cheval verité
if it-was of-the horse truth
que ses sires ot tant gardé,
which her lord had so-much guarded
le frain li a du chief tolu;
the bridle from-it has from-the head removed
einsi ot le cheval perdu.
thus she-had the horse lost
De l'aventure que dite ai,
Of the-adventure that told I-have
li Breton en firent un lai.
the Bretons thereof made a lay
Por ce que il avint au gué,
For this that it befell at-the ford

en ont li Breton esgardé
thereof have the Bretons judged
que li lais ne recevroit non
that the lay not would-receive name
de rien se de l'espine non.
from anything except of the-thorn not
Ne l'ont pas des enfanz nommé,
Not it-they-have at-all from-the children named
ainz l'ont de l'espine apelé,
rather it-they-have from the-thorn called
si a non li lais de l'espine
so has-as name the lay of the-thorn
qui bel commence et bel define.
which fair begins and fair ends

Désiré

VIII

A childless vavasor of Calatir in Scotland and his wife make a pilgrimage to Saint Giles in Provence, and a son is born whom they name Désiré. He serves the king of Scotland, is knighted, and wins renown in Normandy and Brittany. Back home, he rides out one summer morning toward the White Heath and the hermitage he knew as a boy.

Entente i mettrai e ma cure
Attention there I-shall-put and my care
a recunter un aventure
to recount an adventure
dunt cil qui à icel tens vesquirent
whereof those who in that time lived
par remembrance un lai firent,
by remembrance a lay made
ço est li lais del Dessiré
this is the lay of-the Désiré
ki tant par fu de grant beuté.
who so much was of great beauty
En Escoce a une cuntrée
In Scotland there-is a country
ki Calatir est apellé[e],
which Calatir is called
encoste de la Blanche Lande,
beside of the White Heath
juste la mer ki tant est grande.
near the sea which so is great

Iluec est la neire chapelle
There is the black chapel
dunt l'en cunte, ki mult est bele.
of-which one tells which very is fair
Un vavasur i out jadis,
A vavasor there was formerly
mut fu preisez en sun païs;
much he-was prized in his country
tant de terre cum il aveit
as-much of land as he had
del rei d'Eschoce en chef teneit.
of-the king of-Scotland in chief he-held
Feme aveit solunc sun parage;
Wife he-had according-to his rank
assez l'amot, k'ele ert sage.
much her-he-loved for-she was wise
De ce lur est mésavenu
Of this to-them is mishappened
k'ensemble n'unt enfant éu;
that-together not-they-have child had
a merveilles en sunt dolent
at marvels thereof they-are sorrowful
et à Deu prient mult sovent,
and to God pray very often
par sa pité le confortast,
by his pity him he-should-comfort
ke fiz ou file lur donast.
that son or daughter to-them he-should-give
Une nuit jurent en lur lit;
One night they-lay in their bed

la dame à sun seignur dit:
the lady to her lord says
«Sire, je ai oï parler
Lord I have heard speak
k'en Provence, de là la mer,
that-in Provence on yonder the sea
ad un cors seint mult glorius;
there-is a body holy very glorious
dames i vunt od lur espus;
ladies there go with their husbands
nul ne l' requert pur tel bosoing,
anyone not it seeks for such need
quel qu'il seit, près ou loing,
what that-it may-be near or far
ke sa requeste ne face;
that his request not it-may-do
de Deu en ad ottrei e grace
from God thereof it-has grant and grace
nomé[e]ment d'aver enfant.
namely of-having child
Jo ai al quer pesance grant,
I have at-the heart grief great
sire, ke nus apareiliuns,
lord that we may-prepare-ourselves
passiun la mer e s'i aliuns.»
may-cross the sea and so-there may-go
Li sire li ad ben otrié,
The lord to-her has well granted
pus unt lur eire aparellé.
then they-have their journey prepared

Sanz demorance passent la mer;
Without delay they-cross the sea
a Saint-Gile vunt pur orer.
to Saint-Giles they-go for to-pray
Un ymage tote de argent,
An image all of silver
sis marz i out, men essient,
six marks there was to-my knowledge
sur un alter le présentèrent;
on an altar it they-presented
fiz ou file lui demandèrent.
son or daughter of-him they-asked
Quant feit aveient lur preière,
When made they-had their prayer
en lur païs s'en vunt arère;
into their country themselves-thence go back
la dame est d'un fiz enseintée
the lady is with-a son with-child
ainz que à mesun seit repeiré[e].
before that to home she-be returned
Li sire en est joius e lez,
The lord thereof is joyful and glad
il ne fud unkes si haitez,
he not was ever so cheered
jà si fud tut sun parentez.
indeed so was all his kindred

Al terme qui lur fiz fud nez
At-the term that their son was born
apeler le funt Désiré
call him they-make Désiré
pur ço que tant unt demoré
for this that so-long they-have waited
k[e] il enfant n'urent éu,
that they child not-had had
ore ad seint Gile fet vertu.
now has saint Giles done miracle
Lur fiz nomèrent e guardèrent
Their son they-named and guarded
cum[e] celui qu'il mult amèrent;
as him whom-they much loved
beus fu de cors e de visage.
fair he-was of body and of face
Quant il est venuz en âge
When he is come into age
ki d'eus li poeient départir,
that from-them him they-could part
si l'enveient le rei servir.
so him-they-send the king to-serve
De bois e de rivère aprist,
Of wood and of river he-learned
e volunters s'en entremist.
and gladly himself-thereof busied
Li reis l'ama e tint mult cher,
The king him-loved and held very dear
pus l'adoba à chevaler.
then him-dubbed as knight

Quant chevaler fu Désirez,
When knight was Désiré
hastivement est mer passez;
hastily he-is sea crossed
en Normendie conversa
in Normandy he-dwelt
e en Bretaine turneia.
and in Brittany tourneyed
Des Franceis fu mult alosez
By-the French he-was much renowned
e de tuz altres amez;
and by all others loved
dunc ert chevalerie en pris.
then was chivalry in praise
Se uns chevaler d'autre païs
If a knight of-other country
alast ailurs pur sun pris quere,
should-go elsewhere for his praise to-seek
ou à turnement ou à guere,
either to tournament or to war
n'ert mie en travers féruz
not-he-was at-all in crossing struck
ne de ses compaignuns vendus
nor by his companions sold
dis anz resteit Désirez
ten years stayed Désiré
k'il n'est arère returnez;
that-he not-is back returned

mut le fit ben, mut s'avança
much it he-did well much himself-advanced
de ci que li reis li manda;
from here that the king to-him sent
en sa cuntrée en est venuz.
into his country thence he-is come
Mut fu del rei ben reçuz,
Much he-was by-the king well received
mut le tint cher pur sa valur
much him he-held dear for his worth
e mut li porta grant honur.
and much to-him bore great honor
Pruz fu e de grant beuté;
Valiant he-was and of great beauty
tote gent loent Désiré.
all folk praise Désiré
Unques ne l' pot del rei partir;
Ever not him could from-the king part
fors sulement à Calatir,
except only to Calatir
par le mandement de sun père,
by the summons of his father
esteit alez ver sa mère.
he-was gone toward his mother
Ce fu en l'entré[e] d'esté;
This was in the-entry of-summer
al quart jor qu'il out sojorné,
on-the fourth day that-he had sojourned
par matin s'esteit levez,
in morning himself-he-was risen

ben s'est vestuz e aturnez,
well himself-is clothed and arrayed
chausez s'esteit mult richement
shod himself-he-was very richly
cum à chevaler apent,
as to knight belongs
braiz, chemise ot de chensil
breeches shirt he-had of linen
plus blanche que n'est flur en avril;
more white than is flower in April
d'un mantel vert ert afublez,
in-a mantle green he-was wrapped
ses esporuns ad demandez,
his spurs he-has asked-for
sun bon cheval fet demander,
his good horse he-makes ask-for
pur sei déduire volt munter.
for himself to-amuse he-wished to-mount
Li cheval fu beus e grantz,
The horse was fair and great
mut par fud gens e avenanz
very much it-was noble and comely
de cors e de pis e de façun;
of body and of breast and of fashion
n'out en lui nule mesprisiun.
not-there-was in it any fault
Il est munté sur sun destrer;
He is mounted on his charger
mut out en lui bon chevaler;
much there-was in him good knight

beles gambes ot e beus pez.
fair legs he-had and fair feet
Sur ses estriuz s'est apuiez,
On his stirrups himself-is leaned
des esperuns point le cheval,
with-the spurs he-pricks the horse
tote la ville contreval,
all the town downward
sanz compaignun, s'en est issuz;
without companion himself-thence is gone-out
vers la Blanche Lande venuz.
toward the White Heath come
Les arbres veit beus e floriz
The trees he-sees fair and flowered
e des oiseus oït les cris.
and of-the birds he-hears the cries
Li sanc li remut e tressaut,
The blood to-him stirs and leaps
li corages li munte en haut,
the heart to-him rises on high
grant délit ad de oïr le chant;
great delight he-has of hearing the song
en la forest se met avant.
into the forest himself he-puts forward
Dedenz la Lande enz el boscage
Within the Heath in in-the woodland
ot un seinz home sun hermitage;
had a holy man his hermitage

Désiré le soleit ver
Désiré him was-wont to-see
e de sun fruit sovent aver
and of his fruit often to-have
en sun fance quant il chaçout
in his childhood when he hunted
e od sun père trespassout.
and with his father passed
Purpensez s'est qu'il [i] irra,
Bethought himself-is that-he there will-go
s'il le trove si l' parlera.
if-he him finds so him will-speak

THE MAIDEN AT THE SPRING

At a spring he seizes a maiden carrying gold basins. She promises him a lovelier lady and leads him to a bower, where he follows the lady into the wood and wins her love. She gives him a gold ring: if he ever does wrong, he will lose it and her. He goes home, spends lavishly, and travels widely.

Quant il erra vers la chapele,
When he went toward the chapel
garda, si vit une peucele
he-looked so saw a maiden
vestue d'une purpre bise
clothed in-a purple gray
e de une mult bele chemise.
and in a very fair shift
La colur ot blanche e rovente,
The color she-had white and ruddy

e de cors fu ben faite e gente;
and of body she-was well made and noble
sanz gui[m]ple esteit échevelé[e],
without wimple she-was bareheaded
e nu pez feu pur la rosée;
and naked feet she-was for the dew
a une funteine veneit
to a spring she-came
ke suz un grant arbre surdeit;
which under a great tree sprang
dous bacins d'or tent en ses meins.
two basins of-gold she-holds in her hands
Li chevalers n'ert pas vileins:
The knight not-was at-all base
a pié desent, si l'a saisie,
on foot he-dismounts so her-has seized
il en vodra fere s'amie;
he of-her will-wish to-make his-friend
sur la freche herbe l'ad cochée;
on the fresh grass her-he-has laid
jo quid qu'il l'éust asprivée
I think that-he her-would-have tamed
quant ele li cria merci:
when she to-him cried mercy
«Chevalers, tollez-vus de ci;
Knight take-yourself from here
ne serrez gairez avancez
not you-will-be much advanced
si de mun cors me honitez.
if of my body me you-shame

N'i faites nul mesprisiun;
Not-there make any fault
leissez m'estre, pur gueredon:
let me-be for reward
jo sui od une damaisele,
I am with a damsel
el sècle n'at nul[e] si bele;
in-the world not-there-is any so fair
jo la vus fera[i] jà ver:
I her to-you will-make soon see
si vus estes de tel poer,
if you are of such power
gardez qu'il ne vus eschape mie,
take-care that-she not you may-escape at-all
pur nule ren ke vus die.
for any thing that to-you she-may-say
Si de li estes ben amez,
If by her you-are well loved
pur nent serrez esgarrez;
for nothing you-will-be bewildered
assez aurez or e argent
plenty you-will-have gold and silver
tut à vostre commandement.
all at your command
Ne quidez pas que jo vus mente.
Not think at-all that I you may-lie
Si ce ne vus atalente,
If this not you pleases
a mei ne poez-vus faillir:
to me not can-you fail

jo ferai tut vostre pleisir;
I will-do all your pleasure
tut aséur seiez de mei.
all assured be of me
Jo vus afi la meie fei,
I to-you pledge the my faith
aidera[i] vus à grant bosoing,
I-will-help you at great need
ou seit de près ou seit de loing.»
either be-it of near or be-it of far
Quant Désirez l'oï parler,
When Désiré her-heard speak
si la leissa atant ester.
so her he-let at-that be
La meschine l'ameine dreit
The maid him-leads straight
là où sa damaisele esteit;
there where her damsel was
ço fu dedenz une foillée.
this was within a bower
Sur un bon lit s'ert apuié[e];
On a good bed herself-she-was leaned
la coilte fu à eschekers
the quilt was in checks
de deus pailles ben faiz e chers;
of two silks well made and dear
e tut pareit la flur novele.
and all seemed the flower new
Devant li sist une pucelle;
Before her sat a maiden

cele qui Désiré mena
she who Désiré led
de loinz s'estut, si l'apella:
from far herself-stood so him-called
«Vassal, fet-ele, ke gardez çà?
Vassal says-she what look-you here
Dedenz cele foile-là
Within that bower-there
pernez ço ke jo vus pramis.
take that which I to-you promised
Veistes-vus unke si bel vis,
Saw-you ever so fair face
si beles meins, si beles bras,
so fair hands so fair arms
ne si gent cors vestu à laz,
nor so noble body clothed with lace
plus beus chevoils ne plus dulgez,
more fair hair nor more fine
plus assemez ne meuz treciez?
more adorned nor better braided
Unques ne fu si bele née:
Ever not was so fair born
ben me sui vers vus aquitée.
well myself I-am toward you acquitted
Alez avant, ne dotez ren;
Go forward not fear anything
mut ad en vus proesce e ben.»
much there-is in you prowess and good
Désiré l'oi, cele part vet;
Désiré her-heard that way goes

sun bon cheval estraier lait.
his good horse straying he-leaves
Quant la pucele l'ad véu,
When the maiden him-has seen
n'i a nent plus atendu;
not-there has at-all more waited
fors de la foillé[e] s'en ist,
out of the bower herself-thence goes-out
en l'espesce del bois se mist.
into the-thick of-the wood herself put
Désirez s'est alé après,
Désiré himself-is gone after
véue l'ad e sui adès;
seen her-he-has and followed forthwith
mut fu igneus, pas ne se feint,
much he-was swift at-all not himself holds-back
assez hastivement l'ateint;
quite hastily her-he-overtakes
par la mein destre la saisi,
by the hand right her he-seized
avenantement parole à li:
becomingly speaks to her
«Bele, fait-il, parlez à mei.
Fair-one says-he speak to me
Pur quei fuiez à tel deffrei?
For what flee-you in such disarray
Chevaler sui de cest païs.
Knight I-am of this country
Vostre home serrai e vostre amis;
Your man I-shall-be and your friend

pur vostre druerie aver
for your love-as-a-lover to-have
vos servirai à men poeir.»
you I-shall-serve to my power
La pucele l'en mercia,
The maiden him-thereof thanked
parfundément li enclina
deeply to-him bowed
e dit que pas ne l' refusout
and says that at-all not it she-refused
ne sun offre n' ele jetout.
nor his offer not she rejected
Ottri[ée] est la druerie:
Granted is the love-as-a-lover
il fait de li cum d'amie;
he does with her as of-friend
une grant pèce fu od lui,
a great while she-was with him
mut à envis s'en départi;
much with reluctance himself-thence departed
mès ele li ad doné cungé.
but she to-him has given leave
Si li ad dit e enseigné
So to-him she-has said and taught
où il pora od li parler
where he will-be-able with her to-speak
e cum il la pora trover:
and how he her will-be-able to-find
«Ami, fet-ele, Désirez,
Friend says-she Désiré

al Calatir vus en irez;
to-the Calatir you thence will-go
un anel d'or vus baillerai
a ring of-gold to-you I-shall-deliver
e une chose vus dirai.
and a thing to-you I-shall-tell
Or vus garder de méserrer,
Now you keep from erring
si vus penez de ben amer;
so you strive of well loving
si vus meffetes de nent,
if you misdo in anything
l'anel perdrez hastivement;
the-ring you-will-lose hastily
e si ço vus seit avenu
and if this to-you be befallen
ke vus aiez l'anel perdu,
that you may-have the-ring lost
a tuz jorz mès m'avez perdue
for all days more me-you-have lost
sanz recoverer e sanz véue.
without recovering and without sight
Gardez ke mult le facez ben,
Take-care that much it you-do well
ne vus targez pur mei de ren.
not yourself delay for me in anything
Ainz ke vus éussez m'amur,
Before that you had my-love
futes-vus de mult grant valur:
were-you of very great worth

n'est mie dreiz à chevaler
not-is at-all right for knight
ke pur amur deive enpeirer.»
that for love he-must worsen
L'anel li ad mis en sun dei,
The-ring to-him she-has put on his finger
e il la beise e trait vers sei;
and he her kisses and draws toward himself
pus est sur sun cheval muntez,
then he-is on his horse mounted
a sun ostel en est alez;
to his lodging thence he-is gone
mut despendi e mult erra,
much he-spent and much journeyed
de nule ren ne se targa;
in any thing not himself he-delayed
plus dona-il en un sul meis
more gave-he in one single month
k'en demi-an ne fit li reis.
than-in half-a-year — did the king

They have a son and a daughter without his knowing. Riding to meet her, Désiré stops at the hermitage and confesses his love to the hermit. Afterward the ring is gone from his finger, and she does not come. He curses the hermit and the confession, falls sick with grief, and lies near death for more than a year.

En la cuntrée repairout
In the country he-returned
pur s'amie k'il amot;
for his-friend whom-he loved
ensemble parolent sovent.
together they-speak often
Tant s'entre-amèrent lungement
So-much each-other-they-loved long
ke un fiz e une file en out;
that a son and a daughter thereof she-had
ele ne li dit ne il ne l' sout.
she not to-him says nor he not it knew
Une feiz l'ot li rei mandéé,
One time him-had the king summoned
fors del païs l'aveit menéé
out of-the country him-had led
ensemble od lui od grant bosoing,
together with him with great need
pur ocer merveilles loing.
for to-kill marvels far
Quant il esteit repeiré,
When he was returned
Désiré prent del rei congé;
Désiré takes from-the king leave

en sa terre en est alez
into his land thence he-is gone
a Calatir où il fu nez.
to Calatir where he was born
La nuit qu'il i vint i sojorna
The night that-he there came there he-stayed
e al demain matin leva,
and on-the morrow morning rose
i est muntez sur sun destrer,
there he-is mounted on his charger
s'il est alez esbaneier
so-he is gone to-amuse-himself
vers la Blanche Lande tut dreit
toward the White Heath all straight
où s'amie trover soleit.
where his-friend to-find he-was-wont
Tut sul eissi cum jo vus di,
All alone thus as I to-you tell
sur l'ermitage s'enbati
on the-hermitage he-chanced
où li seinz hermite maneit
where the holy hermit dwelt
ke li chevalers connisseit,
whom the knight knew
d'une chose se purpensa
of-a thing himself he-bethought
ke à cel seint home parlera,
that to that holy man he-will-speak
si se fe[r]a à lui confès,
so himself will-make to him confessed

ne set quant il vendra mès,
not he-knows when he will-come more
la porte overi, dedenz entra,
the door he-opened within entered
en la chapele le trova:
in the chapel him he-found
«Sire, fet-il, si sui venuz;
Lord says-he so I-am come
confès voil estre et absolus.»
confessed I-wish to-be and absolved
Li hermites lui ottreia,
The hermit to-him granted
e il s'assist, si li clina;
and he himself-seated so to-him bowed
ses pecchez li a descoverz
his sins to-him he-has uncovered
dunt il esteit séur e serz;
whereof he was sure and certain
de s'amie li regéi,
of his-friend to-him he-confessed
cum il vint primes à li.
how he came first to her
Li hermites li conseilla,
The hermit him counseled
sa pénitance li charga.
his penance on-him charged
Quant fu asoluz e seinez,
When he-was absolved and blessed
a sun cheval est repeirez,
to his horse he-is returned

par les estrus munte e tent le frein;
by the stirrups he-mounts and holds the bridle
les deiz esgarde e pus sa mein,
the fingers he-looks-at and then his hand
n'aveit mie de sun anel:
not-he-had at-all of his ring
sachez que pas ne li fu bel;
know that at-all not to-him it-was fair
s'en s'aperceit qu'il ot perdu,
so-thereof himself-perceives that-he had lost
unkes mès si dolent ne fu.
ever more so sorrowful not he-was
D'eluec s'en part, plus n'i esteit;
From-there himself-thence he-parts more not-there he-stayed
hastivement cele part vait,
hastily that way he-goes
s'amie quidoit trover,
his-friend he-thought to-find
ke il vodreit à li parler.
for he would to her speak
Trestut le jor i demora,
All the day there he-stayed
qu'il ne la vit, n'à lui parla.
so-that-he not her saw nor-to her spoke
Quant il ne pot parler à li,
When he not could speak to her
mult par se tint à mal bailli;
very much himself he-held for ill handled
«Bele amie, fet Désirez,
Fair friend says Désiré

où estez-vus? Quant me verrez?
where are-you When me will-you-see
Estez-vus corucé à mei?
Are-you angered with me
Morir m'estut si jo ne vus vei.
Die me-it-behooves if I not you see
Vostre anelet m'avez tollu,
Your little-ring me-you-have taken
ben sai que par vus l'ai perdu;
well I-know that through you it-I-have lost
jamais n'aurai joie ne heit.
ever-more not-I-shall-have joy or cheer
Alas! chetif! ke ai meffet?
Alas wretch what have-I misdone
Jà vus eim-jo sur tote ren;
Indeed you love-I over all thing
certes ne fetes mie ben.
certainly not you-do at-all well
Li hermites me confessa,
The hermit me confessed
unkes de vus mal n'i parla.
ever of you ill not-there spoke
De mes pecchez requis perdon;
Of my sins I-sought pardon
si jo ai fet ultre raisun,
if I have done beyond reason
bele, ne vus en corucez:
fair-one not you thereby be-angered
ma pénitence m'en chargez.
my penance on-me-thereof charge

Ço ke li hermites me dit
That which the hermit to-me said
e les enjinnes qu'il m'aprit,
and the injunctions that-he me-taught
a vostre pleisir le lerrai,
to your pleasure it I-shall-leave
e vos comandemenz f[e]rai.»
and your commands I-shall-do
Ne li sout tant merci crier
Not to-her he-knew so-much mercy cry
k'ele vousist à li parler;
that-she should-wish to him to-speak
mut est dolent en sun curage,
very he-is sorrowful in his heart
durement maldit l'ermitage
greatly he-curses the-hermitage
e l'ermite qu'il [i] trova,
and the-hermit whom-he there found
e la buche dunt il parla,
and the mouth with-which he spoke
tuz ceus ke consenti li unt
all those who consented to-him have
ne ki jamès i parlerunt.
nor who ever-more there will-speak
Quant veit que ne li ad mester,
When he-sees that not to-him there-is use
arère li estut repeirer:
back him it-behooved to-return
a Calatir s'en vait arère.
to Calatir himself-thence goes back

Mut est dolent de grant manère;
Very he-is sorrowful in great manner
del dul qu'il ad s'en pesanti,
from-the grief that-he has himself-thence grew-heavy
en poi de tens enmaladi;
in little of time fell-sick
sa grant joie met en tristur,
his great joy he-puts into sadness
e ses chanz est turnez à plur;
and his song is turned to tears
un an enter e plus langui,
a year whole and more he-languished
trestuz le tenent à péri;
all him hold for perished
tuz disei[en]t qu'il se moreit,
all said that-he himself was-dying
e il méimes le diseit.
and he himself it said

His lady appears at his bedside: his confession earned her anger, though their love was no great sin, since neither was married or betrothed. Out of love she relents: he may see her every day, even beside him at mass, but must never confess again. He recovers. Hunting with the king, both miss a stag and lose their arrows; a richly dressed youth returns them, greets Désiré as his father, and gives him back the ring.

