

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES • VOLUME 6

WALTHER VON DER VOGELWEIDE

Walther von der Vogelweide

The Leich, the Songs, and the Sprüche

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation
preserving the original word order

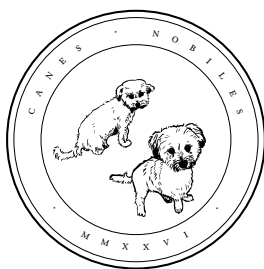


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The Middle High German text follows *Die Gedichte Walthers von der Vogelweide*, siebente Ausgabe von Karl Lachmann besorgt von Carl von Kraus (Berlin: Georg Reimer, 1907)

Set from a page scan of the 1907 printing

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

The poems stand in Lachmann's order and are cited in the outer margin by the page and line of his edition of 1827, as Walther has been cited ever since. The reading sections are Kraus's Töne, which he marks with a star in the Lesarten.

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WALTHER VON DER VOGELWEIDE

*The First Book: The Leich
and the Sprüche of Empire and Church*

Got, dîner Trinitâte

GOD, OF THY TRINITY

The Leich, one long prayer in shifting measures. It opens on the Trinity, three in one oneness, and turns to the Virgin through the figures that were read as her: Aaron's blooming rod, Ezekiel's shut gate, the burning bush, Gideon's fleece, Solomon's throne. It asks repentance for a Christendom sick with simony and half-heathen in its works, and closes praying mother and son to be gracious and to lighten the guilt.

Got, dîner Trinitâte,

God, of-thy Trinity,

dîn fûrgedanc mit râte,

thy forethought with counsel,

diu drîe ist ein einunge.

the three is one oneness.

die beslozzèn hâte

which enclosed had

der jehen wir, mit drîunge

of-it confess we, with threefoldness

3,1

Ein got der hôhe hêre,

One God the high exalted-one,

sîn ie selbwesende êre,

his ever self-being honor,

verendet niemer mêre,

ends never more,

der sende uns sîne lêre.

he send us his teaching.

uns hât verleitet sêre

us has led-astray sorely

die sinne ûf mange sünde

the senses to many-a sin

der fürste ûz helle abgründe.

the prince out-of hell's abyss.

Sîn rât und bœses fleisches gir

His counsel and evil flesh's greed

die hânt geverret, hêrre, uns dir.

these have estranged, Lord, us from-thee.

sît disiu zwei dir sint ze balt

since these two to-thee are too bold

und dû der beider hât gewalt,

and thou of-the both hast power,

sô tuo daz dînem namen ze lobe,

so do that to-thy name for praise,

und hilf uns daz wir mit dir obe

and help us that we with thee above

geligen, und daz dîn kraft uns gebe

prevail, and that thy strength us give

sô starke stæte widerstrebe,

so strong constant resistance,

Dâ von dîn name sî gêret

There from thy name be honored

und ouch dîn lop gemêret.

and also thy praise increased.

dâ von wirt er geunêret,

there from is be dishonored,

der uns dâ sünde lêret

who us there sin teaches

Und der uns ûf unkiusche jaget:

And who us to unchastity drives:

sîn kraft von dîner kraft verzaget.

his strength [before] thy strength fails.

des sî dir iemer lop gesaget,

for-that be to-thee ever praise said,

und ouch der reinen sœzen maget,

and also to-the pure sweet maid,

von der uns ist der sun betaget,
from whom to-us is the son dawned,
 der ir ze kinde wol behaget.
who to-her as child well pleases.

Maget und muoter, schouwe
Maid and mother, behold

der kristenheite nôt,
the Christendom's need,

dû blüende gert Arônes,
thou blooming rod Aaron's,

ûf gênder morgenrôt,
up going morning-red,

Ezechiêles porte,
Ezekiel's gate,

diu nie wart ûf getân,
which never was open done,

dur die der künec hêrlîche
through which the king lordly

wart ûz und in gelân.
was out and in let.

alsô diu sunne schînet
as the sun shines

durch ganz geworhtez glas,
through whole wrought glass,

alsô gebar diu reine Krist, diu magt und muoter was.
so bore the pure-one Christ, who maid and mother was.

Ein bosch der bran,

A bush which burned,

dâ nie niht an

where never anything on

besenget noch verbrennet wart:

singed nor burnt was:

breit unde ganz

broad and whole

beleip sîn glanz

remained its brightness

vor fiures flamme unverschart.

before fire's flame unbarmed.

daz was diu reine

that was the pure

magt alleine,

maid alone,

diu mit megetlîcher art

who with maidenly nature

Kindes muoter worden ist

Child's mother become is

ân aller manne mitewist,

without any men's company,

wider menneschlîchen list

against human craft

den wâren Krist

the true Christ

gebar, der uns bedâhte.

bore, who us provided-for.

wol ir, daz si den ie getruoc,

well to-her, that she him ever bore,

der unsern tôt ze tôde sluoc!

who our death to death struck!

mit sînem bluote er ab uns twuoc

with his blood he from us washed

den ungefuoc

the wrong

den Even schulde uns brâhte.

which Eve's guilt us brought.

Salomônes

Solomon's

hôhes trônes

high throne's

bist dû, frowe, ein selde hêre und ouch gebieterinne.

art thou, lady, a dwelling noble and also mistress.

balsamîte,

balsam-flower,

margarîte,

pearl,

ob allen magden bist dû, maget, ein magt, ein kûeginne.

above all maidens art thou, maid, a maid, a queen.

gotes amme,

God's nurse,

ez was dîn wamme

it was thy womb

ein palas kleine,

a palace small,

dâ daz reine

where the pure

lamp aleine

lamb alone

lac beslozzon inne.

lay enclosed within.

Dem lamme ist gar

To-the lamb is wholly

gelîch gevar

like in-bue

der megde schar:

the maidens' company:

die nement sîn war

they take of-him heed

und kêrent swar ez kêret.

and turn whither it turns.

daz lamp ist

the lamb is

der wâre Krist,

the true Christ,

dâ von dû bist

there from thou art

nû alle frist

now all time

gehœhet und gehêret.

exalted and honored.

des bistû frowe gêret.

for-that art-thou lady honored.

nû bite in daz er uns gewer

now ask him that he us grant

durch dich des unser dürfte ger:

through thee what our need desires:

dû sende uns trôst von himel her:

thou send us comfort from heaven hither:

des wirt dîn lop gemêret.

thereby is thy praise increased.

Dû maget vil unbewollen,

Thou maid quite undefiled,

der Gedêônes wollen

the Gideon's fleece

glîchest dû bevollen,

resemblest thou fully,

die got selbe begôz mit sîme touwe.

which God himself watered with his dew.

ein wort ob allen worten

a word above all words

beslôz dînr ôren porten,

opened thy ears' gates,

daz süeze an allen orten

which sweet in all places

dich hât gesüezet, süeze himelfrouwe.

thee has sweetened, sweet heaven-lady.

Daz ûz dem worte erwahsen sî,

What from the word grown is,

daz ist von kindes sinnen frî:

that is from child's senses free:

ez wuohs ze worte, und wart ein man.

it grew to word, and became a man.

dâ merket alle ein wunder an:

there mark all a wonder on:

ein got der ie gewesende wart

a God who ever existing became

ein man nâch menseschlîcher art.

a man after human nature.

swaz er noch wunders ie begie,

whatever he yet of-wonder ever did,

daz hât er überwundert hie.

that has he out-wondered here.

des selben wunderæres hûs

the same wonder-worker's house

was einer reinen megde klûs

was a pure maiden's cell

wol vierzec wochen und niht mê

full forty weeks and not more

ân alle sünde und âne wê.

without all sin and without woe.

Nû biten wir die muoter

Now ask we the mother

si reine und er vil guoter

she pure and he right good

wan âne si kan niemen

for without them can no-one

und widerredet daz iemen,

and gainsays that anyone,

und ouch der muoter barn,

and also the mother's child,

daz si uns tuon bewarn:

that they us do guard:

hie noch dort genesen:

here nor there be-saved:

der muoz ein tôre wesen.

he must a fool be.

Wie mac des iemer werden rât,

How can of-it ever become remedy,

der umbe sîne missetât

who for his misdeed

niht herzelicher riuwe hât?

no heartfelt repentance has?

sît got enheine sünde lât,

since God no sin leaves,

Die niht geriuwent zaller stunt

Which not are-repented at-every hour

hin abe unz ûf des herzen grunt.

down away until to the heart's ground.

dem wîsen ist daz allez kunt,

to-the wise is that all known,

daz niemer sêle wirt gesunt,

that never soul becomes sound,

diu mit der sünden swert ist wunt,

which with the sins' sword is wounded,

sin habe von grunde heiles funt.

unless-it have from ground of-healing finding.

Nû ist uns riuwe tiure:

Now is to-us repentance scarce:

si sende uns got ze stiure

it send us God as help

bî sînem minnefiure.

by his love-fire.

sîn geist der vil gehiure

his spirit the right gracious

Der kan wol herten herzen geben

He can well to-hard hearts give

wâre riuwe und lîhtez leben:

true repentance and easy life:

dâ wider solte niemen streben.

there against should no-one strive.

Swâ er die riuwe gerne weiz,

Wherever he the repentance gladly knows,

dâ machet er die riuwe heiz:

there makes he the repentance hot:

ein wildez herze er alsô zamt,

a wild heart he so tames,

daz ez sich aller sünden schamt.

that it itself of-all sins is-ashamed.

Nû sende uns, vater unde sun, den rehten geist her abe,
Now send us, father and son, the right spirit here down,

daz er mit sîner süezen fuhte ein durrez herze erlabe.
that he with his sweet moisture a dry heart refresb.

unkristenlîcher dinge ist al diu kristenheit sô vol.
of-unchristian things is all the Christendom so full.

swâ Kristentuom ze siechhûs lît, dâ tuot man im niht wol.
wherever Christendom in sick-house lies, there does one to-it not well.

In dürstet sêre
It thirsts sorely

nâch der lêre
after the teaching

als er von Rôme was gewon:
as it from Rome was accustomed:

der im die schancte
who to-it that poured

und in dâ trancte
and it there gave-to-drink

als ê, dâ wurd er varnde von.
as before, there would-become it faring from.

Swaz im dâ leides ie gewar,
Whatever to-it there of-harm ever befell,

daz kam von simonîe gar,
that came from simony wholly,

und ist er dâ sô friunde bar,
and (if)-is it there so of-friends bare,

daz ern getar
that it dares

niht sînen schaden gerüegen.
not its hurt to-complain-of.

kristentuom und kristenheit,

Christendom and Christian-folk,

der disiu zwei zesamne sneit,

he-who these two together cut,

gelîche lanc, gelîche breit,

equally long, equally broad,

liep unde leit,

joy and sorrow,

der wolte ouch daz wir trûegen

he willed also that we should-bear

In Kriste kristenlîchez leben.

In Christ a-Christian life.

sît er uns hât ûf eine gegeben,

since he us has to one given,

sô suln wir uns niht scheiden.

so shall we ourselves not divide.

swelch kristen kristentuomes giht

whatever Christian of-Christianity professes

an worten, und an werken niht,

in words, and in works not,

der ist wol halp ein heiden.

he is fully half a heathen.

daz ist unser meiste nôt:

that is our greatest need:

daz eine ist ân daz ander tôt:

the one is without the other dead:

nû stiure uns got an beiden,

now help us God in both,

Und gebe uns rât,
And give us counsel,

sît er uns hât
since he us has

sîn hantgetât
his handiwork

geheizen offenbâre.
called openly.

nû senfte uns, frowe, sînen zorn,
now soften for-us, lady, his wrath,

barmherzic muoter ûz erkorn,
merciful mother out chosen,

dû frîer rôse sunder dorn,
thou free rose without thorn,

dû sunnevarwîu klâre.
thou sun-bued bright-one.

Dich lobet der hôhen engel schar:
Thee praises the high angels' company:

doch brâhten si dîn lop nie dar
yet brought they thy praise never thither

daz ez volendet wurde gar,
that it finished might-be wholly,

Dâ ez ie wurde gesungen
Where it ever were sung

in stimmen oder von zungen
in voices or by tongues

ûz allen ordenungen
out-of all orders

ze himel und ûf der erde.

in heaven and on the earth.

ich mane dich, gotes werde,

I admonish thee, God's worthy-one,

Wir biten umb unser schulde dich,

We ask for our guilt thee,

daz dû uns sîst genædiclich,

that thou to-us be gracious,

Sô daz dîn bete erklinge

So that thy prayer may-ring

sô hân wir des gedinge,

so have we of-it hope,

vor der barmunge urspringe:

before the mercy's springs:

diu schulde werde ringe,

the guilt become light,

Dâ mite wir sêre sîn beladen.

There with we sorely are laden.

hilf uns daz wir si abe gebaden

help us that we it away may-bathe

Mit stæte wernder riuwe

With constant lasting repentance

umb unser missetât,

for our misdeed,

die nieman âne got und âne dich ze gebenne hât.

which no-one save God and save thee to give has.

Ich saz ûf eime steine

I SAT UPON A STONE

Three strophes: the poet sits, hears, then sees. He sits with his chin in his hand and asks how a man may hold worldly goods, honor, and God's favor together in one heart, and finds that violence and faithlessness keep them apart. He watches the beasts and the birds, who choose kings and law among themselves, and tells the German tongue that the gnat has its king while its own honor decays. He hears Rome deceive two kings, clergy and laity divide, and a hermit weep that the pope is too young.

8,4 Ich saz ûf eime steine,

I sat on a stone,

und dahte bein mit beine:

and covered leg with leg:

dar ûf satzt ich den ellenbogen:

there on set I the elbow:

ich hete in mîne hant gesmogen

I had into my hand nestled

daz kinne und ein mîn wange.

the chin and one (of)-my cheek.

dô dâhte ich mir vil ange,

then thought I to-myself very anxiously,

wie man zer welte solte leben:

how one in-the world should live:

deheinen rât kond ich gegeben,

no counsel could I give,

wie man driu dinc erwurbe,

how one three things might-win,

der keines niht verdurbe.

of-which none — should-perish.

diu zwei sint êre und varnde guot,
the two are honor and shifting goods,

daz dicke ein ander schaden tuot:
which often one another harm does:

daz dritte ist gotes hulde,
the third is God's favor,

der zweier übergulde.
of-the two the-surpassing

die wolte ich gerne in einen schrîn.
these wanted I gladly in one casket.

jâ leider desn mac niht gesîn,
yes alas of-that can not be,

daz guot und weltlich êre
that goods and worldly honor

und gotes hulde mêre
and God's favor besides

zesamene in ein herze komen.
together into one heart come.

stîg unde wege sint in benomen:
path and roads are to-them taken-away:

untriuwe ist in der sâze,
faithlessness is in the ambush,

gewalt vert ûf der strâze:
violence travels on the road:

fride unde reht sint sêre wunt.
peace and right are sorely wounded.

diu driu enhabent geleites niht, diu zwei enwerden ê gesunt.
the three have escort not, the two unless-become first sound.

Ich hôrte ein wazzer diezen
I heard a water roar

und sach die vische fliezen,
and saw the fishes float,

ich sach swaz in der welte was,

I saw whatever in the world was,

velt walt loup rôr unde gras.

field wood leaf reed and grass.

swaz kriuchet unde fliuget

whatever creeps and flies

und bein zer erde biuget,

and leg to-the earth bends,

daz sach ich, unde sage iu daz:

that saw I, and say to-you this:

der keinez lebet âne haz.

of-them none lives without hate.

daz wilt und daz gewürme

the game and the creeping-things

die strîtent starke stürme,

they wage fierce battles,

sam tuont die vogel under in;

likewise do the birds among themselves;

wan daz si habent einen sin:

save that they have one sense:

si dûhten sich ze nihte,

they would-think themselves as nothing,

si enschüefen starc gerihte.

they unless-made strong government.

si kiesent künege unde reht,

they choose kings and law,

si setzent hêrren unde kneht.

they appoint lord and servant.

sô wê dir, tiuschiu zunge,

so woe to-thee, German tongue,

wie stêt dîn ordenunge!

how stands thy ordering!

daz nû diu mugge ir künec hât,

that now the gnat its king has,

und daz dîn êre alsô zergât.

and that thy honor thus decays.

bekêrâ dich, bekêre.

turn thyself, turn.

die cirkel sint ze hêre,

the circlets are too lordly,

die armen kûnege dringent dich:

the petty kings press thee:

Philippe setze en weisen ûf, und heiz si treten hinder sich.

Philip set the orphan on, and bid them step behind themselves.

Ich sach mit mînen ougen

I saw with my eyes

manne und wîbe tougen,

of-men and of-women secrets,

deich gehôrte und gesach

that-I heard and saw

swaz iemen tet, swaz iemen sprach.

whatever anyone did, whatever anyone said.

ze Rôme hôrte ich liegen,

at Rome heard I lying,

zwêne kûnege triegen.

two kings deceiving.

dâ von huop sich der meiste strît

there from arose itself the greatest strife

der ê was oder iemer sît,

that ever was or ever since,

dô sich begunden zweien

when themselves began to-divide

die pfaffen unde leien.

the priests and laymen.

daz was ein nôt vor aller nôt:

that was a distress beyond all distress:

9,16

lîp unde sêle lac dâ tât.

body and soul lay there dead.

die pfaffen striten sêre:

the priests fought hard:

doch wart der leien mêre.

yet became of-the laymen more.

diu swert diu leiten si dernider,

the swords those laid they down,

und griffen zuo der stôle wider:

and grasped to the stole again:

si bienen die si wolten,

they banned whom they would,

und niht den si solten.

and not whom they should.

dô stôrte man diu goteshûs.

then laid-waste one the God's-houses.

ich hôrte verre in einer klûs

I heard far-off in a cell

vil michel ungebære:

very great lamenting:

dâ weinte ein klôsenære,

there wept a recluse,

er klagete gote sîniu leit,

he lamented to-God his sorrows,

‘owê der bâbest ist ze junc: hilf, hêre, dîner kristenheit.’

‘alas the pope is too young: help, Lord, thy Christendom.’

Mehtiger got, dû bist sô lanc und bist sô breit

MIGHTY GOD, THOU ART SO LONG AND BROAD

Five strophes on God's measure and the empire's duty. God is too great and too small for thought, and the man who broods on it wastes his days. Let him avenge himself and his mother on the enemies of their heritage, and count the unclean Christian no better than the heathen. A messenger is sent to bid the emperor come quickly; the priests are told what Constantine's gift was for; and the old recluse fears again for the churches.

Mehtiger got, dû bist sô lanc und bist sô breit:

10,1

Mighty God, thou art so long and art so broad:

gedæht wir dâ nâch daz wir unser arebeit

would-think we there after that we our labor

niht verlûrn! dirst ungemezzen maht und êwekeit.

not might-lose! thine-is unmeasured power and eternity.

ich weiz bî mir wol daz ein ander ouch dar umbe trahtet:

I know by myself well that an other also there about ponders:

sô ist ez, als ez ie was, unseren sinnen unbereit.

so is it, as it ever was, to-our senses inaccessible.

dû bist ze grôz, dû bist ze kleine: ez ist ungahtet.

thou art too great, thou art too small: it is unfathomed.

tumber gouch, der dran betaget oder benahtet!

foolish cuckoo, who thereon spends-day or spends-night!

wil er wizen daz nie wart gepredjet noch gepfahtet?

will he know what never was preached nor decreed?

Rich, hêrre, dich und dîne muoter, megde kint,

10,9

Avenge, Lord, thyself and thy mother, maiden's child,

an den die iuwers erbelandes vînde sint.

on those who your heritage-land's enemies are.

lâ dir den kristen zuo den heiden sîn alsô den wint:

let to-thee the Christian beside the heathen be as the wind:

dû weist wol daz die heiden dich niht irrent alters eine.

thou knowest well that the heathen thee not hinder altogether alone.

an dîner râche gegen in, hêrre vater, niht erwint.

in thy vengeance against them, Lord father, not cease.

die sint wider dich doch offenliche unreine:

those are against thee yet openly unclean:

wan si meinent dich mit ganzen triuwen kleine;

for they mean thee with whole faith little;

dise unreiner, diez mit in sô stille habent gemeine.

these uncleaner, who-it with them so quietly have in-common.

10,17 Bot, sage dem keiser sînes armen mannes rât,

Messenger, say to-the emperor his poor man's counsel,

daz ich deheinen bezzern weiz als ez nû stât.

that I no better know as it now stands.

ob in guotes unde liute ieman erbeiten lâ,et,

if him of-goods and of-men anyone wait lets,

sô var er balde und kome uns schiere, lâze sich niht tœren;

so travel he quickly and come to-us soon, let himself not be-fooled;

irre ouch etelichen der got und in girret hât;

binder also many-a-one who God and him hindered has;

die rehten pfaffen warne, daz si niht gehœren

the right priests warn, that they not listen-to

den unrehten die daz rîche wænent stœren;

the wrong who the realm think to-trouble;

scheides von in, oder scheides alle von den kœren.

part-them from them, or part-them all from the choirs.

Solt ich den pfaffen râten an den triuwen mîn,

Should I the priests counsel by the faith mine,

10,25

sô spræche ir hant den armen zuo 'sê daz ist dîn':

so would-speak their hand to-the poor to 'lo that is thine':

ir zunge sunge unde lieze manegem man daz sîn;

their tongue would-sing and would-leave to-many-a man that his;

gedæhten daz ouch si durch got ê wâren almuosnære:

would-they-think that also they for God's-sake once were alms-men:

dô gap in êrste geltes teil der künic Constantîn.

then gave to-them first of-revenue a-share the king Constantine.

het er gewest daz dâ von übel künftic wære,

had he known that there from evil to-come were,

sô het er wol underkomen des rîches swære;

so would-have he well forestalled the realm's grief;

wan daz si dô wâren kiusche und übermüete lære.

save that they then were chaste and of-arrogance empty.

Mîn alter klôsenære, von dem ich sô sanc,

My old recluse, of whom I so sang,

10,33

dô uns der êrre bâbest alsô sêre twanc,

when us the earlier pope so sorely oppressed,

der fürhtet aber der goteshûse, ir meister werden kranc.

he fears again of-the God's-houses, their masters to-become weak.

er seit, ob si die guoten bannen und den übeln singen,

he says, if they the good ban and to-the evil sing,

man swenke in engegene den vil swinden widerswanc:

one swing to-them against the right swift back-swing:

an pfrüenden und an kirchen müge in misselingen:

in prebends and in churches may to-them go-amiss:

der sî vil die dar ûf iezuo haben gedingen

of-them be many who there on now have hope

daz ir guot verdienen umb daz rîche in liechten ringen.

that-they their goods earn from the realm in bright mail-rings.

Hêr bâbest, ich mac wol genesen

LORD POPE, I MAY WELL BE SAVED

Six strophes on empire and papacy. The pope's own words at the coronation are quoted back at him, and beside them the Jews' question about tribute and the answer that the emperor's image belongs to the emperor. The emperor is welcomed as bearing the eagle's virtue and the lion's strength, told that God lays a complaint before him about the heathen in his son's land, and urged to make peace among the Germans first. The laymen wonder that the priests now retract their teaching.

11,6 Hêr bâbest, ich mac wol genesen:

Lord pope, I may well be-saved:

wan ich wil iu gehôrsam wesen.

for I will to-you obedient be.

wir hôrten iuch der kristenheit gebieten

we heard you to-the Christendom command

wes wir dem keiser solten pflegen,

what we to-the emperor should render,

dô ir im gâbent gotes segen,

when you to-him gave God's blessing,

daz wir in hiezen hêrre und vor im knieten.

that we him should-call lord and before him should-kneel.

ouch sult ir niht vergezzen,

also should you not forget,

ir sprâchent 'swer dich segene, sî

you said 'whoever thee blesses, be

gesegent: swer dir fluoche, sî verfluochet

blessed: whoever thee curses, be cursed

mit fluoche volmezzen.'

with curse full-measured.'

durch got bedenkent iuch dâ bî
for God's-sake bethink you there by
 ob ir der pfaffen êre iht geruochet.
whether you the priests' honor at-all deign.

Dô gotes sun hien erde gie,
When God's son here-on earth walked,
 do versuohten in die juden ie:
then tempted him the Jews ever:
 sam tâtens eines tages mit dirre frâge.
so did-they one day with this question.

si frâgeten obe ir frîez leben
they asked whether their free life
 dem kûnege iht zinses solte geben.
to-the king any of-tribute should give.

dô brach er in die huote und al ir lâge.
then broke he to-them the guard and all their ambush.

er iesch ein münizâsen,
he asked-for a coin,

er sprach 'wes bilde ist hie ergraben?'
he said 'whose image is here engraved?'

'des keisers,' sprâchen dô die merkære.
'the emperor's,' said then the watchers.

dô riet er den unwîsen
then counseled he the unwise

daz si den keiser liezen haben
that they the emperor should-let have

sîn kûneges reht, und got swaz gotes wære.
his king's right, and God whatever God's were.

11,18

11,30 Hêr keiser, sît ir willekomen.

Lord emperor, be you welcome.

der küneges name ist iu benomen:

the king's name is from-you taken:

des schînet iuwer krône ob allen krônen.

therefore shines your crown above all crowns.

iur hant ist krefte und guotes vol:

your hand is of-strength and of-goods full:

ir wellet übel oder wol,

you will ill or well,

sô mac si beidiu rechen unde lônên.

so may it both avenge and reward.

dar zuo sag ich iu mære:

there to say I to-you tidings:

die fürsten sint iu undertân,

the princes are to-you subject,

si habent mit zûhten iuwer kunft erbeitet.

they have with courtesy your coming awaited.

und ie der Mîssenære

and ever the Meissener

derst iemer iuwer âne wân:

be-is ever yours without doubt:

von gote wurde ein engel ê verleitet.

from God would an angel sooner be-led-astay.

12,6 Hêr keiser, ich bin frônebote

Lord emperor, I am the-Lord's-messenger

und bring iu boteschaft von gote.

and bring to-you a-message from God.

ir habt die erde, er hât daz himelrîche.

you have the earth, he has the heaven-kingdom.

er hiez iu klagen (ir sît sîn voget),

he bade to-you complain (you are his advocate),

in sînes sunes lande broget

in his son's land swaggers

diu heidenschaft iu beiden lasterliche.

the heathendom to-you both shamefully.

ir muget im gerne rihten:

you may for-him gladly judge:

sîn sun der ist geheizen Krist,

his son he is called Christ,

er hiez iu sagen wie erz verschulden welle:

he bade to-you say how he-it repay will:

nû lât in zuo iu pflihten.

now let him to you make-fellowship.

er rihtet iu da er voget ist,

he judges for-you where he advocate is,

klagt ir joch über den tievel ûz der helle.

complain you even against the devil out-of the hell.

Hêr keiser, swenne ir Tiuschen fride

Lord emperor, whenever you to-the-Germans peace

gemachet stæte bî der wide,

have-made firm by the withy,

sô bietent iu die fremeden zungen êre.

so offer to-you the foreign tongues honor.

die sult ir nemen ân arebeit,

it should you take without toil,

und süenent al die kristenheit:

and reconcile all the Christendom:

daz tiuret iuch, und mûet die heiden sêre.

that ennobles you, and grieves the heathen sorely.

ir tragt zwei keisers ellen,

you bear two emperor's valors,

des aren tugent, des lewen kraft:

the eagle's virtue, the lion's strength:

die sint dez herzeichen an dem schilte.

they are the war-tokens on the shield.

die zwêne hergesellen,

the two war-fellows,

wan woltens an die heidenschaft!

would-that would-they against the heathendom!

waz widerstüende ir manheit und ir milte?

what would-withstand their manhood and their bounty?

12,30 Got gît ze kûnege swen er wil:

God gives as king whomever he will:

dar umbe wundert mich niht vil:

there about wonders me not much:

uns leien wundert umbe der pfaffen lêre.

us laymen wonders about the priests' teaching.

si lêrten uns bî kurzen tagen:

they taught us within short days:

daz wellents uns nû widersagen.

that will-they to-us now retract.

nû tuonz dur got und dur ir selber êre,

now do-it for God's-sake and for their own honor,

und sagen uns bî ir triuwen,

and say to-us by their faith,

an welher rede wir sîn betrogen;

in which speech we are deceived;

volrecken uns die einen wol von grunde,

expound to-us the one well from the-ground,

die alten ode die niuwen.

the old or the new.

uns dunket einz sî gelogen.

to-us seems one is [a-lie].

zwô zungen stânt unebne in einem munde.

two tongues stand unevenly in one mouth.

Owê waz êren sich ellendet [von] tiuschen landen!

ALAS, WHAT HONOR GOES INTO EXILE

Four strophes of crusade preaching. Honor is leaving the German lands, and the man who has wit and manhood as well as silver and gold, and stays behind, loses the heavenly emperor's wage. A wind is coming that will cross the kingdoms and strike heads from strong men, so let them flee to God's grave. The idle folk forgot their toil while the short summer made them its household, and sang with the crickets instead of laying up like the ant.

Owê waz êren sich ellendet [von] tiuschen landen!

13,5

Alas what of-honor itself exiles [from] German lands!

witze unde manheit, dar zuo silber und daz golt,

wit and manhood, there to silver and the gold,

swer diu beidiu hât, belîbet der mit schanden,

whoever these both has, remains he with disgrace,

wê wie den vergât des himeleschen keisers solt!

woe how him escapes the heavenly emperor's wage!

dem sint die engel noch die frowen holt.

to-him are (neither)-the angels nor the ladies kind.

armman zuo der werlte und wider got,

poor-man toward the world and against God,

wie der fürhten mac ir beider spot!

how he fear may of-them both mockery!

Owê ez kumt ein wint, daz wizzent sicherliche,

13,12

Alas there comes a wind, that know surely,

dâ von wir hoeren beide singen unde sagen:

there of we hear both singing and saying:

der sol mit grimme ervaren elliu künicrîche.

it shall with fury traverse all kingdoms.

daz hœre ich wallære unde pilgerîne klagē:

that hear I wanderers and pilgrims lament:

boume, türne ligent vor im zerslagen:

trees, towers lie before it beaten-down:

starken liuten wæt erz houbet abe.

from-strong men blows it-the head off.

nû suln wir fliehen hin ze gotes grabe.

now shall we flee thither to God's grave.

13,19 Owê wir müezegen liute, wie sîn wir verzezen

Alas we idle folk, how are we sunk

zwischen [zwein] fröiden nider an die jâmerlichen stat!

between [two] joys down to the wretched place!

aller arebeite heten wir vergezen,

of-all toil had we forgotten,

dô uns der kurze sumer sîn gesinde wesen bat.

when us the short summer his household to-be bade.

der brâhte uns varnde bluomen unde blat:

it brought to-us passing flowers and leaf:

dô trouc uns der kurze vogelsanc.

then deceived us the short bird-song.

wol im der ie nâch stæten fröiden ranc!

well to-him who ever after constant joys strove!

Owê der wîse die wir mit den grillen sunen,

Alas of-the tunes which we with the crickets sang,

13,26

dô wir uns solten warnen gegen des kalten winters zît!

when we ourselves should have-armed against the cold winter's time!

daz wir vil tumben mit der âmeizen niht rungen,

that we right foolish with the ant not strove,

diu nû vil werdecliche bî ir arebeiten lît!

which now right worthily by her labors lies!

daz was ie der welte strît,

that was ever the world's strife,

tôren schulden ie der wîsen rât.

fools blamed ever the wise's counsel.

wan siht wol dort wer hie gelogen hât.

for (one)-sees well there who here lied has.

Maneger frâget waz ich klage

MANY ASK WHAT I LAMENT

Five strophes on love and its counterfeit. Love is a common word and uncommon in the works; without it no heart is truly glad. He hopes the woman he is devoted to means the same by it, and fears his own mind may deceive him. Because false love sues with such sweet words, a woman cannot tell who means her, and the man who first deceived women wronged both men and women alike.

13,33 Maneger frâget waz ich klage,

Many-a-one asks what I lament,

unde giht des einen daz ez iht von herzen gê.

and says of-that one-thing that it not from heart go.

der verliuset sîne tage:

he loses his days:

wand im wirt von rehter liebe neweder wol noch wê:

for to-him comes from true love neither well nor woe:

des ist sîn geloube kranc.

therefore is his belief weak.

swer gedæhte

whoever considered

waz diu minne bræhte,

what the love brought,

der vertrüege mînen sanc.

he would-bear my song.

Minne ist ein gemeinez wort,

Love is a common word,

und doch ungemeine mit den werken: dêst alsô.

and yet uncommon with the works: that-is so.

minne ist aller tugende ein hort:

love is of-all virtues a treasure:

âne minne wirdet niemer herze rehte frô.

without love becomes never heart truly glad.

sît ich den gelouben hân,

since I the belief have,

frouwe Minne,

lady Love,

fröit ouch mir die sinne.

gladden also to-me the senses.

mich müet, sol mîn trôst zergân.

me it-grieves, should my comfort pass-away.

Mîn gedinge ist, der ich bin

My hope is, to-whom I am

holt mit rehten triuwen, dazs ouch mir daz selbe sî.

devoted with true faith, that-she also to-me the same be.

triuget dar an mich mîn sin,

deceives there in me my mind,

sô ist mînem wâne leider lützel fröiden bî.

so is to-my expectation alas little of-joys by.

neinâ hêrre! sist sô guot,

nay Lord! she-is so good,

swenne ir güete

whenever her goodness

erkennt mîn gemüete,

knows my spirit,

daz si mir daz beste tuot.

that she to-me the best does.

Wiste si den willen mîn,

Knew she the will mine,

liebes unde guotes des wurd ich von ir gewert.

of-love and of-good of-that would-be I by her granted.

wie möht aber daz nû sîn?

how might however that now be?

sît man valscher minne mit sô süezen worten gert,

since one of-false love with so sweet words sues,

daz ein wîp niht wizzen mac

that a woman not know may

wer si meine.

who her means.

disiu nôt alleine

this distress alone

tuot mir manegen swæren tac.

makes for-me many-a heavy day.

Der diu wîp von êrst betrouc,

He-who the women from first deceived,

der hât beide an mannen und an wîben missevarn.

he has both in men and in women done-wrong.

in weiz waz diu liebe touc,

I-not know what the love avails,

sît sich friunt gein friunde niht vor valsche kan bewarn.

since itself friend against friend not from falsehood can guard.

frowe, daz ir sælic sît!

lady, that you blessed be!

lânt mit hulden

let with favor

mich den gruoze verschulden,

me the greeting earn,

der an friundes herzen lît.

which in friend's heart lies.

Allerêrst lebe ich mir werde

NOW FIRST I LIVE IN WORTH

Eleven strophes from the Holy Land, each on a place or an act. The singer's sinful eye at last sees the earth where God walked. He runs through the incarnation, the baptism, the passion, the harrowing of hell, the resurrection, and the ascension, and comes to the awful day appointed in that same land, where widow and orphan will be avenged. Christians, Jews, and heathen all claim the heritage, and the singer says the rightful claim is the Christians' own.

Allerêrst lebe ich mir werde,

14,38

Now-first live I to-myself worthily,

sît mîn sündic ouge siht

since my sinful eye sees

daz hêre lant und ouch die erde

the lordly land and also the earth

der man vil der êren giht.

to-which one much of-the honor ascribes.

mirst geschehen des ich ie bat,

to-me-is happened for-what I ever prayed,

ich bin komen an die stat

I am come to the place

dâ got mennischlîchen trat.

where God in-human-form trod.

Schœniu lant rîch unde hêre,

15,6

Fair lands rich and lordly,

swaz ich der noch hân gesehen,

whatever I of-them yet have seen,

sô bist duz ir aller êre.

so art thou-it of-them all honor.

waz ist wonders hie geschehen!

what is of-wonder here happened!

daz ein magt ein kint gebar

that a maid a child bore

hêre übr aller engel schar,

lordly above all angels' company,

was daz niht ein wunder gar?

was that not a wonder wholly?

Hie liez er sich reine toufen,

Here let he himself purely be-baptized,

daz der mensche reine sî.

that the man pure be.

dô liez er sich hie verkoufen,

then let he himself here be-sold,

daz wir eigen wurden frî.

that we bondmen became free.

anders wæren wir verlorn.

otherwise would-be we lost.

wol dir, sper kriuz unde dorn!

bail to-thee, spear cross and thorn!

wê dir, heiden! deist dir zorn.

woe to-thee, heathen! that-is to-thee wrath.

Do er sich wolte übr uns erbarmen,

When he himself would over us take-pity,

hie leit er den grimmen tôf,

here suffered he the grim death,

er vil rîche übr uns vil armen,

he right rich over us right poor,

daz wir komen ûz der nôf.

that we come out-of the distress.

daz in dô des niht verdrôz,

that him then of-it not irked,

dast ein wunder alze grôz,

that-is a wonder all-too great,

aller wunder übergnôz.

of-all wonders the-surpassing-peer.

Hinnen fuor der sun zer helle

Hence went the son to-the hell

von dem grabe, da'r inne lac.

from the grave, where-he within lay.

des was ie der vater geselle,

of-him was ever the father companion,

und der geist, den niemen mac

and the spirit, whom no-one may

sunder scheiden: êst al ein,

apart divide: it-is all one,

sleht und ebener danne ein zein,

smooth and evener than a rod,

als er Abrahâme erschein.

as he to-Abraham appeared.

Do er den tievel dô geschande,

When he the devil then shamed,

daz nie keiser baz gestreit,

that never emperor better fought,

dô fuor er her wider ze lande.

then went he hither again to land.

dô huob sich der juden leit,

then arose itself the Jews' sorrow,

daz er hêrre ir huote brach,

that he lord their guard broke,

und daz man in sît lebendic sach,
and that one him afterward living saw,
 den ir hant sluoc unde stach.
whom their hand struck and pierced.

Dar nâch was er in dem lande
There after was he in the land

vierzic tage: dô fuor er dar
forty days: then went he thither

dannen in sîn vater sande.
whence him his father sent.

sînen geist, der uns bewar,
his spirit, who us may-guard,

den sant er hin wider zehant.
him sent he thither again at-once.

heilic ist daz selbe lant:
holy is that same land:

sîn name der ist vor gote erkant.
its name it is before God known.

In diz lant hât er gesprochen
In this land has he appointed

einen angeslîchen tac,
an awful day,

dâ diu witwe wirt gerochen

where the widow is avenged

und der weise klagen mac

and the orphan plead may

und der arme den gewalt

and the poor-man the violence

der dâ wirt mit ime gestalt.

whiche there is with him dealt.

wol im dort, der hie vergalt!

well to-him there, who here repaid!

Unser lantrechtære tihten

Our land-judges' devising

fristet dâ niemannes klage:

postpones there no-one's plea:

wan er wil zestunden rihten,

for he will on-the-hour judge,

so ez ist an dem lesten tage:

when it is on the last day:

und swer deheine schult hie lâ

and whoever any debt here leaves

unverebenet, wie der stât

unsettled, how he stands

dort da er pfant noch bürgen hât!

there where he pledge nor surety has!

Ir enlât iuch niht verdriezen

You let yourselves not be-vexed

daz ich noch gesprochen hân.

that I yet spoken have.

sô wil ich die rede entsliezen

so will I the speech unlock

kurzwîlen, und iuch wizzen lân,

entertainingly, and you know let,

swaz got mit der welte ie

whatever God with the world ever

... begie,

(lacuna) did,

daz huob sich dort und endet hie.

that began itself there and ends here.

Kristen juden und die heiden

Christians Jews and the heathen

jehent daz diz ir erbe sî:

claim that this their heritage is:

got müez ez ze rehte scheiden

God may it by right decide

durch die sîne namen drî.

for the his names three.

al diu welt diu strîtet her:

all the world it strives hither:

wir sîn an der rehten ger:

we are in the rightful claim:

reht ist daz er uns gewer.

right is that he us grant.

Philippe, küneec hêre

PHILIP, LORDLY KING

Five strophes of counsel and quarrel. Philip has two kings' treasure and should sow it bountifully, as Alexander did, since the reward of bounty comes back like seed. The cooks are told to cut the princes' roast thicker, for in Greece a thin roast cost a lord his throne. Lady Bean is set against the honest straw; Sir Wicman is warned off; and a gift from Ludwig, brought by the Meissener, is thanked.

Philippe, küneec hêre,

Philip, king lordly,

16,36

si gebent dir alle heiles wort

they give to-thee all of-blessing words

und wolden lieb nâch leide.

and would joy after sorrow.

nû hâst dû guot und êre:

now hast thou goods and honor:

daz ist wol zweier künege hort:

that is fully of-two kings treasure:

diu gip der milte beide.

these give to-the bounty both.

der milte lôn ist sô diu sât,

the bounty's reward is like the seed,

diu wünnecliche wider gât

which delightfully again comes

dar nâch man si geworfen hât:

there after one it sown has:

wirf von dir milteclîche.

sow from thee bounteously.

swelch küneec der milte geben kan,

whatever king of-the bounty give can,

si gît im daz er nie gewan.

it gives to-him what he never won.

wie Alexander sich versan!

how Alexander himself betbought!

der gap und gap, und gap sim elliu rîche.

he gave and gave, and gave they-to-him all kingdoms.

17,11 Wir suln den kochen râten,

We should to-the cooks counsel,

sît ez in alsô hôhe stê

since it for-them so high stands

daz si sich niht versûmen,

that they themselves not neglect,

daz si der fürsten brâten

that they the princes' roast

snîden grœzer baz dan ê

cut larger better than before

doch dicker eines dûmen.

yet thicker by-a thumb.

ze Kriechen wart ein spiz versniten:

in Greece was a spit carved:

daz tet ein hant mit argen siten

that did a hand with evil ways

(sin möht ez niemer hân vermiten):

(it might it never have avoided):

der brâte was ze dünne.

the roast was too thin.

des muose der hêrre für die tür:

therefore had-to the lord out-of the door:

die fürsten sâzen an der kûr.

the princes sat at the choosing.

der nû daz rîche alsô verlür,
he-who now the realm thus should-lose,
 dem stüende baz daz er nie spiz gewünne.
to-him would-stand better that he never spit won.

Waz êren hât frô Bône,
What of-honor has lady Bean,

17,25

daz man sô von ir singen sol?
that one so of her sing should?

si rehtiu vastenkiuwe!
she true fast-chew!

sist vor und nâch der nône
she-is before and after the nones

fûl und ist der wibel vol
foul and is of-the weevils full

wan êrst in der niuwe.
save first in the new.

ein halm ist kreftec unde guot:
a stalk is strong and good:

waz er uns allen liebes tuot!
what it to-us all of-good does!

er fröit vil manegem sînen muot:
it gladdens right to-many-a-one his spirit:

wie danne umb sînen sâmen?
how then about its seed?

von grase wirdet halm ze strô,
from grass becomes stalk to straw,

er machet manic herze frô,
it makes many-a heart glad,

er ist guot nider unde hô.
it is good low and high.

frou Bôn, set liberâ nos â mâlô, âmen.
lady Bean, but deliver us from evil, amen.

- 18,1 Hêr Wîcman, ist daz êre,
Lord Wîcman, is that honor,
 daz man die meister irren sol
that one the masters hinder should
 sô meisterlicher sprüche?
of-so masterly sayings?
 lâtz iu geschehen niht mêre:
let-it to-you happen not more:
 für wâr ich iu daz râte wol.
for truth I to-you that counsel well.
 waz obe hêr Walther krûche?
what if lord Walther crept?
 er soltz doch iemer hân vor iu,
he should-it yet ever have before you,
 alsô der weize vor der spriu.
as the wheat before the chaff.
 singt ir einz, er singet driu,
sing you one, he sings three,
 daz sich gelîchet rehte als ars und mâne.
that-it itself matches just as arse and moon.
 hêr Walther singet swaz er wil,
lord Walther sings whatever he will,
 des kurzen und des langen vil:
of-the short and of-the long much:
 sus mêret er der welte spil:
thus increases he the world's play:
 sô jagent ir alse ein leitehunt nâch wâne.
so hunt you like a tracking-hound after guess.

- 18,15 Mir hât ein licht von Franken
To-me has a light from Franconia

der stolze Mîssenære brâht:
the proud Meissener brought:

daz vert von Ludewîge.

it comes from Ludwig.

ichn kan ims niht gedanken

I can to-him-it not thank

sô wol als er mîn hât gedâht,

so well as he of-me has thought,

wan daz ich tiefe nîge.

save that I deeply bow.

künd ich swaz ieman guotes kan,

could I whatever anyone of-good can,

daz teilte ich mit dem werden man.

that would-share I with the worthy man.

der mir sô hôher êren gan,

who to-me so high of-honors grants,

got müeze im êre mêren.

God may to-him honor increase.

zuo flieze im aller sælden fluz,

to flow to-him of-all blessedness the-stream,

niht wildes mîde sînen schuz,

no game shun his shot,

sîns hundes louf, sîns hornes duz

his bound's running, his horn's sounding

erhelle im und erschelle im wol nâch êren.

ring for-him and resound for-him well after honor.

Diu krône ist elter danne der künec Philippes sî

THE CROWN IS OLDER THAN THE KING

Five strophes on Philip's kingship. Crown and head adorn each other, and the orphan-stone above his neck is the princes' lodestar. At Magdeburg on Christmas Day the king walked as an emperor's brother and an emperor's son, a queen following. Philip is charged with not giving freely, as Saladin and the ransomed English king did. Bowed since Frederick of Austria died, the singer now stands tall in the realm's keeping, and the court of Thuringia is so pressed that a man may be deafened there.

18,29 Diu krône ist elter danne der künec Philippes sî:

The crown is older than the king Philip is:

dâ mugent ir alle schouwen wol ein wunder bî,

there may you all behold well a wonder by,

wies ime der smit sô ebene habe gemacht.

how-it for-him the smith so evenly has made.

sîn keiserlîchez houbet zimt ir alsô wol,

his imperial head suits it so well,

daz si ze rehte nieman guoter scheiden sol:

that them by right no-one good part should:

ir dewederz daz ander niht enswachet.

of-them neither the other — diminishes.

si liuhtent beide ein ander an,

they shine both one another on,

daz edel gesteine wider den jungen süezen man:

the noble jewel against the young sweet man:

die ougenweide sehent die fürsten gerne.

the eye-feast see the princes gladly.

swer nû des rîches irre gê,

whoever now of-the realm astray go,

der schouwe wem der weise ob sîme nacke stê:
he behold on-whom the orphan above his neck stands:

der stein ist aller fürsten leitesterne.
the stone is of-all princes the-guiding-star.

Ez gienc, eins tages als unser hêrre wart geborn
It went, one day as our Lord was born

19,5

von einer maget dier im ze muoter hât erkorn,
of a maid whom-he for-himself as mother has chosen,

ze Megdeburc der kûnec Philippes schône.
at Magdeburg the king Philip beautifully.

dâ gienc eins keisers bruoder und eins keisers kint
there went an emperor's brother and an emperor's child

in einer wât, swie doch die namen drîge sint:
in one garment, however yet the names three are:

er truoc des rîches zepter und die krône.
he bore the realm's scepter and the crown.

er trat vil lîse, im was niht gâch:
he trod right softly, to-him was not haste:

im sleich ein hôhgeborniu kûneginne nâch,
him followed a high-born queen after,

rôs âne dorn, ein tûbe sunder gallen.
rose without thorn, a dove without gall.

diu zuht was niener anderswâ:
such breeding was nowhere elsewhere:

die Düringe und die Sahsen dienten alsô dâ,
the Thuringians and the Saxons served so there,

daz ez den wîsen muoste wol gefallen.
that it to-the wise had-to well please.