Al chef del an qu'il out jéu
At-the end of-the year that-he had lain
oiez cum il est avenu:
hear how it is befallen
un jor le laissèrent dormant
one day him they-left sleeping
si esquier e si sergant,
his squires and his sergeants
tuz sunt alé esbaneier
all are gone to-amuse-themselves
ke ne l'osouent esveiller.
for not him-they-dared wake
Quant il aveit assez dormi,
When he had enough slept
esveilla sei e esperi;
he-awoke himself and roused
d'une chose s'esmerveilla
at-a thing himself-he-wondered
ke sul esteit: mult li pesa.
that alone he-was much to-him it-grieved
Si cum il ert en tel ennui,
Just as he was in such trouble

s'amie vint devant lui;
his-friend came before him
il la conuit e esgarda:
he her knew and looked-at
de la joie qu'il en a
for the joy that-he thereof has
sur sun cute s'apuie al lit.
on his elbow himself-leans at-the bed
Ele l'apele, si li dit:
She him-calls so to-him says
«Désirez, tu es mal bailliz,
Désiré thou art ill handled
tut afolez e tut périz.
all maddened and all perished
Pur quei morez tut à essient?
For what die-you all on purpose
Efforce-tei: ne vaut nent.
Exert-thyself not avails anything
Si jo t'ai lungement haï,
If I thee-have long hated
certes tu l'ad ben deservi:
certainly thou it-hast well deserved
tu te fesis de mei confès,
thou thyself madest of me confessed
si n' recoveras jamès.
so not thou-wilt-recover ever-more
Esteiez-tu de mei chargez?
Wast-thou with me burdened
Ço ne fu pas si grant pecchez:
This not was at-all so great sin

jo ne fu unques espusée
I not was ever wedded
ne fiancé[e] ne jurée,
nor betrothed nor sworn
ne tu femme espusée n'as,
nor thou wife wedded not-hast
unques nule n'en afias.
ever any not-thereof thou-didst-pledge
Quant tu confessiun quereies
When thou confession soughtest
ben sai ke de mei te partireies.
well I-know that from me thyself thou-wouldst-part
Ke valt li pecchez à géir
What avails the sin to confess
de ci ke home le voille guerpir?
from here that man it may-wish to-abandon
Soventes fez as-tu doté
Many times hast-thou feared
ke jo te eusse enfantesmé;
that I thee had bewitched
n'aies-tu jà regard,
not-have-thou ever fear
ne sui mie de male part.
not I-am at-all of evil side
Quant vus irrez desk'à muster
When you will-go as-far-as-to minster
la messe oïr et Deu preier,
the mass to-hear and God to-pray

delé vus me venrez ester
beside you me you-will-see stand
e le pain bénéit user.
and the bread blessed eat
Mut avez vers mei méserré.
Much you-have toward me erred
Pur ço k'tant vus ai amée,
For this that-so-much you I-have loved
vus voil faire tant de retur:
you I-wish to-make so-much of return
ver me porrez chescun jor,
see me you-will-be-able each day
ensemble od mei rire e juer.
together with me to-laugh and to-play
Leissez vostre dolur ester;
Leave your grief be
mès jà certes plus n'i aurez,
but ever certainly more not-there you-will-have
ne confessiun n'en querrez.»
nor confession not-thereof you-will-seek
Li chevalers li respundi:
The knight to-her answered
«Bele amie, vostre merci.
Fair friend your mercy
De tant cum vus me confortez
Of so-much as you me comfort
sui-jo garriz e trespassez.
am-I healed and passed-over
Unques de ren n'oi si grant hait.»
Ever of anything not-I-had so great cheer

Il la beise, atant s'en vait,
He her kisses at-that herself-thence goes
e il remeint joius e lez;
and he remains joyful and glad
tut est gariz, tost est haitez,
all he-is healed swiftly he-is cheered
pur la joie qu'il atent
for the joy that-he awaits
est trespassé de grant turment.
he-is passed-over from great torment
Quant il vait al muster pur orer,
When he goes to-the minster for to-pray
s'amie vait lès lui ester
his-friend goes beside him to-stand
e le pain bénéit manger
and the bread blessed to-eat
e la croiz fere e lui seigner;
and the cross to-make and him to-bless
a li parole asez sovent:
to her he-speaks quite often
trespassé est, nul mal ne sent;
passed-over he-is any ill not he-feels
eire e despent si cum il fit
he-journeys and spends just as he did
ainz que s'amie le haïst.
before that his-friend him hated
Li rais l'aime par grant amur,
The king him-loves with great love
ne part de lui nuit ne jor.
not he-parts from him night or day

Une feze alèrent chacer,
One time they-went to-hunt
en la forest esbaneier,
into the forest to-amuse-themselves
arcs e setes funt porter,
bows and arrows they-make carry
as aceintes volent berser.
at-the enclosures they-wish to-shoot
Entre le rei e Désiré
Between the king and Désiré
lez un grant fust sunt aresté,
beside a great tree they-are stopped
a un grant serf andui t[ra]ient;
at a great stag both shoot
il ne l'oscient ne ne plaient:
they not it-kill nor not wound
lur setes près de eus chaïrent
their arrows near to them fell
desur l'erbe, si qu'il les virent.
on the-grass so that-they them saw
Mut se teneient à escharni
Much themselves they-held for mocked
de ço qu'il aveient failli;
of this that-they had failed
lur arcs gettent e funt descendre,
their bows they-throw and make descend
lur setes volent prendre,
their arrows they-wish to-take

là où les virent chaïr
there where them they-saw fall
ne poeient trover ne aveir:
not they-could find or have
«E, Deu! dit li reis à Désiré,
Ah God said the king to Désiré
nus sumes tut enfantesmé.
we are all bewitched
Nos setes chaïrent ci
Our arrows fell here
devant mes oils, si que je cui:
before my eyes so as I think
ore n'en poums nule trover.
now not-thereof we-can any find
Grant merveille vus deit sembler.»
Great marvel to-you it-must seem
Quant il alouent si parlant,
When they went so talking
devant els virent un enfant;
before them they-saw a child
genz ert e grant e ben cr[é]uz,
noble he-was and tall and well grown
d'une cote ert estreit vestuz
in-a coat he-was close clothed
d'escarlette tote vermeille;
of-scarlet all crimson
si beus e granz à merveille:
so fair and tall at marvel
li chés ad bel recercellé,
the head he-has fair curled

le vis treitiz e coluré;
the face shapely and colored
les setes tint en ses meins;
the arrows he-held in his hands
de parler ne fu pas vilains,
of speaking not he-was at-all base
tut premerain li rei salue;
all first the king he-greets
sa sete li ad rendue,
his arrow to-him he-has rendered
a Désiré la sue rent,
to Désiré the his-own he-renders
a lui parla mult bonement:
to him he-spoke very kindly
«Sire, fet-il, tu ies mes père.
Lord says-he thou art my father
Ici m'a enveié ma mère;
Here me-has sent my mother
ensemble od vus vuilt ke jo seie,
together with you she-wishes that I may-be
ke mes parenz conuise e veie.
that my kin I-may-know and see
Quant tu primes à li parlas
When thou first to her spokest
en la Lande où tu m'engendras,
in the Heath where thou me-begottest
un anelet d'or te dona,
a little-ring of-gold to-thee she-gave
pus le perdis, mult te pesa;
then it thou-lostest much to-thee it-grieved

ici l'ai aporté od mei:
here it-I-have brought with me
metez-le, sire, en vostre dei.»
put-it lord on your finger
Désirez conut ben l'anel;
Désiré knew well the-ring
il ad saissis le damaisel,
he has seized the young-lord
entre ses bras l'estreint e prent,
between his arms him-he-clasps and takes
cil ad beisé cent fez e cent
that-one he-has kissed a-hundred times and a-hundred
les oilz, le vis e le mentun.
the eyes the face and the chin
Li reis e tut si cumpaignun
The king and all his companions
li beisèrent demeintenant;
him kissed at-once
al vallet funt mult bel semblant.
to-the youth they-make very fair cheer
Al rei recontut Désirez
To-the king recounted Désiré
où li vallet fu engendrez.
where the youth was begotten
Ensemble od els l'unt mené,
Together with them him-they-have led
mut li tenent en grant cherté.
much him they-hold in great dearness

After two months the son rides away to his mother, and Désiré chases him into the forest until his horse falls. At a fire under an oak he finds a dwarf roasting a boar, who serves him a meal, bringing the gold basins the maiden carried at the spring. The dwarf offers to lead him to her chamber, and Désiré gladly follows him to the castle, where she and her sister lie asleep.

Désirez l'aime e tent si cher,
Désiré him-loves and holds so dear
ne pot nuit ne jor leisser.
not he-can night or day leave
Quant ot dous meis od li esté
When he-had two months with him been
e conéu sun parenté,
and known his kindred
un jor fu par matin levez;
one day he-was in-the morning risen
si s'ert vestuz e aturnez,
so himself-he-was clothed and arrayed
sur sun chacéur est muntez,
on his courser he-is mounted
devant sun père esteit alez
before his father he-was gone
si cum il veneit del muster,
just as he came from-the minster
munter voleit sur un destrer:
to-mount he-wished on a charger
«Sire, fet-il, entent à mei.
Lord says-he attend to me

Je veng prendre congé à tei:
I come to-take leave of thee
a ma dame m'estut aler,
to my lady me-it-behooves to-go
jo ne pus mès ci demurer.»
I not can more here stay
— «Avoi! beu fiz, fet Désirez,
Ah fair son says Désiré
pur le seinz Deu ne me ociez!
for the holy God not me kill
Certes, meuz vodreie morir
Certainly better I-would-wish to-die
ke de vus veie de mei partir.»
than of you I-should-see from me part
— «Sire, fet-il, faire l'estut.»
Lord says-he do it-it-behooves
Li cheval point e il se muet,
The horse he-spurs and he himself moves
tuz de galops de li s'en part.
all at gallops from him himself-thence parts
Désirez munte, ki est tart
Désiré mounts to-whom it-is late
k'il ait sun fiz aparcéu,
that-he may-have his son perceived
ke il le crent aveir perdu;
for he him fears to-have lost
sovent l'apele par sun nun,
often him-he-calls by his name
après li vait tut à esperun,
after him goes all with spur

sil li prie k'il s'arestast
so-he him prays that-he should-stop
e ke un petit à li parlast;
and that a little to him he-should-speak
mès cil ne l' ad pas créu,
but that-one not him has at-all believed
tant ad sun dreit chemin tenu
so-long he-has his straight road held
qu'il est en la forest entrez.
that-he is into the forest entered
Tote jour le suit Désirez;
All day him follows Désiré
quant ço vint à l'anutement,
when this came to the-nightfall
li vallez eire durement,
the youth journeys hard
e Désiré mult se hasta
and Désiré much himself hastened
tant que ses bons chevals c'esta;
so-much that his good horse stopped
a un grant arbre c'est hurtez,
on a great tree it-is struck
arère chet tut reversez;
back it-falls all overturned
a pé se met, sun cheval ameine:
on foot himself he-puts his horse he-leads
cel jor ot-il travail e peine.
that day had-he toil and pain
Sun fiz deperdi Désirez,
His son lost Désiré

ne set quel part il est turnez.
not he-knows to-what side he is turned
N'a guères par le bois aléé,
Not-has much through the wood gone
un poi sur destre ad esgardé,
a little on right he-has looked
suz un cheine lez e foilu
under an oak wide and leafy
un feu ad choisi e véu.
a fire he-has espied and seen
Savez quei Désirez quida
Know-you what Désiré thought
quant il le feu vit e trova?
when he the fire saw and found
Ki alques riche home i géust
That some rich man there lay
ke el demain chaser déust
who on-the morrow to-hunt was
e le jor i éust chacié;
and the day there had hunted
mès illuec li fut americié.
but there to-him it-was ill-reckoned
A la clarté del feu qu'il veit,
At the light of-the fire that-he sees
cele part vait à grant espleit;
that way he-goes at great speed
un neim i trove sulement
a dwarf there he-finds only
vestu de paille estreitement;
clothed in silk closely

peivere soudout en un morter,
pepper he-pounded in a mortar
haister quisseit sur le bracer
roast he-cooked on the brazier
d'un sengler parcréu e grant.
of-a boar full-grown and great
Désirez est venu avant,
Désiré is come forward
le neim salue ducement;
the dwarf he-greets sweetly
mès il ne li respunt nent,
but he not to-him answers anything
il leist le peivere e li morter,
he leaves the pepper and the mortar
si curt prendre le destrer;
so runs to-take the charger
a une part l'aveit mené,
to one side it-he-had led
puis si li ad li frein osté
then so from-it has the bridle removed
e la sele li eslacha;
and the saddle from-it unlaced
de la freche herbe li dona.
of the fresh grass to-it he-gave
Al chevaler revet arere,
To-the knight he-goes-back again
d'erbe e de junc e de beuere
of-grass and of rush and of heather
a une chose appareillé,
has a thing prepared

un grant tapi d'overe entaillé
a great carpet of-work carved
sur la cuche jeta e mist:
on the couch he-threw and put
le chevaler ceer i fist;
the knight to-sit there he-made
mès ne volt à li parler,
but not he-wished to him to-speak
sa peivere revet souder.
his pepper he-goes-back to-pound
Quant li peiveres fu ben temprez
When the pepper was well tempered
e li mangers tut aprestez,
and the meal all ready
dous bacins d'or en ses meins prent,
two basins of-gold in his hands he-takes
une toaile à son col pent;
a towel at his neck hangs
il ad les bacins conéuz
he has the basins known
si tost cume les ad véuz:
as soon as them he-has seen
la damaisele les porta
the damsel them carried
k'en la Lande primes trova;
whom-in the Heath first he-found
n'en volt al neim fere semblant.
not-thereof he-wished to-the dwarf to-make seeming

Cil li mit un dobler devant
That-one to-him put a platter before
e la salere e les cutels
and the salt-cellar and the knives
e pus après dous simenels.
and then after two cakes
En une grant coupe d'or fin
In a great cup of-gold fine
li ad li neims porté le vin,
to-him has the dwarf brought the wine
en un esquele d'argent
in a bowl of-silver
li met le hastés en présent.
to-him he-puts the roast in present
Li chevalers prist un cotel,
The knight took a knife
del lard tailla un morsel,
of-the bacon cut a morsel
en la peivere l'amoilla,
in the pepper it-dipped
al neim l'ofri: il le manga.
to-the dwarf it-offered he it ate
Le hanap ad descoverdé,
The cup he-has uncovered
del vin l'a primes enbeivré;
of-the wine him-has first given-to-drink
unkes n'i manga un morsel
ever not-there he-ate a morsel
ne li donast autre si bel.
not to-him he-would-give another so fair

Li neims li vit si affeité,
The dwarf him saw so well-bred
si franc, si bel, si enseigné,
so noble so fair so well-taught
ne se pot mès avant celer
not himself could more further hide
ke ne voille à li parler:
that not he-should-wish to him to-speak
«Sire chevalers, fait li naims,
Lord knight says the dwarf
n'estes mie fols ne vileins;
not-you-are at-all foolish or base
bien seiez ici vous venus;
well be here you come
mès que jo en deie estre batuz,
but that I thereof must be beaten
si vus plest, à vus parlerai,
if you please to you I-shall-speak
jà défence ne garderai;
ever prohibition not I-shall-keep
nepurquant jo sui enveiez
nevertheless I am sent
encuntre vus, seiez haitez,
to-meet you be glad
pur vus herberger e servir.
for you to-lodge and to-serve
Ben savium vostre venir.»
Well we-knew your coming
Li chevalers li respundi:
The knight to-him answered

«Amis, la vostre grant merci!
Friend the your great mercy
Ben ait ki vus i enveia
Well may-have who you there sent
e ki de tant me reheita!»
and who of so-much me cheered
Li neims respunt: «Vostre amie
The dwarf answers Your friend
ke vus aim[e] plus ke sa vie.»
who you loves more than her life
«M'amie beus, fet Dessirez,
My-friend fair-one says Désiré
dunc sui-jo ben assemez.»
then am-I well matched
«Par fei! sire, vus dites veir,
By faith lord you say true
ke jo ferrai à mun poer
for I will-do to my power
ke vus porat à li parler.
that you will-be-able to her to-speak
Si vus volez od mei aler,
If you wish with me to-go
près de sa chambre vus meterai
near of her chamber you I-shall-put
si ke sun lit vus musterai.»
so that her bed to-you I-shall-show
«Amis, ço dit li chevalers,
Friend that says the knight
od vus irrai mult volunters.»
with you I-shall-go very gladly

Quant del manger furent levé,
When from-the eating they-were risen
li neims ad mené Désiré
the dwarf has led Désiré
al chastel où sa dame fu.
to-the castle where his lady was
Deske à la chambre est venu,
As-far-as to the chamber he-is come
n'i trovèrent us ne fenetre
not-there they-found door or window
fors une sule al chef à destre;
except one single at-the head on right
dedenz virent cirges ardanz
within they-saw candles burning
dunt li clartez esteit mult grantz.
whose the light was very great
En mi la chambre aveit dous liz
In middle-of the chamber there-were two beds
ben aturnez e ben garniz;
well arrayed and well furnished
dous damaiseles i giseient,
two damsels there lay
men escient k'eles dormeient.
to-my knowledge that-they slept
Li neims apele Désiré,
The dwarf calls Désiré
si li ad tut l'estre mustré:
so to-him has all the-place shown
«Sire, fet-il, esgardez çà:
Lord says-he look here

c'e[st] vostre amie ki gist là;
it-is your friend who lies there
ceo sa suer del autre part.
this-is her sister on-the other side
Entrez là enz, n'aiez regard;
Enter there in not-have fear
une meschine i troverez,
a maid there you-will-find
jo quid ke vus la conustrez.
I think that you her will-know
A chandele cust la pucele
By candle sews the maiden
en un bliaud ma damaisele.»
in a tunic (of-)my damsel

THE PENTECOST WEDDING

Désiré leaps through the window, falls, and wakes the household; the maid he once spared leads him out safely, and he returns home hurt. At the king's Pentecost court the lady arrives with their son and daughter. The king knights the son and takes the daughter as his queen, and Désiré weds the lady, rides away with her, and never returns.

Désirez s'est appareilez,
Désiré himself-is made-ready
par la fenestrez saut jonz pez;
through the window leaps joined feet
mès ne s'est mie ben tenuz,
but not himself-is at-all well held
si est devant li lit chaüs,
so he-is before the bed fallen

sur le cousté mult se bleça,
on the side much himself he-hurt
tote la chambre resona.
all the chamber resounded
La suer s'amie s'esveilla,
The sister (of-)his-friend awoke
grant poür ot, si s'escria;
great fear she-had so cried-out
les chevalers ad fait lever,
the knights she-has made rise
hastivement els armer.
hastily them arm
Cele ki esveillé[e] fu
She who awakened was
e le bliaud aveit cosu
and the tunic had sewn
li chevaler par la mein prist,
the knight by the hand took
fors l'en ameine, si li dist:
out him-thence she-leads so to-him said
«Sire, le gerdon vus rent
Lord the reward to-you I-render
ke jo vus oi en covent:
which I to-you had in covenant
s'en ceste chambre esteiez pris,
if-in this chamber you-were taken
mort seriez, jo vus pleviz.
dead you-would-be I to-you pledge
Gardez, pur vostre genterise,
Take-care for your nobility

ke jo ne perde mun servise;
that I not may-lose my service
se vus jamès liu veez
if you ever-more place see
ke rendre le me pussez,
that render it to-me you-may-be-able
sire, ne me obliez mie.»
lord not me forget at-all
«Nun frai-jo, fet-il, bele amie.»
Not will-do-I says-he fair friend
Tant l'ad la pucele amené
So-far him-has the maiden led
k'il aveit le neim trové,
that-he had the dwarf found
od sa mein le féri al piz:
with her hand him she-struck on-the breast
«Fel feint, dit-ele, esbahiz!
False feigning-one says-she dismayed
Purquei ad ço franc home trahi?
Why has this noble man betrayed
Alez-vus-ent, fuiez de ci.»
Go-yourselves-away flee from here
Cil s'en revunt grant al[é]ure,
Those themselves-thence go-back great pace
a lur feu venent à dreiture.
to their fire they-come at straightness
Désirez se senti bleciez,
Désiré himself felt hurt
sur la cuche s'est apuiez,
on the couch himself-is leaned

mut par se tint à esscharni.
very much himself he-held for mocked
Quant la clarté del jor choisi,
When the light of-the day he-perceived
la sele estraint e pus munta,
the saddle he-tightens and then mounted
en sa contré[e] s'en reva;
into his country himself-thence goes-back
mut fu bleciez sur le cousté.
very he-was hurt on the side
Eissi ad lungement esté
Thus he-has long been
tant que li reis dut curt tenir
until that the king was-to court hold
a un chastel à Calatir,
at a castle at Calatir
a Pentecuste i ad somuns
at Pentecost there he-has summoned
tuz ses vesins e ses baruns.
all his neighbors and his barons
Alé i sunt tut li plusur
Gone there are all the most
si cum il aiment lur seigneur
just as they love their lord
a la feste fu Désirez,
at the feast was Désiré
ki mult esteit del rei amez.
who much was by-the king loved

Quant del muster furent parti
When from-the minster they-were parted
e le servise orent oï,
and the service had heard
si cum manger deveit li reis
just as eat was-to the king
jà ert asis sur le haut deis,
already he-was seated on the high dais
par mi la sale vint errant
through middle the hall came riding
sur un mul ben amblant
on a mule well ambling
une mult riche damaisele
a very rich damsel
ensemble od une pucele;
together with a maiden
vestues furent richement:
clothed they-were richly
lur dras valent cent marz d'argent,
their cloths are-worth a-hundred marks of-silver
dous blancs mulz chevauchèrent
two white mules they-rode
e dous blancs espereveres portèrent.
and two white sparrowhawks carried
A merveille l'esgardèrent
At marvel them-looked-at
li reis e cil ke od lui erent:
the king and those who with him were

beles esteient sanz mesure
fair they-were without measure
de cors, de vis e de feiture.
of body of face and of form
Od eles ot un damaisel,
With them there-was a young-lord
en tut le sècle n'ot si bel;
in all the world not-there-was so fair
devant le rei sunt aresté,
before the king they-are stopped
l'einznée ad lui rei salué:
the-elder has the king greeted
«Sire, fet-ele, a[n]tent à mei:
Lord says-she attend to me
jo sui venu ci à tei,
I am come here to thee
ces dous enfanz t'ai amenez.
these two children to-thee-I-have brought
A cest vallet armes donez,
To this youth arms give
cest[e] meschine conseillez
this maid counsel
si ke honur vus en aiez.
so that honor you thereof may-have
Véritez est, jo sui lur mère
Truth it-is I am their mother
e Désirez il est lur père.
and Désiré he is their father

Volunterz devez conseiller
Gladly you-must counsel
enfanz à si bon chevaler
children of so good knight
e à tel dame cum jo sui.
and of such lady as I am
Mut grant honur vus ai fet hoi
Very great honor to-you I-have done today
ke de ma tere sui mue
that from my land I-am moved
e ci à vostre curt venue.»
and here to your court come
Li rei dit: «Bele, jo l'otrei;
The king says Fair-one I it-grant
quanque vus requerez de mei
whatever you request of me
ferei-jo à tut mun poeer.
will-do-I to all my power
Desendez, si venez seer;
Dismount so come sit
demandez l'eve, e si manger,
ask the-water and so to-eat
ensemble od nus deduiez.»
together with us amuse-yourselves
Ele respunt: «Ne l' ferai pas;
She answers Not it I-shall-do at-all
ma requeste primes feras:
my request first thou-wilt-do
mun ami me fra[s] espuser,
my friend me thou-wilt-make wed

ke jo l'en voil od mei mener.
for I him-thence wish with me to-lead
Lealment seruns assemblé,
Loyally we-shall-be joined
od mei viverai tut sun eé,
with me he-will-live all his life
jà n'en quera confessiun
ever not-thereof he-will-seek confession
ne pénitence ne pardon.»
nor penance nor pardon
Li rei fet armes aporter,
The king makes arms bring
li damaisele volt aduber,
the young-lord he-wished to-dub
il méimes li seint l'espée
he himself to-him girds the-sword
e si li dona la colée.
and so to-him gave the accolade
De Moreis e de Leoneis
Of Moray and of Lothian
aveit à la feste dous reis,
there-were at the feast two kings
ç'à li chauçat les esperuns
so-to him laced the spurs
par grant honur à genuluns.
with great honor on knees
Quant adubé fu si richement,
When dubbed he-was so richly
li reis, oiant tote sa gent,
the king in-hearing-of all his people

lur dit qu'il prendrat la meschine
to-them says that-he will-take the maid
e si frat de lui réine;
and so will-make of her queen
a suen tendrat la pucele,
as his-own he-will-hold the maiden
ke unkes mès ne vit tant bele.
for ever before not he-saw so fair
Désirez fu del autre part,
Désiré was on-the other side
mut durement li est tart
very greatly to-him it-is late
k'il éust s'amie espusée
that-he had his-friend wedded
e ke ele fut illuec douée.
and that she were there dowered
A un muster andous menèrent,
To a minster both they-led
ensemble les espusèrent.
together them they-wedded
Quant il esteient repeiré,
When they were returned
la damaisele ad pris cungé;
the damsel has taken leave
en sun païs s'en volt aler,
into her country herself-thence she-wished to-go
n'aveit cure de sojurner:
not-she-had care of staying
«Muntez, fet-ele, Désirez;
Mount says-she Désiré

ensemble od mei vus irrez.
together with me you will-go
Jà est vostre fiz adubez,
Already is your son dubbed
en ceste terre le lerrez;
in this land him you-will-leave
e vostre fille est marié[e]:
and your daughter is married
mut avez fet riche jurnée.
much you-have made rich day's-work
Sachez de veir, il revendrunt
Know for true they will-come-back
pur nus ver quant il poeunt.»
for us to-see when they can
Désirez munte, si s'en va
Désiré mounts so himself-thence goes
od s'amie ki l'enmena.
with his-friend who him-led-away
Od li remeist en tele manere
With her he-remained in such manner
ke pus ne repeira arere,
that since not he-returned back
de returner n'ot-il mès cure.
of returning not-had-he ever-more care
Pur remembrer cest aventure,
For to-remember this adventure
en ancient un lai trové,
in ancient-time a lay composed
si l'apel[er]ent Désiré.
so it-they-called Désiré

Nabaret

IX

Nabaret, a valiant Breton knight, marries a lady of high birth who spends all her care on dressing and adorning herself. Suspecting she does it for another man, he reproaches her often and at last has her kinsfolk speak to her. She answers that if he dislikes her finery, he should grow his beard and braid his whiskers; that is how a jealous man takes revenge. The kinsfolk laugh and repeat it, and the masters of lays made a lay of it and named it for him.

en Bretaigne fu li laiz fet
in Brittany was the lay made
ke nus apellum Nabaret.
which we call Nabaret
Nabaret fu un chevaler
Nabaret was a knight
pruz e curteis, hardi e fer.
valiant and courteous bold and fierce
grant tere aveit en héritage;
great land he-had in heritage
feme prist de mult haut parage,
wife he-took of very high rank
noble, curteise, bele e gente.
noble courteous fair and gracious
ele turna de tut sun atente
she turned of all her attention
à li vestir e aturner
to herself clothe and adorn
e [à] lacie[r] e à guimpler;
and to lace and to wimple

orgiluse ert à demesure.
proud she-was beyond measure
Nabaret n'ust de ce cure,
Nabaret not-had of this care
asez ..lut de sa manere,
much [?] of her manner
tut ne parait-ele si fere;
all not appeared-she so proud
mut durement s'en coruça,
very greatly himself-thereof he-angered
a plusure feiz la chastia,
at several times her he-chastised
devant li e privéement
before her and privately
s'en coruça asez sovent,
himself-thereof he-angered quite often
... ke pas n'esteit pur lui,
that at-all not-was for him
entente ad vers autrui.
attention she-has toward another
sa beuté li fut suffrable
her beauty to-him was bearable
e à sun oef trop covenable.
and to his use too fitting
quant ele n'el vot pur li laisser
when she not-it wished for him to-leave
ne le guimpler ne l'alaicer
neither the wimpling nor the-lacing
ne le grant orgoil k'ele mena,
nor the great pride that-she led

de sez parenz plusurs manda;
of her kin several he-summoned
la pleinte lur mustra e dit,
the complaint to-them showed and said
à sa femme parler les fit;
to his wife speak them he-made
parenz manda ço ke plout,
kin summoned that which pleased
ke durement li enuiout
that greatly to-him it-irked
k'ele se demenot issi.
that-she herself conducted thus
oiez cum ele respundi:
hear how she answered
«seignurs, fet-ele, si vus plest,
lords says-she if you please
si lui peise ke jo m'envest
if to-him it-grieves that I myself-clothe
e ke jo m'atur noblement,
and that I myself-adorn nobly
jo ne sai autre vengement.
I not know other vengeance
ço li dites ke jo li mand
this to-him tell that I to-him send-word
k'il face crestre la barbe grant
that-he make grow the beard great
et sez gernuns face trescher:
and his whiskers make braid
issi se deit gelus venger.»
thus himself must jealous-man avenge

cil ki li respuns unt oï
those who the answers have heard
de la dame, se sunt parti;
from the lady themselves are departed
asez s'en ristrent e gabèrent,
much themselves-thereof laughed and jested
en plusurs liuz [le] recuntèrent
in several places it recounted
pur le déduit de la parole.
for the delight of the speech
cil ki de lais tindrent l'escole,
those who of lays held the-school
de Nabarez un lai notèrent
of Nabaret a lay noted
e de sun nun le lai nomèrent.
and from his name the lay named

Melion

x

At Arthur's court the young knight Melion vows never to love a maiden who has loved or spoken of another man. The ladies of the queen's household take offense and refuse to speak to him, and he loses heart and spirit. To cheer him, Arthur gives him a castle by the sea with a rich forest, and Melion lives there content for a year.