19,17 Philippes künec, die nâhe spehenden zihent dich,
Philip king, the close watchers accuse thee,

dun sîst niht dankes milte: des bedunket mich
thou art not of-thanks bountiful: of-that it-seems to-me

wie dû dâ mite verliesest michels mêre.
how thou there with lovest much more.

dû möhtest gerner dankes geben tûsent pfunt,
thou mightest more-gladly of-thanks give thousand pounds,

dan drîzec tûsent âne danc. dir ist niht kunt
than thirty thousand without thanks. to-thee is not known

wie man mit gâbe erwirbet prîs und êre.
how one with gift wins praise and honor.

denk an den milten Salatîn:
think on the bountiful Saladin:

der jach daz küneges hende dürkel solten sîn:
he said that king's hands full-of-holes should be:

sô wurden sie erforht und ouch geminnet.
so would-be they feared and also loved.

gedenke an den von Engellant,
think on him of England,

wie tiure er wart erlöst von sîner gebenden hant.
how dearly he was ransomed by his giving hand.

ein schade ist guot, der zwêne frumen gewinnet.
a loss is good, that two gains wins.

19,29 Dô Friderich ûz Ôsterrîch alsô gewarp,
When Frederick out-of Austria so fared,

dêr an der sêle genas und im der lîp erstarp,
that-he in the soul was-saved and to-him the body died,

dô fuort er mîner krenechen trit in derde.
then bore he my crane's step into the-earth.

dô gieng ich slîchent als ein pfâwe swar ich gie,
then went I creeping like a peacock wherever I went,

daz houbet hanht ich nider unz ûf mîniu knie:

the head hung I down until to my knees:

nû riht ich ez ûf nâch vollem werde.

now raise I it up after full worth.

ich bin wol ze fiure komen,

I am well to fire come,

mich hât daz rîche und ouch diu krône an sich genomen.

me has the realm and also the crown to itself taken.

wol ûf, swer tanzen welle nâch der gîgen!

well up, whoever dance will after the fiddle!

mir ist mîner swære buoz:

to-me is of-my sorrow remedy:

êrste wil ich eben setzen mînen fuoz

now-first will I evenly set my foot

und wider in ein hôhgemüete stîgen.

and again into a high-spirit climb.

20,4 Der in den ôren siech von ungesühte sî,
He-who in the ears sick from ailment is,
 daz ist mîn rât, der lâz den hof ze Düringen frî:
that is my counsel, he leave the court at Thuringia free:
 wan kumet er dar, dêswâr er wirt ertœret.
for comes he thither, truly he will-be deafened.
 ich hân gedrunge unz ich niht mê dringen mac.
I have pressed until I not more press may.
 ein schar vert ûz, diu ander in, naht unde tac.
one troop travels out, the other in, night and day.
 grôz wunder ist daz iemen dâ gehœret.
great wonder is that anyone there hears.
 der lantgrâve ist sô gemuot
the landgrave is so minded
 daz er mit stolzen helden sîne habe vertuot,
that he with proud heroes his substance spends,
 der iegeslicher wol ein kenpfe wære.
of-whom each-one well a champion were.
 mir ist sîn hôhiu fuor wol kunt:
to-me is his high living well known:
 und gulte ein fuoder guotes wînes tûsent pfunt,
and cost a cartload of-good wine thousand pounds,
 dâ stüende ouch niemer ritters becher lære.
there would-stand also never knight's cup empty.

Waz wonders in der werlte vert!

WHAT WONDERS TRAVEL IN THE WORLD

A long Ton of counsel and complaint. Gifts are dealt unevenly, and the singer stands like an orphan before fortune's gate while Austria's bounty rains on either side of him. He reproaches the World for shamelessness, calls the sleepers to wake before the day of judgment, tells a young man to weigh goods by measure, hears the angel cry woe at Constantine's gift, and bears Vienna's court lament its rotten roof before its giving is praised as the greatest ever seen.

Waz wonders in der werlte vert!

20,16

What of-wonder in the world travels!

wie manic gâbe ist uns beschert

how many-a gift is to-us granted

von dem der uns ûz nihte hât gemacht!

by him who us out-of nothing has made!

Dem einen gât er schoenen sin,

To-the one gives he fair understanding,

dem andern guot unt den gewin,

to-the other goods and the gain,

daz er sich mit sîn selbes muote swachet.

that he himself with his own spirit debases.

Armen man mit guoten sinnen

A-poor man with good senses

sol man für den rîchen minnen,

should one before the rich love,

ob er êren niht engert.

if he of-honors not desires.

ja enist ez niht wan gotes hulde und êre,

yes is it not save God's favor and honor,

dar nâch diu welt sô sêre vihtet:

there after the world so sorely fights:

swer sich ze guote alsô verpflihtet

whoever himself to goods so binds

daz er der beider wirt entwert,

that he of-the both is deprived,

dern habe ouch hie noch dort niht lônēs mêtē,

he have also here or there not of-reward more,

wan sî eht guotes hie gewert.

save be-he only of-goods here granted.

20,31 Mir ist verspart der sælden tor:

To-me is barred the of-blessedness gate:

dâ stên ich als ein wise vor:

there stand I like an orphan before:

mich hilfet niht swaz ich dar an geklopfe.

me helps not whatever I there on knock.

Wie möht ein wunder græzer sîn?

How might a wonder greater be?

ez regent bêtenthalben mîn,

it rains on-both-sides of-me,

daz mir des alles niht enwirt ein tropfe.

that to-me of-that all not becomes a drop.

Des fürsten milte ûz Ôsterrîche

The prince's bounty out-of Austria

fröit dem süezen regen gelîche

gladdens to-the sweet rain like

beidiu liute unt ouch daz lant.

both folk and also the land.

erst ein schœne wol gezieret heide,

be-is a fair well adorned beath,

dar abe man bluomen brichet wunder.

there from one flowers plucks wondrous-many.

und bræche mir ein blat dar under

and broke for-me one leaf there among

sîn vil milte rîchiu hant,

his right bountiful rich hand,

sô möhte ich loben die süezen ougenweide.

so might I praise the sweet eye-feast.

hie bî sî er an mich gemant.

here by be he of me reminded.

Owê dir, Welt, wie übel dû stêst!

Alas to-thee, World, how ill thou standest!

waz dinge dû alz an begêst,

what things thou always on doest,

diu von dir sint ze lîdenne ungenæme!

which from thee are to bear unpleasant!

Dû bist vil nâch gar âne scham.

Thou art right nearly wholly without shame.

got weiz wol, ich bin dir gram:

God knows well, I am to-thee hostile:

dîn art ist elliu worden widerzæme.

thy nature is wholly become repugnant.

Waz êren hâst uns her behalten?

What of-honors hast-thou for-us hitherto kept?

nieman siht dich fröiden walten,

no-one sees thee of-joys rule,

als man ir doch wilent pflac.

as one them yet formerly practiced.

wê dir, wes habent diu milten herze engolten?

woe to-thee, of-what have the bountiful hearts paid?

für diu lopt man die argen rîchen.

before them praises one the evil rich.

Welt, dû stêst sô lasterlîchen,

World, thou standest so shamefully,

daz ichz niht betiuten mac.

that I-it not describe may.

triuwe und wârheit sint vil gar bescholten:

faith and truth are right wholly disgraced:

daz ist ouch aller êren slac.

that is also of-all honor the-blow.

21,25 Nû wachet! uns gêt zuo der tac,

Now wake! to-us goes toward the day,

gein dem wol angest haben mac

against which well fear have may

ein ieglich kristen, juden unde heiden.

every single Christian, Jew and heathen.

Wir hân der zeichen vil gesehen,

We have of-the signs many seen,

dar an wir sîne kunft wol spehen,

there in we his coming well descry,

als uns diu schrift mit wârheit hât bescheiden.

as to-us the scripture with truth has declared.

Diu sunne hât ir schîn verkêret,

The sun has her shining turned-about,

untriuwe ir sâmen ûz gerêret

faithlessness her seed out scattered

allenthalben zuo den wegen:

everywhere along the ways:

der vater bî dem kinde untriuwe vindet,

the father in the child faithlessness finds,

der bruoder sînem bruoder liuget:

the brother to-his brother lies:

geistlich leben in kappen triuget,

spiritual living in cowls deceives,

die uns ze himel solten stegen:

who us to heaven should [lead-up]:

gewalt gêt ûf, reht vor gerihte swindet.

violence goes up, right before court dwindles.

wol ûf! hie ist ze vil gelegen.

well up! here is too much lain.

Swer âne vorhte, hêrre got,

Whoever without fear, Lord God,

wil spreken dîniu zehen gebot,

will speak thy ten commandments,

und brichet diu, daz ist niht rehtiu minne.

and breaks them, that is not true love.

Dich heizet vater maneger vil:

Thee calls father many-a-one right-many:

swer mîn ze bruoder niht enwil,

whoever me as brother not will,

der spricht diu starken wort ûz krankem sinne.

he speaks the strong words out-of weak mind.

Wir wahsen ûz gelîchem dinge:

We grow out-of like matter:

spîse frumet uns, diu wirt ringe,

food avails us, it becomes slight,

sô si dur den munt gevert.

when it through the mouth passes.

wer kan den hêrren von dem knehte scheiden,

who can the lord from the servant part,

swâ er ir gebeine blôzez fûnde,

wherever he their bones bare found,

het er ir joch lebender kûnde,

had he of-them even living knowledge,

sô gewürme dez fleisch verzert?

when the-worms the flesh consume?

22,3

im dienten kristen juden unde heiden,
him serve Christians Jews and heathen,

der elliu lebenden wunder nert.
who all living wonders nourishes.

22,18 Swer houbetsünde unt schande tuot
Whoever mortal-sin and disgrace does

mit sîner wizzende umbe guot,
with his knowledge for goods,

sol man den für einen wîsen nennen?
should one him for a wise-man name?

Swer guot von disen beiden hât,
Whoever goods from these both has,

swerz an im weiz unt sichs verstât,
whoever-it of him knows and of-it understands,

der sol in zeinem tôren baz erkennen.
he should him as-a fool better know.

Der wîse minnet niht sô sêre,
The wise-man loves not so sorely,

alsam die gotes hulde unt êre:
as the God's favor and honor:

sîn selbes lîp, wîp unde kint,
his own person, woman and child,

diu lât er ê er disiu zwei verliese.
them leaves he before he these two should-lose.

er tôre, er dunket mich niht wîse,
he fool, he seems to-me not wise,

und ouch der sîn êre prîse:
and also he-who his honor should-praise:

ich wæn si beide tôren sint.
I ween they both fools are.

er gouch, swer für diu zwei ein anderz kiese!
he cuckoo, whoever before these two an other-thing should-choose!

der ist an rehten witzzen blint.
he is in true wits blind.

Junc man, in swelher aht dû bist,
Young man, in whatever estate thou art,

22,33

ich wil dich lèren einen list.
I will thee teach a craft.

dû lâ dir niht ze wê sîn nâch dem guote,
thou let to-thee not too painful be after the goods,

Lâ dirz ouch niht zunmære sîn.
Let to-thee-it also not too-indifferent be.

und volges dû der lêre mîn,
and followest thou the teaching mine,

sô wis gewis, ez frumt dir an dem muote.
so be certain, it profits to-thee in the spirit.

Die rede wil ich dir baz bescheiden.
The speech will I to-thee better explain.

und lâst dû dirz ze sêre leiden,
and lettest thou to-thee-it too sorely be-bateful,

zergêt ez, so ist dîn fröide tôt:
passes it, so is thy joy dead:

wilt aber dû daz guot ze sêre minnen,
(if)-wilt however thou the goods too sorely love,

dû maht verliesen sêle unt êre.
thou mayest lose soul and honor.

dâ von volge mîner lêre,
there from follow my teaching,

leg ûf die wâge ein rehtez lôt,
lay on the scales a right weight,

und wig et dar mit allen dînen sinnen,
and weigh only there with all thy senses,
 als ez diu mâze uns ie gebôt.
as it the measure to-us ever bade.

- 23,11 Ez troumte, des ist manic jâr,
It dreamed, of-that is many-a year,
 ze Babilône, daz ist wâr,
at Babylon, that is true,
 dem künge, ez würde böeser in den rîchen.
to-the king, it would-become worse in the realms.
 Die nû ze vollen böese sint,
They-who now to fullness evil are,
 gewinnent die noch böeser kint,
beget they still worse children,
 jâ hêrre got, wem sol ich diu gelîchen?
yes Lord God, to-whom shall I them liken?
 Der tievel wær mir niht sô smæhe,
The devil would-be to-me not so loathsome,
 quæme er dar dâ ich in sæhe,
came he thither where I him saw,
 sam des böesen böeser barn.
as of-the evil the-worse child.
 von dër geburt enkumt uns frum noch êre.
from that birth comes-not to-us profit nor honor.
 die sich selben sô verswachent
they-who themselves selves so debase
 und ir bôsen böeser machent,
and their evil worse make,
 ân erben müezen si vervarn.
without heirs may they pass-away.

daz tugendelôser hêrren werde iht mêre,
that of-virtueless lords become at-all more,

daz solt dû, hêrre got, bewarn.
that shouldst thou, Lord God, prevent.

Die veter habent ir kint erzogen,
The fathers have their children reared,

23,26

dar ane si bêde sint betrogen:
there in they both are deceived:

si brechent dicke Salomônes lêre.
they break often Solomon's teaching.

Der sprichet, swer den besmen spar,
He says, whoever the rod spares,

daz der den sun versûme gar:
that he the son neglects wholly:

des sint die ungebâtten gar ân êre.
therefore are the unbeaten wholly without honor.

Hie vor dô was diu welt sô schœne,
Here before then was the world so fair,

nû ist si worden alsô hœne:
now is it become so spiteful:

des enwas niht wîlent ê:
of-that was not formerly before:

die jungen habent die alten sô verdrungen.
the young have the old so crowded-out.

nû spottent alsô dar der alten!
now mock so on of-the old!

ez wirt iu selben noch behalten:
it will-be for-you yourselves yet kept:

beit unz iuwer jugent zergê:
wait until your youth pass-away:

swaz ir in tuot, daz rechent iuwer jungen.

whatever you to-them do, that avenge your young.

daz weiz ich wol, und weiz noch mê.

that know I well, and know still more.

24,3 Wer zieret nû der êren sal?

Who adorns now the of-honor hall?

der jungen ritter zuht ist smal:

the young knights breeding is scant:

sô pflegent die knehte gar unhövescher dinge,

so practice the squires wholly uncourtly things,

Mit worten, und mit werken ouch:

With words, and with works also:

swer zûhte hât, der ist ir gouch.

whoever breeding has, he is their cuckoo.

nemt war wie gar unfuoge für sich dringe.

take heed how wholly unfitness forward itself presses.

Hie vor dô berte man die jungen,

Here before then beat one the young,

die dâ pflâgen frecher zungen:

who there practiced bold tongues:

nû ist ez ir werdekeit.

now is it their worth.

si schallent unde scheltent reine frouwen.

they bawl and revile pure ladies.

wê ir hiuten und ir hâren,

woe to-their hides and to-their hair,

die niht kunnen frô gebâren

who not can glad bear-themselves

sunder wîbe herzeleit!

without women's heart-sorrow!

dâ mac man sünde bî der schande schouwen,
there may one sin beside the disgrace behold,
 die maneger ûf sich selben leit.
which many-a-one on himself self lays.

Mit sælden müeze ich hiute ûf stên,
With blessedness may I today up rise,
 got hêrre, in dîner huote gên
God Lord, in thy keeping go
 und rîten, swar ich in dem lande kêre.
and ride, wherever I in the land turn.
 Krist hêrre, lâz [an] mir werden schîn
Christ Lord, let [in] me become manifest
 die grôzen kraft der güete dîn,
the great power of-the goodness thine,
 unt pflic mîn wol dur dîner muoter êre.
and take-care of-me well for thy mother's honor.
 Als ir der heilig engel pflæge,
As of-ber the holy angel took-care,
 unt dîn, dô du in der krippen læge,
and of-thee, when thou in the manger layest,
 junger mensch unt alter got,
young man and old God,
 dêmüetic vor dem esel und vor dem rinde
humble before the ass and before the ox
 (und doch mit sældenrîcher huote
(and yet with blessing-rich keeping
 pflac dîn Gabriël der guote
took-care of-thee Gabriel the good
 wol mit triuwen sunder spot),
well with faith without mockery),

24,18

als pflig ouch mîn, daz an mir iht erwinde
so take-care also of-me, that in me not should-cess

daz dîn vil götelîch gebot.
that thy right godlike command.

24,33 Der hof ze Wiene sprach ze mir
The court at Vienna spoke to me

‘Walther, ich solte lieben dir,
‘Walther, I should please thee,

nû leide ich dir: daz müeze got erbarmen.
now grieve I thee: that may God pity.

Mîn wurde diu was wîlent grôz:
My worth it was formerly great:

dô lebte niender mîn genôz,
then lived nowhere my peer,

wan künec Artûses hof: sô wê mir armen!
save king Arthur’s court: so woe to-me poor!

Wâ nû ritter unde frouwen,
Where now knights and ladies,

die man bî mir solte schouwen?
whom one by me should behold?

seht wie jâmerlîch ich stê.
see how wretchedly I stand.

mîn dach ist fûl, sô rîsent mîne wende.
my roof is rotten, so fall my walls.

mich enminnet nieman leider.
me loves no-one alas.

golt silber ros und dar zuo kleider
gold silver horses and there to garments

diu gab ich, unde hât ouch mê:
them gave I, and had also more:

nun hab ich weder schappel noch gebende

now have I neither chaplet nor head-band

noch frowen zeinem tanze, owê!

nor ladies for-a dance, alas!

Künc Constantîn der gap sô vil,

King Constantine he gave so much,

25,11

als ich ez iu bescheiden wil,

as I it to-you explain will,

dem stuol ze Rôme, sper kriuz unde krône.

to-the see at Rome, spear cross and crown.

Zehant der engel lûte schrê

At-once the angel loudly cried

‘owê, owê, zem dritten wê!

‘alas, alas, for-the third woe!

ê stuont diu kristenheit mit zûhten schône:

before stood the Christendom with breeding beautifully:

Der ist ein gift nû gevallen,

To-it is a poison now fallen,

ir honec ist worden zeiner gallen.

its honey is become to-a gall.

daz wirt der werlt her nâch vil leit.’

that will-be to-the world here after right grievous.’

alle fürsten lebet nû mit êren,

all princes live now with honor,

wan der hœhste ist geswachet:

save the highest is weakened:

daz hât der pfaffen wal gemachet.

that has the priests’ election made.

daz sî dir, sœzer got, gekleit.

that be to-thee, sweet God, lamented.

die pfaffen wellent leien reht verkêren.

the priests will laymen's right pervert.

der engel hât uns wâr geseit.

the angel has to-us truth spoken.

25,26 Ob ieman spreche, der nû lebe,

Whether anyone should-say, who now lives,

daz er gesæhe ie grœzer gebe,

that he saw ever greater giving,

als wir ze Wiene haben dur êre enpfangen?

as we at Vienna have for honor received?

Man sach den jungen fürsten geben,

One saw the young prince give,

als er niht lenger wolte leben:

as he not longer would live:

dâ wart mit guote wonders vil begangen.

there was with goods of-wonder much done.

Man gap dâ niht bî drîzec pfunden,

One gave there not by thirty pounds,

wan silber, als ez wære funden,

save silver, as it were found,

gab man hin und rîche wât.

gave one away and rich clothing.

ouch hiez der fürste durch der gernden hulde

also bade the prince for the beggars' favor

die malhen von den stellen læren.

the wallets from the frames empty.

ors, als ob ez leंबर wæren,

horses, as if they lambs were,

vil maneger dan gefüeret hât.

right many-a-one thence led has.

ezngalt dâ nieman sîner alten schulde:

suffered there no-one of-his old guilt:

daz was ein minneclîcher rât.

that was a gracious provision.

Vil wol gelobter got, wie selten ich dich prîse!

RIGHT WELL PRAISED GOD

A long Ton, opening in confession: he has the word and the melody from God and does not do the works. The road to heaven is beset by murder, burning, usury, envy, and greed. Otto's bounty is measured against his length and found short. He begs a fire of his own, then rejoices that he has his fief, and a revenue of thirty marks is a name he cannot lock in a chest. Women, false laughter, drinking by measure, and false friends fill the rest.

26,3 Vil wol gelobter got, wie selten ich dich prîse!

Right well praised God, how seldom I thee extol!

sît ich von dir beide wort hân unde wîse,

since I from thee both word have and melody,

wie getar ich sô gefreveln under dûme rîse?

how dare I so transgress under thy rod?

ichn tuon diu rehten werc, ichn hân die wâren minne

I-not do the right works, I-not have the true love

ze mînem ebenkristen, hêrre vater, noch ze dir:

to my fellow-Christian, Lord father, nor to thee:

sô holt enwart ich ir dekeinem nie sô mir.

so devoted was I of-them to-none ever as to-myself.

frôn Krist vater und sun, dûn geist berihte mîne sinne.

Lord Christ father and son, thy spirit direct my senses.

wie solt ich den geminnen der mir übele tuot?

how should I him love who to-me ill does?

mir muoz der iemer lieber sîn der mir ist guot.

to-me must he ever dearer be who to-me is good.

vergib mir anders mîne schulde, ich wil noch haben den muot.

forgive to-me otherwise my guilt, I will still keep the spirit.

Die wîsen râtent, swer ze himelrîche welle,
The wise counsel, whoever to heaven-kingdom would,
 daz er ê vil wol bewarte und ouch bestelle
that he first right well should-guard and also should-secure
 den wec, daz iemen drûffe habe der in her wider velle.
the way, lest anyone thereon should-lie-in-wait who him hither back should-fell.
 ein æhter heizet mort, der schât der strâze sêre:
one outlaw is-called murder, he harms the road sorely:
 dâ bî vert einr in starken bennen, derst geheizen brant:
there beside travels one in strong bans, he-is called burning:
 sô sprechents einem wuocher, der hât gar geschant
so call-they one usury, he has wholly ruined
 die selben strâze. dannoch ist der wegewerender mêre:
the same road. still are of-the road-blockers more:
 nît unde haz die hânt sich ûf den wec geleit,
envy and hate they have themselves on the way laid,
 unde diu verschampt unmâze gîtekeit.
and the shameless excessive greed.
 dannoch sô rennet maneger fûr, des ich niht hân geseit.
still so runs many-a-one past, of-whom I not have spoken.

Ich hân hêrn Otten triuwe, er welle mich noch rîchen:
I have lord Otto's faith, he would me yet enrich:
 wie nam abe er mîn dienst ie sô trûgelîchen?
how took however he my service ever so deceitfully?
 ald waz bestêt ze lône des den künic Friderîchen?
or what befits as reward of-that the king Frederick?
 mîn vorderunge ist ûf in kleiner danne ein bône;
my claim is on him smaller than a bean;
 ezn sî sô vil, obe er der alten sprûche wære frô.
unless-it be so much, if he of-the old sayings were glad.
 ein vater lërte wîlent sînen sun alsô,
a father taught formerly his son thus,

‘sun, diene manne bœstem, daz dir manne beste lône.’

‘son, serve of-men the-worst, that to-thee of-men the-best may-reward.’

hêr Otte, ich binz der sun, ir sît der bœste man,

lord Otto, I am-it the son, you are the worst man,

wand ich sô rehte bœsen hêrren nie gewan:

for I so truly bad a-lord never won:

hêr kûnec, sît irz der beste, sît iu got des lônēs gan.

lord king, since you-are the best, so to-you God of-the reward may-grant.

26,33 Ich wolt hêrn Otten milte nâch der lenge mezzen:

I would lord Otto’s bounty by the length measure:

dô hât ich mich an der mâze ein teil vergezzen:

then had I myself in the measure a part mistaken:

wær er sô milt als lanc, er hete tugende vil besezzen.

were he as bountiful as long, he would-have of-virtue much possessed.

vil schiere maz ich abe den lîp nâch sîner êre:

right quickly measured I off the body by his honor:

dô wart er vil gar ze kurz als ein verschrôten werc,

then became he right wholly too short like a botched work,

miltes muotes minre vil dan ein getwerc;

of-bountiful spirit less much than a dwarf;

und ist doch von den jâren wol daz er niht wahset mêre.

and is yet by the years plain that he not grows more.

dô ich dem kûnege brâhte dez mez, wie er ûf schôz!

when I to-the king brought the measure, how he up shot!

sîn junger lîp wart beide michel unde grôz.

his young body became both tall and great.

nû seht waz er noch wahse: erst ieze übr in wol risen gnôz.

now see what he yet may-grow: he-is already above him fully giants’ peer.

Der künec mîn hêrre lêch mir gelt ze drîzec marken:

The king my lord granted to-me revenue to thirty marks:

27,7

des enkan ich niht gesliezen in den arken,

of-it can I not lock in the chests,

noch geschiffen ûf daz mer in kielen noch in barken.

nor ship on the sea in keels nor in barks.

der nam ist grôz, der nuz ist aber in solher mâze,

the name is great, the use is however in such measure,

daz ich in niht begrîfen mac, gehœren noch gesehen:

that I it not grasp may, hear nor see:

wes sol ich danne in arken oder in barken jehen?

of-what shall I then in chests or in barks speak?

nû râte ein ieglich friunt, ob ichz behalte ode ob ichz lâze.

now advise every single friend, whether I-it keep or whether I-it let-go.

der pfaffen disputieren ist mir gar ein wiht:

of-the priests disputing is to-me wholly a nothing:

si prûevent in den arken niht, da ensî ouch iht:

they seek in the chests not, where unless-there-be also anything:

nû prûeven her, nû prûeven dar, son habe ich drinne niht.

now seek hither, now seek thither, so have I therein nothing.

Durhsüezet und geblüemet sint die reinen frouwen:

Sweetened-through and flowered are the pure ladies:

27,17

ez wart nie niht sô wünnecliches an ze schouwen

there was never anything so delightful on to behold

in lûften noch ûf erden noch in allen grüenen ouwen.

in airs nor on earth nor in all green meadows.

liljen unde rôsen bluomen, swâ die liuhten

lilies and roses flowers, wherever they shine

in meien touwen durh daz gras, und kleiner vogle sanc,

in May's dews through the grass, and of-small birds song,

daz ist gein solher wünnebernden fröide kranc,

that is against such delight-bearing joy weak,

swâ man siht schoene frowen. daz kan trûeben muot erfuhten,
wherever one sees fair ladies. that can gloomy spirit refresh,

und leschet allez trûren an der selben stunt,
and quenches all mourning at the same hour,

sô lieblich lache in liebe ir süezer rôter munt
so lovingly laughs in love their sweet red mouth

und strâle ûz spilnden ougen schieze in mannes herzen grunt
and arrows out-of sparkling eyes shoots into man's heart's ground

- 27,27 Vil süeziu frowe hôhgelopt mit reiner gûete,
Right sweet lady high-praised with pure goodness,
- dîn kiuscher lîp gît wûnneberndez hôhgemüete,
thy chaste person gives delight-bearing high-spirit,
- dîn munt ist rœter danne ein liehtiu rôse in touwes flüete.
thy mouth is redder than a bright rose in dew's flood.
- got hât gehœhet und gehêret reine frouwen,
God has exalted and honored pure ladies,
- daz man in wol sol sprechen unde dienen zaller zît.
that one to-them well should speak and serve at-every time.
- der werlde hort mit wûnneclîchen freuden lît
the world's treasure with delightful joys lies
- an in, ir lob ist lûter unde klâr, man sol si schouwen.
in them, their praise is pure and bright, one should them behold.
- für trûren und für ungemüete ist niht sô guot,
against mourning and against ill-humor is nothing so good,
- als an ze sehen ein schoene frowen wol gemuot,
as on to look a fair lady well disposed,
- sô si ûz herzen grunde ir friunde ein lieblich lachen tuot.
when she out-of heart's ground to-her friend a loving laugh gives.

Von Rôme vogt, von Pülle küneec, lâit iuch erbarmen

28,1

Of Rome advocate, of Apulia king, let you take-pity

daz man mich bî rîcher kunst lâit alsus armen.

that one me with rich art lets thus be-poor.

gerne wolde ich, möhte ez sîn, bî eigenem fiure erwarmen.

gladly would I, might it be, by own fire warm-myself.

zâi wiech danne sunge von den vogellînen,

aba how-I then would-sing of the little-birds,

von der heide und von den bluomen, als ich wîlent sanc!

of the heath and of the flowers, as I formerly sang!

swelch schœne wîp mir denne gæbe ir habedanc,

whatever fair woman to-me then should-give her thanks,

der liez ich liljen unde rôsen ûz ir wengel schînen.

to-her would-let I lilies and roses out-of her cheeks shine.

kume ich spâte und rîte fruo, 'gast, wê dir, wê!':

(if)-come I late and ride early, 'guest, woe to-thee, woe!':

sô mac der wirt wol singen von dem grünen klê.

so may the host well sing of the green clover.

die nôit bedenkent, milter küneec, daz iuwer nôit zergê.

the need consider, bountiful king, that your need pass-away.

Herzoge ûz Ôsterrîche, ez ist iu wol ergangen,

28,11

Duke out-of Austria, it has to-you well gone,

und alsô schône daz uns muoz nâch iu belangen.

and so beautifully that us must after you long.

sît gewis, swenn ir uns komet, ir werdent hôh enpfangen.

be certain, whenever you to-us come, you will-be high received.

ir sît wol wert daz wir die gloggen gegen iu liuten,

you are well worthy that we the bells toward you ring,

dringen unde schowen als ein wunder komen sî.

press and gaze as-if a wonder come were.

ir komet uns beide sünden unde schanden frî:

you come to-us both of-sins and of-disgrace free:

des suln wir man iuch loben, und die frowen suln iuch triuten.
hence shall we men you praise, and the ladies shall you caress.

diz liehte lop wol füeget heime uns ûf daz ort:
this bright praise well suits at-home for-us to the utmost:

sît uns hie biderbe für daz ungefüege wort,
be to-us here worthy against the unseemly word,

daz ieman spræche, ir soldet sîn beliben mit êren dort.
that anyone should-say, you should have stayed with honor there.

28,21 Er schalc, in swelhem leben er sî, der dankes triege
He knave, in whatever estate he be, who willingly deceives

unde sînen hêren lêre daz er liege!
and his lord teaches that he lie!

erlamen müezen im diu bein, als ers zem râte biege!
go-lame may to-him the legs, when he-them to-the counsel bends!

sî abe er sô hêre daz er dâ zuo sitze,
(if)-be however he so lordly that he there to sits,

sô wünsche ich daz sîn ungetriuwe zunge müeze erlamen.
so wish I that his faithless tongue may go-lame.

die selben machent uns die biderben âne schamen.
the same make for-us the worthy without shame.

sol liegen witze sîn, sô pflegent si tugendelôser witze.
(if)-should lying wit be, so practice they virtueless wit.

wan mugens in râten daz si lâzen in ir kragen
why-not may-they them counsel that they leave in their throat

ir valsche gelübde od nâch gelübde niht versagen?
their false promises or after promise not refuse?

si solten geben ê dem lobe der kalc wær abe getragen.
they should give before to-the praise the plaster were off carried.

Ich hân mîn lêhen, al die werlt, ich hân mîn lêhen.

I have my fief, all the world, I have my fief.

28,31

nû enfürhte ich niht den hornunc an die zêhen,

now fear I not the February on the toes,

und wil alle bœse hêrren dester minre flêhen.

and will all bad lords the less entreat.

der edel künec, der milte künec hât mich berâten,

the noble king, the bountiful king has me provided-for,

daz ich den sumer luft und in dem winter hitze hân.

that I (in)-the summer air and in the winter heat have.

mîn nâhgebûren dunke ich verre baz getân:

to-my neighbors seem I far better fashioned:

si sehent mich niht mêr an in butzen wîs als si wîlent tâten.

they look me not more at in bogey manner as they formerly did.

ich bin ze lange arm gewesen ân mînen danc.

I have too long poor been against my will.

ich was sô volle scheltens daz mîn âten stanc:

I was so full of-scolding that my breath stank:

daz hât der künec gemachet reine, und dar zuo mînen sanc.

that has the king made clean, and there to my song.

Ich hân gesehen in der werlte ein michel wunder:

I have seen in the world a great wonder:

29,4

wærz ûf dem mer, ez diuhte ein seltsæne kunder;

were-it on the sea, it would-seem a strange creature;

des mîn fröide erschrocken ist, mîn trûren worden munder.

at-which my joy startled is, my mourning become wakeful.

daz glîchet einem bœsen man. swer nû des lachen

that resembles a bad man. whoever now his laughter

strîchet an der triuwen stein, der vindet kunterfeit.

rubs on the faith's stone, he finds counterfeit.

er bîzet dâ sîn grînen niht hât widerseit.

he bites where his grinning not has given-warning.

[sîn valscheit tuot vil manegem dicke leit.]

[his falsehood does right to-many-a-one often harm.]

zwô zungen habent kalt und warm, die ligent in sîme rachen.

two tongues have cold and warm, they lie in his gullet.

in sîme süezen honge lît ein giftic nagel.

in his sweet honey lies a poisonous sting.

sîn wolkenlôsez lachen bringet scharpfen hagel.

his cloudless laughter brings sharp hail.

swâ man daz spürt, ez kêrt sîn hant und wirt ein swalwen zagel.

wherever one that spies, it turns its hand and becomes a swallow's tail.

29,15 Ir fürsten, die des küneges gerne wæren âne,

You princes, who of-the king gladly would-be rid,

die volgen mîme râte: ichn râte in niht nâch wâne.

they should-follow my counsel: I counsel to-them not by guess.

welt ir, ich schicke in tûsent mîle und dannoch mê für Trâne.

(if)-will you, I send him thousand miles and still more past Trani.

der helt wil Kristes reise varn: swer in des irret,

the hero will Christ's journey fare: whoever him of-it binders,

der hât wider got und al die kristenheit getân.

he has against God and all the Christendom done.

ir vînde, ir sult in sîne strâze varen lân:

you enemies, you should him his road travel let:

waz ob er hie heime iu niemer mêre niht gewirret?

what if he here at-home to-you never more at-all troubles?

belîbe er dort, des got niht gebe, sô lachent ir:

stay he there, which God not grant, so laugh you:

kom er uns friunden wider hein, sô lachen wir.

(if)-come he to-us friends back home, so laugh we.

der mære warten beidenthalp, und hânt den rât von mir.

the tidings await on-both-sides, and have the counsel from me.

Ich trunke gerne dâ man bî der mâze schenket,
I would-drink gladly where one by the measure pours,
 und dâ der unmâze niemen iht gedenket,
and where of-the excess no-one at-all thinks,
 sît si den man an lîbe an guot und an den êren krenket.
since it the man in body in goods and in the honors weakens.
 si schât ouch an der sêle, hœre ich jehen die wîsen:
it harms also in the soul, hear I say the wise:
 des möht ein ieglich man von sînem wirte wol enbern.
of-that might every single man from his host well do-without.
 liez er sich vollecliche bî der mâze wern,
let be himself fully by the measure be-served,
 sô möht ime gelücke heil und sælde und êre ûf rîsen.
so might to-him fortune health and blessedness and honor up rise.
 diu mâze wart den liuten dar umb ûf geleit,
the measure was to-the folk there for up laid,
 daz man si ebene mezze und trage, ist mir geseit;
that one it evenly measure and bear, is to-me said;
 nû hab er danc, ders ebene mezze und der si ebene treit.
now have he thanks, who-it evenly measures and who it evenly bears.

29,25

Er hât niht wol getrunken, der sich übertrinket.
He has not well drunk, who himself over-drinks.
 wie zimet daz biderbem man, daz ime diu zunge hinket
how befits that a-worthy man, that to-him the tongue limps
 von wîne? ich wæne er houbetsûnde und schande zuo im winket.
from wine? I ween he mortal-sin and disgrace to himself beckons.
 im zæme baz, möht er gebrûchen sîne fûeze,
to-him would-befit better, might he use his feet,
 daz er âne helfe bî den liuten möhte stân.
that be without help among the folk might stand.
 swie sanfte man in trûege, er möhte lieber gân.
however gently one him should-carry, he might rather walk.

29,35

sus trinke ein iegeslicher man, daz er den durst gebüeze:
so drink every single man, that he the thirst may-quench:

daz tuot er âne houbetsünde und âne spot.
that does he without mortal-sin and without mockery.

swelch man sô getrinket daz er sich noch got
whatever man so drinks that he (neither)-himself nor God

erkennt, sô hât er gebrochen ime sîn hôch gebot.
knows, so has he broken to-him his high command.

30,9 Got weiz wol, mîn lop wær iemer hovestäte

God knows well, my praise would-be ever court-constant

dâ man eteswenne hovelîchen tæte,
where one sometimes courtly should-act,

mit gebærde, mit gewisser rede, mit ræte.
with bearing, with sure speech, with counsel.

mir griulet, sô mich lachent an die lechelære,
me it-horrifies, when me laugh at the smirkers,

den diu zunge honget und daz herze gallen hât.
whose the tongue boneys and the heart gall has.

friundes lachen sol sîn âne missetât,
friend's laughter should be without misdeed,

süeze als der âbentrôt, der kündet lûter mære.
sweet as the evening-red, which announces clear tidings.

nû tuo mir lachelîche, od lache ab anderswâ.
now do to-me smilingly, or laugh but elsewhere.

swes munt mich triegen wil, der habe sîn lachen dâ:
whose mouth me deceive will, he keep his laughter there:

von dem næm ich ein wârez nein für zwei gelogeniu jâ.
from him would-take I one true no for two lying yeas.

Sît got ein rehter rihter heizet an den buochen,

Since God a true judge is-called in the books,

daz er solt ûz sîner milte des geruochen

that he should out-of his bounty of-that vouchsafe

daz er die gar getriuwen ûz den valschen hieze suochen!

that he the wholly faithful out-of the false should-bid seek!

joch meine ich hie: si werdent dort vil gar gesundert:

indeed mean I here: they will-be there right wholly sundered:

doch sæhe ich an ir eteslichem gerne ein schanden mâl.

yet would-see I on of-them some gladly a disgrace's mark.

der sich dem man windet ûz der hant reht als ein âl,

who himself to-the man twists out-of the hand just like an eel,

owê daz got niht zorneclîchen sêre an deme wundert!

alas that God not angrily sorely on him works-wonder!

swer sant mir var von hûs, der var ouch mit mir hein.

whoever with me travel from house, he travel also with me home.

des mannes muot sol veste wesen als ein stein,

the man's spirit should firm be like a stone,

ûf triuwe sleht und eben als ein vil wol gemachter zein.

on faith smooth and even like a right well made rod.

Swer sich des stæten friundes dur übermuot behêret,

Whoever himself of-the constant friend through arrogance exalts-above,

und er den sînen dur des fremeden êre unêret,

and he his own for the stranger's honor dishonors,

der möhte ersehen, wurd er von sînem hœhern ouch gesêret,

he might see, were he by his higher also wounded,

daz diu gehalsen friuntschaft sich vil lîhte entrande,

that the embraced friendship itself right easily unraveled,

swenn er sich lîbes unde guotes solde umb in bewegen.

whenever he himself of-body and of-goods should for him risk.

wir hân vereischet, die der wenke hânt gepflegen,

we have heard-of, those of-the wavering have practiced,

daz si der kumber wider ûf die erborne friunde wande:

that them the trouble back on the born friends turned:

daz sol nâch gotes lêhen dicke noch geschehen.

that shall by God's grant often yet happen.

ouch hôrte ich ie die liute des mit volge jehen,

also heard I ever the folk of-that with assent say,

‘gewissen friunt, versuohtiu swert, sol man ze nœten sehen.’

‘proven friend, tried swords, should one at need look-to.’

Ich wil niht mê den ougen volgen noch den sinnen.

I will not more the eyes follow nor the senses.

diu rieten mir an zwei, daz ich diu solde minnen:

they counseled to-me toward two, that I them should love:

diu wâren âne valsch geworht beidiu ûzen, unde och innen

they were without falsehood wrought both outside, and also inside

dâ wart ein wênec in geleit, daz was niht stæte;

there was a little in laid, that was not constant;

des vielten sich ir egge, dô si solten hân gesniten.

therefore folded themselves their edges, when they should have cut.

und wære eht niht wan daz alleine drinne vermiten,

and were only nothing save that alone therein avoided,

sô wærens allenthalben alse ganz an ir getæte,

so would-be-they everywhere as whole in their doing,

daz sich ein iegeslîcher möhte lâzen dran.

that himself every single-one might trust thereon.

owê daz ich der trûge ie künde an in gewan!

alas that I of-the deceit ever knowledge in them won!

wie übel ich mich des schaden schame und in des lasters gan!

how ill I myself of-the harm shame and them of-the reproach grant!

Ich hân gemerket von der Seine unz an die Muore

I HAVE OBSERVED FROM THE SEINE TO THE MUR

A long Ton on money, court, and Rome. From the Seine to the Mur goods now go before honor, and guest and host are unequal names. Crowded out at Leopold's court, he takes up the sharp song and will command where he begged, and asks who at the Carinthian's court perverts it. Rome's black book, the old Lord under a bad eaves-drip, and Lord Trunk, the collecting box, follow; three courts, the landgrave, and Leopold's crusade savings close it.

Ich hân gemerket von der Seine unz an die Muore,

31,13

I have observed from the Seine unto to the Mur,

von dem Pfâde unz an die Traben erkenne ich al ir fuore:

from the Po unto to the Trave know I all their conduct:

diu meiste menege enruochet wies erwirbet guot.

the greatest multitude cares-not how-it wins goods.

sol ichz alsô gewinnen, sô ganc slâfen, hôher muot.

should I-it so win, then go sleep, high spirit.

guot was ie genæme, iedoch sô gie diu êre

goods was ever acceptable, yet so went the honor

vor dem guote: nu ist daz guot sô hêre,

before the goods: now is the goods so lordly,

daz ez gewalteclîche vor ir zuo den frowen gât,

that it masterfully before it to the ladies goes,

mit den fürsten zuo den künegen an ir rât.

with the princes to the kings into their council.

sô wê dir, guot! wie rømesch rîche stât!

so woe to-thee, goods! how Roman empire stands!

du enbist niht guot: dû habst dich an die schande ein teil ze sêre.

thou art not good: thou hast thee to the disgrace a deal too sorely.

- 31,23 'Sît willekomen, hêr wirt,' dem gruoze muoz ich swîgen:
'Be welcome, lord host,' to-that greeting must I keep-silent:
- 'sît willekomen, hêr gast,' sô muoz ich sprechen oder nîgen.
'be welcome, lord guest,' so must I speak or bow.
- wirt unde heim sint zwêne unschamelîche namen:
host and home are two unshameful names:
- gast unde hereberge muoz man sich vil dicke schamen.
guest and lodging must one oneself right often be-ashamed.
- noch müez ich geleben daz ich den gast ouch grüeze,
yet may I live that I the guest also greet,
- sô daz er mir dem wirte danken müeze.
so that he to-me the host thank may.
- 'sît hînaht hie, sît morgen dort,' waz gougelfuore ist daz!
'be tonight here, be tomorrow there,' what juggler's-life is that!
- 'ich bin heime' ode 'ich wil heim' daz troestet baz.
'I am at-home' or 'I will home' that comforts better.
- gast unde schâch kumt selten âne haz:
guest and check come seldom without hate:
- nû büezet mir des gastes, daz iu got des schâches büeze.
now amend for-me of-the guest, that to-you God of-the check amend.
- 31,33 In nomine dumme ich wil beginnen: sprechent âmen
In the-name of-the-Lord I will begin: say amen
- (daz ist guot für ungelücke und für des tievels sâmen),
(that is good against misfortune and against the devil's seed),
- daz ich gesingen müeze in dirre wîse alsô,
that I sing may in this melody thus,
- swer höveschen sanc und fröide stære, daz der werde unfrô.
whoever courtly song and joy troubles, that he become joyless.
- ich hân wol und hovelîchen her gesungen:
I have well and courtly hitherto sung:
- mit der hövescheit bin ich nû verdrungen,
with the courtliness am I now crowded-out,

daz die unhöveschen nû ze hove genæmer sint dann ich.
that the uncourtly now at court more-welcome are than I.

daz mich êren solde, daz unêret mich.
what me honor should, that dishonors me.

herzoge ûz Ôsterrîch Liupolt, nû sprich:
duke out-of Austria Leopold, now speak:

dun wendest michts alleine, sô verkêre ich mîne zungen.
unless-thou turnest me-of-it alone, so turn I my tongue.

Nû wil ich mich des scharpfen sanges ouch genieten:
Now will I myself of-the sharp song also make-use:

32,7

dâ ich ie mit vorhten bat, dâ wil ich nû gebieten.
where I ever with fear begged, there will I now command.

ich sihe wol daz man hêren guot und wîbes gruoz
I see well that one lord's goods and woman's greeting

gewalteclîch und ungezogenlîch erwerben muoz.
masterfully and unmannerly win must.

singe ich mînen hoveschen sanc, sô klagent siz Stollen.
sing I my courtly song, so lament they-it at-Stollen.

dêswâr ich gewinne ouch lihte knollen:
truly I get also perhaps clods:

sît si die schalkheit wellen, ich gemache in vollen kragen.
since they the knavery will, I make for-them full throats.

ze Ôsterrîche lernt ich singen unde sagen:
in Austria learned I singing and saying:

dâ wil ich mich allerêrst beklagen:
there will I myself first-of-all complain:

vind ich an Liupolt hoveschen trôst, so ist mir mîn muot entswollen.
(if)-find I in Leopold courtly comfort, so is to-me my spirit swollen.

32,17 Ich hân des Kerndæres gâbe dicke empfangen:

I have the Carinthian's gift often received:

wil er dur ein vermissen bieten mir alsô diu wangen?

will he for one lapse offer to-me thus the cheeks?

er wænet lîhte daz ich zürne: nein ich, niht.

he weens perhaps that I am-angry: no I, not.

im ist geschehen daz noch vil manegem milten man geschiht.

to-him is happened what still right to-many-a bountiful man happens.

was mir lîhte leide, dô was ime noch leider.

was to-me perhaps grievous, then was to-him yet more-grievous.

dô er hâte mir geschaffen kleider,

when he had for-me ordered clothes,

daz man mir niht engap, dar umbe zürne er anderswâ.

that one to-me not gave, there for be-angry he elsewhere.

ich weiz wol, swer willeclîche sprichet jâ,

I know well, whoever willingly says yes,

der gâbe ouch gerne, und wære ez danne dâ.

he would-give also gladly, if were it then there.

dirre zorn ist âne schulde weizgot unser beider.

this anger is without guilt God-knows of-us both.

32,27 Ichn weiz wem ich gelîchen muoz die hovebellen,

I-not know to-whom I liken must the court-barkers,

wan den mîusen, die sich selbe meldent, tragent si schellen.

save to-the mice, which themselves alone betray, wear they bells.

des lekera her mîuse klanc, kumet si ûz ir klûs,

the sycophant's host a-mouse's jingle, comes it out-of its cell,

sô schrîen wir vil lîhte 'ein schalc, ein schalc! ein mûs, ein mûs!'

so cry we very likely 'a knave, a knave! a mouse, a mouse!'

edel Kerndenære, ich sol dir klagen sêre,

noble Carinthian, I must to-thee complain sorely,

mîlter fürste und marterer umb êre,

bountiful prince and martyr for honor,

ichn weiz wer mir in dînem hove verkêret mînen sanc.

I-not know who to-me in thy court perverts my song.

lâz ichz niht dur dich und ist er niht ze kranc,

let I-it not for thee and is he not too weak,

ich swinge im alsô swinden widerswanc.

I swing to-him so swift a-back-swing.

frâge waz ich habe gesungen, und ervar uns werz verkêre.

ask what I have sung, and find-out for-us who-it perverts.

Ir bischofe und ir edeln pfaffen sît verleitet.

You bishops and you noble priests are led- astray.

33,1

seht wie iuch der bâbest mit des tievels stricken beitet.

see how you the pope with the devil's snares coerces.

saget ir uns daz er sant Pêters slûzzel habe,

(if)-say you to-us that he saint Peter's key has,

sô saget war umbe er sîne lêre von den buochen schabe.

then say where for he his teaching from the books scrapes.

daz man gotes gâbe iht koufe oder verkoufe,

that one God's gift at-all buy or sell,

daz wart uns verboten bî der toufe.

that was to-us forbidden at the baptism.

nû lêr etz in sîn swarzez buoch, daz ime der hellemôr

now teach only-it in his black book, which to-him the hell-moor

hât gegeben, und ûz im les et sîniu rôr:

has given, and out-of it read only his reeds:

ir kardenâle, ir decket iuwern kôr:

you cardinals, you roof your choir:

unser alter frôn derst under einer übelen troufe.

our old lord he-is under an evil eaves-drip.