Al tans que rois Artus regnoit,
In-the time that king Arthur reigned
cil ki les terres conquetoit,
he who the lands conquered
et qui dona les riches dons
and who gave the rich gifts
as chevaliers et as barons,
to-the knights and to-the barons
avoit od lui .j. bacheler,
he-had with him a young-knight
Melion l'ai oï nomer.
Melion him-I-have heard name
Molt par estoit cortois et prous,
Very much he-was courteous and valiant
et amer se faisoit à tos;
and love himself he-made by all
molt ert de grant chevalerie
very he-was of great chivalry
et de cortoise compaignie.
and of courteous company
Li rois ot molt riche maisnie;
The king had very rich household

par tot le mont estoit proisie
through all the world it-was prized
de cortoisie et de proece,
for courtesy and for prowess
et de bonté et de largece.
and for goodness and for largesse
A icel jor lor veu faisoient,
At that day their vow they-made
et sachiés bien k'il le gardoient.
and know well that-they it kept
Cil Melions .j. en voa
That Melion one thereof vowed
que à grant mal li atorna.
which to great ill for-him turned
Il dist jà n'ameroit pucele,
He said ever not-he-would-love maiden
que tant seroit gentil ne bele,
that so-much would-be noble or fair
que nul autre home éust amé,
who any other man had loved
ne que de nul éust parlé.
nor who of any had spoken
Une grant pièce fu ensi.
A great while it-was thus
Cil ki le veu orent oï
Those who the vow had heard
en pluisors lieus le recordèrent
in several places it recalled
et as puceles le contèrent,
and to-the maidens it told

et quant les puceles l'oïrent,
and when the maidens it-heard
molt durement l'en enhaïrent.
very greatly him-thereof they-hated
Celes ki ès canbres estoient
Those who in-the chambers were
et qui la roïne servoient,
and who the queen served
dont il en i ot plus de cent,
whereof it thereof there were more than a-hundred
en ont tenu .j. parlement;
thereof have held a parley
dient jamais ne l'ameront,
they-say ever-more not him-they-will-love
n'encontre lui ne parleront.
nor-toward him not they-will-speak
Dame n'el voloit regarder,
Lady not-him wished to-look-at
ne pucele à lui parler.
nor maiden to him speak
Quant Melion ice oï,
When Melion this heard
molt durement s'en asopli;
very greatly himself-thereof he-was-downcast
ne voloit mais querre aventure,
not he-wished more to-seek adventure
ne d'armes porter n'avoit cure;
nor of-arms bearing not-he-had care
molt fu dolans, molt asopli,
very he-was sorrowful much he-was-downcast

et de son pris alques perdi.
and of his worth somewhat lost
Li rois le sot, molt l'en pesa,
The king it knew much him-thereof it-grieved
mander le fist, à lui parla.
summon him he-made to him spoke
«Melions, fait li rois Artus,
Melion says the king Arthur
tes grans sens qu'est-il devenus,
thy great sense what-is-it become
ton pris et ta chevalerie?
thy worth and thy chivalry
Di que tu as, n'el celes mie.
Tell what thou hast not-it hide at-all
Se tu veus terre ne manoir,
If thou wishest land or manor
n'autre cose que puisse avoir,
or-other thing that-I may have
se il est en ma roiauté,
if it is in my royalty
tu l'auras à ta volenté.
thou it-wilt-have at thy will
Volentiers te rehaiteroie,
Gladly thee I-would-cheer
ce dist li rois, se jo pooie.
this said the king if I could
Un castel ai sor cele mer,
A castle I-have on that sea
en tot cest siècle n'a itel;
in all this world not-there-is such

beax est de bois et de rivière
fair it-is of wood and of river
et de forest que molt as chière;
and of forest which much thou-holdest dear
cel te donrai por rehaitier,
that to-thee I-shall-give for to-cheer
bien t'i porras esbanoier.»
well thyself-there thou-wilt-be-able to-amuse
Li rois li a en fief doné;
The king to-him has in fief given
Melions l'en a mercié.
Melion him-thereof has thanked
A son castel en est alé,
To his castle thence he-is gone
.C. chevaliers i a mené.
a-hundred knights there he-has led
Li païs bien li conteça,
The country well to-him pleased
et la forest que molt ama.
and the forest that much he-loved
Quant il i ot .j. an esté,
When he there had a year been
molt a le païs enamé;
much he-has the country loved
car jà déduit ne demandast
for ever delight not he-would-ask
que en la forest ne trovast.
that in the forest not he-would-find

Hunting, Melion meets a fair maiden from Ireland who says she has never loved any man but him, and he marries her. After three years and two sons, he shows her a great stag in a thicket, and she swears she will never eat again unless she has some of it, and swoons. Melion shows her his ring: touched with the white stone he becomes a wolf, and with the other he becomes a man again. Entrusting her with his clothes and his life, he strips, she touches him, and he becomes a great wolf and goes after the stag.

Un jor estoit alé chacier
One day was gone to-hunt
Melion et li forestier;
Melion and the foresters
od lui furent si veneor,
with him were his huntsmen
ki l'amèrent de bone amor,
who him-loved with good love
car ce estoit lor liges sire; 75
for this was their liege lord
totes honors en lui remire.
all honors in him he-sees
Tost orent .j. grant cerf trové,
Soon they-had a great stag found
tost l'orent pris et descoplé.
soon it-they-had taken and uncoupled
En une lande s'aresta
In a heath he-stopped
por sa muete k'il escouta. 80
for his pack that-he listened-to

Od lui estoit uns escuiers,
With him was a squire
en sa main tenoit .ij. levriers.
in his hand he-held two greyhounds
En la lande, qu'est verde et bele,
In the heath which-is green and fair
vit Melions une pucele
saw Melion a maiden
venir sor .j. bel palefroi;
come on a fair palfrey
molt erent riche si conroi.
very were rich her trappings
Un vermeil samit ot vestu,
A crimson samite she-had donned
estoit à las molt bien cosu;
it-was with laces very well sewn
a son col .j. mantel d'ermine:
at her neck a mantle of-ermine
ainc meillor n'afubla roïne;
ever better not-wore queen
gent cors et bele espauléure,
noble body and fair shoulders
et blonde la cheveléure,
and blond the hair
petite bouche bien mollée
little mouth well molded
et comme rose encolorée;
and like rose colored
les ex ot vairs, clers et rians:
the eyes she-had gray-blue clear and laughing

molt estoit bele en tos samblans.
very she-was fair in all looks
Seule venoit sans compaignie,
Alone she-came without company
molt par fu gente et escavie.
very much she-was noble and slender
Melion contre lui en va,
Melion toward her thence goes
molt belement le salua:
very fairly her greeted
«Bele, dist-il, jo vos salu
Fair-one said-he I you greet
del glorious le roi Jesu;
from-the glorious the king Jesus
dites-moi dont vos estes née
tell-me whence you are born
et que ici vos a menée.»
and what here you has led
Cele respont: «J'el vos dirai,
She answers I-it to-you shall-tell
que jà de mot ne mentirai.
so-that ever of word not I-shall-lie
Je sui assez de haut parage,
I am quite of high rank
et née de gentil lignage;
and born of noble lineage
d'Yrlande sui à vos venue;
from-Ireland I-am to you come
sachiés que je sui molt vo drue;
know that I am very your beloved

onques home, fors vos, n'amai,
ever man except you not-I-loved
ne jamais plus n'en amerai.
nor ever-more more not-thereof I-shall-love
Forment vos ai oï loer;
Greatly you I-have heard praise
onques ne voloie altre amer,
ever not I-would other love
fors vos tot seul, ne jamais jor
except you all alone nor ever-more day
vers nul autre n'aurai amor.»
toward any other not-I-shall-have love
Quant Melions a antendu
When Melion has understood
que si veu erent atendu,
that his vows were fulfilled
par mi les flans l'a embracie,
through middle the flanks her-he-has embraced
et plus de trente fois baisie;
and more than thirty times kissed
puis a tote sa gent mandée,
then he-has all his people summoned
l'aventure lor a contée.
the-adventure to-them he-has told
Cil ont véue la pucele,
They have seen the maiden
el roialme n'avoit tant bele;
in-the kingdom not-there-was so fair
a son castel l'en a mené;
to his castle her-thence he-has led

molt ont grant joie demené.
much they-have great joy made
A grant richoise l'espousa,
With great richness her-he-wedded
et molt grant joie en demena.
and much great joy thereof made
.Xv. jors a li pas duré.
Fifteen days has the jousting lasted
.Iij. ans le tint en grant chierté,
Three years her he-held in great dearness
.ij. fiex en ot en ces .iij. ans;
two sons thereof he-had in these three years
molt par en fu liés et joians.
very much thereof he-was glad and joyful
Un jor en la forest ala,
One day into the forest he-went
sa chière feme ot lui mena;
his dear wife with him led
un cerf trova, si l'ont chacié,
a stag he-found so it-they-have hunted
et il s'en fuit le col baissié.
and it itself-thence flees the neck lowered
Un escuier o lui avoit
A squire with him he-had
ki son bercerie portoit.
who his bow carried
En une lande sont entré;
In a heath they-are entered
en .j. buisson a regardé,
in a bush he-has looked

un molt grant cerf i voit estant;
a very great stag there he-sees standing
sa feme regarde en riant.
his wife he-looks-at in laughing
«Dame, fait-il, se jo voloie,
Lady says-he if I wished
.j. molt grant cerf vos mostreroie;
a very great stag to-you I-would-show
veés le là en cel buisson.»
see it there in that bush
«Par foi! fait-ele, Melion,
By faith says-she Melion
sachiés se jo de cel cerf n'ai,
know if I of that stag not-have
que jo jamais ne mangerai.»
that I ever-more not shall-eat
Del palefroi chaï pasmée,
From-the palfrey she-fell swooned
et Melions l'a relevée;
and Melion her-has raised
quant ne le pot reconforter,
when not her he-could comfort
molt durement prist à plorer:
very greatly he-took to weep
«Dame, dist-il, por Deu, merci!
Lady said-he for God mercy
Ne plorés mais, jo vos en pri;
Not weep more I you thereof pray
j'ai en ma main .j. tel anel,
I-have on my hand a such ring

vés le ci en mon doit manel;
see it here on my finger ring-finger
.ij. pieres a ens el caston;
two stones there-are in in-the bezel
onques si faites ne vit-on;
ever so made not saw-one
l'une est blance, l'autre vermeille;
the-one is white the-other crimson
oïr en poés grant merveille:
hear thereof you-can great marvel
de la blance me toucerés,
with the white me you-will-touch
et sor mon chief le meterés,
and on my head it you-will-put
quant jo serai despoilliés nus,
when I shall-be stripped naked
leus devenrai grans et corsus;
wolf I-shall-become great and big-bodied
por vostre amor le cerf prendrai,
for your love the stag I-shall-take
et del lart vos aporterai.
and of-the flesh to-you I-shall-bring
Por Deu, vos pri, ci m'atendés,
For God you I-pray here me-wait
et ma despoille me gardés.
and my clothing for-me guard
Jo vos lais ma vie et ma mort:
I to-you leave my life and my death
il n'i auroit nul reconfort,
there not-there would-be any comfort

se de l'autre touciés n'estoie;
if with the-other touched not-I-were
jamais nul jor hom ne seroie.»
ever-more any day man not I-would-be
Il apela son escuier,
He called his squire
si se commande à deschaucier.
so himself he-commands to unshoe
Cil vint avant, s'el descaucha;
That-one came forward so-him unshod
et Melion el bois entra,
and Melion into-the wood entered
ses dras osta, nus est remez,
his clothes removed naked he-is remained
de son mantel s'est afublez.
in his mantle himself-is wrapped
Cele l'a del anel teuchié,
She him-has with-the ring touched
quant le vit nu et despoillié;
when him she-saw naked and stripped
lors devint leu grant et corsus;
then he-became wolf great and big-bodied
en grant paine s'est enbatus.
into great toil himself-he-is plunged

His wife takes the squire and sails home to Dublin, her father's city. Melion, a wolf with a man's mind, kills the stag, finds her gone, and stows away on a ship to Ireland. There he gathers ten wolves and ravages the country for a year. One night a peasant finds the eleven wolves asleep in a wood near Dublin and tells the king.

Li leus s'en vait molt tost corant
The wolf himself-thence goes very swiftly running
là où il vit le cerf gisant;
there where he saw the stag lying
tost se fu en la trace mis;
soon himself he-was on the track put
anchois sera grant li estris
before will-be great the struggle
que il l'ait pris ne adesé,
that he it-may-have taken or touched
ne que il aura del lardé.
or that he will-have of-the flesh
La dame dist à l'escuier:
The lady said to the-squire
«Or le laissons assés chacier.»
Now him let-us-leave much to-hunt
Montée est, plus ne se targa,
Mounted she-is more not herself she-delayed
et l'escuier o lui mena.
and the-squire with her led
Droit vers Yrlande, sa contrée,
Straight toward Ireland her country
en est la dame retornée.
thence is the lady returned

Al havene vint, nef i trova;
To-the harbor she-came ship there found
as mariniers tantost parla,
to-the sailors at-once spoke
qui l'ont mené à Duveline,
who her-have led to Dublin
une cité sor la marine,
a city on the shore
qui son père ert, le roi d'Yrlande:
which her father's was the king of-Ireland
dès or ot ce qu'ele demande.
from now she-had this that-she asks
Luès qu'ele fu al port venue,
As-soon as-she was to-the port come
a grant joie fu recéue.
with great joy she-was received
De li lairomes à itant,
Of her we-shall-leave-off at so-much
de Melion dirons avant.
of Melion we-shall-tell forward
Melion, ki le cerf chaça,
Melion who the stag hunted
a grant merveille le hasta.
at great marvel it pressed
En la lande l'a conséu,
In the heath it-he-has overtaken
tot maintenant l'a abatu;
all at-once it-he-has struck-down
puis prist de lui .j. grant lardé,
then took from it a great piece-of-flesh

en sa bouche l'en a porté.
in his mouth it-thence he-has carried
Hastivement s'en retorna
Hastily himself-thence he-returned
là où il sa feme laissa,
there where he his wife left
mais il ne l'i a pas trovée:
but he not her-there has at-all found
vers Yrlande s'en est tornée.
toward Ireland herself-thence she-is turned
Molt fu dolans, ne set que face
Very he-was sorrowful not he-knows what he-may-do
quant il ne le troeve en la place;
when he not her finds in the place
mais neporquant, se leus estoit,
but nevertheless if wolf he-was
sens et mémoire d'ome avoit.
sense and memory of-man he-had
Tant atendi k'il avespra.
So-long he-waited that-it grew-evening
Une nef vit que on charga,
A ship he-saw that one loaded
ki la nuit devoit eskiper,
which the night was-to set-sail
et en Yrlande droit aler.
and to Ireland straight go
Envers cele part s'en ala;
Toward that side himself-thence he-went
tant atendi k'il anuita.
so-long he-waited that-it grew-night

Entrés i est par aventure,
Entered there he-is by chance
car de sa vie n'avoit cure;
for of his life not-he-had care
sos une cloie s'est muciés,
under a hurdle himself-is hidden
et s'est tapis et enbuissiés.
and himself-is crouched and ambushed
Li maronier se sont hasté,
The sailors themselves are hastened
car molt avoient bon oré.
for very they-had good wind
Lors s'en tornèrent vers Yrlande;
Then themselves-thence they-turned toward Ireland
cascuns avoit quanque demande.
each had whatever he-asks
Il sachièrent amont lor voiles;
They drew up their sails
al ciel corent et as estoiles,
to-the sky they-run and to-the stars
et lendemain, à l'ajornée,
and the-next-day at the-dawn
virent d'Yrlande la contrée;
they-saw of-Ireland the country
et quant il sont al port venu,
and when they are to-the port come
Melion n'a plus atendu;
Melion not-has more waited
ains issi fors de son cloier,
rather went-out out of his hurdle

de la nef sailli el gravier.
from the ship leapt onto-the gravel
Li maronier l'ont escrié,
The sailors him-have shouted-at
et de lor aviron geté;
and with their oar thrown
li uns l'a d'un baston feru:
the one him-has with-a staff struck
a poi k'il ne l'ont retenu.
by little that-they not him-have held-back
Liés est quant lor fu escapés;
Glad he-is when from-them he-was escaped
sor une montaigne est alés,
on a mountain he-is gone
molt a regardé le païs
much he-has looked-at the country
où il savoit ses anemis.
where he knew his enemies
Encore avoit-il son lardé
Still had-he his piece-of-flesh
ke de sa terre ot aporté;
which from his land he-had brought
grant faim avoit, si l'a mangié:
great hunger he-had so it-he-has eaten
molt l'avoit la mer traveillié.
much him-had the sea wearied
En une forest est alés,
Into a forest he-is gone
vaches et bués i a trovés;
cows and oxen there he-has found

255 molt en ocit et estrangla,
much of-them he-kills and strangled
iluec sa guerre comencha;
there his war he-began
plus en i a ocis de cent
more of-them there he-has killed than a-hundred
a cest premier commencement.
at this first beginning
La gent ki estoit el boscage
The folk who were in-the woodland
260 virent des bestes le damage;
saw of-the beasts the damage
corant vindrent à la cité,
running they-came to the city
al roi l'ont dit et aconté
to-the king it-they-have said and recounted
qu'en la forest .j. leu avoit
that-in the forest a wolf there-was
ki le païs tot escilloit,
which the country all ravaged
265 molt a ocis de lor almaille;
much it-has killed of their cattle
mais tot ce tient li rois à faille.
but all this holds the king for failure
Tant a alé par la forest,
So-much he-has gone through the forest
par montaignes et par dessert,
by mountains and by desert
que à .x. leus s'aconpaigna;
that with ten wolves himself-he-accompanied

tant les blandi et losenga
so-much them he-flattered and cajoled
que avoec lui les a menés,
that with him them he-has led
et font totes ses volentés.
and they-do all his wills
Par le païs molt se forvoient,
Through the country much themselves they-stray
homes et femes mal menoient.
men and women ill they-treated
Un an tot plain ont si esté,
A year all full they-have so been
tot le païs ont degasté;
all the country they-have laid-waste
homes et femes ocioient,
men and women they-killed
tote la terre destruioient,
all the land they-destroyed
molt se savoient bien gaitier;
much themselves they-knew well to-watch
li rois n'es pooit engingnier.
the king not-them could ensnare
Une nuit orent molt erré,
One night they-had much roamed
traveillié furent et pené
toiled they-were and labored
en .j. bois joste Duveline,
in a wood beside Dublin
sor un tertre lès la marine.
on a hill beside the shore

Li bois estoit lès une plaigne;
The wood was beside a plain
tot environ ot grant campaigne.
all around there-was great open-country
Por reposer i sont entré:
For to-rest there they-are entered
traï seront et engané.
betrayed they-will-be and deceived
Un païsant les a véus;
A peasant them has seen
al roi en est tantost corus:
to-the king thence he-is at-once run
«Sire, dist-il, el bois reont
Lord said-he in-the wood round
li .xj. leus colchié si sont.»
the eleven wolves lain so are
Quant li rois l'ot, molt en fu liés;
When the king it-hears very thereof he-was glad
ses homes en a araisniés.
his men thereof he-has addressed

The king's men surround the wood with nets and hounds and kill ten wolves; only Melion escapes, and the king's daughter says he is the largest. Arthur sails to Ireland to make peace there, and Melion knows the shields of Gawain, Yvain, and King Ydel hung on his ship. Kept from the harbor by the wind, Arthur lands by a ruined castle.

Li rois ses homes apela:
The king his men called
«Baron, dist-il, entendés cha:
Barons said-he attend here
sachiés de voir les .xj. lous
know for truth the eleven wolves
en ma forest vit cis hom tous.»
in my forest saw this man all
Les rois dont soelent les pors prandre,
The nets with-which they-are-wont the boars to-take
environ le bois ont fait tendre.
around the wood they-have made spread
Quant on les ot tot portendus,
When one them had all stretched-out
lors monta, n'i atarga plus;
then he-mounted not-there delayed more
sa fille dist avoec venra,
his daughter said with-him she-will-come
et la chace des leus verra.
and the hunt of-the wolves will-see

Tantost se sont el bois alé
At-once themselves they-are into-the wood gone
tot coiement et à celé,
all quietly and in secret
le bois ont tot avironé;
the wood they-have all surrounded
car gent i ot à grant plenté,
for folk there there-were in great plenty
ki portent haces et maçues,
who carry axes and clubs
et li alqunt espées nues.
and the some swords naked
Adont i ot .m. chiens hués,
Then there there-were a-thousand dogs halloed
ki les leus orent tost trovés.
which the wolves had soon found
Melion vit k'il ert traïs,
Melion saw that-he was betrayed
bien set que il est mal baillis.
well he-knows that he is ill handled
Li chien les vont molt angoissant,
The dogs them go much pressing
et il vienent as rois fuïant.
and they come to-the nets fleeing
Tot sont detrancié et ocis;
All are cut-to-pieces and killed
un tos seus n'en escapa vis,
one all alone not-thereof escaped alive
fors Melion, qui escapa:
except Melion who escaped

par deseure les rois lança,
over above the nets he-leapt
en .j. grant bois s'en est alé;
into a great wood himself-thence he-is gone
par engien lor est escapé.
by cunning from-them he-is escaped
A la cité sont repairié;
To the city they-are returned
li rois se fait durement lié.
the king himself makes greatly glad
Li rois grant joie demena
The king great joy made
que il des .xj. leus .x. a;
that he of-the eleven wolves ten has
car molt bien s'est vengié des leus:
for very well himself-he-is avenged of-the wolves
escapés ne l'en est c'uns seus.
escaped not from-him-thereof is but-one alone
Sa fille dist: «C'est li plus grans:»
His daughter said It-is the most big
encor les fera tos dolans.
still them he-will-make all sorrowful
Quant Melion fu escapés,
When Melion was escaped
sor une montaigne est montés;
on a mountain he-is climbed
molt fu dolans, molt li pesa
very he-was sorrowful much to-him it-grieved
de ses leus que il perdu a.
for his wolves that he lost has

Molt a traveillié longement,
Much he-has toiled long
mais ore aura socors brièment.
but now he-will-have help briefly
Artus en Yrlande venoit,
Arthur to Ireland came
car une pais faire i voloit.
for a peace to-make there he-wished
Mellé estoient el païs,
Embroiled they-were in-the country
acorder vout les anemis;
to-reconcile he-wished the enemies
sor les Romains voloit conquerre,
upon the Romans he-wished to-conquer
mener les voloit en sa guerre.
to-lead them he-wished into his war
Li rois venoit privéement,
The king came privately
ne menoit mie molt grant gent,
not he-led at-all very great folk
.xx. chevaliers od lui menoit.
twenty knights with him he-led
Molt fist bel tans; bon vent avoit;
Very it-made fine weather good wind it-had
molt fu la nef et riche et grans,
very was the ship both rich and great
il i avoit bons esturmans,
it there had good steersmen
molt par fu bien apareillie,
very much it-was well prepared

d'ommes et d'armes bien garnie.
with-men and with-arms well furnished
Lor escus furent fors pendus;
Their shields were outside hung
Melion les a conéus,
Melion them has known
primes conut l'escu Gawain,
first he-knew the-shield (of-)Gawain
et puis a ravisé l'Iwain,
and then has recognized the-Yvain's
et puis l'escu le roi Ydel:
and then the-shield (of-)the king Ydel
tot ce li plot et li fu bel.
all this him pleased and to-him was fair
L'escu le roi bien ravisa;
The-shield (of-)the king well he-recognized
sachiés de voir grant joie en a:
know for truth great joy thereof he-has
molt en fu liés, molt s'esjoï,
very thereof he-was glad much himself-rejoiced
car encor quide avoir merci.
for still he-thinks to-have mercy
Vers la terre vienent siglant:
Toward the land they-come sailing
li vens lor est venus devant;
the wind to-them is come in-front
ne porent prendre cil le port;
not could take they the port
adont i ot grant desconfort.
then there there-was great discomfort

A .j. autre port sont torné,
To one other port they-are turned
a deus lieues de la cité.
at two leagues from the city
Un grant castel i ot jadis,
A great castle there there-was formerly
mais ore estoit tos agastis;
but now it-was all laid-waste
et quant il furent arivé,
and when they were arrived
nuis estoit, si ert avespré.
night it-was so it-was evening
Li rois s'est al port arivés,
The king himself-is at-the port arrived
molt s'est traveilliés et penés;
much himself-is toiled and labored
car la nef li ot fait grant mal.
for the ship to-him had made great ill
Il apela son senescal:
He called his seneschal
«Alés, dist-il, là fors véir
Go said-he there out to-see
u jo porrai anuit gésir.»
where I shall-be-able tonight to-lie
Cil est à la nef retornés,
That-one is to the ship returned
les canberlens a apelés:
the chamberlains he-has called
«Issiés, fait, çà fors od moi,
Come-out says-he here out with me

si atornés l'ostel le roi.»
so prepare the-lodging (of-)the king
Fors de la nef en sont issu,
Out of the ship thence they-are gone-out
si en sont à l'ostel venu;
so thence they-are to-the lodging come
.ij. chierges i ont fait porter;
two candles there they-have made carry
molt tost les firent alumer.
very soon them they-made light
Kieutes i portent et tapis;
Quilts there they-carry and carpets
hastivement fu bien garnis.
hastily it-was well furnished
Adont s'en est li rois issus,
Then himself-thence is the king gone-out
droit à l'ostel en est venus,
straight to-the lodging thence he-is come
et quant il i fu ens entré,
and when he there was in entered
liés est quant si bel l'a trové.
glad he-is when so fair it-he-has found

Melion comes to Arthur's lodging and lies down at his feet, and Arthur protects him, saying the wolf is tame. The wolf eats bread and meat and drinks wine from a basin, and the barons marvel at him. He follows Arthur to Dublin. In the king's hall he recognizes the squire who left with his wife, and attacks him; Arthur stops the servants from killing the wolf.

Melions pas ne se targa,
Melion at-all not himself delayed
tostans contre la nef ala,
always toward the ship went
près de la chasvie est arestus,
near of the ship he-is stopped
molt les a bien reconéus;
very them he-has well recognized
bien set se del roi n'a confort,
well he-knows if from-the king not-he-has comfort
qu'en Yrlande prendra la mort;
that-in Ireland he-will-take the death
mais il ne set comment aler,
but he not knows how to-go
leus est et si ne set parler,
wolf he-is and so not knows to-speak
et nekedent tostans ira,
and nevertheless always he-will-go
en aventure se metra.
in hazard himself he-will-put
A l'uis le roi en est venus,
To the-door (of-)the king thence he-is come

tot ses barons a conéus;
all his barons he-has known
il ne s'est de rien arestés,
he not himself-is in anything stopped
tot droit al roi en est alés:
all straight to-the king thence he-is gone
en aventure est de morir.
in hazard he-is of dying
As piés le roi se lait chaïr,
At-the feet (of-)the king himself he-lets fall
ne se voloit pas redrecier,
not himself he-wished at-all to-raise
dont le véisciés merveillier.
whereby him you-would-have-seen marvel
Ce dist li rois: «Merveilles voi;
This said the king Marvels I-see
cis leus est ci venus à moi.
this wolf is here come to me
Or sachiés bien qu'il est privés,
Now know well that-it is tame
mar ert touchiés ne adesés.»
in-ill-hour it-will-be touched or handled
Quant li mangier sont apresté,
When the meals are prepared
et li baron orent lavé,
and the barons had washed
li rois lava, si s'est assis;
the king washed so himself-is seated
devant ax ont les dobliers mis.
before them they-have the cloths put

Li rois a Ydel apelé,
The king has Ydel called
se l'assist joste son costé.
so him-seated beside his side
As piés le roi jut Melions;
At-the feet (of-)the king lay Melion
bien conut trestot les barons.
well he-knew all the barons
Li rois le regarda sovent;
The king him looked-at often
un pain li done, et il le prent,
a loaf to-him he-gives and he it takes
puis le commença à mangier.
then it began to eat
Li rois s'en prist à merveillier,
The king himself-thereat took to wonder
al roi Ydel dist: «Esgardés,
to-the king Ydel he-said Look
sachiés que cis leus est privés.»
know that this wolf is tame
Li rois .j. lardé li dona,
The king a piece-of-flesh to-him gave
et il volentiers le manga.
and he gladly it ate
Lors dist Gavains: «Segnor, véés,
Then said Gawain Lords see
cis leus est tous desnaturés.»
this wolf is all unnatured

Entr'aus dient tot li baron
Among-themselves say all the barons
c'ainc si cortois leu ne vit-on.
that-ever so courteous wolf not saw-one
Li rois fait aporter le vin
The king makes bring the wine
devant le leu en .j. bacin.
before the wolf in a basin
Li leus le voit, béut en a;
The wolf it sees drunk of-it he-has
sachiés que molt le desira;
know that much it he-desired
il a del vin assés béu,
he has of-the wine much drunk
et li rois l'a molt bien véu!
and the king it-has very well seen
Quant del mangier furent levé,
When from-the eating they-were risen
et li baron orent lavé,
and the barons had washed
fors issirent sor le gravoi.
out they-went on the shingle
Tostans fu li leus ot le roi;
Always was the wolf with the king
onques ne sot cel lieu aler
ever not he-knew that place to-go
c'on le péust de lui oster.
that-one him could from him remove
Quant li rois volt aler colchier,
When the king wished to-go to-lie

son lit rova apareillier;
his bed he-bade prepare
dormir s'en vait, molt est lassés,
to-sleep himself-thence he-goes very he-is weary
et li leus est od lui alés;
and the wolf is with him gone
ainc n'el pot-on de li partir,
ever not-him could-one from him part
as piés le roi en vait gesir.
at-the feet (of-)the king thence he-goes to-lie
Li rois d'Yrlande à merveille eus
The king of-Ireland at marvel had
c'Artus estoit à lui venus;
that-Arthur was to him come
moult en fu liés, grant joie en a;
very thereof he-was glad great joy thereof he-has
bien main à l'aube se leva,
well early at the-dawn himself he-raised
de ci al port en est alés,
from here to-the port thence he-is gone
ses barons a o lui menés,
his barons he-has with him led
tot droit al port en vint errant.
all straight to-the port thence he-came riding
Moult s'entrefirent bel samblant.
Much each-other-they-made fair cheer
Artus li mostra grant amor
Arthur to-him showed great love
et fait li a molt grant honor;
and done to-him has very great honor

quant il le voit à lui venir
when he him sees to him come
ne se volt mie enorgoillir,
not himself he-wished at-all to-be-proud
ains leva sus, si l'a baisié.
rather rose up so him-has kissed
Li ceval sont apareillié,
The horses are prepared
ne targent plus, ains sont monté,
not they-delay more rather are mounted
ore en iront vers la cité.
now thence they-will-go toward the city
Li rois monte en son palefroi;
The king mounts on his palfrey
de son leu a pris bon conroi,
of his wolf he-has taken good care
ne le voloit mie laissier;
not him he-wished at-all to-leave
il fu tosjors à son estrier.
he was always at his stirrup
D'Artus fu molt li rois joians;
Of-Arthur was very the king joyful
li conrois fu riches et grans.
the retinue was rich and great
A Duveline sont venu
To Dublin they-are come
et el grant palais descendu.
and at-the great palace dismounted
Quant li rois monta el doignon,
When the king climbed into-the keep

li leus le tint par le giron;
the wolf him held by the skirt
quant li rois Artus fu assis,
when the king Arthur was seated
et li leus s'est à ses piés mis.
and the wolf himself-is at his feet put
Li rois a son leu regardé,
The king has his wolf looked-at
joste le dois l'a apelé.
beside the dais him-he-has called
Ensamble sisent li doi roi.
Together sat the two kings
Molt par i ot riche conroi.
Very much there there-was rich array
Molt bien servoient li baron;
Very well served the barons
de totes pars par la maison
from all sides through the house
servi furent à grant plenté;
served they-were in great plenty
mais Melion a regardé,
but Melion has looked
en mi la sale r'avisa
in middle the hall he-recognized
celui ki sa feme enmena.
him who his wife led-away
Bien sot la mer estoit passés,
Well he-knew the sea he-was crossed
et en Yrlande estoit alés.
and into Ireland he-was gone

Par l'espaule le vait saisir;
By the-shoulder him he-goes to-seize
cil ne se pot à lui tenir;
that-one not himself could against him hold
en la sale l'a abatu:
in the hall him-he-has struck-down
jà l'éust mort et confondu,
already him-he-would-have killed and destroyed
ne fuissent li sergant le roi
not had-been the sergeants (of-)the king
qui là vindrent à grant desroi;
who there came in great disorder
de totes pars par le palais
from all sides through the palace
fus aportèrent et gamais:
staves they-brought and clubs
jà éusent le leu tué
already they-would-have the wolf killed
quant li rois Artus a crié:
when the king Arthur has cried
«Mar ert touchiés, fait-il, par foi;
In-ill-hour he-will-be touched says-he by faith
sachiés que li leus est à moi.»
know that the wolf is to me

Arthur makes the squire confess, and the squire tells how the lady changed Melion into a wolf. The king of Ireland obtains the ring from his daughter, and in a chamber Arthur touches Melion's head with it; he becomes a man again. Melion wants to turn his wife into a wolf, but Arthur dissuades him for their children's sake. Melion returns home with Arthur and leaves his wife in Ireland, saying that a man who believes everything his wife says will come to grief.

Dist Ydel, li fiex Yrien:
Said Ydel the son (of-)Urien
«Segnor, ne faites mie bien;
Lords not you-do at-all well
s'il ne l'haist n'el touchast pas.»
if-he not him-hated not-him he-would-touch at-all
Et dist li rois: «Ydel, droit as.»
And said the king Ydel right thou-hast
Artus s'en est del dois tornés,
Arthur himself-thence is from-the dais turned
de ci al leu en est alés,
from here to-the wolf thence he-is gone
al vallet dist: «Tu jehiras
to-the youth he-said Thou wilt-confess
«por coi t'a pris, ou jà morras.»
for what thee-he-has taken or now thou-wilt-die
Melions le roi regarda,
Melion the king looked-at
celui estraint et il cria.
that-one he-squeezes and he cried
Cil a le roi merci rové,
That-one has the king mercy begged

dist k'il contera vérité;
he-said that-he will-tell truth
maintenant a le roi conté
at-once he-has to-the king told
coment la dame l'ot mené,
how the lady him-had led
coment de l'anel le toucha
how with-the ring him she-touched
et en Yrlande l'emmena.
and into Ireland him-led-away
Tot li a dit et conéu
All to-him he-has told and confessed
comment li estoit avenu.
how to-him it-was befallen
Artus a le roi apelé:
Arthur has the king called
«Or sai bien que c'est vérité.
Now I-know well that this-is truth
De mon baron m'est-il molt bel;
For my baron to-me-is-it very fair
faites-moi délivrer l'anel,
make-me deliver the-ring
et vo fille ki l'enporta
and your daughter who it-carried-off
malvaisement engignié l'a.»
wickedly ensnared him-she-has
Li rois s'en est d'iluec tornés,
The king himself-thence is from-there turned
en sa cambre s'en est entrés;
into his chamber himself-thence he-is entered

le roi Ydel o lui mena.
the king Ydel with him led
Tant le blandi et losenga
So-much her be-flattered and cajoled
qu'ele li a l'anel doné;
that-she to-him has the-ring given
il l'a al roi Artu porté.
he it-has to-the king Arthur carried
Si tost com l'anel a véu,
So soon as the-ring he-has seen
Melion l'a bien conéu.
Melion it-has well known
Al roi vint, si s'agenoilla,
To-the king he-came so himself-knelt
et ans .ij. les piés li baisa.
and both two the feet to-him kissed
Li rois Artus le vout touchier,
The king Arthur him wished to-touch
Gavains n'el volt pas otroier:
Gawain not-it wished at-all to-grant
«Biaus oncles, fait-il, non ferés;
Fair uncle says-he not you-will-do
en une chambre l'enmenrés
into a chamber him-you-will-lead
tot seul à seul privéement,
all alone to alone privately
que il n'ait honte de la gent.»
so-that he not-may-have shame before the folk

Li rois a Gavain apelé,
The king has Gawain called
si a od lui Ydel mené.
so has with him Ydel led
En une cambre l'enmena;
Into a chamber him-he-led
quant il fu ens, l'uis si ferma.
when he was in the-door so closed
L'anel li a sor le chief mis;
The-ring to-him he-has on the head put
d'ome li aparut le vis,
of-man to-him appeared the face
tote sa figure mua;
all his figure changed
lors devint hom, et si parla.
then he-became man and so spoke
As piés le roi se lait chéir;
At-the feet (of-)the king himself he-lets fall
d'un mantel le firent covrir.
with-a mantle him they-made cover
Quant le virent home formé,
When him they-saw man formed
molt ont grant joie demené.
much they-have great joy made
De pitié li rois en plora,
For pity the king thereof wept
et en plorant li demanda
and in weeping him asked
comment li estoit avenu,
how to-him it-was befallen

par péchié l'avoient perdu.
by sin him-they-had lost
Son canberlenc a fait mander,
His chamberlain he-has made summon
riches dras li fist aporter;
rich clothes for-him he-made bring
bien le vesti et conrea
well him he-clothed and arrayed
et en la sale le mena.
and into the hall him led
Merveillié sont par la maison
Amazed they-are through the house
quant voient venir Mélion.
when they-see come Melion
Li rois a sa fille amenée,
The king has his daughter brought
al roi Artus l'a presentée
to-the king Arthur her-he-has presented
a tote sa volenté faire,
to all his will do
voille l'ardoir, voille desfaire.
may-he-wish her-to-burn may-he-wish to-destroy
Melions dist: «J'el toucherai
Melion said I-her shall-touch
de la piere, jà n'el lairai.»
with the stone ever not-it I-shall-leave
Artus li a dit: «Non ferés,
Arthur to-him has said Not you-will-do
por vos beaus enfans le lairés.»
for your fair children it you-will-leave

Tot li baron l'en ont proié;
All the barons him-thereof have begged
Melion lor a otroié.
Melion to-them has granted
Li rois Artus tant demora
The king Arthur so-long stayed
que la guerre tot acorda;
that the war all he-settled
en sa contrée en est alés,
into his country thence he-is gone
Melion a od lui menés;
Melion he-has with him led
molt en fu liés, grant joie en a.
very thereof he-was glad great joy thereof he-has
Sa feme en Yrlande laissa,
His wife in Ireland he-left
a deables l'a commandée;
to devils her-he-has commended
jamais n'iert jor de li amée,
ever-more not-she-will-be day by him loved
por ce qu'ele l'ot si bailli,
for this that-she him-had so handled
com vos avés el conte oï.
as you have in-the tale heard
Ne le volt-il onques reprendre,
Not her wished-he ever to-take-back
ains le laissast ardoir u pendre.
rather her he-would-let burn or hang
Melion dist: «Jà ne faldra,
Melion said Ever not it-will-fail

qui de tot sa feme kerra,
who in all his wife will-believe
qu'en la fin ne soit mal baillis;
that-at the end not he-be ill handled
ne doit pas croire tot ses dis.»
not he-must at-all believe all her words
Vrais est li lais de Melion;
True is the lay of Melion
ce dient bien tot li baron.
this say well all the barons

Le Trot

XI · THE TROT

Lorois, a knight of the Round Table, lord of the castle of Morois, rises one April morning, dresses richly, and rides alone into the forest to hear the nightingale. He swears not to return until he has heard it.

Une aventure vos voil dire
An adventure to-you I-wish to-tell
molt bien rimée, tire à tire
very well rhymed line by line
com il avint vos conterai,
how it befell to-you I-shall-tell
ne jà ne vos en mentirai.
nor ever not to-you thereof I-shall-lie
L'aventure fu molt estraigne,
The-adventure was very strange
si avint jadis en Bretaigne
so it-befell formerly in Brittany
a .j. molt riche chevalier,
to a very rich knight
hardi et coragous et fier;
bold and courageous and fierce
de la Table Reonde estoit
of the Table Round he-was
le roi Artu, qui bien savoit
(of-)the king Arthur who well knew
.j. bon chevalier honorer,
a good knight to-honor

et riches dons sovent doner.
and rich gifts often to-give
Li chevaliers ot non Lorois,
The knight had-as name Lorois
si ert del castel de Morois,
so he-was of-the castle of Morois
s'ot .v.c. livrées de terre;
so-he-had five-hundred librates of land
miex séant ne péusciés querre,
better situated not you-could seek
et si ot molt bele maison,
and so he-had very fair house
close de haut mur environ;
enclosed with high wall around
et si ot molt parfont fossés,
and so he-had very deep ditches
trestot de novel regetés;
all of new dug-out
et desos le castel après,
and below the castle near
avoit rivières et forès,
there-were rivers and forests
où li chevaliers vout aler
where the knight wished to-go
sovent por son cors deporter,
often for his body to-amuse
tant k'il avint en .j. avril,
until that-it befell in an April
al glorious tans segnoril,
in-the glorious time lordly

qu'il fu par .j. matin levés,
that-he was on a morning risen
Lorois, et molt bien acesmés:
Lorois and very well adorned
il ot chemise de cainsil
he had shirt of linen
vestue, delie et sobtil;
donned fine and thin
et s'ot une coroie çainte,
and so-he-had a belt girded
de piors ai-jo véu mainte;
of worse have-I seen many-a-one
il ne resambloit mie sot,
he not resembled at-all fool
car il ot vestu .j. sorcot
for he had donned a surcoat
de chière escarlate sanguine,
of dear scarlet blood-red
forée d'une pene ermine;
furred with-a fur ermine
et si ert bel chauciés assés,
and so he-was fair shod enough
car il avoit chauciers fretés;
for he had shoes fretted
si avoit chauces detranciés
so he-had hose slashed
assés bien séanment chauciés.
quite well fittingly shod
Quant il fu chauciés et vestus,
When he was shod and clothed

iluec ne volt demorer plus,
there not he-wished to-stay more
ains commanda son escuier
rather he-commanded his squire
k'il li amenast son destrier;
that-he for-him should-bring his charger
en la forest s'en veut aler
into the forest himself-thence he-wishes to-go
por le rossegnol escouter.
for the nightingale to-listen-to
Li vallès, sans nul autre plait,
The youth without any other plea
ce que ses sires volt a fait;
that which his lord wished has done
il mist la sele en son ceval,
he put the saddle on his horse
puis si li laisse le poitral;
then so to-it he-laces the breast-strap
et quant il i ot mis le frain
and when he there had put the bridle
(li cevals n'iert pas mort de fain,
the horse not-was at-all dead of hunger
molt ot bel poil, bien fu gardé),
very it-had fair coat well it-was kept
devant son segnor l'a mené
before his lord it-has led
li vallès, sans nul autre conte.
the youth without any other tale
Li chevaliers el ceval monte;
The knight onto-the horse mounts

ses escuiers li a ès piés
his squire to-him has on-the feet
uns esperons à or chauciés,
some spurs with gold laced
après li a çainte l'espée
after to-him has girded the-sword
dont l'endéure fu dorée.
whose the-hilt was gilded
Quant ce ot fait, sans compaignons
When this he-had done without companions
s'en est issus de la maison.
himself-thence he-is gone-out from the house
Ensi en vait grant ambléure
Thus thence he-goes great amble
envers la forest à droiture,
toward the forest at straightness
lès la rivière par le pré
beside the river through the meadow
u avoit flors à grant plenté
where there-were flowers in great plenty
blanches et vermeilles et bloies;
white and crimson and blue
et li chevalier, totes voies,
and the knight all the-same
s'en vait alques grant aléure;
himself-thence goes somewhat great pace

et si s'afiche bien et jure
and so himself-pledges well and swears
c'arière ne retornera
that-back not he-will-return
de ci adont que il aura
from here then that he will-have
le rossegnol que il n'avoit
the nightingale which he not-had
oï .j. an passé estoit.
heard a year passed it-was

THE TWO COMPANIES

From the forest come eighty damsels on white palfreys, each with her lover beside her, then eighty ladies likewise, all joyful. After them come a hundred maidens riding alone on lean black nags with broken saddles, half naked in snow and storm, trotting harder than anyone in the world could bear, and a hundred men in the same torment. Last comes a lady whose teeth chatter from the trot.

Et quant la forest aprocha,
And when the forest he-approached
Lorois devant lui esgarda;
Lorois before him looked
si voit de la forest issir
so he-sees from the forest come-out
tot belement et à loisir
all gently and at leisure
dusc'à .iiij.xx. damoiseles,
as-many-as four-score damsels
ki cortoises furent et beles.
who courteous were and fair

S'estoient molt bien acesmées;
So-they-were very well adorned
totes estoient desfublées,
all were unmantled
ensi sans moelekins estoient,
thus without cloaks they-were
mais capeaus de roses avoient
but garlands of roses they-had
en lor chiés mis, et d'aiglentier,
on their heads put and of-eglantine
por le plus doucement flairier.
for the more sweetly to-smell
Totes estoient en bliaus
All were in tunics
senglés, por le tans qui ert chaus.
single for the weather which was hot
S'en i ot de teles assez
So-thereof there were of such many
ki orent estrains les costés
who had tightened the sides
de çaintures; s'en i ot maintes
of belts so-thereof there were many-a-one
qui por le chaut erent desçaintes;
who for the heat were ungirded
et si orent por miex séir
and so they-had for better to-befit
lor treces fait defors issir
their braids made outside come-out

de lor ceveus, ki sor l'oreille
from their hair which over the-ear
pendent, lès la face vermeille.
hang beside the face crimson
Là ot molt bele compaignie.
There there-was very fair company
Cascune ert de bende trecie;
Each was with band braided
totes blans palefrois avoient,
all white palfreys they-had
qui si très souef les portoient
which so very softly them carried
qu'il n'est hom, se sor .j. séist,
that-there not-is man if on one he-sat
se le palefrois ne véist
if the palfrey not he-saw
aler, que por voir ne quidast
go that for truth not he-would-think
que li palefrois arestast;
that the palfrey stood-still
et si aloient tot plus tost
and so they-went all more fast
que ne fesissiés les galos
than — you-would-make the gallops
sor le plus haut ceval d'Espaigne.
on the most high horse of-Spain

Et sachiés dusc'en Alemaigne
And know as-far-as Germany
n'a riche duc ne castelain
not-there-is rich duke or castellan
qui mie esligast le lorain
who at-all could-buy the harness
que la plus povre ki estoit
which the most poor who was
a son palefroi mis avoit;
on her palfrey put had
et sor .j. destrier delès lui,
and on a charger beside her
avoit cascune son ami,
had each her friend
cointe et mignot et bien séant
elegant and dainty and well becoming
et envoisie et bien cantant;
and merry and well singing
et si sachiés de vérité
and so know of truth
qu'il erent molt bien acesmé;
that-they were very well adorned
car cascun d'aus a bien vestu
for each of-them has well donned
cote et mantel d'un chier bofu,
coat and mantle of-a dear brocade
forrés d'ermine et haut coés,
furred of-ermine and high tailed
esperons d'or ès piés fermés;
spurs of-gold on-the feet fastened

et li destrier sor coi séoient
and the chargers on which they-sat
molt tost et molt souef ambloient;
very fast and very softly ambled
et sachiés bien que l'un hernois
and know well that the-one harness
n'esligast mie .j. riches rois.
not-would-buy at-all a rich king
Entr'eus n'en avoit point d'envie;
Among-them not-thereof there-was whit of-envy
car cascuns i avoit s'amie.
for each there had his-friend
Si se deduisoit sans anui,
So himself he-amused without trouble
ces à celui, cele à cestui;
these with that-one that-one with this-one
li un baisent, li autre acolent,
the some kiss the others embrace
et de tex i a ki parolent
and of such there there-are who speak
d'amors et de chevalerie.
of-love and of chivalry
Là ot molt delitouse vie.
There there-was very delightful life
Et Lorois, qui les esgarda,
And Lorois who them looked-at
de la merveille se segna,
at the marvel himself crossed
et dist bien que ce est merveille,
and said well that this is marvel

jamais ne verra sa pareille.
ever-more not he-will-see its peer
Et queque il s'esmerveilloit,
And while he himself-marveled
fors de la forest issir voit
out of the forest come-out he-sees
.iiij.xx. dames tot alsi;
four-score ladies all likewise
s'avoit cascune son ami,
so-had each her friend
et totes erent acesmées
and all were adorned
si com celes c'ai devisées.
just as those that-I-have described
S'aloient grant joie menant
So-they-went great joy making
et les autres après suant.
and the others after following
Et .j. petit d'iluec après,
And a little from-there after
avoit grant noise en la forest
there-was great noise in the forest
de plaindre dolerousement:
of lamenting dolorously
si vi puceles dusc'à cent
so I-saw maidens as-many-as a-hundred
fors d'ice forest issir,
out of-that forest come-out

qui molt erent à mal loisir
who very were at ill ease
sor noirs roncis, maigres et las,
on black nags lean and weary
et venoient plus que le pas
and came more than the pace
seules, que home n'i avoient,
alone for man not-there they-had
et en molt grief torment estoient;
and in very grievous torment they-were
mais ce sachiés moult bien de fi
but this know very well for certain
qu'eles l'avoient deservi,
that-they it-had deserved
ensi com vous m'orrés conter,
just as you me-will-hear tell
se vous me volés escouter.
if you me wish to-listen-to
Molt estoient en grief torment,
Very they-were in grievous torment
et trotoient si durement
and trotted so hard
qu'il n'a el mont sage ne sot
that-there not-is in-the world wise-man or fool
qui péust soffrir si dur trot
who could suffer so hard trot
une lieuete seulement
a little-league only
por .xv. mile mars d'argent.
for fifteen thousand marks of-silver

Les regnes de lor frains estoient
The reins of their bridles were
de tille, qui molt mal séoient,
of bast which very ill sat
et lor seles erent brisiés,
and their saddles were broken
en plus de cent lieus reloiés;
in more than a-hundred places retied
et lor panel tot altresi
and their pads all likewise
estoient de paille fori,
were of straw rotten
si que on les péust sans faille
so that one them could without fail
sievre .x. lieues par la paille
follow ten leagues by the straw
qui de lor paneaus lor chaoit.
which from their pads from-them fell
Cascune sans estrief séoit,
Each without stirrup sat
et si n'orent solliers ne chauces,
and so not-they-had shoes or hose
ains estoient totes deschauces.
rather they-were all barefoot
Les piés orent mal atornés,
The feet they-had ill treated
car eles les orent crevés;
for they them had burst
et de noir fros erent vestues,
and in black frieze they-were clothed

si avoient les ganbes nues
so they-had the legs naked
dusc'as genols, et tos les bras
as-far-as-to-the knees and all the arms
avoient desnués des dras
they-had bared of-the cloths
dusc'as coutes molt laidement.
as-far-as-to-the elbows very foully
S'estoient en molt grief torment.
So-they-were in very grievous torment
Sor eles tonoit et negoit,
On them it-thundered and snowed
et si grant orage faisoit,
and so great storm it-made
que nus ne le puist endurer
that anyone not it could endure
fors seulement del esgarder
except only of-the looking
la grant paine ne la dolor
the great pain or the grief
qu'eles suefrent et nuit et jor;
that-they suffer both night and day
et Lorois, qui les esgarda,
and Lorois who them looked-at
a poi que il ne s'en pasma;
by little that he not himself-thereof swooned
et quant tot ce ot esgardé,
and when all this he-had looked-at

n'a gaires iluec aresté
not-be-has much there stopped
quant il voit homes dusc'à .c.
when he sees men as-many-as a-hundred
qui estoient en tel torment
who were in such torment
com estoient les damoiseles
as were the damsels
qui si hochoient les boeles.
who so shook the bowels
Et quant il ot tot ce véu,
And when he had all this seen
n'a gaires iluec atendu
not-be-has much there waited
quant une dame venir voit
when a lady come he-sees
ki sor .j. sor ronci séoit,
who on a sorrel nag sat
et trotoit issi durement
and trotted so hard
que sachiés de fi que si dent
that know for certain that her teeth
ensamble si s'entre hurtoient
together so each-other knocked
que por .j. poi ne s'esmioient.
that by a little not themselves-crumbled

Lorois asks the lady who these people are. The first are women who served love faithfully in life and now live in endless summer with their lovers; the trotting ones are those who never deigned to love, and she is one of them. Any lady who does not love in her life will join them and repent too late. Lorois returns home, tells the tale, and warns the maidens to keep from the trot, and the Bretons made the lay of the Trot.