- 33,11 Wir klagen alle, und wizzen doch niht waz uns wirret,
We lament all, and know yet not what us troubles,
 daz uns der bâbest unser vater alsus hât verirret.
that us the pope our father thus has led-astroy.
 nû gât er uns doch harte vaterlîchen vor:
now goes he to-us yet very fatherly before:
 wir volgen ime und komen niemer fuoz ûz sînem spor.
we follow him and come never a-foot out-of his track.
 nû merke, welt, waz mir dar ane missevalle.
now mark, world, what to-me there in displeases.
 gîtset er, si gîtsent mit im alle:
covets he, they covet with him all:
 liuget er, si liegent alle mit im sîne lûge:
(if)-lies he, they lie all with him his lies:
 und triuget er, si triegent mit im sîne trûge.
and deceives he, they deceive with him his deceits.
 nû merkent wer mir daz verkêren mûge:
now mark who to-me that gainsay may:
 sus wirt der junge Jûdas, mit dem alten dort, ze schalle.
thus becomes the young Judas, with the old there, to talk.

- 33,21 Der stuol ze Rôme ist allerêrst berihet rehte,
The see at Rome is only-now ordered rightly,
 als hie vor bî einem zouberære Gêrbrehte.
as here before under a sorcerer Gerbert.
 der selbe gap ze valle wan sîn eines leben:
he same gave to ruin save his one life:
 sô wil sich dirre und al die kristenheit ze valle geben.
so will himself this-one and all the Christendom to ruin give.
 alle zungen suln ze gote schrîen wâfen,
all tongues shall to God cry alarm,
 und rûefen ime, wie lange er welle slâfen.
and call to-him, how long he will sleep.

si widerwürkent sîniu werc und felschent sîniu wort.

they undo his works and falsify his words.

sîn kamerære stilt im sînen himelhort,

his chamberlain steals from-him his heaven-board,

sîn süener mordet hie und roubet dort,

his peacemaker murders here and robs there,

sîn hirte ist zeinem wolve im worden under sînen schâfen.

his shepberd is to-a wolf for-him become among his sheep.

Diu kristenheit gelepte nie sô gar nâch wâne.

The Christendom lived never so wholly after guess.

33,31

die si dâ lêren solten, die sint guoter sinne âne.

they-who them there teach should, they are of-good sense without.

es wær ze vil, und tæt ein tumber leie daz.

of-it would-be too much, even-if did a foolish layman that.

si sündent âne vorhte: dar umb ist in got gehaz.

they sin without fear: there for is to-them God hostile.

si wîsent uns zem himel, und varent si zer helle.

they point us to-the heaven, and travel they to-the hell.

si sprechent, swer ir worten volgen welle,

they say, whoever their words follow will,

und niht ir werken, der sî âne zwîvel dort genesen.

and not their works, he be without doubt there saved.

die pfaffen solten kiuscher dan die leien wesen:

the priests should chaster than the laymen be:

an welen buochen hânt si daz erlesen,

in which books have they that read,

daz sich sô maneger flîzet wâ er ein schœnez wîp vervelle?

that himself so many-a-one strives where he a fair woman may-fell?

34,4 Ahî wie kristenliche nû der bâbest lachet,
Aha how Christianly now the pope laughs,
 swenne er sînen Walhen seit 'ich hânz alsô gemachet'!
whenever he to-his Italians says 'I have-it so contrived'!
 daz er dâ seit, des solt er niemer hân gedâht.
what he there says, of-that should he never have thought.
 er giht 'ich hân zwên Almân under eine krône brâht,
he says 'I have two Germans under one crown brought,
 daz siz rîche sulen stœren unde wasten.
that they-the realm shall trouble and lay-waste.
 ie dar under fûllen wir die kasten:
ever there under fill we the chests:
 ich hâns an mînen stoc gement, ir guot ist allez mîn:
I have-them to my box summoned, their goods is all mine:
 ir tiuschez silber vert in mînen welschen schrîn.
their German silver travels into my Italian chest.
 ir pfaffen, ezzent hûenr und trinkent wîn,
you priests, eat fowls and drink wine,
 unde lânt die tiutschen ... vasten.'
and let the Germans (lacuna) fast.'

34,14 Sagt an, hêr Stoc, hât iuch der bâbest her gesendet,
Say on, lord Trunk, has you the pope hither sent,
 daz ir in rîchet und uns Tiutschen ermet unde pfendet?
that you him enrich and us Germans impoverish and distrain?
 swenn im diu volle mâze kumt ze Latrân,
whenever to-him the full measure comes to Lateran,
 sô tuot er einen argen list, als er ê hât getân:
so does he an evil trick, as he before has done:
 ei seit uns danne wie daz rîche stê verwarren,
hey says to-us then how the realm stands entangled,
 unz in erfüllent aber alle pfarren.
until him fill again all parishes.

ich wæn des silbers wênic kumet ze helfe in gotes lant:
I ween of-the silver little comes to help into God's land:

grôzen hort zerteilet selten pfaffen hant.
great hoard divides seldom priest's hand.

hêr Stoc, ir sît ûf schaden her gesant,
lord Trunk, you are for harm hither sent,

daz ir ûz tiutschen liuten suochet tœrinne unde narren.
that you out-of German folk seek she-fools and fools.

Swelch herze sich bî disen zîten niht verkêret,
Whatever heart itself in these times not turns-away,

34,24

sît daz der bâbest selbe dort den ungelouben mêret,
since that the pope himself there the unbelief increases,

dâ wont ein sælic geist und gotes minne bî.
there dwells a blessed spirit and God's love by.

nû seht ir waz der pfaffen werc und waz ir lêre sî.
now see you what the priests' work and what their teaching is.

ê daz was ir lêre bî den werken reine:
before that was their teaching beside the works pure:

nû sint si aber anders sô gemeine,
now are they however otherwise so common,

daz wirs unrehte wûrken sehen, unrehte hoeren sagen,
that we-them wrongly work see, wrongly hear speak,

die uns guoter lêre bilde solden tragen.
who to-us of-good teaching a-model should bear.

des mugen wir tumbe leien wol verzagen:
of-that may we foolish laymen well despair:

wæn aber mîn guoter klôsenære klage und sêre weine.
I-ween however my good recluse laments and sorely weeps.

- 34,34 Die wîle ich weiz drî hove sô lobelîcher manne,
The while I know three courts of-so praiseworthy men,
 sô ist mîn wîn gelesen unde sûset wol mîn pfanne.
so is my wine gathered and sizzles well my pan.
 der biderbe patriârke missewende frî,
the worthy patriarch of-reproach free,
 der ist ir einer, so ist mîn höfscher trôst zehant dâ bî,
he is of-them one, so is my courtly comfort at-once there by,
 Liupolt, zwir ein fürste, Stîr und Ôsterrîche.
Leopold, twice a prince, Styria and Austria.
 niemen lept den ich zuo deme gelîche:
no-one lives whom I to him liken:
 sîn lop ist niht ein lobelîn: er mac, er hât, er tuot.
his praise is not a little-praise: he can, he has, he does.
 sô ist sîn veter als der milte Welf gemuot:
so is his kinsman as the bountiful Welf minded:
 des lop was ganz, ez ist nâch tôde guot.
whose praise was whole, it is after death good.
 mirst vil unnôt daz ich durch handelunge iht verre strîche.
to-me-is right needless that I for entertainment at-all far roam.
- 35,7 Ich bin des milten lantgrâven ingesinde.
I am the bountiful landgrave's household.
 ez ist mîn site daz man mich iemer bî den tiursten vinde.
it is my custom that one me ever among the most-excellent find.
 die andern fürsten alle sint vil milte, iedoch
the other princes all are right bountiful, yet
 sô stæteclichen niht: er was ez ê und ist ez noch.
so constantly not: he was it before and is it still.
 dâ von kan er baz danne si dermite gebâren:
there from can he better than they therewith bear-himself:
 er enwil dekeiner lûne vâren.
he will of-no whim take-heed.

swer hiure schallet und ist hin ze jâre böese als ê,
whoever this-year resounds and is hence in a-year bad as before,

des lop gruoget unde valwet sô der klê.
his praise greens and yellows like the clover.

der Dürnge bluome schînet dur den snê:
the Thuringians' flower shines through the snow:

sumer und winter blüet sîn lop als in den êrsten jâren.
summer and winter blooms his praise as in the first years.

Liupolt ûz Ôsterrîche, lâ mich bî den liuten,
Leopold out-of Austria, let me among the folk,

35,17

wünsche mir ze velde und niht ze walde: ichn kan niht riuten:
wish for-me to field and not to wood: I can not clear-land:

si sehent mich bî in gerne, alsô tuon ich sie.
they see me among them gladly, so do I them.

dû wünschest underwîlent biderbem man dun weist joch wie.
thou wishest sometimes to-a-worthy man thou-not knowest even how.

wünsches dû mich von in, sô tuost dû mir leide.
wishest thou me from them, so doest thou to-me harm.

vil sælic sî der walt, dar zuo diu heide!
right blessed be the wood, there to the heath!

diu müeze dir vil wol gezemen! wie hâst dû sus getân,
they may to-thee right well befit! how hast thou thus done,

daz ich dich an dîn gemach gewünschet hân,
that I thee to thy comfort wished have,

und dû mich an mîn ungemach? lâ stân:
and thou me to my discomfort? let stand:

wis dû von dan, lâ mich bî in: sô leben wir sanfte beide.
be thou from thence, let me among them: so live we softly both.

- 35,27 An wîbe lobe stêt wol daz man si heize schœne:
In woman's praise stands well that one her call fair:
- manne stêt ez übel, ez ist ze wîch und ofte hœne.
to-a-man stands it ill, it is too soft and often scornful.
- küene und milte, und daz er dâ zuo stæte sî,
bold and bountiful, and that he there to constant be,
- so ist er vil gar gelobt: den zwein stêt wol daz dritte bî.
so is he right wholly praised: to-the two stands well the third by.
- wilz iu niht versmâhen, sô wil ichz iuch lêren,
(if)-will-it to-you not seem-mean, so will I-it you teach,
- wie wir loben suln und niht unêren.
how we praise should and not dishonor.
- ir müezet in die liute sehen, welt ir erkennen wol:
you must into the folk see, will you know well:
- nieman ûzen nâch der varwe loben sol.
no-one outwardly after the color praise should.
- vil manic tôre ist innen tugende vol:
right many-a fool is inwardly of-virtue full:
- wie wîz der biderben herze sint, der si wil umbe kêren!
how white the worthy's hearts are, for-him-who them will about turn!

Dô Liupolt spart ûf gotes vart, ûf künftige êre,
When Leopold saved for God's journey, for future honor,

sie behielten alle samt, si volgeten sîner lêre,
they held-back all together, they followed his teaching,

si zuhten ûf, alsam si niht getorsten geben.
they held off, as-if they not dared give.

daz was billich: wan sol iemer nâch dem hove leben.
that was fitting: for-(one) should ever after the court live.

daz sin an der milte iht überhœhen wolten,
that they-him in the bounty at-all outdo would,

wol in des! si tâten als si solten.
well to-them for-it! they did as they should.

die helde ûz Ôsterrîche heten ie gehoveten muot.
the heroes out-of Austria had ever courtly spirit.

sie behielten durch sîn êre: daz was guot:
they held-back for his honor: that was good:

nû geben durch sîn êre, als er nû tuot.
now give for his honor, as he now does.

sin leben nâch dem hove nû, so ist eniu zuht bescholten.
unless-they live after the court now, so is that breeding disgraced.

Ir fürsten, tugendet iwern sin mit reiner güete

YOU PRINCES, ENNOBLE YOUR MIND

Counsel to princes, then four Marian strophes. The princes are to strengthen right, be bountiful and peace-bearing, and love God. Mary is the flowing flood of mercy, who received the sweet one through her ear at Gabriel's greeting and bore him without pain. Good Friday follows: the thorns, the three nails, the spear that Longinus set to his side, and the mother sinking powerless before the cross as her son commends her to John.

36,11 Ir fürsten, tugendet iwern sin mit reiner güete,

You princes, ennoble your mind with pure goodness,

sît gegen friunden senfte, tragt gein vînden hôhgemüete:

be toward friends gentle, bear against foes high-spirit:

sterket reht, und danket gote der grôzen êren,

strengthen right, and thank God for-the great honors,

daz manic mensch lîp und sîn guot muoz iu ze dienste kêren.

that many-a person body and his goods must to-you to service turn.

sît milte, fridebære, lât in wirde iuch schouwen:

be bountiful, peace-bearing, let in dignity you be-seen:

sô lobent iuch die reinen süezen frouwen.

so praise you the pure sweet ladies.

schame, triuwe, erbermde, zuht, die sult ir gerne tragen:

modesty, faith, mercy, breeding, these should you gladly bear:

minnet got, und rihtet swaz die armen klagen,

love God, and redress whatever the poor lament,

gloubt niht daz iu die lügenære sagen,

believe not what to-you the liars say,

und volget guotem râte: sô mugt ir in himele bouwen.

and follow good counsel: so may you in heaven dwell.

Marjâ klâr, vil hôhgeloptiu frowe süeze,

Mary bright, right high-praised lady sweet,

hilf mir durch dînes kindes êre deich mîn sünde gebüeze.

help me for thy child's honor that-I my sin may-atone.

dû flüetic fluot barmunge tugende und aller güete,

thou flowing flood of-mercy of-virtue and of-all goodness,

der süeze gotes geist ûz dînem edeln herzen blüete:

the sweet God's spirit out-of thy noble heart bloomed:

er ist dîn kint, dîn vater, unde dîn schepfære.

he is thy child, thy father, and thy creator.

wol uns des daz dû in ie gebære!

well to-us for-that that thou him ever borest!

den hœche tiefe breite lenge umbgrîfen mohte nie,

whom height depth breadth length encompass could never,

dîn kleiner lîp mit süezer kiusche in umbevie.

thy small body with sweet chastity him embraced.

kein wunder mohte dem gelîchen ie:

no wonder could to-that be-like ever:

der engel küniginne, dû trüeg in ân alle swære.

of-the angels queen, thou borest him without all pain.

An dem frîtage wurd wir vor der helle gefrîet

On the Friday were we from the hell freed

von dem der sich drivalteclîchen eine hât gedrîet.

by him who himself threefoldly alone has trebled.

der engel Gabriël Marjâ die botschaft kûndet,

the angel Gabriel to-Mary the message announces,

dâ von himel und erde wart mit grôzen frôiden enzündet.

there from heaven and earth was with great joys kindled.

er sprach zuo ir âvê, daz minneclîche grüezen:

he spoke to her ave, the loving greeting:

durch ir ôre enpfîenc si den vil süezen,

through her ear received she the right sweet-one,

der ie ân aneenge was und muoz ân ende sîn.
who ever without beginning was and must without end be.

des sî dir lop und êre geseit, ...
for-that be to-thee praise and honor said, (lacuna)

... Marjâ künigîn.
(lacuna) Mary queen.

dû gæbe in uns ze trôst, der al der werlt mac swære bûezen.
thou gavest him to-us as comfort, who all the world's may pain atone.

Sûnder, dû solt an die grôzen nôt gedenken,
Sinner, thou shouldst on the great distress think,

die got durch uns leit, und solt dîn herze in riuwe senken.
which God for us suffered, and shouldst thy heart in repentance sink.

sîn lîp wart mit scharpfen dornen gar versêret:
his body was with sharp thorns wholly wounded:

dennoch wart manicvalt sîn marter an dem kriuze gemêret:
still was manifold his torment on the cross increased:

man sluoc im drîe negel dur hende und ouch dur fûeze.
one struck to-him three nails through hands and also through feet.

jâmerlîchen weint Marjâ diu sûeze,
pitifully wept Mary the sweet,

dô si ir kinde dez bluot ûz beiden sîten fliezen sach.
when she of-her child the blood out-of both sides flow saw.

trûreclîchen Jêsus von dem kriuze sprach
sorrowfully Jesus from the cross spoke

‘muoter, jâ ist iuwer ungemach
‘mother, yes is your distress

mîn ander tût. Jôhan, dû solt der lieben swære bûezen.’
my second death. John, thou shouldst of-the dear-one the-pain assuage.’

Der blinde sprach zuo sînem knehte 'dû solt setzen

The blind-man spoke to his servant 'thou shouldst set

daz sper an sîn herze: jâ wil ich die marter letzen.'

the spear on his heart: yes will I the torment end.'

daz sper gein al der werlte hêrren wart geneiget.

the spear against all the world's lord was leveled.

Marjâ vor dem kriuze trûreclîche klage erzeiget;

Mary before the cross sorrowful lament showed;

si verlôs ir varwe, ir kraft, in bitterlîchen nœten,

she lost her color, her strength, in bitter distresses,

dô si jæmerlîch ir [liebez] kint sach tœten

when she pitifully her [dear] child saw slain

und Longînus ein sper im in sîn reine sîten stach.

and Longinus a spear to-him into his pure side thrust.

si seic unmehtic nider, [daz] si [niht] hôte noch ensprach.

she sank powerless down, [so-that] she [not] heard nor spoke.

in dem jâmer Kriste dez herze brach:

in the misery to-Christ the heart broke:

daz kriuze begunde sich mit sînem süezen bluote rœten.

the cross began itself with his sweet blood to-redden.

Tumbiu Werlt, ziuch dînen zoum, wart umbe, sich

FOOLISH WORLD, DRAW THY REIN

A single strophe of counsel to the World. She is told to draw her rein and look about her, for a spirit let run will throw her, and what is untested in her heart harms her here and hates her soul hereafter. Let the good spirit drive out the evil, love God, strive for praise with clean goods, keep unfamiliar with evil, believe what the priests read, and above all speak well of women.

37,24 Tumbiu Werlt, ziuch dînen zoum, wart umbe, sich.

Foolish World, draw thy rein, look about, see.

wilt dû lân loufen dînen muot, sîn sprunc der vellet dich.

(if)-wilt thou let run thy spirit, its leap it fells thee.

derst manicvalt in dînem herzen unbekort:

it-is manifold in thy heart untested:

er schadet dir hie und ist ein langer haz der sêle dort.

it harms thee here and is a long hatred to-the soul there.

lâ guoten muot den bœsen muot von dir vertriben:

let good spirit the evil spirit from thee drive:

minne got, sô maht dû frô beliben:

love God, so mayest thou glad remain:

wirp umbe lop mit reinem guote, wellest dû genesen:

strive for praise with pure goods, wouldst thou be-saved:

den bœsen solt dû iemer gerne unheinlich wesen:

to-the evil shouldst thou ever gladly unfamiliar be:

geloube swaz die pfaffen guotes lesen:

believe whatever the priests of-good read:

wilt dû daz allez übergûlden, sô sprich wol den wîben.

(if)-wilt thou that all outdo, so speak well of-the women.

Genuoge hêrren sint gelîch den gougelâren

MANY LORDS ARE LIKE THE JUGGLERS

A single strophe against lords who deceive. The juggler asks what is under the hat: a wild falcon, then a proud peacock, then a sea-wonder, and at the end it is only a crow. The singer knows the trick and laughs at it. He tells the lord to keep his false boxes, says he would strike them on his head were he his equal in strength, and refuses to be his blowing-fellow any longer.

Genuoge hêrren sint gelîch den gougelâren,

Many lords are like the jugglers,

37,34

die behendecliche kunnen triegen unde vâren.

who nimbly can deceive and waylay.

der sprichet 'sich her, waz ist under disem huote?'

he says 'look hitber, what is under this hat?'

nû zucke in ûf, dâ stêt ein wilder valke in sînem muote.

now twitch it up, there stands a wild falcon in its spirit.

zuck ûf den huot, sô stêt ein stolzer pfâwe drunder.

twitch up the hat, so stands a proud peacock thereunder.

nû zucke in ûf, dâ stêt ein merwunder.

now twitch it up, there stands a sea-wonder.

swie dicke daz geschiht, so ist ez ze jungest wan ein krâ.

however often that happens, so is it at last only a crow.

friunt, ich erkenne ouch daz, hâhâ hâhâ hâhâ.

friend, I know also that, haba haba haba.

hab dîn valschen gougelbûhsen dâ:

keep thy false juggling-boxes there:

wær ich dir ebenstarc, ich slüeges an daz houbet dîn.

were I to-thee equal-in-strength, I would-strike-them on the head thine.

dîn asche stiubet in diu ougen mîn.

thy ash flies into the eyes mine.

ich wil niht mêr dîn blâsgeselle sîn,

I will not more thy blowing-fellow be,

dun wellest mîn baz hûeten vor sô trûgelîchem kunder.

unless-thou wilt of-me better guard from so deceitful a-creature.

Er ist ein wol gefriunder man, alsô diu welt nû stât

HE IS A WELL BEFRIENDED MAN

A single strophe on friendship and its decay. As the world now stands, a man is well befriended who has one faithful friend among twenty kinsmen, where once a man found three among five. Woe to the World, whose changeful ways impoverish the soul of whoever follows her to the end. They all lament that the old are dying, and might better lament that faith, breeding, and honor die childless.

Er ist ein wol gefriunder man, alsô diu welt nû stât,

He is a well befriended man, as the world now stands,

38,10

der under zwênzic mâgen einen guoten friunt getriuwen hât:

who among twenty kinsmen one good friend faithful has:

der hete man hie vor wol under fünfen funden drî.

of-them had one here before well among five found three.

Sô wê dir, Welt, dû hâst sô manegen wandelbernden site:

So woe to-thee, World, thou hast so many-a changeful way:

er armet an der sêle, der dir volget unz anz ende mite,

he grows-poor in the soul, who thee follows until to-the end along,

unt der dir aller dûner fuore stât mit willen bî.

and who to-thee in-all thy conduct stands with will by.

Wir klagen alle daz die alten sterbent unde erstorben sint:

We lament all that the old die and dead are:

wir möhten balde klagen von schulden ander nôt,

we might soon lament with reason another distress,

daz triuwe zuht und êre ist in der welte tôt.

that faith breeding and honor is in the world dead.

die liute lâzent erben, dise drî sint âne kint.

the folk leave heirs, these three are without children.

WALTHER VON DER VOGELWEIDE

The Second Book: The Songs of Love and Measure

Uns hât der winter geschadet über al

THE WINTER HAS HARMED US

Two short strophes against the winter. Heath and wood are fallow where many a voice rang sweetly, and if he saw the maidens throwing the ball in the street the birds' sound would come back. He would gladly sleep the winter away, since waking he can only hate a power so broad and wide; but it must yield the field to May, and then he will gather flowers where the frost now lies.

Uns hât der winter geschadet über al:

39,1

Us has the winter harmed over all:

heide unde walt sint beide nû val,

heath and wood are both now fallow,

dâ manic stimme vil suoze inne hal.

where many-a voice right sweetly within rang.

sæhe ich die megde an der strâze den bal

saw I the maidens on the street the ball

werfen! sô kâeme uns der vogeles schal.

throw! so would-come to-us the birds sound.

Möhte ich verslâfen des winters zît!

Might I sleep-away the winter's time!

wache ich die wîle, sô hân ich sîn nît,

wake I the while, so have I of-it hatred,

daz sîn gewalt ist sô breit und sô wît.

that its power is so broad and so wide.

weizgot er lât ouch dem meien den strîf:

God-knows it leaves also to-the May the strife:

sô lise ich bluomen dâ rîfe nû lît.

so gather I flowers where frost now lies.

Under der linden

UNDER THE LINDEN

Four strophes in a girl's voice. She tells where she and her lover lay under the linden on the heath, and where anyone may find the flowers and the grass broken; she came to the meadow and found him there before her, and was received as a noble lady. He had made a bed of flowers, and a passer-by may see where her head lay. Only a little bird knows what they did, and it will keep faith.

39,11 'Under der linden

'Under the linden

an der heide,

on the heath,

dâ unser zweier bette was,

where of-us two bed was,

dâ mugent ir vinden

there may you find

schône beide

beautifully both

gebrochen bluomen unde gras.

broken flowers and grass.

vor dem walde in einem tal,

before the wood in a vale,

tandaradei,

tandaradei,

schône sanc diu nahtegal.

beautifully sang the nightingale.

Ich kam gegangen

I came walking

zu der ouwe:

to the meadow:

dô was mîn friedel komen ê.

then was my beloved come before.

dâ wart ich enpfangen

there was I received

hêre frouwe,

noble lady,

daz ich bin sælic iemer mê.

so-that I am blessed ever more.

kuster mich? wol tûsentstunt:

kissed-he me? full thousand-times:

tandaradei,

tandaradei,

seht wie rôr mir ist der munt.

see how red to-me is the mouth.

Dô het er gemachet

Then had he made

alsô rîche

so richly

von bluomen eine bettestat.

of flowers a bed-place.

des wirt noch gelachet

at-that will-be still laughed

inneclîche,

heartily,

kumt iemen an daz selbe pfat.

(if)-comes anyone on the same path.

bî den rôsen er wol mac,

by the roses he well may,

tandaradei,

tandaradei,

merken wâ mirz houbet lac.

mark where to-me-the bead lay.

Daz er bî mir læge,

That he by me lay,

wessez iemen

knew-it anyone

(nu enwelle got!), sô schamt ich mich.

(now may-not-will God!), then would-shame I myself.

wes er mit mir pflæge,

of-what he with me had-to-do,

niemer niemen

never anyone

bevinde daz, wan er unt ich,

learn that, save he and I,

und ein kleinez vogellîn:

and a little bird:

tandaradei,

tandaradei,

daz mac wol getriuwe sîn.'

that may well trusty be.'

Ich hân ir sô wol gesprochen

I HAVE SPOKEN SO WELL OF HER

Four strophes brought as a suit before Lady Love. He has praised the woman until the world praises her, and she has avenged that on him with scorn. He asks Love to judge for him and over him: he was the one who fought for her honor, and it is he who is wounded. Let Love share her wounds or heal his own; and if the woman escapes them both, the two of them are parted.

Ich hân ir sô wol gesprochen,

I have of-her so well spoken,

daz si maneger in der welte lobet:

that her many-a-one in the world praises:

hât si daz an mir gerochen,

(if)-has she that on me avenged,

owê danne, sô hân ich getobet,

alas then, so have I raved,

daz ich die getiuret hân

that I her exalted have

und mit lobe gekrœnet,

and with praise crowned,

diu mich wider hœnet.

who me in-return scorns.

frowe Minne, daz sî iu getân.

lady Love, that be to-you done.

Frowe Minne, ich klage iu mêre:

Lady Love, I complain to-you more:

rihtet mir und rihtet über mich.

judge for-me and judge over me.

40,19

der ie streit umb iuwer êre
who ever strove for your honor

wider unstæte liute, daz was ich.
against inconstant folk, that was I.

in den dingen bin ich wunt.
in the matters am I wounded.

ir hât mich geschozzen,
you have me shot,

und gât sie genozzen:
and goes she spared:

ir ist sanfte, und ich ab ungesund.
to-her is easy, and I but unsound.

Frowe, lât mich des geniezen:
Lady, let me of-that have-benefit:

ich weiz wol, ir habet strâle mê:
I know well, you have arrows more:

muget irs in ir herze schiezen,
may you-them into her heart shoot,

daz ir werde mir gelîche wê?
that to-her become to-me alike woe?

muget ir, edeliu kûnegîn,
may you, noble queen,

iuwer wunden teilen
your wounds share

oder die mîne heilen?
or the mine heal?

sol ich eine alsus verdorben sîn?
shall I alone thus ruined be?

Ich bin iuwer, frowe Minne:

I am yours, lady Love:

schiezent dar dâ man iu widerstê.

shoot thither where one to-you resists.

helfet daz ich sic gewinne.

help that I victory win.

neinâ frowe, daz sis iht engê!

nay lady, that she-it not escape!

lât mich iu daz ende sagen:

let me to-you the end tell:

und engêts uns beiden,

and escapes-she us both,

wir zwei sîn gescheiden.

we two are parted.

wer solt iu danne iemer iht geklagen?

who should to-you then ever anything complain?

Ich bin als unschedelîche frô

I AM SO HARMLESSLY GLAD

Five strophes on a joy that harms no one. He keeps his heart high in secret, and forbids his song to boasters and liars who have brought fair women into bad report. He will hear and speak of a good man's worth and endure nothing else. He has high spirit without heart's-love, since heart's-love brings heart's-sorrow; and no joy is found here that does not pass like the bright flowers.

41,13 Ich bin als unschedelîche frô,

I am so harmlessly glad,

daz man mir wol ze lebenne gan.

that one to-me well to live grants.

tougenlîche stât mîn herze hô:

secretly stands my heart high:

waz touc zer welte ein rüemic man?

what avails to-the world a boastful man?

wê den selben die sô manegen schœnen lîp

woe to-the same who so many-a fair body

habent ze bœsen mæren brâht!

have to evil report brought!

wol mich, daz ichs hân gedâht!

well me, that I-of-it have thought!

ir sult si mîden, guotiu wîp.

you should them shun, good women.

Ich wil guotes mannes werdekeit

I will of-a-good man's worth

vil gerne hœren unde sagen.

right gladly hear and speak.

swer mir anders tuot, daz ist mir leit:
whoever to-me otherwise does, that is to-me grievous:

ich wilz ouch allez niht vertragen.
I will-it also all not endure.

rüemære unde lügenære, swâ die sîn,
boasters and liars, wherever they be,

den verbiute ich mînen sanc,
to-them forbid I my song,

und ist âne mînen danc,
and it-is without my thanks,

obs alsô vil geniezen mîn.
if-they so much enjoy of-me.

Maneger trûret, dem doch liep geschiht:
Many-a-one mourns, to-whom yet joy happens:

ich hân ab iemer hôhen muot,
I have but ever high spirit,

und enhabe doch herzeliebes niht.
and have yet of-heart's-love nothing.

daz ist mir alsô lîhte guot.
that is to-me so easily good.

herzeliebes, swaz ich des noch ie gesach,
of-heart's-love, whatever I of-it yet ever saw,

dâ was herzeleide bî.
there was heart's-sorrow by.

liezen mich gedanke frî,
left me thoughts free,

son wiste ich niht umb ungemach.
so knew I nothing of trouble.

Als ich mit gedanken irre var,

When I with thoughts astray go,

sô wil mir maneger sprechen zuo:

so will to-me many-a-one speak to:

sô swîg ich und lâze in reden dar.

so keep-silent I and let him speak on.

waz wil er anders daz ich tuo?

what will he otherwise that I do?

hete ich ougen oder ôren danne dâ,

had I eyes or ears then there,

sô kund ich die rede verstân:

so could I the speech understand:

swenne ich niht ir beider hân,

whenever I not of-them both have,

so kan ich nein, son kan ich jâ.

so can I no, nor can I yes.

Ich bin einer der nie halben tac

I am one who never half a-day

mit ganzen fröiden hât vertriben.

with whole joys has passed.

swaz ich fröiden ie dâ her gepflac,

whatever I of-joys ever there hither practiced,

der bin ich eine hie beliben.

of-them am I alone here left.

nieman kan hie fröide vinden, si zergê

no-one can here joy find, unless-it pass-away

sam der liechten bluomen schîn:

like the bright flowers shining:

dâ von sol daz herze mîn

there for should the heart mine

niht senen nâch valschen fröiden mê.

not long after false joys more.

Swer verholne sorge trage
WHOEVER BEARS HIDDEN SORROW

Four strophes of comfort and reproach. Whoever bears hidden sorrow should think on good women and bright days, and order himself after the beath, which reddens for shame at the green wood. When he thinks of her she touches him in the middle of the heart. He asks why the rich and the young mourn when nothing constrains them, and wonders that Fortune gave one man goods together with an ill humor.

Swer verholne sorge trage,

Whoever hidden care bears,

42,15

der gedenke an guotiu wîp: er wirt erlöst:

he think on good women: he is freed:

und gedenke an liechte tage.

and think on bright days.

die gedanke wâren ie mîn bester trôst.

those thoughts were ever my best comfort.

gegen den vinstern tagen hân ich nôt,

against the dark days have I distress,

wan daz ich mich rihte nâch der heide,

save that I myself order after the beath,

diu sich schamt vor leide:

which itself is-asbamed for sorrow:

sô si den walt siht gruenen, sô wirts iemer rôd.

when it the wood sees green, so becomes-it ever red.

Frowe, als ich gedenke an dich,

Lady, when I think on thee,

waz dîn reiner lîp erwelter tugende pfliget,

what thy pure person of-chosen virtue practices,

sô lâ stân! dû rüerest mich

then let be! thou touchest me

mitten an daz herze, dâ diu liebe liget.

in-the-middle on the heart, where the love lies.

liep und lieber des enmein ich niht:

dear and dearer of-that mean I not:

dû bist [mir] aller liebtest, daz ich meine.

thou art [to-me] of-all dearest, that I mean.

dû bist mir alleine

thou art to-me alone

vor al der welte, frowe, swaz sô mir geschiht.

before all the world, lady, whatever so to-me happens.

42,31 Wil ab iemen wesen frô,

Will but anyone be glad,

daz wir iemer in den sorgen niht enleben?

that we ever in the cares not live?

wê wie tuont die jungen sô,

woe how do the young so,

die von fröiden solten in den lüften sweben?

who for joys should in the airs float?

ichn weiz anders weme ichz wîzen sol,

I-not know otherwise to-whom I-it blame should,

wan den rîchen wîze ichz und den jungen.

save to-the rich blame I-it and to-the young.

die sint unbetwungen:

they are unconstrained:

des stât in trûren übel und stüende in fröide wol.

therefore stands to-them mourning ill and would-stand to-them joy well.

Wie frô Sælde kleiden kan,

How lady Fortune clothe can,

daz si mir gât kumber unde hôhen muot!

that she to-me gives trouble and high spirit!

sô gâts einem rîchen man

so gives-she to-a rich man

ungemüete: owê waz sol dem selben guot?

ill-humor: alas what avails to-the same goods?

mîn frou Sælde, wie si mîn vergaz,

my lady Fortune, how she of-me forgot,

daz si mir sîn guot ze mînem muote

that she to-me his goods to my spirit

nien schriet, si vil guote!

not-at-all cut, she right good-one!

mîn kumber stüende im dort bî sînen sorgen baz.

my trouble would-stand for-him there beside his cares better.

Frowe, ich høer iu sô vil der tugende jehen

LADY, I HEAR SO MUCH VIRTUE ASCRIBED TO YOU

A dialogue in four strophes. He offers service and asks her to give him measure, since his will is good and he is foolish. She answers that she has no measure herself and is the more foolish of the two, and offers a bargain: he shall tell her men's mind and she will teach him women's ways. He names constancy the women's crown; she names the man who keeps measure worth good silk.

43,9 Frowe, ich høer iu sô vil der tugende jehen,

Lady, I hear to-you so much of-the virtue ascribed,

daz iu mîn dienest iemer ist bereit.

that to-you my service ever is ready.

enhæt ich iuwer niht gesehen,

had I of-you not seen,

daz schâtte mir an mîner werdekeit.

that would-harm me in my worth.

nû wil ich iemer deste tiurre sîn,

now will I ever the-more precious be,

und bite iuch, frouwe,

and ask you, lady,

daz ir iuch underwindet mîn.

that you yourselves take-charge of-me.

ich lebete gerne, kunde ich leben:

I would-live gladly, could I live:

mîn wille ist guot, nû bin ich tump:

my will is good, now am I foolish:

nû sult ir mir die mâze geben.

now should you to-me the measure give.

‘Kund ich die mâze als ich niene kan,
‘Could I the measure as I not-at-all can,

sô wær ich zer welte ein sælic wîp.
so would-be I in-the world a blessed woman.

ir tuot als ein wol redender man,
you do like a well speaking man,

daz ir sô hôhe tiuret mînen lîp.
that you so highly exalt my person.

ich bin noch tumber danne ir sît.
I am yet more-foolish than you are.

waz dar umbe?
what there about?

doch wil ich scheiden disen strît.
yet will I settle this strife.

nû tuot von êrst des ich iuch bite,
now do from first what I you ask,

und saget mir der manne muot:
and tell to-me of-the men the-mind:

sô lêre ich iuch der wîbe site.’
so teach I you of-the women the-ways.’

Wir man wir wellen daz diu stætekeit
We men we will that the constancy

iu guoten wîben gar ein krône sî.
to-you good women wholly a crown be.

kumt iu mit zûhten sîn gemeit,
(if)-comes to-you with breeding being cheerful,

sô stêt diu lilje wol der rôsen bî.
so stands the lily well the rose by.

nû merket wie der linden stê
now mark how to-the linden befits

der vogeles singen,
of-the birds singing,

dar under bluomen unde klê:

there under flowers and clover:

noch baz stêt wîben werder gruoꝝ.

still better befits to-women worthy greeting.

ir minneclîcher redender munt

their loving speaking mouth

der machet daz man kûssen muoꝝ.

it makes that one kiss must.

‘Ich sage iu wer uns wîben wol behaget.

I tell to-you who to-us women well pleases.

wan der erkennet übel unde guot,

for he knows ill and good,

und ie daz beste von uns saget.

and ever the best of us says.

dem sîn wir holt, ob erz mit triuwen tuot.

to-him are we devoted, if he-it with faith does.

kan er ze rehte ouch wesen frô

(if)-can he by right also be glad

und tragen gemüete

and bear a-temper

ze mâze nider unde hô,

in measure low and high,

der mac erwerben swes er gert:

he may win whatever he desires:

welch wîp verseit im einen vaden?

what woman refuses to-him a thread?

guot man ist quoter sîden wert.’

a-good man is of-good silk worthy.’

Mîn frowe ist underwîlent hie

MY LADY IS SOMETIMES HERE

Four strophes on a lady present and absent. She is good, and he has never parted from her; his body stays here while his mind dwells with her, and closing his eyes only lets them see through his heart. He would live well and without envy but for the liars, whose joy must always be his heart-sorrow. They counsel inconstancy, disgrace, and sin wherever anyone will hear them, and have ruined many lords.

Mîn frowe ist underwîlent hie:

44,11

My lady is sometimes here:

sô guot ist si, als ich des wæne, wol.

so good is she, as I of-that ween, well.

von ir geschiet ich mich noch nie:

from her parted I myself yet never:

ist daz ein minne dandern suochen sol,

(if)-is that a love the-other seek should,

sô wirt si vil dicke ellende

so becomes she right often exiled

mit gedanken als ich bin.

with thoughts as I am.

mîn lîp ist hie, sô wont bî ir mîn sin:

my body is here, so dwells by her my mind:

der wil von ir niht, dêst ein ende.

it will from her not, that-is an end.

nû wolt ich, er tæte ir guote war

now would I, he took of-her good heed

und mîn dar umbe niht vergæze.

and of-me there for not forgot.

waz hilfet, tuon ich dougen zuo?

what avails, do I the-eyes to?

sô sehent si durch mîn herze dar.

so see they through my heart thither.

44,23 Ich lepte wol und âne nît,

I would-live well and without envy,

wan durch der lügenære werdekeit.

save for the liars' worth.

daz wirt ein langer wernder strît:

that becomes a long lasting strife:

ir lieb muoz iemer sîn mîn herzeleit.

their joy must ever be my heart-sorrow.

ez erbarmet mich vil sêre,

it grieves me right sorely,

daz als offenliche gânt

that-they so openly go

und niemen guoten unverworren lânt.

and no-one good undisturbed leave.

unstæte, schande, sünde, unêre,

inconstancy, disgrace, sin, dishonor,

die râtents iemer swâ mans hoeren wil.

these counsel-they ever wherever one-them hear will.

owê daz man si niht vermîdet!

alas that one them not shuns!

daz wirt noch maneger frowen schade

that becomes yet of-many-a lady the-barm

und hât verderbet hêren vil.

and has ruined lords many.

Die hêrren jehent, man sülz den frouwen
THE LORDS SAY ONE SHOULD BLAME THE LADIES

Four strophes on a quarrel between the lords and the ladies. The lords blame the ladies for the state of the world and say nobody lifts them to high spirit. A lady jests that he has given up praising; he answers that he was never so rich in praise, and will praise only those worth praising. He knows one who does not begrudge others the name of a pure woman; and he closes on ladies and priests who will not part from the shameless.

Die hêrren jehent, man sülz den frouwen

44,35

The lords say, one should-it to-the ladies

wîzen daz diu welt sô stê.

blame that the world so stands.

si sehent niht frœlich ûf als ê,

they look not gladly up as before,

si wellent alze nider schouwen.

they will all-too low gaze.

ich habe ouch die rede gehœret:

I have also the speech heard:

si sprechent, daz in fröide stoeret,

they say, that to-them joy is-troubled,

si sîn mê dan halbe verzaget

they be more than half despairing

beidiu lîbes unde guotes,

both of-body and of-goods,

niemen helfe in hôhes muotes.

no-one help to-them to-high spirit.

wer sol rihten? hiest geklaget.

who shall judge? here-is complained.

45,7 Ein frowe wil ze schedeliche
A lady will too hurtfully
 schimpfen, ich habe ûz gelobet.
jest, I have out praised.
 si tumbet, obe si niht entobet.
she plays-fool, if she not rages.
 jon wart ich lobes noch nie sô rîche:
indeed became I of-praise yet never so rich:
 torst ich vor den wandelbæren,
dared I before the changeable,
 sô lobte ich die ze lobenne wæren.
so would-praise I those to be-praised were.
 des enhaben deheinen muot,
of-that have no spirit,
 ichn gelobe si niemer alle,
I praise them never all,
 swiez den lôsen missevalle,
however-it to-the loose displease,
 sine werden alle guot.
unless-they become all good.

Ich weiz si diu daz niht ennîdet,
I know her who that not envies,
 daz man nennet reiniu wîp.
that one calls pure women.
 sô rehte reine sost ir lîp,
so truly pure so-is her person,
 daz si der guoten lop wol lîdet.
that she of-the good the-praise well bears.
 er engap ir niht ze kleine,
he gave to-her not too little,
 der si geschuof, schœn unde reine.
who her created, fair and pure.

der diu zwei zesamne slôz,

he-who the two together locked,

wie gefuoge er kunde sliezen!

how fitly he could lock!

er solt iemer bilde giezen,

he should ever images cast,

der daz selbe bilde gôz.

who the same image cast.

Sich krenkent frowen unde pfaffen,

Themselves weaken ladies and priests,

daz si sich niht scheiden lânt.

that they themselves not part let.

die den verschampten bî gestât,

who to-the shameless by stand,

die wellent lihte ouch mit in schaffen.

they will perhaps also with them deal.

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

wê daz zwên als edele namen

woe that two such noble names

mit den schamelôsen werbent!

with the shameless traffic!

sicherliche si verderbent,

surely they perish,

sine wellens sich erschamen.

unless-they will-it themselves be-ashamed.

Sô die bluomen ûz dem grase dringent

WHEN THE FLOWERS PRESS FROM THE GRASS

Three strophes weighing May against a woman. Flowers pressing from the grass and small birds singing their best melody are half a heaven-kingdom; but a noble lady, well clothed and coifed, walking courtly among people and looking about her a little, is more delightful still, and beside her they let the flowers stand. If he were bidden to choose, May would have to turn back into March before he lost her.

45,37 Sô die bluomen ûz dem grase dringent,
When the flowers out-of the grass press,
same si lachen gegen der spilden sunnen,
as-if they laugh toward the playing sun,
in einem meien an dem morgen fruo,
in a May on the morning early,
und diu kleinen vogellîn wol singent
and the little birds well sing
in ir besten wîse die si kunnen,
in their best melody which they know,
waz wünne mac sich dâ gelîchen zuo?
what delight may itself there liken to?
ez ist wol halb ein himelrîche.
it is fully half a heaven-kingdom.
suln wir sprechen waz sich deme gelîche,
(if)-should we say what itself to-that likens,
sô sage ich waz mir dicke baz
so say I what to-me often better
in mînen ougen hât getân,
in my eyes has done,
und tæte ouch noch, gesæhe ich daz.
and would-do also still, saw I that.

Swâ ein edeliu schœne frowe reine,
Wherever a noble fair lady pure,
 wol gekleidet unde wol gebunden,
well clothed and well coifed,
 dur kurzewîle zuo vil liuten gât,
for pastime to many folk goes,
 hovelîchen hôhgemuot, niht eine,
courtly high-spirited, not alone,
 umbe sehende ein wênic under stunden,
about looking a little at times,
 alsam der sunne gegen den sternen stât, —
as the sun toward the stars stands,—
 der meie bringe uns al sîn wunder,
let-the May bring to-us all its wonder,
 waz ist dâ sô wûnneclîches under,
what is there so delightful among,
 als ir vil minneclîcher lîp?
as her right lovely body?
 wir lâzen alle bluomen stân,
we let all flowers stand,
 und kapfen an daz werde wîp.
and gaze on the worthy woman.

Nû wol dan, welt ir die wârheit schouwen!
Now well then, will you the truth behold!
 gên wir zuo des meien hôhgezîte!
go we to the May's high-feast!
 der ist mit aller sîner krefte komen.
it is with all its power come.
 seht an in und seht an schœne frouwen,
look on it and look on fair ladies,
 wederz ir daz ander überstrîte;
which of-them the other outstrives;

daz bezzer spil, ob ich daz hân genomen.

the better game, whether I that have taken.

owê der mich dâ welen hieze,

alas he-who me there choose should-bid,

deich daz eine dur daz ander lieze,

that-I the one for the other should-leave,

wie rehte schiere ich danne kür!

how right quickly I then would-choose!

hêr Meie, ir müeset merze sîn,

lord May, you would-have-to March be,

ê ich mîn frowen dâ verlûr.

before I my lady there should-lose.

Aller werdekeit ein füegerinne

FASHIONER OF ALL WORTH

Two strophes addressed to Lady Measure. She is the fashioner of all worth, and whoever has her teaching need be ashamed nowhere. He asks her to teach him to woo evenly, since wooing low nearly killed him and wooing high has made him sick. Low love drives the body after base love; high love swings the spirit after worthy love and beckons him on; and his eyes have found a woman who may do him harm.

Aller werdekeit ein füegerinne,

Of-all worth a fashioner,

46,32

daz sît ir zewâre, frowe Mâze.

that are you truly, lady Measure.

er sælic man, der iuwer lêre hât!

he blessed man, who your teaching has!

der endarf sich iuwer niender inne

he needs himself of-you nowhere therein

weder ze hove schamen noch an der strâze.

neither at court be-ashamed nor on the street.

dur daz sô suoche ich, frouwe, iuvern rât,

for that so seek I, lady, your counsel,

daz ir mich ebene werben lêret.

that you me evenly to-woo teach.

wirbe ich nidere, wirbe ich hôhe, ich bin versêret.

woo I low, woo I high, I am wounded.

ich was vil nâch ze nidere tôt,

I was right nearly too low dead,

nû bin ich aber ze hôhe siech:

now am I however too high sick:

unmâze enlât mich âne nôt.

excess leaves-not me without distress.

Nideriu minne heizet diu sô swachet

Low love is-called that-which so weakens

daz der lîp nâch kranker liebe ringet:

that the body after base love strives:

diu liebe tuot unlobelîche wê.

that love does unpraiseworthy woe.

hôhiu minne reizet unde machet

high love stirs and makes

daz der muot nâch werder liebe ûf swinget:

that the spirit after worthy love up swings:

diu winket mir nû, daz ich mit ir gê.

she beckons to-me now, that I with her go.

nun weiz ich wes diu mâze beitet.

now-not know I for-what the measure waits.

kumet diu herzeliebe, sô bin ich verleitet:

(if)-comes the heart's-love, so am I led- astray:

mîn ougen hânt ein wîp ersehen,

my eyes have a woman espied,

swie minneclich ir rede sî,

however lovely her speech be,

mir mac wol schade von ir geschehen.

to-me may well harm from her happen.

Ich minne, sinne, lange zît

I LOVE, I PONDER, LONG

One song in short lines. He has loved and pondered a long time, and asks Love to think how she rewards his days. Let her make little of him but not of his complaint, and redress a great wrong: a free woman is ruining him without guilt, and at the sight of her he becomes wild. Still he desires favor, and asks only that she look at him sometimes when he has shown fitness enough.

Ich minne, sinne, lange zît:

I love, ponder, long time:

versinne Minne sich,

bethink Love herself;

wie si schône lône mîner tage.

how she beautifully reward of-my days.

nû lône schône: dêst mîn strît:

now reward beautifully: that-is my strife:

vil kleine meine mich,

right little mean me,

niene meine kleine mîne klage,

not-at-all mean little my complaint,

unde rihte

and redress

grôz unbilde,

great wrong,

daz ein ledic wîp

that a free woman

mich verderbet

me ruins

gar âne schulde.

wholly without guilt.

47,16

zir gesihte

at-her sight

wird ich wilde,

(if)-become I wild,

mich enhabe ir lîp

me unless-has her person

fröide enterbet.

of-joy disinherited.

noch ger ich hulde.

still desire I favor.

wære mære stæter man,

were dear a-constant man,

sô solte, wolte si, mich an

so should, would she, me on

eteswenne denne ouch sehen,

sometimes then also look,

sô ich gnuoge fuoge kunde spehen.

when I enough fitness could descry.

Zwô fuoge hân ich doch, swie ungefüege ich sî

TWO FITNESSES I HAVE

Three strophes on singing with the times. He has kept two fitnesses from childhood: to be glad among the glad, and never to laugh where another weeps. When lovely love perished his singing turned unlovely, for a man should sing as the time stands, and joy's day will come again. His complaint is that the women level worthy and worthless men alike, which costs both sides their joy and their honor.

Zwô fuoge hân ich doch, swie ungefüege ich sî:

47,36

Two fitnesses have I yet, however unfitting I be:

der hân ich mich von kinde her vereinet.

of-them have I myself from childhood hither resolved.

ich bin den frôn bescheidenlicher fröide bî,

I am to-the glad of-seemly joy by,

und lache ungerne sô man bî mir weinet.

and laugh unwillingly when one by me weeps.

durch die liute bin ich frô,

for the folk am I glad,

durch die liute wil ich sorgen:

for the folk will I care:

ist mir anders danne alsô,

(if)-is to-me otherwise than so,

waz dar umbe? ich wil doch borgen.

what there about? I will yet borrow.

swie si sint sô wil ich sîn,

however they are so will I be,

daz si niht verdrieze mîn.

that them not weary of-me.

manegem ist unmære

to-many-a-one is indifferent

swaz einem andern werre:

whatever to-an other troubles:

der sî ouch bî den liuten swære.

he be also among the folk heavy.

Hie vor, dô man sô rehte minneclîchen warp,

Here before, when one so truly lovingly wooed,

dô wâren mîne sprûche frôiden rîche:

then were my sayings of-joys rich:

sît daz diu minneclîche minne alsô verdarp,

since that the lovely love so perished,

sît sanc ouch ich ein teil unminneclîche.

since sang also I a part unlovingly.

iemer als ez danne stât,

ever as it then stands,

alsô sol man danne singen.

so should one then sing.

swenne unfuoge nû zergât,

whenever unfitness now passes-away,

sô sing aber von höfschen dingen.

so sing again of courtly things.

noch kumpt fröide und sanges tac:

yet comes joy's and song's day:

wol im, ders erbeiten mac!

well to-him, who-it await may!

derz gelouben wolte,

who-it believe would,

so erkande ich wol die fuoge,

so would-know I well the fitness,

wenn unde wie man singen solte.

when and how one sing should.

Ich sage iu waz uns den gemeinen schaden tuot.

I tell to-you what to-us the common harm does.

diu wîp gelîchent uns ein teil ze sêre,

the women level us a part too sorely,

daz wir in alsô liep sîn übel also guot:

that we to-them so dear are bad as good:

seht, daz gelîchen nimet uns fröide und êre.

see, that leveling takes from-us joy and honor.

schieden uns diu wîp als ê,

distinguished us the women as before,

daz si sich ouch liezen scheiden,

that they themselves also let distinguish,

daz gefrumt uns iemer mê,

that would-profit us ever more,

mannen unde wîben, beiden.

to-men and to-women, both.

waz stêt übel, waz stêt wol,

what stands ill, what stands well,

sît man uns niht scheiden sol?

since one us not distinguish shall?

edeliu wîp, gedenket

noble women, consider

daz och die man waz kunnen:

that also the men something can:

gelîchents iuch, ir sît gekrenket.

level-they you, you are weakened.

Wîp muoz iemer sîn der wîbe hôhste name

WOMAN IS THE HIGHEST NAME

Two strophes on the two words. Woman must always be the highest name of women, and honors better than lady: among ladies there are unwomen, among women they are rare, and lady is a doubtful praise that sometimes mocks. He sang for the ladies once and took a bare greeting as his pay; now he turns his nape or his cheek to the over-lordly and gives his praise to women who can thank.

48,38 Wîp muoz iemer sîn der wîbe hôhste name,

Woman must ever be of-the women the-highest name,

und tiuret baz dan frowe, als ichz erkenne.

and honors better than lady, as I-it know.

swâ nû deheiniu sî diu sich ir wîpheit schame,

wherever now any be who herself of-her womanhood be-asbamed,

diu merke disen sanc und kiese denne.

she mark this song and choose then.

under frowen sint unwîp,

among ladies are unwomen,

under wîben sint si tiure.

among women are they rare.

wîbes name und wîbes lîp

woman's name and woman's body

die sint beide vil gehiure.

they are both right gracious.

swiez umb alle frowen var,

however-it with all ladies fare,

wîp sint alle frowen gar.

women are all ladies wholly.

zwîvellop daz hœnet,

doubtful-praise that mocks,

als under wîlen frouwe:

as at times lady:

wîp dêst ein name ders alle krœnet.

woman that-is a name that-them all crowns.

Ich sanc hie vor den frowen umbe ir blôzen gruoꝛ:

I sang here before to-the ladies for theire bare greeting:

den nam ich wider mîme lobe ze lône.

that took I in-return-for my praise as reward.

swâ ich des geltes nû vergebene warten muoꝛ,

wherever I of-the payment now in-vain wait must,

dâ lobe ein ander, den si grûezen schône.

there praise an other, whom they greet beautifully.

swâ ich niht verdienen kan

wherever I not earn can

einen gruoꝛ mit mîme sange,

a greeting with my song,

dar kêr ich vil hêrscher man

thither turn I many of-lordly men

mînen nac ode ein mîn wange.

my nape or one-of my cheeks.

daz kît 'mir ist umbe dich

that means 'to-me is about thee

rehte als dir ist umbe mich.'

just as to-thee is about me.'

ich wil mîn lop kêren

I will my praise turn

an wîp die kunnen danken:

to women who can thank:

waz hân ich von den überhêren?

what have I from the over-lordly?

Herzeliebez frowelîn
HEART-DEAR LITTLE LADY

Five strophes to a girl of no rank. He wishes her good today and always, and answers those who reproach him for pitching his song so low: love has never touched them. Beauty often has hate beside it, and love makes women fair where beauty never made a person dear. He takes her glass ring before a queen's gold, and asks only that she have faith and constancy.

49,25 Herzliebez frowelîn,

Heart-dear little-lady,

got gebe dir hiute und iemer guot.

God give to-thee today and ever good.

kund ich baz gedenken dîn,

could I better think of-thee,

des hete ich willeclîchen muot.

of-that would-have I willing spirit.

waz sol ich dir sagen mê,

what shall I to-thee say more,

wan daz dir nieman holder ist dann ich? dâ von ist mir vil wê.

save that to-thee no-one dearer is than I? there from is to-me right woe.

Sie verwîzent mir daz ich

They reproach to-me that I

sô nidere wende mînen sanc.

so low turn my song.

daz si niht versinnent sich

that they not bethink themselves

waz liebe sî, des haben undanc!

what love be, for-that have no-thanks!

sie getraf diu liebe nie.

them touched the love never.

die nâch dem guote und nâch der schœne minnent,

they-who after the goods and after the beauty love,

wê wie minnent die?

woe how love they?

Bî der schœne ist dicke haz:

By the beauty is often hate:

zer schœne niemen sî ze gâch.

to-the beauty no-one be too hasty.

liebe tuot dem herzen baz:

love does to-the heart better:

der liebe gêt diu schœne nâch.

the love goes the beauty after.

liebe machet schœne wîp:

love makes fair women:

desn mac diu schœne niht getuon, sin machet niemer lieben lîp.

that can the beauty not do, she makes never a-dear person.

Ich vertrage als ich vertruoc

I bear as I bore

und als ichz iemer wil vertragen.

and as I-it ever will bear.

dû bist schœne und hâst genuoc:

thou art fair and hast enough:

waz mugen si mir dâ von gesagen?

what may they to-me there of say?

swaz si sagen, ich bin dir holt,

whatever they say, I am to-thee devoted,

und nim dîn glesîn vingerlîn für einer kûeginne golt.

and take thy glass little-ring before a queen's gold.

Hâst dû triuwe und stætekeit,

(if)-Hast thou faith and constancy,

sô bin ich des ân angest gar

so am I of-that without fear wholly

daz mir iemer herzeleit

that to-me ever heart-sorrow

mit dînem willen widervar.

with thy will befall.

hâst ab dû der zweier niht,

(if)-hast but thou of-the two not,

son müezest dû mir niemer werden. owê danne, ob daz geschiht!

so mayst thou mine never become. alas then, if that happens!

Bin ich dir unmære

AM I NOTHING TO YOU

Four strophes to a woman who will not look at him. He cannot tell whether he is nothing to her, and cannot endure that she looks past him and over him. If that is her guarding, let her at least look down at his foot, and take it for her greeting. Of all he beholds she is his lady; and love is no good alone, but must be shared through two hearts and no more.

Bin ich dir unmære,

(if)-Am I to-thee indifferent,

des enweiz ich niht: ich minne dich.

of-that know I not: I love thee.

einez ist mir swære,

one-thing is to-me heavy,

dû sihst bî mir hin und über mich.

thou lookest by me past and over me.

daz solt dû vermîden.

that shouldst thou avoid.

ine mac niht erliden

I can not endure

selhe liebe ân grôzen schaden:

such love without great harm:

hilf mir tragen, ich bin ze vil geladen.

help me bear, I am too much laden.

Sol daz sîn dîn huote,

Shall that be thy guarding,

daz dîn ouge mich sô selten siht?

that thy eye me so seldom sees?

50,19

tuost dû daz ze guote,

(if)-doest thou that for good,

sône wîze ich dir dar umbe niht.

so blame I to-thee there about not.

sô mît mir daz houbet,

so avoid to-me the head,

daz sî dir erloubet,

that be to-thee allowed,

und sich nider an mînen fuoz,

and look down at my foot,

sô dû baz enmügest: daz sî dîn gruoz.

when thou better canst-not: that be thy greeting.

Swanne ichs alle schouwe,

Whenever I-them all behold,

die mir suln von schulden wol behagen,

who to-me should with reason well please,

sô bist duz mîn frouwe:

so art thou-it my lady:

daz mac ich wol âne rüemen sagen.

that may I well without boasting say.

edel unde rîche

noble and rich

sint si sumelîche,

are they some,

dar zuo tragent si hôhen muot:

there to bear they high spirit:

lîhte sint si bezzer, dû bist guot.

perhaps are they better, thou art good.

Frowe, dû versinne

Lady, thou bethink

dich ob ich dir zihte mære sî.

thee whether I to-thee at-all of-account be.

eines friundes minne

of-one friend the-love

diust niht guot, da ensî ein ander bî.

that-is not good, where unless-be an other by.

minne entouc niht eine,

love avails not alone,

si sol sîn gemeine,

it should be shared,

sô gemeine daz si gê

so shared that it go

dur zwei herze und dur dekeinez mê.

through two hearts and through none more.

Muget ir schouwen waz dem meien
MAY YOU BEHOLD WHAT IS GRANTED TO MAY

Six strophes turning from May to the lady. May's wonder is granted to priests and laymen alike, and where it goes nobody is old; the singer bids them dance and sing since the birds do. He hails the month that clothes the trees and the heath better, then rebukes the red mouth that laughs at his hurt, names her ungraciousness the one thing that hinders his joy, and asks her to part him from sorrows.

51,13 Muget ir schouwen waz dem meien

May you behold what to-the May

wunders ist beschert?

of-wonder is granted?

seht an pfaffen, seht an leien,

look on priests, look on laymen,

wie daz allez vert.

how that all fares.

grôz ist sîn gewalt:

great is its power:

ine weiz obe er zouber künne:

I-not know whether it magic knows:

swar er vert in sîner wünne,

whithersoever it fares in its delight,

dân ist niemen alt.

there is no-one old.

Uns wil schiere wol gelingen.

To-us will soon well succeed.

wir suln sîn gemeit,

we should be merry,

tanzen lachen unde singen,

dance laugh and sing,

âne dörperheit.

without churlishness.

wê wer wære unfrô?

woe who would-be joyless?

sît die vogeles alsô schône

since the birds so beautifully

singent in ir besten dône,

sing in their best tunes,

tuon wir ouch alsô!

do we also so!

Wol dir, meie, wie dû scheidest

Hail to-thee, May, how thou partest

allez âne haz!

all without hate!

wie wol dû die boume kleidest,

how well thou the trees clothest,

und die heide baz!

and the heath better!

diu hât varwe mê.

it has color more.

‘dû bist kurzer, ich bin langer,’

‘thou art shorter, I am longer,’

alsô strîtenten ûf dem anger,

so strive-they on the meadow,

bluomen unde klê.

flowers and clover.

51,37 Rôter munt, wie dû dich swachest!

Red mouth, how thou thyself debasest!

lâ dîn lachen sîn.

let thy laughing be.

scham dich daz dû mich an lachest

shame thee that thou me at laughest

nâch dem schaden mîn.

after the harm mine.

ist daz wol getân?

is that well done?

owê sô verlornere stunde,

alas of-so lost an-hour,

sol von minneclîchem munde

should from a-lovely mouth

solch unminne ergân!

such unlove befall!

Daz mich, frowe, an fröiden irret,

What me, lady, in joys binders,

daz ist iuwer lîp.

that is your person.

an iu einer ez mir wirret,

in you alone it to-me troubles,

ungenædic wîp.

ungracious woman.

wâ nemt ir den muot?

whence take you the spirit?

ir sît doch genâden rîche:

you are yet of-favors rich:

tuot ir mir ungnædeclîche,

(if)-do you to-me ungraciously,

sô sît ir niht guot.

so are you not good.

Scheidet, frowe, mich von sorgen,

Part, lady, me from cares,

liebet mir die zît:

make-dear to-me the time:

oder ich muoz an fröiden borgen.

or I must on joys borrow.

daz ir sælic sît!

that you blessed be!

muget ir umbe sehen?

may you about look?

sich fröit al diu welt gemeine:

itself rejoices all the world in-common:

möhte mir von iu ein kleine

might to-me from you a little

fröidelîn geschehen!

little-joy happen!

Mîn frowe ist ein ungenædic wîp

MY LADY IS AN UNGRACIOUS WOMAN

Five strophes of reproach. She wrongs him hard, though he brought a young person and high spirit into her service and won nothing but the trouble he suffers. He never saw a better-trained head, and never could see into her heart; he laments the delightful days he wasted on her. She is hostile to her best friends and whispers with her enemies. She need not grieve that he rides and asks in foreign lands, where the fair are many.

52,23 Mîn frowe ist ein ungenædic wîp,
My lady is an ungracious woman,
daz an mir als harte missetuot.
that-she to me so hard does-wrong.
nû brâht ich doch einen jungen lîp
now brought I yet a young person
in ir dienst, und dar zuo hôhen muot.
into her service, and there to high spirit.
owê dô was mir sô wol:
alas then was to-me so well:
wiest daz nû verdorben!
how-is that now spoiled!
waz hân ich erworben?
what have I won?
anders niht wan kumber den ich dol.
otherwise nothing save trouble which I suffer.

In gesach nie houbet baz gezogen:

I saw never a-head better trained:

in ir herze kunde ich nie gesehen.

into her heart could I never see.

ie dar under bin ich gar betrogen:

ever there under am I wholly deceived:

daz ist an den triuwen mir geschehen.

that is in the faith to-me happened.

möhte ich ir die sternen gar,

might I for-her the stars wholly,

mânen unde sunnen,

moon and sun,

zeigene hân gewonnen,

as-property have won,

daz wær ir, so ich iemer wol gevar.

that were hers, as I ever well fare.

Owê mîner wûnneclîcher tage!

Alas of-my delightful days!

waz ich der an ir versûmet hân!

how-many I of-them on her wasted have!

daz ist iemer mînes herzen klage,

that is ever of-my heart the-lament,

sol diu liebe an mir alsus zergân.

shall the love on me thus pass-away.

lîde ich nôt und arebeit,

suffer I distress and toil,

die klage ich vil kleine:

that lament I right little:

mîne zît aleine,

my time alone,

hab ich die verlorn, daz ist mir leit.

(if)-have I that lost, that is to-me grievous.

Ich gesach nie sus getâne site,

I saw never such fashioned ways,

daz ir besten friunden wære gram.

that-she to-her best friends were hostile.

swer ir vîent ist, dem wil si mite

whoever to-her enemy is, to-him will she along

rûnen; daz guot ende nie genam.

whisper; that good end never took.

ich weiz wol wiez ende ergât:

I know well how-it end goes:

vînt und friunt gemeine,

enemy and friend in-common,

der gestêts aleine,

of-them she-stands alone,

sô si mich und jen unrehte hât.

when she me and him wrongly has.

Mîner frowen darf niht wesen leit,

To-my lady needs not be grievous,

daz ich rîte und frâge in frömediu lant

that I ride and ask into foreign lands

von den wîben die mit werdekeit

of the women who with worth

lebent. der ist vil mengiu mir erkant;

live. of-them is right many to-me known;

und die schœne sint dâ zuo:

and the fair are there to:

doch ist ir deheine,

yet is of-them none,

weder grôz noch kleine,

neither great nor small,

der versagen mir iemer wê getuo.

whose refusing to-me ever woe should-do.

Si wunderwol gemachet wîp
WONDROUSLY WELL MADE WOMAN

Five strophes praising her from head to foot. He sets her lovely person into his high song, and warns another singer to keep his own lady. God laid high diligence on her cheeks, rose-red and lily-white; her red cushion he would gladly have for his mouth; her throat, hands, and feet are made to a wish, and he has seen more; and her head is so full of delight that two stars shine down from it.

Si wunderwol gemachet wîp,

She wondrously-well made woman,

53,25

daz mir noch werde ir habedanc!

that to-me yet may-become her thanks!

ich setze ir minneclîchen lîp

I set her lovely person

vil werde in mînen hôhen sanc.

very worthily into my high song.

gern ich in allen dienen sol:

gladly I to-them all serve shall:

doch hân ich mir dise ûz erkorn.

yet have I for-me this-one out chosen.

ein ander weiz die sînen wol:

an other knows the his-own well:

die lob er âne mînen zorn;

her praise he without my anger;

hab ime wîs unde wort

have to-him tune and word

mit mir gemeine: lob ich hie, sô lob er dort.

with me in-common: praise I here, so praise he there.

Got hât ir wengel hôhen flîz,
God has to-her cheeks high diligence,

er streich sô tiure varwe dar,
he stroked so precious color there,

sô reine rôt, sô reine wîz,
so pure red, so pure white,

dâ rœseloht, dâ liljenvar.
there rose-like, there lily-colored.

ob ichz vor sünden tar gesagen,
if I-it without sin dare to-say,

sô sæhe ichs iemer gerner an
so would-look I-her ever more-gladly on

dan himel oder himelwagen.
than heaven or heaven's-wain.

owê waz lob ich tumber man?
alas what praise I foolish man?

mach ich mir si ze hêr,
(if)-make I for-me her too haughty,

vil lîhte wirt mîns mundes lop mîns herzen sêr.
very likely becomes my mouth's praise my heart's pain.

Sie hât ein küssîn, daz ist rôt:
She has a cushion, that is red:

gewünne ich daz für mînen munt,
won I that for my mouth,

sô stüende ich ûf von dirre nôt
so would-stand I up from this distress

unt wære ouch iemer mê gesunt.
and would-be also ever more healthy.

swâ si daz an ir wengel legt,
wherever she that on her cheek lays,

dâ wære ich gerne nâhen bî:
there would-be I gladly near by:

ez smecket, sô manz iender regt,
it smells, when one-it anywhere stirs,

alsam ez vollez balsmen sî.
as-if it full-of balsam were.

daz sol si lîhen mir:
that shall she lend to-me:

swie dicke sô siz wider wil, sô gibe ichz ir.
however often so she-it back wants, so give I-it her.

Ir kel, ir hende, ietweder fuoz,
Her throat, her hands, either foot,

54,17

daz ist ze wunsche wol getân.
that is to wish well made.

ob ich da enzwischen loben muoz,
if I there between praise must,

sô wæne ich mê beschowet hân.
so think I more bebold have.

ich hete ungerne 'decke blôz!'
I would-have unwillingly 'cover bare!'

gerüefet, do ich si nacket sach.
called, when I her naked saw.

si sach mich niht, dô si mich schôz,
she saw me not, when she me shot,

daz mich noch sticht als ez dô stach,
that me still stings as it then stung,

swann ich der lieben stat
whenever I of-the dear place

gedenke, dâs ûz einem reinen bade trat.
think, where-she out-of a pure bath stepped.

Ir houbet ist sô wünnenrîch,

Her head is so delight-rich,

als ez mîn himel welle sîn.

as it my heaven would be.

wem solde ez anders sîn gelîch?

to-whom should it otherwise be like?

ez hât ouch himeleschen schîn.

it has also heavenly radiance.

dâ liuhtent zwêne sternen abe,

there shine two stars down,

dâ müeze ich mich noch inne ersehen,

there may I myself yet within behold,

daz si mirs alsô nâhen habe!

that she to-me-it so near hold!

sô mac ein wunder wol geschehen:

so may a wonder well happen:

ich junge, und tuot si daz,

I grow-young, and does she that,

und wirt mir gernden siechen seneder sühte baz.

and becomes to-me yearning sick-man of-longing sickness better.

Ich freudehelfelôser man

I, A JOY-HELPLESS MAN

Four strophes of complaint to Lady Love. He makes many glad who cannot thank him for it, and has neither friend nor counsel. Love has taken his mind and gone masterfully in and out of his heart, dwelling where the mind should be. He begs her to go on his errand to a heart full of true joys, and ends daring her to open it: no lock was ever proof against the mistress of thieves.

Ich freudehelfelôser man,

54,37

I joy-helpless man,

war umbe mach ich manegen frô,

where for make I many-a-one glad,

der mir es niht gedanken kan?

who to-me of-it not thank can?

owê wie tuont die friunde sô?

alas how do the friends so?

jâ friunt! waz ich von friunden sage!

yes friends! what I of friends say!

het ich dekeinen, der vernæme ouch mîne klage.

had I any, who would-bear also my lament.

nun hân ich friunt, nun hân ich râ:

now-not have I friends, now-not have I counsel:

nû tuo mir swie dû wellest, minneclîchiu Minne,

now do to-me however thou wilt, lovely Love,

sît nieman mîn genâde hât.

since no-one of-me pity has.

Vil minneclîchiu Minne, ich hân

Right lovely Love, I have

von dir verloren mînen sin.

through thee lost my mind.

dû wilt gewalteclîchen gân

thou wilt masterfully go

in mînem herzen ûz unt in.

in my heart out and in.

wie sol ich âne sin genesen?

how shall I without mind survive?

dû wonest an sîner stat, da'r inne solte wesen:

thou dwellest in his place, where-be within should be:

dû sendest in dû weist wol war.

thou sendest him thou knowest well whither.

dan mac er leider eine erwerben niht, frô Minne:

there can be alas alone win nothing, lady Love:

owê dû soltest selbe dar.

alas thou shouldst thyself thither.

Genâde, frowe Minne! ich wil

Mercy, lady Love! I will

dir umbe dise boteschaft

to-thee for this errand

noch füegen dînes willen vil:

yet do of-thy will much:

wis wider mich nû tugenthaft.

be toward me now virtuous.

ir herze ist rehter fröiden vol,

her heart is of-true joys full,

mit lûterlîcher reinekeit gezieret wol:

with unmixed purity adorned well:

erdringest dû dâ dîne stat,

winnest thou there thy place,

sô lâ mich in, daz wir si mit ein ander sprechen.

so let me in, that we her with one another speak.

mir missegie, do ichs eine bat.

to-me it-went-amiss, when I-her alone asked.

Genædeclîchiu Minne, lâ:

Gracious Love, cease:

war umbe tuost dû mir sô wê?

where for doest thou to-me so woe?

dû twingest hie, nû twing ouch dâ,

thou constrainest here, now constrain also there,

versuoche wer dir widerstê.

try who to-thee resists.

nû wil ich schowen ob du iht tügest.

now will I see whether thou at-all availlest.

dun darft niht jehen daz dû in ir herze'n mügest:

thou needst not say that thou into her heart-not canst:

ezn wart nie sloz sô manicvalt,

there was never lock so manifold,

daz vor dir gestüende, diebe meisterinne.

that before thee would-stand, of-thieves mistress.

tuon ûf! sist wider dich ze balt.

open up! she-is against thee too bold.

Frô Sælde teilet umbe sich
LADY FORTUNE DEALS ABOUT HER

Two short strophes. Lady Fortune deals about her and turns her back on him, and cannot be moved to pity: run round her as he will, he is always behind, and he wishes her eyes stood on her neck so that she must see him. Then he praises God for Love's bonds, since through them he has learned where service worthily lies, and asks the queen to let him live on that.

55,35 Frô Sælde teilet umbe sich,

Lady Fortune deals about herself,

und kêret mir den rügge zuo.

and turns to-me the back to.

ja enkan si niht erbarmen ich:

indeed can her not move-to-pity I:

in weiz waz ich dar umbe tuo.

I-not know what I there about do.

si stêt ungerne gegen mir:

she stands unwillingly toward me:

louf ich hin umbe, ich bin doch iemer hinder ir:

run I round about, I am yet ever behind her:

sin ruochet mich niht an gesehen.

she deigns me not on to-look.

ich wolte daz ir ougen an ir nacke stüenden:

I would that her eyes on her neck stood:

sô müest ez ân ir danc geschehen.

so would-have-to it without her consent happen.

Wer gap dir, Minne, den gewalt,

Who gave to-thee, Love, the power,

daz dû doch sô gewaltic bist?

that thou yet so powerful art?

dû twingest beide junc unt alt:

thou constrainest both young and old:

dâ für kan nieman keinen list.

there against knows no-one any craft.

nû lob ich got, sît dîniu bant

now praise I God, since thy bonds

mich sulen twingen, deich sô rehte hân erkant

me shall constrain, that-I so truly have known

wâ dienst werdeclichen lît.

where service worthily lies.

dâ vone kume ich niemer. gnâde, frou küniginne!

there from come I never. mercy, lady queen!

lâ mich der leben mîne zît.

let me of-that live my time.

Ir sult sprechen willekomen

YOU SHALL SAY WELCOME

The praise of German women, in six strophes. He brings news and asks what honor is offered for it: he will tell German ladies news that makes them please the world the more, and asks only a fair greeting. He has seen many lands and never liked a foreign custom: German breeding goes before all, and from the Elbe to the Rhine and back to Hungary the women are like angels. Only the one he serves does him harm; may God forgive her.

56,14 Ir sult sprechen willekomen:

You shall say welcome:

der iu mære bringet, daz bin ich.

who to-you news brings, that am I.

allez daz ir habt vernomen,

all that you have heard,

daz ist gar ein wint: nû frâget mich.

that is wholly a wind: now ask me.

ich wil aber miete:

I will however payment:

wirt mîn lôn iht guot,

(if)-becomes my reward at-all good,

ich sage iu vil lîhte daz iu sanfte tuot.

I say to-you very likely that to-you gently does.

seht waz man mir êren biete.

see what one to-me of-honors offers.

Ich wil tiuschen frowen sagen

I will to-German ladies say

solhiu mære daz si desten baz

such news that they the-more better

al der werlde suln behagen:

to-all the world shall please:

âne grôze miete tuon ich daz.

without great payment do I that.

waz wold ich ze lône?

what would I as reward?

si sint mir ze hêr:

they are for-me too noble:

sô bin ich gefüege, und bite si nihtes mêr

so am I fitting, and ask them of-nothing more

wan daz si mich grüezen schône.

save that they me greet beautifully.

Ich hân lande vil gesehen

I have lands many seen

unde nam der besten gerne war:

and took of-the best gladly heed:

übel müeze mir geschehen,

evil may to-me happen,

kunde ich ie mîn herze bringen dar

could I ever my heart bring there

daz im wol gevallen

that to-it well please

wolde fremeder site.

would foreign custom.

nû waz hulfe mich, ob ich unrehte strite?

now what would-help me, if I wrongly strove?

tiuschiu zuht gât vor in allen.

German breeding goes before them all.

Von der Elbe unz an den Rîn

From the Elbe up to the Rhine

und her wider unz an Ungerlant

and here back up to Hungary

sô mugen wol die besten sîn,

so may well the best be,

die ich in der werlte hân erkant.

whom I in the world have known.

kan ich rehte schouwen

(if)-can I rightly behold

guot gelâz unt lîp,

good bearing and body,

sem mir got, sô swüere ich wol daz hie diu wîp

so-help to-me God, so would-swear I well that here the women

bezzer sint danne ander frouwen.

better are than other ladies.

Tiusche man sint wol gezogen,

German men are well bred,

rehte als engel sint diu wîp getân.

right as angels are the women made.

swer si schildet, derst betrogen:

whoever them reviles, that-one-is deceived:

ich enkan sîn anders niht verstân.

I can it otherwise not understand.

tugent und reine minne,

virtue and pure love,

swer die suochen wil,

whoever them seek wants,

der sol komen in unser lant: da ist wünne vil:

that-one shall come into our land: there is delight much:

lange müeze ich leben dar inne!

long may I live there within!

Der ich vil gedienet hân

To-whom I much served have

und iemer mêre gerne dienen wil,

and ever more gladly serve will,

diust von mir vil unerlân:

she-is by me very unrelinquished:

iedoch sô tuot si leides mir sô vil.

yet so does she of-harm to-me so much.

si kan mir versêren

she can to-me wound

herze und den muot.

heart and the spirit.

nû vergebez ir got dazs an mir missetuot.

now may-forgive-it to-her God that-she against me does-wrong.

her nâch mac si sichs bekêren.

here after may she herself-of-it amend.

Minne diu hât einen site

LOVE HAS A HABIT

Four strophes against Lady Love. She burdens the men she should spare, holds twenty-four years dearer than forty, and behaves badly at the sight of a gray hair. She was once so wholly his lady that he knew all her secrets, and now looks at him askance when a younger man arrives. She goes about with fools and springs like a child; let her seek where the other six days are, for from him she has the seventh.

57,23 Minne diu hât einen site:

Love she has a habit:

daz si den vermîden wolde!

that she it avoid would!

daz gezæme ir baz.

that would-befit her better.

dâ beswært si manegen mite,

there burdens she many-a-one with,

den si niht beswæren solde:

whom she not burden should:

wê wie zimt ir daz?

woe how befits her that?

ir sint vier unt zwênzec jâr

to-her are four and twenty years

vil lieber danne ir vierzec sint,

much dearer than to-her forty are,

und stellet sich vil übel, sihts iender grâwez hâr.

and behaves herself very ill, sees-she anywhere gray hair.

Minne was mîn frowe sô gar,
Love was my lady so wholly,

deich wol wiste al ir tougen:
that-I well knew all her secrets:

nu ist mir sô geschehen,
now is to-me so happened,

kumt ein junger ieze dar,
(if)-comes a younger now there,

sô wird ich mit twerhen ougen
so become I with crosswise eyes

schilhend an gesehen.
squinting at looked.

armez wîp, wes müet si sich?
poor woman, why troubles she herself?

weizgot wan daz si liste pfliget
God-knows save that she cunning practices

und tôren triuget, sist doch elter vil dann ich.
and fools deceives, she-is yet older much than I.

Minne hât sich an genomen
Love has herself on taken

daz si gêt mit tôren umbe
that she goes with fools about

springende als ein kint.
springing like a child.

war sint alle ir witze komen?
whither are all her wits come?

wes gedenket si vil tumbe?
of-what thinks she very foolish?

sist joch gar ze blint.
she-is indeed wholly too blind.

dazs ir rûschen nienen lât,
that-she her rushing never leaves,

und füere als ein bescheiden wîp!

and would-behave like a discreet woman!

si stôzet sich, daz ez mir an mîn herze gât.

she knocks herself, so-that it to-me on my heart goes.

Minne sol daz nemen für guot,

Love shall that take for good,

under wîlen sô si ringet,

under whiles when she wrestles,

daz ich sitzen gê.

that I to-sit go.

ich hân alsô hôhen muot

I have just-as high spirit

als einer der vil hôhe springet:

as one who very high springs:

wê waz wil sis mê?

woe what wants she-of-it more?

anders diene ich swâ ich mac.

otherwise serve I wherever I can.

si besuoche wâ die sehse sîn:

she may-seek where the six are:

von mir hâts in der wochen ie den sibenden tac.

from me has-she in the week ever the seventh day.

Die zwîvelære sprechent, ez sî allez tôt

THE DOUBTERS SAY IT IS ALL DEAD

Six strophes in answer to the doubters. Song is not dead: a small bird told him it will not sing until day dawns. The loose revile his songs to good women because he divides the good from the bad, and he tells the spies to take themselves home. Then he names his two virtues, modesty and faith, which now harm him; her one small flaw, sparing her enemies and hurting her friends; and her two, beauty and honor, which are enough.

Die zwîvelære sprechent, ez sî allez tôt,

The doubters say, it be all dead,

ezn lebe nû nieman der iht singe.

there live now no-one who anything sings.

nû mugen si doch bedenken die gemeinen nôt,

now may they yet consider the common distress,

wie al diu welt mit sorgen ringe.

how all the world with cares wrestles.

kumpt sanges tac, man hæret singen unde sagen:

(if)-comes of-song day, one bears singing and saying:

man kan noch wunder.

one knows still wonders.

ich hôrte ein kleine vogellîn daz selbe klagen:

I heard a small little-bird the same lament:

daz tet sich under:

that put itself under:

‘ich singe niht, ez welle tagen.’

‘I sing not, unless-it would dawn.’

58,21

Die lôsen scheltent guoten wîben mînen sanc,
The loose-ones revile to-good women my song,

und jehent daz ich ir übel gedenke.
and say that I of-them ill think.

si pflihten alle wider mich und haben danc:
they conspire all against me and have thanks:

er sî ein zage, der dâ wenke.
he be a coward, who there wavers.

... swer tiuschen wîben ie gespræche baz!
(lacuna) whoever to-German women ever might-speak better!

wan daz ich scheide
save that I separate

die guoten von den böesen. seht, daz ist ir haz.
the good from the bad. see, that is their hate.

lobt ich si beide
praised I them both

gelîche wol, wie stüende daz?
equally well, how would-stand that?

Ich bin iu eines dinges holt, haz unde nît,
I am to-you of-one thing favorable, hate and envy,

sô man iuch ûz ze boten sendet,
when one you out as messengers sends,

daz ir sô ungerne bî den biderben sît
that you so unwillingly among the worthy are

und daz ir iuwrn hêrren schendet.
and that you your lord disgrace.

ir spehere, sô ir niemen stæten muget erspehen,
you spies, when you no-one constant can spy-out,

den ir verkêret,
whom you pervert,

sô hebt iuch hein in iuwer hûs (ez muoz geschehen),
then take yourselves home into your house (it must happen),

daz ir unêret

that you dishonor

verlogenen munt und twerhez sehen.

lying mouth and crosswise looking.

Der alsô guotes wîbes gert als ich dâ ger,

Who so of-good woman desires as I there desire,

59,10

wie vil der tugende haben solte!

how many that-one of-virtues have should!

nun hân ich leider niht dâ mite ich sie gewer,

now have I alas nothing there with I her satisfy,

wan obs ein lützel von mir wolte.

save if-she a little from me would.

zwô tugende hân ich, der si wîlent nâmen war,

two virtues have I, of-which they formerly took heed,

scham unde triuwe:

modesty and faith:

die schadent nû beide sêre. schaden nû alsô dar!

they harm now both sorely. harm now thus there!

ich bin niht niuwe:

I am not new:

dem ich dâ gan, dem gan ich gar.

to-whom I there am-favorable, to-him am-favorable I wholly.

Ich wânde daz si wære missewende frî:

I thought that she were of-blemish free:

nû sagent si mir ein ander mære,

now say they to-me an other tale,

daz niht lebendiges âne wandel sî:

that nothing of-living without flaw be:

so ist ouch mîn frowe wandelbære.

so is also my lady flawed.

ichn kan ab niht erdenken waz ir missestê,
I can however not conceive what to-her ill-becomes,

wan ein vil kleine:
save a very little:

si schadet ir vînde niht, und tuot ir friunden wê.
she harms her enemies not, and does her friends woe.

lât si daz eine,
(if)-leaves she that one,

swie vil ich suoche, ichn vindes mê.
however much I seek, I-not find-of-it more.

59,28 Ich hân iu gar gesaget daz ir missestât:
I have to-you wholly said what to-her ill-becomes:

zwei wandel hân ich iu genennet.
two flaws have I to-you named.

nû sult ir ouch vernemen waz si tugende hât
now shall you also hear what she of-virtues has

(der sint ouch zwô), daz irs erkennet.
(of-them are also two), that you-it know.

ich seit iu gerne tûsent: irn ist niht mê dâ,
I would-say to-you gladly a-thousand: of-them is not more there,

wan schoene und êre.
save beauty and honor.

die hât si beide volleclîche. hât si? jâ.
these has she both fully. has she? yes.

waz wil si mêre?
what wants she more?

hiest wol gelobt: lobe anderswâ.
here-is well praised: praise elsewhere.

Wie sol man gewarten dir
HOW SHALL ONE WAIT UPON THEE

Five strophes addressed to the World. She twists to escape him and he can twist too. She has many dear things and one of them shall be his; he asks whether he ever stepped a foot from his constancy since she bade him serve her. She should not be angry when he asks his reward, but greet him a little better; and she should follow wise people's virtue and call the old honor back.

Wie sol man gewarten dir,

How shall one wait-upon thee,

59,37

Welt, wilt alsô winden dich?

World, wilt so twist thyself?

wænest dich entwinden mir?

thinkest thyself to-escape from-me?

nein: ich kan ouch winden mich.

no: I can also twist myself.

dû wilt sêre gâhen,

thou wilt sorely hasten,

und ist vil unnâhen

and is very far-off

daz ich dir noch sül versmâhen.

that I to-thee yet should seem-contemptible.

Dû hâst lieber dinge vil,

Thou hast of-dear things many,

der mir einez werden sol.

of-which to-me one become shall.

Welt, wiech daz verdienen wil!

World, how-I that earn will!

doch solt dû gedenken wol

yet shouldst thou consider well

obe ich ie getræte

whether I ever stepped

fuoz von mîner stæte,

foot from my constancy,

sît dû mich dir dienen bæte.

since thou me thee serve badest.

Welt, du ensolt niht umbe daz

World, thou shouldst not about that

zürnen, ob ich lônes man.

be-angry, if I of-reward admonish.

grüeze mich ein wênic baz,

greet me a little better,

sich mich minnelîchen an.

look me lovingly at.

dû maht mich wol pfenden

thou mayst me well distraint

und mîn heil erwenden:

and my welfare turn-away:

daz stêt, frowe, in dînen henden.

that stands, lady, in thy bands.

Ichn weiz wie dîn wille stê

I-not know how thy will stand

wider mich: der mîne ist guot

toward me: the mine is good

wider dich. waz wil dus mê,

toward thee. what wilt thou-of-it more,

Welt, von mir, wan hôhen muot?

World, from me, save high spirit?

wilt dû bezzer wünne,

wilt thou better delight,

danne man dir gönne

than one to-thee grants

fröide und der gehelfen künne?

joy and of-the helpers kin?

Welt, tuo mê des ich dich bite,

World, do more of-that I thee ask,

volge wîser liute tugent.

follow of-wise people virtue.

dû verderbest dich dâ mite,

thou ruigest thyself there with,

wil dû minnen tôren jugent.

wilt thou love of-fools youth.

bite die alten êre,

ask the old honor,

daz si wider kêre

that she back turn

und ab dîn gesinde lêre.

and again thy household teach.

Ich wil nû teilen, ê ich var
I WILL NOW DIVIDE BEFORE I GO

A testament in three strophes. Before he travels he divides his goods so that nobody need contend for them: his misfortune to those who love hate and envy, his sorrows to the liars, his madness to those who love with falsehood, and longing to the ladies. Then he asks his lady to lament him in measure; and last, he would forswear body and honor to win women, but God should judge such swearers.

60,34 Ich wil nû teilen, ê ich var,
I will now divide, before I go,
mîn varnde guot und eigens vil,
my movable goods and of-property much,
daz iemen dürfe strîten dar,
that anyone need contend thereover,
wan den ichz hie bescheiden wil.
save to-those I-it here assign will.
al mîn ungelücke wil ich schaffen jenen
all my misfortune will I bequeath to-those
die sich hazzes unde nîdes gerne wenen,
who themselves of-hate and of-envy gladly accustom,
dar zuo mîn unsælikeit.
there to my unblessedness.
mîne swære
my sorrows
haben die lügenære.
have the liars.

mîn unsinnen

my madness

schaff ich den die mit velsche minnen,

bequeath I to-those who with falsehood love,

den frowen nâch herzeliebe senendiu leit.

to-the ladies after heart's-love longing sorrows.

Mir ist lieb daz si mich klage

To-me is dear that she me lament

ze mâze als ez ir schône stê;

in measure as it her beautifully stand;

ob man ir mære von mir sage,

if one to-her news of me tells,

daz ir dâ von sî sanfte wê.

that to-her there from be gently woe.

si sol iemer mêre durch den willen mîn

she shall ever more for the sake mine

ungefüege swære und fröide lâzen sîn:

unfitting grief and joy let be:

daz stêt senenden frowen wol,

that stands to-longing ladies well,

als ichz meine.

as I-it mean.

dar ahtent jene vil kleine,

thereon heed those very little,

die sich des flîzent

who themselves of-that busy

daz si den munt sô sêre bîzent

that they the mouth so sorely bite

...

(lacuna)

61,8

61,20 Nû bîtent, lât mich wider komen.

Now wait, let me back come.

ich weiz der wîbe willen wol:

I know of-the women will well:

ich hân eine mê von ir vernomen,

I have one more from her heard,

dâ mite ich mange erwerben sol.

there with I many win shall.

ich wil lîp und êre und al mîn heil verswern:

I will body and honor and all my welfare forswear:

wie kunde sich deheiniu danne mîn erwern?

how could herself any-one then of-me defend?

nein ich weizgot, swaz ich sage.

no I God-knows, whatever I say.

got der solte

God he should

rihten, obe er wolte,

judge, if he would,

die sô swüeren,

those so swore,

daz in diu ougen ûz gefüeren

that to-them the eyes out went

und sich doch einest stiezen in dem tage.

and themselves yet once struck in the day.

Ich wil niht mê ûf ir genâde wesen frô

I WILL NO MORE BE GLAD ON HER MERCY

One song. His former speech has been struck in two in the middle, and the one half is wholly forbidden him; other people must sing and say that. He will keep his breeding instead and practice a delightful measure, leaving much undone for the one thing they call honor. If he may not enjoy it any longer, and it stands so ill on the street, he will shut his own door.

Ich wil niht mê ûf ir genâde wesen frô.

I will not more upon her mercy be glad.

61,32

Mir ist mîn êrre rede enmitten zwei geslagen:

To-me is my former speech in-the-middle in-two struck:

daz eine halbe teil ist mir verboten gar:

the one half part is to-me forbidden wholly:

daz müezen ander liute singen unde sagen.

that must other people sing and say.

ich sol ab iemer mîner zûhte nemen war

I shall however ever of-my breeding take heed

und wünnelîcher mâze pflegen.

and of-delightful measure practice.

umb einez, daz si heizent êre,

for one-thing, that they call honor,

lâz ich vil dinges under wegen:

leave I many of-things under way:

mag ich des niht mê geniezen,

(if)-may I of-that not more enjoy,

stêt ez als übel ûf der strâze,

(if)-stands it so ill upon the street,

sô wil ich mîne tür besliezen.

so will I my door lock.

Ob ich mich selben rüemen sol

IF I AM TO PRAISE MYSELF

Four strophes, the first in self-defense. If he must praise himself, he is courtly in the unfitness he endures; a hermit would not bear it. To the lady he says she is beautiful and worthy, that thoughts are free, and that his senses give her his song. She taught him to gladden whoever burdens him, and he asks her to practice it on him. Her pure body is the best garment he ever saw, for which an emperor would turn minstrel.

- 62,6 Ob ich mich selben rüemen sol,
If I me myself praise shall,
sô bin ich des ein hübescher man,
so am I of-that a courtly man,
daz ich sô mange unfuoge dol
that I so much unfitness endure
sô wol als ichz gerechen kan.
so well as I-it avenge can.
ein klôsenære, ob erz vertrüege? ich wæne, er nein.
a hermit, if he-it would-endure? I think, be no.
hæt er die stat als ich si hân,
had he the place as I it have,
bestüende in danne ein zörnelîn,
assailed him then a little-anger,
ez wurde unsanfter widertân.
it would-be more-roughly undone.
swie sanfte ichz alsô lâze sîn,
however gently I-it thus let be,
daz und ouch mê vertrage ich doch dur eteswaz.
that and also more endure I yet for something.

Frowe, ir sît schœne und sît ouch wert:

Lady, you are beautiful and are also worthy:

den zwein stêt wol genâde bî.

to-the two stands well mercy by.

waz schadet iu daz man iuwer gert?

what harms to-you that one of-you desires?

joch sint iedoch gedanke frî.

indeed are yet thoughts free.

wân unde Wunsch daz wolde ich allez ledic lân:

fancy and wish that would I all free let:

höveschent mîne sinne dar,

pay-court my senses there,

waz mag ichs, gebents iu mînen sanc?

what can I-of-it, give-they to-you my song?

des nement ir lîhte niender war:

of-that take you perhaps not-at-all heed:

sô hân ichs doch vil hôhen danc.

so have I-of-it yet very high thanks.

treit iuch mîn lop ze hove, daz ist mîn werdekeit.

(if)-bears you my praise to court, that is my worth.

Frowe, ir habt mir geseit alsô,

Lady, you have to-me said thus,

swer mir beswære mînen muot,

whoever to-me should-burden my spirit,

daz ich den mache wider frô:

that I him make again glad:

er schame sich lîhte und werde guot.

he shame himself perhaps and become good.

diu lêre, ob si mit triuwen sî, daz schîne an iu.

the teaching, if it with faith be, that show on you.

ich fröwe iuch, ir beswæret mich:

I gladden you, you burden me:

des schamt iuch, ob ichz reden getar,

of-that shame yourselves, if I-it say dare,

lât iuwer wort niht velschen sich,

let your word not falsify itself,

und werdet guot: sô habt ir wâr.

and become good: so have you truth.

vil guot sît ir, dâ von ich guot von guote wil.

very good are you, there from I good from good will.