Li chevalier, qui l'esgarda,
The knight who her-looked-at
en li méisme s'apensa
in himself same himself-bethought
que à la dame ira parler
that to the lady he-will-go to-speak
por enquerre et demander
for to-inquire and to-ask
quele merveille estre pooit
what marvel be could
qui devant lui passé estoit.
which before him passed was
Le ceval broche durement,
The horse he-spurs hard
envers la dame isnelement
toward the lady swiftly
vint Lorois, si la salua,
came Lorois so her greeted
et la dame le regarda;
and the lady him looked-at

un poi après molt lentement
a little after very slowly
sachiés que son salu li rent,
know that his greeting to-him she-renders
car à paines parler pooit
for with pains speak she-could
por son ceval que si trotoit;
for her horse which so trotted
et encore arestast la dame,
and even-if should-stop the lady
por ce ne hochoit pas mains s'ame;
for this not shook at-all less her-soul
car si li hopoit ses cevals,
for so her jolted her horse
ki n'est ne chevelus ne caus,
who not-is either haired or bald
se il sor le ceval séist,
if he on the horse sat
jà en tel lieu ne s'aersist
ever in such place not he-would-cling
a sele, à crigne, amont, n'aval,
to saddle to mane up or-down
qu'il ne chaïst jus del ceval;
that-he not would-fall down from-the horse
mais la dame n'en pot chaïr:
but the lady not-thence could fall
por ce en getoit maint sospir;
for this thereof she-heaved many-a sigh
et lors li dist li chevaliers:
and then to-her said the knight

«Dame, fait, molt volentiers,
Lady says very gladly
s'il vous plaisoit, quel gent ce sont
if-it you pleased what folk these are
saroie que ci passé sont.»
I-would-know who here passed are
Ele respont: «J'el vous dirai
She answers I-it to-you shall-tell
al miex que dire le porrai;
at-the best that tell it I-shall-be-able
mais ne puis gaires bien parler,
but not I-can much well speak
por ce me covient à haster.
for this me it-behooves to hurry
Celes qui là devant s'en vont,
Those who there before themselves-thence go
entr'eles si grant joie font,
among-themselves so great joy make
car cascune selonc lui a
for each beside her has
l'omme el monde que plus ama;
the-man in-the world that most she-loved
si le puet tot à son plaisir
so him she-can all at her pleasure
baisier et acoler et sentir.
kiss and embrace and feel
Ce sont celes ki en lor vie
These are those who in their life
ont amor loialment servie,
have love loyally served

qui les amoient durement.
who them loved greatly
Bien fisent son commandement:
Well they-did its command
or lor en rent le guerredon
now to-them thereof renders the reward
amors, k'il n'ont se joie non.
love so-that-they not-have except joy not
Certes eles sont à grant aise,
Certainly they are at great ease
eles n'ont riens qui lor desplaise,
they not-have anything that them may-displease
ne por yver, ne por ore
nor for winter nor for weather
n'ierent-eles jà sans esté;
not-will-be-they ever without summer
si se poent, à lor plaisir,
so themselves they-can at their pleasure
colchier, reposer et dormir.
lie-down rest and sleep
Et celes qui s'en vont après
And those who themselves-thence go after
plaignant et sospirant adès,
lamenting and sighing always
et qui trotent si durement,
and who trot so hard
et qui sont en si grief torment,
and who are in so grievous torment
et ont taint et pales les vis,
and have pallid and pale the faces

sans homes cevalcent tot vis,
without men ride all times
ce sont celes, ce sachiés bien,
these are those this know well
c'ainc por amor ne fisent rien,
who-ever for love not did anything
ne ainc ne daignierent amer:
nor ever not deigned to-love
or lor fait molt chier comperer
now to-them it-makes very dear pay
lor grant orgoil et lor posnée.
their great pride and their arrogance
Lasse! jo l'ai molt comperée,
Wretched-woman I it-have much paid-for
ce poise moi que n'ai amé;
this grieves me that not-I-have loved
que jà en yver, n'en esté
for ever in winter nor-in summer
n'arons-nos repos ne séjor,
not-shall-have-we rest or sojourn
c'adès ne soions en dolor.
that-always not we-may-be in grief
As dames et as damoiseles
To-the ladies and to-the damsels
a molt dure eure fumes nées,
in very hard hour we-were born
quant d'amors ne fumes privées;
when of-love not we-were intimate

mais se nule dame ot parler
but if any lady hears speak
de nos et nos mals raconter,
of us and our ills recount
se ele n'aime en son vivant,
if she not-loves in her living
ce sachiés, bien certainement,
this know well certainly
qu'ele avoeques nos en venra,
that-she with us thence will-come
qui trop tart s'en repentira;
who too late herself-thereof will-repent
car li vilains nos seut conter:
for the peasant to-us is-wont to-tell
qui à tart comence à fermer
who at late begins to lock
s'estable, cil qui a perdu
his-stable he who has lost
son ceval, dont est irascu.
his horse whereof he-is angered
Li cuers de nos est ensement,
The heart of us is likewise
repenties somes trop lent.»
repented we-are too slowly
La dame a sa raison finée;
The lady has her speech finished
li chevalier l'a escoutée
the knight her-has listened-to
molt bien et entendue l'a.
very well and understood it-has

Après la route s'en ala.
After the troop herself-thence went
Lorois iluec plus ne demore;
Lorois there more not stays
al castel de Morois retorne,
to-the castle of Morois returns
s'a l'aventure racontée
so-he-has the-adventure recounted
que la dame ot ramembrée
which the lady had recalled
de harnas, et mande as puceles,
of harness and sends-word to-the maidens
qu'eles se gardent del troter,
that-they themselves should-guard from-the trotting
car il fait molt meillor ambler
for it makes much better to-amble
* * *
(lacuna)
Derière que si dur trotoit.
Behind than so hard trotted
Un lay en fisent li Breton,
A lay thereof made the Bretons
le lay del Trot l'apele-l'on.
the lay of-the Trot it-calls-one

Le Cor

XII · THE HORN

Arthur holds a great feast at Caerleon for the Absolution, attended by twenty thousand knights and as many ladies. A handsome youth rides into the hall carrying an ivory horn banded with gold and hung with a hundred little bells, made by a fairy. When he strikes it, the bells ring so sweetly that everyone stops eating and falls silent.

A Carlion [avint]
At Caerleon it-befell
que li reis Artus [tint]
that the king Arthur held
[une] molt riche feste.
a very rich feast
[Ço] conte nostre geste,
This tells our history
li reis aveit mandé
the king had summoned
par trestot son [regné];
through all his realm
[de par tot] en Bretaigne
from through all in Britain
de si qu'en Alemaigne,
as far as-into Germany
de la cit de Boillande
from the city of Boillande
aval desqu'en Irlande
down as-far-as-into Ireland

li reis par comparage
the king by fellowship
a mandé son barnage:
has summoned his baronage
a l'Assolucion
at the-Absolution
seient a Carlion.
let-them-be at Caerleon
Tuit vindrent a cel jor
All came on that day
li grant e li menor
the great and the lesser
[vint] milie chevalier
twenty thousand knights
i sistrent al mangier,
there sat at-the meal
[vint] milie [dameiseles]
twenty thousand damsels
que dames, que [puceles].
both ladies and maidens
[I]ço fu grant merveille;
That was great marvel
chascuns out sa pareille,
each had his peer
cil qui n'aveit espose
he who not-had wife
manjout avec sa tose,
ate with his lass
sa seror, o s'amie.
his sister or his-friend

Ce fu grant corteisie,
This was great courtesy
mais ainz qu'aient mangié
but before that-they-have eaten
seront tuit corocié,
they-will-be all angered
car as vos un danzel
for behold you a young-lord
molt avenant e bel
very comely and fair
sor un cheval corant
on a horse running
el palais vint errant.
into-the palace came riding
En sa main tient un cor
In his hand he-holds a horn
a quatre bendes d'or.
with four bands of-gold
Li cors esteit d'ivoire
The horn was of-ivory
entailliez de trifoire;
carved in openwork
pieres i out assises
stones there were set
qui en l'or furent mises:
which in the-gold were put
bericles e sardoines
beryls and sardonyxes
e riches calcedoines.
and rich chalcedonies

Il fu faiz d'olifant,
It was made of-elephant
onques ne vi si grant
ever not I-saw so great
ne si fort ne si bel.
nor so strong nor so fair
Desus out un anel
Above it-had a ring
neelé a argent.
nielloed with silver
Escheles i out cent
Little-bells there were a-hundred
petitetes, d'or fin:
very-little of-gold fine
en le tens Costentin
in the time (of-)Constantine
les i fist une fée
them there made a fairy
qui proz ert e senée,
who worthy was and sensible
e le cor destina
and the horn destined
si com vos orrez ja.
just as you will-hear soon
Qui sor le cor ferreit
Whoever on the horn struck
un petit de son deit,
a little with his finger

[l]es escheletes cent
the little-bells a-hundred
sonent tant dolcement
sound so sweetly
que harpe ne viele
that harp or viol
ne deduiz de pucele
or delight of maiden
ne sereine de mer
or siren of sea
n'est tel a escolter.
not-is such to listen-to
Ainceis vendreit uns hom
Rather would-come a man
une liue a peon
a league on foot
que [n']eüst lor oïe;
than not-he-should-have their hearing
qui's ot tot s'en oblie.
who-them hears all himself-thereof forgets
Li mes el palais vint
The messenger into-the palace came
avec le cor qu'il tint.
with the horn that-he held
Il vit le grant barnage
He saw the great baronage
tot plein de vasselage,
all full of prowess

en sa main le cor prent
in his hand the horn he-takes
qui a son col li pent.
which at his neck to-him hangs
Il le leva en halt,
He it raised on high
vestuz fu d'un blialt,
clothed he-was in-a tunic
desor le cor feri:
upon the horn he-struck
li palais reten[t]i.
the palace resounded
Les escheles sonerent
The little-bells rang
e si se concorderent
and so themselves harmonized
que tuit li chevalier
that all the knights
en laissent le mangier.
thereof leave the eating
Onc n'i out dameisele
Ever not-there was damsel
qui regart [escuele],
who may-look-at bowl

ne tant cointe eschanson
nor so elegant cupbearer
qui serve de peison
who may-serve with drink
ne qui port mazerin
nor who may-carry mazer
ne grant cope d'or fin
nor great cup of-gold fine
d'ar[meisié] ne claré
of-mulled-wine nor claret
borgerastre n'erbé
spiced-drink or-herbed-wine
qui puisse aler avant:
who may go forward
cil qui le tent l'espant;
he who it holds it-spills
ne tant fort seneschal
nor so strong seneschal
tant proz ne tant vassal
so valiant nor so brave
[cui] ne chiee [escuele]
whose not may-fall bowl
por [poi] qu'[oie] l'eschele;
by little that-he-may-hear the-little-bell
cil qui taille le pain
he who cuts the bread
il retaille sa main.
he cuts-again his hand
Del cor sont esbaï,
By-the horn they-are dismayed

tot ont mis en obli;
all they-have put in oblivion
por le cor escolter
for the horn to-listen-to
laissent tuit le parler.
they-leave all the speaking
Li riches reis Artus
The rich king Arthur
fu por le cor si muz,
was for the horn so mute
e li conte e li rei
and the counts and the kings
en i furent si quei
of-it there were so quiet
qu'uns sols [mot] n'i parla.
that-a single-one word not-there spoke

THE MESSENGER

The youth greets Arthur and presents the horn as a gift from the king of Moraine, on condition that Arthur bear him neither gratitude nor ill will. Arthur accepts and offers to knight him and give him a hundred pounds of gold, but the youth declines to eat with knights and promises to return for the reward. Instead he rides out of the town, fearing pursuit.

Li mes al rei ala,
The messenger to-the king went
al rei en va errant,
to-the king thence goes riding
en sa main l'olifant.
in his hand the-oliphant

Il conut les dis reis
He knew the ten kings
as plus riches conreis.
by-the most rich arrays
Entor le rei Artu
Around the king Arthur
fu por le cor enmu.
it-was for the horn hushed
Li mes l'araisona
The messenger him-addressed
e bel le salua,
and fair him greeted
si li dist en riant
so to-him said in laughing
li vallez avenant:
the youth comely
«Cil Deus qui maint en halt,
That God who dwells on high
«reis Artus, il vos salt
king Arthur he you save
«e tot vostre barné
and all your baronage
«que ci vei assemblé!»
which here I-see assembled
Artus li respondi:
Arthur to-him answered
«Il vos doint joie alsi!
He you may-give joy likewise
— Sire,» li mes li dist,
Lord the messenger to-him said

«or m'oiez un petit.
now me-hear a little
«De Moraine li reis
Of Moraine the king
«qui proz est e corteis
who valiant is and courteous
«vos enveie cest cor
to-you sends this horn
«qu'il prist en son tresor,
which-he took in his treasure
«par itels covenenz,
by such covenants
«en oiez ses talenz,
thereof hear his wishes
«que gré ne li'n sachiez
so-that thanks not to-him-thereof you-may-know
«ne mal ne li'n voilliez.
nor ill not to-him-thereof you-may-wish
— Amis,» ço dist li reis,
Friend that said the king
«tis sires est corteis,
thy lord is courteous
«e jo prendrai le cor
and I shall-take the horn
«a quatre bendes d'or
with four bands of-gold
«que gré ne li'n savrai
so-that thanks not to-him-thereof I-shall-know
«ne mal ne li'n voldrai.»
nor ill not to-him-thereof I-shall-wish

Li reis Artus le prent
The king Arthur it takes
car li vassals li tent.
for the vassal to-him holds-out
A sa cope d'or fin
In his cup of-gold fine
li fait doner le vin.
to-him he-makes give the wine
Puis Artus si l'apele:
Then Arthur so him-calls
«Tenez ceste escuele,
Take this bowl
«devant mei vos seez,
before me yourself sit
«mangiez e si bevez.
eat and so drink
«Quant jo mangié avrai
When I eaten shall-have
«chevalier vos ferrai,
knight you I-shall-make
«e cent livres d'or fin
and a-hundred pounds of-gold fine
«vos dorrai le matin.»
to-you I-shall-give in-the morning
Cil respont en riant:
That-one answers in laughing

«N'estreit pas avenant
Not-would-be at-all fitting
«qu'a table [a] chevalier[s]
that-at table with knights
«manjassent escuier.
should-eat squires
«A l'ostel m'en irai
To the-lodging myself-thence I-shall-go
«si me reposerai;
so myself I-shall-rest
«quant serai conreez,
when I-shall-be provided
«vestus e acesmez
clothed and adorned
«a vos repairerai,
to you I-shall-return
«ma promesse prendrai.»
my promise I-shall-take
A tant si le laissa
At that so him left
li mes, si s'en torna;
the messenger so himself-thence turned
de la ville est eissuz,
from the town he-is gone-out
crient qu'il ne seit seguz.
he-fears that-he — be followed

Arthur sees letters in the gold and has his chaplain read them. The chaplain would rather whisper them, but Arthur insists they be read aloud. In the name of Mangon of Moraine, they say that no man can drink from the horn if he is a cuckold or jealous, or if his wife has ever thought of another; the drink will spill on him. The chaplain doubts any married knight could drink from it.

Li reis fu el palais,
The king was in-the palace
si pensis ne fu mais;
so pensive not he-was ever
entor lui son barné
around him his baronage
devant lui assemblé.
before him assembled
Le cor tint par l'anel,
The horn he-held by the-ring
onques ne vit si bel.
ever not he-saw so fair
Il le mostre Galvain
He it shows to-Gawain
e Giflet e Ivain;
and Giflet and Yvain
li quatrevint juré
the four-score sworn
ont le cor esgardé,
have the horn looked-at

e trestuit li baron
and all the barons
entor e environ.
around and about
Li reis reprent le cor
The king takes-back the horn
e vit letres en l'or
and saw letters in the-gold
neelées d'argent,
nielloed with-silver
dist a son chamberlent:
said to his chamberlain
«Tien cest cor en ta main,
Hold this horn in thy hand
«mostrez mon chapelain.
show my chaplain
«Ces letres me lira,
These letters to-me he-will-read
«saveir vueil qu'il i a.»
know I-wish what there is
Li chamberlens le prent,
The chamberlain it takes
al chapelain le tent,
to-the chaplain it holds-out
e cil les letres lit.
and he the letters reads
Quant les veit, si s'en rit.
When them he-sees so himself-thereat laughs
Il apele le rei:
He calls the king

«Sire, entendez a mei!
Lord attend to me
«Sempres en vostre oreille
At-once in your ear
«vos dirai tel merveille
to-you I-shall-tell such marvel
«qu'onques en Engleterre
that-ever in England
«ne en nule altre terre
nor in any other land
«ne fu si grant oïe;
not was so great hearing
«mais n'est lius qu'or le die.»
but not-is place that-now it I-may-tell
Li reis pas ne [l'endure],
The king at-all not it-endures
ainceis afiche e jure
rather he-affirms and swears
qu'oianz toz le dira,
that-in-the-hearing-of all it he-will-tell
que ses barnez l'orra:
so-that his baronage it-will-hear
«Dames e dameiseles
Ladies and damsels
«e les gentiz puceles
and the noble maidens
«qui ci sont assemblées
who here are assembled
«des estranges contrées,
from-the strange countries

«chose tant desirée,»
thing so-much desired
dist li reis, «n'iert celée.»
said the king not-will-be hidden
Chascuns s'en esjoï
Each himself-thereat rejoiced
quant il del rei oï
when he from-the king heard
que il trestot orront
that they all will-hear
que les letres diront.
what the letters will-say
Mais tels s'en esjoï
But such himself-thereat rejoiced
qui puis se repenti,
who after himself repented
e tels en fu molt liez
and such thereof was very glad
qui puis en fu iriez.
who after thereof was angered
E dist li chapelains
And said the chaplain
qui n'ert fols ne vilains:
who not-was foolish or base
«Se jo'n iere creüz
If I-thereby were believed
«hui ne sereit leü
today not would-be read

«ço qu'il i a escrit
that which there is written
«ne que la letre dit.
nor what the letter says
«Mais quant vos le volez
But since you it wish
«tot en apert l'orrez.
all in open it-you-will-hear
«Ço vos mande Mangons
This to-you sends Mangon
«de Moraine, li blons:
of Moraine the fair-haired
«'Cest cor fist une fée
This horn made a fairy
«'ramponose [e irée],
spiteful and angered
«'e le cor destina
and the horn destined
«'que ja hom n'i bevra,
that ever man not-there will-drink
«'tant seit sages ne [proz],
so-much may-be-be wise or valiant
«'s'il est cous ne gelos,
if-be is cuckold or jealous
«'ne qui nule femme ait
nor who any wife may-have
«'qui ait fol pensé fait
who may-have foolish thought had
«'vers altre que [vers] lui;
toward other than toward him

«‘ja li cors a celui
ever the horn to that-one
«‘beire ne soferra,
drink not will-allow
«‘[ainz] sor lui espandra
rather on him will-spill
«‘ce qu’on i avra mis:
that which-one there will-have put
«‘ja n’iert de si halt pris
ever not-be-will-be of so high worth
«‘que il sor lui n’espande,
that it on him not-may-spill
«‘ja n’en iert si en grande,
ever not-thereof be-will-be so in eagerness
«‘sor lui e sor ses dras
on him and on his clothes
«‘s’il va[lei]ent mil mars.
if-they were-worth a-thousand marks
«‘Qui a cel cor bevra
Who from that horn will-drink
«‘femme li estovra
wife to-him it-will-behoove

«‘qui onques n’ait pensé —
who ever not-may-have thought
«‘[ne] por deslealté
neither for disloyalty
«‘ne por aveir conquerre
nor for wealth to-win
«‘ne por plus bel en terre —
nor for more fair on earth
«‘qu’ele de son seignor
that-she than her lord
«‘volsist aveir meillor.
would-wish to-have better
«‘Se la soe est si veire,
If the his-own is so true
«‘donc en porra il beire.’
then thereof will-be-able he to-drink
«Mais ne cuit chevalier
But not I-think knight
«desci qu’a Monpellier
from-here as-far-as-to Montpellier
«qui femme ait esposée,
who wife may-have wedded
«ja en beive denrée,
ever thereof may-drink a-pennyworth
«se [c’est] veir qu’icil dist
if it-is true that-that-one said
«qui ces letres escrist.»
who these letters wrote

ARTHUR DRINKS

The ladies hang their heads while the maidens laugh at the jealous husbands. Kay fills the horn with spiced wine, and when Arthur tries to drink, it spills over him. In fury he draws a knife against the queen, but Gawain, Yvain, Cadain, and Giflet disarm him. The queen offers to be tried by fire and says she once gave a ring to a youth who killed a giant, but never wronged Arthur; she demands vengeance on Mangon.