Frowe, ir habet ein werdez tach

Lady, you have a worthy covering

an iuch geslouft, den reinen lîp.

on you slipped, the pure body.

wan ich nie bezzer kleit gesach,

for I never better garment saw,

ir sît ein wol bekleidet wîp.

you are a well clothed woman.

sin unde sælde sint gesteppet wol dar in.

sense and blessedness are quilted well there in.

getragene wât ich nie genan:

worn clothing I never took:

dise nãm ich als gerne ich lebe.

this would-take I as gladly I live.

der keiser wurde ir spileman,

the emperor would-become her minstrel,

umb alsô wünnecliche gebe,

for such delightful gift,

dâ keiser spil. nein, herre keiser, anderswâ!

there emperor play. no, lord emperor, elsewhere!

Die verzagten aller guoten dinge
THOSE WHO DESPAIR OF ALL GOOD THINGS

Four strophes on envy and two words. Those who despair think he despairs with them, but he has comfort from the woman to whom he has lamented his sorrow. He will gladly suffer envy and asks her help in earning it. He would see beloved and lady in one garment on her alone; and he offers her two words of his own, friend and companion, which an emperor could scarcely give her.

Die verzagten aller guoten dinge

63,8

The despairing of-all good things

wænent daz ich mit in sî verzaget:

think that I with them be despairing:

ich hân trôst daz mir noch fröide bringe

I have comfort that to-me yet joy bring

der ich mînen kumber hân geklaget.

to-whom I my affliction have lamented.

obe mir lieb von der geschiht,

if to-me dear from her happens,

sô enruoche ich wes ein böeser giht.

so not-care I of-what a wicked-one says.

Nît den wil ich iemer gerne lîden.

Envy that will I ever gladly suffer.

frowe, dâ solt dû mir helfen zuo,

lady, there shalt thou to-me help to,

daz si mich von schulden müezen nîden,

that they me with cause must envy,

sô daz mîn lieb in herzeleide tuo.

so that my joy to-them heart-sorrow do.

schaffe daz ich frô gestê:

bring-about that I glad stand:

so ist mir wol, und ist in iemer wê.

so is to-me well, and is to-them ever woe.

Friundîn unde frowen in einer wæte

Beloved and lady in one garment

wolte ich an dir einer gerne sehen,

would I on thee alone gladly see,

ob ez mir sô rehte sanfte tæte

if it to-me so right gently did

alse mir mîn herze hât verjehen.

as to-me my heart has declared.

friundîn dast ein süezez wort:

beloved that-is a sweet word:

doch sô tiuret frowe unz an daz ort.

yet so is-precious lady up to the point.

Frowe, ich wil mit hôhen liuten schallen,

Lady, I will with high people resound,

werdent diu zwei wort mit willen mir:

(if)-become the two words with willingness mine:

sô lâz ouch dir zwei von mir gevallen,

so let also to-thee two from me please,

dazs ein keiser kûme gæbe dir.

that-them an emperor scarcely would-give to-thee.

friunt und geselle diu sint dîn:

friend and companion those are thine:

sô sî friundîn unde frowe mîn.

so be beloved and lady mine.

Si frâgent unde frâgent aber alze vil

THEY ASK AND ASK TOO MUCH

Four strophes: his lady's name, the shameless, the summer, and the good one. They ask too often who she is: favor and disfavor are her two names, one poor and one rich. The shameless are left their reproach and strife, for when breeding could command, a thousand withstood one unmannerly man. Then the heath's manifold color is set against the wood and the field, and he cannot forget the good one who takes his thoughts.

Si frâgent unde frâgent aber alze vil

63,32

They ask and ask again all-too much

von mîner frowen, wer si sî.

about my lady, who she be.

daz müet mich sô daz ichs in allen nennen wil:

that troubles me so that I-her to-them all name will:

sô lânt si mich doch danne frî.

so let they me yet then free.

genâde und ungenâde, dise zwêne namen

favor and disfavor, these two names

hât mîn frowe beide. die sint ungelîch:

has my lady both. they are unlike:

der ein ist arm, der ander rîch.

the one is poor, the other rich.

der mich des rîchen irre,

who me of-the rich should-deprive,

der müeze sich des armen schamen.

that-one may himself of-the poor be-ashamed.

Die schamelôsen, liezen si mich âne nôt,

The shameless-ones, let they me without distress,

son hæ̃t ich weder haz noch nît.

so had I neither hate nor envy.

nû muoz ich von in gân, alsô diu zuht gebôt:

now must I from them go, as the breeding commanded:

ich lâze in laster unde strît.

I leave to-them reproach and strife.

dô zuht gebieten mohte, seht, dô schuof siz sô:

when breeding command could, see, then made she-it so:

tûsent werten einem ungefüegen man,

a-thousand withstood one unfitting man,

unz er schône sich versan;

until he beautifully himself bethought;

und muose sich versinnen:

and had-to himself come-to-sense:

sô vil was der gefüegen dô.

so many were of-the fitting then.

64,13 'Wie wol der heide ir manicvaltiu varwe stât!

'How well to-the heath her manifold color stands!

sô wil ich doch dem walde jehen

so will I yet to-the wood grant

daz er vil mêre wünneclicher dinge hât:

that it far more of-delightful things has:

noch ist dem velde baz geschehen.

yet is to-the field better happened.

sô wol dir, sumer, sus getâner arebeit!

so hail to-thee, summer, of-such fashioned labor!

sumer, daz ich iemer lobe dîne tage,

summer, so-that I ever praise thy days,

trôst, sô trœste ouch mîne klage.

comfort, so comfort also my lament.

ich sage dir waz mir wirret:

I say to-thee what to-me troubles:

der mir ist lieb, dem bin ich leit.'

who to-me is dear, to-him am I hateful.'

Ich mac der guoten niht vergezzen noch ensol,

I can the good-one not forget nor shall,

diu mir sô vil gedanke nimet.

who from-me so many thoughts takes.

die wîle ich singen wil, sô vinde ich iemer wol

the while I sing will, so find I ever well

ein niuwe lop daz ir gezimet.

a new praise that her befits.

nû habe ir diz für guot: sô lobe ich danne mê.

now have she this for good: so praise I then more.

ez tuot in den ougen wol daz man si siht:

it does in the eyes well that one her sees:

und daz man ir vil tugende giht,

and that one to-her many virtues grants,

daz tuot wol in den ôren.

that does well in the ears.

sô wol ir des! sô wê mir, wê!

so hail to-her of-that! so woe to-me, woe!

Owê, hovelîchez singen

ALAS, COURTLY SINGING

Five strophes on the decay of song. Unfitting tunes have crowded courtly singing out of court, and Lady Unfitness has won. Whoever brought back a fitting joy would be well remembered. Those who disturb right singing outnumber those who gladly hear it; he will not court at the roaring mill; the insolent are frogs whose croaking makes the nightingale give up; and Unfitness should be thrust from the castles to the peasants.

64,31 Owê, hovelîchez singen,

Alas, courtly singing,

daz dich ungefüege dæne

that thee unfitting tunes

solten ie ze hove verdringen!

should ever at court crowd-out!

daz dich schiere got gehœne!

that thee soon God shame!

owê daz dîn wirde alsô geliget!

alas that thy dignity thus lies-low!

des sint alle dîne friunde unfrô.

of-that are all thy friends unglad.

daz muoz eht alsô sîn: nû sî alsô:

that must just so be: now be so:

frô Unfuoge, ir habt gesiget.

lady Unfitness, you have conquered.

Der uns fröide wider bræhte,

Who to-us joy back brought,

diu reht und gefüege wære,

which right and fitting were,

hei wie wol man des gedæhte

ah how well one of-that would-think

swâ man von im seite mære!

wherever one of him told news!

ez wær ein vil hovelîcher muot,

it were a very courtly spirit,

des ich iemer gerne wûnschen sol:

of-which I ever gladly wish shall:

frowen unde hêrren zæme ez wol:

to-ladies and lords would-befit it well:

owê daz ez nieman tuot!

alas that it no-one does!

Die daz rehte singen stœrent,

Those the right singing disturb,

der ist ungelîche mêre

of-them are incomparably more

danne die ez gerne hœrent:

than those it gladly hear:

doch volg ich der alten lêre:

yet follow I the old teaching:

ich enwil niht werben zuo der mûl,

I will not court to the mill,

dâ der stein sô riuschent umbe gât

where the stone so roaring around goes

und daz rat sô mange unwîse hât.

and the wheel so many discords has.

merkent wer dâ harpfen sül.

mark who there harp should.

Die sô frevellîchen schallent,

Those so insolently resound,

der muoz ich vor zorne lachen,

of-them must I for anger laugh,

dazs in selben wol gevalent

that-they to-them selves well please

mit als ungefüegen sachen.

with such unfitting things.

die tuont sam die frösche in eime sê,

those do like the frogs in a lake,

den ir schrîen alsô wol behaget,

whom their crying so well pleases,

daz diu nahtegal dâ von verzaget,

that the nightingale there from despairs,

sô si gerne sunge mê.

when she gladly would-sing more.

Swer unfuoge swîgen hieze,

Whoever unfitness be-silent bade,

waz man noch von frôiden sunge!

what one yet of joys would-sing!

und si abe den bûrgen stieze,

and her off the castles thrust,

daz si dâ die frôn niht twunge.

that she there the glad not constrained.

wurden ir die grôzen hove benomen,

were from-her the great courts taken,

daz wær allez nâch dem willen mîn.

that were all after the will mine.

bî den gebûren liez ich si wol sîn:

among the peasants would-let I her well be:

dannen ists och her bekommen.

thence is-it also here come.

In einem zwîvellichen wân

IN A DOUBTING FANCY

Three strophes on a very small comfort. Sitting in doubt he would have left her service but that something brought him back — scarcely a comfort, he says, and so slight that they will mock him. A straw has made him glad: he measured it as children do, she does, she does not, and the end was always good. And however dear she is, he stands at the best with her, and need not envy her suitors, since none can easily make her waver.

In einem zwîvellichen wân

65,33

In a doubting fancy

was ich gesezen, und gedâhte,

was I seated, and thought,

ich wolte von ir dienste gân;

I would from her service go;

wan daz ein trôst mich wider brâhte.

save that a comfort me back brought.

trôst mag ez niht geheizen, owê des!

comfort may it not be-called, alas of-that!

ez ist vil kûme ein kleinez trœstelîn;

it is very scarcely a small little-comfort;

sô kleine, swenne ichz iu gesage, ir spottet mîn.

so small, whenever I-it to-you tell, you mock of-me.

doch fröwet sich lützel ieman, er enwizze wes.

yet rejoices himself little anyone, he unless-knows of-what.

Mich hât ein halm gemachet frô:

Me has a straw made glad:

er giht, ich sül genâde vinden.

it says, I shall favor find.

ich maz daz selbe kleine strô,

I measured the same little straw,

als ich hie vor gesach von kinden.

as I here before saw from children.

nû hæret unde merket ob siz denne tuo.

now hear and mark whether she-it then do.

‘si tuot, si entuot, si tuot, si entuot, si tuot.’

‘she does, she does-not, she does, she does-not, she does.’

swie dicke ichz tete, sô was ie daz ende guot.

however often I-it did, so was ever the end good.

daz trœstet mich: dâ hæret ouch geloube zuo.

that comforts me: there belongs also belief to.

Swie lieb si mir von herzen sî,

However dear she to-me from heart be,

sô mac ich doch wol erliden

so can I yet well endure

daz ich ir sî zem besten bî:

that I to-her be at-the best by:

ich darf ir werben dâ niht nîden.

I need her courting there not envy.

ichn mac, als ich erkenne, des gelouben niht

I can, as I perceive, of-that believe not

dazs ieman sanfte in zwîvel bringen müge.

that-her anyone easily into doubt bring might.

mirst lieb daz die getrogenen wizzzen waz si trüge,

to-me-is dear that the deceived know what them deceived,

und alze lanc dazs iemer rüemic man gesiht.

and all-too long that-her ever boastful man sees.

Ir reinen wîp, ir werden man
YOU PURE WOMEN, YOU WORTHY MEN

Two long strophes of reckoning. Pure women and worthy men owe him honor and a loving greeting more fully than before, for he has sung of love forty years or more. Now nothing of it comes back to him and it all goes to them; his love-song serves them, and their favor is his portion. Let him go with a staff and strive for worth: low as he is, he is one of the worthy.

Ir reinen wîp, ir werden man,

You pure women, you worthy men,

ez stêt alsô daz man mir muoz

it stands so that one to-me must

êr unde minneclîchen gruoze

honor and loving greeting

noch volleclicher bieten an.

yet more-fully offer to.

des habet ir von schulden grœzer reht dan ê:

of-that have you with cause greater right than before:

welt ir vernemen, ich sage iu wes.

(if)-will you hear, I tell to-you of-what.

wol vierzec jâr hab ich gesungen oder mê

fully forty years have I sung or more

von minnen und als iemen sol.

of love and as anyone should.

dô was ichs mit den andern geil:

then was I-of-it with the others merry:

nu enwirt mirs niht, ez wirt iu gar.

now comes to-me-of-it not, it comes to-you wholly.

66,21

mîn minnesanc der diene iu dar,
my love-song it serve to-you there,

und iuwer hulde sî mîn teil.
and your favor be my portion.

Lât mich an eime stabe gân
Let me on a staff go

und werben umbe werdekeit
and strive for worth

mit unverzageter arebeit,
with undespairing labor,

als ich von kinde habe getân.
as I from childhood have done.

sô bin ich doch, swie nider ich sî, der werden ein,
so am I yet, however low I be, of-the worthy one,

genuoc in mîner mâze hô.
enough in my measure high.

daz mûet die nideren. ob mich daz iht swache? nein.
that troubles the low-ones. whether me that at-all lowers? no.

die biderben hânt mich deste baz.
the worthy bold me the-more better.

der werden wirde diust sô guot,
of-the worthy dignity it-is so good,

daz man inz hœchste lop sol geben.
that one to-them-the highest praise shall give.

ezn wart nie lobelîcher leben,
there was never more-praiseworthy life,

swer sô dem ende rehte tuot.
whoever so to-the end rightly does.

Welt, ich hân dînen lôn ersehen

WORLD, I HAVE SEEN THY REWARD

One song of renunciation. He has seen what the World pays: whatever she gives she takes again, and all depart from her bare. He has risked body and soul a thousand times for her sake and is now old, and she makes a mocking game of him. Let her laugh a while yet; her own day of misery is coming, and will take back what she took from them and burn her besides.

Welt, ich hân dînen lôn ersehen:

67,8

World, I have thy reward beheld:

swaz dû mir gîst, daz nimest dû mir.

whatewer thou to-me givest, that takest thou from-me.

wir scheiden alle blôz von dir.

we depart all bare from thee.

scham dich, sol mir alsô geschehen.

shame thyself; shall to-me thus happen.

ich hân lîp unde sêle (des was gar ze vil)

I have body and soul (of-that was wholly too much)

gewâget tûsentstunt dur dich:

risked a-thousand-times for thee:

nû bin ich alt und hâst mit mir dîn gampelspil:

now am I old and hast with me thy mockery-game:

ist mir daz zorn, sô lachest dû.

(if)-is to-me that anger, so laughest thou.

nû lache uns eine wîle noch:

now laugh at-us a while yet:

dîn jâmertac wil schiere komen,

thy misery-day will soon come,

und nimet dir swazt uns hâst benomen,
and takes from-thee whatever-thou from-us hast taken,

und brennet dich dar umbe iedoch.
and burns thee there for nevertheless.

Mîn sêle müeze wol gevarn!

MAY MY SOUL FARE WELL

One song, a quarrel between body and soul. He prays his soul may fare well: he has made many a man and woman glad, and wishes he could have guarded himself among them. When he praises the body's love it grieves the soul, which calls it a lie and grants whole constancy to true love alone. So he tells the body to leave the love that leaves it and hold the constant love dear.

Mîn sêle müeze wol gevarn!

My soul may well fare!

67,20

ich hân zer welte manegen lîp

I have in-the world many-a person

gemachet frô, man unde wîp:

made glad, man and woman:

künd ich dar under mich bewarn!

could I there among myself guard!

lobe ich des lîbes minne, deis der sêle leit:

praise I of-the body love, that-is to-the soul sorrow:

si giht, ez sî ein lüge, ich tobe.

she says, it be a lie, I rave.

der wâren minne giht si ganzer stætekeit,

to-the true love grants she whole constancy,

wie guot si sî, wies iemer wer.

how good it be, how-it ever last.

lîp, lâ die minne diu dich lâ,

body, leave the love which thee leaves,

und habe die stæten minne wert:

and hold the constant love dear:

mich dunket, der dû hâst gegert,

to-me seems, she-whom thou hast desired,

diu sî niht visch unz an den grât.

she be not fish up to the bone.

Ich hât ein schoenez bilde erkorn

I HAD CHOSEN A BEAUTIFUL IMAGE

One song on an image that failed. He chose a beautiful image and is sorry he ever saw it or spoke so much to it: it has lost both beauty and speech, the wonder that dwelt in it went he knows not where, and its lily-rose color turned the color of a prison. He asks the image, since he is imprisoned in it, to let him out for a while, because he must go back in.

Ich hât ein schoenez bilde erkorn,

I had a beautiful image chosen,

und owê daz ichz ie gesach

and alas that I-it ever saw

ald ie sô vil zuoz ime gesprach!

or ever so much to it spoke!

ez hât schœn unde rede verlorn.

it has beauty and speech lost.

dâ wonte ein wunder inne: daz fuor ine weiz war:

there dwelt a wonder within: it went I-not know whither:

dâ von gesweic daz bilde iesâ.

there from fell-silent the image at-once.

sîn liljerôsevarwe wart sô karkelvar,

its lily-rose-color became so prison-colored,

daz ez verlôs smac unde schîn.

that it lost scent and radiance.

67,32

mîn bilde, ob ich bekerkelt bin

my image, if I imprisoned am

in dir, sô lâ mich ûz alsô

in thee, so let me out thus

daz wir ein ander vinden frô:

that we one another find glad:

wan ich muoz aber wider in.

for I must again back in.

WALTHER VON DER VOGELWEIDE

*The Third Book: Songs, a Dawn Song,
and Sprüche of the Court*

Saget mir ieman, waz ist minne?

CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHAT LOVE IS

Four strophes asking what love is. He knows a part of it and would gladly know more; whoever understands better should tell him why it does such woe. If it does well it is love, and if woe it is not rightly called love. Love is the delight of two hearts shared equally, and one heart alone cannot hold it. He carries too heavy a part, and asks her to help in time or say so plainly.

Saget mir ieman, waz ist minne?

Say to-me anyone, what is love?

69,1

weiz ich des ein teil, sô wist ichs gerne mê.

(if)-know I of-it a part, so would-know I-of-it gladly more.

der sich baz denn ich versinne,

who himself better than I understands,

der berihte mich durch waz si tuot sô wê.

he instruct me for what she does so woe.

minne ist minne, tuot si wol:

love is love, does she well:

tuot si wê, so enheizet si niht rehte minne.

(if)-does she woe, so is-called she not rightly love.

sus enweiz ich wie si danne heizen sol.

thus not-know I how she then be-called shall.

Obe ich rehte râten künne

If I rightly guess can

waz diu minne sî, sô sprechet denne jâ.

what the love be, so say then yes.

minne ist zweier herzen wünne:

love is of-two hearts delight:

teilent sie geliche, sost diu minne dâ:

share they equally, so-is the love there:

sol abe ungeteilet sîn,

(if)-shall however unshared be,

sô enkans ein herze alleine niht enthalten.

so can-it a heart alone not contain.

owê woldest dû mir helfen, frowe mîn!

alas wouldst thou to-me help, lady mine!

Frowe, ich trage ein teil ze swære:

Lady, I bear a part too heavy:

wellest dû mir helfen, sô hilf an der zît.

(if)-wilt thou to-me help, so help at the time.

sî abe ich dir gar unmære,

(if)-be however I to-thee wholly indifferent,

daz sprich endeliche: sô lâz ich den strît,

that say plainly: so leave I the strife,

unde werde ein ledic man.

and become a free man.

dû solt aber einez wizzen, daz dich rehte

thou shalt however one-thing know, that thee rightly

lützel ieman baz dann ich geloben kan.

hardly anyone better than I praise can.

Kan mîn frowe süeze siuren?

Can my lady sweetness sour?

wænet si daz ich ir lieb gebe umbe leit?

thinks she that I to-her joy give for sorrow?

sol ich si dar umbe tiuren,

shall I her there for exalt,

daz siz wider kêre an mîne unwerdekeit?

that she-it back turn to my unworth?

sô kund ich unrehte spehen.

so could I wrongly look.

wê waz sprich ich ôrenlôser ougen âne?

woe what say I earless of-eyes without?

den diu minne blendet, wie mac der gesehen?

whom the love blinds, how can he see?

Daz ich dich sô selten grüeze

THAT I GREET THEE SO SELDOM

Three strophes of self-defense. That he greets her so seldom is no misdeed of his: love may well quarrel with love wherever it comes from a friend's heart, and gentle anger and great reconciling belong to it. He never saw days creep as his do, and wonders where they are hurrying. She should avoid one speech, the wicked one about paying for service, since the man who says it never does the like.

70,1 Daz ich dich sô selten grüeze,

That I thee so seldom greet,

frowe, daz ist ân alle mîne missetât.

lady, that is without all my misdeed.

ich wil daz wol zürnen müeze

I hold that well quarrel may

liep mit liebe, swa'z von friundes herzen gât.

love with love, wherever-it from friend's heart goes.

trûren unde wesen frô,

mourning and being glad,

sanfte zürnen, sêre süenen, deis der minne

gently quarrel, greatly reconcile, that-is of-the love

reht: diu herzeliebe wil alsô.

right: the heart's-love wants so.

In gesach nie tage slîchen

I saw never days creep

sô die mîne tuont. ich warte in alles nâch:

as the mine do. I look to-them always after:

wesse ich war si wolten strîchen!

knew I whither they would stride!

mich nimt iemer wunder wes in sî sô gâch.
me takes ever wonder of-what to-them be so hasty.

si mugen von mir komen zuo deme
they may from me come to him

der ir niht sô schône pfligt als ich: sô lâzen
who of-them not so beautifully takes-care as I: so let

denne schînen ob si wîzen weme.
then show whether they blame to-anyone.

Dû solt eine rede vermîden,
Thou shalt one speech avoid,

frowe: des getriuwe ich dînen zûhten wol:
lady: of-that trust I thy breeding well:

tætest dûs, ich woldez nîden;
didst thou-it, I would-it resent;

als die argen sprechent, dâ man lônên sol,
as the wicked say, where one reward shall,

‘hete er sælde, ich tæte im guot.’
‘had be blessedness, I would-do to-him good.’

er ist selbe unsælic, swer daz gerne sprichet
he is himself unblessed, whoever that gladly says

unde niemer diu gelîche tuot.
and never the like does.

Genâde, frowe! tuo alsô bescheidenlîche

MERCY, LADY

Four strophes of bargaining, two of them hers. He will live for her alone if she will forgive him one thing for a pastime while he waits, and he does not name it. She will have a love she wins to herself; for her friend loves other women. He will renounce other women if she treats him better; she answers that he begged everywhere as he begged her, and since shared love is shared sorrow, she dare not love him.

70,22 Genâde, frowe! tuo alsô bescheidenlîche:

Mercy, lady! do so discerningly:

lâ mich dir einer iemer leben:

let me to-thee alone ever live:

obe ab ich daz breche, daz ich furder strîche.

if however I that break, that I further stride.

wan einez soltû mir vergeben:

save one-thing shouldst-thou to-me forgive:

daz mahtû mir ze kurzewîle erlouben gerne,

that mayst-thou to-me for pastime allow gladly,

die wîle unz ich dîn beiten sol.

the while until I for-thee wait shall.

ich nenne ez niht, ich meine jenz, dû weist ez wol.

I name it not, I mean that-one, thou knowest it well.

ich sage dir wes ich angest hân:

I say to-thee of-what I fear have:

dâ fürht ich daz ichz wider lerne.

there fear I that I-it back unlearn.

‘Gewinne ich iemer lieb, daz wil ich haben eine:

‘(if)-Win I ever a-love, that will I have alone:

mîn friunt der minnet andriu wîp.

my friend he loves other women.

an allen guoten dingen hân ich wol gemeine,

in all good things have I well in-common,

wan dâ man teilet friundes lîp.

save where one divides friend's body.

sô ich in under wîlen gerne bî mir sâhe,

when I him under whiles gladly by me would-see,

sô ist er von mir anderswâ.

so is he from me elsewhere.

sît abe er dâ gerne sî, sô sî ouch dâ.

since however he there gladly be, so be also there.

ez tuot sô manegem wîbe wê,

it does so to-many-a woman woe,

daz mir dâ von niht wol geschæhe.’

that to-me there from not well would-happen.’

Si sælic wîp, si zûrnet wider mich ze sêre,

She blessed woman, she rages against me too sorely,

daz ich friunde an manege stat.

that I befriend in many-a place.

sin gehiez mich nie geleben nâch ir lêre,

she bade me never live after her teaching,

swie jâmerlîch ich sis gebat.

however piteously I her-of-it begged.

waz hilfet mich daz ich si minne vor in allen?

what helps me that I her love before them all?

si swîget iemer als ich klage.

she keeps-silent ever when I lament.

wil si daz ich andern wîben widersage,

(if)-wants she that I to-other women renounce,

sô lâze ir mîne rede ...

so let to-her my speech (lacuna)

... ein wênic baz gevallen.

(lacuna) a little better please.

‘Ich wil dir jehen daz dû mîn dicke sêre bæte,

I will to-thee grant that thou of-me often sorely didst-beg,

und nam ich des vil kleine war.

and took I of-that very little heed.

dô wisse ich wol dazt allenthalben alsô tæte:

then knew I well that-thou everywhere so didst:

dâ von wart ich dir sô fremede gar.

there from became I to-thee so strange wholly.

der mîn ze friunde ger, wil er mich gewinnen,

who of-me for friend desires, will he me win,

der lâze alselhe unstætekeit.

he leave such inconstancy.

gemeine liep daz dunket mich gemeinez leit:

shared love that seems to-me shared sorrow:

nû sage, weist dû anders iht?

now say, knowest thou otherwise anything?

dâ von tar ich dich niht geminnen.’

there from dare I thee not love.’

Ich hœre im maneger êren jehen

I HEAR MANY HONORS GRANTED HIM

Two strophes, the first bers. She hears many honors granted to a man who has served her a little, and seeks counsel from whoever can see into his heart, fearing he means it falsely. Then he wonders that he understands her speech so well and she not his, and yet he bears no great grief of it, and speaks no ill of it beyond lamenting.

‘Ich hœre im maneger êren jehen,

I hear to-him many honors granted,

der mir ein teil gedienet hât.

who to-me a part served has.

der im in sîn herze kan gesehen,

who to-him into his heart can see,

an des genâde suoch ich rât,

at that-one's mercy seek I counsel,

daz er mirz rehte erscheine.

that he to-me-it rightly show.

nû fürht ab ich daz erz mit valsche meine.

now fear however I that be-it with falsehood means.

tæt er mir noch den willen schîn,

did he to-me yet the will manifest,

hæt ich iht liebers danne den lîp, des müeser hêrre sîn.’

had I anything dearer than the body, of-it must-be lord be.’

Wie kumt daz ich sô wol verstân

How comes that I so well understand

ir rede, und si der mîner niht,

her speech, and she of-the mine not,

und ich doch grôzer swære niht enhân,

and I yet great grief not have,

71,19

wan daz man mich frô drunder siht?

save that one me glad thereunder sees?

ein ander man ez lieze:

an other man it would-leave:

nû volg ab ich, swie ich es niht genieze.

now follow however I, although I of-it not enjoy.

swaz ich dar umbe swære trage,

whatever I there for grief bear,

da enspriche ich niemer übel zuo, wan sô vil daz ichz klage.

there speak I never ill to, save so much that I-it lament.

Mich hât ein wünneclicher wân

A DELIGHTFUL HOPE HAS BROUGHT ME

Three strophes on a hope, the middle one hers. A delightful hope and a dear friend's comfort have brought him into longing sorrow, and nothing but her can release him. She says a man of falseness-free goodness may command her whatever is honorable, and a woman's good fortune has happened to her in him. A woman has made his joy constant and released him from cares, saying with true faith that he must be near her heart.

Mich hât ein wünneclicher wân

Me has a delightful expectation

und ouch ein lieber friundes trôst

and also a dear friend's comfort

in senelichen kumber brâht:

into longing affliction brought:

sol der mit fröide an mir zergân,

(if)-shall it with joy on me pass-away,

so enwirde ichs anders niht erlöst,

so am I-of-it otherwise not released,

ezn kome als ich mirz hân gedâht

unless-it come as I for-me-it have thought

umb ir vil minneclîchen lîp,

about her very lovely body,

diu mir enfremedet alliu wîp,

who from-me estranges all women,

wan daz ichs alle dur si êren muoz.

save that I-them all for her honor must.

jo enger ich anders lônēs niht

indeed desire I other reward not

von ir dekeiner, wan ir gruoꝝ.

from them any, save her greeting.

71,35

‘Mit valschelôser güete lebt

‘With falseness-free goodness lives

ein man der mir wol iemer mac

a man who to-me well ever may

gebieten swaz er êre wil.

command whatever he of-honor wants.

sîn stæte mir mit fröide gebt,

his constancy to-me with joy gives,

wan ich sîn vil schône enpflac:

for I of-him very beautifully took-care:

daz kumt von grôzer liebe vil.

that comes from great love much.

mir ist an ime, des muoz ich jehen,

to-me is in him, of-that must I grant,

ein schœnez wîbes heil geschehen.

a beautiful woman's fortune happened.

diu sælde wirt uns beiden schîn.

the blessedness becomes to-us both manifest.

sîn tugent hât ime die besten stat

his virtue has for-him the best place

erworben in dem herzen mîn.’

won in the heart mine.’

Die mîne fröide hât ein wîp

The my joy has a woman

gemachet stæte und mich erlôst

made constant and me released

von sorgen al die wîle ich lebe.

from cares all the while I live.

genâde suoch ich an ir lîp:

mercy seek I from her body:

enpfâhe ich wünneclichen trôst,

receive I delightful comfort,

der mac wol heizen friundes gebe.

it may well be-called friend's gift.

ein mannes heil mir dâ geschach,

a man's fortune to-me there happened,

dâ si mit rehten triuwen sprach,

when she with right faith spoke,

ich müese ir herzen nâhe sîn.

I must to-her heart near be.

sus darf es nieman wunder nemen,

thus need of-it no-one wonder take,

lebt âne sorge dez herze mîn.

lives without care the heart mine.

Lange swîgen des hât ich gedâht

LONG SILENCE I HAD THOUGHT OF

Five strophes of quarrel with a lady he made famous. He had thought to be silent, and good people have brought him to sing again. A woman he raised into worth will not look at him, and does not know that her praise passes away when he leaves off singing: all who praise her now will revile her then. If he grows old in her service she will want a young man, and he asks that young man to avenge him.

72,31 Lange swîgen des hât ich gedâht:

Long to-be-silent of-that had I thought:

nû muoz ich singen aber als ê.

now must I sing again as before.

dar zuo hânt mich guote liute brâht:

there to have me good people brought:

die mugen mir wol gebieten mê.

they may to-me well command more.

ich sol singen unde sagen,

I shall sing and say,

und swes si gern, daz sol ich tuon: sô suln si mînen kumber klagen.

and whatever they desire, that shall I do: so shall they my affliction lament.

Hœret wunder, wie mir ist geschehen

Hear wonder, how to-me is happened

von mîn selbes arebeit.

from my own labor.

mich enwil ein wîp niht an gesehen:

me will a woman not at look:

die brâht ich in die werdekeit,

whom brought I into the worth,

daz ir muot sô hôhe stât.

that her spirit so high stands.

jon weiz si niht, swenn ich mîn singen lâze, daz ír lop zergât.

indeed knows she not, whenever I my singing leave, that her praise passes-away.

Hêrre, waz si flüeche lîden sol,

Lord, what she of-curses suffer shall,

swenn ich nû lâze mînen sanc!

whenever I now leave my song!

alle dies nû lobent, daz weiz ich wol,

all who-her now praise, that know I well,

die scheltent danne ân mînen danc.

they revile then without my consent.

tûsent herze wurden frô

a-thousand hearts became glad

von ir genâden; dius engeltent, scheide ich mich von ir alsô.

from her favors; they-it pay-for, part I myself from her thus.

Dô mich dûhte daz si wære guot,

When me it-seemed that she were good,

wer was ir bezzer dô dann ich?

who was to-her better then than I?

dêst ein ende: swaz si mir getuot,

that-is an end: whatever she to-me does,

sô mac si wol verwænen sich,

so may she well be-certain herself,

nimet si mich von dirre nôt,

(if)-takes she me from this distress,

ir leben hât mîns lebennes êre: sterbet sie mich, so ist si tôt.

her life has my life's honor: kills she me, so is she dead.

Sol ich in ir dienste werden alt,
(if)-Shall I in her service become old,

die wîle junget si niht vil.
the while grows-young she not much.

so ist mân hâr vil lîhte alsô gestalt,
so is my hair very likely so fashioned,

dazs einen jungen danne wil.
that-she a young-one then wants.

sô helfe iu got, hêr junger man,
so help to-you God, sir young man,

sô rechet mich und gêt ir alten hût mit sumerlaten an.
so avenge me and go her old hide with summer-switches at.

Die mir in dem winter fröide hânt benomen

THOSE WHO TOOK MY WINTER JOY

Five strophes, the last with a threefold refrain. He cannot curse, and knows only the word unblessed, though he does know two heartfelt curses: that they hear ass and cuckoo before breakfast. A man should be patient against impatience. He will swear to all the world on her body that no maiden or woman is dearer to him; and his heart's deep wound must stand open unless she kisses him, heals it, or Hiltegunð makes it whole.

Die mir in dem winter fröide hânt benomen,

73,23

Those from-me in the winter joy have taken,

si heizen wîp, si heizen man,

they be-called woman, they be-called man,

disiu sumerzît diu müez in baz bekomen.

this summer-time it may to-them better agree.

ouwê daz ich niht fluochen kan!

alas that I not curse can!

leider ich enkan niht mêre

alas I can not more

wan daz übel wort 'unsælic.' neinâ! daz wær alze sêre.

save the evil word 'unblessed.' no-no! that were all-too sore.

Zwêne herzelîche flüeche kan ich ouch:

Two heartfelt curses know I also:

die fluochent nâch dem willen mîn.

they curse after the will mine.

hiure müezens beide 'esel' und 'der gouch'

this-year may-they both 'ass' and 'the cuckoo'

gehœren ê si enbizzen sîn.

hear before they breakfast are.

wê in denne, den vil armen!

woe to-them then, the very poor!

wess ich obe siz noch gerûwe, ich wolde mich dur got erbarmen.

knew I whether them-it yet repented, I would me for God take-pity.

Wan sol sîn gedultic wider ungedult:

One shall be patient against impatience:

daz ist den schamelôsen leit.

that is to-the shameless grievous.

swen die böesen hazzent âne sîne schult,

whomever the wicked hate without his guilt,

daz kumt von sîner frûmekeit.

that comes from his worthiness.

træstet mich diu guote alleine,

comforts me the good-one alone,

diu mich wol getræsten mac, sô gæbe ich umbe ir nîden kleine.

who me well comfort can, so would-give I for their envying little.

Ich wil al der werlte sweren ûf ir lîp:

I will to-all the world swear upon her body:

den eit sol si wol vernemen:

the oath shall she well hear:

sî mir ieman lieber, maget oder wîp,

(if)-be to-me anyone dearer, maiden or woman,

diu helle müeze mir gezemen.

the hell may to-me befit.

hât si nû deheine triuwe,

(if)-has she now any faith,

sô getrûwet si dem eide und entstêt mîns herzen riuwe.

so trusts she the oath and understands my heart's rue.

Hêren unde friunt, nû helfent an der zît:

Lords and friends, now help at the time:

daz ist ein ende, ez ist alsô.

that is an end, it is so.

ich enbiute iu mînen minneclîchen strît.

I announce to-you my lovely strife.

ja enwirde ich niemer rehte frô:

indeed become I never rightly glad:

mînes herzen tiefiu wunde

of-my heart deep wound

diu muoz iemer offên stên, si enküsse mich mit friundes munde.

it must ever open stand, she unless-kiss me with friend's mouth.

mînes herzen tiefiu wunde

of-my heart deep wound

diu muoz iemer offên stên, si enheiles ûf und ûz von grunde.

it must ever open stand, she unless-heal-it up and out from bottom.

mînes herzen tiefiu wunde

of-my heart deep wound

diu muoz iemer offên stên, sin werde heil von Hiltegunde.

it must ever open stand, unless-it become whole from Hiltegun.

Nemt, frowe, disen kranz

TAKE, LADY, THIS GARLAND

Five strophes ending in a dream. He offers a well-made maiden the garland to adorn the dance, and would set jewels on her head if he had them. She takes what he offers and blushes like the rose beside the lily. Since then he must look hard under the eyes of every maiden he passes; he would give her his chaplet, and they would pluck the flowers of the far heath together. Then it dawns.

74,20 'Nemt, frowe, disen kranz:'

'Take, lady, this garland.'

alsô sprach ich zeiner wol getânen maget:

so spoke I to-a well made maiden:

'sô zieret ir den tanz,

'so adorn you the dance,

mit den schoenen bluomen, als irs ûffe traget.

with the beautiful flowers, as you-them upon wear.

het ich vil edele gesteine,

had I very noble jewels,

daz müest ûf iuwer houbet,

that would-have-to upon your head,

obe ir mirs geloubet.

if you to-me-it believe.

sêt mîne triuwe, daz ichz meine.'

see my faith, that I-it mean.'

Si nam daz ich ir bôt,

She took what I to-her offered,

einem kinde vil gelîch daz êre hât.

to-a child very like that honor has.

ir wangen wurden rôt,

her cheeks became red,

same diu rôse, dâ si bî der liljen stât.

like the rose, where it by the lily stands.

do erschampten sich ir liechten ougen:

then grew-shy themselves her bright eyes:

dô neic si mir vil schône.

then bowed she to-me very beautifully.

daz wart mir ze lône:

that became to-me as reward:

wirt mirs iht mêr, daz trage ich tougen.

(if)-becomes to-me-of-it anything more, that bear I secretly.

Mir ist von ir geschehen,

To-me is from her happened,

daz ich disen sumer allen meiden muoz

that I this summer to-all maidens must

vast under dougen sehen:

hard under the-eyes look:

lîhte wirt mir mîniu: so ist mir sorgen buoz.

perhaps becomes to-me mine: so is to-me of-cares remedy.

waz obe si gêt an disem tanze?

what if she goes in this dance?

frowe, dur iuwer güete

lady, through your goodness

rucket ûf die hûete.

push up the hats.

owê gesæhe ichs under kranze!

alas would-see I-her under garland!

‘[Frowe,] ir sît sô wol getân,

‘[Lady,] you are so well made,

daz ich iu mîn schapel gerne geben wil,

that I to-you my chaplet gladly give will,

so ichz aller beste hân.

as I-it of-all best have.

wîzer unde rôter bluomen weiz ich vil:

of-white and of-red flowers know I many:

die stênt sô verre in jener heide.

they stand so far in yonder heath.

dâ si schône entspringent

where they beautifully spring-up

und die vogele singent,

and the birds sing,

dâ suln wir si brechen beide.’

there shall we them pluck both.’

Mich dûhte daz mir nie

To-me it-seemed that to-me never

lieber wurde, danne mir ze muote was.

dearer became, than to-me in spirit was.

die bluomen vielen ie

the flowers fell ever

von dem boume bî uns nider an daz gras.

from the tree by us down onto the grass.

seht, dô muost ich von fröiden lachen.

see, then had-to I for joys laugh.

do ich sô wünneclîche

when I so delightfully

was in troume rîche,

was in dream rich,

dô taget ez und muos ich wachen.

then dawned it and had-to I wake.

Diu welt was gelf, rôr unde blâ

THE WORLD WAS YELLOW, RED, AND BLUE

Five strophes on the coming of winter. The world was yellow, red, and blue, and the fog-crow now cries where it has turned pale and all gray. He sat on a green hill among flowers and clover, and frost and snow lie there now. Fools cry snow and the poor cry alas. He would eat a crab raw before living so, and asks summer to gladden him; and he would sooner be a monk at Doberlug.

Diu welt was gelf, rôr unde blâ,

The world was yellow, red and blue,

grûen in dem walde und anderswâ:

green in the wood and elsewhere:

die kleinen vogelesungen dâ.

the small birds sang there.

nû schriët aber diu nebelkrâ.

now cries however the fog-crow.

pfligt si iht ander varwe? jâ:

keeps she at-all other color? yes:

sist worden bleich und übergrâ.

she-is become pale and all-gray.

des rimpfet sich vil manic brâ.

of-that wrinkles itself very many-a brow.

Ich saz ûf eime grünen lê:

I sat upon a green bill:

da entsprungen bluomen unde klê

there sprang-up flowers and clover

zwischen mir und eime sê.

between me and a lake.

75,25

der ougenweide ist dâ niht mê.

of-the eye-pasture is there not more.

dâ wir schapel brâchen ê,

where we chaplets plucked before,

dâ lît nû rîfe und ouch der snê.

there lies now frost and also the snow.

daz tuot den vogellînen wê.

that does to-the little-birds woe.

Die tôren sprechent snîâ snî,

The fools say snow-oh snow,

die armen liute owê owî.

the poor people alas alas.

des bin ich swære alsam ein blî.

of-that am I heavy as a lead.

der wintersorge hân ich drî:

of-the winter-cares have I three:

swaz der unt der ander sî,

whatever the-one and the other be,

der wurde ich alse schiere frî,

of-them would-become I as soon free,

wær uns der sumer nâhe bî.

were to-us the summer near by.

E danne ich lange lebt alsô,

Before that I long lived so,

den krebz wolt ich ê ezzen rô.

the crab would I rather eat raw.

sumer, mache uns aber frô:

summer, make us again glad:

dû zierest anger unde lô.

thou adornest meadow and grove.

mit den bluomen spilt ich dô,
with the flowers played I then,
 mîn herze swebt in sunnen hô:
my heart floated in sun high:
 daz jaget der winter in ein strô.
that drives the winter into a straw.

Ich bin verlegen als ein sû:
I am grown-lazy as a sow:
 mîn sleht hâr ist mir worden rû.
my smooth hair is to-me become rough.
 sûezer sumer, wâ bist dû?
sweet summer, where art thou?
 jâ sâhe ich gerner veltgebû.
yes would-see I more-gladly field-tillage.
 ê daz ich lange in selher drû
before that I long in such trap
 beklemmet wære als ich bin nû,
pinched were as I am now,
 ich wurde ê mûnch ze Toberlû.
I would-become sooner monk at Doberlug.

Vil süeze wære minne

LOVE WOULD BE VERY SWEET

The crusade song, in four long strophes of short lines. God is asked to instruct weak minds and preserve Christendom; his blood has bathed them and unlocked heaven, so let them free the land that bore the Lord. This short life vanishes and death finds them sinful, and Mary is asked for lasting help. The flesh must perish if the reward is to be won; and Jerusalem is told to weep for being forgotten.

76,22 Vil süeze wære minne,

Very sweet were love,

berihthe kranke sinne.

instruct weak minds.

got, dur dîn anbeginne

God, through thy beginning

bewar die kristenheit.

preserve the Christendom.

dîn kunft ist frônebære

thy coming is majesty-bearing

übr al der welte swære.

over all of-the world grief.

der weisen barmenære,

of-the orphans pitier,

hilf rechen disiu leit.

help avenge these sorrows.

læser ûz den sünden,

releaser out-of the sins,

wir gern zen swebenden ünden.

we desire to-the floating waves.

uns mac dîn geist enzündē,

us may thy spirit kindle,

wirt riuwic herze erkant.

is repentant heart known.

dîn bluot hât uns begozzen,

thy blood has us bathed,

den himel ûf geslozzzen.

the heaven up unlocked.

nû læset unverdrozzzen

now release untiringly

daz hêrebernde lant.

the lord-bearing land.

verzinset lîp und eigen.

pay-tribute body and property.

got sol uns helfe erzeigen

God shall to-us help show

ûf den der manegen veigen

upon him who many-a doomed

der sêle hât gepfant.

of-the soul has distrained.

Diz kurze leben verswindet,

This short life vanishes,

der tôt uns sündic vindet:

the death us sinful finds:

swer sich ze gote gesindet,

whoever himself to God joins,

der mac der helle engân.

that-one may the hell escape.

bî swære ist gnâde funden.

by grief is mercy found.

nû heilent Kristes wunden,

now heal Christ's wounds,

sîn lant wirt schiere enbunden:

his land is soon freed:

dêst sicher sunder wân.

that-is certain without doubt.

küngîn ob allen frouwen,

queen above all ladies,

lâ wernde helfe schouwen.

let lasting help be-seen.

dîn kint wart dort verhouwen,

thy child was there cut-down,

sîn menscheit sich ergap.

his manhood itself surrendered.

sîn geist müez uns gefristen,

his spirit may us preserve,

daz wir die diet verlisten.

that we the people out-wit.

der touf si seit unkristen:

the baptism them declares unchristian:

wan fürhtent si den stap

why-not fear they the staff

der ouch die juden villet?

which also the Jews flays?

ir schrîen lûte erhillet.

their crying loudly resounds.

manc lop dem kriuze erschillet:

many-a praise to-the cross rings-out:

erlöesen wir daz grap!

deliver we the grave!

Diu menscheit muoz verderben,

The manhood must perish,

suln wir den lôn erwerben.

shall we the reward win.

got wolde dur uns sterben,

God would for us die,

sîn drô ist ûf gespart.

his threat is up saved.

sîn kriuze vil gehêret

his cross much exalted

hât maneges teil gemêret.

has of-many-a-one portion increased.

swer sich von zwîvel kêret,

whoever himself from doubt turns,

der hât den geist bewart.

that-one has the spirit preserved.

sündic lîp vergezzzen,

sinful body forgetful,

dir sint diu jâr gemezzzen:

to-thee are the years measured:

der tôt hât uns besezzzen

the death has us besieged

die veigen âne wer.

the doomed without defense.

nû hellent hin gelîche,

now press away alike,

daz wir daz himelrîche

that we the heaven-kingdom

erwerben sicherlîche

win surely

bî dulteclicher zer.

with patient expense.

got wil mit heldes handen

God will with hero's hands

dort rechen sînen anden.

there avenge his grievance.

sich schar von manegen landen

itself gather from many lands

den heilegestez her.

the holiest army.

Got, dîne helfe uns sende,

God, thy help to-us send,

mit dîner zesewen hende

with thy right hand

bewar uns an dem ende,

preserve us at the end,

sô uns der geist verlât,

when us the spirit leaves,

vor helleheizen wallen,

from hell-hot boiling,

daz wir dar in iht vallen.

that we there in not fall.

ez ist wol kunt uns allen,

it is well known to-us all,

wie jâmerlîch ez stât,

how piteously it stands,

daz hêre lant vil reine,

the noble land very pure,

gar helfelôs und eine.

wholly helpless and alone.

Ierusalêm, nû weine:

Jerusalem, now weep:

wie dîn vergezzen ist!

how of-thee forgotten is!

der heiden überhêre

the heathen over-proud

hât dich verschelket sêre.

has thee enslaved sorely.

dur dīner namen êre

for thy name's honor

lâ dich erbarmen, Krist,

let thee take-pity, Christ,

mit welher nôt si ringen,

with what distress they wrestle,

die dort den borgen dingen.

who there the castles contend-for.

dazs uns alsô betwingen,

that-they us so constrain,

daz wende in kurzer frist.

that turn-away in short time.

Der aneenge nie gewan
HE WHO NEVER HAD A BEGINNING

A long Ton of separate Sprüche. It opens on the God who never had a beginning, then the maiden whose son refuses her nothing, then the angels, who are neither seen nor heard and are told to harm the heathen first. Kinship without friends is a feeble thanks; the slippery friend is rolled away like a ball; the six that would be sevened must stand as a three; and love never came into a false heart.