Deus! tante dame liée
God so-many-a lady glad
s'en fu le jor iriée!
herself-thereby was the day angered
Onques n'out si leal
Ever not-there-was so loyal
qui ne bronçast aval.
who not bowed down
Meïsme la reïne
Even the queen
en tint la teste encline
thereof held the head bowed
e trestuit li baron
and all the barons
entor e environ
around and about
qui les femmes aveient
who the wives had
dont il se re[dot]eient.
of-whom they themselves feared

Les puceles gaberent
The maidens jested
entre eles [e] chifflerent,
among themselves and whistled
regardent lor amis
they-look-at their friends
si lor font corteis ris,
so to-them they-make courteous laugh
dient: «Or hui verrez
they-say Now today you-will-see
«les gelos esprovez!
the jealous tested
«Hui verrez les gelos
Today you-will-see the jealous
«les sofranz e les cous.»
the suffering-ones and the cuckolds
Artus fu mout iriez,
Arthur was very angered
semblant fait qu'il seit liez.
seeming he-makes that-he be glad
Il en apele Kei:
He thereupon calls Kay
«Cest riche cor m'empleiz,
This rich horn for-me-fill
«car jo l'essaierai,
for I it-shall-try
«saveir se j'en bevrai.»
to-know if I-thereof shall-drink

E Ke[is] li seneschals
And Kay the seneschal
fu de l'emplir isnials;
was to it-fill quick
il l'empli de piment,
he it-filled with spiced-wine
l'empereor le tent.
to-the-emperor it holds-out
Li reis Artus le prist,
The king Arthur it took
a sa boche le mist
to his mouth it put
car beire le cuida.
for drink it he-thought
Mais sor lui le versa
But on himself it spilled
contreval des qu'as piez:
downward as-far-as to-the feet
[or] fu li reis iriez!
now was the king angered
Dist Artus: «Or est pis!»
Said Arthur Now is worse
Un canivet a pris,
A knife he-has taken
el cuer soz la peitrine
in-the heart under the breast
volt ferir la reïne,
he-wished to-strike the queen

quant le toli Galvains
when it took-away Gawain
e Cadains e Ivains;
and Cadain and Yvain
entre eus treis e Giflet,
between them three and Giflet
ostent le c[a]nivet,
they-remove the knife
hors del poing li osterent,
out of-the fist from-him they-removed
durement le blasmerent.
greatly him they-blamed
«Sire,» ce dist Ivains,
Lord that said Yvain
«ne seiez si vilains,
not be so base
«car n'i est femme née
for not-there is woman born
«qui [si] seit [esprovée]
who so may-be tested
«que n'ait pensé folie:
that not-may-have thought folly
«si n'est merveille mie
so not-is marvel at-all
«se li cors espandi.
if the horn spilled
«Tuit l'essaieront ci
All it-will-try here
«cil qui les femmes ont,
those who the wives have

«saveir s'il en bevront;
to-know if-they thereof will-drink
«dont poez vos blasmer
then can you blame
«la reïne al vis cler.
the queen with-the face bright
«Vos estes molt vassals,
You are very brave
«e ma dame est leals.
and my lady is loyal
«Onc n'oï parler hom
Ever not-heard speak man
«jor de sa mesprison.
day of her misdeed
— Ivain,» dist la reïne,
Yvain said the queen
«or face un feu d'espine
now let-him-make a fire of-thorn
«mis sires embraser,
my lord kindle
«enz me face geter!
inside me let-him-make throw
«Se chevel i ai ars
If hair there I-have burned
«o nïent de mes dras,
or anything of my clothes
«face me traïner,
let-him-make me drag
«a cheval [detirer]:
at horse drag-apart

«qu'onques home n'amai
since-ever man not-I-loved
«ne ja mais n'amerai
nor ever more not-I-shall-love
«fors solement son cors.
except only his body
«Molt est verais ciz cors:
Very is true this horn
«por petit d'achaison
for little of-occasion
«m'a sorprise a bandon.
me-has surprised at will
«Jo donai un anel
I gave a ring
«l'altre an a un danzel,
the-other year to a young-lord
«[un] jovencel enfant
a youth child
«qui ocist un geant
who killed a giant
«un encri[s]me felon
a criminal felon
«qui de grant traïson
who of great treason
«retta çaenz Galvain,
accused in-here Gawain
«un soen cosin germain.
a his-own cousin german
«L'enfes le defendi,
The-child him defended

«a lui se combati,
with him himself fought
«al trenchant de s'espée
with-the edge of his-sword
«out la teste colpée.
he-had the head cut-off
«Des lors qu'il fu ocis
From then that-he was killed
«a çaenz congié pris.
he-has in-here leave taken
«M'amor li presentai,
My-love to-him I-presented
«un anel li donai,
a ring to-him I-gave
«quel cuidai retenir
whom I-thought to-retain
«por la cort aemplir.
for the court to-fill
«Mais, se il fust remés,
But if he had remained
«de mei ne fust amez.
by me not he-would-be loved
«Certes,» dist la reïne,
Certainly said the queen
«puis que jo fui meschine
since that I was maid
(«e jo te fui donée
and I to-thee was given
«fui jo beneürée:)
was I fortunate

«onc plus de vilenie
ever more of baseness
«ne fis jor de ma vie.
not I-did day of my life
«Soz ciel n'a si riche home,
Under heaven not-there-is so rich man
«[neïs] le rei de Rome,
not-even the king of Rome
«que jo amasse mie
that I would-love at-all
«por tot l'or de Pavie,
for all the-gold of Pavia
«ne amira[nt] ne conte.
nor emir nor count
«Molt m'a cil fait grant honte
Much me-has he done great shame
«qui cest cor enveia:
who this horn sent
«onques dame n'ama.
ever lady not-he-loved
«Ja mais ne serai liée
Ever more not I-shall-be glad
«se ne seie vengiée.»
if not I-be avenged

Arthur refuses to break his word to Mangon. The queen protests that a lady with a good husband who takes a lover is like a man who seeks better wine than the grape's, who should be hanged and his ashes winnowed, and that she has the best of men. Arthur has every king, duke, and count try the horn so that he is not alone in his shame: it spills on the kings of Sinadone, Cornwall, Scotland, and the others, and on thirty counts.

Ço dist li reis Artus:
That said the king Arthur
«N'en parlez vos ja plus!
Not-thereof speak you ever more
«N'a si riche veisin
Not-there-is so rich neighbor
«ne parent ne cosin,
nor kinsman nor cousin
«se il le guerriast,
if he him made-war
«ja mais mes cuers l'amast.
ever more my heart him-would-love
«Jo l'oi en coven[e]nt
I it-had in covenant
«devant tote ma gent,
before all my people
«par tant que seie vis
by so-much that I-may-be alive
«ne li'n voldreie pis.
not to-him-thereof I-would-wish worse
«N'est dreit que m'en desdie,
Not-is right that myself-thereof I-gainsay

«ço sereit vilenie,
this would-be baseness
«ne m'agrée nïent
not me-pleases at-all
«reis qui tot se desment.
king who all himself belies
— Sire,» dist la reïne,
Lord said the queen
«puis que jo fui meschine
since that I was maid
«e jo vos fui donée
and I to-you was given
«fui jo beneürée.
was I fortunate
«Molt par fait grant oltrage
Very much does great outrage
«dame de halt parage,
lady of high rank
quant ele a bon mari,
when she has good husband
«qui d'altre fait ami.
who of-another makes friend
«Cil qui quiert meillor vin
He who seeks better wine
«nului que de raisin,
any-other than of grape
«o pain a escient
or bread on purpose
«meillor que de forment,
better than of wheat

«celui devreit on pendre
him ought one to-hang
«e puis venter la cendre.
and then winnow the ashes
«Le meillor ai des treis
The best I-have of-the three
«qui onc, sans Deu, fust reis:
who ever except God was king
«qu'ireie donc querant
what-would-I-go then seeking
«plus bel ne plus vaillant?
more fair or more worthy
«Ço vos di jo bien, sire,
This to-you tell I well lord
«qu'a tort me portez ire.
that-at wrong to-me you-bear anger
«Ja a franc chevalier
Ever to noble knight
«ne deüst on bailler
not ought one to-deliver
«icest cor a tenir
this horn to hold
«por sa muillier honir.»
for his wife to-shame
Dist li reis: «Si feront!
Said the king So they-will-do

«Trestuit l'essaieront
All it-will-try
«e rei e duc e conte,
both king and duke and count
«ja sols n'i avrai honte.»
ever alone not-there I-shall-have shame
Al rei de Sinadone
To-the king of Sinadone
li reis Artus le done:
the king Arthur it gives
tantost com l'out saisi
as-soon as he-it-had seized
sor lui [tot] espandi
on him all spilled
puis le prent li reis [N]uz:
then it takes the king Nu
sor lui est espanduz;
on him it-is spilled
e Anguisiaus d'Escoce
and Anguisel of-Scotland
en volt beire par force:
thereof wished to-drink by force
sor lui tot le versa,
on him all it spilled
de ço molt s'aïra.
at this much himself-he-angered
Li reis de Cornewaille
The king of Cornwall
en volt beire sanz faille:
thereof wished to-drink without fail

sor lui [s']est toz versez,
on him itself-is all poured
de ço est molt irez;
at this he-is very angered
e sor le rei Gohors
and on the king Gohors
s'est espanduz li cors;
itself-is spilled the horn
sor le rei Glovïen
on the king Glovien
espandi il molt bien;
spilled it very well
des que le ti[e]nt as mains
as-soon that it he-holds in-the hands
l'espan[t] [li reis] Cadains;
it-spills the king Cadain
puis le prent li reis Loz
then it takes the king Lot
qui molt se tint por soz,
who much himself held for fool
e desor ses guernons
and upon his whiskers
le respant Caratons;
it spills-again Caraton
e sor dous reis d'Irlande
and on two kings of-Ireland
n'a celui qui n'espande;
not-there-is that-one who not-spills

e sor les trente contes
and on the thirty counts
qui en eurent granz hontes.
who thereof had great shames
Onques n'i out baron
Ever not-there was baron
entor ne environ
around nor about
qui le cor essaiast
who the horn tried
qui onques en gostast:
who ever thereof tasted
sor chascun rei versout
on each king it-poured
e chascuns s'aïrout,
and each himself-angered
cil le rendent avant,
they it pass forward
qui'n furent molt dolant;
who-thereof were very sorrowful
dient que as malfez
they-say that to-the devils
seit ci[z] cors comandez
be this horn commended
e cil qui l'aporta
and he who it-brought
e qui [ci] l'enveia;
and who here it-sent

car qui cest cor crerreit
for who this horn would-believe
sa muillier honireit.
his wife would-shame

GARADOS

Seeing every man shamed, Arthur laughs, keeps the horn, and forgives the queen. Then Garados, a knight second only to Gawain, takes the horn. His wife, sister of King Galahal, tells him not to fear: she would never take another husband, not even an emir, but would sooner become a nun, for a woman should be like the turtledove and keep one mate.

Quant veit li reis Artus
When sees the king Arthur
sor toz est espanduz
on all it-is spilled
onc p[l]us n'out duel ne ire
ever more not-he-had grief or anger
ainz començа a rire,
rather he-began to laugh
grant joie en demena,
great joy thereof he-made
ses barons apela:
his barons he-called
«Seignors, or m'entendez!
Lords now me-hear
«ne sui pas sols gabez.
not I-am at-all alone mocked
«Qui cest cor me dona,
Who this horn to-me gave

«grant don me presenta.
great gift to-me presented
«Par la fei que jo dei
By the faith that I owe
«a toz cels que ci vei,
to all those that here I-see
«jo nel dorr[eie] mie
I not-it would-give at-all
«por tot l'or de Pavie:
for all the-gold of Pavia
«n'[i] a home, n'avra,
not-there is man nor-will-be
«qui del cor ne bevra.»
who from-the horn not will-drink
La reïne est vermeille
The queen is crimson
por cele grant merveille
for that great marvel
dont ele parler n'ose,
of-which she to-speak not-dares
plus est bele que rose.
more she-is fair than rose
Li reis la regarda,
The king her looked-at
molt bele li sembla,
very fair to-him she-seemed
il l'a vers sei sachiée
he her-has toward himself drawn
si l'a treis feis baisiée:
so her-has three times kissed

«Dame, mon mal talent
Lady my ill will
«vos pardoing bonement.»
to-you I-pardon kindly
E ele respondi:
And she answered
«Sire, vostre merci!»
Lord your mercy
Dont prene[nt] l'olifant
Then take the-oliphant
li petit e li grant.
the small and the great
Uns chevaliers le prist
A knight it took
qui vers sa femme rist:
who toward his wife laughed
cil de la cort [ne fust]
he of the court not was
qui greignor joie [eüst]
who greater joy had
e meins desi[s]t gabeis
and less said jests
e [qui] plus [fust] corteis
and who more was courteous
e, quant il ert armez,
and when he was armed
qui plus [fust re]dotez:
who more was feared

car en la cort Artu
for in the court (of-)Arthur
n'aveit meillor escu
not-there-was better shield
ne plus [fort] a sa main,
nor more strong at his hand
fors mon seignor Galvain.
except my lord Gawain
Il out les chevels blonz
He had the hairs blond
e rosez les guernons,
and rosy the whiskers
les oilz vairs e rianz;
the eyes gray-blue and laughing
sis cors ert avenanz,
his body was comely
piez [out] voltiz e dreiz;
feet he-had arched and straight
chevaliers ert adreiz,
knight he-was skilled
Garados aveit non
Garados he-had-as name
molt fu de grant renon.
very he-was of great renown
Femme aveit molt leal,
Wife he-had very loyal
suer le rei Galahal,
sister (of-)the king Galahal
née de Cirencestre;
born of Cirencester

lez lui sist a senestre
beside him she-sat on left
molt bele e acesmée,
very fair and adorned
si resemble bien fée.
so she-resembles well fairy
Ele out bien fait le cors
She had well made the body
e les crins [lons] e sors,
and the hair long and golden
n'out plus bele veisine
not-there-was more fair neighbor
fors le cors la reïne.
except the body (of-)the queen
Garadoc regarda
Garadoc looked-at
onc color ne mua,
ever color not changed
ainz l'a a raison mis,
rather him-she-has to speech put
si li dist: «Beals amis,
so to-him said Fair friend
«ja mar en dotereiz
never in-ill-hour thereof you-will-fear
«que al cor ne beveiz
that from-the horn — you-may-drink
«a ceste halte feste!
at this high feast
«Si en levez la teste,
So thereof raise the head

«dont me ferez honor.
then me you-will-do honor
«Ne prendreie a seignor
Not I-would-take as lord
«home, tant seit puissanz;
man so-much he-may-be powerful
«s'il esteit amiranz,
if-be were emir
«por vos laissier, ami,
for you to-leave friend
«nel prendreie a mari;
not-him I-would-take as husband
«ainz devendreie nonne
rather I-would-become nun
«e vestireie gonne.
and I-would-don gown
«Car chascune femele
For each female
«de[üs]t estre tortrele:
ought to-be turtledove
«puis que masle prendra
since that male she-will-take
«ja mais altre n'avra;
ever more other not-she-will-have
«içe deit dame faire
this must lady do
«se ele est de bon aire.»
if she is of good birth

Garados calls "Wassail!" to the king and drinks the horn dry. Arthur confirms him in the lordship of Cirencester for life and gives him the horn. The guests take their leave. Garados himself made the lay, and the horn can still be seen at a feast at Cirencester, as Robert Biket says.

Garados fu molt liez
Garados was very glad
si est sailliz en piez.
so he-is leapt to feet
Il fu be[als] e adreiz
He was fair and skilled
chevaliers ert [corteis]
knight he-was courteous
quant [ont le cor] empli
when they-have the horn filled
lot teneit e demi;
a-gallon it-held and a-half
pleins fu de vin vermeil.
full it-was of wine red
Al rei a dit «Wesseil!»
To-the king he-has said Wassail
le cor mist a sa boche
the horn he-put to his mouth
bien vos ai dit qu'il toche:
well to-you I-have said that-he touches
il fu e granz e gros
it was both great and big
si a beü tot hors.
so he-has drunk all out

Fortment s'en esjoï,
Greatly himself-thereat he-rejoiced
la table tressailli,
the table he-leapt-over
devant le rei Artu
before the king Arthur
est il molt tost venuz
is he very soon come
si dist en [es] le pas,
so said in very the step
mais nel dist mie en bas:
but not-it said at-all in low
«Sire, beü l'ai plein,
Lord drunk it-I-have full
«[tuit] en seiez certain.
all thereof be certain
— Garados», dist li reis,
Garados said the king
«proz estes e corteis:
valiant you-are and courteous
«beü l'as [veire]ment,
drunk it-thou-hast truly
«plus l'ont veü de cent.
more it-have seen than a-hundred
«Cirencestre gardez,
Cirencester keep
«bien a dous ans passez
well there-is two years passed
«que jo le vos baillai,
that I it to-you delivered

«[ne] ja nel vos toldrai:
nor ever not-it from-you I-shall-take
«trestot vostre vivant
all your lifetime
«l'aiez, e vostre enfant.
have-it and your child
«E por vostre muillier
And for your wife
«qui molt fait a preisier
who much makes-herself to prize
«vos dorrai jo cest cor
to-you shall-give I this horn
«qui valt cent livres d'or.»
which is-worth a-hundred pounds of-gold
Garados respondi:
Garados answered
«Sire, vostre merci!»
Lord your mercy
Lez sa femme al cler vis
Beside his wife with-the bright face
est al mangier assis.
he-is to-the meal seated
Quant il eurent mangié
When they had eaten
chascuns a pris congié,
each has taken leave
en lor terres revont
into their lands they-go-back
la dont il venu sont;
there whence they come are

les femmes remenerent
the wives brought-back
cil qui plus les amerent.
those who most them loved
Seignors, cest lai trova
Lords this lay composed
Garados qui fait l'a.
Garados who made it-has
Qui fust a Cirencestre
Who were at Cirencester
a une halte feste,
at a high feast
la porreit il veeir
there could he see
icest cor tot por veir:
this horn all for truth
ço dit Roberz Biquez,
this says Robert Biket
qui molt par set d'abez.
who very much knows of-tricks
Par le dit d'un abé
By the word of-an abbot
a cest conte trové.
he-has this tale composed
Qu'issi [esp]rova l'on
For-thus tested one
cest cor a Carlion.
this horn at Caerleon

Le Mantel

XIII · THE MANTLE

Arthur holds a plenary court at Pentecost, and every knight is told to bring his beloved. The queen gives the ladies robes and jewels, and the king gives the knights robes, arms, and horses. On Pentecost Sunday they hear mass and the tables are laid.

D'une aventure qui avint
Of-an adventure which befell
a la cort au bon rei qui tint
at the court of-the good king who held
Bretaigne et Engleterre quite,
Britain and England wholly
por ce que n'ert pas a dreit dite,
for this that not-was at-all at right told
vos vueil dire la verité.
to-you I-wish to-tell the truth
A la Pentecoste en esté
At the Pentecost in summer
tint li reis Artus cort pleniere.
held the king Arthur court plenary
Onques reis en nule maniere
Ever king in any manner
nule si riche cort ne tint.
any so rich court not held
De maint lontain païs i vint
From many-a distant country there came
maint rei et maint duc et maint conte.
many-a king and many-a duke and many-a count

Si com l'estoire le raconte,
Just as the-history it recounts
li reis Artus out fait crier
the king Arthur had made proclaim
que tuit li juene bacheler
that all the young bachelors
i venissent delivrement;
there should-come freely
et si fu ou comandement
and so it-was in-the command
que qui avreit sa bele amie
that who would-have his fair friend
l'ameint o li par compaignie.
her-should-bring with him in company
Que vos ireie je contant?
What to-you would-go I telling
De dameiseles i vint tant
Of damsels there came so-many
que je n'en sai le conte dire.
that I not-thereof know the count to-tell
Mout par en fust griés a eslire
Very much thereof it-would-be hard to choose
la plus bele, la plus corteise.
the most fair the most courteous
A la roïne pas n'en peise;
To the queen at-all not-thereof it-grieves
de si qu'eles sont assemblées
until so that-they are assembled
en ses chambres les a menées,
into her chambers them she-has led

et por faire les esjoïr
and for to-make them rejoice
lor fist maintenant departir
to-them she-made at-once distribute
robes de diverses manieres.
robes of various manners
Mout furent vaillanz les mains chieres,
Very were worthy the least dear
de drap de seie vaire et grise.
of cloth of silk vair and gray
Mès qui vos voudreit la dévise
But who to-you would the description
et l'uevre des dras aconter,
and the-work of-the cloths recount
trop i covendreit demorer,
too-much there it-would-behoove to-stay
qui bien en voudreit reson rendre;
who well thereof would reason render
mès aillors me covient entendre.
but elsewhere me it-behooves to-attend
Mout fait la roïne a loer.
Much makes-herself the queen to praise
Après lor a fait aporter
After to-them she-has made bring
fermaus, ceintures et aneaus.
clasps belts and rings
Onques tel plenté de joiaus
Ever such plenty of jewels
nus hom mien escient ne vit
any man to-my knowledge not saw

come la roïne lor fist
as the queen to-them made
a ces puceles aporter,
to these maidens bring
si'n fist a chascune doner
so-thereof she-made to each give
tant come onques en voudrent prendre.
as-much as ever thereof they-wished to-take
Or me covient aillors entendre
Now me it-behooves elsewhere to-attend
et dou bon rei Artu parler
and of-the good king Arthur to-speak
qui fist aus chevaliers doner
who made to-the knights give
robes mout riches et mout beles,
robes very rich and very fair
et grant plenté d'armes noveles,
and great plenty of-arms new
et mout riches chevaus d'Espaigne,
and very rich horses of-Spain
de Lombardie et d'Alemaigne.
of Lombardy and of-Germany
N'i out si povre chevalier
Not-there was so poor knight
qui n'eüst armes et destrier
who not-had arms and charger
et robes, se prendre les vout.
and robes if to-take them he-wished

Onques si grant plenté n'en out
Ever so great plenty not-thereof there-was
a une feste mès doné.
at a feast ever given
Si en ont tuit le rei loé,
So thereof have all the king praised
qui nou fist mie en repentant,
who not-it did at-all in repenting
ainz fist totes veies semblant
rather made all the-same seeming
que riens ne li griet ne ne coste.
that anything not him grieves nor not costs
Le samedi de Pentecoste
The Saturday of Pentecost
fu cele grant cort assemblée.
was that great court assembled
Mout ont grant joie demenée;
Much they-have great joy made
quant joé orent et deduit
when played they-had and enjoyed
et il virent venir la nuit
and they saw come the night
aus osteus alérent couchier.
to-the lodgings they-went to-lie
Les liz firent li escuier,
The beds made the squires
si coucha chascuns son seignor.
so put-to-bed each his lord
Au matin quant il fu clér jor,
In-the morning when it was bright day

resont a la cort assemblé
again-they-are at the court assembled
et o le rei en sont alé
and with the king thence are gone
tuit ensemble a la mestre yglise.
all together to the main church
La roïne vait le servise
The queen goes the service
o ses puceles escouter.
with her maidens to-hear
Ci ne vueil je plus demorer
Here not wish I more to-stay
ne de neient faire lonc conte.
nor of anything make long tale
Si com l'estoire le raconte,
Just as the-history it recounts
quant li servises fu finé(z)
when the service was finished
tuit s'en sont a la cort alé
all themselves-thence are to the court gone
et la roïne en a menées
and the queen thence has led
en ses chambres encortinées
into her chambers curtained
totes ses puceles o li.
all her maidens with her
Li sergent furent bien garni
The sergeants were well provided
de doner au rei a mengier.
of giving to-the king to eat

Sor les tables sont li doblier,
On the tables are the cloths
les salieres et li coutel.
the salt-cellars and the knives

THE YOUTH'S REQUEST

Arthur will not eat until some adventure comes to his court. A handsome youth rides in, asks Kay to show him the king, and tells Arthur that a distant maiden asks a gift of him, which will not be named until he grants it. He promises it will bring Arthur no shame.

Mès au rei Artu n'ert pas bel
But to-the king Arthur not-it-was at-all fair
que ja menjast ne ne beüst,
that ever he-should-eat nor — should-drink
por tant que haute feste fust,
for so-much that high feast were
ne qu'a la table s'asseïst
nor that-at the table he-should-sit
de si que a la cort venist
until so that to the court should-come
aucune aventure novele.
some adventure new
Gauvains le seneschal apele,
Gawain the seneschal calls
si li demande ce que deit
so of-him asks this what it-means
que li reis mengier ne voleit,
that the king to-eat not wished

quar il ert ja mout près de none.
for it was already very near of nones
Et Keis le rei en aresone:
And Kay the king thereupon addresses
«Sire», fait il, «ice que deit
Lord says he this what means
«que vos ne mengiez orendreit?
that you not eat now
«Vostre mengiers est prest pieça.»
Your meal is ready long-since
Li reis sorrist, si l'esgarda:
The king smiled so him-looked-at
«Dites mei», fait il, «seneschal,
Tell me says he seneschal
«quant veïstes vos feste anval
when saw you feast annual
«que je a mengier m'asseïsse
that I to eat myself-should-sit
«de si que a ma cort veïsse
until so that at my court I-should-see
«aucune novele aventure?»
some new adventure
Estes vos poignant a dreiture
Behold you spurring at straightness
un vallet par mi une rue;
a youth through middle a street
ses chevaus d'angoisse tressue
his horse with-anguish sweats
qui mout veneit a grant espleit.
which much came at great speed

Gauvains tot premerains le veit
Gawain all first him sees
qui aus chevaliers s'escria:
who to-the knights cried-out
«Se Dieu plest, nos mengerons ja;
If God please we shall-eat soon
«quar je vei ça venir corant
for I see here come running
«sor un mout grant roncin ferrant
on a very great nag iron-gray
«un vallet par mi une porte
a youth through middle a gate
«qui aucune novele aporte.»
who some news brings
Atant est li vallez venuz,
At-that is the youth come
devant la sale est descenduz.
before the hall he-is dismounted
Assez fu qui son cheval prist;
Plenty there-was who his horse took
li vallez de riens n'i mesprist
the youth in anything not-there misdid
qui mout fu sages et membrez.
who very was wise and prudent
De son mantel s'est desfublez,
Of his mantle himself-he-is unmantled
si le giete demaintenant
so it throws at-once
sor le col de son auferrant.
on the neck of his steed

Quant desfublez fu dou mantel
When unmantled he-was of-the mantle
a grant merveille par fu bel:
at great marvel very-much he-was fair
blont out le chief et cler le vis,
blond he-had the head and bright the face
vers out les ieus, nés bien assis,
gray he-had the eyes nose well set
grosses espaules et lons braz,
big shoulders and long arms
trestot a un mot le vos faz:
all in one word it to-you I-make
onques plus bel ne fist nature;
ever more fair not made nature
gent cors et grant enforcheüre,
noble body and great frame
jambes bien faites, piez voutiz,
legs well made feet arched
sages paroles et beaus diz
wise speeches and fair sayings
out li vallez a grant plenté.
had the youth in great plenty
Quant en la sale fu entré(z)
When into the hall he-was entered
corteisement et bel parla:
courteously and fairly he-spoke
«Cil Dieus», fait il, «qui tot forma
That God says he who all formed
«saut et gart ceste compaignie!
save and guard this company

— Beaus amis, Dieus vos beneïe!»
Fair friend God you bless
Ce li dist Keis, li seneschaus;
This to-him said Kay the seneschal
«Tressuez est vostre chevaus,
Sweating is your horse
«quar me dites que vos querez.
now me tell what you seek
— Sire», fait il, «ainz me mostrez
Lord says he first me show
«et m'enseigniez Artu le rei;
and me-point-out Arthur the king
«quar, par la fei que je vos dei,
for by the faith that I to-you owe
«je li dirai ja teus noveles
I to-him shall-tell soon such news
«qui a toz ne seront pas beles,
which to all not will-be at-all fair
«et teus i a qui 'n avront joie.»
and such there are who thereof will-have joy
A chascun est tart que il oie
To each is late that he may-hear
que c'est que li vallez a quis.
what it-is that the youth has sought
«Par mon chief», fait il, «beaus amis,
By my head says he fair friend
«vez le la, en cele chaiere.»
see him there in that chair
Li chevalier sont trait ariere,
The knights are drawn back

si lessent le vallet aler.
so they-let the youth go
Cil, qui n'a soing de demorer,
That-one who not-has care to stay
s'en est devant le rei venuz
himself-thence is before the king come
si li a fait uns genz saluz:
so to-him has made a noble greeting
«Cil Dieus», fait il, «qui fist le mont
That God says he who made the world
«et totes les choses qui sont
and all the things which are
«et de tot fait sa volenté
and of all does his will
«gart le meillor rei coroné
guard the best king crowned
«qui onques fust ne ja mès seit!
who ever was or ever more may-be
«Sire», fait il, «or est bien dreit
Lord says he now is well right
«que je vos die que j'ai quis:
that I to-you may-tell what I-have sought
«Une pucele m'a tramis
A maiden me-has sent
«de mout lointain païs a vos;
from very distant country to you
«un don vos requiert a estros,
a gift of-you she-requests at once
«que vos orendreit li doneiz.
that you now to-her may-give

«Et se ne l'a a ceste feiz,
And if not it-she-has at this time
«ja ne vos iert plus demandé,
ever not of-you it-will-be more asked
«ne ja ne vos sera nomé
nor ever not to-you will-be named
«ne li dons ne la dameisele
either the gift or the damsel
«qui tant est avenant et bele,
who so-much is comely and fair
«de si que je de fi savrai
until so that I for certain shall-know
«se je de vos le don avrai.
if I from you the gift shall-have
«Mès je vos creant une rien,
But I to-you promise a thing
«si vueil que tuit le sachent bien,
so I-wish that all it may-know well
«que je ne vos querrai outrage
that I not of-you will-seek outrage
«o aiez honte ne domage.»
whereby you-may-have shame or harm

Gawain urges the king to grant the gift, and Arthur does. The youth draws out a mantle woven by a fairy: it will not fit any woman false to her husband or lover, but will be too short or too long. He asks that the ladies try it at once without being told. Gawain, Yvain, and Kay summon the queen and her damsels, saying the mantle will go to the one it fits best.

Gauvains a premerains parlé:
Gawain has first spoken
«Cist dons ne puet estre veé»,
This gift not can be refused
fait il, «que n'i ait vilenie.» 185
says he that not-there may-be baseness
Li reis bonement li otrie
The king kindly to-him grants
et li promet que il l'avreit
and to-him promises that he it-would-have
tot maintenant, que que ce seit.
all at-once what that this may-be
Cil l'en mercie o bele chiere.
That-one him-thereof thanks with fair face
Li vallez prist une aumosniere, 190
The youth took a purse
si en a trait fors un mantel.
so from-it has drawn out a mantle
Onques nus hom ne vit si bel,
Ever any man not saw so fair
quar une fée l'aveit fait.
for a fairy it-had made

Nus hom ne savreit le portrait
Any man not would-know-how the design
ne l'uevre dou drap [acointier].
nor the-work of-the cloth to-describe
Trop i covendreit [delaier],
Too-much there it-would-behoove to-delay
or lerrai de l'ovraigne ester
now I-shall-let of the-workmanship be
d'autre chose voudrai parler;
of-other thing I-shall-wish to-speak
si vos dirai une merveille,
so to-you I-shall-tell a marvel
onques n'oïstes sa pareille:
ever not-you-heard its peer
la fée fist ou drap une uevre
the fairy made in-the cloth a work
qui les fausses dames descuevre:
which the false ladies uncovers
ja dame qui l'ait afublé,
ever lady who it-may-have donned
se ele a de riens meserré
if she has in anything erred
vers son seignor, se ele l'a,
toward her lord if she him-has
li manteaus bien ne li serra;
the mantle well not to-her will-fit
ne aus puceles autresi:
nor to-the maidens likewise

cele qui vers son bon ami
she who toward her good friend
avra mespris en nul endreit,
will-have misdone in any point
ja puis ne li serra a dreit,
ever after not to-her will-fit at right
que ne seit trop lonc o trop cort.
but-that — it-be too long or too short
Et cil, oiant tote la cort
And he in-the-hearing-of all the court
lor a tot aconté, et dit
to-them has all told and said
l'uevre dou mantel et descrit.
the-work of-the mantle and described
Puis dist au rei demaintenant:
Then said to-the king at-once
«Sire», fait il, «je vos demant
Lord says he I you ask
«que vos sanz point de demorer
that you without whit of delaying
«faciez le mantel afubler,
may-make the mantle don
«et si ne direz ces noveles
and so not you-will-tell these news
«aus dames et aus dameiseles
to-the ladies and to-the damsels
«dont ceenz a grant assemblée.
of-whom in-here there-is great assembly
«El me fu de mout loins contée,
It to-me was from very far told

«si sui venuz d'estrange terre
so I-am come from-strange land
«por seulement cest don requerre.»
for only this gift to-request
Mout esgarderent le mantel,
Much they-looked-at the mantle
et dist Gauvains: «Ci a don bel
and said Gawain Here there-is gift fair
«et mout regnable a demander.
and very reasonable to ask
«Faites la roïne mander,
Make the queen summon
«que viegne a nos delivrement.
that-she come to us promptly
— Gauvains, alez i erraument,
Gawain go there at-once
«Entre vos et Yvain et Kei,
Between you and Yvain and Kay
«si li dites que viegne a mei;
so to-her say that-she come to me
«et si dites a la roïne
and so tell to the queen
«que n'i ait dame ne meschine
that not-there may-be lady or maid
«qui ne viegne, sans acheison;
who not may-come without excuse
«quar je vueil bien tenir le don
for I wish well to-hold the gift
«que j'ai au vallet creanté.»
that I-have to-the youth granted

Li trei cui il out comandé
The three to-whom he had commanded
i sont alé demaintenant.
there are gone at-once
La roïne truevent lavant
The queen they-find washing
qui dou mengier s'apareillout,
who for-the eating herself-prepared
quar durement li anoiout
for greatly to-her it-irked
de ce que tant out jeüné.
for this that so-much she-had fasted
Gauvains a premerains parlé:
Gawain has first spoken
«Dame», fait il, «li reis vos mande
Lady says he the king to-you sends-word
«et tot a estros vos comande
and all at once you commands
«que vos, sanz plus de delaier,
that you without more of delaying
«venez en la sale mengier;
come into the hall to-eat
«si amenez ces dameiseles:
so bring these damsels
«Il veut veeir come sont beles
He wishes to-see how they-are fair
«et come eles sont acesmées.
and how they are adorned
«Une en avra ja granz sodées;
One thereof will-have soon great wages

«quar au rei vint ore un danzel
for to-the king came now a young-lord
«qui li aporta un mantel,
who to-him brought a mantle
«onques nus si riche ne vit.
ever any so rich not saw
«Li dras est d'un vermeil samit
The cloth is of-a crimson samite
«qui a merveilles est bien faiz.
which at marvels is well made
«Mout honor [en] a li portraiz
Much honor thereof has the design
«et les ovraignes qui i sont;
and the workmanships which there are
«il n'a son per en tot le mont.
it not-has its peer in all the world
«Et ce sachiez de verité
And this know of truth
«que li reis nos a creanté
that the king to-us has granted
«que ja a cele le donra
that soon to her it he-will-give
«a cui mieus et plus bel serra.»
to whom best and most fair it-will-fit

The queen puts on the mantle first and it barely reaches her shoe. Yvain advises her to give it to the damsel beside her, Tor's beloved, and on her it is shorter still. Kay explains the mantle's power, and the queen turns the matter into a jest, asking why the others wait. Kay mocks the ladies' and maidens' fidelity.

Or en vait la roïne au rei;
Now thence goes the queen to-the king
mout meine o li riche conrei
much she-leads with her rich company
de dames et de dameiseles.
of ladies and of damsels
Nus hom ne vit tant de si beles
Any man not saw so-many of so fair
onques mès a une assemblée,
ever before at an assembly
quar chascune se fu penée
for each herself was striven
d'atorner cointement son cors.
of-adorning elegantly her body
Quant en la sale vindrent fors,
When into the hall they-came out
por ce que sont si acesmées
for this that they-are so adorned
furent durement esgardées
they-were greatly looked-at
de toz les barons de la cort.
by all the barons of the court

Toz li barnages i acort
All the baronage there runs
por esgarder ce que sera.
for to-see that which will-be
Li reis le mantel despleia,
The king the mantle unfolded
a la roïne l'a mostré;
to the queen it-has shown
puis li a dit et creanté
then to-her has said and granted
que demaneis il le donra
that at-once he it will-give
a cele cui il mieus serra.
to her to-whom it best will-fit
Mès onques ne lor en dist plus.
But ever not to-them thereof he-said more
S'eles seüssent le sorplus
If-they had-known the remainder
mieus vousissent que il fust ars,
better they-would-have-wished that it were burned
se il vausist cent milie mars.
if it were-worth a-hundred thousand marks
La roïne premier le prent,
The queen first it takes
maintenant a son col le pent,
at-once at her neck it hangs
que mout amast que il suens fust.
for much she-would-love that it hers were

Mès se la verité seüst
But if the truth she-had-known
coment li manteaus fu teissuz,
how the mantle was woven
ja a son col ne fust penduz.
ever at her neck not it-would-be hung
A peine au soller li ateint.
With pain to-the shoe to-her it-reaches
Toz li vis li nercist et teint
All the face to-her darkens and colors
por la honte que ele en out.
for the shame that she thereof had
Yvains par delez li estout
Yvain by beside her stood
qui tot li vit müer le vis,
who all to-her saw change the face
«Dame», fait il, «ce m'est avis
Lady says he this to-me-is opinion
«qu'il ne vos est mie trop lonc.
that-it not to-you is at-all too long
«Sachiez, qui le travers d'un jonc
Know who the breadth of-a rush
«o mains encor en ostereit,
or less still from-it would-remove
«ja puis a dreit ne vos serreit.
ever after at right not to-you it-would-fit

«Cele dameisele de la
That damsel from there
«qui delez vos a destre esta
who beside you at right stands
«est tot dreit de vostre grandor,
is all exactly of your size
«ele n'est graindre ne menor;
she not-is greater or less
«amie est Tor, le fil Arès:
friend she-is (of-)Tor the son (of-)Ares
«Baillez li le mantel après,
Deliver to-her the mantle after
«si porrez mieus a li veeir
so you-will-be-able better on her to-see
«s'il vos porra a dreit seeir.»
if-it to-you will-be-able at right sit
Desfublée s'est la roïne,
Unmantled herself-is the queen
le mantel tent a la meschine,
the mantle she-holds-out to the maid
qui mout volentiers l'afubla.
who very gladly it-donned
Et li manteaus plus acorça
And the mantle more shortened
qu'a la roïne n'aveit fait.
than-on the queen it-had done
«Tost est or», dist Yvains, «retrait,
Soon it-is now said Yvain drawn-in
«si ne l'a on pas loins porté.»
so not it-has one at-all far carried

Et la roïne a demandé
And the queen has asked
tot entor li a ses barons:
all around her of her barons
«Dont ne m'est il assez plus lons?
Then not to-me-is it much more long
— Dame», dist Keis, li seneschaus,
Lady said Kay the seneschal
«avis m'est qu'estes plus leiaus
opinion to-me-is that-you-are more loyal
«que ele n'est, mès c'est petit:
than she is but it-is little
«Et si ai je malement dit,
And so have I wrongly said
«que plus leiaus n'estes vos mie,
for more loyal not-are you at-all
«mes mains a en vos tricherie.»
but less there-is in you cheating
Et la roïne a demandé
And the queen has asked
coment va de la «leiauté»;
how goes of the loyalty
que l'en die delivrement
that one may-tell freely
tot quanqu'au mantel en apent.
all whatever-to-the mantle thereof belongs
Et Keis li a trestot conté,
And Kay to-her has all told
de chief en chief la verité:
from head to head the truth

si com li vallez l'out contée
just as the youth it-had told
et dou mantel et de la fée
both of-the mantle and of the fairy
et de l'ovraigne qu'ele i fist,
and of the-workmanship that-she there made
trestot de chief en chief li dist,
all from head to head to-her he-said
si qu'onques riens n'en trespassa.
so that-ever anything not-thereof he-passed-over
La roïne se porpensa
The queen herself bethought
s'ele feseit d'ire semblant,
if-she made of-anger seeming
tant sereit la honte plus grant,
so-much would-be the shame more great
ainz l'a a jengleis atorné:
rather it-she-has to jest turned
«Encor iert», ce dist, «afublé!
Yet it-will-be this she-said donned
«Que vont ces autres atendant
Why go these others awaiting
«quant je l'ai afublé avant?
since I it-have donned before
— Dames, dames», ce a dit Kei,
Ladies ladies this has said Kay
«hui ert esproveé la fei
today will-be tested the faith
«que vos faites a vos seignors,
that you keep to your lords

«et la leiauté des amors
and the loyalty of-the loves
«que ces dameiseles demeinent,
which these damsels lead
«por qui cil chevalier se peinent
for whom these knights themselves strive
«et mettent en granz aventures.
and put-themselves in great adventures
«Mout se feïssent hui main pures,
Very themselves would-make today morning pure
«qui d'amors les aresonast!
who of-love them should-address
«N'i a cele qui ne jurast,
Not-there is she who not would-swear
«s'il fust qui prendre le vousist,
if-there were who to-take it would-wish
«que onques de riens ne mesprist.»
that ever in anything not she-misdid

The ladies are afraid; Arthur would give the mantle back, but the youth holds him to his word. Kay boasts of his beloved, Andrete, and on her the mantle reaches only to the knees, so the court mocks Kay. Bedivere has Gawain's beloved, Venelas, try it; it trails behind and rises at one side, and Kay jests about what that signifies.

Quant les dames ont entendu
When the ladies have understood
coment li manteaus fu teissu(z)
how the mantle was woven
et l'uevre que la fée i fist,
and the-work that the fairy there made
n'i a cele qui ne vousist
not-there is she who not would-wish
estre a honor en sa contrée;
to-be at honor in her country
quar n'i a dame si osée
for not-there is lady so bold
ne dameisele qui l'ost prendre.
nor damsel who it-dares take
«Bien le poons», dist li reis, «rendre
Well it we-can said the king give-back
«au vallet qui ça l'aporta,
to-the youth who here it-brought
«quar ja ceenz ne remaindra
for ever in-here not it-will-remain
«por dameisele qui i seit.»
for damsel who there may-be
Dist li vallez: «Tenez mei dreit.
Said the youth Keep me right

«Ja mès nul jor nou reprendrai
Ever more any day not-it I-shall-take-back
«de si que je veü avrai
until so that I seen shall-have
«que totes l'avront afublé;
that all it-will-have donned
«quar ce que reis a creanté
for that which king has granted
«deit par reson estre tenu.»
must by reason be held
Et li reis li a respondu:
And the king to-him has answered
«Beaus amis, vos dites reson.
Fair friend you say reason
«Ja n'i avra mès acheison
Ever not-there will-be more excuse
«que ne lor coviegne afubler.»
that — them it-may-behoove to-don
Lors les veïssiez acliner,
Then them you-would-have-seen bow
müer color et empalir,
change color and grow-pale
d'ire et de mautalent fremir.
with-anger and with ill-humor tremble
N'i a cele qui ne vousist
Not-there is she who not would-wish
que sa compaigne le preïst,
that her companion it should-take
ne ja ne li'n portast envie.
nor ever not to-her-thereof would-bear envy

Et Keis en apele s'amie:
And Kay thereupon calls his-friend
«Bele», dist il, «venez avant.
Fair-one said he come forward
«Oiant ces chevaliers me vant,
In-the-hearing-of these knights myself I-boast
«vos le poez bien afubler.
you it can well don
«N'i avez compaigne ne per
Not-there you-have companion or peer
«de leiauté ne de valor.
in loyalty or in worth
«Vos en portereiz hui la flor
You thereof will-carry today the flower
«de ceenz, sanz nul contredit.»
of in-here without any gainsaying
La dameisele li a dit:
The damsel to-him has said
«Sire», fait el, «s'il vos pleüst,
Lord says she if-it you pleased
«je vousisse qu'autre l'eüst
I would-wish that-another it-had
«afublé premerainement,
donned first
«quar je vei ceenz plus de cent
for I see in-here more than a-hundred
«[dont] nule ne l'ose afubler.
of-whom anyone not it-dares don
— Ha!» fait Keis, «je vos vei doter,
Ha says Kay I you see fear

«je ne sai que ce senefie.
I not know what this signifies
— Sire», fait el, «ce n'i a mie!
Lord says she this not-there is at-all
«Mès j'en vei ceenz grant plenté
But I-thereof see in-here great plenty
«dont chascune a si grant beauté,
of-whom each has so great beauty
«ne nule ne l'ose sesir;
nor anyone not it-dares seize
«si nès voleie adevancir,
so not-them I-wished to-forestall
«que ne me fust a mal torné.
so-that not to-me it-should-be to ill turned
— Ja mar en doterez mal gré»,
Never in-ill-hour thereof you-will-fear ill will
fait Keis, «qu'eles n'en ont talent.»
says Kay for-they not-thereof have desire
Et la dameisele le prent;
And the damsel it takes
veiant les barons l'afubla.
in-the-sight-of the barons it-donned
Et li manteaus plus acorça:
And the mantle more shortened
aus jarrez [vint], neient avant;
to-the knee-backs it-came nothing further
et li dui acor de devant
and the two points of in-front
ne porent les genouz passer.
not could the knees pass

«Veirement n'i avez vos per»,
Truly not-there have you peer
ce li a dit Bruns sanz pitié;
this to-her has said Brun without pity
«Bien deit estre joian(z) et lié(z)
Well must be joyful and glad
«messire Keis li seneschaus.
my-lord Kay the seneschal
«Veirement estes des leiaus!»
Truly you-are of-the loyal
Quant Keis li vit si messeeir,
When Kay to-her saw so ill-fit
il [nou] vousist por nul aveir
he not-it would-wish for any wealth
que li reis peüst arramir;
that the king could pledge
quar ne se pout mie covrir
for not himself he-could at-all cover
que de tantes genz ert veü.
for-that by so-many people he-was seen
Lors li dist Ydiers, li filz Nu:
Then to-him said Ydier the son (of-)Nu
«Bien deit a eschar revertir
Well must to mockery return
«qui en toz tens en seut servir.
who in all times thereof is-wont to-serve
«Seneschaus, qu'alez vos disant?
Seneschal what-go you saying

«Dont n'est li manteaus bien seant
Then not-is the mantle well fitting
«a Androëte l'enveisiée?»
to Andrete the-merry
La dameisele est angoissiée,
The damsel is anguished
que point n'i veit de sa rescosse,
for-that whit not-there she-sees of her rescue
et Keis dist a la parestrosse:
and Kay said at the last
«Seignor, trop i poez haster.
Lords too-much there you-can hasten
«Nos verrons ja sanz demorer
We shall-see soon without delaying
«coment il iert aus voz seant.
how it will-be on-the yours fitting
«Faites les tost venir avant,
Make them soon come forward
«ja verrons come il lor serra.»
soon we-shall-see how it to-them will-fit
Androëte le desfubla,
Andrete it unmantled
si l'a geté sor un seeir,
so it-has thrown on a seat
o sa honte s'ala seeir.
with her shame herself-went to-sit
Quant les dames ont ce veü
When the ladies have this seen
que si mal li'n est avenu,
that so ill to-her-thereof is befallen

mout par ont le vallet maudit;
very much they-have the youth cursed
quar bien sevent que escondit
for well they-know that excuse
ne lor poeit aveir mestier;
not to-them could have use
por neient fereient dangier
for nothing they-would-make resistance
que ne lor coviegne afubler.
that — them it-may-behoove to-don
Li bons botilliers Bedoer
The good butler Bedivere
en a le rei a reson mis.
thereupon has the king to speech put
«Sire», fait il, «ce m'est avis
Lord says he this to-me-is opinion
«que nos somes tuit mout vilain.
that we are all very base
«L'amie monseignor Gauvain,
The-friend (of-)my-lord Gawain
«qui tant est noble et avenant,
who so-much is noble and comely
«le deüst afubler avant,
it ought to-don before
«Venelas la preus, la corteise;
Venelas the valiant the courteous
«a monseignor Gauvain en peise
to my-lord Gawain thereof it-grieves
«de ce que trop est obliée.
of this that too-much she-is forgotten

— Si seit», fait li reis, «apelée.»
So be-she says the king called
Bedoer tantost l'apela,
Bedivere at-once her-called
et la pucele se leva,
and the maiden herself raised
qui pas ne l'osout refuser,
who at-all not it-dared refuse
et li reis li fist aporter
and the king to-her made bring
le mantel, et ele le prent,
the mantle and she it takes
maintenant a son col le pent,
at-once at her neck it hangs
que n'i osa essoigne querre.
for not-there she-dared excuse seek
Derriere li ateint a terre,
Behind her it-reaches to earth
si que plain pié li traïna;
so that full foot to-her it-trailed
li destres acorz se leva
the right point itself raised
si que le genoil descovri,
so that the knee it-uncovered
et li senestres se forni,
and the left itself furnished
tot entor[z], a l'autre mantel.
all around to the-other mantle

A Kei le seneschal fu bel
To Kay the seneschal it-was fair
quant il choisi l'acor si cort;
when he perceived the-point so short
ne cuideit qu'en tote la cort
not he-thought that-in all the court
eüst dame plus fust leiaus:
there-were lady more who-was loyal
«Par mon chief», dist li seneschaus,
By my head said the seneschal
«hui mès, la Damedeu merci,
today more the Lord-God's mercy
«n'iére je pas seus escharni(z);
not-shall-be I at-all alone mocked
«quar cel acorz que je la vei
for that point that I there see
«nos senefie ne sai quei.
to-us signifies not I-know what
«Or vos en dirai mon avis:
Now to-you thereof I-shall-tell my opinion
«La dameisele o le cler vis
The damsel with the bright face
«out la destre jambe levée,
had the right leg raised
«si fu desuz cele corbée,
so she-was beneath that bent
«et l'autre remest en estant.
and the-other remained in standing

«Et si crei je que en [glaçant]
And so believe I that in slipping
«li avint ce a un trespas.
to-her befell this at a passage
«Ensi seut en lever les dras
Thus is-wont one to-raise the cloths
«a tel besoigne que je di.»
at such business as I say
Messire Gauvains fu marri(z) 490
My-lord Gawain was grieved
si qu'onques mot ne li sona,
so that-ever word not to-him sounded
et Keis dist que il la menra,
and Kay said that he her will-lead
seeir avec la soe amie,
to-sit with the his-own friend
si s'entreferont compaignie.
so they-will-make-each-other company

On Yvain's beloved the mantle trails on the right and lifts on the left, and Guivret mocks her. On Perceval's beloved the clasps break and the mantle falls; she weeps. The youth fits new clasps, and Arthur angrily orders that all try it before anyone eats. Griflet's plea would have moved him, but the youth holds him to his promise.