78,24 Der aneenge nie gewan
Who beginning never had
und aneenge machen kan,
and beginning make can,
der kan wol ende machen und ân ende
he can well end make and without end
sît daz allez stêt in sîner hende,
since that all stands in his hand,
wer wære danne lobes sô wol wert?
who were then of-praise so well worthy?
der sî der êrste in mîner wîse:
he be the first in my tune:
sîn lop gêt vor allem prîse:
his praise goes before all glory:
daz lop ist sælic, des er gert.
that praise is blessed, which he desires.

Nû loben wir die süezen maget,
Now praise we the sweet maiden,
der ir sun niemer niht versaget.
to-whom her son never anything refuses.

si ist des muoter, der von helle uns lôste:

she is of-him mother, who from hell us released:

daz ist uns ein trôst vor allem trôste,

that is to-us a comfort before all comfort,

daz man dâ ze himel ir willen tuot.

that one there in heaven her will does.

nû dar, die alten mit den jungen,

now thither, the old with the young,

daz ir werde lop gesungen.

that to-her be praise sung.

sist guot ze lobenne, sie ist guot.

she-is good to praise, she is good.

Ich solt iuch engele grüezen ouch,

I should you angels greet also,

wan daz ich bin niht gar ein gouch:

save that I am not wholly a fool:

waz habet ir der heiden noch zerstœret?

what have you of-the heathen yet destroyed?

sît iuch nieman siht noch nieman hœret,

since you no-one sees nor anyone hears,

sagent, waz hânt ir noch dar zuo getân?

say, what have you yet there to done?

möht ich got stille als ir gerechen,

could I God silently as you avenge,

mit wem solt ich mich besprechen?

with whom should I myself confer?

ich wolte iuch hêrren ruowen lân.

I would you lords rest let.

79,1

Hêr Michahêl, hêr Gabriêl,

Sir Michael, sir Gabriel,

hêr tiufels vîent Raphahêl,

sir devil's foe Raphael,

ir pflegent wîsheit sterke und arzenîe,

you keep wisdom strength and medicine,

dar zuo hânt ir engelkœre drîe,

there to have you angel-choirs three,

die mit willen leistent iwer gebot:

who with will perform your command:

welt ir mîn lop, sô sint bescheiden

(if)-want you my praise, so be discerning

und schadent allerêrst den heiden:

and harm first-of-all the heathen:

lopt ich iuch ê, daz wære ir spot.

praised I you before, that were their mockery.

79,17 Man hôhgemâc, an friunden kranc,

A-man high-kindred, in friends weak,

daz ist ein swacher habedanc:

that is a feeble thanks:

baz gehilfet friuntschaft âne sippe.

better helps friendship without kinship.

lâ einen sîn geborn von küneges rippe:

let one be born from king's rib:

er enhabe friunt, waz hilfet daz?

he unless-have friends, what helps that?

mâgschaft ist ein selbwahsen êre:

kinship is a self-grown honor:

sô muoz man friunde verdienen sêre.

so must one friends earn sorely.

mâc hilfet wol, friunt verre baz.

kinsman helps well, friend far better.

Swer sich ze friunde gewinnen lât

Whoever himself as friend win lets

79,25

und ouch dâ bî die tugende hât

and also there by the virtue has

daz er sich âne wanken lât behalten,

that he himself without wavering lets keep,

des friundes mac man gerne schône walten.

of-that friend may one gladly beautifully dispose.

ich hân eteswenne friunt erkorn

I have sometimes a-friend chosen

sô sinewel an sîner stæte,

so round in his constancy,

swie gerne ich in behalten hæte,

however gladly I him kept had,

daz ich in müeste hân verlorn.

that I him had-to have lost.

Swer mir ist slipfic als ein îs

Whoever to-me is slippery as an ice

79,33

und mich ûf hebt in balles wîs,

and me up lifts in ball's manner,

sinewell ich dem in sînen handen,

round-roll I to-him in his hands,

daz sol zunstæte nieman an mir anden,

that shall as-inconstancy no-one on me resent,

sît ich dem getriuwen friunde bin

since I to-the faithful friend am

einloetic unde wol gevieret.

of-one-alloy and well squared.

swes muot mir ist sô vêch gezieret,

whose spirit to-me is so mottled adorned,

nû sus nû sô, den walge ich hin.

now thus now so, him roll I away.

80,3 Sich wolte ein ses gesibent hân
Itself would a six sevened have
 ûf einen hôhvertigen wân:
upon a haughty fancy:
 sus strebte ez sêre nâch der übermâze.
thus strove it sorely after the over-measure.
 swer der mâze brechen wil ir strâze,
whoever of-the measure break will her road,
 dem gevellet lîhte ein enger pfat.
to-him falls perhaps a narrow path.
 hôhvertic ses, nû stant gedrîet!
haughty six, now stand threed!
 dir was zem sese ein velt gefrîet:
to-thee was at-the six a field freed:
 nû smiuc dich an der drîen stat.
now squeeze thyself into the threë's place.

80,11 Swelch hêre nieman niht versaget,
Whatever lord to-no-one anything refuses,
 der ist an gebender kunst verschraget:
he is in giving art barred:
 der muoz iemer nôtic sîn ald triegen.
he must ever needy be or deceive.
 zehen versagen sint bezzer danne ein liegen.
ten refusals are better than one lying.
 geheize minre unde grüeze baz,
promise less and greet better,
 well er ze rehte umb êre sorgen.
(if)-will he in right for honor care.
 swes er niht müge ûz geborgen
whatever he not can out lend
 noch selbe enhabe, versage doch daz.
nor himself have, refuse yet that.

Unmâze, nim dich beidiu an,

Unmeasure, take thyself both to,

80,19

manlîchiu wîp, wîplîche man:

manly women, womanly men:

pfaflîche ritter, ritterlîche pfaffen,

priestly knights, knightly priests,

mit den solt dû dînen willen schaffen:

with those shalt thou thy will work:

ich wil dir si gar ze stiure geben,

I will to-thee them wholly as endowment give,

und alte junghêrren für eigen:

and old young-lords as property:

ich wil dir junge althêrren zeigen,

I will to-thee young old-lords show,

daz si dir twerhes helfen leben.

that they to-thee crosswise help live.

Ich bin dem Bogenære holt

I am to-the Bogener favorable

80,27

gar âne gâbe und âne solt:

wholly without gift and without pay:

er ist milte, swie klein ichs geniuze.

he is bountiful, however little I-of-it enjoy.

sô nieze in aber ein Pôlân alde ein Riuze:

so enjoy him however a Pole or a Russian:

daz ist allez âne mînen haz.

that is all without my hate.

in bræhte ein meister baz ze mære

him would-bring a master better to fame

danne tûsent snarrenzære,

than a-thousand fiddlers,

tæt er den hovewerden baz.

did he to-the court-worthy better.

80,35 Den diemant den edelen stein
The diamond the noble stone
 gap mir der schœnen ritter ein:
gave to-me of-the fairest knights one:
 âne bete wart mir diu gâbe sîne.
without asking became to-me the gift his.
 jô lob ich niht die schœne nâch dem schîne:
indeed praise I not the beauty after the appearance:
 milter man ist schœne und wol gezogen.
bountiful man is beautiful and well bred.
 man sol die inre tugent ûz kêren:
one shall the inner virtue out turn:
 sô ist daz ûzer lop nâch êren,
so is the outer praise after honor,
 sam des von Katzenellenbogen.
like of-him of Katzenelnbogen.

81,7 Wer sleht den lewen? wer sleht den risen?
Who slays the lion? who slays the giant?
 wer überwindet jenen unt disen?
who overcomes that-one and this-one?
 daz tuot jener der sich selber twinget
that does he who himself self constrains
 und alliu sîniu lit in huote bringet
and all his limbs into keeping brings
 ûz der wilde in stæter zûhte habe.
out-of the wildness into constant breeding's haven.
 geligeniu zuht und schame vor gessen
feigned breeding and shame before guests
 mugen wol eine wîle erglesten:
may well a while glitter:
 der schîn nimt drâte ûf unt abe.
the shine takes quickly up and down.

Wolveile unwirdet manegen lîp.

81,15

Cheapness dishonors many-a person.

ir werden man, ir reiniu wîp,

you worthy men, you pure women,

niht ensît durch kranke miete veile.

not be for feeble payment for-sale.

ez muoz sêre stên an iuerm heile,

it must sorely stand on your welfare,

welt ir iuch vergeben vinden lân.

(if)-want you yourselves for-nothing find let.

zundanke veile unwirdet sêre:

thanklessly for-sale dishonors sorely:

dâ bî sô swachet iuwer êre,

there by so weakens your honor,

und ziuhet doch ûf smæhen wân.

and draws yet on contemptible fancy.

Swelch man wirt âne muot ze rîch,

81,23

Whatever man becomes without spirit too rich,

wil er ze sêre striuzen sich

(if)-wants he too sorely puff himself

ûf sîne rîchheit, sô wirt er ze hêre.

upon his riches, so becomes he too proud.

ze rîch und zarm diu leschent beide sêre

too rich and too-poor these quench both sorely

an sumelîchen liuten rehten muot.

in some people right spirit.

swâ übric rîchheit zühte slucket

wherever excessive riches breeding swallows

und übric armuot sinne zucket,

and excessive poverty senses snatches,

dâ dunket mich enwederz guot.

there seems to-me neither good.

81,31 Diu minne ist weder man noch wîp,
The love is neither man nor woman,

si hât noch sêle noch den lîp,
she has neither soul nor the body,

sie gelîchet sich dekeinem bilde.
she likens herself to-no image.

ir nam ist kunt, si selbe ist aber wilde,
her name is known, she herself is however strange,

unde enkan doch nieman âne sie
and can yet no-one without her

der gotes hulden niht gewinnen
of-the God's favor — win

...

(lacuna)

si kam in valschez herze nie.
she came into false heart never.

82,3 Ez ist in unsern kurzen tagen
It is in our short days

nâch minne valsches vil geslagen:
after love of-falsehood much coined:

swer aber ir insigel rehte erkande,
whoever however her seal rightly knew,

dem setze ich mîne wârheit des ze pfande,
to-him set I my truth of-that as pledge,

wolt er ir geleite volgen mite,
would he her escort follow with,

daz in unfuoge niht erslüege.
that him unfitness not would-slay.

minn ist ze himel sô gefüege,
love is to heaven so fitting,

daz ich si dar geleites bite.
that I her thither of-escort ask.

Rît ze hove, Dietrich
RIDE TO COURT, DIETRICH

A long Ton that begins with a horse lent to Dietrich, who would sooner ride Gerhart Atze. Its center is the lament for Reinmar, whose good art has perished: the singer laments the art and not the man, since Reinmar could increase the whole world's joy. Then the court where the high go low and the low are snatched into high council, the six counsels good and bad, and three cares, the last of them Vienna.

Rît ze hove, Dietrich.

82,11

Ride to court, Dietrich.

‘hêrre, in mac.’ waz irret dich?

‘lord, I-not can.’ what hinders thee?

‘in hân niht rosses daz ich dar gerîte.’

‘I have not of-horse that I thither may-ride.’

ich lih dir einz, und wilt dû daz.

I lend to-thee one, if wilt thou that.

‘hêrre, gerîte al deste baz.’

‘lord, I-would-ride all the better.’

nû stant alsô noch eine wîle, bîte.

now stand so yet a while, wait.

wedr rîtest gerner eine guldîn katzen,

which ridest more-gladly a golden cat,

ald einen wunderlîchen Gêrhart Atzen?

or a strange Gerhart Atze?

‘semir got, und æze ez hœi, ez wær ein frömdez pfert.

‘so-help-me God, if ate it hay, it were a strange horse.

im gênt diu ougen umbe als einem affen,

to-him go the eyes around as to-an ape,

er ist als ein guggaldei geschaffen.

he is like a harlequin fashioned.

den selben Atzen gebent mir her: sô bin ich wol gewert.'

the same Atze give to-me here: so am I well satisfied.'

nû krümbe dîn bein, rît selbe har hein, sit du Atzen hâst gegert.

now bend thy leg, ride thyself here home, since thou Atze hast desired.

82,24 Owê daz wîsheit unde jugent,

Alas that wisdom and youth,

des mannes schœne noch sîn tugent,

of-the man beauty nor his virtue,

niht erben sol, sô ie der lîp erstirbet!

not be-inherited shall, when ever the body dies!

daz mac wol klagen ein wîser man,

that may well lament a wise man,

der sich des schaden versinnen kan,

who himself of-the harm bethink can,

Reimât, waz guoter kunst an dir verdirbet.

Reinmar, what of-good art in thee perishes.

dû solt von schulden iemer des geniezen,

thou shalt with cause ever of-that enjoy,

daz dich des tages wolte nie verdriezen,

that thee in-the day would never weary,

dun sprâches ie den frowen wol ...

thou spokest ever of-the ladies well (lacuna)

des sün si iemer danken dîner zungen.

of-that shall they ever thank thy tongue.

hetst anders niht wan eine rede gesungen,

hadst-thou otherwise nothing save one speech sung,

'sô wol dir, wîp, wie reine ein nam!,' dû hetest alsô gestriten

'so hail to-thee, woman, how pure a name!,' thou hadst so striven

an ir lop daz elliu wîp dir gnâden solten biten.

for their praise that all women for-thee mercy should ask.

Dêswâr, Reimâr, dû riuwes mich

Truly, Reinmar, thou grievest me

michels harter danne ich dich,

much harder than I thee,

ob dû lebtes und ich wær erstorben.

if thou livedst and I were dead.

ich wilz bî mînen triuwen sagen,

I will-it by my faith say,

dich selben wolt ich lützel klagen:

thee self would I little lament:

ich klage dîn edelen kunst, daz sist verdorben.

I lament thy noble art, that it-is perished.

dû kundest al der werlte fröide mêren,

thou couldst to-all the world joy increase,

sô duz ze guoten dingen woltes kêren.

when thou-it to good things wouldst turn.

mich riuwet dîn wol redender munt und dîn vil süezer sanc,

me grieves thy well speaking mouth and thy very sweet song,

daz die verdorben sint bî mînen zîten

that they perished are in my times

daz dû niht eine wîle mohtest bîten!

that thou not a while couldst wait!

sô leiste ich dir geselleschaft: mîn singen ist niht lanc.

so would-give I to-thee companionship: my singing is not long.

dîn sêle müeze wol gevarn, und habe dîn zunge danc.

thy soul may well fare, and have thy tongue thanks.

Swâ der hôhe nider gât

Wherever the high low goes

und ouch der nider an hôhen rât

and also the low into high council

gezucket wirt, dâ ist der hof verirret.

snatched is, there is the court gone-astray.

wie sol ein unbescheiden man

how shall an undiscerning man

bescheiden des er niht enkan?

decide what he not can?

sol er mir bûezen des mir niht enwirret?

shall he to-me remedy what to-me not troubles?

wes stênt die hôhen vor den kemenâten?

why stand the high before the chambers?

sô suln die nidern umb daz rîche râten.

so shall the low about the realm counsel.

swâ den gebrichet an der kunst, seht, dâ tuont si niht mê

wherever to-them fails in the art, see, there do they not more

wan daz siz umbe werfent an ein triegen:

save that they-it about throw into a deceiving:

daz lêrent si die fürsten, unde liegen.

that teach they the princes, and lie.

die selben brechent uns diu reht und stœrent unser ê

the same break to-us the rights and disturb our law

nû sehent wie diu krône lige und wie diu kirche stê.

now see how the crown lies and how the church stands.

83,27 Ich muoz verdienen swachen haz:

I must earn base hate:

ich wil die hêrren lêren daz,

I will the lords teach that,

wies iegeslîchen rât wol mûgen erkennen.

how-they each counsel well may know.

der guoten ræte der sint drî:

of-the good counsels there are three:

drî ander bœse stênt dâ bî

three other bad stand there by

zer linggen hant. lât iu die sehse nennen.

at-the left hand. let to-you the six be-named.

frum unde gotes hulde und weltlich êre,
profit and God's favor and worldly honor,

daz sint die guoten: wol im der si lêre!
those are the good: hail to-him who them teach!

den möht ein keiser nemen wol an sînen hôhsten rât.
him might an emperor take well into his highest council.

die andern heizent schade sünde und schande.
the others are-called harm sin and disgrace.

da erkennnes bî der sie ê niht erkande.
there know-them by who them before not knew.

wan hæret an der rede wol wiez umb daz herze stât.
for one-hears in the speech well how-it about the heart stands.

daz anegenge ist selten guot, daz bösez ende hât.
the beginning is seldom good, that evil end has.

- 84,1 Drî sorge habe ich mir genomen:
Three cares have I to-me taken:
- möht ich der einer zende komen,
could I of-them one to-end come,
- sô wære wol getân ze mînen dingen.
so were well done for my affairs.
- iedoch swaz mir dâ von geschiht,
yet whatever to-me there from happens,
- in scheid ir von ein ander niht:
I part them from one another not:
- mir mag an allen drin noch wol gelingen.
to-me may in all three yet well succeed.
- gotes hulde und mîner frowen minne,
God's favor and of-my lady love,
- dar umbe sorge ich, wie ich die gewinne:
there for care I, how I them win:
- daz dritte hât sich mîn erwert unrehte manegen tac.
the third has itself of-me defended wrongly many-a day.
- daz ist der wünneclîche hof ze Wiene:
that is the delightful court at Vienna:
- in hirne niemer unz ich den verdiene,
I rest never until I it earn,
- sît er sô maneger tugende mit sô stæter triuwe pflac.
since it so many-a virtue with so constant faith kept.
- man sach Liupoltes hant dâ geben, daz si des niht erschrac.
one saw Leopold's hand there give, that it of-it not shrank.

Si frâgent mich vil dicke, waz ich habe gesehen

THEY ASK ME VERY OFTEN WHAT I HAVE SEEN

Six Sprüche of news from the courts. He does not like to lie and will tell half the truth: justice was good at Nuremberg, and the wandering folk's bags went away empty. He trots three kinds of song, high, low, and middle, and none can please all. The emperor's candle has singed their brows; the bishop of Cologne is praised; the murdered prince is mourned; and the young landgrave has three virtues and needs a fourth.

Si frâgent mich vil dicke, waz ich habe gesehen,

84,14

They ask me very often, what I have seen,

swenn ich von hove rîte, und waz dâ sî geschehen.

whenever I from court ride, and what there be happened.

ich liuge ungerne, und wil der wârheit halber niht verjehen.

I lie unwillingly, and will of-the truth half not declare.

ze Nüerenberc was guot gerihte, daz sage ich ze mære.

at Nuremberg was good justice, that say I as news.

umb ir milte frâget varndez volc: daz kan wol spehen.

about their bounty ask wandering folk: that can well spy.

die seiten mir, ir malhen schieden danne lære:

they said to-me, their bags departed thence empty:

unser heimschen fürsten sîn sô hovebære,

our native princes be so court-worthy,

daz Liupolt eine müeste geben, wan dêr ein gast dâ wære.

that Leopold alone must give, save he a guest there were.

Ich drabe dâ her vil rehte drîer slahte sanc,

84,22

I trot there along very rightly of-three kinds song,

den hôhen und den nidern und den mittelswanc,

the high and the low and the middle-swing,

daz mir die rederîche iegeslîche sagen danc.

that to-me the eloquent each say thanks.

wie kônd ich der drîer eime nû ze dank gesingen?

how could I of-the three to-one now to thanks sing?

der hôhe der ist mir ze starc, der nider gar ze kranc,

the high it is for-me too strong, the low wholly too weak,

der mittel gar ze spæhe an disen twerhen dingen.

the middle wholly too subtle in these crosswise things.

nû hilf mir, edelr kûneges rât, da enzwischen dringen,

now help me, noble king's counselor, there between press,

daz wir als ê ein ungehazzet liet zesamene bringen.

that we as before an unbated song together bring.

84,30 Von Rôme keiser hêre, ir hânt alsô getân

Of Rome emperor noble, you have thus done

ze mînen dingen, daz ich iu muoz danken lân:

to my affairs, that I to-you must thank let:

in kan iu selbe niht gedanken als ich willen hân.

I can to-you myself not thank as I will have.

ir hânt iuwer kerzen kûndeclichen mir gesendet.

you have your candle cunningly to-me sent.

diu hât unser hâr vil gar besenget an den brân,

it has our hair very wholly singed at the brows,

unde hât ouch uns der ougen vil erblendet:

and has also to-us of-the eyes many blinded:

doch hânt si mir des wîzen alle vil gewendet.

yet have they to-me of-the white all much turned.

sus mîn frum und iuwer êre ir schilhen hât geschendet.

thus my profit and your honor their squinting has disgraced.

Von Kölne werder bischof, sint von schulden frô.

85,1

Of Cologne worthy bishop, be with cause glad.

ir hânt dem rîche wol gedienet, und alsô

you have to-the realm well served, and so

daz iuwer lop da enzwischen stîget unde sweibet hô.

that your praise there between climbs and soars high.

sî iuwer werdekeit dekeinen böesen zagen swære,

(if)-be your worth to-any wicked coward grievous,

fürsten meister, daz sî iu als ein unnütze drô.

of-princes master, that be to-you as a useless threat.

getriuwer küneges pflegære, ir sît hôher mære,

faithful king's guardian, you are of-high fame,

keisers êren trôst baz danne ie kancelære,

of-emperor's honor comfort better than ever chancellor,

drîer küneger und einlif tûsent megde kamerære.

of-three kings and eleven thousand maidens chamberlain.

Swes leben ich lobe, des tôt den wil ich iemer klagen.

85,9

Whose life I praise, his death that will I ever lament.

sô wê im der den werden fürsten habe erslagen

so woe to-him who the worthy prince has slain

von Kölne! owê des daz in diu erde mac getragen!

of Cologne! alas of-that that him the earth can bear!

ine kan im nâch sîner schulde keine marter vinden:

I can for-him after his guilt no torment find:

im wære alze senfte ein eichîn wit umb sînen kragen,

to-him were all-too soft an oaken withe about his neck,

in wil sîn ouch niht brennen noch zerlîden noch schinden

I will him also not burn nor dismember nor flay

noch mit dem rade zerbrechen noch ouch dar ûf binden:

nor with the wheel break nor also there upon bind:

ich warte allez ob diu helle in lebende welle slinden.

I wait always whether the hell him living will swallow.

85,17 Swer an des edeln lantgrâven râte sî,
Whoever in of-the noble landgrave's counsel be,
 dur sîne hübscheit, er sî dienstman oder frî,
through his courtliness, he be liegeman or free,
 der mane in umb mîn lêren sô daz ich in spür dâ bî
he admonish him about my teaching so that I him trace there by
 mîn junger hêrre ist milt erkant, man seit mir er sî stæte,
my young lord is bountiful known, one says to-me he be constant,
 dar zuo wol gezogen: daz sint gelobter tugende drî:
there to well bred: those are of-praised virtues three:
 ob er die vierden tugent willeclîchen tæte,
if he the fourth virtue willingly did,
 sô gienge er ebne und daz er selten missetræte;
so would-go he evenly and that he seldom would-misstep;
 wær unsûmic. sûmunge schât dem snit und schât der sæte.
were undelaying. delay harms the harvest and harms the sowing.

Ich sach hie vor eteswenne den tac

I ONCE SAW THE DAY

One Spruch on a time now past. He once saw the day when his people's praise was common to all tongues, and any land lying near them either sought peace or was subdued. Then the old counseled and the young acted, and they strove after honor together. Now the judges are crooked, and the parable is blind to look at; he leaves it to a master to find whatever may come of it.

Ich sach hie vor eteswenne den tac,

I saw here before sometime the day,

daz unser lop was gemein allen zungen.

that our praise was common to-all tongues.

swâ uns dehein lant iender nâhe lac,

wherever to-us any land anywhere near lay,

daz gerte suone oder ez was betwungen.

it desired peace or it was subdued.

rîcher got, wie wir nâch êren dô rungen!

mighty God, how we after honors then strove!

dô rieten die alten, und tâten die jungen.

then counseled the old, and acted the young.

nû krumb die rihter sint, —

now crooked the judges are,—

(diz bîspel ist ze merkenne blint)

(this parable is to observe blind)

swaz nû dâ von geschehe, meister, daz vint.

whatever now there from happen, master, that find.

85,25

Frowe'n lâ't iuch niht verdriezen

LADY, LET IT NOT VEX YOU

A dialogue in five strophes, hers alternating with his and the last shared. He asks whether goodness goes with her shapeliness, for then what honor would lie in her alone. She grants him leave to speak, if it does not drive her mad, and answers that a fair body avails nothing without sense. He teaches her how a woman should live in the world; she offers to be his speech-companion only, and says she means to live longer.

85,34 Frowe'n lâ't iuch niht verdriezen

Lady let you not be-vexed

mîner rede, ob si gefüege sî.

of-my speech, if it fitting be.

möhte ichs wider iuch geniezen,

might I-of-it toward you profit,

sô wær ich den besten gerne bî.

so were I to-the best gladly by.

wizzet daz ir schoene sît:

know that you beautiful are:

hât ir, als ich mich verwæne,

(if)-have you, as I myself suppose,

güete bî der wolgetæne,

goodness by the well-shapedness,

waz danne an iu einer êren lît!

what then in you alone of-honors lies!

‘Ich wil iu ze redenne gunnen

I will to-you to speak grant

(sprechent swaz ir welt), obe ich niht tobe.

(say whatever you want), if I not rage.

daz hât ir mir an gewonnen

that have you from-me on won

mit dem iuvern minneclîchen lobe.

with the your lovely praise.

ichn weiz obe ich schœne bin,

I-not know whether I beautiful am,

gerne hete ich wîbes gûete.

gladly would-have I woman's goodness.

lêrt mich wie ich die behûete:

teach me how I it guard:

schœner lîp entouc niht âne sin.'

beautiful body avails not without sense.'

Frowe, daz wil ich iuch lêren,

Lady, that will I you teach,

wie ein wîp der werlte leben sol.

how a woman for-the world live shall.

guote liute sult ir êren,

good people shall you honor,

minneclîch an sehen und grûezen wol:

lovingly at look and greet well:

eime sult ir iuvern lîp

to-one shall you your person

geben für eigen, nement den sînen.

give as property, take the his.

frowe, woltent ir den mînen,

lady, would you the mine,

den gæb ich umb ein sô schœne wîp.

it would-give I for a so beautiful woman.

‘Beide schowen unde grüezen,

‘Both looking and greeting,

swaz ich mich dar an versûmet hân,

whatever I myself there in neglected have,

daz wil ich vil gerne bûezen.

that will I very gladly amend.

ir hânt hovelîch an mir getân:

you have courteously to me done:

tuont durch mînen willen mê,

do for my sake more,

sît niht wan mîn redegeselle.

be nothing save my speech-companion.

in weiz nieman dem ich welle

I know no-one from-whom I would

nemen den lîp: ez tæte im lîhte wê.’

take the life: it would-do to-him perhaps woe.’

Frowe, lânt michz alsô wâgen:

Lady, let me-it thus venture:

ich bin dicke komen ûz grôzer nôt:

I am often come out-of great distress:

unde lânts iuch niht betrâgen:

and let-it you not weary:

stirbe ab ich, sô bin ich sanfte tôt.

(if)-die however I, so am I gently dead.

‘hêre, ich wil noch langer leben.

‘lord, I will yet longer live.

lîhte ist iu der lîp unmære:

perhaps is to-you the life indifferent:

waz bedorfte ich solher swære,

what would-need I such grief,

solt ich mînen lîp umb iuwern geben?’

should I my life for yours give?’

Nieman kan mit gerten

NO ONE CAN HARDEN A CHILD'S BREEDING

Six strophes, each running forward through its lines and then back through them. No one hardens a child's breeding with rods, and a word is a blow to the man who can be brought to honor. Guard your tongues and bolt the door against an evil word; guard your eyes for good manners; guard your ears, or evil words dishonor your mind. And no one is a knight who lacks spirit, body, or goods.

87,1 Nieman kan mit gerten

No-one can with rods

den man zêren bringen mac,

whom one to-honor bring can,

dem ist ein wort als ein slac,

to-him is a word as a blow,

kindes zuht beherten

child's breeding harden

kindes zuht beherten:

child's breeding harden:

dem ist ein wort als ein slac.

to-him is a word as a blow.

den man zêren bringen mac:

whom one to-honor bring can:

nieman kan mit gerten.

no-one can with rods.

Hüetent iuwer zungen:

Guard your tongues:

stôz den rigel für die tür,

thrust the bolt before the door,

lâ kein böese wort dar für,

let no evil word there before,

daz zimt wol dien jungen.

that befits well the young.

daz zimt wol dien jungen.

that befits well the young.

lâ kein böese wort dar für.

let no evil word there before.

stôz den rigel für die tür:

thrust the bolt before the door:

hüetent iuwer zungen.

guard your tongues.

Hüetent iuwer ougen

Guard your eyes

lânt si guote site spehen

let them good manners spy

und die böesen übersehen

and the bad overlook

offenbâr und tougen:

openly and secretly:

offenbâr und tougen,

openly and secretly,

und die böesen übersehen.

and the bad overlook.

lânt si, guote site spehen

let them, good manners spy

hüetent iuwer ougen.

guard your eyes.

Hüetent iuwer ôren,

Guard your ears,

lânt ir böesiu wort dar in,

(if)-let you evil words there in,

daz gunêret iu den sin,

that dishonors to-you the mind,

oder ir sint tôren.

or you are fools.

oder ir sint tôren.

or you are fools.

daz gunêret iu den sin.

that dishonors to-you the mind.

lânt ir böesiu wort dar in,

let you evil words there in,

hüetent iuwer ôren.

guard your ears.

Hüetent wol der drîer

Guard well of-the three

zungen ougen ôren sint

tongues eyes ears are

dicke schalchaft, zêren blint,

often knavish, to-honor blind,

leider alze frîer

alas all-too free

leider alze frîer.

alas all-too free.

dicke schalchaft, zêren blint.

often knavish, to-honor blind.

zungen ougen ôren sint.

tongues eyes ears are.

hüetent wol der drîer.

guard well of-the three.

Nieman ritter wesen mac

No-one knight be can

im gebreste muotes,

to-him lack of-spirit,

libes, alder guotes

of-body, or of-goods

drîzec jâr und einen tac

thirty years and one day

drîzec jâr und einen tac,

thirty years and one day,

libes, alder guotes.

of-body, or of-goods.

im gebreste muotes

to-him lack of-spirit

nieman ritter wesen mac.

no-one knight be can.

Friwentlîchen lac

LOVINGLY LAY A KNIGHT

A day-song told as a dialogue, the knight's speeches and the lady's set apart in twelve blocks. He lies in her arms and sees the morning through the clouds; she curses the day that will not let her keep him. He says they must part, for the morning star has made it bright; she begs him not to hasten. He stays to speak, and they will deceive the watch again. He goes at last longing, and she is left weeping.

Friwentlîchen lac

Lovingly lay

an einer frowen arme.

in a lady's arm.

do er in dur diu wolken

when he it through the clouds

diu frowe in leide sprach

the lady in sorrow spoke

daz dû mich lâst bî liebe

that thou me lettest by love

daz si dâ heizent minne,

what they there call love,

ein rîter vil gemeit

a knight very merry

er kôs den morgen lieht,

he saw the morning bright,

sô verre schînen sach.

so far shine saw.

‘wê geschehe dir, tac,

‘woe befall to-thee, day,

langer blîben nieht.

longer remain not.

deis niewan senede leit.’

that-is nothing-save longing sorrow.’

88,9

‘Friwendinne mîn,

‘Beloved mine,

dû solt dîn trûren lân.

thou shalt thy mourning leave.

ich wil mich von dir scheiden:

I will myself from thee part:

daz ist uns beiden guot.

that is for-us both good.

ez hât der morgensterne

it has the morning-star

gemachet hinne licht.'

made herein bright.'

'mîn friunt, nû tuo des nieht,

'my friend, now do that not,

lâ die rede sîn,

let the speech be,

daz dû mir iht sô sêre

that thou to-me at-all so sorely

beswærest mînen muot.

burdenest my spirit.

war gâhest alsô balde?

whither hastenest so quickly?

ez ist niht wol getân.'

it is not well done.'

'Frowe mîn, nû sich,

'Lady mine, now see,

ich wil belîben baz.

I will remain longer.

nû rede in kurzen zîten

now speak in short times

allez daz dû wil,

all that thou wilt,

daz wir unser huote

that we our watch

triegen aber als ê.'

deceive again as before.'

‘mîn friunt, daz tuot mir wê,
‘my friend, that does to-me woe,

ê bî dir aber ich
before by thee again I

gelige. mîner swære
lie. of-my grief

derst leider alze vil.
that-is alas all-too much.

nû mît mich niht ze lange:
now avoid me not too long:

vil lieb ist mir daz.’
very dear is to-me that.’

‘Daz muoz alsô geschehen
‘That must so happen

daz ich es niene mac,
that I it not-at-all can,

sol ich dich, frowe, mîden
shall I thee, lady, avoid

eines tages lanc:
one day long:

sô enkumt mîn herze
so comes my heart

doch niemer von dir.’
yet never from thee.’

‘mîn friunt, nû volge mir.
‘my friend, now follow me.

dû solt mich schiere sehen,
thou shalt me soon see,

ob dû mir sîst mit triuwen

if thou to-me art with faith

stæte sunder wanc.

constant without wavering.

owê der ougenweide!

alas of-the eye-delight!

nû kius ich den tac.'

now see I the day.'

'Waz helfent bluomen rôd,

'What help flowers red,

sît ich nû hinnen sol?

since I now hence shall?

vil liebiu friundinne,

very dear beloved,

die sint unmære mir,

they are indifferent to-me,

reht als den vogellînen

right as to-the little-birds

die winterkalten tage.'

the winter-cold days.'

'friunt, dêst ouch mîn klage

'friend, that-is also my lament

und mir ein wernde nôd.

and to-me a lasting distress.

jon weiz ich niht ein ende,

indeed know I not an end,

wie lange ich dîn enbir.

how long I of-thee lack.

nû lige eht eine wîle:

now lie just a while:

son tæť dũ nie sô wol.'

so didst thou never so well.'

'Frouwe, ez ist zît:

'Lady, it is time:

gebiut mir, lâ mich varn.

command me, let me go.

jâ tuon ichs dur dîn êre,

yes do I-it for thy honor,

daz ich von hinnen ger.

that I from hence desire.

der wahtære diu tageliet

the watchman the day-songs

sô lûte erhaben hât.'

so loudly raised has.'

'friunt, wie wirt es rât?

'friend, how becomes of-it remedy?

dâ lâze ich dir den strît.

there leave I to-thee the strife.

owê des urloubes,

alas of-the leave-taking,

des ich dich hinnen wer!

which I thee hence grant!

von dem ich habe die sêle,

from whom I have the soul,

der müeze dich bewarn.'

he may thee preserve.'

Der rîter dannen schiet:

The knight thence parted:

dô sente sich sîn lîp,

then longed itself his person,

und liez ouch sêre weinde

and left also sorely weeping

die schoenen frowen guot.

the beautiful lady good.

doch galt er ir mit triuwen

yet repaid he to-her with faith

dazs ime vil nâhe lac.

that-she to-him very near lay.

si sprach 'swer ie gepflac

she spoke 'whoever ever practiced

ze singen tageliet

to sing day-songs

mir, der wil wider morgen

to-me, he will toward morning

beswâren mînen muot.

burden my spirit.

nû lige ich liebes âne

now lie I of-love without

reht als ein senede wîp.'

right as a longing woman.'

Ane liep sô manic leit
WITHOUT LOVE, SO MANY SORROWS

Five strophes of complaint. Without love there is so much sorrow that he would cry out for fortune, if fortune heard anything or looked gladly at whoever keeps faith. The men do so ill, and that is the women's fault, for once their spirit stood on honor. The more breeding he brings to the ladies the less worth he gains; and he will give up his song unless the world stands better soon.

Ane liep sô manic leit,

Without love so many-a sorrow,

90,15

wer möhte daz erlîden iemer mê?

who could that endure ever more?

wær ez niht unhövescheit,

were it not uncourtliness,

sô wolt ich schriên 'sê, gelücke, sê!'

so would I cry 'lo, fortune, lo!'

gelücke daz enhæret niht

fortune it bears not

und selten ieman gerne siht,

and seldom anyone gladly sees,

swer triuwe hât.

whoever faith has.

ist ez alsô, wie sol mân [danne] iemer werden râ?'

is it so, how shall of-me [then] ever become remedy?

Wê wie jâmerlich gewin

Woe how piteous gain

tegelich vor mînen ougen vert!

daily before my eyes fares!

daz ich sô gar ertôret bin

that I so wholly befooled am

mit mîner zuht, und mir daz nieman wert!

with my breeding, and to-me that no-one forbids!

mit den getriuwen alten siten

with the faithful old customs

ist man nû zer welte versniten.

is one now for-the world mis-cut.

êr unde guot

honor and goods

hât nû lûtz el ieman wan der übel tuot.

has now little anyone save who ill does.

Daz die man als übel tuont,

That the men so ill do,

dast gar der wîbe schult: dêst leider sô.

that-is wholly of-the women fault: that-is alas so.

hie vor, do ir muot ûf êre stuont,

here before, when their spirit on honor stood,

dô was diu welt ûf ir genâde frô.

then was the world on their favor glad.

hei wie wol man in dô sprach,

ah how well one to-them then spoke,

dô man die fuoge an in gesach!

when one the fitness in them saw!

nû siht man wol

now sees one well

daz man ir minne mit unfuoge erwerben sol.

that one their love with unfitness win shall.

Lât mich zuo den frowen gân:

Let me to the ladies go:

sô ist daz mîn aller meiste klage,

so is that my of-all greatest lament,

so ich ie mêre zûhte hân,

the-more I ever more of-breeding have,

so ich ie minre werdekeit bejage.

the-less I ever less worth gain.

si swachent wol gezogenen lîp;

they belittle well bred person;

ezn sî ein wol bescheiden wîp:

unless-it be a well discerning woman:

der meine ich niht:

her mean I not:

diu schamt sich des, swâ iemer wîbes scham geschiht.

she shames herself of-that, wherever ever woman's shame happens.

Reiniu wîp und guote man,

Pure women and good men,

swaz der lebe, die müezen sælic sîn.

whatever of-them live, they may blessed be.

swaz ich den gedienen kan,

whatever I to-them serve can,

daz tuon ich, daz sie gedenken mîn.

that do I, that they think of-me.

hie mite sô kûnd ich in daz:

here with so announce I to-them that:

diu werlt enstê dan schiere baz,

the world unless-stand then soon better,

sô wil ich leben

so will I live

so ich beste mac und mînen sanc ûf geben.

as I best can and my song up give.

Junger man, wis hôhes muotes

YOUNG MAN, BE OF HIGH SPIRIT

Five strophes of counsel to a young man. Let him be of high spirit for the sake of pure women, and know that he has no whole joy while worth from a woman is not seen in him. Let him court after heart's-love: if he does not win it he is the worthier for it, and if he does, there is the joy of embracing, caressing, and lying beside her. The teacher ends admitting he never had it himself.

91,17 Junger man, wis hôhes muotes

Young man, be of-high spirit

dur diu reinen wol gemuoten wîp,

for the pure well disposed women,

fröwe dich lîbes unde guotes,

rejoice thyself of-body and of-goods,

unde wirde dînen jungen lîp:

and dignify thy young person:

ganzer fröide hât dû niht,

of-whole joy hast thou not,

sô man die werdekeit von wîbe an dir niht siht.

when one the worth from woman in thee not sees.

Er hât rehter fröide kleine,

He has of-right joy little,

der si von guoten wîben niht ennimt,

who it from good women not takes,

offenbâre, stille, und eine,

openly, quietly, and alone,

und als ez der mâze danne zimt.

and as it the measure then befits.

dar an gedenke, junger man,

there on think, young man,

und wirp nâch herzeliebe: dâ gewinnest an.

and court after heart's-love: there winnest on.

Ob dus danne niht erwirbest,

If thou-it then not winnest,

dû muost doch iemer deste tiurre sîn.

thou must yet ever the worthier be.

dazt an fröiden niht verdirbest,

that-thou in joys not perishest,

daz kumt allez von der frowen dîn.

that comes all from the lady thine.

dû wirst alsô wol gemuot,

thou becomest so well disposed,

daz dû den andern wol behagest, swie si dir tuot.

that thou to-the others well pleasest, however she to-thee does.

Ist aber daz dir wol gelinget,

(if)-Is however that to-thee well succeeds,

sô daz ein guot wîp dîn genâde hât,

so that a good woman for-thee mercy has,

hei waz dir danne fröiden bringet,

ah what to-thee then of-joys brings,

sô si sunder wer vor dir gestât,

when she without defense before thee stands,

halsen, triuten, bî gelegen.

embracing, caressing, by lying.

von solher herzeliebe muost dû fröiden pflegen.

from such heart's-love must thou joys keep.

Sich, nû hab ich dich gelêret

See, now have I thee taught

des ich selbe leider nie gepflac.

what I myself alas never practiced.

ungelücke mir verkêret

misfortune to-me perverts

daz ein sælic man volenden mac.

what a blessed man accomplish can.

doch tuot mir der gedinge wol

yet does to-me the hope well

der wîle, den ich hân, deichz noch erwerben sol.

the while, which I have, that-I-it yet win shall.

Ein niuwer sumer, ein niuwe zît

A NEW SUMMER, A NEW TIME

Four strophes on loveliness against beauty. A new summer, a good hope, and a dear expectation please him, and one thing pleases him more than all the birds' song. His lady is fairer than a beautiful woman, since it is the loveliness that makes the beauty; loveliness stands to beauty as jewels to gold. A woman's glance gladdens a whole heart, and courting a pure woman ennobles a man even if she refuses him.

Ein niuwer sumer, ein niuwe zît,

A new summer, a new time,

ein guot gedinge, ein lieber wân,

a good hope, a dear expectation,

diu liebent mir en widerstrît,

they please to-me in rivalry,

daz ich noch trôst ze fröiden hân.

that I still comfort for joys have.

noch fröwet mich ein anderz baz

yet gladdens me an other better

dan aller vogellîne sanc:

than of-all little-birds song:

swâ man noch wîbes güete maz,

wherever one yet woman's goodness measured,

dâ wart ir ie der habedanc.

there became to-her ever the thanks.

daz meine ich an die frowen mîn:

that mean I on the lady mine:

dâ muoz noch mære trôstes sîn.

there must yet more of-comfort be.

92,9

sist schœner danne ein schœne wîp:
she-is fairer than a beautiful woman:

die schœne machet lieber lîp.
the beauty makes dear person.

Ich weiz wol daz diu liebe mac
I know well that the loveliness can

ein schœne wîp gemachen wol:
a beautiful woman make well:

iedoch swelch wîp ie tugende pflac,
yet whatever woman ever virtue kept,

daz ist diu der man wûnschen sol.
that is she whom one wish shall.

diu liebe stêt der schœne bî
the loveliness stands the beauty by

baz danne gesteine dem golde tuot:
better than jewels to-the gold does:

nû jehent waz danne bezzer sî,
now say what then better be,

hânt dise beide rehten muot.
(if)-have these both right spirit.

si hœhent mannes werdekeit:
they exalt man's worth:

swer ouch die sûezen arebeit
whoever also the sweet labor

dur si ze rehte kan getragen,
for them in right can bear,

der mac von herzeliebe sagen.
he may of heart's-love speak.

Der blic gefröwet ein herze gar,
The glance gladdens a heart wholly,

den minneclîch ein wîp an siht:
whom lovingly a woman at looks:

wie welt ir danne daz der var,
how want you then that he fare,

dem ander liep von ir geschiht?
to-whom other joy from her happens?

der ist eht manger fröiden rîch,
he is just of-many joys rich,

sô jenes fröide gar zergât.
while that-one's joy wholly passes-away.

waz ist den fröiden ouch gelîch,
what is to-the joys also like,

dâ liebez herze in triuwen stât,
where dear heart in faith stands,

in schœne, in kiusche, in reinen siten?
in beauty, in chastity, in pure manners?

swelch sælic man daz hât erstriten,
whatever blessed man that has won,

ob er daz vor den frömden lobet,
if he that before the strangers praises,

sô wizzent daz er niht entobet.
so know that he not rages.

Waz sol ein man der niht engert
What avails a man who not desires

gewerbes umb ein reine wîp?
of-courtship for a pure woman?

si lâze in iemer ungewert,
she leave him ever ungranted,

ez tiuret doch wol sînen lîp.
it ennobles yet well his person.

er tuo dur einer willen sô

he do for one's sake so

daz er den andern wol behage:

that he to-the others well please:

sô tuot in ouch diu eine frô,

so makes him also the one glad,

ob im diu ander gar versage.

if to-him the other wholly refuse.

dar an gedenke ein sælic man:

there on think a blessed man:

dâ lît vil sælde und êren an.

there lies much of-blessedness and of-honors on.

swer guotes wîbes minne hât,

whoever of-good woman love has,

der schamt sich aller missetât.

he shames himself of-all misdeed.

Waz hât diu welt ze gebenne

WHAT HAS THE WORLD TO GIVE

Three strophes on what a woman is worth. The world has nothing dearer to give than a woman, and nothing furthers a life more than her worthy person: where she loves from the heart, whole comfort is underpropped with joys. His lady is twice enclosed, cloistered there and exalted here, and if he kept the keys of both the stewardship would take him out of longing; and the watch cannot part him from her love.

Waz hât diu welt ze gebenne

What has the world to give

93,19

liebers danne ein wîp,

dearer than a woman,

daz ein sende herze baz gefrôwen mûge?

that a longing heart better gladden might?

waz stiuret baz ze lebenne

what furthers better to live

danne ir werder lîp?

than her worthy person?

in weiz niht daz ze frôiden hôher tûge,

I know nothing that for joys higher avails,

swenne ein wîp von herzen meinet

whenever a woman from heart loves

den der ir wol lebt ze lobe.

him who to-her well lives to praise.

dâ ist ganzer trôst mit frôiden underleinet:

there is whole comfort with joys underpropped:

disen dingen hât diu welt niht dinges obe.

these things has the world nothing of-thing above.

Mîn frowe ist zwir beslozzē,

My lady is twice enclosed,

der ich liebe trage,

to-whom I love bear,

dort verklûset, hie verhêrēt dâ ich bin.

there cloistered, here exalted where I am.

des einen hât verdrozzē

of-the one has wearied

mich nû manege tage:

me now many days:

sô gît mir daz ander senelîchen sin.

so gives to-me the other longing mind.

solt ich pflegen der zweier slûzzel huote,

should I keep of-the two keys guard,

dort ir lîbes, hie ir tugent,

there of-her body, here her virtue,

disiu wirtschaft nâme mich ûz sendem muote,

this stewardship would-take me out-of longing spirit,

und nâm iemer von ir schœne niuwe jugent.

and would-take ever from her beauty new youth.

Wænet huote scheiden

Thinks watch to-part

von der lieben mich,

from the dear-one me,

die ich mit stæten triuwen her gemeinet hân?

whom I with constant faith hitherto loved have?

solhe liebe leiden,

such love embitter,

des verzihe sich:

of-that renounce itself:

ich diene iemer ûf den minneclîchen wân.

I serve ever upon the lovely expectation.

mac diu huote mich ir lîbes pfenden,

(if)-can the watch me of-her person deprive,

dâ habe ich ein trœsten bî:

there have I a comforting by:

sin kan niemer von ir liebe mich gewenden.

it can never from her love me turn.

twinget si daz eine, so ist daz ander frî.

constrains it the one, so is the other free.

Dô der sumer komen was
WHEN THE SUMMER HAD COME

Five strophes of a dream. He came to a long meadow where a clear spring rose before the wood and the nightingale sang, sat under a tree by the water, forgot his grief, and fell asleep. He dreamed that all lands served him and that his soul was in heaven without grief. An unblessed crow woke him with its crying; and an old woman explained the dream: two and one are three, and his thumb is a finger.

94,11 Dô der sumer komen was
When the summer come was
und die bluomen dur daz gras
and the flowers through the grass
wünneclîchen sprungen,
delightfully sprang,
aldâ die vogelesungen,
there-where the birds sang,
dar kom ich gegangen
thither came I walking
an einen anger langen,
onto a meadow long,
dâ ein lûter brunne entspranc:
where a clear spring rose:
vor dem walde was sîn ganc,
before the wood was its course,
dâ diu nahtegale sanc.
where the nightingale sang.

Bî dem brunnen stuont ein boum:

By the spring stood a tree:

dâ gesach ich einen troum.

there saw I a dream.

ich was von der sunnen

I was from the sun

gegangen zuo dem brunnen,

gone to the spring,

daz diu linde mære

so-that the linden famous

den küelen schaten bære.

the cool shade might-bear.

bî dem brunnen ich gesaz,

by the spring I sat,

mîner swære ich gar vergaz,

of-my grief I wholly forgot,

schier entslief ich umbe daz.

soon fell-asleep I for that.

Dô bedûhte mich zehant

Then it-seemed to-me at-once

wie mir dienten elliu lant,

how to-me served all lands,

wie mîn sêle wære

how my soul were

ze himel âne swære,

in heaven without grief,

und wie der lîp solte

and how the body should

gebâren swie er wolte.

behave however it would.

dâne was mir niht ze wê.

there was to-me not too woe.

got der waldes, swiez ergê:

God he rule-it, however-it turn-out:

schœner troum enwart nie mê.

fairer dream became never more.

Gerne slief ich iemer dâ,

Gladly slept I ever there,

wan ein unsæligiu krâ

save an unblessed crow

diu begonde schrîen.

she began to-cry.

daz alle krâ gedîen

that all crows thrive

als ich in des gûnne!

as I to-them of-that grant!

si nam mir michel wûnne.

she took from-me great delight.

von ir schrîenne ich erschrac:

from her crying I started:

wan daz dâ niht steines lac,

save that there nothing of-stone lay,

sô wær ez ir suonestac.

so were it her judgment-day.

Wan ein wunderaltez wîp

Save a wondrous-old woman

diu getrôste mir den lîp.

she comforted to-me the person.

die begond ich eiden:

her began I to-adjure:

nû hât si mir bescheiden

now has she to-me explained

waz der troum bediute.

what the dream signifies.

daz hoeret, lieben liute.

that hear, dear people.

zwên und einer daz sint drî:

two and one that are three:

dannoch seit si mir dâ bî

moreover says she to-me there by

daz mîn dûme ein vinger sî.

that my thumb a finger be.

Waz ich doch gegen der schœnen zît
WHAT I HAVE LOST AGAINST THE FAIR SEASON

One song on hope disappointed. He counts what hope and expectation he has lost against the fair season: whatever sorrow lay in the winter he thought to be spared in summer. He always set improvement ahead of him, however much comfort he lost, and always it went amiss. He never found a joy so constant that it did not leave him before he could leave it.

- 95,17 Waz ich doch gegen der schœnen zît
What I yet toward the beautiful season
- gedinges unde wânes hân verlorn!
of-hope and of-expectation have lost!
- swaz kumbers an dem winter lît,
whatever of-affliction in the winter lies,
- den wânde ich ie des sumers hân verborn.
that thought I ever in-the summer to-have escaped.
- sus sazte ich allez bezzerunge für:
thus set I always improvement forth:
- swie vil ich trôstes ie verlür,
however much I of-comfort ever lost,
- sô hât ich doch ze fröiden wân.
so had I yet for joys expectation.
- dar under misselanc mir ie:
there under failed to-me ever:
- in vant sô stæte fröide nie,
I found so constant joy never,
- si wolte mich ê ich si lân.
it would-leave me before I it leave.

Muoz ich nû sîn nâch wâne frô

MUST I NOW BE GLAD ON HOPE

Four strophes on a blessed love and a foolish one. If he must be glad on hope alone he is no blessed man, and he asks the man whose love does him good not to mock him for it. Blessed are the man and woman whose hearts stand faithfully by one another. Many think they live well without living for good women; and a blessed woman marks a good man's manner and separates the bad.

Muoz ich nû sîn nâch wâne frô,

Must I now be after expectation glad,

son heize ich niht ze rehte ein sælic man.

so am-called I not by rights a blessed man.

dem ez sîn sælde fûeget sô

to-whom it his blessedness arranges so

daz im sîn herzeliep wol guotes gan,

that to-him his heart's-love well of-good grants,

hât ouch der selbe fröiderîchen sîn,

(if)-has also the same joy-rich mind,

des ich vil leider âne bin,

of-which I very alas without am,

son spotte er niht dar umbe mîn,

so mock he not there for of-me,

ob im sîn lieb iht liebes tuot:

if to-him his love anything of-joy does:

ich wære ouch gerne hôhgemuot,

I were also gladly high-spirited,

möht ez mit liebes hulden sîn.

could it with love's favor be.

95,27

Er sælic man, si sælic wîp,

He blessed man, she blessed woman,

der herze ein ander sint mit triuwen bî!

whose hearts one another are with faith by!

ich wil daz daz ir beider lîp

I will that that of-them both person

getiuret und in hôher werde sî.

ennobled and in high dignity be.

vîl sælic sîn ir jâr und al ir zît.

very blessed be their years and all their time.

er ist ouch sælic sunder strît,

he is also blessed without dispute,

der nimt ir tugende rehte war,

who takes of-her virtue right heed,

sô daz ez in sîn herze gêt.

so that it into his heart goes.

ein sælic wîp, diu sich verstêt,

a blessed woman, who herself understands,

diu sende ouch guoten willen dar.

she send also good will there.

Sich wænet maneger wol begên

Himself thinks many-a-one well to-conduct

sô daz er guoten wîben niht enlebe:

so that he for-good women not live:

der tôre kan sich niht verstên

the fool can himself not understand

waz ez fröide und ganzer werde gebe.

what it of-joy and of-whole dignity gives.

dem lîht gemuoten dem ist iemer wol

to-the light disposed to-him is ever well

mit lîhten dingen, als ez sol:

with light things, as it should:

swer werde und fröide erwerben wil,
whoever dignity and joy win will,

der diene guotes wîbes gruoz.
he serve of-good woman greeting.

swen si mit willen grüezen muoz,
whom she with will greet must,

der hât mit fröiden werde vil.
he has with joys dignity much.

Jâ hêrre, wes gedenket der
Yes lord, of-what thinks he

dem ungedienet ie vil wol gelanc?
to-whom unearned ever very well succeeded?

ez sî ein sie, ez sî ein er,
it be a she, it be a he,

swer alsô minnen kan, der habe undanc,
whoever so love can, he have no-thanks,

und dâ bî guoten dienest übersiht.
and there by good service overlooks.

ein sælic wîp diu tuot des niht:
a blessed woman she does that not:

diu merket guotes mannes site:
she marks of-good man manner:

dâ scheidet si die boesen von.
there separates she the bad from.

sô ist ein tumbiu sô gewon
so is a foolish-woman so accustomed

daz ir ein tumber volget mite.
that her a foolish-man follows with.

Stæt ist ein angest und ein nôt

CONSTANCY IS AN ANGUISH

Four strophes on constancy. It is an anguish and a distress, and he does not know whether it is honor: love bade him keep it, and he has suffered since. No thanks is owed the man whom constancy rewards; the constancy of the man it never rewarded is the pure one, and his has never succeeded. His joy and worth stand on her alone, and he asks his lady to let him profit from what he has so rightly desired.

96,29 Stæt ist ein angest und ein nôt:

Constancy is an anguish and a distress:

in weiz niht ob si êre sî:

I know not whether it honor be:

si gît michel ungemach.

it gives great discomfort.

sît daz diu liebe mir gebôt

since that the love to-me commanded

daz ich stæte wære bî,

that I to-constancy were by,

waz mir leides sît geschach!

what to-me of-harm since happened!

lât mich ledic, liebe mîn frô Stæte.

let me free, dear mine lady Constancy.

wan ob ich sis iemer bæte,

for if I her-of-it ever begged,

sô ist si stæter vil dann ich.

so is she more-constant much than I.

ich muoz von mîner stæte sîn verlorn,

I must from my constancy be lost,

diu liebe en underwinde ir sich.

the love unless take-charge of-it itself.

Wer sol dem des wizzen danc,

Who shall to-him of-that know thanks,

dem von stæte liep geschiht,

to-whom from constancy joy happens,

nimt der stæte gerne war?

takes he of-constancy gladly heed?

dem an stæte nie gelanc,

to-whom in constancy never succeeded,

ob man den in stæte siht,

if one him in constancy sees,

seht, des stæte ist lûter gar.

see, his constancy is pure wholly.

alsô habe ich stæte her gerungen:

so have I with-constancy hitherto striven:

nochn ist mir leider niht gelungen.

yet is to-me alas not succeeded.

daz wende, sælic frowe mîn,

that turn, blessed lady mine,

daz ich der valschen ungetriuwen spot

that I of-the false unfaithful mockery

von mîner stæte iht müeze sîn.

from my constancy at-all may be.

Het ich niht mîner fröiden teil

Had I not of-my joys part

an dich, herzeliep, geleit,

on thee, heart's-love, laid,

sô möht es wol werden rât:

so might of-it well become remedy:

sît nû mîn fröide und al mîn heil,

since now my joy and all my welfare,

dar zuo al mîn werdekeit,

there to all my worth,

97,12

niht wan an dir einer stât,

not save on thee alone stands,

solt ich dan mîn herze von dir scheiden,

should I then my heart from thee part,

sô müest ich mir selben leiden:

so would-have-to I to-me self become-hateful:

daz wære mir niht guot getân.

that were to-me not well done.

doch solt dû gedenken, sælic wîp,

yet shouldst thou consider, blessed woman,

daz ich nû lange kumber hân.

that I now long affliction have.

Frowe, ich weiz wol dînen muot:

Lady, I know well thy spirit:

daz dû gerne stæte bist,

that thou gladly constant art,

daz hab ich befunden wol.

that have I found well.

jâ hât dich vil wol behuot

yes has thee very well guarded

der vil reine wîbes list

the very pure woman's craft

der guotiu wîp behüeten sol.

whiche good women guard shall.

alsus fröit mich dîn sælde und ouch dîn êre,

thus gladdens me thy blessedness and also thy honor,

und enhân niht fröide mêre.

and have not joy more.

nû sprich, bin ich dar an gewert?

now say, am I there in granted?

dû solt mich des geniezen lân,

thou shalt me of-that enjoy let,

daz ich sô rehte hân gegert.

that I so rightly have desired.

Ez wær uns allen

WE ALL HAVE NEED

Five strophes on joy and the watchers. They all need one kind of blessing, that right joy be kept as before, since it is the young whom the loss hurts. He is glad in spite of it for one woman's sake. Before the watchers nobody's joy can happen, and he must avoid her; many ask who she is, and when it wearies him he says there are three; and he asks Lady Love to constrain her.

97,34 Ez wær uns allen

It were to-us all

einer hande sælden nôt,

of-one kind of-blessings need,

daz man rehter fröide schône pflæge als ê.

that one of-right joy beautifully kept as before.

ein missevalen

a displeasure

daz ist mîner fröiden tôt,

that is of-my joys death,

daz dien jungen fröide tuot sô rehte wê.

that to-the young joy does so right woe.

war zuo sol ir junger lîp,

what to shall their young person,

dâ mit si fröide solten minnen?

there with they joy should love?

hei wolten si ze fröiden sinnen!

ah would they toward joys turn-their-mind!

junge man, des hulfen iu diu wîp.

young men, in-that would-help you the women.

Nû bin ich iedoch

Now am I nevertheless

frô und muoz bî fröiden sîn

glad and must by joys be

durch die lieben, swiez dar under mir ergât.

for the dear-one, however-it there under to-me turns-out.

mîn schîn ist hie noch:

my appearance is here still:

sô ist ir daz herze mîn

so is to-her the heart mine

bî, daz man mich ofte sinnelôsen hât.

by, that one me often senseless holds.

hei solten si zesamene komen,

ah should they together come,

mîn lîp, mîn herze, ir beider sinne!

my body, my heart, of-them both senses!

daz si des wol wurden inne,

that they of-that well became aware,

die mir dicke fröide hânt benomen.

who from-me often joy have taken.

Vor den merkæren

Before the watchers

kan nû nieman liep geschehen:

can now to-no-one joy happen:

wan ir huote twinget manegen werden lîp.

for their watch constrains many-a worthy person.

daz muoz beswæren

that must burden

mich: swenn ich si solte sehen,

me: whenever I her should see,

sô muoz ich si mîden, si vil sælic wîp.

so must I her avoid, her very blessed woman.

doch müeze ich noch die zît geleben,

yet may I still the time live-to-see,

daz ich si willic eine vinde,

that I her willing alone find,

sô daz diu huote uns beiden swinde;

so that the watch to-us both vanish;

dâ mite mir wurde liebes vil gegeben.

there with to-me would-be of-joy much given.

Vil meneger frâget

Very many-a-one asks

mich der lieben, wer si sî,

me of-the dear-one, who she be,

der ich diene und allez her gedienet hân.

whom I serve and always hitherto served have.

sô des betrâget

when of-that wearies

mich, sô spriche ich 'ir sint drî,

me, so say I 'of-them are three,

den ich diene: sô hab ich zér vierden wân.'

whom I serve: so have I toward-the fourth expectation.'

doch weiz siz alleine wol,

yet knows she-it alone well,

diu mich hât sus zuo zir geteilet.

who me has thus to her allotted.

diu guote wundet unde heilet,

the good-one wounds and heals,

der ich vor in allen dienen sol.

whom I before them all serve shall.

Nû, frowe Minne,

Now, lady Love,

kum si minneclîchen an,

come her lovingly at,

diu mich twinget und alsô betwungen hât.

who me constrains and so constrained has.

brinc si des inne,

bring her of-that aware,

daz werdiu minne twingen kan.

that worthy love constrain can.

waz ob minneclîchiu liebe ouch sie bestât?

what if lovely love also her assails?

sô möhtes ouch gelouben mir

so might-she also believe to-me

daz ich si gar von herzen meine.

that I her wholly from heart love.

nû, Minne, bewære irz und bescheine;

now, Love, prove to-her-it and show;

daz ich iemer gerne diene dir.

that I ever gladly serve thee.

Sumer unde winter beide sint

SUMMER AND WINTER BOTH

Five strophes on seeing without eyes. Summer and winter alike are a good man's comfort, and whoever gets no joy from a woman is a child in right joy. Since nobody avails without joy, he would gladly have it from her, of whom his heart never lied to him. His eye has not seen her long, and yet his heart's eyes are with her: they are his thoughts, and they see through wall and partition.

99,6 Sumer unde winter beide sint

Summer and winter both are

guotes mannes trôst, der trôstes gert:

of-good man comfort, who of-comfort desires:

er ist rehter fröide gar ein kint,

he is of-right joy wholly a child,

der ir niht von wîbe wirt gewert.

who of-it not from woman is granted.

dâ von sol man wizzen daz,

there from shall one know that,

daz man elliu wîp sol êren,

that one all women shall honor,

und iedoch die besten baz.

and yet the best better.

Sît daz nieman âne fröide touc,

Since that no-one without joy avails,

sô wolte ouch ich vil gerne fröide hân

so would also I very gladly joy have

von der mir mîn herze nie gelouc,

from her to-me my heart never lied,

ezn sagte mir ir güete ie sunder wân.

unless-it told to-me her goodness ever without doubt.

swenn ez diu ougen sante dar,

whenever it the eyes sent there,

seht, sô brâhtens im diu mære,

see, so brought-they to-it the news,

daz ez fuor in sprüngen gar.

that it went in leaps wholly.

In weiz niht wol wiez dar umbe sî:

I know not well how-it there for be:

sin gesach mîn ouge lange nie:

her saw my eye long never:

sint ir mînes herzen ougen bî,

are to-her of-my heart eyes by,

sô daz ich ân ougen sihe sie?

so that I without eyes see her?

da ist doch ein wunder an geschehen:

there is yet a wonder in happened:

wer gap im daz sunder ougen,

who gave to-it that without eyes,

daz ez si zaller zît mac sehen?

that it her at-every time can see?

Welt ir wizzen waz diu ougen sîn,

Want you to-know what the eyes are,

dâ mit ich si sihe dur elliu lant?

there with I her see through all lands?

ez sint die gedanke des herzen mîn:

they are the thoughts of-the heart mine:

dâ mite sihe ich dur mûre und ouch dur want.

there with see I through wall and also through partition.

nû hûeten swie si dunke guot:

now let-them-guard however to-them seems good:

sô sehent si doch mit vollen ougen

so see they yet with full eyes

herze wille und al der muot.

heart will and all the spirit.

Wirde ich iemer ein sô sælic man,

Become I ever a so blessed man,

daz si mich ân ougen sehen sol?

that she me without eyes see shall?

siht si mich in ir gedanken an,

looks she me in her thoughts at,

sô vergiltet si mir mîne wol.

so repays she to-me mine well.

mînen willen gelte mir,

my will repay to-me,

sende mir ir guoten willen:

send to-me her good will:

mînen den habe iemer ir.

mine that have ever she.

Ich gesprach ie wol von guoten wîben
I HAVE ALWAYS SPOKEN WELL OF GOOD WOMEN

Three strophes on praise and its reward. He has always spoken well of good women, and nothing else has driven longing sorrow away so lovingly; it is his gladness that he can raise others into high spirit with his praise. If one blessed woman would, he would never mourn a day, but she helps him little. Strange women thank him beautifully, and that counts for little against his lady's reward.

Ich gesprach ie wol von guoten wîben,

I spoke ever well of good women,

100,3

was mir leit, ich wurde frô.

was to-me grievous, I would-become glad.

sende sorge konde ich nie vertriben

longing care could I never drive-away

minneclîcher danne alsô.

more-lovingly than thus.

wol mich, daz ich in hôhen muot

hail to-me, that I to-them high spirit

mit mînem lobe gemachen kan,

with my praise make can,

und mir daz sanfte tuot!

and to-me that gently does!

Owê wolte ein sælic wîp alleine,

Alas would a blessed woman alone,

sô getrûrte ich niemer tac,

so would-mourn I never a-day,

der ich diene, und hilfet mich vil kleine

whom I serve, and helps me very little

swaz ich sie geloben mac.

whatever I her praise can.

daz ist ir lieb und tuot ir wol:

that is to-her dear and does to-her well:

ab si vergizzet iemer mîn,

but she forgets ever of-me,

sô man mir danken sol.

when one to-me thank shall.

Frömdiu wîp diu dankent mir vil schône.

Strange women they thank to-me very beautifully.

dazs iemer sælic müezen sîn!

that-they ever blessed may be!

daz ist wider mîner frowen lône

that is against of-my lady reward

mir ein kleinez denkelîn.

to-me a small little-thought.

si hab den willen den si habe,

she have the will which she have,

mîn wille ist guot, und klage diu werc.

my will is good, and I-lament the deeds.

gêt mir an den iht abe.

goes to-me on them anything off.

Frô Welt, dû solt dem wirte sagen

LADY WORLD, TELL THE HOST

Four strophes of renunciation, half of them in her voice. He has paid the host in full and asks to be scraped off the writ. She bids him stay and remember the honor she offered him. He has sucked too long and will be weaned: her face was wondrous, but seen from behind she is such a disgrace that he will revile her forever. She asks him to look back at times; he fears her snare, bids her good night, and goes to his lodging.

Frô Welt, dû solt dem wirte sagen

Lady World, thou shalt to-the host say

daz ich im gar vergolten habe:

that I to-him wholly repaid have:

mîn græste gülte ist abe geslagen;

my greatest debt is off struck;

daz er mich von dem brieve schabe.

that he me from the writ scrape.

swer ime iht sol, der mac wol sorgen.

whoever to-him anything owes, he may well worry.

ê ich im lange schuldic wære, ich wolt ê zeinem juden borgen.

before I to-him long indebted were, I would rather from-a Jew borrow.

er swîget unz an einen tac:

he keeps-silent until on a day:

sô wil er danne ein wette hân,

so wants he then a pledge have,

sô jener niht vergelten mac.

when that-one not repay can.

100,24

‘Walther, dû zürnest âne nôt:

‘Walther, thou ragest without need:

dû solt bî mir belîben hie.

thou shalt by me remain here.

gedenke waz ich dir êren bôt,

consider what I to-thee of-honors offered,

waz ich dir dînes willen lie,

what I to-thee of-thy will left,

als dû mich dicke sêre bæte.

as thou me often sorely didst-beg.

mir was vil inneclîche leit daz dû daz ie sô selten tæte.

to-me was very inwardly grievous that thou that ever so seldom didst.

bedenke dich: dîn leben ist guot:

betink thyself: thy life is good:

sô dû mir rehte widersagest,

when thou to-me rightly renouncest,

sô wirst dû niemer wol gemuot.’

so becomest thou never well disposed.’

Frô Welt, ich hân ze vil gesogen:

Lady World, I have too much sucked:

ich wil entwonen, des ist zît.

I will be-weaned, of-it is time.

dîn zart hât mich vil nâch betrogen,

thy fondness has me very nearly deceived,

wand er vil sûezer frôiden gât.

for it much of-sweet joys gives.

do ich dich gesach reht under ougen,

when I thee saw right under the-eyes,

dô was dîn schowen wunderlich ... al sunder lougen:

then was thy appearance wondrous (lacuna) quite without denying:

doch was der schanden alse vil,

yet was of-the disgrace just-as much,

dô ich dîn hinden wart gewar,
when I of-thee behind became aware,
 daz ich dich iemer schelten wil.
that I thee ever revile will.

‘Sît ich dich niht erwenden mac,
‘Since I thee not turn-away can,
 sô tuo doch ein dinc des ich ger:
so do yet one thing which I desire:
 gedenke an manegen liechten tac,
think on many-a bright day,
 und sich doch underwîlent her
and look yet at-times hither
 niuwan sô dich der zît betrâge.’
only when thee of-the time wearies.’

daz tæt ich wunderlîchen gerne, wan deich fürhte dîne lâge,
that would-do I wondrously gladly, save that-I fear thy snare,
 vor der sich nieman kan bewarn.
from which himself no-one can guard.
 got gebe dir, frowe, guote naht:
God give to-thee, lady, good night:
 ich wil ze herberge varn.
I will to lodging go.

Selbwahsen kint, dû bist ze krump
SELF-GROWN CHILD, THOU ART TOO CROOKED

Three strophes of reproach. A self-grown child is too big for the rod and too small for the sword, and he was foolish enough to hide its unfitness in a friend's lap and break his own back for it; now its school may stand masterless. Love is named where she will never come, tame in fools' mouths and wild in their hearts; and wisdom, nobility, and age have lost their seats to a foolish rich man.

101,23 Selbwahsen kint, dû bist ze krump:

Self-grown child, thou art too crooked:

sît nieman dich gerihten mac

since no-one thee straighten can

(dû bist dem besmen leider alze grôz,

(thou art for-the rod alas all-too big,

den swerten alze kleine),

for-the swords all-too small),

nû slâf unde habe gemach.

now sleep and have ease.

ich hân mich selben des ze tump,

I have me self of-that too foolish,

daz ich dich ie sô hôhe wac.

that I thee ever so high weighed.

ich barc dîn ungefüege in friundes schôz,

I hid thy unfitness in friend's lap,

mîn leit bant ich ze beine,

my sorrow bound I to leg,

mînen rugge ich nâch dir brach.

my back I after thee broke.

nû sî dîn schuole meisterlôs an mîner stat: ich kan dir niht.

now be thy school masterless in my place: I can for-thee nothing.

kan ez ein ander, deis mir lieb, swaz liebes dir dâ von geschiht.

can it an other, that-is to-me dear, whatever of-good to-thee there from happens.

doch weiz ich wol, swâ sîn gewalt ein ende hât,

yet know I well, wherever his power an end has,

dâ stêt sîn kunst nâch sünden âne dach.

there stands his art after sins without roof.

Diu minne lât sich nennen dâ

The love lets herself be-named there

dar si doch niemer komen wil:

whither she yet never come will:

si ist den tîren in dem munde zam,

she is to-the fools in the mouth tame,

und in dem herzen wilde.

and in the heart wild.

hûetet iuwer, guoten wîp.

guard yourselves, good women.

vor kinden bergent iuwer jâ:

from children bide your yes:

so enwirt ez niht ein kindes spil.

so becomes it not a child's play.

minn unde kintheit sint ein ander gram.

love and childhood are one another hostile.

vil dicke in schœnem bilde

very often in beautiful form

siht man leider valschen lîp.

sees one alas false person.

ir sult ê spehen, war umbe, wie, wenn unde wâ reht, unde weme,

you shall first look, what for, how, when and where rightly, and to-whom,

ir iuwer minneclîchez jâ sô teilet mite daz ez iu zeme.

you your lovely yes so share with that it to-you befit.

sich, minne, sich, swer alsô spehe, der sî dîn kint,
see, love, see, whoever so look, he be thy child,

sô wîp sô man: die andern dû vertrîp.
be-it woman be-it man: the others thou drive-away.

102,15 Ich was durch wunder ûz gevarn:

I was for wonders out gone:

dô vant ich wunderlîchiu dinc.

then found I wondrous things.

ich vant die stüele leider lære stân,

I found the seats alas empty stand,

dâ wîsheit adel und alter

where wisdom nobility and age

gwalteclîche sâzen ê.

powerfully sat before.

hîlf, frowe maget, hîlf, megde barn,

help, lady maiden, help, maiden's child,

den drin noch wider in den rinc,

the three yet back into the ring,

lâ si niht lange ir sedeles irre gân.

let them not long of-their seat astray go.

ir kumber manicvalter

their affliction manifold

der tuot mir von herzen wê.

it does to-me from heart woe.

ez hât der tumble rîche nû ir drîer stuol, ir drîer gruoze.

it has the foolish rich-man now of-them three seat, of-them three greeting.

owê daz man dem einen an ir drîer stat nû nîgen muoz!

alas that one to-the one in of-them three place now bow must!

des hînket reht und trûret zuht und siechet schame.

of-that limps right and mourns breeding and sickens shame.

diz ist mîn klage: noch klagte ich gerne mê.

this is my lament: yet would-lament I gladly more.

Mirst diu êre unmære
HONOR IS NOTHING TO ME

Three strophes on honor that lasts. He wants no honor that would leave him worthless within a year and lamenting what he was. He has forgone many a garland and renounced many flowers, and would pluck roses but for the thorn. Whoever keeps himself so that nobody can speak ill of him ages delightfully; and one should always ask how a man's heart stands, since hail belongs to the man who does right at home rather than before strangers.

Mirst diu êre unmære,

To-me-is the honor indifferent,

dâ von ich ze jâre wurde unwert,

there from I in a-year would-become worthless,

und ich klagende wære

and I lamenting were

‘wê mir armen hiure! diz was vert.’

‘woe to-me poor this-year! this was last-year.’

alsô hân ich mangen kranz verborn

so have I many-a garland forgone

und bluomen vil verkorn.

and flowers many renounced.

jô bræche ich rôsen wunder, wan der dorn.

indeed would-break I roses [wondrous-many], save the thorn.

Swër sich sô behaltet

Whoever himself so keeps

daz im nieman niht gesprechen mac,

that of-him no-one anything say can,

wünneclîche er altet,

delightfully he ages,

102,29

im enwirret niht ein halber tac.

to-him troubles not a half day.

der ist frô, swenn er ze tanze gât,

he is glad, whenever he to dance goes,

swes herze ûf êre stât.

whose heart on honor stands.

wê im, des sîn geselle unêre hât!

woe to-him, whose his companion dishonor has!

Wan sol iemer frâgen

One shall ever ask

von dem man, wiez umb sîn herze stê.

about the man, how-it about his heart stands.

swen des wil betrâgen,

whomever of-that will weary,

der enruochet wie diu zît zergê.

he not-cares how the time passes.

maneger schînet vor den frömden guot,

many-a-one appears before the strangers good,

und hât doch valschen muot.

and has yet false spirit.

wol im ze hove, der heime rehte tuot!

bail to-him at court, who at-home rightly does!

Swâ guoter hande wurzen sint

WHEREVER GOOD HERBS ARE

Three strophes on a garden, a court, and a horse. Good herbs in a green garden must not be left unguarded: a wise man plays before them like a child, pulls out the weed, and leads the thorn away. A certain sort of folk keep a well-bred man from his place at court, and their snouts are quick. Last, Gerhart Atze shot his horse at Eisenach and puts him off with a tale about a bitten finger.

Swâ guoter hande wurzen sint

Wherever of-good kind herbs are

103,13

in einem grünen garten

in a green garden

bekliben, die sol ein wîser man

rooted, them shall a wise man

niht lâzen unbehuot.

not leave unguarded.

er sol in spilen vor als ein kint

he shall to-them play before as a child

mit ougenweide zarten.

with [eye-delight] caress.

dâ lît gelust des herzen an,

there lies delight of-the heart on,

und gît ouch hôhen muot.

and gives also high spirit.

sî bæse unkrût dar under,

be evil weed there under,

daz breche er ûz besunder

that break he out especially

(lât erz, daz ist ein wunder),

(leaves he-it, that is a wonder),

und merke ob sich ein dorn

and mark whether itself a thorn

mit kündekeit dar breite,

with cunning there spread,

daz er den furder leite

that he it further lead

von sîner arebeite:

from his labor:

sist anders gar verlorn.

it-is otherwise wholly lost.

103,29 Uns irret einer hande diet:

Us binders of-one kind folk:

der uns die furder tæte,

who to-us them further would-put,

sô möhte ein wol gezogener man

so might a well bred man

ze hove haben die stat.

at court have the place.

die lâzent sîn ze spruche niet:

they let him to speech not:

ir drüzzel derst sô dræte,

their snout that-is so quick,

kund er swaz ieman guotes kan,

could he whatever anyone of-good can,

daz hulfe niht ein blat.

that would-help not a leaf:

ich und ein ander tôle

I and an other fool

wir dœnen in sîn ôre,

we sing into his ear,

daz nie kein mûnch ze kôre

that never any monk in choir

sô sêre mê geschrei.

so loudly more cried.

gefüeges mannes dœnen

of-fitting man singing

daz sol man wol beschœnen:

that shall one well adorn:

müet des mannes hœnen, —

vexes of-the man scorning,—

hie gêt diu rede enzwei.

here goes the speech in-two.

Mir hât hêr Gêrhart Atze ein pfert

To-me has sir Gerhart Atze a horse

104,7

erschozzen zIsenache.

shot at-Eisenach.

daz klage ich dem den er bestât:

that lament I to-him whom he serves:

derst unser beider voget.

he-is of-us both lord.

ez was wol drîer marke wert:

it was fully of-three marks worth:

nû hœrent frömde sache,

now hear strange matter,

sît daz ez an ein gelten gât,

since that it to a paying goes,

wâ mit er mich nû zoget.

where with he me now puts-off.

er seit von grôzer swære,

he tells of great grievance,

wie mîn pferit mære

how my horse famous

dem rosse sippe wære,

to-the steed akin were,

daz im den vinger abe

which to-him the finger off

gebizzen hât ze schanden.

bitten has to disgrace.

ich swer mit beiden handen,

I swear with both hands,

daz si sich niht erkanden.

that they each-other not knew.

ist ieman der mir stabe?

is anyone who to-me administer-the-oath?

Man seit mir ie von Tegersê

I WAS ALWAYS TOLD OF TEGERNSEE

One Spruch on a visit. He had always heard how honorably the house of Tegernsee stood, and turned more than a mile off the road for it. He calls himself a strange man, who cannot understand himself and leaves so much to strangers. He will not revile it, and asks God's mercy on them both: he was given water there, and left the monk's table as wet as he had come.

Man seit mir ie von Tegersê,

One tells to-me ever of Tegernsee,

wie wol daz hûs mit êren stê:

how well the house with honors stands:

dar kêrte ich mêr dan eine mîle von der strâze.

thither turned I more than a mile from the road.

ich bin ein wunderlîcher man,

I am a strange man,

daz ich mich selben niht enkan

that I me self not can

verstân und mich sô vil an frömde liute lâze.

understand and myself so much on strange people rely.

ich schiltes niht, wan got genâde uns beiden.

I revile-it not, for God have-mercy to-us both.

ich nam dâ wazzer:

I took there water:

alsô nazzet

so wet

muost ich von des münches tische scheiden.

had-to I from the monk's table depart.

104,23

Daz milter man gar wârhaft sî
THAT A GENEROUS MAN BE TRUTHFUL

One Spruch on bounty and its work. That a bountiful man should also be wholly truthful is a wonder, for the great will in him is hard to carry through. It takes wit, early waking, and many another fair craft to keep it from being hindered. Whoever does so must seldom turn his mind to rest, weigh everything with his wits, and leave the blessing to God: so a man climbs after lasting honors.

- 104,33 Daz milter man gar wârhaft sî,
That bountiful man wholly truthful be,
geschiht daz, dâ ist wunder bî.
happens that, there is wonder by.
der grôze wille der dâ ist,
the great will which there is,
wie mac der wesen verendet?
how can it be accomplished?
dêswâr dâ hœret witze zuo
truly there belongs wit to
und wachen gegen dem morgen fruo
and waking toward the morning early
und anders manec schœner list,
and besides many-a fair craft,
daz ez iht werde erwendet.
[lest] it at-all be hindered.
der alsô tuot,
who so does,
der sol den muot
he shall the spirit
an ruowe selten kêren:
to rest seldom turn:

mit witzen sol erz allez wegen,

with wits shall be-it all weigh,

und lâze got der sælden pflegen.

and let God of-the blessedness take-care.

sô sol man stegen

so shall one climb

nâch lange wernden êren.

after long lasting honors.

Nû sol der keiser hêre

NOW SHALL THE LORDLY EMPEROR

Three strophes on a murder and a patron. The emperor should proceed for his own honor against the landgrave's misdeed, for the landgrave was an open enemy while the cowards bore secret counsel and plotted murder; their theft could not hide itself, and thief stole from thief. Then the Meissener, who should make amends: the singer will let his service go and keep only his praise, and there they will let it be.

105,13 Nû sol der keiser hêre

Now shall the emperor noble

fûrbrechen dur sîn êre

proceed-against for his honor

des lantgrâven missetât.

of-the landgrave misdeed.

wand er was doch zewâre

for he was yet truly

sîn vîent offenbâre:

his enemy openly:

die zagen truogen stillen rât:

the cowards bore secret counsel:

si swuoren hie, si swuoren dort,

they swore here, they swore there,

und pruoften ungetriuwen mort:

and plotted faithless murder:

von Rôme fuor ir schelden.

from Rome went their reviling

ir dûf enmoht sich niht verheltn,

their theft could itself not conceal,

si begonden under zwischen steln
they began under between to-steal

und alle ein ander melden.
and all one another betray.

seht, diep stal diebe,
see, thief stole from-thief,

drô tet liebe.
tbreat did love.

Der Missenære solde
The Meissener should

105,27

mir wandeln, ob er wolde.
to-me make-amends, if he would.

mîn dienst lâz ich allez varn:
my service let I all go:

niewan mîn lop aleine,
save my praise alone,

deich in mit lobe iht meine,
that-I him with praise at-all mean,

daz kan ich schône wol bewarn.
that can I beautifully well prevent.

lob ich in, sô lob er mich:
praise I him, so praise he me:

des andern alles des wil ich
of-the other all of-that will I

in minneclîch erlâzen.
him lovingly release.

sîn lop daz muoz ouch mir gezemen,
his praise that must also to-me befit,

ode ich wil mînz her wider nemen
or I will mine here back take

ze hove und an der strâzen.
at court and on the street.

sô ist nû gnuoge

so is now enough

gewartet sîner fuoge.

waited of-his fitness.

106,3 Ich hân dem Mîssenære

I have to-the Meissener

gefûeget manec mære

fashioned many-a tale

baz danne er nû gedenke mîn.

better than he now thinks of-me.

waz sol diu rede beschœnet?

what avails the speech adorned?

möht ich in hân gekrœnet,

could I him have crowned,

diu krône wære hiute sîn.

the crown would-be today his.

het er mir dô gelônnet baz,

had he to-me then rewarded better,

ich dient im aber eteswaz:

I would-serve to-him however somewhat:

noch kan ich schaden vertriben.

still can I harm drive-away.

er ist ab sô gefüege niht,

he is however so fitting not,

daz er mir biete wandels iht:

that he to-me offer of-amends anything:

dâ lâzen wirz belîben.

there let we-it remain.

waz vil verdirbet

what much perishes

des man niht enwirbet.

which one not pursues.

Der guote wîn wirt selten guot

GOOD WINE IS SELDOM GOOD

Five Sprüche in one Ton. Good wine is seldom good but in a good vessel, and nobody should wonder that he hates the king if the king's heart is as they say. A widow's wedding guests quarreled over how to bind the bride's headdress until she bound it herself. A king would keep the name of king if those who have him in charge bade him keep it; and dodging this way and that was never so prized in German lands.

Der guote wîn wirt selten guot, wan in dem guoten vazze:

106,17

The good wine becomes seldom good, save in the good vessel:

wirt daz bereit ze rehte wol, sô habet ez den wîn.

(if)-is it prepared in right well, so keeps it the wine.

dar umbe wunder nieman, ob ich an dem kûnege hazze,

there for wonder no-one, if I in the king hate,

hât er ein herze als si dâ sagent, sol daz niht werden schîn.

(if)-has he a heart as they there say, shall that not become manifest.

im sint die reife alsô vertriben: er welle ræzer sîn,

to-him are the hoops so driven: he would sharper be,

so ist vaz und tranc ein wiht.

so is vessel and drink a nothing.

guot wîn mac ie sô lange ligen daz man in seiger siht.

good wine may ever so long lie that one it sour sees.

Ez nam ein witiwe einen man hie vor in alten zîten.

106,24

There took a widow a man here before in old times.

dô kam vil ritter unde frowen dur ir liebe dar.

then came many knights and ladies for their love thither.

als dô der briutegome kan, des wart ein michel strîten,

as then the bridegroom came, of-that became a great quarreling,

wie si der briute bunden: des zerwurfen si sich gar.

how they to-the bride bound: of-that fell-out they themselves wholly.

ze jungest bants ir selber, daz ir niht dar an enwar.

at last bound-she to-her self, so-that to-her nothing there in went-wrong.

hêr künec, nû sît gemant,

sir king, now be admonished,

daz ir dekein gebende zam, wan dazs ir selber bant.

that to-her no beaddress befitted, save that-she to-her self bound.

106,31 Der künec behielte küneges namen, dern in behalten hieze,

The king would-keep of-king name, he-who him keep bade,

und lebte och swie sin hiezen leben, die in hânt in ir pfliht.

and lived also however they-him bade live, who him have in their charge.

nu ist billich daz er des gein rehten liuten wol genieze:

now is fitting that he of-that toward right people well profit:

wan sol im schulde und êre geben, dar mans dran gesiht.

one shall to-him guilt and honor give, where one-it therein sees.

werde ab er sîn selbes man, sô lône in anders niht

(if)-becomes however he of-him self man, so reward him otherwise not

wan also ir rât nû sî:

save as their counsel now be:

und swer in sælden roube, den mach er der êren frî.

and whoever him of-blessedness robs, him make he of-the honors free.

107,3 Si jehent, daz böeser kom ie nâch. daz hât sich nû verkêret:

They say, that worse came ever after. that has itself now reversed:

wan vindet nû daz man nie vant hie vor bî Karles zît.

one finds now what one never found here before in Charles's time.

sich hânt deshalp der lande reht ze hove wol gemêret:

themselves have therefore of-the lands laws at court well increased:

ez was ê sleht alsam ein hant, nust drunder michel strîf.

it was before smooth like a hand, now-is thereunder great strife.

swâ man dem ungetriuwen man die triuwe wider gât,
wherever one to-the faithless man the faith back gives,

da ist daz gerihte guot:
there is the justice good:

wan enem kan niht geschaden swer für guot hât swaz er tuot.
for to-that-one can not harm whoever for good holds whatever he does.

Dâ hin da her wart nie sô wert in allen tiuschen landen: 107,10
There thither there hither became never so prized in all German lands:

swer nû dâ hin dâ her niht kan, derst an dem spil betrogen.
whoever now there thither there hither not can, he-is in the game deceived.

küenege wâren ê die niht dâ hin dâ her bekanden:
kings were before who not there thither there hither knew:

nust si der list wol komen an, intwerhes umben bogen.
now-is to-them the craft well come on, crosswise about-the bow.

ez heten hie bevor die grôzen fürsten niht gelogen
there had here before the great princes not lied

dur liute noch dur lant:
for people nor for land:

nû ist in meistic allen wol dâ hin dâ her bekant.
now is to-them mostly all well there thither there hither known.

Vil meneger mich berihtet

VERY MANY INSTRUCT ME

Two strophes, one bitter and one mourning. Many instruct him who cannot instruct themselves, and he ages before his time at the man who grants him nothing and boasts what he would gain abroad with such an art: the singer would rather have goods and honor here. Then the lament for a learned prince, crowned with virtue, breeding, and art, whom God has taken to himself.

107,17 Vil meneger mich berihtet,

Very many-a-one me instructs,

der niht berihten kan

who not instruct can

sich selben alse er solde:

himself self as he should:

des alte ich vor den tagen.

of-that age I before the days.

wie gar er mich vernihtet,

how wholly he me annihilates,

der mir niht guotes gan,

who to-me nothing of-good grants,

und giht wie vil er wolde

and says how much he would

mit mîner kunst bejagen

with my art gain

in fremeden landen werdekeit. nû bin ich sô gesite,

in strange lands worth. now am I so mannered,

hæt ich hie guot und êre,

had I here goods and honor,

daz næm ich für daz mêre,

that would-take I for the more,

dar umbe ich iemer dur daz jâr des tievels zîte lite.

there for I ever through the year the devil's seasons would-suffer.

Gelêrter fürsten krône

Of-learned princes crown

107,29

mit ûz erwelter tugent,

with out chosen virtue,

mit zuht, mit kunst, mit güete,

with breeding, with art, with goodness,

hât got hin zim genomen.

has God thither to-him taken.

der lebte hie vil schône

he lived here very beautifully

mit alter kunst in jugent.

with old art in youth.

nâch lobe stuont sîn gemüete:

after praise stood his spirit:

des was sîn name ...

of-that was his name (lacuna)

... der ie nâch sælden warp.

(lacuna) who ever after blessedness strove.

nû pflege sîn got der rîche:

now take-care of-him God the mighty:

des wûnschen inneclîche,

of-that wish inwardly,

sît tiurre fürste sîn genôz nie manege zît verdarp.

since worthier prince his peer never many-a time perished.

Uns ist unsers sanges meister an die vart

OUR SONG'S MASTER IS ON THE JOURNEY

One Spruch on the death of the singer. The master of their song is on the journey that is barred to none, he whom they called of the Vogelweide. Whatever he knew of the world avails nothing now, and his high mind has become weak. For his worthy courtly song they wish him joy on the way, and pray that the sweet father may take care of him in mercy.

- 108,6 Uns ist unsers sanges meister an die vart,
To-us is of-our song master on the journey,
- den man ê von der Vogelweide nande,
whom one before of the Vogelweide named,
- diu uns nâch in allen ist vil unverspart.
which to-us after them all is quite unbarred.
- nû waz frumt swaz er ê der welte erkande?
now what avails whatever he before of-the world knew?
- sîn hôher sin ist worden kranc.
his high mind is become weak.
- nû wûnschen ime dur sînen werden höveschen sanc,
now wish for-him for his worthy courtly song,
- sît dem sîn fröide sî ze wege,
since to-him his joy be to way,
- daz sîn der süeze vater nâch genâden pflege.
that of-him the sweet father after mercies take-care.
-

WALTHER VON DER VOGELWEIDE

The Fourth Book: The Late Songs and the Elegy

Ganzer fröiden wart mir nie sô wol ze muote

NEVER WAS I SO WELL DISPOSED TO WHOLE JOYS

Five strophes of a happy service. Her worthy greeting commands him to sing, and if God grants him success with her he will be glad for ever: no woman ever constrained him so, and he did not know that Love could constrain until he found it in her. Love's goodness makes love and her constraining wastes joys; and he asks Love to bid the woman turn her womanly goodness toward him.

Ganzer fröiden wart mir nie sô wol ze muote:

109,1

Of-whole joys became to-me never so well in spirit:

mirst geboten, daz ich singen muoz.

to-me-is commanded, that I sing must.

sælic sî diu mir daz wol verstê ze guote!

blessed be she to-me that well understand to good!

mich mant singen ir vil werder gruoze.

me admonishes to-sing her very worthy greeting.

diu mîn iemer hât gewalt,

she of-me ever has power,

diu mac mir wol trûren wenden

she can to-me well mourning turn-away

unde senden

and send

fröide manicvalt.

joy manifold.

Gît daz got daz mir noch wol an ir gelinget,

(if)-Grants that God that to-me yet well in her succeeds,

seht, sô wære ich iemer mêre frô,

see, so were I ever more glad,

diu mir beide herze und lîp ze fröiden twinget.

she to-me both heart and body to joys constrains.

mich betwanc nie mê kein wîp alsô.

me constrained never more any woman so.

ê was mir gar unbekant

before was to-me wholly unknown

daz diu Minne twingen solde

that the Love constrain should

swie si wolde,

however she would,

unz ichz an ir bevant.

until I-it in her found.

Minne, wunder kan dîn güete liebe machen,

Love, wonders can thy goodness love make,

und dîn twingen swenden fröiden vil.

and thy constraining waste of-joys much.

dû lêrest liebe ûz spilnden ougen lachen,

thou teachest love out-of playing eyes to-laugh,

swâ dû mêren wilt dîn wunderspil:

wherever thou increase wilt thy wonder-play:

dû kanst fröidenrîchen muot

thou canst joy-rich spirit

sô verworrenliche verkêren,

so confusedly pervert,

daz dîn sêren

that thy wounding

sanfte unsanfte tuot.

gently ungently does.

Süeze Minne, sît nâch dîner süezen lêre

Sweet Love, since after thy sweet teaching

mich ein wîp alsô betwungen hât,

me a woman so constrained has,

bit si dazs ir wîplîch güete gegen mir kêre:

bid her that-she her womanly goodness toward me turn:

sô mac mîner sorge werden rât.

so may of-my care become remedy.

dur ir liechten ougen schîn

through her bright eyes shine

wart ich alsô wol enpfangen,

was I so well received,

gar zergangen

wholly vanished

was daz trûren mîn.

was the mourning mine.

Mich fröit iemer daz ich alsô guotem wîbe

Me gladdens ever that I so good woman

dienen sol ûf minneclîchen danc.

serve shall upon lovely thanks.

mit dem trôste ich dicke trûren mir vertrîbe,

with that comfort I often mourning from-me drive-away,

unde wirt mîn ungemüete kranc.

and becomes my ill-humor weak.

endet sich mîn ungemach,

ends itself my discomfort,

sô weiz ich von wârheit danne

so know I of truth then

daz nie manne

that never to-man

an liebe baz geschach.

in love better happened.

Wol mich der stunde, daz ich sie erkande

HAIL TO ME FOR THE HOUR

Two strophes with one refrain. Hail to the hour he knew her, who has constrained both his body and his mind: he turned his senses so wholly on her that he cannot part from her now. He has given mind and senses to the pure, the dear, the good one, and hopes it may be accomplished for them both. Her beauty, her goodness, and her red mouth that laughs so lovingly have done it.

- 110,13 Wol mich der stunde, daz ich sie erkande,
Hail to-me of-the hour, that I her knew,
diu mir den lîp und den muot hât betwungen,
who to-me the body and the spirit has constrained,
sît deich die sinne sô gar an sie wande,
since that-I the senses so wholly on her turned,
des si mich hât mit ir güete verdrungen.
of-that she me has with her goodness dispossessed.
daz ich von ir gescheiden niht enkan,
that I from her part not can,
daz hât ir schœne und ir güete gemachet,
that has her beauty and her goodness made,
und ir rôter munt, der sô lieplîchen lachet.
and her red mouth, which so lovingly laughs.