Li reis prist par la destre main
The king took by the right hand
l'amie monseignor Yvain
the-friend (of-)my-lord Yvain
qui au rei Urien fu fil,
who to-the king Urien was son
le preuz chevalier, le gentil,
the valiant knight the noble
qui tant ama chiens et oiseaus:
who so-much loved dogs and birds
«Bele», fait il, «icist manteaus
Fair-one says he this mantle
«deit estre vostres par reson;
must be yours by reason
«nus ne set en vos acheison
anyone not knows in you cause
«que vos nou deiez bien aveir.
that you not-it should well have
— L'en ne puet mie tot saveir»,
One not can at-all all know
ce li dist Guivrez li petiz;
this to-him said Guivret the little

«N'afichiez mie si vos diz
Not-affirm at-all so your words
«devant que vos aiez veü
before that you may-have seen
coment il li'n iert avenu.»
how it to-her-thereof will-be befallen
Afublé l'a delivrement.
Donned it-she-has freely
Li manteaus a destre s'estent
The mantle at right extends
si que plain pié li traïna,
so that full foot to-her it-trailed
l'acorz senestres se leva
the-point left itself raised
sor le genoil un petitet:
over the knee a little
«Sire, sire», ce dist Guivre(z),
Lord lord this said Guivret
«mout par est fous qui nule en creit,
very much is foolish who any thereof believes
«que chascune le suen deceit.
for each the hers deceives
«(S'il esteit li mieudres de l'ost)
If-he were the best of-the host
«(tant le decevreit el plus tost).
so-much him would-deceive she the-more soon
«Orendreites disiez vos
Just-now said you
«qu'ele l'avreit tot a estros,
that-she it-would-have all at once

«tant ert de leiauté provée:
so-much she-was in loyalty proven
«Or est la chose si alée
Now is the thing so gone
«que bien poez aperceveir
that well you-can perceive
«s'ele le puet par dreit aveir.
if-she it can by right have
«Or vos en dirai mon talent:
Now to-you thereof I-shall-tell my mind
«Li manteaus qui a destre pent
The mantle which at right hangs
«nos mostre qu'el chiet de son gré
to-us shows that-she falls of her will
«volentiers sor icel costé,
gladly on that side
«et li autres qui tant li lieve
and the other which so-much on-her lifts
«nos mostre que mout poi li grieve
to-us shows that very little to-her grieves
«a lever contremont les dras;
to raise upward the cloths
«quar ele veut en es le pas
for she wishes in very the step
«seit la besoigne apareillée.»
be the business prepared
La dameisele est tant iriée
The damsel is so angered
qu'ele ne set que faire deie,
that-she not knows what to-do she-ought

ainz prent par l'atache de seie
rather takes by the-clasp of silk
le mantel, si l'a jus geté;
the mantle so it-has down thrown
le vallet qui l'out aporté
the youth who it-had brought
a mout escordement maudit.
has very bitterly cursed
Et Keis li seneschaus a dit:
And Kay the seneschal has said
«Bele, ne vos corociez pas:
Fair-one not yourself anger at-all
«O dameisele Venelas
With damsel Venelas
«vendrez seeir et o m'amie,
you-will-come to-sit and with my-friend
«quar poi ont encor compaignie.»
for little they-have still company
Li reis apela demaneis
The king called at-once
l'amie au dameisel galeis
the-friend of-the young-lord Welsh
qui Percevaus ert apelez:
who Perceval was called
«Bele», fait li reis, «or prenez
Fair-one says the king now take
«le mantel; vostres iert en fin,
the mantle yours it-will-be in end
«vos avez le cuer enterin.
you have the heart entire

«Bien sai que il vos remaindra.»
Well I-know that it to-you will-remain
Girflez de parler se hasta:
Griflet of speaking himself hastened
«Sire», fait il, «por Dieu merci!
Lord says he for God mercy
«N'afichiez nule riens issi
Not-affirm any thing thus
«de si que [de] fi'n [iert] veü
until so that of certain-thereof it-will-be seen
«coment il [li]'n iert avenu.
how it to-her-thereof will-be befallen
«Quar l'uevre se loe a l'issue
For the-work itself praises at the-issue
«[quant est a bone fin venue].»
when it-is to good end come
La dameisele le receit
The damsel it receives
quar a escient set et veit
for with knowledge she-knows and sees
qu'ele ne puet par el passer.
that-she not can by otherwise pass
Mès quant el le dut afubler
But when she it had-to don
les ataches en sont rompues
the clasps of-it are broken
et a la terre jus cheües
and to the ground down fallen
avec le mantel tot ensemble.
with the mantle all together

Li cors d'angoisse li trestremble,
The body with-anguish to-her trembles
si que ne se set conseillier;
so that not herself she-knows-how to-counsel
quar la vit maint bon chevalier
for her saw many-a good knight
maint escuier et maint danzel.
many-a squire and many-a young-lord
Mout par ont maudit le mantel
Very much they-have cursed the mantle
et celui qui l'i aporta;
and him who it-there brought
quar ja mès a dreit ne serra
for ever more at right not it-will-fit
a dame ne a dameisele,
to lady nor to damsel
ja tant seit corteise ne bele,
ever so-much may-she-be courteous or fair
que ja por ce li siée mieus.
that ever for this to-her it-may-sit better
Les lermes li chieent des ieus,
The tears to-her fall from-the eyes
n'i a si petit qui nou veie.
not-there is so little who not-it may-see
Et Keis maintenant la conveie
And Kay at-once her escorts
o s'amie et o la Gauvain.
with his-friend and with the (of-)Gawain
«Tenez», fait il, «je vos amain,
Hold says he I to-you bring

«qu'il ne vos anuit, compaignie.»
that-it not you may-irk company
Mès nule d'eles nou mercie,
But any of-them not-him thanks
et il s'en [rest] tornez riant.
and he himself-thence again-is turned laughing
Li vallez prist demaintenant
The youth took at-once
le mantel, qui giseit a terre.
the mantle which lay on ground
«Or i estuet ataches querre,
Now there it-behooves clasps to-seek
«beaus amis!» ce li dist li reis.
fair friend this to-him said the king
Et il en i mist demaneis
And he of-them there put at-once
unes qu'il prist en s'aumosniere;
some that-he took in his-purse
qu'il ne veut en nule maniere
for-he not wishes in any manner
seit destorbée la besoigne,
be hindered the business
ne qu'eles i quierent essoigne,
nor that-they there may-seek excuse
mès afubler delivrement.
but don freely
Et li reis maintenant le prent,
And the king at-once it takes
si a par grant ire parlé:
so has with great anger spoken

«Trop avons, fait il, jeüné;
Too-much we-have says he fasted
«por quei font ces dames dangier?
for why make these ladies resistance
«Que ja n'asserrons au mengier
For ever not-we-shall-sit at-the meal
«[de si] que l'aient afublé;
until so that it-they-may-have donned
«bien en pueent aveir mal gré,
well thereof they-can have ill will
«si le rafubleront après!»
so it they-will-don-again after
Girflez qui fu fel et engrès
Griflet who was cruel and bitter
li respondi: «Sire, nou dites!
to-him answered Lord not-it say
«Bien les en poez clamer quites,
Well them thereof you-can declare quit
«se il vos veneit a plesir;
if it to-you came at pleasure
«volez les vos plus que honir?
wish them you more than to-shame
«Quant eles ci le mantel veient
When they here the mantle see
«eles creantent et otreient,
they grant and concede
«oïant seignors, oiant amis,
in-the-hearing-of lords in-the-hearing-of friends
«qu'eles ont mesfait et mespris;
that-they have misdone and erred

«volez les vos chacier avant?»
wish them you to-drive forward
Lors le lessast li reis atant
Then it would-have-let the king at-that
por ce que aveit dit Girflez,
for this that had said Griflet
quant avant sailli li vallez:
when forward leapt the youth
«Sire», fait il, «je vos demant
Lord says he I of-you ask
«que vos me tenez covenant,
that you me may-hold covenant
«si com vos le m'avez promis.»
just as you it to-me-have promised
Cil chevalier sont tuit pensi(s),
Those knights are all pensive
n'i a cel qui ost mes mot dire.
not-there is that-one who dares more word say

Ydier, who had mocked Kay, sends his own beloved to try it; it leaves her backside bare, Griflet mocks her, and Kay, repaying Ydier, mocks him in turn. One after another all the ladies try it and fail, and Kay leads each to sit in the row of the shamed. The knights take comfort that none can mock another; Gawain says their shame should grieve them, not comfort them, and Kay answers that a lady's fault should not shame her knight.

Ydiers en apela par ire
Ydier thereupon called in anger
s'amie qui lez lui seeit,
his-friend who beside him sat
quar au matin de veir cuideit
for in-the morning for truth be-thought
que nule ne fust plus leiaus.
that anyone not were more loyal
«Bele», fait il, «li seneschaus
Fair-one says he the seneschal
«me dist orainz trop me hastoue
to-me said just-now too-much myself I-hastened
«por ce que je le ramposnoue
for this that I him mocked
«de s'amie ne tant ne quant,
of his-friend either so-much or how-much
«mès je me fioue en vos tant
but I myself trusted in you so-much
«que je parlai seürement.
that I spoke surely

«Or sachiez que je m'en repent
Now know that I myself-thereof repent
«por ce que je vos vei doter.
for this that I you see fear
«Alez le mantel afubler,
Go the mantle don
«qu'il n'i ait point de delaier!
that-it not-there may-be whit of delaying
«Por quei en faites vos dangier,
For why thereof make you resistance
«quant ne poez par el passer?»
since not you-can by otherwise pass
Li reis li fist tost aporter
The king to-her made soon bring
le mantel, et ele le prent,
the mantle and she it takes
maintenant a son col le pent,
at-once at her neck it hangs
que n'i osa essoigne querre.
for not-there she-dared excuse seek
Li acor cheïrent a terre
The points fell to ground
si que plain pié li traïnérent.
so that full foot to-her they-trailed
Li plus des chevaliers cuidérent
The most of-the knights thought
que en li n'eüst se bien non,
that in her not-there-were except good not

puis regardérent le crepon
then they-looked-at the rump
qui trestoz descoverz esteit.
which all uncovered was
Girflez qui premerains le veit
Griflet who first it sees
li escrie demaintenant:
to-her cries at-once
— «Li acor en sont trop pendant,
The points of-it are too hanging
«il n'est pas a vostre oes taillez;
it not-is at-all for your use cut
«ja mès derrier n'iert si moillez
ever more behind not-it-will-be so wetted
«qu'il puisse reonz devenir.»
that-it can round become
Et Keis qui ne se pout tenir
And Kay who not himself could hold
porce qu'Ydiers l'out ramposné
for-this that-Ydier him-had mocked
li sout maintenant sa bonté:
to-him repaid at-once his kindness
— «Ydiers, que vos en est avis?
Ydier what to-you thereof is opinion
«Vostre amie n'a riens mespris?
Your friend not-has anything misdone
«Bien nos en poez or gaber.
Well us thereof you-can now mock

«L'en ne porreit que treis trover
One not could but three find
«esprovées de leiauté;
proven in loyalty
«li siecles est si atorné(z)
the world is so turned
«que chascuns en cuide une aveir.
that each thereof thinks one to-have
«Vos cuidiiez jehui saveir
You thought today to-know
«la leiauté qui en li ert:
the loyalty which in her was
«Mal est coverz cui li culs pert!
Ill is covered whose the ass shows
«Or vos en dirai la maniere:
Now to-you thereof I-shall-tell the manner
«El se fait cengler par derriere,
She herself makes girth from behind
«si com li manteaus nos devise.»
just as the mantle to-us describes
Ydiers ne set en nule guise
Ydier not knows in any wise
que il deie faire ne dire;
what he ought to-do or say
el prist le mantel par grant ire,
she took the mantle with great anger
si l'a geté aus piez le rei.
so it-has thrown at-the feet (of-)the king
Lors l'a prise par la main Kei,
Then her-has taken by the hand Kay

si l'a o les autres menée.
so her-has with the others led
«Par fei», fait il, «ceste assemblée
By faith says he this assembly
«iert ja, se Dieu plest, grant et bele.
will-be soon if God please great and fair
«Ja n'i remaindra dameisele
Ever not-there will-remain damsel
«ne viegne en ceste compaignie;
not may-come into this company
«por ce sereit grant vilenie
for this it-would-be great baseness
«se l'une aleit l'autre gabant.»
if the-one went the-other mocking
Que vos ireie je contant?
What to-you would-go I telling
Unes et autres l'afublérent
Ones and others it-donned
et lor ami les esgardérent;
and their friends them looked-at
onques a nule bien ne sist,
ever on any well not it-sat
et Keis totes veies les prist
and Kay all the-same them took
si come il lor vit messeeir,
just as he on-them saw ill-fit
si les mena ou renc seeir.
so them led into-the row to-sit

En la cort n'out nul chevalier
In the court not-there-was any knight
qui drue i eüst ne moillier
who beloved there had or wife
qui mout n'eüst le cuer dolent.
who very not-had the heart sorrowful
Qui veïst lor contenement,
Who had-seen their bearing
com li uns l'autre regardout!
how the one the-other looked-at
Mès auques les reconfortout
But somewhat them comforted
ce que li uns ne poeit mie
this that the one not could at-all
dire de l'autre vilenie,
say of the-other baseness
que il meïsmes n'i partist.
that he himself not-there shared
Et Keis li seneschaus lor dist:
And Kay the seneschal to-them said
«Seignor, ne vos corociez pas!
Lords not yourselves anger at-all
«Mout sont oël parti li ga(s),
Very are equally shared the jests
«quant chascuns en porte son fès.
when each thereof carries his burden
«Bien deivent estre desormès
Well they-must be henceforth
«par nos cheries et amées,
by us cherished and loved

«quar bien se sont hui aquitées.
for well themselves they-are today acquitted
«Ce nos deit mout reconforter,
This us must much comfort
«li uns ne puet l'autre gaber.»
the one not can the-other mock
Messire Gauvains respondi:
My-lord Gawain answered
«Ici a mauvès jeu parti,
Here there-is evil game divided
«je n'en sai le meillor eslire,
I not-thereof know the best to-choose
«que le meillor en est le pire;
for the best of-it is the worst
«et ce sereit anuiz et torz
and this would-be vexation and wrong
«se nostre honte esteit conforz.
if our shame were comfort
«Ainceiz nos en deit toz peser:
Rather us thereof it-must all grieve
«Li uns ne puet l'autre gaber.»
The one not can the-other mock
Keis li dist: «Ce n'i a mestier.
Kay to-him said This not-there has use
«J'ai oï dire en reprovier,
I-have heard say in proverb
«grant pieç'a, que duel de neient
great while-ago that grief of nothing
«seut acorer chetive gent.
is-wont to-kill wretched folk

«Mal deheiz ait qui ce juga,
Ill curse may-have who this judged
«et qui ja le creantera
and who ever it will-grant
«que ja chevaliers seit honi(z)
that ever knight be shamed
«se s'amie fait autre ami!
if his-friend makes other friend
«Ainz le devons bien contredire
Rather it we-must well gainsay
«que deions estre de ce pire
that we-must be by this worse
«se de mauvestié est provée.
if of wickedness she-is proven
«S'il l'aveit neuf feis esposée,
If-he her-had nine times wedded
«si sereit ce faus jugement
so would-be this false judgment
«que il empirast de neient.
that he should-worsen in anything
«Que li deit nuire autrui mesfait?
Why him must harm another's misdeed
«Sor celui seit qui l'avra fait.»
On him be-it who it-will-have done

Tor calls Kay's comfort poor. The youth fears he must take the mantle home and asks that the chambers be searched. Griflet finds one damsel unwell in her bed, the beloved of Carados Shortarm. Carados begs her not to try the mantle, for he would rather not know of any fault, and Kay mocks his fear.

Lors a dit Tors li filz Arès:
Then has said Tor the son (of-)Ares
«Cist conforz est assez mauvès.
This comfort is very bad
— Certes», ce dist li seneschaus,
Certainly this said the seneschal
«veritez est qu'il fait mains maus
truth it-is that-it does less ills
«por ce que mainz bons chevaliers
for this that many good knights
«est de cest mesfait parçoniers,
are of this misdeed sharers
«et mout en a aillors que ci.»
and much thereof there-are elsewhere than here
Li vallez dist: «Sire, merci!
The youth said Lord mercy
«Beaus Sire chiers, ce que sera?
Fair Lord dear this what will-be
«Je cuit que il m'en covendra
I think that it me-thereof will-behoove
«mon mantel arriere porter.
my mantle back to-carry

«Faites par ces chambres garder
Make through these chambers look
«que n'en i ait nule muciée.
that not-thereof there may-be any hidden
«Ja ert vostre cort tant preisiée
Already will-be your court so-much prized
«et par tot le mont renomée!
and through all the world renowned
«J'ai oï dire en ma contrée
I-have heard say in my country
«qu'onques n'i vint, ne tost ne tart,
that-ever not-there came either early or late
«aventure de nule part
adventure from any side
«qui s'en alast en tel maniere;
which itself-thence should-go in such manner
«et vostre cort est si pleniere
and your court is so full
«de bones genz, ce m'est avis,
of good folk this to-me-is opinion
«tant i a chevaliers de pris
so-many there are knights of worth
«et riches dames et puceles,
and rich ladies and maidens
«onques n'i out tant de si beles
ever not-there was so-many of so fair
«come or a, ce nos vont disant;
as now there-are this to-us they-go saying

«et quant bones genz i a tant
and when good folk there are so-many
«et vostre corz est si pleniere,
and your court is so full
«honte iert se s'en revait arriere.
shame will-be if itself-thence it-goes back
«Sachiez qu'ele en iert avilée,
Know that-it thereby will-be debased
«si'n ira en mainte contrée
so-thereof will-go into many-a country
«la novele, qui mout tost cort,
the news which very fast runs
«et sachiez que en vostre cort
and know that into your court
«en vendront aventures mains.
thereof will-come adventures fewer
— Par mon chief», ce a dist Gauvains,
By my head this has said Gawain
«de ce si dit li vallez veir!
of this so says the youth true
«Faites par ces chambres saveir
Make through these chambers know
«que n'i ait petite ne grant
that not-there may-be small or great
«qui orendreit ne viegne avant.»
who now not may-come forward

765 Li reis comande qu'on i aut,
The king commands that-one there may-go
et Girflez i ala le saut
and Griflet there went at-a leap
des que li reis le comanda.
as-soon that the king it commanded
Une dameisele trova,
A damsel he-found
mès ele n'esteit pas muciée,
but she not-was at-all hidden
770 ainz esteit un poi deshaitiée,
rather she-was a little unwell
si se seeit seule en son lit.
so herself sat alone on her bed
Et Girflez maintenant li dit:
And Griflet at-once to-her says
«Levez tost sus, ma dameisele,
Rise soon up my damsel
«quar une aventure novele
for an adventure new
775 «est en cele sale venue.
is into that hall come
«Onques tele ne fu veüe,
Ever such not was seen
«si la vos covient a veeir;
so it you it-behooves to see
«vostre part en devez aveir,
your part of-it you-must have
«quant totes les autres en ont.»
since all the others of-it have

La dameisele li respont:
The damsel to-him answers
«J'irai volentiers orendreit,
I-shall-go gladly now
«mès lessiez mei vestir a dreit.»
but let me dress at right
La dameisele s'est levée,
The damsel herself-is risen
vestue s'est et atornée
clothed herself-she-is and adorned
au mieus et au plus bel que pout
at-the best and at-the most fair that she-could
de la meillor robe qu'ele out,
in the best robe that-she had
puis est en la sale venue.
then she-is into the hall come
Et quant ses amis l'a veüe,
And when her friend her-has seen
sachiez que mout en fu iriez.
know that very thereby he-was angered
Devant esteit joianz et liez
Before he-was joyful and glad
de ce que n'i aveit esté;
of this that not-there she-had been
que s'il fust a sa volenté
for if-it had-been at his will
ele ne l'afublast nul jor.
she not it-would-don any day
Quar il l'amout tant par amor,
For he her-loved so-much by love

que s'ele eüst de riens mesfait
that if-she had in anything misdone
il n'en queïst oïr le plait
he not-thereof would-seek to-hear the plea
que il n'en perdist son solaz.
so-that he not-thereby would-lose his solace
Ses nons ert Carados Briebraz.
His name was Carados Shortarm
Lors vint [devant] le dameisel
Then came forward the young-lord
qui out aporté le mantel,
who had brought the mantle
et si li a dit et conté
and so to-her has said and told
dou mantel tote la verté,
of-the mantle all the truth
et por quei il l'i aporta.
and for what he it-there brought
Carados grant duel demena,
Carados great grief made
oiant toz dist: «Ma douce amie,
in-the-hearing-of all said My sweet friend
«por Dieu ne l'afublez vos mie
for God not it-don you at-all
«se vos vos dotez de neient!
if you yourself fear of anything

«Quar je vos aim tant bonement
For I you love so kindly
«que je ne voudreie saveir
that I not would know
«vostre mesfait por nul aveir:
your misdeed for any wealth
«Mieus en vueil je estre en dotance.
Better thereof wish I to-be in doubt
«Por tot le reiaume de France
For all the kingdom of France
«n'en voudreie je estre cert;
not-thereof would I be certain
«quar qui sa bone amie pert
for who his good friend loses
«mout a perdu, ce m'est avis.
much has lost this to-me-is opinion
«Mieus voudreie estre mors que vis
Better I-would-wish to-be dead than alive
«se vos veïsse ou renc assise
if you I-saw in-the row seated
«o l'amie Gauvain est mise.»
where the-friend (of-)Gawain is put
Lors parla Keis, le seneschal:
Then spoke Kay the seneschal
«Et cil qui pert sa desleial
And he who loses his disloyal-one
«dont ne deit il estre mout liez?
then not must he be very glad
«Vos serez ja mout corociez,
You will-be soon very angered

«se vos l'amez tant bonement.
if you her-love so kindly
«Vez en la seeir plus de cent
See thereof there sitting more than a-hundred
«que l'en cuidout jehui matin
whom one thought today morning
«plus esmerées que or fin;
more refined than gold fine
«or les poez totes veeir
now them you-can all see
«por lor mesfaiz ou renc seeir.»
for their misdeeds in-the row sitting

THE MANTLE WON

With her lover's leave she puts on the mantle, and it fits exactly. Of the more than a thousand women who have tried it, the youth says, she alone is faultless, and he gives it to her. He leaves without dining, and Carados takes her home. The mantle, laid up in a Welsh abbey, has been found again, and its new keeper will carry it to ladies everywhere; the poet, fearing their hatred, ends by defending them.

Cele qui point ne s'esbahi
She who whit not herself-dismayed
mout doucement li respondi:
very sweetly to-him answered
«Sire», fait ele, «ce savo[mes]
Lord says she this we-know
«que il meschiet a main[z] preudo[mes],
that it ill-befalls to many worthy-men

«ne je ne m'os mie vanter
nor I not myself-dare at-all boast
«que les deie totes passer
that them I-must all surpass
«de leiauté ne de valor.
in loyalty or in worth
«Mès se il plest a mon seignor,
But if it pleases to my lord
«je l'afublerai volentiers.
I it-shall-don gladly
— Par fei», dist chascuns chevaliers,
By faith said each knight
«vos n'en poez par el passer.»
you not-thereof can by otherwise pass
Encor nou vout ele afubler
Still not-it wished she to-don
de si qu'ele en ait le congié
until so that-she thereof may-have the leave
de son trés douz ami preisié.
of her very sweet friend prized
Mout a envis li a doné.
Very with reluctance to-her has given
Ele l'a pris et afublé
She it-has taken and donned
maintenant, veiant les barons.
at-once in-the-sight-of the barons
Ne li fu trop corz ne trop lons;
Not to-her it-was too short or too long
tot oël li avint a terre.
all equally to-her it-came to ground

«Iceste feseit bien a querre»,
This-one made well to seek
fait li vallez, «ce m'est avis!
says the youth this to-me-is opinion
«Dameisele, li vostre amis
Damsel the your friend
«deit estre mout joianz et liez.
must be very joyful and glad
«Une chose de veir sachiez:
One thing for truth know
«Je l'ai par maintes corz porté,
I it-have through many courts carried
«et plus de mil l'ont afublé.
and more than a-thousand it-have donned
«Onques mès ne vi en ma vie
Ever before not I-saw in my life
«sanz mesfait ne sanz vilenie
without misdeed or without baseness
«nule, fors vos tant seulement.
any except you so-much only
«Je vos otrei le garnement
I to-you grant the garment
«qui bien vaut plain un val d'aveir,
which well is-worth full a valley of-possession
«quar vos le devez bien aveir.»
for you it must well have
La dameisele l'en mercie.
The damsel him-thereof thanks

Li reis bonement li otrie
The king kindly to-her grants
et dit que suens est par reson.
and says that hers it-is by reason
N'i a chevalier ne baron
Not-there is knight or baron
ne dameisele qui l' desdie,
or damsel who it gainsays
et si'n ont il mout grant envie
and so-thereof have they very great envy
quant l'en porte lor ieus veiant.
when it-away she-carries their eyes seeing
Mès n'en osent faire semblant,
But not-thereof they-dare make seeming
quar nule n'i set acheison
for anyone not-there knows reason
dont ele ost dire se bien non.
whereby she may-dare to-say except good not
Lors li dist messire Gauvains:
Then to-her said my-lord Gawain
«Bele», fait il, «je pren en mains
Fair-one says he I take in hands
«que vos n'en devez guerredon
that you not-thereof owe reward
«se a vostre leiauté non;
except to your loyalty not
«cil qui vostre leiauté veient
those who your loyalty see
«le vos creantent et otreient.
it to-you grant and concede

«Volentiers le contredeïssent
Gladly it they-would-gainsay
«se il en nul endreit veïssent
if they in any point had-seen
«que vos nou deüssiez aveir.
that you not-it should have
«A escient poez saveir
With knowledge you-can know
«que li plusor en sont dolent.»
that the most thereof are sorrowful
Li dameiseaus le congié prent
The young-lord the leave takes
quar il ne vout plus demorer;
for he not wished more to-stay
onques seulement le disner
ever only the dinner
ne vout en nule guise atendre,
not he-wished in any wise to-await
quar a sa dame voleit rendre
for to his lady he-wished to-render
son message delivrement.
his message promptly
Et li reis et tote sa gent
And the king and all his people
assist erranment au mengier.
sat at-once to-the meal
Sachiez que maint bon chevalier
Know that many-a good knight
i sist pleins de coroz et d'ire.
there sat full of wrath and of-anger

Dou mengier ne vos vueil plus dire
Of-the meal not to-you I-wish more to-say
fors que mout bien furent servi.
except that very well they-were served
Et quant [dou] mengier fu feni,
And when of-the meal it-was finished
Carados a le congié pris,
Carados has the leave taken
si s'en rala en son païs
so himself-thence went-back into his country
liez et joianz a tot s'amie.
glad and joyful with all his-friend
En Gales en une abaïe
In Wales in an abbey
mistrent estoier le mantel,
they-put to-keep the mantle
qui or est trovez de novel,
which now is found of new
et si sai je tres bien qui l'a
and so know I very well who it-has
qui par trestot le portera
who through everywhere it will-carry
aus dames et aus dameiseles.
to-the ladies and to-the damsels
Seignors, dites lor teus noveles
Lords tell them such news
que partot le fera porter,
that everywhere it he-will-make carry
si le covendra afubler.
so it it-will-behoove to-don

(Et si sai bien de verité)
And so I-know well of truth
(que ja par eles n'iert usé(z)).
that ever by them not-it-will-be worn-out
Por neient me travaillereie
For nothing myself I-would-toil
se je cest present lor feseie:
if I this present to-them made
eus me harreient mès toz dis,
they me would-hate ever-more all days
si m'en porreit estre de pis
so me-thereof could be the worse
se les requereie de rien.
if them I-requested of anything
Por ce me covient dire bien
For this me it-behooves to-say well
por mon besoing, non por le lor.
for my need not for the theirs
Et si n'i a il fors honor,
And so not-there is it except honor
que que jadis i ait eü.
what that formerly there may-have been
Mès por le mal qui donques fu
But for the ill which then was
lor va on encor reprochant,
to-them goes one still reproaching

et ja Dieus ne li seit garant 920
and ever God not to-him may-be warrant
qui dira d'eles se bien non,
who will-say of-them except good not
s'il n'i set mout juste acheison.
if-he not-there knows very just reason