Ich hân den muot und die sinne gewendet

I have the spirit and the senses turned

an die reinen, die lieben, die guoten.

on the pure-one, the dear-one, the good-one.

daz müez uns beiden wol werden volendet,

that may to-us both well be accomplished,

swes ich getar an ir hulde gemuoten.

whatever I dare from her favor to-desire.

swaz ich fröiden zer werlde ie gewan,

whatever I of-joys in-the world ever won,

daz hât ir schœne und ir güete gemachet,

that has her beauty and her goodness made,

und ir rôter munt, der sô lieplîchen lachtet.

and her red mouth, which so lovingly laughs.

Wer kan nû ze danke singen?

WHO CAN SING TO THANKS NOW

Three strophes on an audience that cannot agree. Who can sing to thanks now, when one man is sad and another glad and each wants his own: if he knew what they wanted he would sing it. He knows joy and care both and sings of both, since summer delight does him good and doubt gives him his sorrow. And hail to the small birds, whose song wholly outsounds his own.

110,27 Wer kan nû ze danke singen?

Who can now to thanks sing?

dirre ist trûric, der ist frô:

this-one is sad, that-one is glad:

wer kan daz zesamene bringen?

who can that together bring?

dirre ist sus und der ist sô.

this-one is thus and that-one is so.

sie verirrent mich

they confuse me

und versûment sich:

and neglect themselves:

wess ich waz si wolten, daz sung ich.

knew I what they wanted, that would-sing I.

Fröide und sorge erkenne ich beide:

Joy and care know I both:

dâ von singe ich swaz ich sol.

there from sing I whatever I shall.

mir ist liebe, mir ist leide.

to-me is joy, to-me is sorrow.

sumerwünne tuot mir wol:

summer-delight does to-me well:

swaz ich leides hân,

whatever I of-sorrow have,

daz tuot zwîvelwân,

that does doubt-fancy,

wiez mir umb die lieben sül ergân.

how-it to-me about the dear-one shall turn-out.

Wol iu kleinen vogellînen!

Hail to-you small little-birds!

iuwer wünneclicher sanc

your delightful song

der verschallet gar den mînen.

it out-sounds wholly the mine.

al diu werlt diu seit iu danc.

all the world it says to-you thanks.

alsô danken ir

so thank you

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

Selpvar ein wîp

A WOMAN OF HER OWN COLOR

One song in praise of a woman unpainted. She is of her own color, without white or red, and of whole constancy; he praises her person though he never asked anything of her, and hears good tidings of her gladly. She binds her fair hair up, while many a woman goes beside her to church letting her black nape show high, and he thinks that headdress stands unequally.

111,12 Selpvar ein wîp,

Self-colored a woman,

âne wîz rôt ganzlîcher stæte,

without white red of-whole constancy,

ungemâlet, daz si niht gebuggerâmet wære,

unpainted, so-that she not buckram-smeared were,

ich lob ir lîp,

I praise her person,

swie ich si doch nie niht gebæte.

although I her yet never anything asked.

jâ hœre ich gerne von ir guotiu mære,

yes hear I gladly of her good tidings,

diu ir val hâr ûf gebunden hât.

who her fair hair up bound has.

bî ir manegiu hin zer kirchen gât,

by her many-a-one thither to-the church goes,

diu ir swarzen nac vil hôhe blecken lât.

who her black nape very high show lets.

ich wæne daz gebende unglîche stât.

I think the headdress unequally stands.

Ein man verbiutet âne pfliht

A MAN PROPOSES WITHOUT OBLIGATION

Two strophes, the second in a woman's voice. A man proposes a game nobody can follow: he says that any woman his eye lights on is checkmated, and that is his Easter day. The singer must deny it, since a lady's gentle greeting is the remedy for mate. The woman answers that she has kept her honor so that no thief can harm her: kisses must be sought with fitness and without a game.

Ein man verbiutet âne pfliht

111,22

A man proposes without obligation

ein spil, des im nieman wol gevolgen mac.

a game, in-which him no-one well follow can.

er gihet, swenne ein wîp ersiht

he says, whenever a woman catches-sight

sîn ouge, ir sî mat sîn ôsterlîcher tac.

his eye, to-her be mate his Easter day.

wie wære uns andern liuten sô geschehen,

how were to-us other people so happened,

solt wir im alle sînes willen jehen?

should we to-him all of-his will grant?

ich bin der imez versprechen muoz:

I am he-who to-him-it deny must:

bezzer wære mîner frowen senfter gruoz.

better were of-my lady gentle greeting.

deist mates buoz.

that-is of-mate remedy.

‘Ich bin ein wîp dâ her gewesen

I am a woman there hitherto been

sô stæte an êren und ouch alsô wol gemuot:

so constant in honors and also so well disposed:

ich trûwe ouch noch vil wol genesen,

I trust also still very well to-survive,

daz mir mit stelne nieman keinen schaden tuot.

that to-me with stealing no-one any harm does.

swer küssen hie ze mir gewinnen wil,

whoever kisses here from me win will,

der werbe ab ez mit fuoge und âne spil.

he seek however it with fitness and without game.

ist daz ez im wirt iesâ,

(if)-is that it to-him becomes at-once,

er muoz sîn iemer sîn mîn diep, und habe imz dâ

he must of-it ever be my thief, and have to-him-it there

und anderswâ.’

and elsewhere.’

Müeste ich noch geleben daz ich die rôsen

MIGHT I LIVE TO GATHER THE ROSES

Two strophes, one hoping and one despairing. If he might live to gather the roses with the lovely one, he would talk with her until they must be friends for ever, and a kiss from her red mouth would heal him in joys. Then he asks what lovely speaking, singing, a woman's beauty, and goods avail, when nobody is seen wrestling for joys and evil is done without fear.

Müeste ich noch geleben daz ich die rôsen

112,3

Might I still live-to-see that I the roses

mit der minneclîchen solde lesen,

with the lovely-one should gather,

sô wold ich mich sô mit ir erkôsen,

so would I myself so with her converse,

daz wir iemer friunde müesten wesen.

that we ever friends must be.

wurde mir ein kus noch zeiner stunde

should-become to-me a kiss yet at-an hour

von ir rôten munde,

from her red mouth,

sô wær ich an fröiden wol genesen.

so were I in joys well healed.

Waz sol lieblich sprechen? waz sol singen?

What avails lovely speaking? what avails singing?

waz sol wîbes schoene? waz sol guot?

what avails woman's beauty? what avails goods?

sît man nieman siht nâch fröiden ringen,

since one no-one sees after joys wrestle,

sît man übel âne vorhte tuot,

since one evil without fear does,

sît man triuwe milte zuht und êre

since one faith bounty breeding and honor

wil verpflegen sô sêre,

(if)-will neglect so sorely,

sô verzagt an fröiden maneges muot.

so despairs of joys of-many-a-one spirit.

Ir vil minneclîchen ougenblicke

HER VERY LOVELY GLANCES

Three short strophes. Her lovely glances touch him to the heart whenever he sees her, and he declares himself her property and serves her as a serf. He bears a grief he cannot leave, and would gladly be secretly with her by night and day, but his lady will not have it. If his faith is paid for so, no man should trust her: she would sooner endure a reviling than a praising.

Ir vil minneclîchen ougenblicke

112,17

Her very lovely glances

rüerent mich alhie, swann ich si sihe,

touch me right-here, whenever I her see,

in mîn herze. owê sold ich si dicke

into my heart. alas should I her often

sehen, der ich mich für eigen gihe!

see, to-whom I myself as property declare!

eigenlîchen dien ich ir:

as-a-serf serve I her:

daz sol si vil wol gelouben mir.

that shall she very well believe to-me.

Ich trage in mînem herzen eine swære,

I bear in my heart a grief,

der ich von ir lâzen niht enmac,

whiche I from her let not can,

bî der ich vil gerne tougen wære

by whom I very gladly secretly were

beide naht und ouch den liechten tac.

both night and also the bright day.

112,23

des enmac nû niht gesîn:

of-that can now not be:

ez enwil diu liebe frowe mîn.

it not-wills the dear lady mine.

Sol ich mîner triuwe alsust engelten,

(if)-Shall I of-my faith thus pay,

so ensol niemer man getrûwen ir.

so shall never man trust her.

sie vertrüege michels baz ein schelten

she would-endure much better a reviling

danne ein loben, daz geloubent mir.

than a praising, that believe to-me.

wê war umbe tuot si daz,

woe what for does she that,

der mîn herze treit vil kleinen haz?

toward-whom my heart bears very little hate?

Frowe, vernemt dur got von mir diz mære

LADY, HEAR THIS TALE FROM ME

Four strophes, three spoken by a messenger and the last the lady's reply. A lady is asked to turn away a knight's long-borne grief and make him rich in joys, and not to let it weary her to give him high spirit, from which many others will profit: then he will sing her honor and her worth. She answers that she cannot rely on him to guard himself, since crooked ways run beside every road, and she will go after the right.

Frowe, vernemt dur got von mir diz mære:

112,35

Lady, hear for God from me this tale:

ich bin ein bote und sol iu sagen,

I am a messenger and shall to-you say,

ir sünt wenden einem ritter swære,

you shall turn-away from-a knight grief,

der si lange hât getragen.

who it long has borne.

daz sol ich iu künden sô:

that shall I to-you announce thus:

ob ir in welt fröiden rîchen,

if you him will of-joys enrich,

sicherlîchen

certainly

des wirt manic herze frô.

of-that becomes many-a heart glad.

Frowe, enlât iuch des sô niht verdriezen,

Lady, let you of-that so not weary,

ir engebt im hôhen muot.

you give to-him high spirit.

des mugt ir und al die wol geniezen,

of-that may you and all those well profit,

den ouch fröide sanfte tuot.

to-whom also joy gently does.

dâ von wirt sîn sin bereit,

there from becomes his mind ready,

ob ir in ze fröiden bringet,

if you him to joys bring,

daz er singet

that he sings

iuwer êre und werdekeit.

your honor and worth.

Frowe, sendet im ein hôhgemüete,

Lady, send to-him a high-spirit,

sît an iu sîn fröide stât.

since on you his joy stands.

er mac wol geniezen iuwer güete,

he may well profit-from your goodness,

sît diu tugent und êre hât.

since it virtue and honor has.

frowe, gebt im hôhen muot.

lady, give to-him high spirit.

welt ir, sîn trûren ist verkêret,

(if)-will you, his mourning is reversed,

daz ez in lêret

so-that it him teaches

daz er daz beste gerne tuot.

that he the best gladly does.

‘Jâ möhte ich mîchs an in niht wol gelâzen,

‘Yes might I myself-of-it on him not well rely,

daz er wol behuote sich.

that he well guard himself.

krumbe wege die gênt bî allen strâzen:

crooked ways they go by all roads:

dâ vor, got, behüete mich.

there from, God, guard me.

ich wil nâch dem rehten varn,

I will after the right go,

ze leide im der mich anders lêre.

to sorrow to-him who me otherwise may-teach.

swar ich kêre,

whither I turn,

dâ müeze mich doch got bewarn.’

there may me yet God preserve.’

Mir tuot einer slahte wille

ONE KIND OF DESIRE DOES ME GOOD

Five strophes in a woman's voice. One kind of desire does her good and is woe to her at once: she loves a knight secretly and can refuse him no more. Often she thinks herself constant, and then remembers that a mind does not last a day. He tempts her too much, and she would have done it but that she must refuse and keep a woman's honor; and she has given him a place in her heart.

113,31 'Mir tuot einer slahte wille

'To-me does of-one kind desire

sanfte, und ist mir doch dar under wê.

gently, and is to-me yet there under woe.

ich minne einen ritter stille:

I love a knight secretly:

dem enmag ich niht versagen mê

to-him can I not refuse more

des er mich gebeten hât:

what he of-me asked has:

tuon ichs niht, mich dunket daz mîn niemer werde rât.

(if)-do I-it not, to-me it-seems that of-me never becomes remedy.

Dicke dunke ich mich sô stæte

Often think I myself so constant

mînes willen. sô mir daz geschiht,

of-my will. when to-me that happens,

swie vil er mich denne bâte,

however much he me then begged,

al die wîle daz enhulfe niht.

all the while that would-help not.

ieze hân ich den gedanc:

now have I the thought:

waz hilfet daz? der muot enwert niht eines tages lanc.

what helps that? the spirit lasts not one day long.

Wold er mich vermîden mêre!

Would he me avoid more!

jâ versuochet er mich alze vil.

yes tempts he me all-too much.

ouwê des fürht ich vil sêre,

alas of-that fear I very sorely,

daz ich müeze volgen swes er wil.

that I must follow whatever he wants.

gerne het ichz nû getân,

gladly had I-it now done,

wan deichz im muoz versagen und wîbes êre sol begân.

save that-I-it to-him must refuse and woman's honor shall keep.

In getar vor tûsent sorgen,

I dare for a-thousand cares,

die mich tougen in dem herzen mân

which me secretly in the heart mine

twingent âbent unde morgen,

constrain evening and morning,

leider niht getuon des willen sîn.

alas not do of-the will his.

daz ichz iemer einen tac

that I-it ever one day

sol fristen, dêst ein klage diu mir ie bî dem herzen lac.

shall put-off, that-is a lament which to-me ever by the heart lay.

Sît daz im die besten jâhen

Since that of-him the best granted

daz er alsô schône künne leben,

that he so beautifully knows to-live,

sô hân ich im mir vil nâhen

so have I to-him to-me very near

in mîme herzen eine stat gegeben,

in my heart a place given,

dâ noch nieman in getrat.

where yet no-one in trod.

si hânt daz spil verlorn, er eine tuot in allen mat.'

they have the game lost, he alone makes them all mate.'

Der rîfe tet den kleinen vogelen wê

THE FROST DID THE SMALL BIRDS WOE

Three strophes on the turn of the year. The frost hurt the small birds so that they did not sing, and now the heath is sprung up and he hears them delightfully again; flowers and clover strive on it over which is taller, and he sends his lady the news. The winter did much harm, and he thought never to see red flowers on a green heath again. To neglect such a day would be accursed.

Der rîfe tet den kleinen vogelen wê,

The frost did to-the small birds woe,

daz si niht ensungen.

that they not sang.

nû hœre ichs aber wünneclich als ê,

now hear I-them again delightfully as before,

nu ist diu heide entsprungen.

now is the heath sprung-up.

dâ sach ich bluomen strîten wider den klê,

there saw I flowers strive against the clover,

weder ir lenger wære.

which of-them longer were.

mîner frowen sende ich disiu mære.

to-my lady send I these tidings.

Uns hât der winter kalt und ander nôt

To-us has the winter cold and other distress

vil getân ze leide.

much done to sorrow.

114,23

ich wânde daz ich iemer bluomen rỗt

I thought that I ever flowers red

gesæ̃he an grüener heide.

would-see on green heath.

joch schât ez guoten liuten, wære ich tỗt,

indeed harms it good people, were I dead,

die nâch fröiden rungen

who after joys strove

und die gerne tanzten unde sprungen.

and who gladly danced and leapt.

Versûmde ich disen wûnneclîchen tac,

Neglected I this delightful day,

sô wær ich verwâzen,

so were I accursed,

und wære mir ein angeslîcher slac:

and were to-me a fearful blow:

dâ nâch müese ich lâzen

there after must I leave

al mîne fröide der ich wilent pflac.

all my joy which I formerly kept.

got gesegen iuch alle:

God bless you all:

wünschet noch daz mir ein heil gevalle.

wish yet that to-me a fortune fall.

Hêre got, gesegene mich vor sorgen

LORD GOD, BLESS ME FROM CARES

Three strophes on a woman who takes his wits. He asks God to bless him from cares so that he may live delightfully, and says he knows where to borrow joy and pay it back. All his joy lies on one woman whose heart is full of whole virtue, and he means to win a laugh from her. But when he sits by her and she lets him speak, he forgets everything he had to say.

Hêre got, gesegene mich vor sorgen,

Lord God, bless me from cares,

115,6

daz ich vil wünneclîche lebe.

that I very delightfully live.

wil mir ieman sîne fröide borgen,

will to-me anyone his joy lend,

daz i'm ein ander wider gebe?

that I-to-him an other back give?

die vind ich vil schiere ich weiz wol wâ:

them find I very soon I know well where:

wan ich liez ir wunder dâ;

for I left of-them a-wonder there;

der ich vil wol mit sinnen

of-which I very well with senses

getriuwe ein teil gewinnen.

trust a part to-win.

Al mîn fröide lît an einem wîbe:

All my joy lies on a woman:

der herze ist ganzer tugende vol,

whose heart is of-whole virtue full,

und ist sô geschaffen an ir lîbe

and is so fashioned in her body

daz man ir gerne dienen sol.

that one to-her gladly serve shall.

ich erwirbe ein lachen wol von ir.

I win a laugh well from her.

des muoz sie gestaten mir:

of-that must she grant to-me:

wie mac siz behûeten?

how can she-it prevent?

ich fröwe mich noch ir gûeten.

I gladden myself yet of-her goodness.

Als ich under wîlen zir gesitze,

When I under whiles by-her sit,

sô si mich mit ir reden lât,

when she me with her speak lets,

sô benimt si mir sô gar die witze,

so takes she from-me so wholly the wits,

daz mir der lîp alumme gât.

that to-me the body all-around goes.

swenne ich iezuo wunder rede kan,

whenever I just-now wonders speak can,

gesihet si mich einest an,

looks she me once at,

sô hân ichs vergezzen,

so have I-it forgotten,

waz wolde ich dar gesezzen.

what wanted I there sat.

Mich nimt iemer wunder waz ein wîp

I ALWAYS WONDER WHAT A WOMAN SAW

Five strophes on a plain man loved. He wonders what a woman saw in him to lay her magic on him, since he is, undeniably, not the fairest of men. If anyone lied to her about him, let her look again. A thousand fairer men live where she does, and but for a little fitness his beauty is a wind; and her magic is that she has beauty and honor together.

Mich nimt iemer wunder waz ein wîp

115,30

Me takes ever wonder what a woman

an mir habe ersehen,

in me has bebold,

daz ir zouber leit an mînen lîp.

that-she her magic lays on my body.

waz ist ir geschehen?

what is to-her happened?

si hât ouch ir ougen:

she has also her eyes:

wie kumt daz als übel gesiht?

how comes that-she so ill sees?

ich bin aller manne schœnest niht,

I am of-all men fairest not,

daz ist âne lougen.

that is without denying.

Habe ir ieman iht von mir gelogen,

(if)-Has to-her anyone anything about me lied,

sô beschowe mich [baz].

so let-her-behold me [better].

sist an mîner schœne gar betrogen:

she-is in my beauty wholly deceived:

si wil anders niht.

she wants otherwise nothing.

wan wie stât mir mîn houbet!

save how stands to-me my head!

dazn ist niht ze wol getân.

that is not too well made.

sie betriuget lîhte ein tumber wân,

her deceives perhaps a foolish fancy,

ob siz niht geloubet.

if she-it not believes.

Dâ si wont, dâ wonent wol tûsent man

Where she dwells, there dwell fully a-thousand men

die vil schœner sint.

who far fairer are.

wan daz ich ein lützel fuoge kan,

save that I a little of-fitness know,

so ist mîn schœne ein wint.

so is my beauty a wind.

fuoge hân ich kleine:

fitness have I little:

doch ist sie genæme wol,

yet is it acceptable well,

... sô daz si vil liuten sol

(lacuna) so that it to-many people shall

iemer sîn gemeine.

ever be common.

Wil si fuoge für die schœne nemen,

(if)-Will she fitness for the beauty take,

so ist si wol gemuot.

so is she well disposed.

kan si daz, sô muoz ir wol gezemen

(if)-can she that, so must to-her well befit

swaz si mir getuot.

whatever she to-me does.

sô wil ich mich neigen,

so will I myself bow,

und tuon allez daz si wil.

and do all that she wants.

waz bedarf si denne zoubers vil?

what needs she then of-magic much?

ich bin doch ir eigen.

I am yet her property.

Lât iu sagen wiez umbe ir zouber stât,

Let to-you be-told how-it about her magic stands,

des si wunder treit.

of-which she a-wonder bears.

sist ein wîp diu schœne und êre hât,

she-is a woman who beauty and honor has,

dâ bî liep und leit.

there by joy and sorrow.

daz iht anders künne,

that-she anything else knows,

daz sol man gar übergeben;

that shall one wholly pass-over;

wan daz mir ir wünneclichez leben

save that to-me her delightful life

machet sorge und wünne.

makes care and delight.

Bî den liuten nieman hât

NOBODY AMONG PEOPLE HAS

Two strophes on a cheerfulness put on. Nobody among people has a more courtly comfort than he: when longing distress assails him he looks merry and comforts himself, and so has often deceived himself and feigned many a joy for the world's sake, and the lying was praiseworthy. Many who see him think his heart high in joys; he has none, and will have none until German people are good again.

116,33 Bî den liuten nieman hât

Among the people no-one has

hovelîchern trôst denn ich:

more-courtly comfort than I:

sô mich sende nôt bestât,

when me longing distress assails,

sô schîne ich geil und træste selben mich.

so appear I merry and comfort self me.

alsô hân ich dicke mich betrogen

so have I often myself deceived

unde durch die werlt manege fröide erlogen:

and for the world many-a joy feigned:

daz liegen was ab lobelich.

the lying was however praiseworthy.

Maneger wænet, der mich siht,

Many-a-one thinks, who me sees,

mîn herze sî an fröiden hô.

my heart be in joys high.

hôher fröide hân ich niht,

of-high joy have I not,

und wirt mir niemer wider, wan alsô:

and becomes to-me never again, save thus:

werdent tiusche liute wider guot,

(if)-become German people again good,

unde træstet si mich, diu mir leide tuot,

and comforts she me, who to-me sorrow does,

sô wirde ich aber wider frô.

so become I again back glad.

Leider ich muoz mich entwenen

ALAS, I MUST WEAN MYSELF

Three strophes on a world that pays badly. He must wean himself of much delight his eye once saw, and whoever does not believe what happened here before knows little of merriment. He has served the World and would serve her more, but she thanks ill and thinks he does not understand: he understands it in one thing, that what he most desires she gives to a fool first.

117,8 Leider ich muoz mich entwenen

Alas I must myself wean

maneger wünne der mîn ouge an sach:

of-many-a delight which my eye at looked:

war nâch sol sich einer senen,

what after shall himself one long,

der niht geloubet waz hie vor geschach?

who not believes what here before happened?

der weiz lützel waz daz sî, gemeit.

he knows little what that be, merry.

daz ist senender muot mit gerender arebeit.

that is longing spirit with yearning labor.

unsælic sî daz ungemach!

unblessed be the discomfort!

Ich hân ir gedienet vil,

I have to-her served much,

der Werlte, und wolte ir gerne dienen mê,

to-the World, and would to-her gladly serve more,

wan dazs übel danken wil,

save that-she ill thank will,

und wænet des daz ich mich niht verstê.

and thinks of-that that I myself not understand.

ich verstên michs wol an eime site:

I understand myself-of-it well in one manner:

des ich aller sêrest ger, sô ich des bite,

what I of-all most desire, when I of-that ask,

sô gât siz einem tôren ê.

so gives she-it to-a fool first.

Ichn weiz wiechz erwerben mac.

I-not know how-I-it win can.

des man dâ pfligt, daz widerstuont mir ie:

what one there practices, that resisted to-me ever:

wirbe ab ich sô man ê pflac,

court however I as one before practiced,

daz schadet mir lîhte: sus enweiz ich wie.

that harms me perhaps: thus not-know I how.

doch verwæne ich mich der fuoge dâ,

yet presume I myself of-the fitness there,

daz der ungefüegen werben anderswâ

that of-the unfitting courting elsewhere

genæmer sî dan wider sie.

more-acceptable be than toward her.

Nû sing ich als ich ê sanc

NOW I SING AS I SANG BEFORE

Three strophes on winter and love. He sings as he sang before and asks whether anyone will be glad; the rich and the young have no thanks for it, and if he knew what troubled them he would help them lament. Wherever love lies by love free of cares, he wants the winter well allotted to the two: a short day means a long night for love to recover by love. Then he calls it all a lie.

117,29 Nû sing ich als ich ê sanc,
Now sing I as I before sang,
‘wil abe iemen wesen frô?
‘will however anyone be glad?
daz die rîchen haben undanc,
that the rich have no-thanks,
und die jungen haben alsô!
and the young have likewise!’
wist ich waz in wûrre
knew I what them troubled
(daz möhten si mir gerne sagen),
(that might they to-me gladly say),
sô hulf ich in ir schaden klagen.
so would-help I them their harm lament.

Swâ sô liep bî liebe lît
Wherever so love by love lies
gar vor allen sorgen frî,
wholly from all cares free,

ich wil daz diu winterzît

I will that the winter-time

den zwein wol erteilet sî.

to-the two well allotted be.

sumer unde winter,

summer and winter,

der zweier êren ist sô vil,

of-the two honors is so much,

daz ich beide loben wil.

that I both praise will.

Hât der winter kurzen tac,

(if)-Has the winter short day,

sô hât er die langen naht,

so has it the long night,

daz sich lieb bî liebe mac

so-that itself love by love may

wol erholn, daz ê dâ vaht.

well recover, what before there struggled.

waz hân ich gesprochen?

what have I spoken?

owê jâ het ich baz geswigen,

alas yes had I better kept-silent,

sol ich iemer sô geligen.

shall I ever so lie.

Wer gesach ie bezzer jâr?

WHO SAW EVER A BETTER YEAR

Two strophes on an unblessed man. Who saw ever a better year or fairer women, and yet none of it comforts an unblessed man by a hair: whoever meets such a man early in the morning has misfortune come to him. He will help lament for one to whom joy would well befit, who must lose her fair virtue in such false days: once a whole land was gladdened for such a woman.

118,12 ‘Wer gesach ie bezzer jâr?

‘Who saw ever better year?

wer gesach ie schœner wîp?

who saw ever fairer women?

daz entroestet niht ein hâr

that comforts not a hair

einen unsæligen lîp.

an unblessed body.

wizzet, swem der anegenget an dem morgen fruo,

know, to-whomever he meets-first in the morning early,

deme gêt ungelücke zuo.’

to-him goes misfortune to.’

Ich wil einer helfen klagen,

I will to-one help lament,

der ouch fröide zæme wol,

to-whom also joy would-befit well,

dazs in alsô valschen tagen

that-she in such false days

schoene tugent verliesen sol.

beautiful virtue lose shall.

hie vor wær ein lant gefröwet umb ein sô schoene wîp:

here before were a land gladdened for a so beautiful woman:

waz sol der nû schœner lîp?

what avails to-her now beautiful body?

Ich bin nû sô rehte frô

I AM NOW SO RIGHT GLAD

Five strophes of high spirits, the last in another voice. He is so glad that he will soon do wonders if he wins his lady's love, and his senses climb higher than the sun. He never saw her so often that his eyes did not dance, and the cold winter felt to him like the midst of May. Then a last strophe calls on Walther of the Vogelweide, his dear companion, for help and counsel.

118,24 Ich bin nû sô rehte frô,

I am now so right glad,

daz ich vil schiere wunder tuon beginne.

that I very soon wonders do begin.

swenne ez sich gefüezet sô

whenever it itself arranges so

daz ich erwirbe mîner frowen minne,

that I win of-my lady love,

sô stîgent mir die sinne

so climb to-me the senses

hôher danne der sunnen schîn. genâde, ein küniginne!

higher than the sun's shine. mercy, a queen!

Ich ensach die guoten hie

I saw the good-one here

sô dicke nie, daz ich des iht verbære,

so often never, that I of-it anything refrained,

mirne spilten dougen ie.

unless-to-me played the-eyes ever.

der kalte winter was mir gar unmære.

the cold winter was to-me wholly indifferent.

ander liute dûhte er swære:

to-other people seemed it grievous:

mir was die wîle als ich enmitten in dem meien wære.

to-me was the while as-if I amidst in the May were.

Disen wünneclichen sanc

This delightful song

hân ich gesungen mîner frowen ze êren.

have I sung of-my lady to honor.

des sol si mir wizzen danc:

of-that shall she to-me know thanks:

wan ich wil iemer durch si fröide mêren.

for I will ever for her joy increase.

wol mac si mîn herze sêren:

well may she my heart wound:

waz danne, ob si mir leide tuot? daz kan si wol verkêren.

what then, if she to-me sorrow does? that can she well reverse.

Daz enkunde nieman mir

That could no-one to-me

gerâten daz ich schiede von dem wâne.

advise that I departed from the expectation.

kêrt ich mînen muot von ir,

turned I my spirit from her,

wâ funde ich denne ein alsô wol getâne,

where would-find I then a so well fashioned-one,

diu sô wære valsches âne?

who so were of-falsehood without?

sist schœne und baz gelobet denne Elêne und Dîjâne.

she-is beautiful and better praised than Helen and Diana.

119,11

Hœrâ Walther, wiez mir stât,*Hear Walther, how-it to-me stands,***mîn trûtgeselle von der Vogelweide.***my dear-companion of the Vogelweide.***helfe suoche ich unde rât:***help seek I and counsel:***diu wol getâne tuot mir vil ze leide.***the well fashioned-one does to-me much to sorrow.***kunden wir gesingen beide,***could we sing both,***deich mit ir müeste brechen bluomen an der liechten heide!***that-I with her might pluck flowers on the bright heath!*

Got gebe ir iemer guoten tac

GOD GIVE HER EVER A GOOD DAY

Four strophes on a kiss and a joyless world. God give her ever a good day and let him see her again, whom he loves and cannot win: it troubles him that he heard her say how favorable she was and then tell another tale. She answers that in all haste she gave him a kiss and an embrace, and it shot into her heart. He would gladly be glad, but everyone mourns, and he never laughs where they see it.

Got gebe ir iemer guoten tac

God give to-her ever good day

und lâze mich si noch gesehen,

and let me her yet see,

diech minne und niht erwerben mac.

whom-I love and not win can.

mich mûet daz ich si hôte jehen

me troubles that I her heard say

wie holt si mir entriuwen wære,

how favorable she to-me in-faith were,

und sagte mir ein ander mære,

and told to-me an other tale,

des mîn herze inneclîchen kumber lîdet iemer sît.

of-which my heart inward affliction suffers ever since.

ouwê wie süeze ein arebeit!

alas how sweet a labor!

ich hân ein senfte unsenftekeit.

I have a gentle ungentleness.

119,17

‘Got hât vil wol ze mir getân,

‘God has very well to me done,

sît ich mit sorgen minnen sol,

since I with cares love shall,

daz ich mich underwunden hân

that I myself undertaken have

dem alle liute sprechent wol.

of-whom all people speak well.

im wart von mir in allen gâhen

to-him became from me in all haste

ein küssen und ein umbevâhen:

a kiss and an embrace:

dô schôz mir in mîn herze daz mir iemer nâhe lît

then shot to-me into my heart that to-me ever near lies

unz ich getuon des er mich bat.

until I do what he of-me asked.

ich tætez, wurde mirs diu stat.’

I would-do-it, became to-me-of-it the place.’

119,35 Ich wære dicke gerne frô,

I were often gladly glad,

wan daz ich niht gesellen hân.

save that I no companions have.

nû si alle trûrent sô,

now they all mourn so,

wie möhte ichz eine denne lân?

how could I-it alone then leave?

ich müese ir vingerzeigen liden,

I must their finger-pointing suffer,

ichn wolte fröide durch si mîden.

unless-I would joy for them avoid.

sus behalte ich wol ir hulde, daz siz lâzen âne nît:

thus keep I well their favor, so-that they-it leave without envy:

wand ich gelache niemer niht

for I laugh never anything

dâ ez ir dekeiner siht.

where it of-them any sees.

Ez tuot mir inneclichen wê,

It does to-me inwardly woe,

als ich gedenke wes man pflic

when I think what one practiced

in der werlte wilent ê.

in the world formerly before.

ouwê deich niht vergezzen mac

alas that-I not forget can

wie rehte frô die liute wâren!

how right glad the people were!

dô kunde ein sælic man gebâren,

then could a blessed man behave,

unde spilet im sîn herze gein der wünneclichen zît.

and played to-him his heart toward the delightful season.

sol daz nimmer mêr geschehen,

(if)-shall that never more happen,

sô mûet mich daz ichz hân gesehen.

so troubles me that I-it have seen.

Sît daz ich eigenlîchen sol

SINCE I MUST BE HER SERF

One song of service, nine verses long. Since he must be her serf as long as he lives, and she alone can remedy the sorrow he has borne so long for her sake and must go on bearing, and since nobody in the world can comfort him unless she does it, let her take the service he offers and guard him under it; and let her not, in him, neglect herself.

120,16 Sît daz ich eigenlîchen sol,
Since that I as-a-serf shall,
die wîle ich lebe, sîn undertân,
the while I live, be subject,
und si mir mac gebüezen wol
and she to-me can remedy well
den kumber den ich durch si hân
the affliction which I through her have
geliten nû lange und iemer alsô lîden muoz,
suffered now long and ever so suffer must,
daz mich enmac getrœsten nieman, sie entuoz,
so-that me can comfort no-one, she unless-does-it,
sô sol si nemen den dienest mîn,
so shall she take the service mine,
und bewar dar under mich,
and guard there under me,
daz si an mir ouch niht versûme sich.
that she on me also not neglect herself.

Wedr ist ez übel, od ist ez guot

IS IT EVIL OR IS IT GOOD

Five strophes on a hidden sorrow. Is it evil or good that he can hide his grief? He looks well disposed while men mourn who never had half his harm. He has helped so many out of distress and cannot comfort himself. He loves a woman who lets him begin every speech and never finish; her beauty is lined with dignity, beside her he knows less than a child, and she cannot hear but sees good will.

Wedr ist ez übel, od ist ez guot,

Whether is it evil, or is it good,

daz ich mîn leit verhelen kan?

that I my sorrow conceal can?

wan siht mich dicke wol gemuot:

one sees me often well disposed:

sô trûret manic ander man,

while mourns many another man,

der mînen schaden halben nie gewan:

who my harm half never had:

sô gebâre ich dem gelîche

so behave I to-that alike

als ich sî fröidenrîche.

as-if I were joy-rich.

nû müeze ez got gefüegen sô

now may it God arrange so

daz ich noch von wâren schulden werde frô.

that I yet from true causes become glad.

120,25

Wie kumet daz ich sô manegem man

How comes that I so to-many-a man

von sîner nôt geholfen hân,

from his distress helped have,

und ich mich selben niht enkan

and I me myself not can

getroesten, mich entriege ein wân?

comfort, me unless-deceive a expectation?

ich minne ein wîp, diust guot und wol getân:

I love a woman, who-is good and well fashioned:

diu lât mich aller rede beginnen,

she lets me of-all speech begin,

ich kan ab endes niht gewinnen.

I can however of-end nothing win.

dar umbe wære ich nû verzaget,

there for were I now despairing,

wan dazs ein wênic lachet sô si mir versaget

save that-she a little laughs when she to-me refuses

Si sehe dazs innen sich bewar

She see that-she within herself guard

(si schînet ûzen fröidenrîch),

(she appears outside joy-rich),

dazs an den siten iht irre var:

that-she in the manners not astray go:

sô wart nie wîp sô minneclîch:

so became never woman so lovely:

sost ir lop vil frouwen lobes entwîch;

so-is her praise of-many ladies praise a-yielding;

ist nâch ir wirde gefurrieret

(if)-is after her dignity lined

diu schœne diu si ûzen zieret.

the beauty which her outside adorns.

kan ich ir denne gedienen iht,
(if)-can I to-her then serve anything,
 des wirt bî selken êren ungelônnet niht.
of-that is by such honors unrewarded not.

Swie noch mîn fröide an zwîvel stât,
However yet my joy in doubt stands,
 den mir diu guote mac vil wol
which to-me the good-one can very well
 gebüezen, ob sis willen hât,
remedy, if she-of-it will has,
 son ruoche eht waz ich kumbers dol.
so-not deign just what I of-affliction endure.
 si frâget des mich nieman frâgen sol,
she asks what of-me no-one ask shall,
 wie lange ich welle bi ir belîben:
how long I would by her remain:
 sist iemer mêr vor allen wîben
she-is ever more before all women
 ein wernder trôst ze fröiden mir.
a lasting comfort to joys to-me.
 nû müeze mir geschehen als ich geloube an ir.
now may to-me happen as I believe in her.

Genuoge kunnen deste baz

Many can the-more better

gereden daz si bî liebe sint:

speak because they by love are:

swie dicke ich ir noch bî gesaz,

however often I her yet by sat,

sô wesse ich minner danne ein kint.

so knew I less than a child.

ich wart an allen mînen sinnen blind.

I became in all my senses blind.

des wær ich anderswâ betœret:

of-that were I elsewhere befooled:

sie ist ein wîp diu niht gehœret,

she is a woman who not hears,

und guoten willen kan gesehen.

and good will can see.

den hân ich, sô mir iemer müeze liep geschehen.

that have I, so to-me ever may joy happen.

Die grîsen hânt michs überkomen

THE GRAY-HEADS HAVE OVERCOME ME

Three strophes on an argument lost. The gray-heads have overcome him in the argument that the world never stood more sorrowful and had lost its joys; he fought them angrily, and they have kept the field a year and more. His eye sees a wonder, that fair fortune falls to those who deserve it worse. Once, when all were glad, nobody would hear his lament, and now some believe whatever he says; he prays God to end the common hardship.

Die grîsen hânt michs überkomen,

The gray-heads have me-of-it overcome,

121,33

diu werlt gestüende trûreclîcher nie

the world stood more-sorrowful never

und hete an fröiden ab genomen.

and had in joys off taken.

doch streit ich zornliche wider sie,

yet strove I angrily against them,

si möhtens vol gealten,

they might-it fully grow-old,

ez wurde niemer wâr.

it would-become never true.

mir was ir rede swâr.

to-me was their speech heavy.

sus streit ich mit den alten:

thus strove I with the old:

die hânt den strît behalten

they have the strife kept

nû wol lenger denne ein jâr.

now fully longer than a year.

Mîn ouge michel wunder siht,

My eye great wonder sees,

diez wirs verdienen kunnen vil denn ich,

those-who-it worse deserve can much than I,

daz den sô schoene heil geschiht.

that to-them so fair fortune happens.

ouwê Welt, wie kumt ez umbe dich!

alas World, how comes it about thee!

ist got selch ebenære?

is God such a-leveler?

er gât dem einen sin,

he gives to-the one sense,

dem andern den gewin:

to-the other the gain:

sô wæne ich alsô mære

so think I just-as well

ein rîcher tôre wære

a rich fool were

sô rîch als ich armer bin.

so rich as I poor am.

Hie vor, dôs alle wâren frô,

Here before, when-they all were glad,

dô wolte nieman hoeren mîne klage:

then would no-one bear my lament:

nû ist sümelîchen sô

now is to-some so

daz si mir wol gelouben swaz ich sage.

that they to-me well believe whatever I say.

nû müeze got erwenden

now may God turn-away

unser arebeit,

our hardship,

und gebe uns sælekeit,

and give to-us blessedness,

daz wir die sorge swenden.

that we the care banish.

ouwê möht ichz verenden!

alas could I-it accomplish!

ich hân eine sunder leit.

I have alone special sorrow.

Ein meister las

A MASTER READ

Four strophes of repentance. A master read that dream and mirror-glass are reckoned to the wind for constancy, and so are the leaf and grass that were his joy, and the birds' song has a sad end. A foolish hope toward the world gives an evil end, and he fears the grim death. He grasped like a fool into the embers, and prays Christ to make him pure before his bones sink.

122,24 Ein meister las,
A master read,
troum unde spiegelglas,
dream and mirror-glass,
daz si zem winde
that they to-the wind
bî der stæte sîn gezalt.
by the constancy are counted.
loup unde gras,
leaf and grass,
daz ie mîn fröide was,
which ever my joy was,
swiez nû erwinde,
however-it now turn-out,
iz dunket mich alsô gestalt;
it seems to-me so fashioned;
dar zuo die bluomen manicvalt,
there to the flowers manifold,
diu heide rô, der grüne walt.
the heath red, the green wood.
der vogle sanc ein trûric ende hât;
of-the birds song a sad end has;

dar zuo diu linde

there to the linden

süeze und linde.

sweet and soft.

sô wê dir, Werlt, wie dirz gebende stât!

so woe to-thee, World, how to-thee-the headdress stands!

Ein tumber wân

A foolish expectation

den ich zer welte hân,

whith I toward-the world have,

derst wandelbære,

that-is changeable,

wand er bösez ende gât:

for it evil end gives:

ich solt in lân,

I should it leave,

wan ich mich wol verstân,

for I myself well understand,

daz er iht bære

that it in-any-way bear

mîner sêle grôzen nît.

to-my soul great harm.

mîn armez leben in sorgen lît:

my poor life in cares lies:

der buoze wære michel zît.

for-the penance were great time.

nû fürhte ich siecher man den grimmen tôt,

now fear I sick man the grim death,

daz er mit swære

that he with grief

an mir gebære.

toward me behave.

vor vorhten bleichent mir diu wangen rô.

from fears pale to-me the cheeks red.

Wie sol ein man

How shall a man

der niuwan sünden kan,

who nothing-but sins knows,

... gedingen

(lacuna) hope

oder gewinnen hôhen muot?

or win high spirit?

sît ich gewan

since I gained

den muot daz ich began

the spirit that I began

zer werlte dingen

toward-the world's things

merken übel unde guot,

to-mark evil and good,

dô greif ich, als ein tôre tuot,

then grasped I, as a fool does,

zer vinstern hant reht in die gluot,

to-the dark hand right into the embers,

und mêrte ie dem tievel sînen schal.

and increased ever to-the devil his noise.

des muoz ich ringen

of-that must I wrestle

mit geringen:

with slight-means:

nû ringe und senfte ouch Jêsus mînen val.

now lighten and soften also Jesus my fall.

Heiliger Krist,

Holy Christ,

sît dû gewaltic bist

since thou mighty art

der welte gemeine,

of-the world in-common,

die nâch dir gebildet sint,

who after thee formed are,

gip mir den list

give to-me the skill

daz ich in kurzer frist

that I in short time

alsam gemeine

just-as partake-of

dich sam dîn erwelten kint.

thee like thy chosen children.

ich was mit sehenden ougen blind

I was with seeing eyes blind

und aller guoten sinne ein rint,

and of-all good senses an ox,

swiech mîne missetât der welte hal.

however-I my misdeed from-the world concealed.

mach ê mich reine,

make first me pure,

ê mîn gebeine

before my bones

versenke sich in daz verlorne tal.

sink themselves into the lost valley.

Owê war sint verschwunden alliu mîniu jâr!

ALAS, WHERE HAVE ALL MY YEARS VANISHED

The elegy, in three long strophes, the third reversing the cry that closes the first two. His years are gone and he cannot tell whether his life was dreamed; the people and land where he was reared have turned strange, his playmates are old, the field is laid waste, and the wood cut down. The young do piteously, harsh letters have come from Rome, and joy is taken away. Last he turns to the knights and the journey over the sea.

Owê war sint verschwunden alliu mîniu jâr!

124,1

Alas whither are vanished all my years!

ist mir mîn leben getroumet, oder ist ez wâr?

is to-me my life dreamed, or is it true?

daz ich ie wânde daz iht wære, was daz iht?

what I ever thought that anything were, was that anything?

dar nâch hân ich geslâfen und enweiz es niht.

there after have I slept and know it not.

nû bin ich erwacht, und ist mir unbekant

now am I awakened, and is to-me unknown

daz mir hie vor was kûndic als mîn ander hant.

what to-me here before was familiar as my other hand.

liut unde lant, dâ ich von kinde bin erzogen,

people and land, where I from childhood am reared,

die sint mir frömde [worden] reht als ob ez sî gelogen.

they are to-me strange [become] right as if it be a-lie.

die mîne gespilen wâren, die sint träge unt alt.

who my playmates were, they are slow and old.

vereitet ist daz velt, verhouwen ist der walt:

laid-waste is the field, cut-down is the wood:

wan daz daz wazzer fliuzeit als ez wîlent flôz,

save that the water flows as it formerly flowed,

für wâr ich wânde mîn unglücke wurde grôz.

for true I thought my misfortune would-become great.

mich grüezet maneger trâge, der mich kande ê wol.

me greets many-a-one slowly, who me knew before well.

diu welt ist allenthalben ungenâden vol.

the world is everywhere of-ungraciousness full.

als ich gedenke an manegen wünneclichen tac,

when I think on many-a delightful day,

die mir sint enpfallen gar als in daz mer ein slac,

whicb to-me are fallen-away wholly as into the sea a blow,

iemer mêre ouwê.

ever more alas.

Owê wie jâmerliche junge liute tuont,

Alas how piteously young people do,

den nû vil riuweclîche ir gemüete stuont!

to-whom now very mournfully their spirit stood!

die kunnen niuwan sorgen: wê wie tuont si sô?

they know nothing-but cares: woe how do they so?

swar ich zer werlte kêre, dâ ist nieman frô:

wherever I in-the world turn, there is no-one glad:

tanzen, singen, daz zergât mit sorgen gar:

dancing, singing, that passes-away with cares wholly:

nie kristenman gesach sô jâmerliche schar.

never Christian-man saw so piteous a-company.

nû merket wie den frouwen ir gebende stât:

now mark how to-the ladies their beaddress stands:

die stolzen ritter tragent dôrpellîche wât.

the proud knights wear churlish clothing.

uns sint unsenfte brieve her von Rôme komen,

to-us are harsh letters hither from Rome come,

uns ist erlobet trûre und fröide gar benomen.

to-us is allowed mourning and joy wholly taken.

daz müet mich innecklichen sêre (wir lebten ie vil wol),
that troubles me inwardly sorely (we lived ever very well),

daz ich nû für mîn lachen weinen kiesen sol.
that I now for my laughing weeping choose shall.

die wilden vogel die betrüebet unser klage:
the wild birds them saddens our lament:

waz wonders ist dâ bî, ob ich dâ von verzage?
what of-wonder is there by, if I there from despair?

waz spriche ich tumber man durch mînen böesen zorn?
what say I foolish man through my evil anger?

swer dirre wünne volget, der hât jene dort verlorn,
whoever this delight follows, he has that there lost,

iemer mêt ouwê.
ever more alas.

Owê wie uns mit süezen dingen ist vergeben!
Alas how to-us with sweet things is poisoned!

ich sihe die [bittern] gallen mitten in dem honege sweben:
I see the [bitter] gall amidst in the honey float:

diu Welt ist ûzen schœne, wîz grûen unde rôt,
the World is outside beautiful, white green and red,

und innân swarzer varwe, vîenster sam der tôt.
and within of-black color, dark like the death.

swen si nû habe verleit, der schouwe sînen trôst:
whomever she now has misled, he behold his comfort:

er wirt mit swacher buoze grôzer sünde erlôst.
he is with slight penance of-great sin released.

dar an gedenkent, ritter: ez ist iuwer dinc.
there on think, knights: it is your business.

ir tragent die liechten helme und manegen herten rinc,
you bear the bright helmets and many-a hard ring,

dar zuo die vesten schilte und diu gewîhten swert.
there to the firm shields and the consecrated swords.

wolte got, wær ich der sigenünfte wert!

would God, were I of-the victory worthy!

sô wolte ich nôtic man verdienen rîchen solt.

so would I needy man earn rich pay.

joch meine ich niht die huoben noch der hêrren golt:

indeed mean I not the hides-of-land nor of-the lords gold:

ich wolte sælden krône êweclichen tragen:

I would of-blessedness crown eternally wear:

die möhte ein soldener mit sîme sper bejagen.

it might a mercenary with his spear win.

möht ich die lieben reise gevaren über sê,

could I the dear journey travel over sea,

sô wolte ich denne singen wol, und niemer mêr ouwê.

so would I then sing well, and never more alas.
